

Best-Practices Webinar

Teens & Gender

Why are teenagers so vulnerable to gender ideology?



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August 23, 2025

- In 2023, 5% of U.S. teenagers identified as transgender or questioned the validity of their birth sex.¹

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² <https://segm.org/GIDS-puberty-blockers-minors-the-times-special-report>

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- The U.K.'s Tavistock clinic saw a 5000% increase in teenage girls presenting with gender confusion over a 7-year period.²
- 20% of transgender-identified people in the U.S. are ages 13-17, although only 8% of the general population are aged 13-17.³

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² <https://segm.org/GIDS-puberty-blockers-minors-the-times-special-report>

³ <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/transgender-estimate-press-release/>

What is going on?

Adolescent Identity Formation (Ages 12-20's)

Meaning

Belonging

Autonomy

Mental Health Issues

Autism

Trauma

Social Power & Peer Pressure



Adolescent Identity Formation (Ages 12-20's)

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Erik Erikson's 8 Developmental Crises

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Birth - 1 Year: Trust vs. Mistrust

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3 - 6 Years: Initiative vs. Guilt

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6 Years - Puberty: Competence (Industry) vs. Inferiority

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6 Years - Puberty: Competence (Industry) vs. Inferiority

Teens to 20's: Identity vs. Role Confusion

Adolescent Identity Formation (Ages 12-20's)

The Three Primary Needs of Adolescence:

Adolescent Identity Formation (Ages 12-20's)

The Three Primary Needs of Adolescence:



Meaning

Adolescent Identity Formation (Ages 12-20's)

The Three Primary Needs of Adolescence:



Meaning
Belonging

Adolescent Identity Formation (Ages 12-20's)

The Three Primary Needs of Adolescence:



Meaning
Belonging
Autonomy

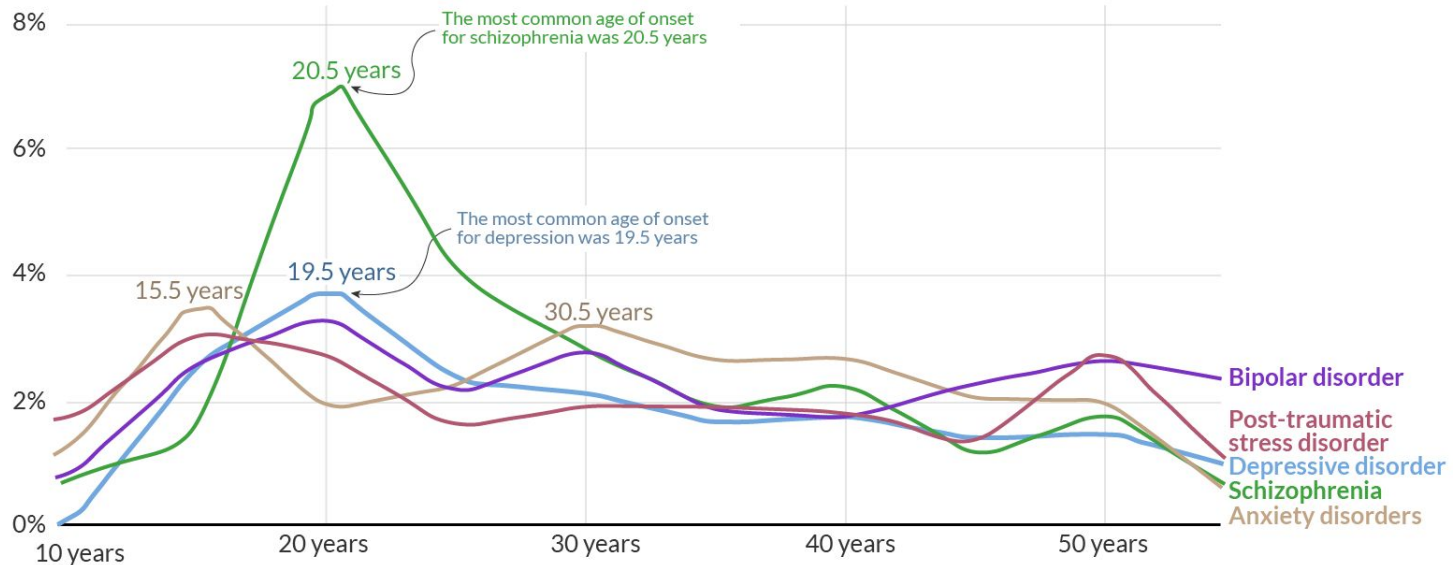


Mental Health Issues

Age of onset of mental health disorders

Our World
in Data

Share for whom the disorder begins at a given age



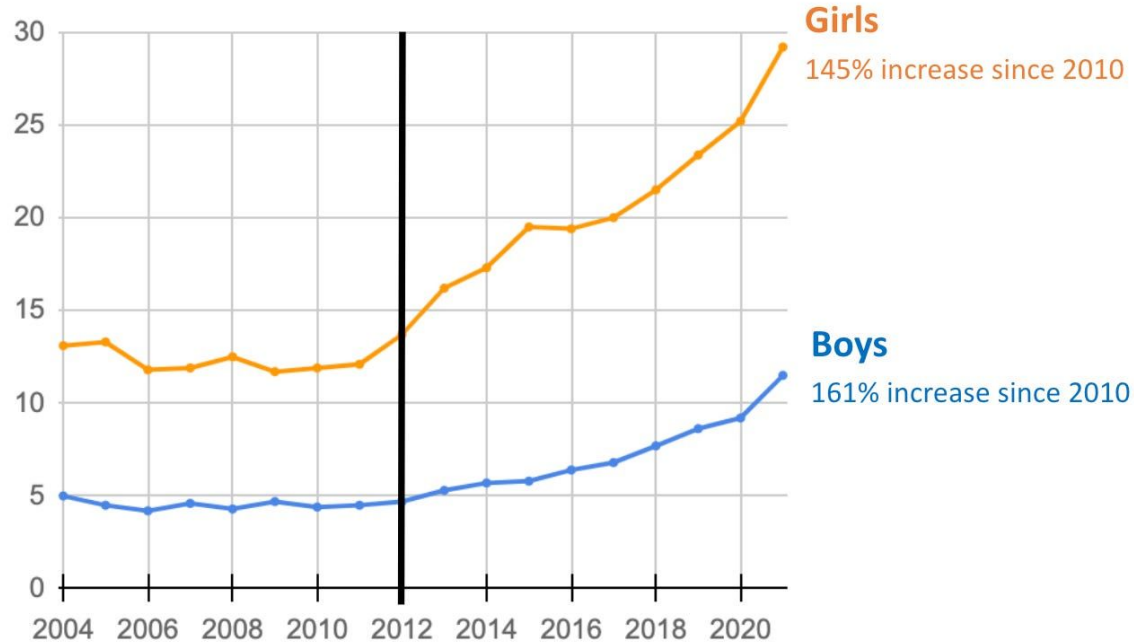
Source: Marco Solmi et al. (2021). Age at onset of mental disorders worldwide: large-scale meta-analysis of 192 epidemiological studies. *Nature Molecular Psychiatry*.

OurWorldinData.org – Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

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Mental Health Issues

% US Teens with Major Depression



Mental Health Issues



Mental Health Issues



Depression

Mental Health Issues



Depression
Anxiety

Mental Health Issues



Depression
Anxiety
ADD/ADHD

Mental Health Issues



Depression

Anxiety

ADD/ADHD

OCD

Mental Health Issues



Depression

Anxiety

ADD/ADHD

OCD

Psychotropic Drugs

Autism



Autism

Socially Awkward



Autism

Socially Awkward
Verbal Challenges



Autism



Socially Awkward
Verbal Challenges
Sensory Sensitivities

Autism



Socially Awkward
Verbal Challenges
Sensory Sensitivities
Black & White Thinking

Autism



Socially Awkward
Verbal Challenges
Sensory Sensitivities
Black & White Thinking
Perseveration

Trauma



Trauma



Divorce/Abandonment

Trauma



Divorce/Abandonment
Abuse

Trauma



Divorce/Abandonment
Abuse
Bullying

Trauma



Divorce/Abandonment
Abuse
Bullying
Moving

Trauma



Divorce/Abandonment
Abuse
Bullying
Moving
Break-Up

Social Power & Peer Pressure



Social Power & Peer Pressure



Brainwashing
Techniques

Social Power & Peer Pressure



Brainwashing
Techniques
“Ally or Enemy?”

Social Power & Peer Pressure



Brainwashing
Techniques
“Ally or Enemy?”
Cult of Kindness

Social Power & Peer Pressure



Brainwashing
Techniques
“Ally or Enemy?”
Cult of Kindness
Peer-Led Sex Ed

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