New Data on Gender Identity: The Experiences of Incoming Transgender College Students

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Summary

- HERI & CIRP Overview
- CIRP Freshman Survey
- Sample
- Select Background Characteristics
- Finances
- Emotional Health
- Political & Civic Engagement
- Q&A and Discussion
Two Dimensions of HERI

Grant-Funded Research

- HHMI
- Helmsley Trust
- National Institutes of Health
- National Science Foundation

CIRP

- Annual Student Surveys
- Triennial Faculty Survey
CIRP Overview

- **Research-based Questions**
  - 50 years of contributing to the research literature

- **Comprehensive Survey Instruments**
  - A broad scope allows for shifts of focus not tied to one particular theory but allows for multiple theories as we learn from previous research

- **Comparative Information**
  - Benchmark against peers and aspirational groups

- **Longitudinal Design**
CIRP Student Surveys*

- **College entry**
  - Freshman Survey (TFS)

- **End of 1st year**
  - Your First College Year (YFCY)

- **2nd or 3rd year or > 24 units**
  - Diverse Learning Environments (DLE)

- **Senior year**
  - College Senior Survey (CSS)

*Faculty Survey administered every 3 years
CIRP Freshman Survey

- Largest and longest running study of higher education in the United States
- Started by Dr. Alexander Astin at ACE.
- 1966: First national administration
- Fall 2015 marked the 50th administration
- More than 15 million students
- Nearly 1,800 institutions
Sample

- 2015 CIRP Freshman Survey
  - 1st time students were asked to report their gender identity

- 678 Transgender students
  - 209 institutions

- National Sample
  - Weighted data to reflect the nearly 1.5 million first-time, full-time students who started college in Fall 2015.
Select Background Characteristics

- Attending college more than 100 miles from home: 56.5% (Transgender Students), 50.0% (National Sample)
- HS GPA of A- or higher: 53.9% (Transgender Students), 58.7% (National Sample)
- Religious preference: Agnostic, Atheist, or None: 53.8% (Transgender Students), 29.5% (National Sample)
Finances
Financial Background and Expectations

- Parent/Guardian Income 75K or more: Transgender Students 47.2%, National sample 56.3%
- Major financial concern: Transgender Students 18.9%, National sample 12.0%
- Some/Very good chance of working full-time while in college: Transgender Students 34.9%, National sample 28.5%
Types of Financial Support

- Work-study: 35.4% (Transgender Students) vs 20.9% (National sample)
- Pell Grant: 32.8% (Transgender Students) vs 26.6% (National sample)
- Need-based grants or scholarships: 47.8% (Transgender Students) vs 36.6% (National sample)
- Merit-based grants or scholarships: 60.7% (Transgender Students) vs 51.6% (National sample)
Emotional Health
Self-rated Emotional Health

Transgender students
- Lowest 10%Below average: 52.1%
- Average: 24.4%
- Above average/Highest 10%: 23.5%

National sample
- Lowest 10%Below average: 12.7%
- Average: 36.7%
- Above average/Highest 10%: 50.6%
Emotional Well-Being

Frequently felt overwhelmed by all I had to do
- Transgender students: 54.9%
  - National sample: 34.1%

Frequently felt depressed
- Transgender students: 47.2%
  - National sample: 9.5%

Some/very good chance of seeking personal counseling
- Transgender students: 74.6%
  - National sample: 47.7%
Time Management

- Ability to manage your time effectively (Somewhat strong/Major strength)
  - Transgender students: 33.4%
  - National sample: 51.8%

- Online social networks (6+ hours/week)
  - Transgender students: 39.7%
  - National sample: 26.3%

- Socializing with friends (6+ hours/week)
  - Transgender students: 60.1%
  - National sample: 45.9%
Political & Civic Engagement
Political Views

Transgender Students
- Liberal/Far Left: 69.2%
- Middle-of-the-road: 23.5%
- Far right/Conservative: 7.3%

National Sample
- Liberal/Far Left: 33.5%
- Middle-of-the-road: 44.9%
- Far right/Conservative: 21.6%
Social Agency

Transgender Students

- Low: 17.9%
- Average: 39.8%
- High: 42.3%

National Sample

- Low: 25.6%
- Average: 45.9%
- High: 28.4%
Political Engagement

- Publicly communicated my opinion about a cause (Frequently): 43.0% (Transgender Students), 14.5% (National Sample)
- Discussed politics (Frequently): 52.1% (Transgender Students), 32.4% (National Sample)
- Demonstrated for a cause (e.g. boycott, rally, protest) in the past year (Frequently/Occasionally): 47.4% (Transgender Students), 20.8% (National Sample)
- Likelihood of participating in student protests/demonstrations in college (Some/Very good chance): 68.7% (Transgender Students), 33.1% (National Sample)
Goals (Very Important/Essential)

- Influencing the political structure: 43.1%
- Keeping up to date with political affairs: 55.7%
- Influencing social values: 63.3%
- Helping to promote racial understanding: 64.6%

Comparison between Transgender Students and National Sample.
Contact Information

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