I'm not a robot



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Atypical congenital variations of sex characteristics This article is about intersex in humans. For intersex in other animals, see Intersex topics Human rights and legal issues Compulsory sterilization Discrimination Human rights reports Legal recognition Malta declaration Medical
interventions Sex assignment Sex characteristics (legal term) Yogyakarta Principles Healthcare and biology Disorders of sex development Genetic diagnosis Definitions Healthcare Medical interventions history Orchidometer Phall-O-Meter Prader scale Quigley scale Sexual differentiation more... Society and culture Endosex (antonym) Civil society
organizations Fictional characters Films Flag Intersex and LGBT Literature People Religion Military US Researchers Sex verification in sports at the Olympic Games Television History and events History of surgery timeline Intersex Awareness Day Intersex Day of Remembrance International Intersex Forum Rights by country Argentina Australia
Canada Chile China Colombia France Germany Kenya Malta Mexico Nepal New Zealand South Africa Spain Switzerland Taiwan Uganda United States See also Hermaphrodite Children's rights Genital modification and mutilation Disability rights Gender LGBT Androgyny Anti-gender movement Non-binary recognition
Queer theory Third gender Transgender Medical ethics Rights Sex Sex differences vte Part of a series on LGBTQ people LGBTQLesbianGayBisexual Pansexual Demographics Environment Fictosexual Pansexual Pansexual Demographics Environment Fictosexual Pansexual P
Gender fluid Gender identity Gender role Gender nonconforming Homosexual Intersex Non-heterosexual Vovements Gay liberation Same
sex unions Stonewall riots Identities Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Intersex Culture Business Coming out Community African-American Dyke March Events Awareness periods Largest events Gay village Media Bury your gays Films New queer cinema Periodicals LGBTQ culture in New York City Pride Pride Month Parade Queer art QPR and QPP
Same-sex relationship Slang Polari Socialization Subcultures Transgender in NYC Symbols Flags Takatāpui Moe aikāne Tourism Rights Adoption Civil union Decriminalization Gender self-identification Intersex Legal recognition of non-binary gender Marriage Military service Parenting Rights by country or territory Sexuality Trans rights Yogyakarta
Principles Health MSM and Blood donation restrictions / HIV LGBTQ medical organizations Reproduction Mental health Care Gender-affirming hormone therapy Gender transition Detransition Det
Cisnormative Heteronormative Comphet Opposition to LGBTQ rights 21st century UK anti-trans 2020s US anti-LGBTQ Grooming conspiracy theory Media portrayal Religion & LGBTQ Homosexuality Trans people Sexual diversity Stereotypes Issues Acephobia Arophobia AIDS stigma Anti-LGBTQ rhetoric Biphobia Bullying Censorship Closeted Outing
Criminalization Domestic violence Erasure Straightwashing Bisexual Lesbian Trans Gay bashing Gayphobia Heteropatriarchy Heterosexism Homophobia Suicide Youth vulnerability Migration Mixed-orientation marriage Racism Sexualism Transphobia Non-binary people Trans
men Trans women Violence Trans people Academic fields and discourse Communism & LGBTQ rights Gender studies Lesbian feminism Lavender linguistics LGBTQ conservatism In the US Queer anarchism Queer studies Queer theory Social construction of gender Socialism & LGBTQ rights Transfeminism Transgender studies Travesti LGBTQ
portalvte Participants at the third International Intersex Forum, Malta, in December 2013 Intersex people born with any of several sex characteristics, including chromosome patterns, gonads, or genitals that, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, "do not fit typical binary notions of male or
female bodies".[1][2] Sex assignment at birth usually aligns with a child's external genitalia. The number of births with ambiguous genitalia is in the range of 1:4,500-1:2,000 (0.02%-0.05%).[3] Other conditions involve the development of atypical chromosomes, gonads, or hormones.[4][2] The portion of the population that is intersex has been reported
differently depending on which definition of intersex is used and which conditions are included. Estimates range from 0.018% (one in 5,500 births) to 1.7%.[4][5][6] The difference centers on whether conditions in which chromosomal sex matches a phenotypic sex which is clearly identifiable as male or female, such as late onset congenital adrenal
hyperplasia (1.5 percentage points) and Klinefelter syndrome, should be counted as intersex or not, people may be assigned and raised as a girl or boy but then identify with another gender later in life, while most continue to identify with their assigned sex.[8][9][10] Terms used to describe intersex people are contested, and
 change over time and place. Intersex people were previously referred to as "hermaphrodites" or "congenital eunuchs".[11][12] In the 19th and 20th centuries, some medical experts devised new nomenclature in an attempt to classify the characteristics that they had observed, the first attempt to create a taxonomic classification system of intersex
conditions. Intersex people were categorized as either having "true hermaphroditism", "female pseudohermaphroditism", or "male pseudohermaphroditism", or "male pseudohermaphroditism", and scientifically specious in reference to humans.[14] In
biology, the term "hermaphrodite" is used to describe an organism that can produce both male and female gametes.[15][16] Some people with intersex traits use the term "disorders of sex development" (DSD) has been used since 2006,[19] a shift
in language considered controversial since its introduction. [20][21][22] Intersex people may face infanticide, abandonment, and stigmatization from their families. [24][25][26] Globally, some
intersex infants and children, such as those with ambiguous outer genitalia, are surgically or hormonally altered to create more socially acceptable sex characteristics. This is considered controversial, with no firm evidence of favorable outcomes. [27] Such treatments may involve sterilization. Adults, including elite female athletes, have also been
subjects of such treatment.[28][29] Increasingly, these issues are considered human rights abuses, with statements from international from interna
Intersex Forum.[34] In 2011, Christiane Völling became the first intersex person known to have successfully sued for damages in a case brought for non-consensual medical interventions to modify sex anatomy, including that of intersex people.[36][37]
There is no clear consensus definition of intersex and no clear delineation of which specific conditions qualify an individual as intersex. [38] The World Health Organization's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), and many medical journals
classify intersex traits or conditions among disorders of sex development (DSD). [39] A common adjective for people with disorders of sex development (DSD) is "intersex". [citation needed] Model Hanne Gaby Odiele photographed by Ed Kavishe for Fashionwirepress. In 2017, Odiele disclosed having the intersex trait androgen insensitivity syndrome
In 1917, Richard Goldschmidt created the term "intersexuality" to refer to a variety of physical sex ambiguities.[13] However, according to The SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies, it was not until Anne Fausto Sterling published her article "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough" in 1993 that the term reached popularity.[40]
According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: Intersex people are born with sex characteristics (including genitals, gonads and chromosome patterns) that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies. Intersex is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations. [2] Some intersex
organizations reference "intersex people" and "intersex conditions or traits"[41] while others use more medicalized language such as "people with intersex conditions of sex anatomy".[42] or people "with intersex conditions or DSDs (differences of sex development)" and "children born with variations of sex anatomy".[43] In May 2016, interACT published a statement
recognizing "increasing general understanding and acceptance of the term "intersex".[44] Australian sociological research on 272 "people born with atypical sex characteristics, including people identifying themselves as intersex,
describing themselves as having an intersex variation or, in smaller numbers, having an intersex condition. Respondents also commonly used diagnostic labels and referred to their sex chromosomes, with word choices depending on audience.[9][45] Research on 202 respondents by the Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, and the AIS-DSD Support
Group (now known as InterConnect Support Group)[46] published in 2017 found that 80% of Support Group respondents "strongly liked, liked or felt neutral about intersex" as a term, while caregivers were less supportive.[47] The hospital reported that the use of the term "disorders of sex development" may negatively affect care.[48] Another study
by a group of children's hospitals in the United States found that 53% of 133 parent and adolescent participants recruited at five clinics did not like the term. [49] A "dsd-LIFE" study in 2020 found that around 43% of 179 participants thought the
term "intersex" was bad, 20% felt neutral about the term, while 37% thought the term was good.[50] Main article: Hermaphrodite may witness a testament, depends on which
sex prevails" ("Hermafroditus an ad testamentum adhiberi possit, qualitas sexus incalescentis ostendit").[51][52] Similarly, the 17th century English jurist and judge Edward Coke), wrote in his Institutes of the Lawes of England on laws of succession stating, "Every heire is either a male, a female, or an hermaphrodite, that is both male and
female. And an hermaphrodite (which is also called Androgynus) shall be heire, either as male or female, according to that type of sexe which doth prevaile."[53][54] During the Victorian era, medical authors attempted to ascertain whether or not humans could be hermaphrodites, adopting a precise biological definition for the term,[55] and making
distinctions between "male pseudohermaphrodite", "female pseudohermaphrodite" and especially "true hermaphrodite" and especially "true hermaphrodite" was used synonymously with "intersex".[60] Medical
terminology shifted in the early 21st century, not only due to concerns about language, but also a shift to understandings based on genetics.[citation needed] The term "hermaphrodite" is often seen as degrading and offensive
although many intersex activists use it as a direct form of self empowerment and critique such as in the ISNA's first newsletter Hermaphrodites should not be confused with intersex people and that using "hermaphrodite" to refer to intersex individuals is
considered to be stigmatizing and misleading. [62] This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources in this section. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (June 2024) (Learn how and when to remove this message) The standard treatment in cases of androgen
insensitivity syndrome and other intersex conditions was to lie to patients. This extract is from a book published in 1963. Estimates of the number of people who are intersex Society of North America said: If you ask experts at medical centers how often a child is
born so noticeably atypical in terms of genitalia that a specialist in sex differentiation is called in, the number comes out to about 1 in 1,500 to 1 in 2,000 births [0.07-0.05%]. But a lot more people than that are born with subtler forms of sex anatomy variations, some of which won't show up until later in life.[63] Anne Fausto-Sterling et al., said in
2000 that "[a]dding the estimates of all known causes of nondimorphic sexual development suggests that approximately 1.7% of all live births do not conform to a Platonic ideal of absolute sex chromosome, gonadal, genital, and hormonal dimorphism";[6][5] these publications have been widely quoted by intersex activists. [64][65][66] Of the 1.7%,
1.5% points (88% of those considered "nondimorphic sexual development" in this figure) consist of individuals with late onset congenital adrenal hyperplasia (LOCAH) which may be asymptomatic but can present after puberty and cause infertility.[67] Leonard Sax, in response to Fausto-Sterling, estimated that the prevalence of intersex was about
0.018% of the world's population,[4] discounting several conditions included in Fausto-Sterling's estimate that included LOCAH, Klinefelter syndrome (47,XXX), and vaginal agenesis. Sax reasons that in these conditions chromosomal sex is consistent with phenotypic sex and
phenotype is classifiable as either male or female.[4] In a 2003 letter to the editor, political scientist Carrie Hull analyzed the data used by Fausto-Sterling and said the estimated intersex rate should instead have been 0.37%, due to many errors.[68] In a response letter published simultaneously, Fausto-Sterling welcomed the additional analysis and
the entire population of people who are stigmatized—or risk stigmatization—due to innate sex characteristics", and that Sax's definitions exclude individuals who experience such stigma and who have helped to establish the intersex movement.[69] According to InterACT, a major organization for intersex rights in the US, states that 1.7% of people
have some variation of sexual development, 0.5% have atypical genitalia, and 0.05% have mixed/ambiguous genitalia.[70][71][72][73][a] A study relying on a nationally representative survey conducted in Mexico between 2021 and 2022 obtained similar estimates: around 1.6% of individuals aged 15 to 64 reported being born with sex variations.[23]
congenital adrenal hyperplasia (nonclassical forms)[i] Female (males are generally asymptomatic)[77] One in 50-1,000 births (0.1-0.2% up to 1-2% depending on population)[78] Hypospadias Male One in 200-10,000 male births (0.01%-0.5%), prevalence estimates vary considerably[79] Klinefelter syndrome (47, XXY) Male One in 500-1,000 male
births (0.1-0.2%)[80] Trisomy X or triple X syndrome (47, XXX) Female One in 1,000 female births (0.04%)[82] Müllerian agenesis (of vagina, i.e., MRKH Syndrome) Female One in 2,500 female births (0.02%)[83] Vaginal atresia Female One in 5,000 female births (0.02%)[84]
XXXXY syndrome Male One in 85,000-100,000 male births (0.001%) 48, XXYY syndrome Male One in 18,000-40,000 male births (0.0025%-0.0055%)[87] 49, XXXYY syndrome Male Less than one in 1000000 births[88][89] XX male or de la Chapelle syndrome Male Eess than one in 1000000 births[88][89] XX male or de la Chapelle syndrome Male Dirths (0.005%)[91] Ovotesticular syndrome Male Dirths (0.005%)[87] 49, XXXYY syn
20,000 births (0.005%)[92] XY gonadal dysgenesis Phenotypic female[93] One in 80,000 births (0.0013%)[94] Androgen deficiency None No estimate Idiopathic (no discernable medical cause) None One in
110,000 births (0.0009%)[97] Iatrogenic (caused by medical treatment, e.g., progestogen administered to pregnant mother) None No estimate 5-alpha-reductase deficiency syndrome None No estimate Anorchia Male One in 20,000 male births (0.005%)
Persistent Müllerian duct syndrome Male No estimate 46,XX/46,XY None No estimate Leydig cell hypoplasia Male One in 1,000,000 male births (0.000001%) Gonadotropin-releasing hormone insensitivity None No estimate Familial male-limited precocious puberty Male No estimate Cytochrome P450 oxidoreductase deficiency None No estimate
Isolated 17,20-lyase deficiency None No estimate Testicular dysgenesis syndrome Male No estimate Penoscrotal transposition Male No estimate Aphallia Male No estimate Cryptorchidism Male One in 33-100 male births (3-1%) Cloacal
exstrophy (born with XY chromosomes) Male One in 400,000 live births (0.0025%) Notes: ^ Categorization of late onset congenital adrenal hyperplasia as an intersex condition is disputed by some experts[4][76] as explained in the Prevalence section. ^ In the Dominican Republic, 5-alpha-reductase deficiency is not uncommon in the town of Las
Salinas, resulting in social acceptance of the intersex trait. [98] Men with the trait are called "güevedoces" (Spanish for "eggs at twelve"). 12 out of 13 families had one or more male family members that carried the gene. The overall incidence for the town was 1 in every 90 males were carriers, with other males either non-carriers or non-affected
carriers.[99] Main articles: Intersex in history, Timeline of intersex history, and History of intersex surgery Hermaphroditus in a wall painting from Herculaneum (first half of the 1st century AD) A Chola statue depicting Ardhanarishvara, a Hermaphroditus form of Shiva. From early history, societies have been aware of intersex people. Some of the 1st century AD) A Chola statue depicting Ardhanarishvara, a Hermaphroditus in a wall painting from Herculaneum (first half of the 1st century AD) A Chola statue depicting Ardhanarishvara, a Hermaphroditus in a wall painting from Herculaneum (first half of the 1st century AD) A Chola statue depicting Ardhanarishvara, a Hermaphroditus in a wall painting from Herculaneum (first half of the 1st century AD) A Chola statue depicting Ardhanarishvara, a Hermaphroditus in a wall painting from Herculaneum (first half of the 1st century AD) A Chola statue depicting Ardhanarishvara, a Hermaphroditus in a wall painting from Herculaneum (first half of the 1st century AD) A Chola statue depicting Ardhanarishvara, and the first from the first half of the 1st century AD) A Chola statue depicting Ardhanarishvara, and the first from 
earliest evidence is found in mythology: the Greek historian Diodorus Siculus wrote of the mythological Hermaphroditus in the first century BC, who was "born with a physical body which is a combination of that of a man and that of a woman", and reputedly possessed supernatural properties. [100] He also recounted the lives of Diophantus of Abae
and Callon of Epidaurus.[101] Ardhanarishvara, an androgynous composite form of male deity Shiva and female bodily elements.[103] A statue depicting Ardhanarishvara is included in India's Meenakshi Temple; this statue clearly shows both male and female bodily elements.[103]
Hippocrates (c. 460 - c. 370 BC, Greek physician) and Galen (129 - c. 200/216 AD, Roman physician, surgeon, and philosopher) both viewed sex as a spectrum between men and women, with "many shades in between including hermaphrodites, a perfect balance of male and female".[104] Pliny the Elder (AD 23/24-79), a Roman naturalist, described
 "those who are born of both sexes, whom we call hermaphrodites, at one time androgyni" (from the Greek andr-, "man", and gyn-, "woman").[105] Augustine (354 - 430 AD), the influential Catholic theologian, wrote in The Literal Meaning of Genesis that humans were created in two sexes, despite "as happens in some births, in the case of what we cal
androgynes".[104] In medieval and early modern European societies, Roman law, post-classical canon law, referred to a person's sex as male or female depending on the characteristics that appeared most dominant.[106] The 12th century Decretum Gratiani states, "Whether
an hermaphrodite may witness a testament, depends on which sex prevails."[107][108][109] The foundation of common law, the 17th century Institutes of the Lawes of England described how a hermaphrodite could inherit "either as male or female, according to that kind of sexe which doth prevaile".[110][54] Legal cases have been described in
canon law and elsewhere over the centuries. Some non-European societies have sex or gender systems that recognize more than the two categories of male/man and female/woman. Some of these cultures, for instance the South-Asian Hijra communities, may include intersex people in a third gender category.[111][112] Although—according to
Morgan Holmes—early Western anthropologists categorized such cultures as "primitive", Holmes has argued that analyses of these cultures have been simplistic or romanticized and fail to take account of the ways that subjects of all categories are treated.[113] During the Victorian era, medical authors introduced the terms "true hermaphrodite" for
an individual who has both ovarian and testicular tissue, "male pseudo-hermaphrodite" for a person with testicular tissue, but either male or ambiguous sexual anatomy. Some later shifts in terminology have reflected advances in
genetics, while other shifts are suggested to be due to pejorative associations.[114] The term "intersexuality" was coined by Richard Goldschmidt in 1917.[115] The first suggestion to replace the term "hermaphrodite" with "intersex" was made by Cawadias in the 1940s.[60] Since the rise of modern medical science, some intersex people with
 ambiguous external genitalia have had their genitalia surgically modified to resemble either female or male genitals. Surgeons pinpointed intersex babies as a "social emergency" when born.[116] An 'optimal gender policy', initially developed by John Money, stated that early intervention helped avoid gender identity confusion, but this lacks evidence
[117] Early interventions have adverse consequences for psychological and physical health.[33] Since advances in surgery have made it possible for intersex conditions arise in human beings or that they occur at all.[118] Dialogue between what were once antagonistic
groups of activists and clinicians has led to only slight changes in medical policies and how intersex patients and their families are treated in some locations.[119] In 2011, Christiane Völling became the first intersex person known to have successfully sued for damages in a case brought for non-consensual surgical intervention.[35] In April 2015,
Malta became the first country to outlaw non-consensual medical interventions to modify sex anatomy, including that of intersex people. [36] Many civil society organizations and human rights institutions now call for an end to unnecessary "normalizing" interventions, including in the Malta declaration. [120] [citation needed] Further information:
Intersex rights by country Intersex activists on a boat at Utrecht Canal Pride in the Netherlands on 16 June 2018 Human rights institutions are placing increasing scrutiny on harmful practices and issues of discrimination against intersex people. These issues have been addressed by a rapidly increasing number of international institutions including
in 2015, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Office of the United Nations Human Rights and the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2024, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted its first resolution to protect the rights of intersex people.[121] These developments have been accompanied by International
Intersex Forums and increased cooperation among civil society organizations. However, the implementation, codification, and enforcement of intersex human rights in national legal systems remains slow. Parts of this article (those related to map) need to be updated. Please help update this article to reflect recent events or newly available
information. (May 2021) Main articles: Intersex human rights and Interventions Regulatory suspension of non-consensual medical interventions Stigmatization and discrimination from birth may include infanticide, abandonment, and the stigmatization of families. The birth
of an intersex child was often viewed as a curse or a sign of a witch mother, especially in parts of Africa.[24][25] Abandonments and infanticides have been reported in Uganda,[24] Kenya,[122] South Asia,[123] and China.[26] Infants, children and adolescents also experience "normalising" interventions on intersex people that are medically
unnecessary and the pathologisation of variations in sex characteristics. In countries where the human rights of intersex people have been studied, medical interventions to modify the sex characteristics of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have still taken place without the consent of the intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been studied, medical interventions to modify the sex characteristics of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been described by human rights of intersex people have been des
defenders as a violation of many rights, including (but not limited to) bodily integrity, non-discrimination, privacy, and experimentation. [126] These interventions have frequently been performed with the consent of the intersex person's parents, when the person is legally too young to consent. Such interventions have frequently been performed with the consent of the intersex person's parents, when the person is legally too young to consent.
UN bodies such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and an increasing number of regional and national institutions due to their adverse consequences, including trauma, impact on sexual function and sensation, and violation of rights to physical and mental integrity.[citation needed] The UN organizations decided that infant
intervention should not be allowed, in favor of waiting for the child to mature enough to be a part of the decision-making—this allows for a decision without consent. [36][37] In the same year, the Council of Europe became the first
institution to state that intersex people have the right not to undergo sex affirmation interventions. [64] Main article: Discrimination against intersex status Explicit protection on grounds of intersex within attribute of sex People born with intersex
bodies are seen as different. Intersex infants, children, adolescents and adults "are often stigmatized and subjected to multiple human rights violations", including discrimination in education, healthcare, employment, sport, and public services.[2] Researchers have documented significant disparities in mental, physical, and sexual health when
comparing intersex individuals to the general population, including higher rates of bullying, stigmatization, harassment, violence, and suicidal intention, as well as substantial barriers in the workplace. [23] Several countries have so far explicitly protected intersex people from discrimination, with landmarks including South Africa, [128] Australia, [129]
[130] and, most comprehensively, Malta.[131][132][133] Main article: Intersex human rights Claims for compensation and remedies for human rights abuses include the 2011 case of Christiane Völling in Germany.[35][134] A second case was adjudicated in Chile in 2012, involving a child and his parents.[135][136] A further successful case in
Germany, taken by Michaela Raab, was reported in 2015.[137] In the United States, the Minor Child (M.C. v Aaronson) lawsuit was "a medical malpractice case related to the informed consent for a surgery performed on the Crawford's adopted child (known as M.C.) at [Medical University of South Carolina] in April 2006".[138] The case was one of
the first lawsuit of its type to challenge "legal, ethical, and medical issues regarding genital-normalizing surgery" in minors, and was eventually settled out of court by the Medical University of South Carolina for $440,000 in 2017.[139] Main article: Intersex human rights Access to information, medical records, peer and other counselling and support
With the rise of modern medical science in Western societies, a secrecy-based model was also adopted, in the belief that this was necessary to ensure normal physical and psychosocial development. [140][141][142] Main article: Legal recognition of intersex people The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions states that legal
recognition is firstly "about intersex people who have been issued a male or a female birth certificate being able to enjoy the same legal rights as other men and women".[34] In some regions, obtaining any form of birth certificate
[143] Like all individuals, some intersex individuals may be raised as a certain sex (male or female) but then identify with another later in life, while most do not. [144][145][146] Recognition of third sex or gender classifications occurs in several countries, [147][148][149][140] however, it is controversial when it becomes assumed or coercive, as is
the case with some German infants.[151][152] Sociological research in Australia, a country with a third 'X' sex classification, shows that 19% of people born with atypical sex characteristics selected an "X" or "other" option, while 75% of survey respondents self-described as male or female (52% as women, 23% as men), and 6% as unsure.[9][45] On
January 20, 2025, US president Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14168, entitled "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government". This executive order asserts that it is the policy of the United States that there are only two sexes, male and female, and that these sexes are
immutable throughout a person's life, starting at conception.[153] The executive order does not acknowledge the existence of, or make provision for, intersex advocate Alicia Roth Weigel, this order "attempts to negate our very existence".[154] Main article: Intersex and LGBT ILGA conference 2018, group photo to mark
Intersex Awareness Day U.S. intersex activist Pidgeon Pagonis Intersex conditions can be contrasted with transgender gender identities and the attached gender identity does not match their assigned sex.[155][156][157] However, some people are both intersex and transgender;
although intersex people by definition have variable sex characteristics that do not align with either typically male or female, this may be considered separate to an individual's assigned gender, the way they are raised and perceived, and their internal gender identity.[158] A 2012 clinical review paper found that between 8.5% and 20% of people with
intersex variations experienced gender dysphoria.[145] In an analysis of the use of preimplantation genetic diagnosis to eliminate intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex may ... conceal biases against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex people and communities intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex people and communities intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex people and communities intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex people and communities intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex people and communities intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex traits, Behrmann and Ravitsky state: "Parental choice against intersex tr
to LGBTQ communities is complex,[160] but intersex people are often added to the LGBT acronym, resulting in the acronym LGBTI (or when also including asexual people, LGBTQIA+[161]). Emi Koyama describes how inclusion of intersex in LGBTI can fail to address intersex-specific human rights issues, including creating false impressions "that
intersex people's rights are protected" by laws protecting LGBT people, and failing to acknowledge that many intersex individuals are homosexual, and some are heterosexual, but "LGBTI activism has fought for the rights of people who fall outside of
expected binary sex and gender norms."[163][164] Julius Kaggwa of SIPD Uganda has written that, while the gay community "offers us a place of relative safety, it is also oblivious to our specific needs".[165] Mauro Cabral has written that transgender people and organizations "need to stop approaching intersex issues as if they were trans issues",
including use of intersex conditions and people as a means of explaining being transgender; "we can collaborate a lot with the intersex movement by making it clear how wrong that approach is."[166] Main articles: Literature about intersex and Intersex characters in fiction Kristi Bruce after shooting the documentary XXXY, 2000 Heinlein's acclaimed
1959 "'—All You Zombies—'" is an early intersex science fiction story, based on time-travel. An intersex character is the narrator in Jeffrey Eugenides' Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Middlesex. The memoir, Born Both: An Intersex Life (Hachette Books, 2017), by intersex author and activist Hida Viloria, received strong praise from The New York Times
Book Review, The Washington Post, Rolling Stone, People Magazine, and Psychology Today, was one of School Library Journal's 2017 Top Ten Adult Books for Teens, and was a 2018 Lambda Literary Award nominee. Television works about intersex are scarce. The Spanish-language film XXY won the Critics' Week grand prize
at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival and the ACID/CCAS Support Award.[167] Faking It is notable for providing both the first intersex actor.[169] Main article: Intersex civil society organizations Intersex peer support and advocacy organizations have
existed since at least 1985, with the establishment of the Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome Support Group (UK) was established in 1988.[171] The Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) may have been one of the first intersex civil society organizations to have been open
to people regardless of diagnosis; it was active from 1993 to 2008.[172] Main articles: Intersex Awareness Day is an internationally observed civil awareness day designed to highlight the challenges faced by intersex people, occurring annually on 26 October. It marks the first public
demonstration by intersex people, which took place in Boston on 26 October 1996, outside a venue where the American Academy of Remembrance, also known as Intersex Solidarity Day, is an internationally observed civil awareness day designed to highlight issues faced by intersex
people, occurring annually on 8 November. It marks the birthday of Herculine Barbin, a French intersex person whose memoirs were later published by Michel Foucault in Herculine Barbin: Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a Nineteenth-century French Hermaphrodite. Main article: Intersex flag The intersex flag created in July 2013 by
Morgan Carpenter of Intersex Human Rights Australia The Progress Pride Flag flag with the intersex flag, created in 2021 by Valentino Vecchietti of Intersex Human Rights Australia to create a flag "that is not derivative, but is yet firmly
grounded in meaning". The circle is described as "unbroken and unornamented, symbolising wholeness and completeness, and our potentialities. We are still fighting for bodily autonomy and genital integrity, and this symbolises the right to be who and how we want to be."[174] In 2021, Valentino Vecchietti of Intersex Equality Rights UK redesigned
the Progress Pride Flag to incorporate the intersex flag. [175] This design added a yellow triangle with a purple circle in it to the chevron of the Progress Pride flag. It also changed the color of green to a lighter shade without adding new symbolism. Intersex Equality Rights UK posted the new flag on Instagram and Twitter. [176] [177] Because the
word "orchid" comes from the Greek word for testicle, and the orchiectomy is a common surgery performed on intersex and of opposition to non-consensual genital surgery.[178] Main article: Intersex people and religion In Judaism, the Talmud contains extensive discussion concerning the status
of two types of intersex people in Jewish law; namely, the androgynous, who exhibit both male and female external sexual organs, and the tumtum, who exhibit neither. In the 1970s and 1980s, the treatment of intersex babies started to be discussed in Orthodox Jewish medical halacha by prominent rabbinic leaders, such as Eliezer Waldenberg and
Moshe Feinstein.[179] Main article: Sex verification in sports Stanisława Walasiewicz, an athlete posthumously diagnosed with Turner syndrome in 1980, photographed in 1933 Erik Schinegger, Foekje Dillema, Maria José Martínez-Patiño and Santhi Soundarajan were subject to adverse sex verification testing resulting in ineligibility to compete in
organised competitive competitive competition. Stanisława Walasiewicz, an athlete diagnosed posthumously with Turner syndrome was posthumously ruled ineligible to have competed. [180] The South African middle-distance runner Caster Semenya won 3 World Championships gold medals and 2 Olympic gold medals in the women's 800 metres. When Semenya
won gold at the 2009 World Championships, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) requested sex verification tests on the very same day. The results were not released, and Semenya was ruled eligible to compete. [181] In 2019, new IAAF rules came into force for athletes like Semenya with certain disorders of sex development
(DSDs) requiring medication to suppress testosterone levels in order to participate in 400m, 800m, and 1500m women's events. Semenya objected to undergoing the treatment which is now mandatory. She has filed a series of legal cases to restore her ability to compete in these events without testosterone suppression, arguing that the World
Athletics rules are discriminatory.[182] Katrina Karkazis, Rebecca Jordan-Young, Georgiann Davis and Silvia Camporesi have claimed that IAAF policies on "hyperandrogenism" in female athletes to undergo unnecessary treatment in order
to compete, and intensifies "gender policing", and recommended that athletes be able to compete in accordance with their legally-recognised gender.[183] In April 2014, the BMJ reported that four elite women athletes with XY chromosomes and 5α-reductase 2 deficiency were subjected to sterilization and "partial clitoridectomies" in order to compete
in sport. The authors noted that partial clitoridectomy was "not medically indicated" and "does not relate to real or perceived athletic 'advantage'".[28] Intersex advocates[who?] regarded this intervention as "a clearly coercive process".[184] In 2016, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on health, Dainius Pūras, criticized "current and historic" sex
verification policies, describing how "a number of athletes have undergone gonadectomy (removal of reproductive organs) and partial clitoridectomy (a form of female genital mutilation) in the absence of symptoms or health issues warranting those procedures."[185] Main article: Intersex (biology) The notion of intersex individuals can be understood
in the context of sexual system biology that varies across different types of organisms. Most animal species (~95%, including humans) are gonochoric, in which individuals are of either a female or male sex.[186] Hermaphroditic species (some animals and most flowering plants[187]) are represented by individuals that can express both sexes
simultaneously or sequentially during their lifetimes.[188] Intersex individuals in a number of gonochoric species, who express both female and male phenotypic characters to some degree,[189] are known to exist at very low prevalences. Although "hermaphrodite" and "intersex" have been used synonymously in humans,[190][pages needed] a
hermaphrodite is specifically an individual capable of producing female and male gametes.[191] While there are reports of individuals that seemed to have the potential to produce both types of gamete,[192] in more recent years the term hermaphrodite as applied to humans has fallen out of favor, since female and male reproductive functions have
not been observed together in the same individual.[193] See also: Definitions of intersex Research in the late 20th century led to a growing medical consensus that diverse intersex bodies are normal, but relatively rare, forms of human biology.[8][194][195][196] Clinician and researcher Milton Diamond stresses the importance of care in the selection
of language related to intersex people: Foremost, we advocate use of the terms "typical", "usual", or "most frequent" where it is more common to use the term "normal". When possible avoid expressions such as maldeveloped or undeveloped, errors of development, defective genitals, abnormal, or mistakes of nature. Emphasize that all of these
 conditions are biologically understandable while they are statistically uncommon. 1971 Main article: Sexual differentiation, where a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome pair, and a productive male has an XX chromosome
sperm adds either an X (female) or a Y (male) chromosome to the X in the ovum. This determines the genetic sex of the embryo. During the first weeks of development, genetic male and female fetuses are "anatomically indistinguishable", with primitive gonads beginning to develop during approximately the sixth week of gestation. The gonads, in a
bipotential state, may develop into either testes (the male gonads) or ovaries (the female gonads), depending on the consequent events. [198] Up until and including the seventh week, genetically female and genetically male fetuses appear identical. At around eight weeks of gestation, the gonads of an XY embryo differentiate into functional testes,
secreting testosterone. Ovarian differentiation, for XX embryos, does not occur until approximately week 12 of gestation. In typical female differentiation, the Müllerian duct-inhibiting hormone AMH causes this duct system to regress. Next,
androgens cause the development of the Wolffian duct system, which develops into the vas deferens, seminal vesicles, and ejaculatory ducts. [198] By birth, the typical fetus has been completely sexed male or female, meaning that the genetic sex (XY-male or XX-female) corresponds with the phenotypical sex; that is to say, genetic sex corresponds
with internal and external gonads, and external gonads, and external appearance of the genitals. There are a variety of symptoms that can occur. Ambiguous genitalia is the most common sign. There can be micropenis, clitoromegaly, partial labial fusion, electrolyte abnormalities, delayed or absent puberty, unexpected changes at puberty, hypospadias, labial or inguinal
(groin) masses (which may turn out to be testes) in girls and undescended testes (which may turn out to be ovaries) in boys. [199] Ambiguous genitalia may appear as a large clitoris or as a small penis. The Quigley scale is a method for describing genital development in AIS. Because there is variation in all of the processes of the development of the
sex organs, a child can be born with a sexual anatomy that is typically female or feminine in appearance with a larger-than-average clitoris (clitoral hypertrophy) or typically male or masculine in appearance with a smaller-than-average clitoris (clitoral hypertrophy) or typically male or masculine in appearance with a smaller-than-average penis that is open along the underside. The appearance may be quite ambiguous, describable as female genitals (a
vulva) with a very large clitoris and partially fused labia, or as male genitals with a very small penis, completely open along the midline ("hypospadic"), and empty scrotum. Fertility is variable.[citation needed] The orchidometer is a medical instrument to measure the volume of the testicles. It was developed by Swiss pediatric endocrinologist Andrea
Prader. The Prader scale [200] and Quigley scale are visual rating systems that measure genital appearance. These measurement systems were satirized in the Phall-O-Meter, created by the (now defunct) Intersex Society of North America. [201][202][203] In order to help in classification, methods other than a genitalia inspection can be performed.
For instance, a karyotype display of a tissue sample may determine which of the causes of intersex; true gonadal intersex; and be done. [204] Intersex can be divided into four categories which are: 46, XX intersex; true gonadal intersex; and
complex or undetermined intersex.[199] This condition used to be called "female pseudohermaphroditism". People with this condition have female internal genitalia is masculinized congenitally when female fetus is exposed to excess androgenic
environment.[199] Hence, the chromosome of the person is of a female, but external genitals that appear like a male. The labia fuse, and the clitoris enlarges to appear like a penis. The causes of this can be male hormones taken during pregnancy, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, male-hormone-producing tumors in the mother
and aromatase deficiency.[199] This condition used to be called "male pseudohermaphroditism". This is defined as incomplete masculinization of the external genitalia.[206] Thus, the person has male chromosomes, but the external genitalia are incompletely formed, ambiguous, or clearly female.[199][207] This condition used to be called "male pseudohermaphroditism".
undervirilization.[199] 46, XY intersex has many possible causes, which can be problems with the testes and testosterone formation.[199] Also, there can be problems with using testosterone, which is a cause of 5-alpha-reductase deficiency.[199] Androgen
insensitivity syndrome is the most common cause of 46, XY intersex.[199] This condition used to be called "true hermaphroditism". This is defined as ovotestis.[208] In most cases, the cause of this condition is unknown. This is the
condition of having any chromosome configurations rather than 46, XX or 46, XY intersex. This condition does not result in an imbalance between internal and external genitalia. However, there may be problems with sex hormone levels, overall sexual development, and altered numbers of sex chromosomes.[199] Further information: Disorders of sex
development There are a variety of opinions on what conditions or traits are and are not intersex, dependent on the definition of intersex that is used. Current human rights based definitions or traits are and are not intersex, dependent on the definition of intersex that is used. Current human rights based definitions or traits are and are not intersex, dependent on the definition of intersex that is used. Current human rights based definitions or traits are and are not intersex, dependent on the definition of intersex that is used.
Union Agency for Fundamental Rights[209] and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights[210] have called for a review of medical classifications on the basis that they presently impede enjoyment of the right to health; the Council of Europe expressed concern that "the gap between the expectations of human rights organisations of intersex
people and the development of medical classifications has possibly widened over the past decade."[64][209][210] Main article: Intersex medical interventions take place to address physical health concerns and psychosocial risks. Both types of
rationale are the subject of debate, particularly as the consequences of surgical (and many hormonal) interventions are lifelong and irreversible. Questions regarding physical health include accurately assessing risk levels, necessity, and timing. Psychosocial rationales are particularly susceptible to guestions of necessity as they reflect social and
cultural concerns.[citation needed] There remains no clinical consensus about an evidence base, surgical timing, necessity, type of surgical timing, necessity, type of surgical intervention. [211][212][213] Such surgeries are the subject of significant contention due to consequences that include trauma, impact on sexual function and
sensation, and violation of rights to physical and mental integrity.[citation needed] This includes community activism,[114] and multiple reports by international human rights [30][64][34][214] and health[142] institutions and national ethics bodies.[33][215] In the cases where gonads may pose a cancer risk, as in some cases of androgen insensitivity
syndrome, [216] concern has been expressed that treatment rationales and decision-making regarding cancer risk may encapsulate decisions around a desire for surgical "normalization". [32] Feminizing and masculinizing surgeries: Surgical procedures depend on the diagnosis, and there is often a concern as to whether surgery should be performed
at all. Typically, surgery is performed shortly after birth. Defenders of the practice argue that individuals must be clearly identified as male or female for them to function socially and develop "normally". Psychosocial reasons are often stated.[19] This is criticised by many human rights institutions, and authors. Unlike other aesthetic surgical
procedures performed on infants, such as corrective surgery for a cleft lip, genital surgery may lead to negative consequences for sexual functioning in later life, or feelings of freakishness and unacceptability. [217] Hormone treatment: There is widespread evidence of prenatal testing and hormone treatment to prevent or eliminate intersex traits,
[218] associated also with the problematization of sexual orientation and gender non-conformity. [218][219] Psychosocial support. A joint international Intersex Forum in 2013 sought, among other demands: "Recognition that medicalization and
stigmatisation of intersex people result in significant trauma and mental health concerns. In view of ensuring the bodily integrity and well-being of intersex people, autonomous non-pathologising psycho-social and peer support be available to intersex people throughout their life (as self-required), as well as to parents and/or care providers."[220]
Genetic selection and terminations: The ethics of preimplantation genetic diagnosis to select against intersex traits was the subject of 11 papers in the October 2013 issue of the American Journal of Bioethics. [221] There is widespread evidence of pregnancy terminations arising from prenatal testing, as well as prenatal hormone treatment to prevent
intersex traits. Behrmann and Ravitsky find social concepts of sex, gender and sexual orientation to be "intertwined on many levels. Parental choice against intersex may thus conceal biases against same-sex attractedness and gender nonconformity."[159] Medical display. Photographs of intersex children's genitalia are circulated in medical
communities for documentary purposes, and individuals with intersex traits may be subjected to repeated genital examinations and display to medical teams. Problems associated with experiences of medical photography of intersex children have been discussed [222] along with their ethics, control and usage. [223] [224] "The experience of being
photographed has exemplified for many people with intersex conditions the powerlessness and humiliation felt during medical investigations and interventions."[223] Gender dysphoria: The DSM-5 included a change from using gender identity disorder to gender dysphoria. This revised code now specifically includes intersex people who do not identify
with their sex assigned at birth and experience clinically significant distress or impairment, using the language of disorders of sex development. [225] Intersex Awareness Day Intersex people and military service Sexual differentiation in humans Intersex healthcare Gynandromorphism Endosex True hermaphroditism Androgyny 46,XX/46,XY ^ Sex
within this context refers to the gonads, many individuals with intersex variations have an assigned sex and gender identity but have testis. The definition of
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