

Debunkers: Why US Schools Are at the Center of Trans Rights

#freedomtoons

#debunkers

Video: [Why US schools are at the center of trans rights - YouTube](#)

1:19-1:40

“Gender affirmation is suicide prevention. This coming year will be my seventh year teaching in Tennessee. I’m seeing a lot more depression, a lot more anxiety. I’m seeing a lot, a lot of suicidal ideation, which the data bears out. One estimate says that 20% of trans and nonbinary youth will attempt suicide. That’s two times the rate of their cisgender peers.”

- “One estimate says that 20% of trans and nonbinary youth will attempt suicide”
 - This estimate comes from The Trevor Project, though not from the source they provide in the description.
 - They cite [this](#).
 - The actual study though is [this](#).
- First off, The Trevor Project has been conducting this survey since 2019. The stats for attempted suicide each year are as follows:
 - 2019:
 - Cisgender: 14%
 - Trans/NB: 29%
 - 2020:
 - Cisgender: 11%
 - Trans/NB: 21%
 - 2021:
 - Cisgender: 10%
 - Trans/NB: 20%
 - 2022: Here the Trevor Project attempts to hide ever-declining attempted suicide rates by breaking up respondents into six different categories (ex: questioning, nonbinary,

transgender girl, cisgender boy, etc.). But when aggregated, the true rates are the following:

- Cisgender: 8%
- Trans/NB: 16.75%
- So, that's **four years of decreasing rates**, despite the increase in "anti-trans" legislation that's supposedly leading to the "increased depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation" this teacher observes.
- Also, the Trevor Project's recruitment methods for that survey are as follows:
 - "A quantitative cross-sectional design was used to collect data using an online survey platform between December 2, 2019 and March 31, 2020. A sample of individuals ages 13-24 who resided in the United States was recruited via targeted ads on social media."
 - So, you're targeting **people who are on social media**.
- Jonathan Haidt settles the debate once and for all in [this publication](#). While there's too much information to rephrase here, his conclusion is unambiguous: **Social Media is a Major Cause of the Mental Illness Epidemic in Teen Girls**.
- Here are just a couple take-aways from that study:
 - "Estimates suggest high-speed wireless internet significantly increased teen girls' mental health diagnoses – by 90% – relative to teen boys over the period when visual social media became dominant among teenagers. I find similar effects across all subgroups, indicating they are not driven by differences in confounding characteristics." ([Elaine Guo, working paper](#))
 - "The dose-response effect is larger for girls. For boys, moving from 2 to 5 hours of daily use is associated with a doubling of depression rates. For girls, it's associated with a tripling." - Kelly, Zilanawala, Booker, & Sacker: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370\(18\)30060-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370(18)30060-9/fulltext)
- So, the Trevor Project is targeting people who are more susceptible to depression (and therefore down the line, suicidal ideation) due to the fact they're on social media. Also, the people who are more likely to be transgender (pubescent girls) are also those whose mental health is most negatively impacted by social media use.
- Lastly, this video was published in July of 2022, right as we were emerging from what was undoubtedly the single greatest pandemic most living individuals have ever experienced.
 - See these CDC and Pew studies for how much of an impact the pandemic had on

young people's mental health:

- [Mental Health, Suicidality, and Connectedness Among High School Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey, United States, January-June 2021 | MMWR](#)
- [37% of U.S. high schoolers face mental health struggles amid COVID most or all the time, CDC finds | Pew Research Center](#)

- All this to say:
 - The Trevor Project's data set is skewed, making the situation look more negative than it actually is, and
 - **There's a multi-factor analysis here that Vox isn't willing to do.**
 - From social media to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and other related issues, there are dozens of reasons why student's mental health could be in decline. But according to Vox (via the professor they interviewed), it's all caused by one reason: the increase in "anti-trans" legislation.
- More resources on why gender affirmation is not, in fact, "suicide prevention":
 - [Suicide Facts and Myths - Transgender Trend](#)
 - <https://mercatornet.com/the-transgender-suicide-myth-exposed/46564/>

2:26-2:59

"In our school, the rule is trans kids either have to use the restroom designated for their sex assigned at birth or they need to go find a single-stall gender-neutral restroom. And our campuses were not built that way..."

From one end of the school to the other, upstairs on this end and downstairs on that...the one time that Tobi decided to just go ahead and go into the male facilities they started chanting. They started beating on the stall door...

You're asking a kid to fight through dysphoria and put themselves in harm's way."

- Ok so here's the story; the kid was legitimately harassed and that should never be condoned.
 - [Transgender student harassed, bullied at Siegel High school, Tennessee](#)

- However, the characterization onscreen is disingenuous.
- First off, [TN House Bill 1233](#) states the following:
 - SECTION 4. (a) A public school shall provide a reasonable accommodation to a person who:
 - (1) For any reason, is unwilling or unable to use a multi-occupancy restroom or changing facility designated for the person's sex and located within a public school building
- So, TN state law requires "reasonable accommodation" for people who write in asking to use other bathrooms.
- Vox's onscreen characterization of this incident is disingenuous for many reasons:
 - 1) The video portrays the scenario as there only being one bathroom available, on a different floor and located as far away as possible.
 - 2) The reality is that in this situation, the school administration had granted Tobi permission to use any and all faculty bathrooms.
 - 3) On the particular day and time Tobi had to use the restroom, all faculty bathrooms were locked.
 - 4) Tobi then proceeded to use the boy's bathroom, where (he, she? - Tobi is a biological female) got harassed by a group of group of guys who walked in and started banging on the stall.
- So, the real story here is about a group of teenage boys who decided to be jerks one day. It's not about a lack of accommodation. The law clearly provides for reasonable accommodation, and Tobi was more than reasonably accommodated for by the administration. It was an unfortunate series of circumstances that led to this situation.

3:27-3:33

"In 2021, when the Tennessee laws went into effect, most school boards adopted it as policy. But not all of them..."

'We are being asked to pass a policy that goes along with state law, yet it is a violation of civil rights.' This is the Metro Nashville Public School board, which governs this school district of roughly 80,000 students, discussing whether or not to adopt the state law that bans transgender athletes from participating in girls' sports in public, middle, and high schools."

- Other than a fleeting reference at 7:23, this is the last time they mention sports in this video. That's likely because there's a ton of evidence that biological men have a distinct advantage over biological women, and asking why people would ever want to segregate based on biological sex in the first place leads down some interesting rabbit holes.
- For example, even if trans people/women represent around [0.6% of the population](#) (see graph), then they seem overrepresented in winner's circles. See below for a list of 29 sports in which trans-women are now competing (and winning):
 - [Transgender Athletes List | Alliance Defending Freedom](#)
- Miscellaneous articles regarding the repercussions of biological men competing in women's sports:
 - [Female athletes challenge Connecticut policy that abolishes girls-only sports | Alliance Defending Freedom](#)
- Concrete example: The best 400 meter sprint time for U.S. runner Allyson Felix, the fastest female sprinter in the world, is 49.26 seconds ([source](#)).
 - However, according to 2018 data, nearly 300 high school boys in the U.S. alone could beat Felix's world record. ([source](#))

0:33-0:59 & 5:27-6:18

These two sections form one part of the narrative. We'll look at them together and debunk them both, but you'll need to determine how to best arrange or stitch this information together:

0:33-0:59

"But, these bills are at the state level. If you looked to the federal government, you'd hear a different message to transgender students...That's because the current federal government believes gender identity discrimination violates a 1972 federal civil rights law. So when it comes to the rights of trans students conservative states and the federal government are at odds."

5:27-6:18

"Any school that receives "federal financial assistance" is beholden to Title IX, the 1972

federal civil rights law that, for 50 years, has ensured that there is no “discrimination” “on the basis of sex.” And for public schools, the federal agencies that enforce Title IX compliance are tied to whoever is in the White House. And the past three administrations have differed in their interpretation of Title IX. The Obama administration ruled that it protects LGBTQ students. But the Trump administration reversed it. And the Biden administration restored it again. That’s why today, in 2022, it is a violation of federal civil rights law to discriminate against LGBTQ students in public schools which could make a school district liable to a federal investigation while some states, who control most school funding, have passed laws contrary to that.”

- The “1972 federal civil rights law” they cite in the first section is Title IX, which states “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”
- There are two important things to note here:
 - 1) The definition of “sex”, and
 - 2) The fact that it’s limited to *education programs* which receive *Federal financial assistance*.
- Now a different title, Title VII, prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin.
 - 1) Here again we have the definition of “sex”, but
 - 2) This title prevents against discrimination *in the workplace*. It has no say over education programs which receive Federal financial assistance.
- In 2020, while Trump was still president (an important point, see below), there was *Bostock v. Clayton County*, a civil rights case in which the Supreme Court held that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects employees against discrimination because they are gay or transgender.
- Thus, for a time in 2020, the Federal government was at odds with itself. The executive branch held that the definition of sex found in Title IX did not apply to gender, whereas the judicial branch held that the definition of sex in Title VII did in fact apply to gender.
 - This isn’t a huge point, but when the video says “So when it comes to the rights of trans students, conservative states and the federal government are at odds.” then you can say “Well yes, but even the federal government was at odds with itself for a time.”

- “And the past three administrations have differed in their interpretation of Title IX. The Obama administration ruled that it protects LGBTQ students. But the Trump administration reversed it. And the Biden administration restored it again.”
 - First of all, important to note this isn’t Title VII. LGBTQ people are completely protected from employment discrimination. This only applies to discrimination in federally-funded, educational environments - where one would think that upholding science and not delusion is a priority, thus justifying any “discrimination” against people who self-identify as the opposite sex.
 - **Main point though, stop lumping “LGBQ” into this.** The executive branch’s interpretation of Title IX only regards the definition of *sex* (ie, whether that word includes “gender” or not). It has nothing to do with *sexual orientation*, which is already fully protected. So the Trump administration didn’t reverse any protections for LGBQ students. Regardless of how the federal government interprets Title IX, LGBQ students will always be protected. This is literally just a question of the extent to which the government can or can’t (much less, whether it ever chooses to) punish public schools for upholding the scientific tenants of biology, or actively subverting them.
 - The opening line of this video, “In the past few years, many Republican governors have signed legislation targeting LGBTQ people into law” is an intentional framing - LBGQ people aren’t under threat, trans activists who deny both science and reason are.

6:38

“The state is still saying they’re not welcome.”

- As we saw earlier, it is TN state law for public schools to make “reasonable accommodations” to transgender students. So what do these people want? when will it ever be enough?