

Intersex Resource Guide

Content Warning: Some of the following resources contain discussions of medical experiences (including non-consensual surgical procedures), physical and emotional trauma, depression, genitals and anatomy, and gender dysphoria.

What Is Intersex?

Intersex is a term used to describe “someone with a less common combination of hormones, chromosomes, and anatomy that are used to assign sex at birth” (TSER 2018). Intersex conditions are sometimes referred to as **differences of sexual development (DSDs)**. The terms “disorders of sexual development” or “hermaphroditism” should not be used in reference to intersex. These terms are considered stigmatizing or pejorative.

There are many different types of intersex conditions, including Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH), Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS), Klinefelter Syndrome, and Turner Syndrome.

In the United States, children who are intersex must be assigned either female or male on their birth certificate, and some intersex people still undergo medical procedures to “normalize” their bodies during infancy and early childhood. These practices (which are not medically necessary) are highly controversial and are associated with high rates of physical and psychological trauma. Intersex activists continue to advocate for the delay of these procedures until a person is old enough to participate in medical decision-making about their body and to provide consent.

Being intersex is **not** the same as being transgender; however some people are both intersex and transgender.

Looking for more information about intersex?

Articles

[“I’m Intersex, And It’s WAY More Common Than You Think”](#) – Teen Vogue

[“8 Things You Only Know If You Are Born Intersex”](#) – Susannah Temko

[“9 Ways Intersex Youth Want You To Support Them”](#) – Kel Kray

[“The ignorance aimed at Caster Semenya flies in the face of the Olympic spirit”](#) – Katrina Karkazis

[“6 Things Intersex Folks Need to Know About How We Perpetuate Anti-Black Racism”](#) – Pidgeon Pagonis

Videos

[“What It’s Like To Be Intersex”](#) ft. Sean Saifa Wall, Pidgeon Pagonis, Emily Quinn, and Alice Alvarez

[“Growing Up Intersex”](#) ft. Kristin Russo and Claudia Astorino

[The Interface Project](#)



Intersex Flag

Books

- Davis, Georgiann. *Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis*. NYU Press, 2015.
- Dreger, Alice. *Intersex in The Age of Ethics*. University Publishing Group, 1999.
- Holmes, Morgan. *Critical Intersex*. Ashgate Publishing, 2009.
- Karkazis, Katrina. *Fixing Sex: Intersex, Medical Authority, and Lived Experience*. Duke University Press, 2008.
- Reis, Elizabeth. *Bodies in Doubt: An American History of Intersex*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009.
- Vioria, Hida. *Born Both: An Intersex Life*. New York: Hachette Book Group, 2017.

Other Resources

- [“Normalizing Intersex”](#) (special issue of the *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics Journal*, eds. Georgiann Davis and Ellen Feder)
- [interACT brochures](#)

Organizations

- interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth <https://interactadvocates.org>
- OII Intersex Network <https://oiiinternational.com>

More U.S. and international organizations can be found at:

<https://interactadvocates.org/resources/intersex-organizations/>