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Navigating Gender Identity Disclosure (coming out): Psychosocial Profiles and Characteristics Among Canadian TeensA Response to Saskatchewan's Bill 137







- SGM communities face cumulative minority stressors subjectively and objectively
- Sexual orientation and gender identity and expression change efforts (SOGIECE) are correlated with mental health risks.

Bill 137 (amended in August 2023):

- Parental consent for students under 16 to change their names or pronouns related to gender expression at school
- It also restricts sexual health education and prohibits third-party involvement.

- Stigma, unawareness and self-blame
 delay and reduce parents' willingness
 to seek help for their children
- Teachers (formal) and other support (formal + informal) become important

The UnACoRN Study

opened in 2022| REAFFIRM

UnACoRN 1.0
(n=9,674)

Students

Reside in Canada

Gender Minority*

Came out

Aged 15-17

Came Out to

Parents + Teachers (Control - 75%) Teachers - parents (At Risk - 25%)

Descriptive Analysis

- 1. Pearson's chi-squared test (Pearson, 1900)
- 2. Fisher's exact test (Connelly, 2016)
- 3. Wilcoxon rank sum test (Wilcoxon, 1946)
- Sensitivity analysis for age 15 (n= 351)

Variables of Interests

General Characteristics

assigned sex at birth

gender identities*

province/territory

Cultural, Racial and Parental Backgrounds

cultural identities*

racial identities*

parents' origin

Disclosure Patterns

Came out to whom*

Age of coming out

Support and Suppression

support from teachers teachers support from support from parents support from parents

support from friends

suppressed by teachers

suppressed by parents

suppressed by friends

Standardized Mental Health Assessment

severe depression symptoms (PHQ-9)*

severe anxiety symptoms (GAD-7)*

suicidal (SBQ-R)*



THE PROFILE OF Teens Coming Out to teachers exclusively but not their parents



General Characteristics

assigned sex at birth: More **females**

gender identities*:
More non-binary, genderfluid & uncertain



Less support from parents



Cultural, Racial and Parental Backgrounds

cultural identities*: More African, SE Asian, Middle Eastern

racial identities*: More Black, Asian & others

parents' origin: More born outside Canada



Disclosure Patterns

came out to whom*: **Less** to Teamates and healthcare provider

Later age of coming out

Responding to Bill 137 --- with evidence



Sask. government passes Parents' Bill of Rights | CBC News

The Saskatchewan government passed Bill 137 Friday, which requires parental consent before a child under 16 can use a different gender-related name or pronoun at school.

₫ CBC

Hunter, A. (2023, October 20). Sask. government passes parents' bill of rights CBCnews. https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/sask-parental-rights-law-1.7002088



Cultural, Racial and Parental Backgrounds

Disclosure Patterns

assigned sex at birth

gender identities*

province/territory

cultural identities*

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parents' origin

Came out to whom*

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Support and Suppression

support from teachers

support from parents

support from friends

suppressed by teachers

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Standardized Mental Health Assessment

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Queer Teens need independent support systems, especially when one fails!



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