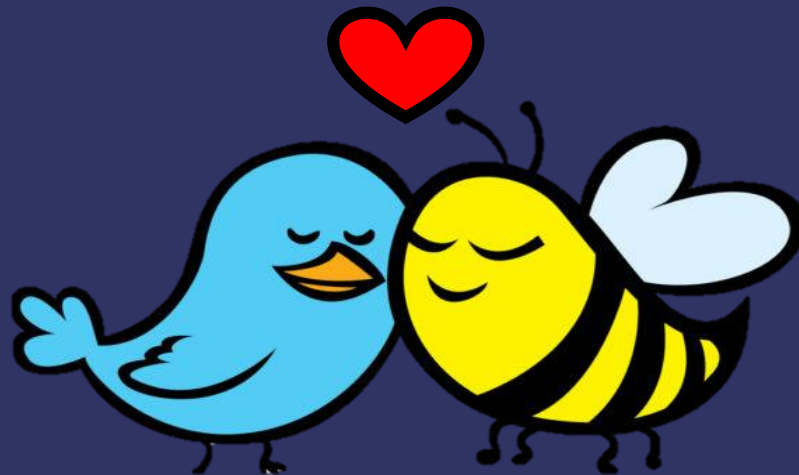


Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, & Autism Spectrum Disorder

June 30, 2020
Eileen T. Crehan, PhD
Tufts University

Thank you to...

- Our participants!
- Crehan Lab research team, especially Jess Rocha & Jordan Sclar
- Crehan Lab Autism Community Advisory Board

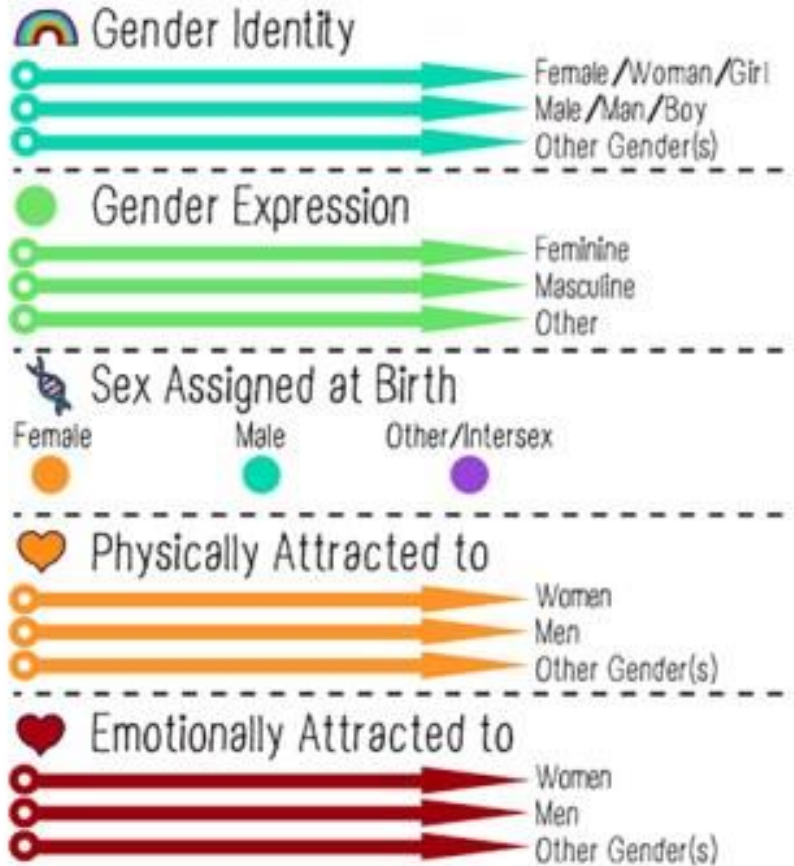
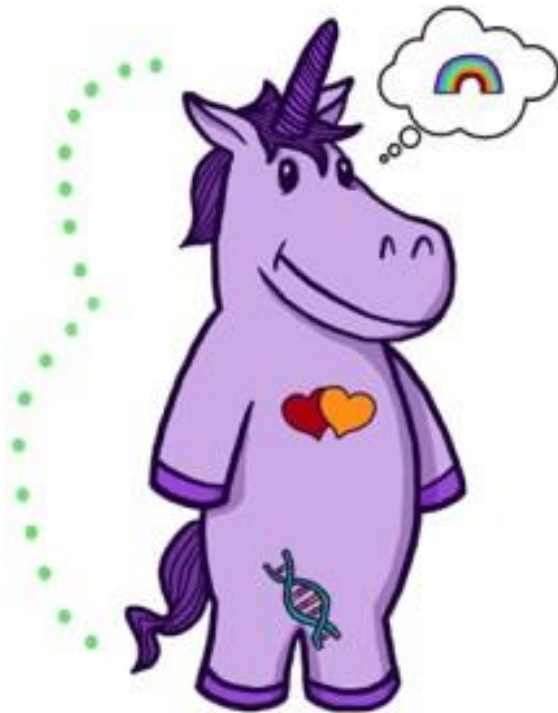


Overview

- ❖ Gender Unicorn
- ❖ Gender identity and ASD
- ❖ Sexual orientation and ASD
- ❖ Sex education
- ❖ Some new data
- ❖ Action steps
- ❖ Resources

The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by:
TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources



To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore

<http://transstudent.org/>

The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by: **TSER**
Trans Student Educational Resources

自分が考えるジェンダー
女性 / 女の子
男性 / 男の子
その他の性

見た目が表すジェンダー
女性らしい
男性らしい
その他

生まれた時に決定された性別
女性 男性 その他 / 両性

身体的に惹きつけられる対象
女性
男性
その他の性(複数の場合も含む)

感情的に惹きつけられる対象
女性
男性
その他の性(複数の場合も含む)

より詳しくはこちら
www.transstudent.org/gender
デザイン: Landyn Pan / Anna Moore

Гендерный единорог

Graphic by: **TSER**
Trans Student Educational Resources

Гендерная идентичность
Женщина/Женщины/Девочки
Мужчина/Мужчины/Мальчики/Мальчишки
Другие

Гендерное самовыражение
Женщина
Мужчина
Другие

Биологический пол
Женский Мужской Интерсексуальный

Сексуальная ориентация
Женщины
Мужчины
Другие

Романтическая ориентация
Женщины
Мужчины
Другие

Узнайте больше на сайте:
www.transstudent.org/gender
Design by Landyn Pan

El Unicornio del Género

Gráfico de: **TSER**
Trans Student Educational Resources

Identidad de Género
Mujer
Hombre
Otro género

Expresión de Género
Femenina
Masculina
Otra

Sexo Asignado al nacer
Mujer Varón Otro

Atracción sexual hacia
Mujer
Hombre
Otro género

Atracción romántica hacia
Mujer
Hombre
Otro género

Si quiere saber mas, vaya a:
www.transstudent.org/gender
Diseño de Landyn Pan and Anna Moore

Das Gender Unicorn

Graphic by: **TSER**
Trans Student Educational Resources

Geschlechtsidentität (wie fühle ich mich?)
weiblich/Frau/Mädchen
männlich/Mann/Junge
andere Geschlechter

Geschlechtsausdruck (wie gebe ich mich nach außen?)
feminin
maskulin
andere

Bei der Geburt zugewiesenes Geschlecht
weiblich männlich inter*

Sexuell angezogen von
Frauen
Männern
anderen Geschlechtern

Romantisch angezogen von
Frauen
Männern
anderen Geschlechtern

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Assigned gender at birth	Male n (%)	Female n (%)
Feels male	299 (91.7)	3 (0.9)
Partly male, partly female	10 (3.1)	31 (8.9)
Not male, nor female	2 (0.6)	26 (7.4)
don't know (yet)	4 (1.2)	9 (2.6)
Different (e.g. human, no sex)	8 (2.5)	8 (2.3)
Feels female	3 (0.9)	272 (77.9)

(Dewinter, De Graf, & Begeer, 2017)

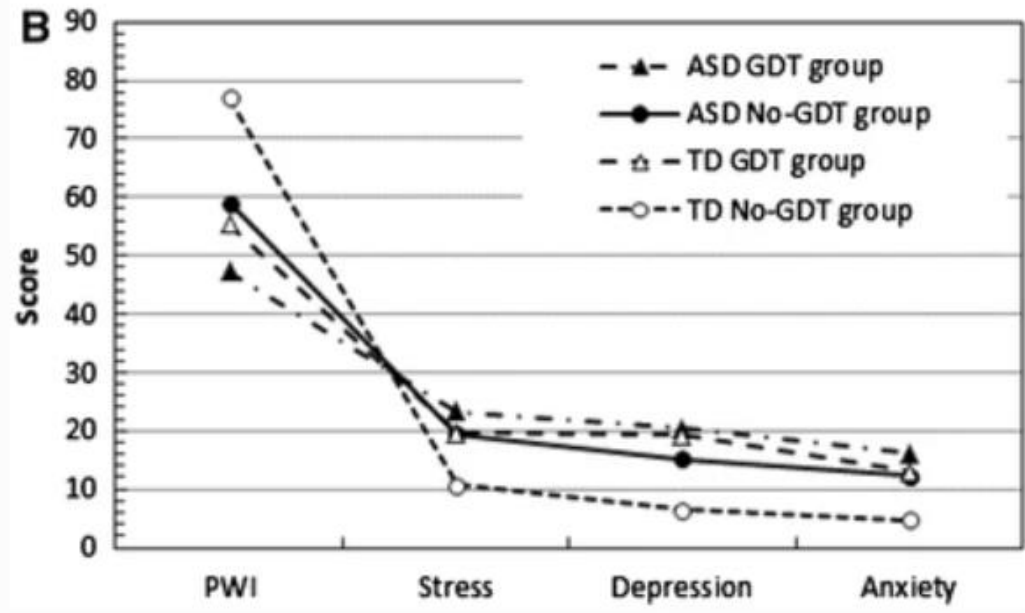
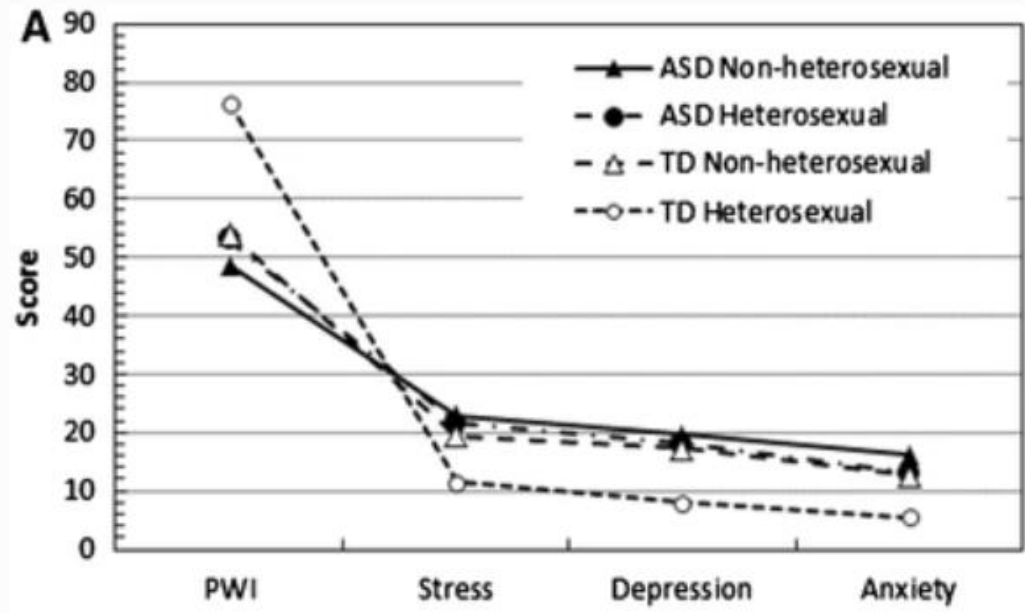
Gender identity & ASD

n (%)	Men		Women	
	ASD (n = 316)	TD (n = 3927)	ASD (n = 343)	TD (n = 4137)
Feels attracted to				
Men only	16 (5.1)	150 (3.8)	194 (56.6)** ^a	3601 (87)
Both men and women	27 (8.5)	184 (4.7)	77 (22.4)	418 (10.1)
Women only	258 (81.6)** ^a	3549 (90.4)	21 (6.1)	53 (1.3)
None of these	15 (4.7)	44 (1.1)	51 (14.9)	65 (1.6)
In a relationship				
With a man	8 (5.1)	113 (3.9)	151 (93.2)	2861 (97.9)
With a woman	150 (94.9)	2803 (96.1)	11 (6.8)*	62 (2.1)
Living together with partner				
	136 (86.1)	2450 (84)	130 (80.2)	2324 (79.5)

(Dewinter, De Graf, & Begeer, 2017)

Sexual orientation & ASD

How we talk about and teach the concepts of gender identity and sexual orientation is particularly critical for autistic learners



(George & Stokes, 2018)

Sexuality & Relationship Education (SRE)

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Where are we now

- Huge variation by state
- Research tools
- Geared toward heterosexual relationships between cisgendered people
- Variable access for autistic learners

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What do we need to know

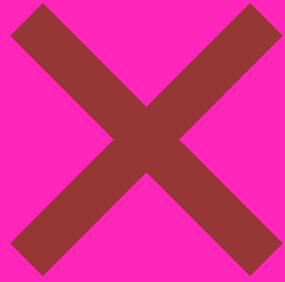
- Teaching methods
- Sources of information
- Timing
- Inclusive of all identities

Study results

Study results



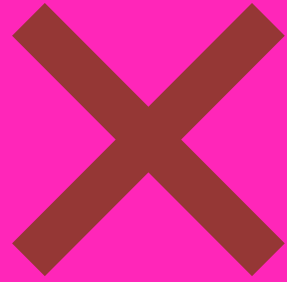
Timing



Study results



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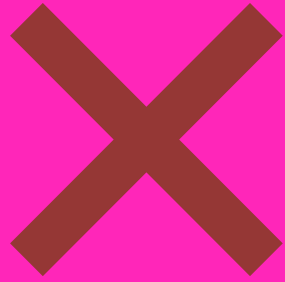
Sources of information



Study results



Timing



Want more information



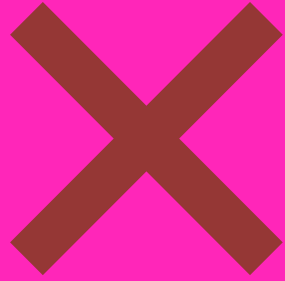
Sources of information



Study results



Timing



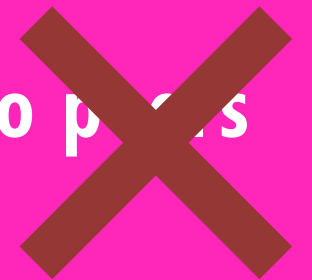
Want more information



Sources of information



Comparison to peers



To summarize

Gender identity diversity and queer sexual orientations are higher in autistic populations.

Less access to SRE for autistic students

SRE programs in school overwhelmingly do not include information relevant for LGBTQ+ individuals



populations.

students

individuals

Action steps

Parents

- Books and media with diverse family structures and characters with various gender identities
- Use wording like “many” or “some” when discussing gender and sex
- Read up and identifying areas of discomfort

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Other adults

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- Consider developmental age
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School

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- Focus on behaviors in addition to discussing identity
- Support the GSA or LGBTQ+ groups at your school

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Experiences

- Keep questions open ended “Is there anyone you like at school?” instead of “That boy has a crush on you!”
- Navigating the coming out process

RESOURCES

Curricula

Tackling Teenage Training

Books

S.E.X. the all-you-need-to-know sexuality guide to get your
through your teens & twenties Heather Corinna

The Facts of Life & More Laura Walker-Hirsch

A Guide to Gender Sam Killerman

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Schooling, Stephen
Russell & Stacey Horn, eds.

Online resources

Sex Ed for Self-Advocates through OAR

GLAAD.org

Planned PARENTHOOD

Television shows

Sex Education (Netflix)

Everything's Gonna Be Okay (Hulu)

Atypical (Netflix)

Currently running

Focusing on fitness
Ages 18+

Sibling project
Ages 18+, family triad

Coming soon!

SRE RCT
Adolescent cohort &
adult cohort

Sexuality education &
identity survey
Ages 18+



Crehan Lab
at Tufts University

Keep in touch!

- Study announcements and resources
 - CrehanLab on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
- Study questions? CrehanLab@tufts.edu
- Other questions? Eileen.Crehan@tufts.edu

References

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