

Abstract:

Assessment of the Relationship Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and the Timing of Social Presentation and Pursuit of Gender-Affirming Care in Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Patients

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Background:

Prior research has shown that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) confer increased risk of negative health outcomes. More recently, studies have revealed that lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) individuals have higher ACE's scores, and therefore increased rates of negative health outcomes, when compared to heterosexual individuals. However, a lot of this previous work excluded transgender and gender-nonconforming experiences, and timing of social presentation and pursuit of gender-affirming care was never investigated in regards to ACEs score. Thus, this study aims to reaffirm a relationship between the ACEs score of transgender and gender-nonconforming patients and their physical/mental health status as well as assess any association between ACEs score and timing of social presentation and pursuit of gender-affirming care.

Methods:

Transgender and gender-nonconforming patients were actively recruited for our study following their scheduled healthcare or gender-affirming care appointments at the Northwestern McGaw Family Medicine Residency at Delnor. They were given a survey that was completed on-site. This survey included an ACEs questionnaire as well as questions about their medical history, mental health history, and the age at which they did the following: self-identified as transgender or gender-nonconforming, socially presented themselves as their gender identity, and sought gender-affirming care. This was followed by a debrief between the participant and research team member given the potentially triggering subject matter of the survey.

Results:

Data is still being collected at the time of abstract submission. Final results, including analysis and conclusions, will be presented on Resident Research Day.