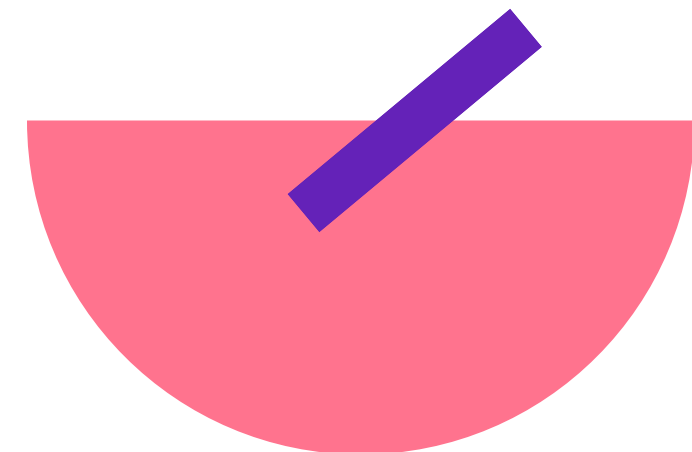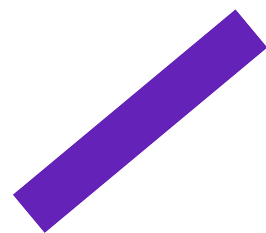# Transgender + Gender Diverse Gender Identity Development

Evelyn Pacifici
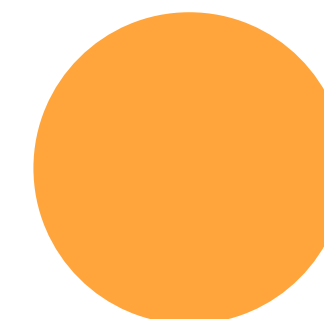
Advised by Dr. Byron Brooks

Transgender and gender diverse is an umbrella term for those who do not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth, and may identify with the binary system of gender, or outside of it

(Bhattacharya et al. 2021)

Common Experiences within the TGD Community

Common Experiences

- Cisnormativity

- Discrimination

- Prejudice

- Bias

- Gender Minority Stress Theory
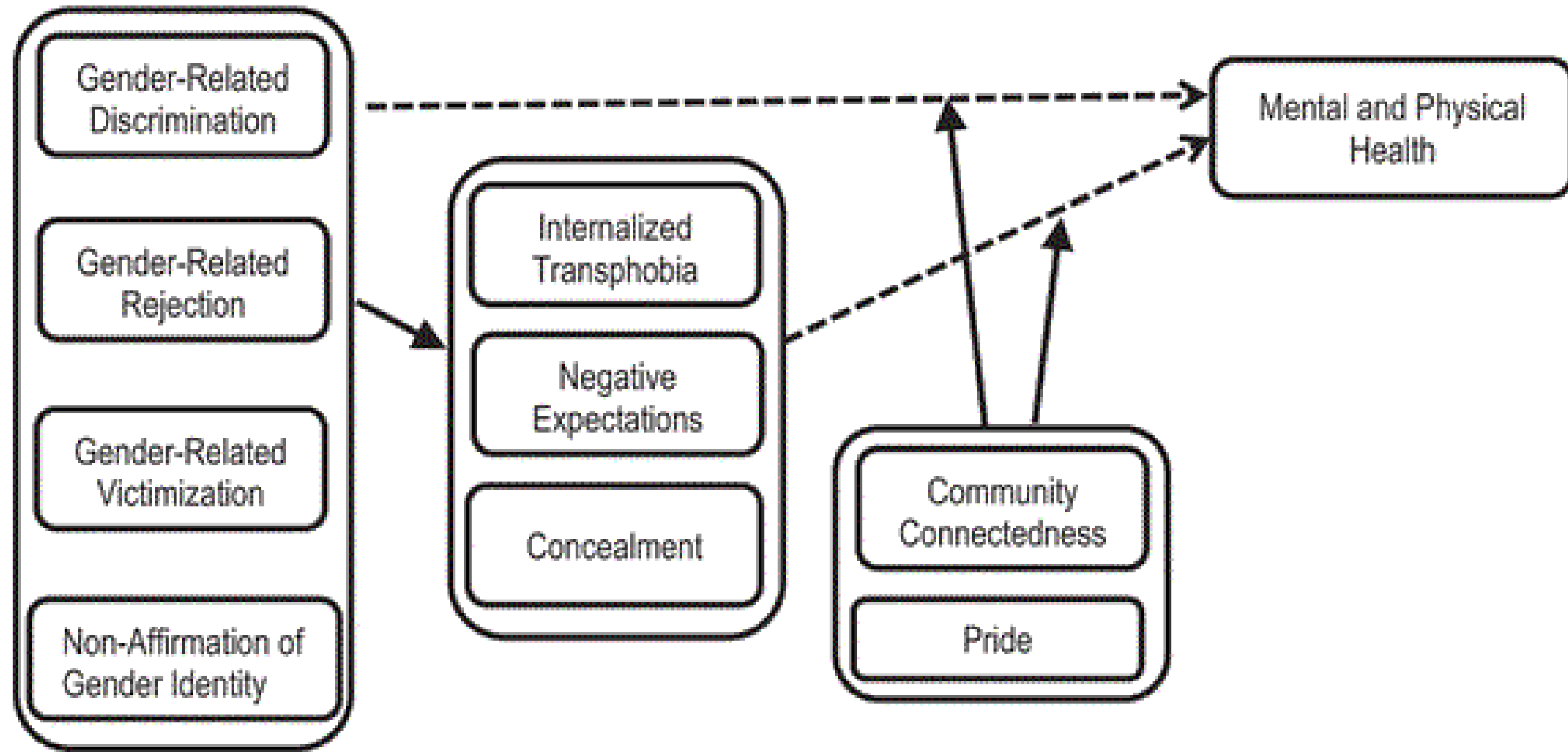
Gender Minority Stress Theory

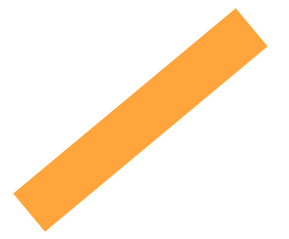Distal Stress Factors | Proximal Stress Factors | Resilience Factors | Outcomes

- Gender-Related Discrimination
- Gender-Related Rejection
- Gender-Related Victimization
- Non-Affirmation of Gender Identity

- Internalized Transphobia
- Negative Expectations
- Concealment

- Community Connectedness
- Pride

- Mental and Physical Health

(Testa et al. 2015)
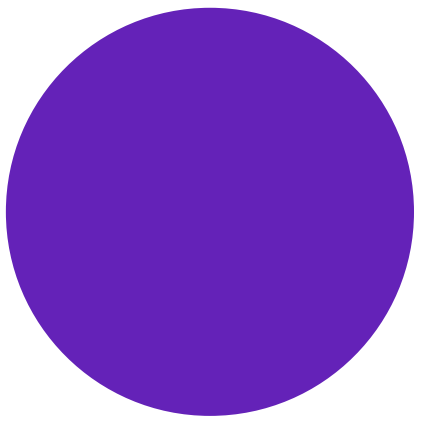
Introduction

- 1 in 250 adults in the United States identify as transgender or gender diverse (Meerwijk & Sevelius, 2017)

- 57% of TGD individuals have been rejected by their family members (Katz-Wise et al., 2018)

Research Question

How has transgender and gender diverse individuals' gender identity development been affected by: social media, religion, and parenting?
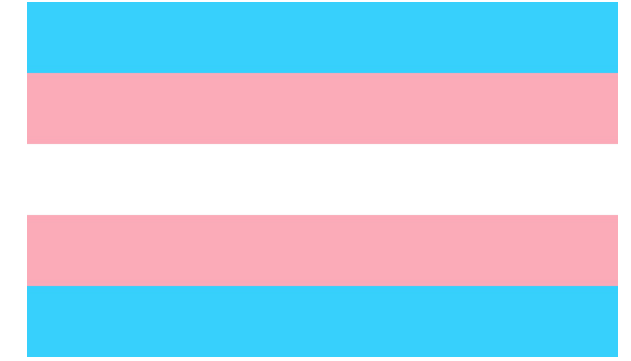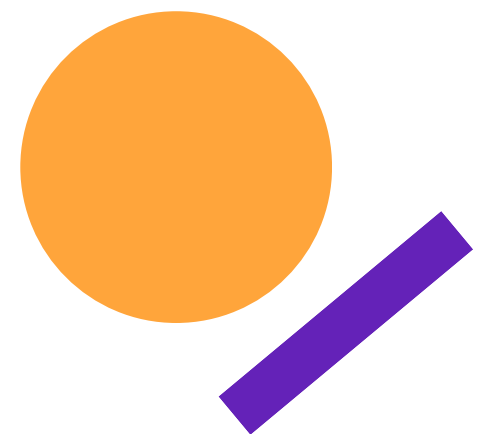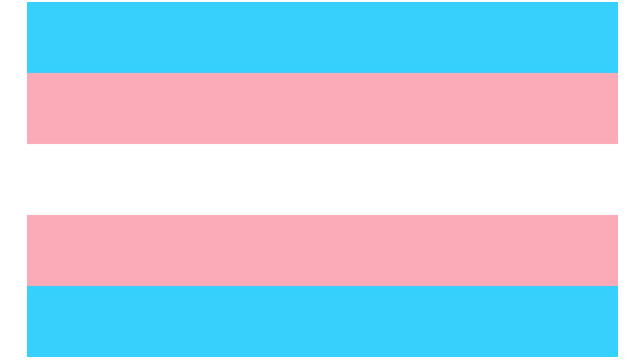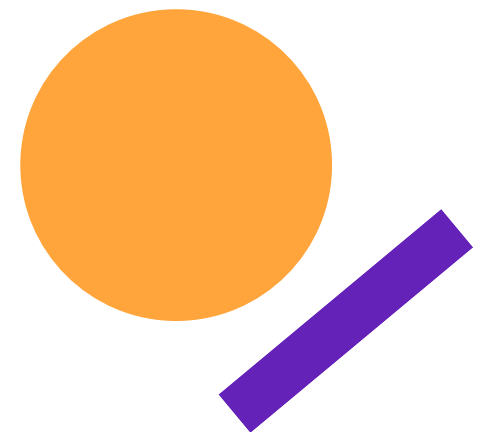
Methods

1. Recruitment: flyers

- Campus

2. Sample + characteristics

- Undergraduate students

3. Thematic Qualitative Analysis

TRANSGENDER AND GENDER DIVERSE IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT STUDY

A Loyola Chicago University undergraduate student is looking for participants for her research study on people who identify as **transgender or gender diverse, are 18+, speak English, and have access to a computer.**

WHAT TO EXPECT:
A VIRTUAL INTERVIEW THAT MAY LAST UP TO 60 MINS

TO ENROLL, SCAN QR CODE:

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ASKED ABOUT:

- social media
- parents
- religion

CONTACT EPACIFICI@LUC.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION

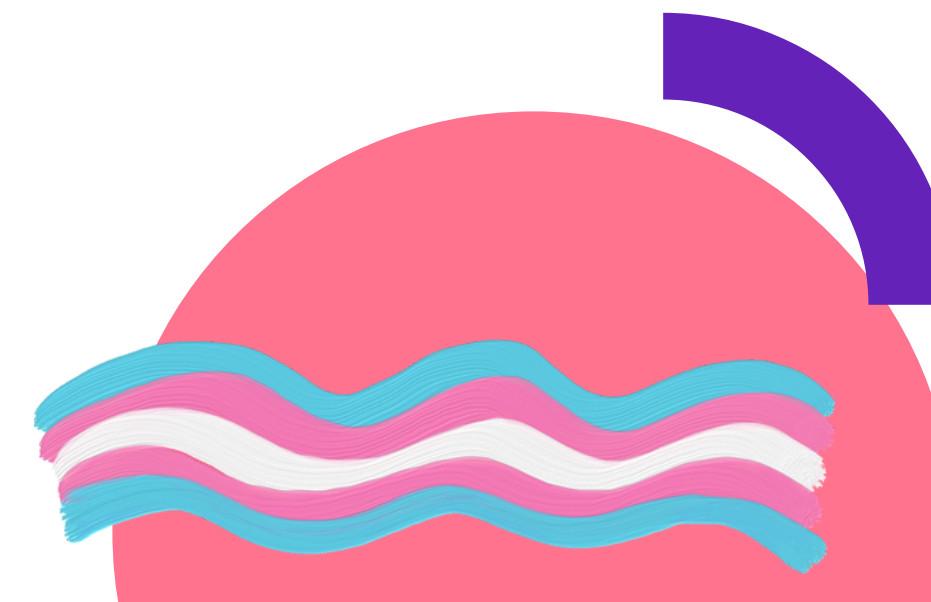# Thematic Qualitative Analysis

Table 2: A 15-Point Checklist of Criteria for Good Thematic Analysis

| Process	No.	Criteria
Transcription	1	The data have been transcribed to an appropriate level of detail, and the transcripts have been checked against the tapes for 'accuracy'.
Coding	2	Each data item has been given equal attention in the coding process.
	3	Themes have not been generated from a few vivid examples (an anecdotal approach), but instead the coding process has been thorough, inclusive and comprehensive.
	4	All relevant extracts for all each theme have been collated.
	5	Themes have been checked against each other and back to the original data set.
	6	Themes are internally coherent, consistent, and distinctive.
Analysis	7	Data have been analysed – interpreted, made sense of - rather than just paraphrased or described.
	8	Analysis and data match each other – the extracts illustrate the analytic claims.
	9	Analysis tells a convincing and well-organised story about the data and topic.
	10	A good balance between analytic narrative and illustrative extracts is provided.
Overall	11	Enough time has been allocated to complete all phases of the analysis adequately, without rushing a phase or giving it a once-over-lightly.
Written report	12	The assumptions about, and specific approach to, thematic analysis are clearly explicated.
	13	There is a good fit between what you claim you do, and what you show you have done – i.e., described method and reported analysis are consistent.
	14	The language and concepts used in the report are consistent with the epistemological position of the analysis.
	15	The researcher is positioned as *active* in the research process; themes do not just 'emerge'.

(Braun 2006)

Thematic Qualitative Analysis

Themes:	Sub-themes:	Sub-theme examples:
Religion	Religious identity	"[I] identify somewhere within the Jewish, uh, continuum" - Lexi (she/her)
	Religious concealment	"[I] [am] not out to anyone in my family who is really religious to be honest …" - Basil (they/them)
	Religious generational divide	'When you get to like the really older generations, that's when you see a lot more of the negativity [about the transgender and gender diverse community] compared to the younger ones" - Marisa (she/her)
Social Media	Social media platforms	"[Instagram] [is] a little bit like more permanent [in comparison to Snapchat]" - Basil (they/them)
	Coming out on SM	"[I] [made] a post on Instagram [about my gender identity] actually" - Basil (they/them)
	Building community	"[I] would make friends with like, people who were going through similar stuff. So that helped a lot." - Thomas (he/him)
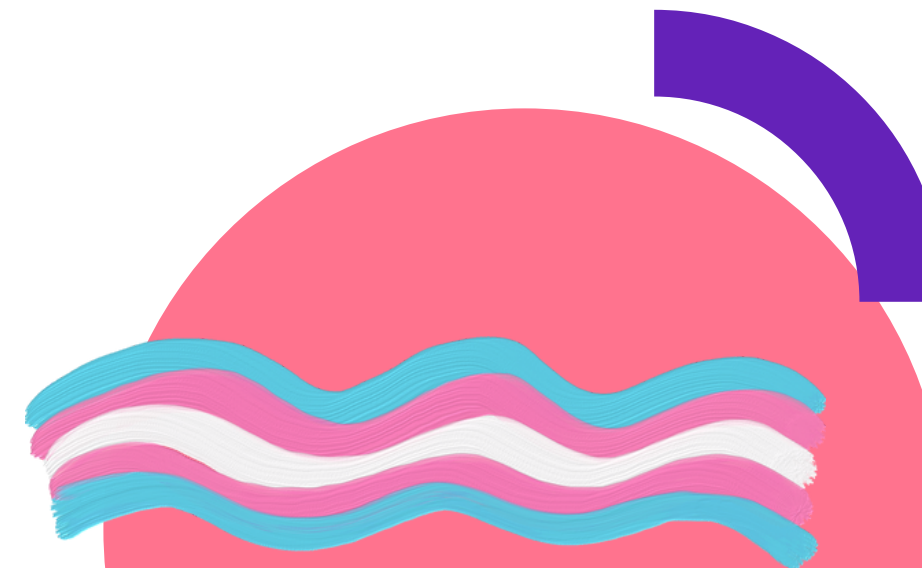
Positionality

- Cisgender

- Heterosexual

- Christianity

- met with research advisor (Dr. Brooks) weekly

- met with someone within the TGD community that
  is also a undergraduate student at Loyola
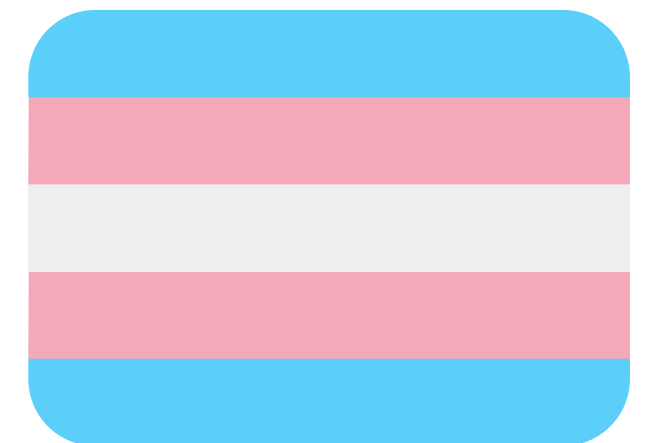
Results + Discussion

Themes:

1. **Religion**

- Religious identity

- Religious concealment

- Experience at a Jesuit University

- Religious generational divide

2. **Social Media**

- Social media platforms

- Introduction to the TGD community

- Coming out on social media

- Building community

- Sociopolitical news + anti-transgender media

3. **Parents**

- Parental attitudes
- Parental involvement
- LGBQ vs TGD community
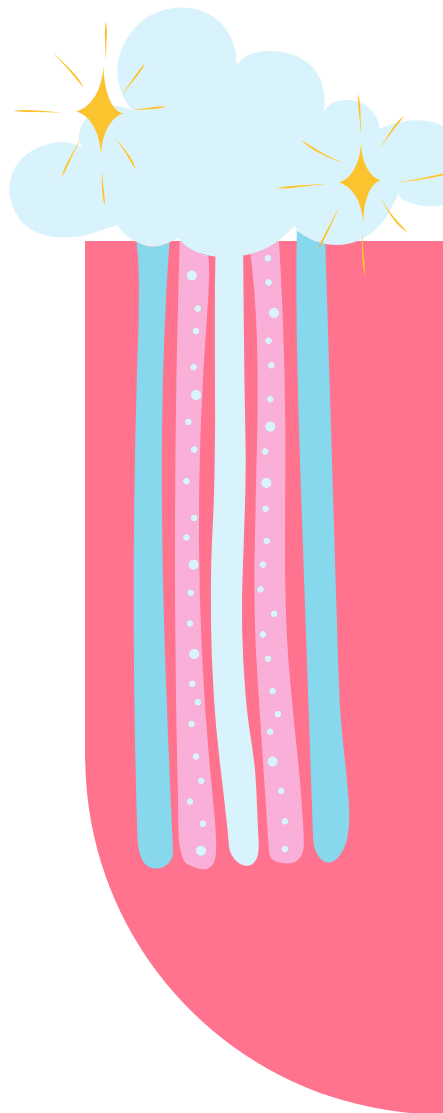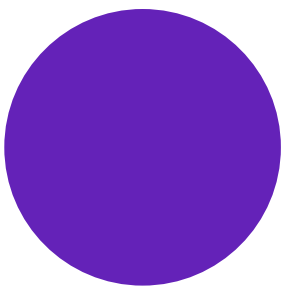
Religious concealment

"[I] [am] not out to anyone in my family who is really religious to be honest . . . they have a lot of traditional views . . . [which] I associate, um, with a lot of religious spaces."

- Basil (they/them, no religious identity)

Religious concealment

Support for policies surrounding transgender individuals differs by religious group

% of U.S. adults who would favor or oppose policies that ...

	Strongly favor or favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Strongly oppose or oppose

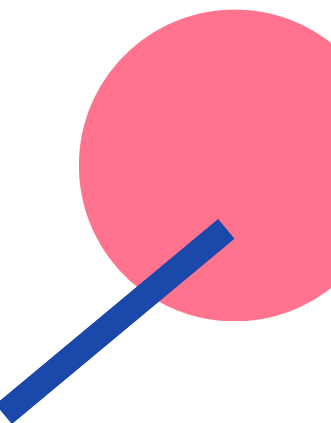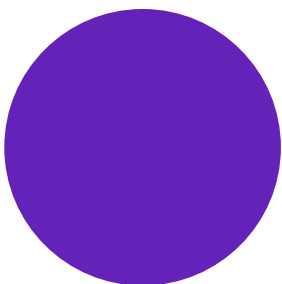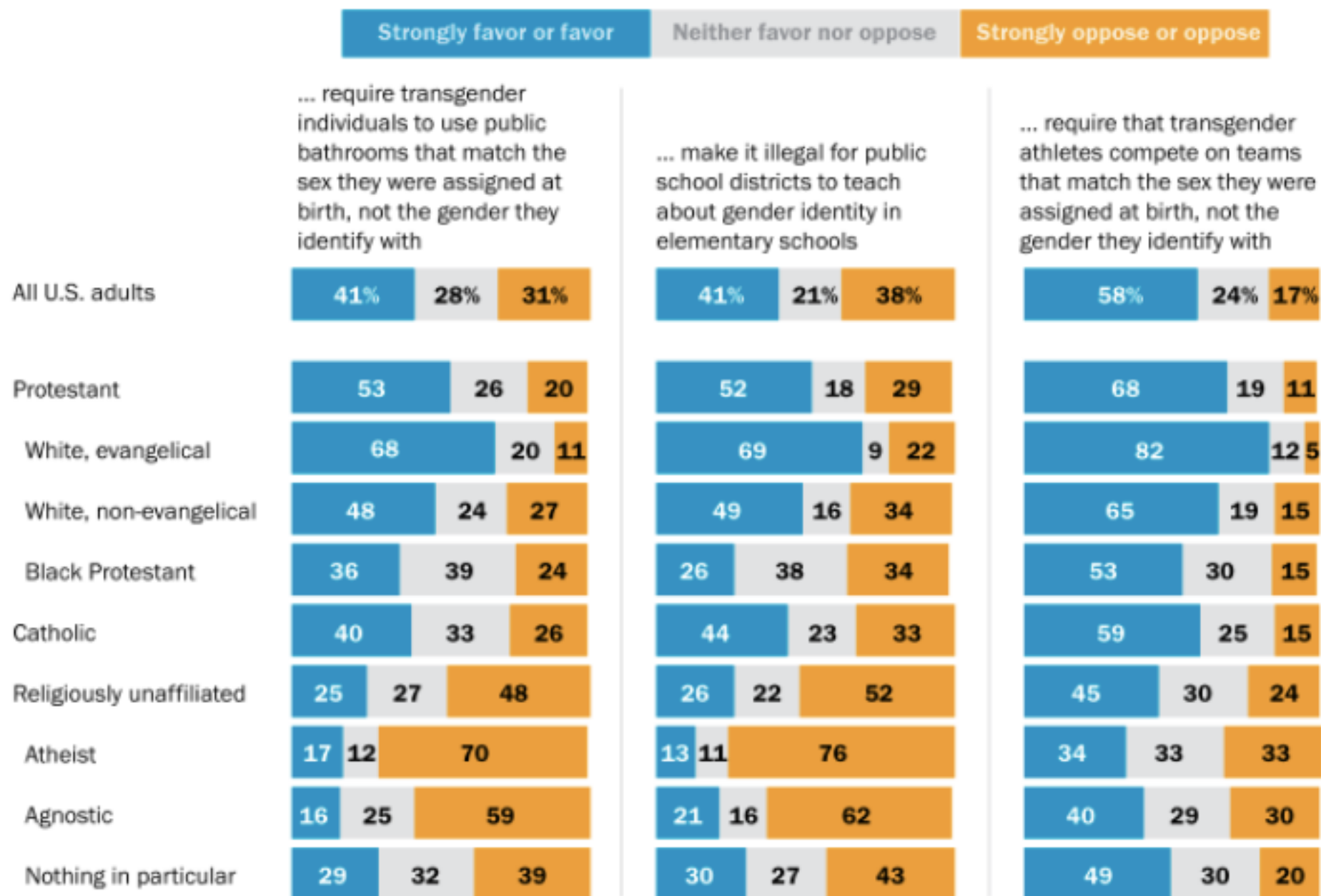|	... require transgender individuals to use public bathrooms that match the sex they were assigned at birth, not the gender they identify with			... make it illegal for public school districts to teach about gender identity in elementary schools			... require that transgender athletes compete on teams that match the sex they were assigned at birth, not the gender they identify with		
All U.S. adults	41%	28%	31%	41%	21%	38%	58%	24%	17%
Protestant	53	26	20	52	18	29	68	19	11
White, evangelical	68	20	11	69	9	22	82	12	5
White, non-evangelical	48	24	27	49	16	34	65	19	15
Black Protestant	36	39	24	26	38	34	53	30	15
Catholic	40	33	26	44	23	33	59	25	15
Religiously unaffiliated	25	27	48	26	22	52	45	30	24
Atheist	17	12	70	13	11	76	34	33	33
Agnostic	16	25	59	21	16	62	40	29	30
Nothing in particular	29	32	39	30	27	43	49	30	20

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted May 16-22, 2022.

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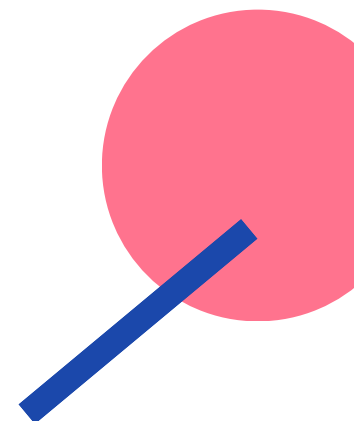
Experience at a Jesuit University

"It was just a basic 101 Theology course and in the material, I guess we were going on, um, like religions opinions on, uh, queer people and transgender people. Um, which was something that I found odd and I had asked other people who had taken, uh, the same   course, and they said that that was not a topic that ever came up. Um, but this professor in particular, um, he, he was making very negative comments. He compared, um, gender affirming surgery. He called it mutilation. And he was, um, speaking about a particular   book that is very famous for being, um, about transgenderism hurting young girls and making them turn transgender. . . . It was very much like a targeted conversation . . . It was very much negative comments that even with pushback from the class of like, 'hey, maybe we shouldn't be, you know, speaking about this in this particular way.' It was kind of like a, no 'this is free speech.'"

- David (he/they)

Introduction to the TGD Community through Social Media

"I came out as um, bi on just like publicly on social media. So it was actually because of social media but because of that, um, they [an acquaintance from high school] reached out to me and we ended up talking until like 5:00 AM just about our life cuz um, they were like a closeted lesbian for most of high school. And they never realized that they were non-binary and trans-masculine and was thinking about how they've just never felt like a woman or always felt like they were kind of playing a role that they felt no connection to. I could really relate to them on that topic. So I began researching, I guess being gender nonconforming and non-binary." - Basil (they/them)

Building Community
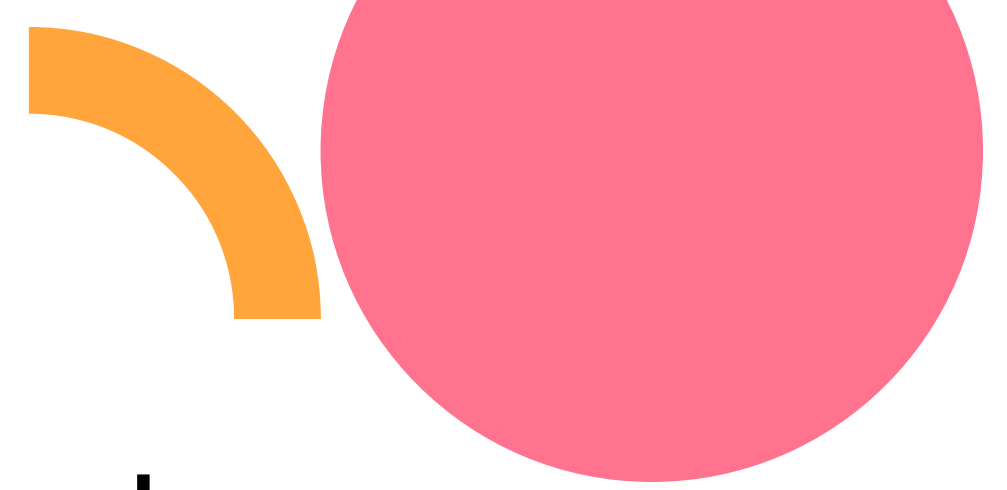
"[I] would make friends with like, people who were going through similar stuff. So that helped a lot." - Thomas (he/him)

"Having a space [like a community] like that is very important and I, I can see why people just wouldn't come out if they don't have that space . . . especially with something like changing your pronouns." - Basil (they/them)

Parental Involvement

Active: "[My] [Dad] got me like a gender therapist and got me hormones. And when I was 16, I legally changed my name on everything. And like, you can only do that with parental consent. So he was great ... he was the one who found like my doctors and stuff. And he obviously paid for everything" - Thomas (he/him)

Passive: "[My] [parents] were always supportive of me seeing my own care and seeking what I needed ... it was more like a guiding role than like a control." - Lexi (she/her)
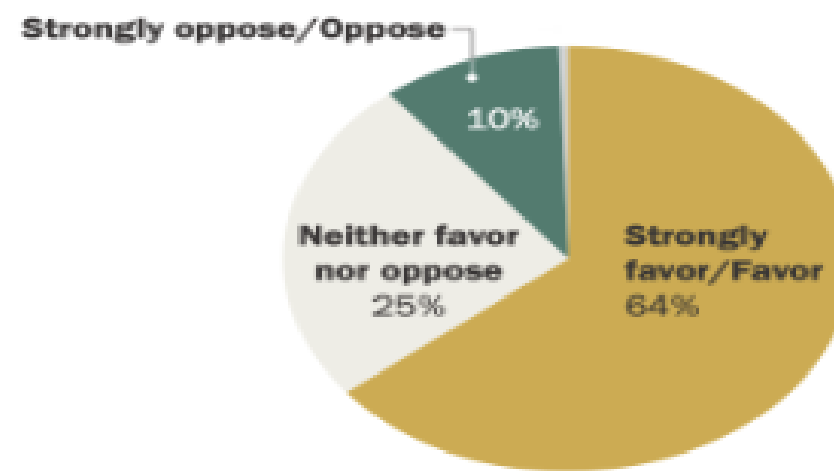
LGBQ vs. TGD Community

"When I told her, [his grandmother] she, she like, we were both crying and she was like, 'why can't you just be gay instead of trans?' And I was like, 'that's not how it works.'"
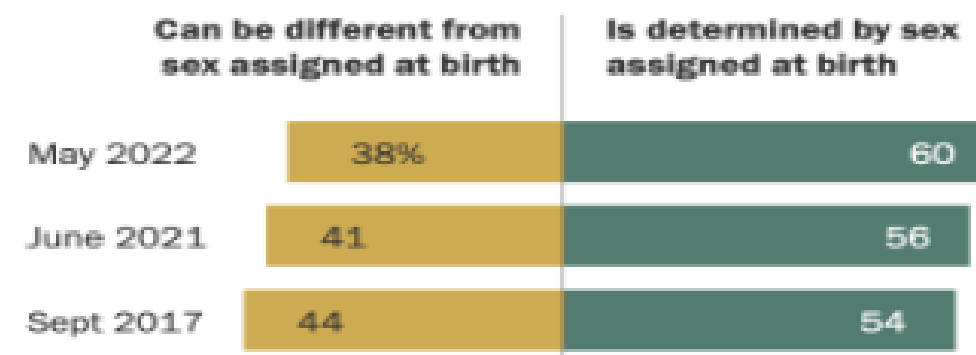- Thomas (he/him)

LGBQ vs. TGD Community

Most favor protecting trans people from discrimination, even as growing share say gender is determined by sex at birth

% saying they would _____ laws or policies that would protect transgender people from discrimination in jobs, housing and public spaces

Strongly oppose/Oppose

10%

Neither favor nor oppose 25%

Strongly favor/Favor 64%

% saying whether a person is a man or a woman ...

	Can be different from sex assigned at birth	Is determined by sex assigned at birth
May 2022	38%	60
June 2021	41	56
Sept 2017	44	54

Note: For top panel, share of respondents who didn't offer an answer shown but not labeled. For bottom panel, share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted May 16-22, 2022. "Americans' Complex Views on Gender Identity and Transgender Issues"

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Thank you!