

# Capturing Gender Identity through Documentation: A Program Evaluation of a Rural Mental Health Clinic

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SCHOOL of NURSING

## Purpose

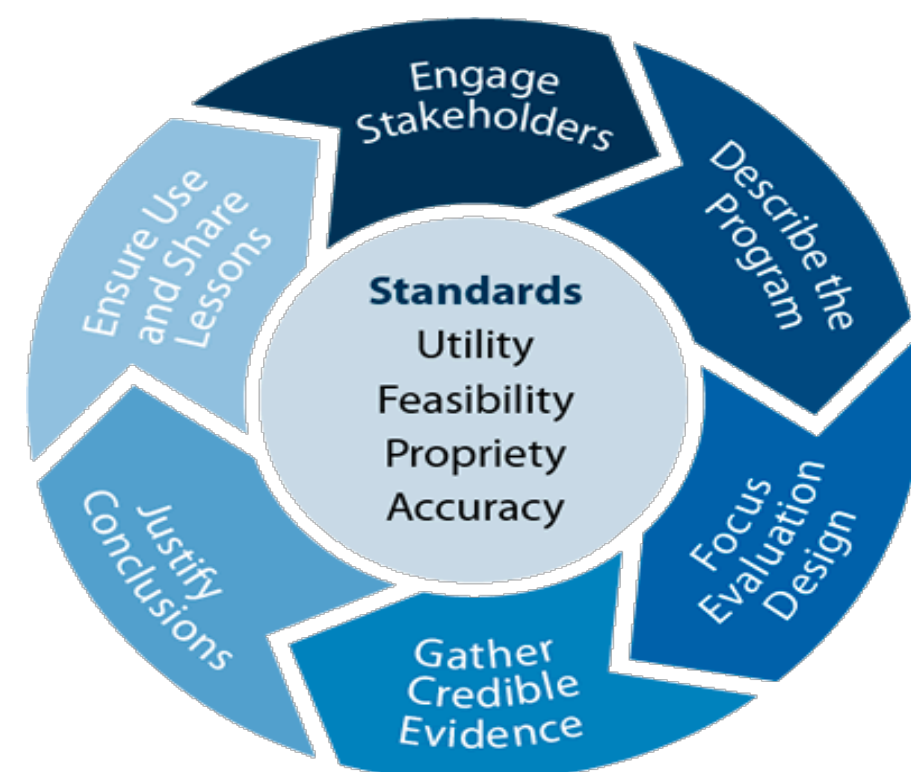
- Program evaluation performed to determine adherence per American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendation
- APP encourages inclusion of gender identity in Electronic Health Records (EHR): Chosen name & pronouns separately from legal name & sex assigned at birth

## Background & Key Findings

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual (LGBTQIA+) youth who felt high social support from family reported attempting suicide at **less than half** the rate of those who felt low or moderate social support
- No current national standard for collecting gender identity information in clinical settings-variability across healthcare providers & systems
- AAP policy statement released urging support & care of transgender & gender-diverse children & adolescents: Emphasized importance of gender affirming care, reducing health disparities (2018)
- World Health Organization removed transgender as a mental health diagnosis (2019)
- **The Trevor Project:**
  - 39% of LGBTQIA+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide
  - 12% of LGBTQIA+ youth attempted suicide
  - 53% of LGBTQIA+ youth experienced symptoms of depression

## Program Evaluation Model

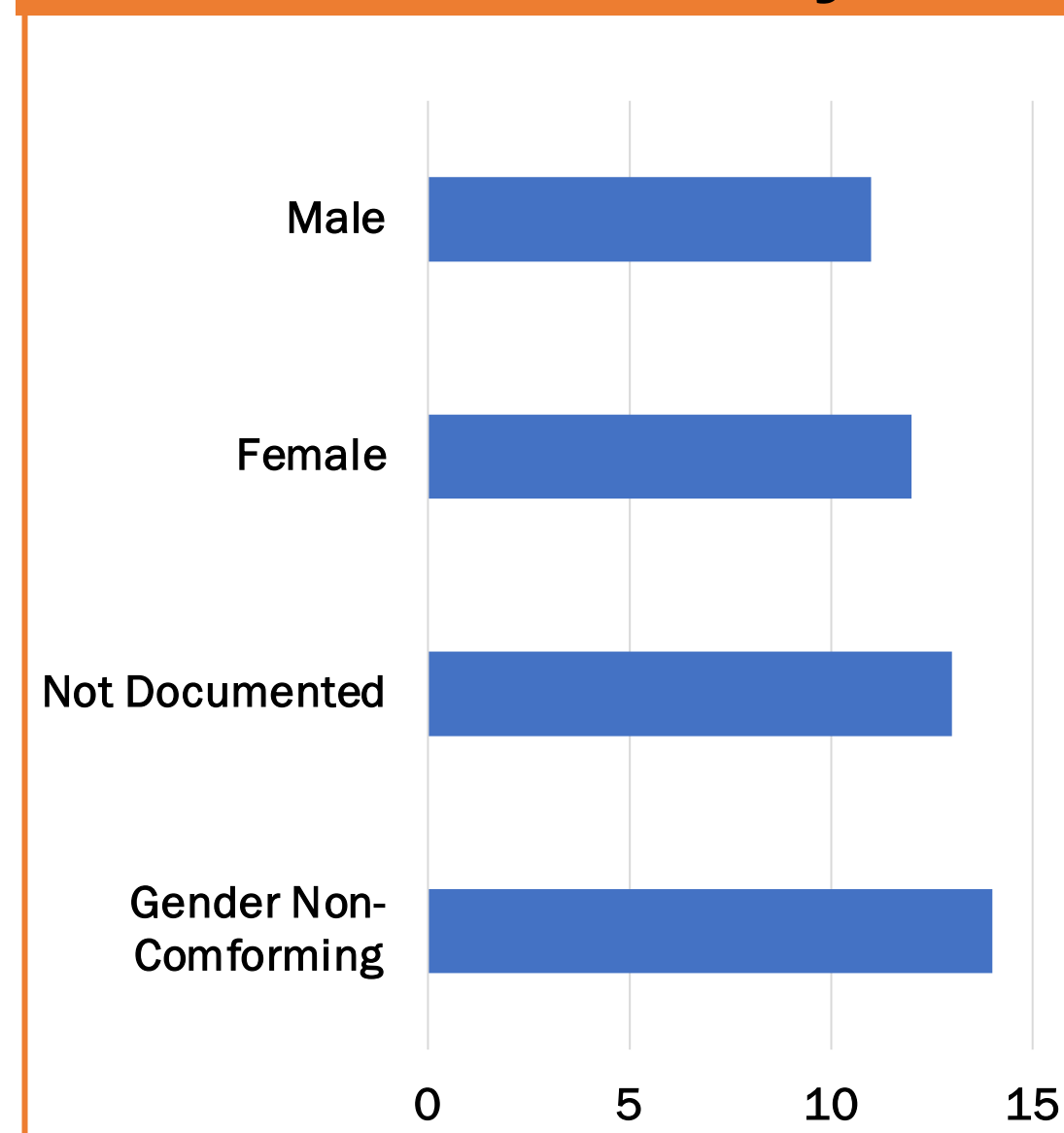
(CDC, 2019)



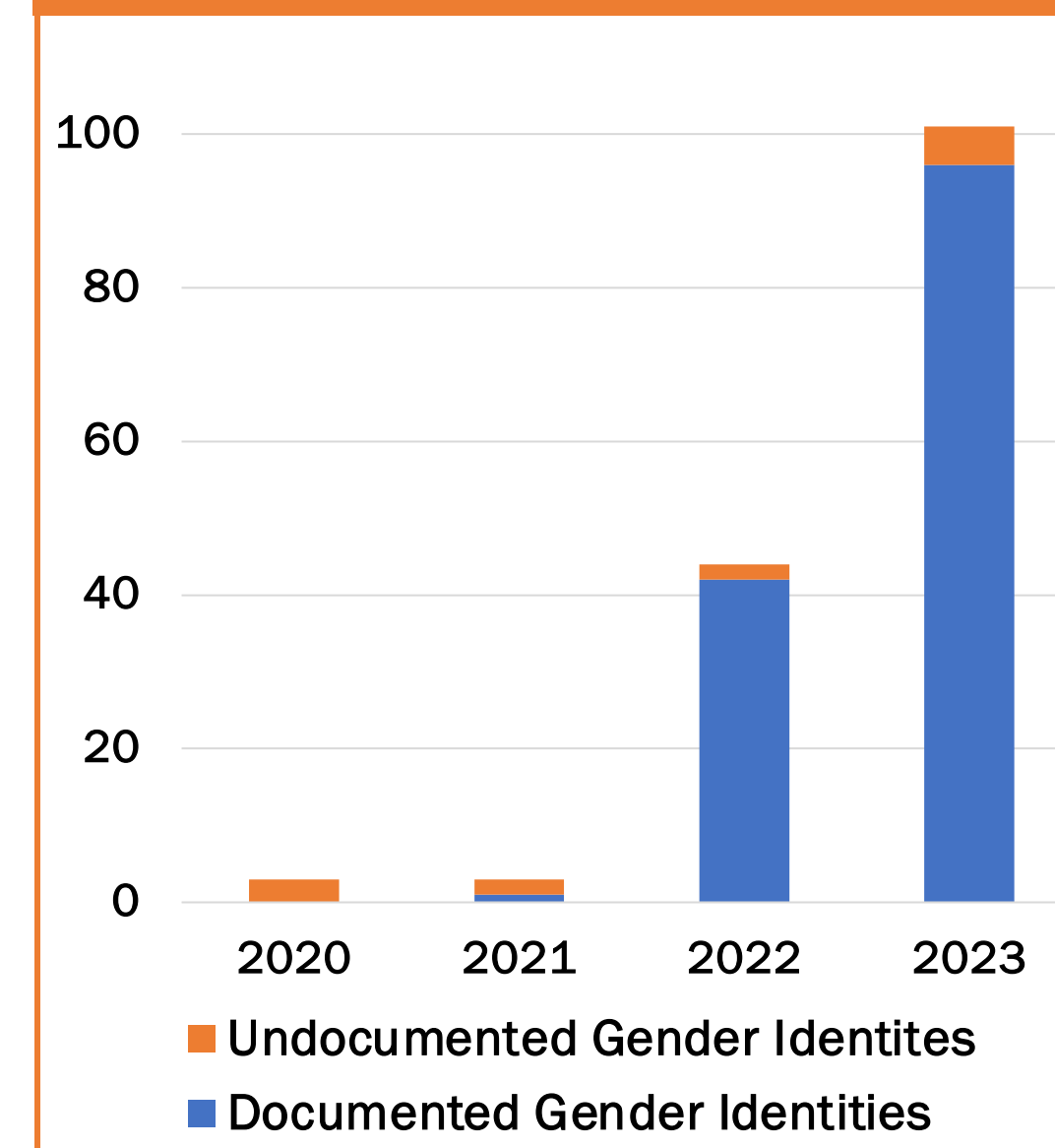
## Methods

- Retrospective quantitative approach to assess EHR documentation of gender identity of children & adolescents receiving care at a rural mental health clinic
- N = 151 children & adolescents
- Age: 4-18 years old
- Data years: 2020-2023
- Diagnosis: Diverse range, four most common:
  - Anxiety disorders (24.6%)
  - Adjustment disorders (18.9%)
  - ADHD (17.9%)
  - Depression (14%)
- Descriptive statistics to calculate rates of gender identity documentation & identify trends
- Primary focus was inclusion of gender identity documentation
  - Gender identity recorded independently
  - Secured electronic spreadsheet
  - Data was numerical-quantitative analysis
  - Data was de-identified to ensure confidentiality

### Average Age by Gender Identity



### Gender Identity Documented



## Conclusion

Between 2020 – 2023

- Gender identity documentation improved significantly
  - 2020: 0%
  - 2023: 95%
- Patient mean average age decreased
  - 2020: 15 years
  - 2023: 11.5 years
- No established policy or procedure for assessment of gender identity & pronouns at this clinic

## Recommendations

- Formation of policy for ongoing assessment of gender identity to include documentation of pronouns
- Formation of diversity committee
- Biannual audits of gender identity documentation to facilitate & ensure compliance

## Acknowledgements

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## Reference QR Code



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