

Rapid onset gender dysphoria and other myths

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Published March 11, 2018 | Updated March 30, 2026

https://www.transadvocate.com/rapid-onset-gender-dysphoria-and-other-myths_n_22079.htm

Abstract

The anti-trans movement created a new pathology they're shopping around to various (mostly right-wing) news outlets. It's called "rapid onset gender dysphoria" and you catch it from websites like DeviantArt, Tumblr, and Reddit. A great takedown of this internet illness was published by the Advocate and I encourage you to check it out. Having said that, [...]

Article



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Here's the clinical definition of gender dysphoria:

Gender Dysphoria

Diagnostic Criteria

Gender Dysphoria in Children

302.6 (F64.2)

- A. A marked incongruence between one's experienced/expressed gender and assigned gender, of at least 6 months' duration, as manifested by at least six of the following (one of which must be Criterion A1):
1. A strong desire to be of the other gender or an insistence that one is the other gender (or some alternative gender different from one's assigned gender).
 2. In boys (assigned gender), a strong preference for cross-dressing or simulating female attire; or in girls (assigned gender), a strong preference for wearing only typical masculine clothing and a strong resistance to the wearing of typical feminine clothing.
 3. A strong preference for cross-gender roles in make-believe play or fantasy play.
 4. A strong preference for the toys, games, or activities stereotypically used or engaged in by the other gender.
 5. A strong preference for playmates of the other gender.
 6. In boys (assigned gender), a strong rejection of typically masculine toys, games, and activities and a strong avoidance of rough-and-tumble play; or in girls (assigned gender), a strong rejection of typically feminine toys, games, and activities.
 7. A strong dislike of one's sexual anatomy.
 8. A strong desire for the primary and/or secondary sex characteristics that match one's experienced gender.
- B. The condition is associated with clinically significant distress or impairment in social, school, or other important areas of functioning.

Figure 1. "... of at least 6 months duration..."

Unless you're prepared to claim that half a year is "rapid," by the clinical definition of "gender dysphoria," it cannot be both "rapid" and gender dysphoria. While I'm sure the irony is unintentional, the main vector for "rapid onset gender dysphoria" is an internet site called Transgender Trend. The group recently released a slick looking booklet full of lies and misinformation targeting schools, teachers, and vulnerable families:

Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria

Although there exists plentiful research on the etiology of transsexualism in adult males,²⁵ there are no research studies on adults who underwent medical gender reassignment treatments in childhood as this is a new phenomenon.



Some professionals have noted a new presentation of gender dysphoria which appears after the start of puberty with no previous indication of gender confusion or unhappiness. This recent development has been termed Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria and it affects mostly teenage girls.

The first study of this group²⁶ indicates a high incidence of internet and peer-group influence where a number of teenage girls within a friendship group 'come out' together as transgender. A high percentage of these girls report increased popularity although parents report worsening mental health and parent-child relationships. Typically these girls receive online advice, trust only transgender sources for information, retreat into transgender-only friendship groups and may mock those who are not transgender or LGBT.

Parents report that their teenager's sudden announcement that they are transgender typically follows their immersion in online transgender forums such as Reddit,²⁷ Tumblr and YouTube.

- Social contagion and internet use are recognised factors in 'rapid onset' gender dysphoria in teenagers, especially girls. The school can be a neutral space away from internet influence rather than providing validation of ideas learned on Tumblr

Did you know that there's a wave of children undergoing "medical gender reassignment treatments"? Neither did I.

The reality is that it's unethical to give children "medical gender reassignment treatments." Not only must a child receive a valid DSM-5 gender dysphoria diagnosis to receive clinical care for gender dysphoria, the care provided to children is in the form of psychological support. Even so, for this type of care to be ethical, it must be provided in adherence to the Standards of Care, which bars the types of treatments Transgender Trend claims as being a "new phenomenon."

Moreover, the "study" Transgender Trend refers to was actually just a mere poster that was hung up at a convention. The sex essentialists activist who authored the poster asked Transgender Trend comment section commentators and other site supporters if they think cisgender kids are suddenly becoming trans after going to Reddit, YouTube, Tumblr, and DeviantArt. Nevermind the sex essentialists activist "researcher" failed to disclose the source of their data, groups that are sympathetic to the lies Transgender Trend peddles now claims this "study" proves that being trans is something kids catch from the internet.

If this all sounds like you've heard this type of rhetoric before, it's because you have:



Figure 2. Intro to an ex-gay therapist's "success" story

The ex-gay movement has, for years, claimed that kids are gay because it makes them popular, that they get attention, and/or they were having difficulty forming an identity. The above story states that the kid in question felt they were, "kind of an outcast, really not social with anybody except one person who was very shy like me." But then comes along the concept of being gay and suddenly, "they were all supportive, like I was a celeb." Note how this right-wing narrative is found in the very snake oil anti-trans activists are, at this very moment, working to introduce into schools:

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Transgender Trend Refuses to Debate their fact claims

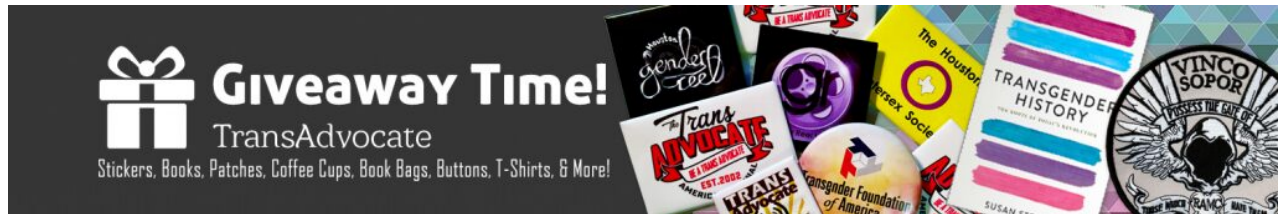
On March 2nd, the TransAdvocate issued an invitation to debate the various lies Transgender Trend pushes and, as expected, for all their rhetoric about "free speech," the hate group is ducking debating the various lies they're currently pushing on schools and vulnerable families. It has been...

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... since we challenged Transgender Trend to debate the claims they make in their booklet. The hate group refuses to stand behind the hoax they are, even now, attempting to perpetrate, targeting the most vulnerable among us: gender dysphoric school kids. While we know that supporting trans kids produces better mental health outcomes, hate groups like Transgender Trend seem absolutely fine with sacrificing as many children's wellbeing if it means getting their ex-gay right-wing ripoff of a disease into the hands of non-medical and non-psychological professionals who hold sway over a child's well-being.



Suggested citation

Cristan Williams. "Rapid onset gender dysphoria and other myths." TransAdvocate, March 11, 2018.
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