



3rd Conference Inside Matters
11 to 13 April 2019

Transgender Health Care in Europe:

Italy

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Gender Incongruence Unit**

**Dep. of Experimental, Clinical and Biomedical Sciences
Florence University Hospital, Italy**



**Azienda
Ospedaliero
Universitaria
Careggi**

AGENDA:

**1) How many transgender people in Italy?
Epidemiology.**

2) Barriers (stigma) in accessing care.

3) What does being a transgender person in Italy mean?

1) How many in Italy?

Epidemiology: Adults



Number of genital surgeries (1992-2008):0.9%

Reference	Location; time period	Case definition	Numerator			Source and size of denominator	Prevalence (per 100,000)		
			Total	MTF	FTM		Overall	MTF	FTM
Caldarera and Pfäffin, 2011	Italy, 1992–2008	SRS receipt	549	424	125	National Institute of Statistics 2009: Total 59,619,290 (28,949,747 males and 30,669,543 females)	0.9	1.5	0.4

Int J Transgenderism. 2011; 13:26–36.

On the basis of international studies (0.5-2.8%):
240.000-1.696.000 (*per* 60.59 million residents)
transgender people in Italy ?

Collin et al., J Sex Med. 2016;13: 613–626; Ahs Plos One 2018, PLoS One. 2018 ;13:e0204606.Conron et al., American Journal of Public Health |2012, Vol 102, No. 1; Zucker Sex Health. 2017;14(5):404-411.

1) How many in Italy?

Epidemiology: Children and Adolescents



<1% AMAB e 1.2% AFAB

**«Wishes to be of opposite sex»
(CBCL; parent report)**

**4.8% «Behaves like opposite sex»
(CBCL; parent report)**



6-12 years

0.17% - 3.3%

**(% gender non-conforming
adolescents)**



4.872 - 94.248

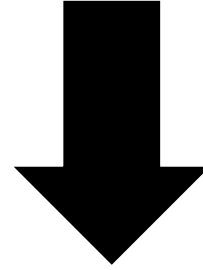
**Gender non-conforming
adolescents in Italy?**

13-18 years

1) How many in Italy?

Epidemiology:

How many transgender people in Italy?
How many may benefit from health care?



Population-based study
(on line questionnaires,
sample size: 30 487 $p = 0.001$)

**Problem
for health-care
planners!**



ITALIAN NATIONAL
HEALTH INSTITUTE



FLORENCE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

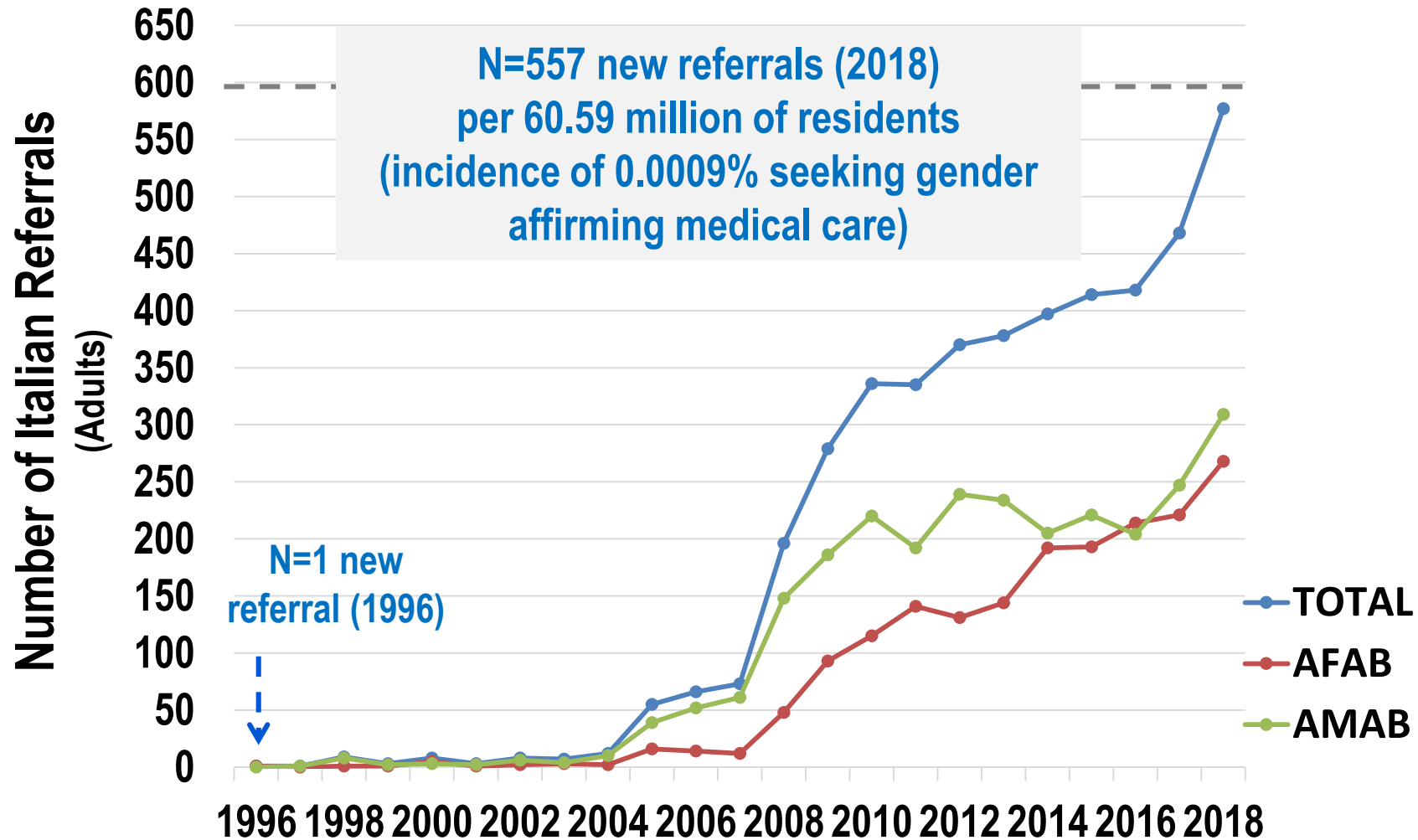


In collaboration with National Observatory of Gender Identity



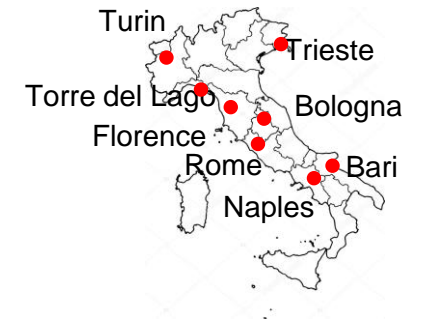
1) How many in Italy?

Epidemiology: Adults

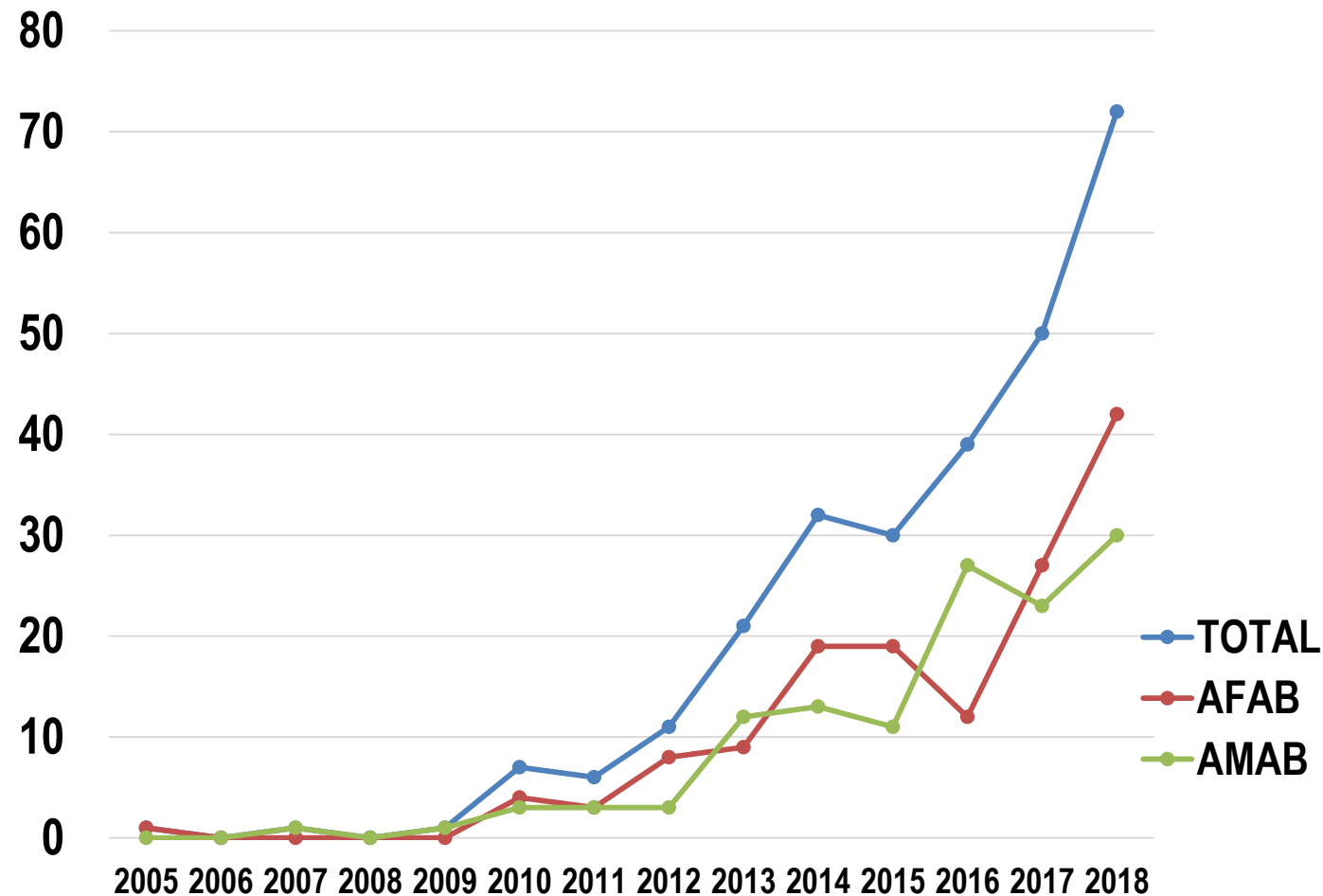


1) How many in Italy?

Epidemiology: Children and Adolescents



Number of Italian Referrals
(Children and Adolescents)



AGENDA:

1) How many transgender people in Italy?
Epidemiology.

2) Barriers (stigma) in accessing care.

3) What does being a transgender person in Italy mean?

2) Barriers in accessing care



World Health
Organization

Equity in Transgender Health Care



United
Nations

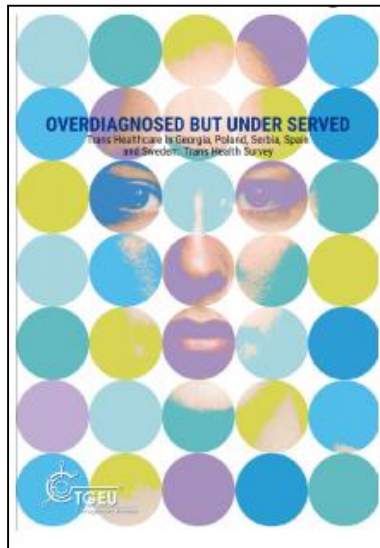
Priority objectives
in the fight against inequalities



(Thomas R et al. Bull World Health Organ. 2017; Joint statement on ending violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. Geneva: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;2015.http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Discrimination/Joint_LGBTI_Statement_ENG.PDF)

Health care barriers

Transgender people in most parts of the world are victims of violence, stigma and discrimination and **encounter numerous obstacles in accessing health care.**



THE LANCET

Volume 388, Issue 10042, 23–29 July 2016, Pages 390–400



Series

Transgender people: health at the margins of society

Dr Sam Winter PhD ^a, Milton Diamond PhD ^b, Jamison Green PhD ^c, Dan Karasic MD ^d, Terry Reed Grad Dip Phys ^e, Stephen Whittle PhD ^f, Kevan Wylie MD ^g

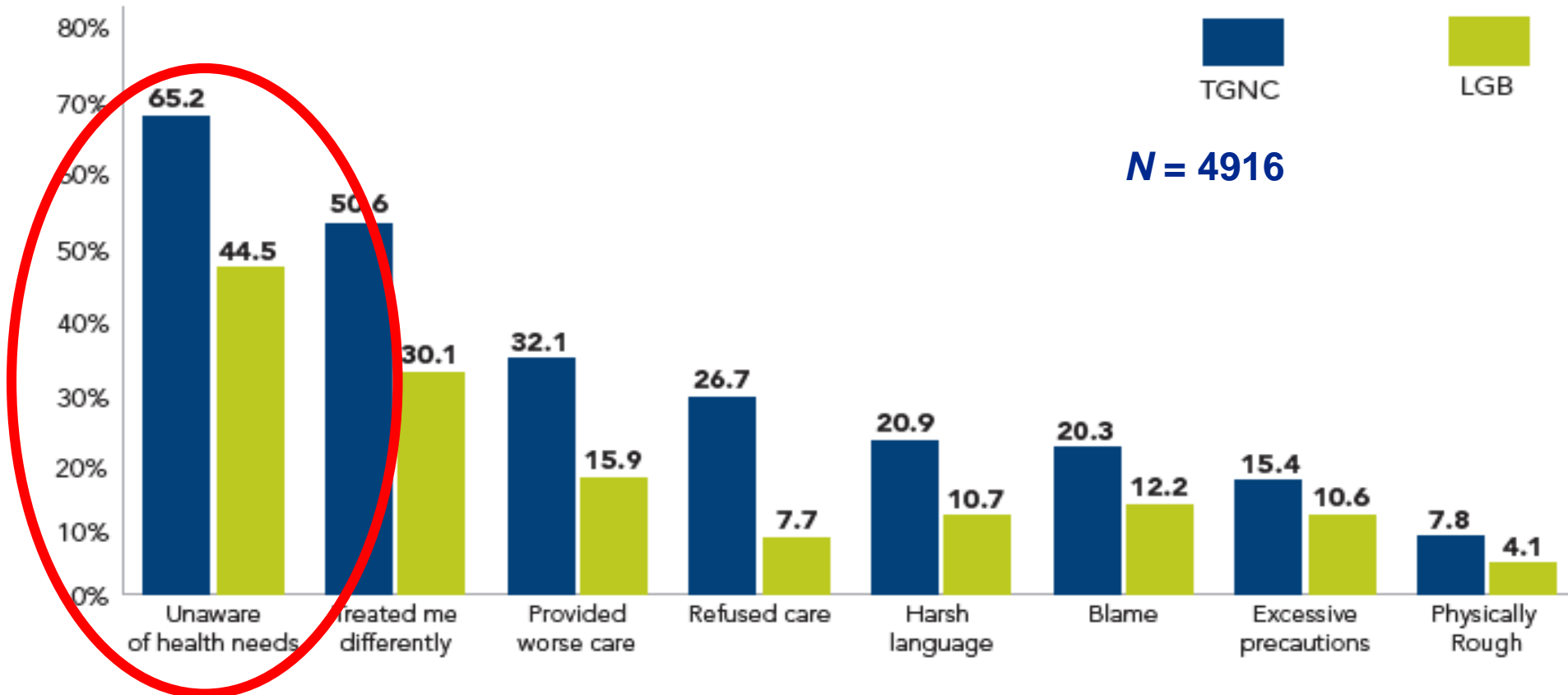
2) Barriers in accessing care



„When Health Care Isn't Caring“

Lambda Legal's Survey on Discrimination Against LGBT People (2010)

Experiences of Discrimination and Substandard Care: Transgender or Gender-nonconforming Compared to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual

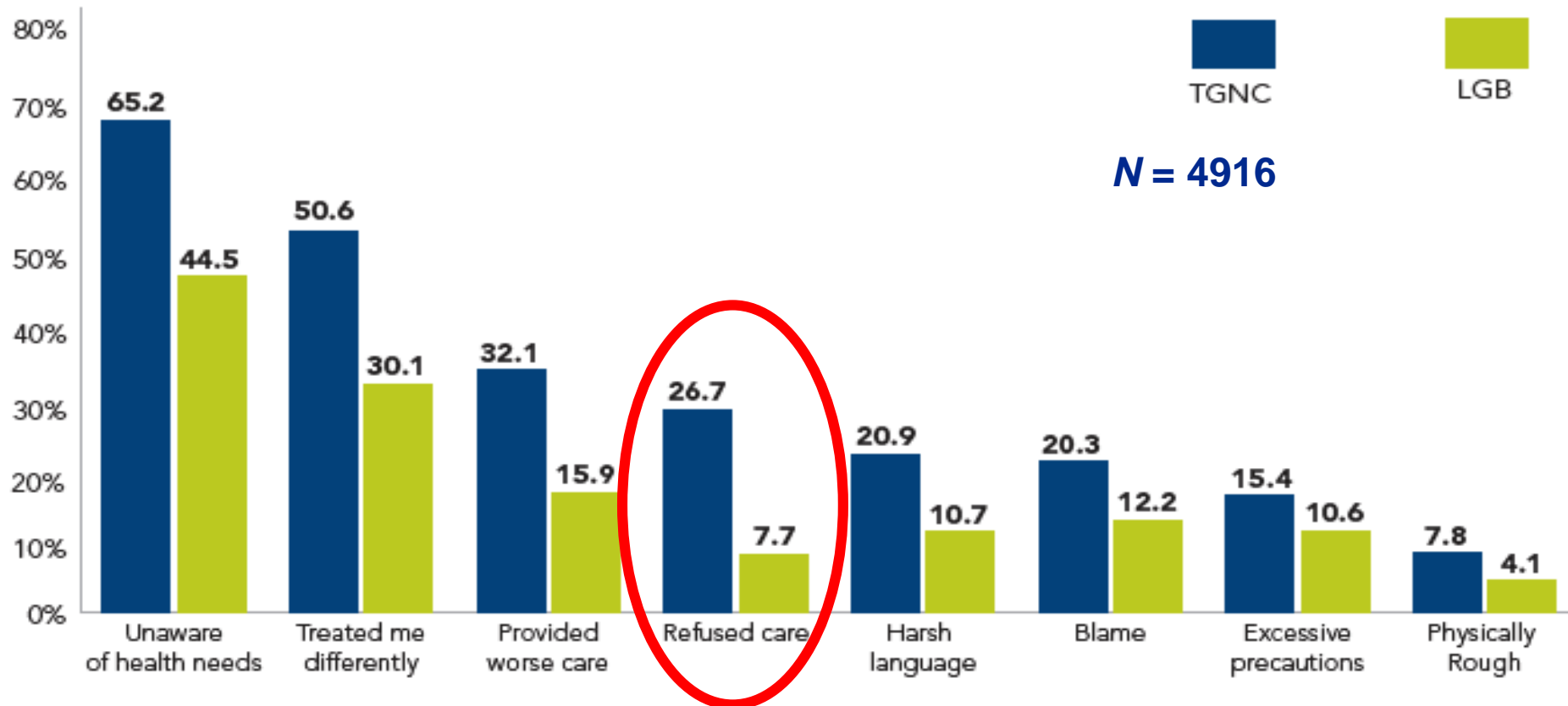


2) Barriers in accessing care



„When Health Care Isn't Caring“ Lambda Legal's Survey on Discrimination Against LGBT People (2010)

Experiences of Discrimination and Substandard Care: Transgender or Gender-nonconforming Compared to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual



2) Barriers in accessing care



Barriers in access to health services (% per trans-population group)

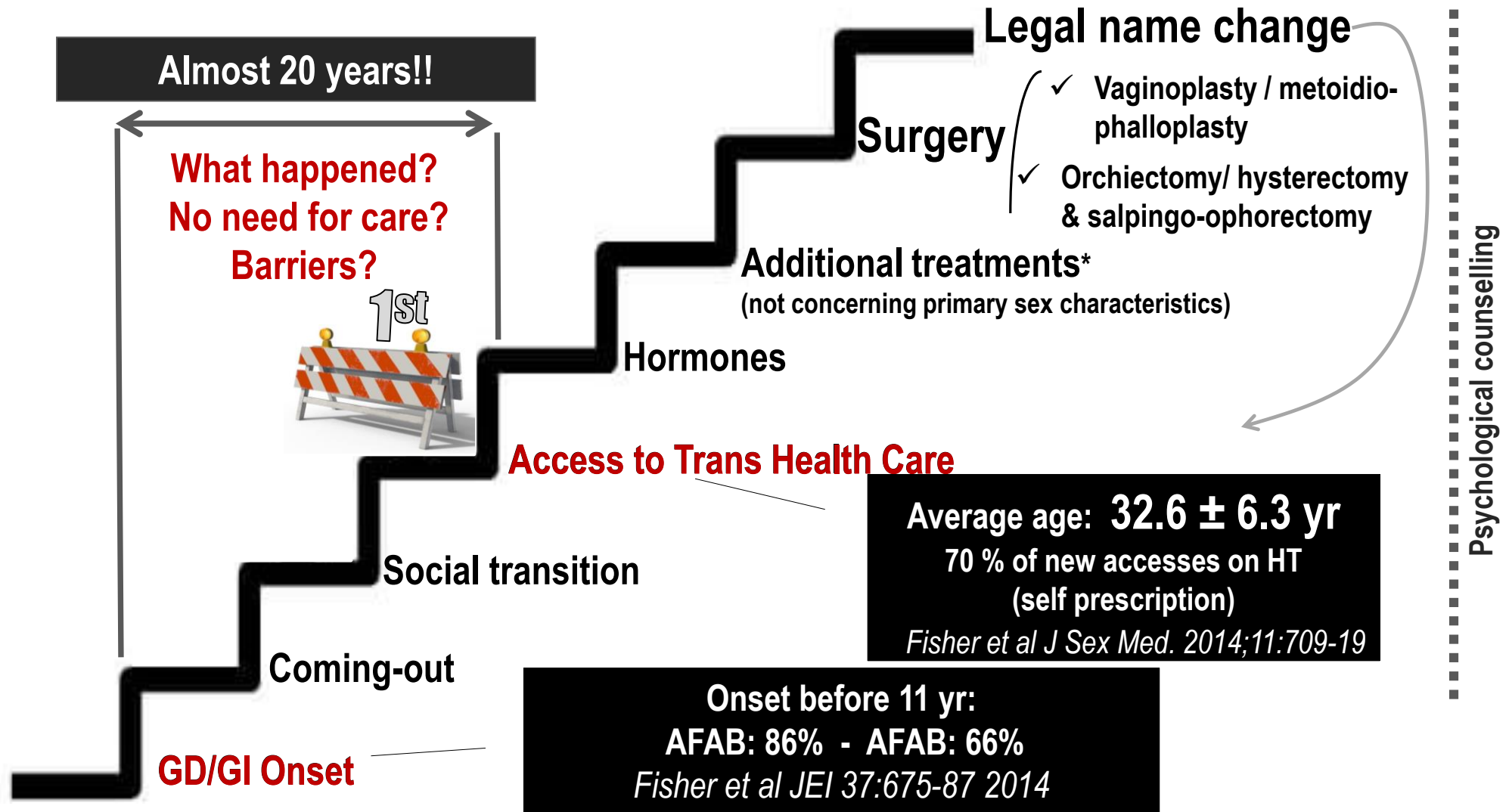
	EU trans average	Trans women	Trans men	Female cross dressers	Male cross dressers	Transgender	Gender variant	Queer/other
Inappropriate curiosity	21	25	16	5	4	21	5	23
Specific needs ignored (not taken into account)	17	33	15	4	3	20	5	19
Pressure or being forced to undergo any medical or psychological test	15	32	17	3	4	22	4	15
Forgoing treatment for fear of discrimination or intolerant reactions	14	26	15	5	3*	22	7	22
Difficulty in gaining access to healthcare	12	39	15	2*	2*	20	4	18
Having to change general practitioners or other specialists due to their negative reaction	12	31	17	4	3	22	5	18
Receiving unequal treatment when dealing with medical staff	11	33	16	4	3*	18	4	23

(LGBT survey by European Union Agency for fundamental rights, 2014)

2) Barriers in accessing care

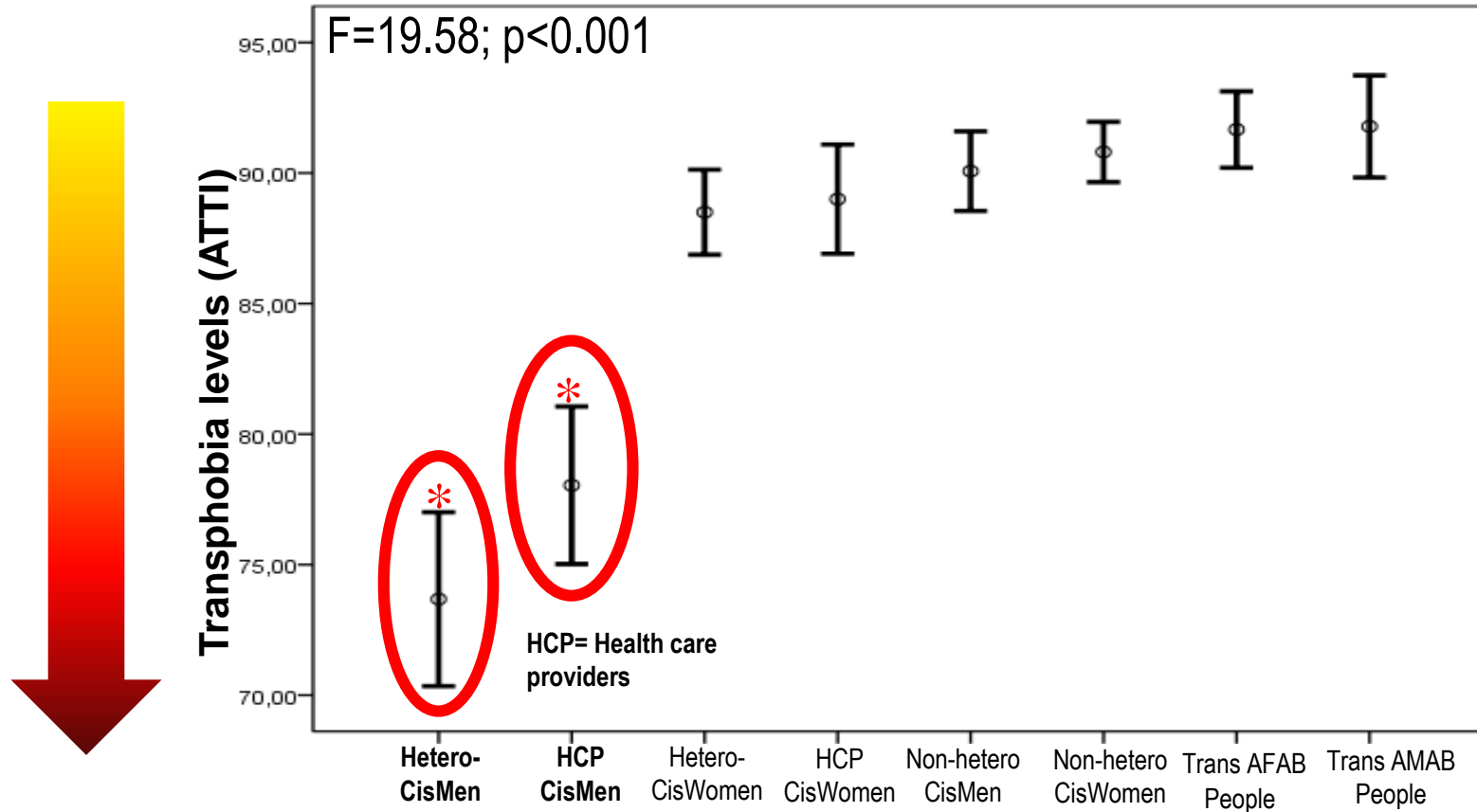


Gender affirming path: barriers in Italy



ATTITUDES TOWARDS TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS IN ITALY

N=310

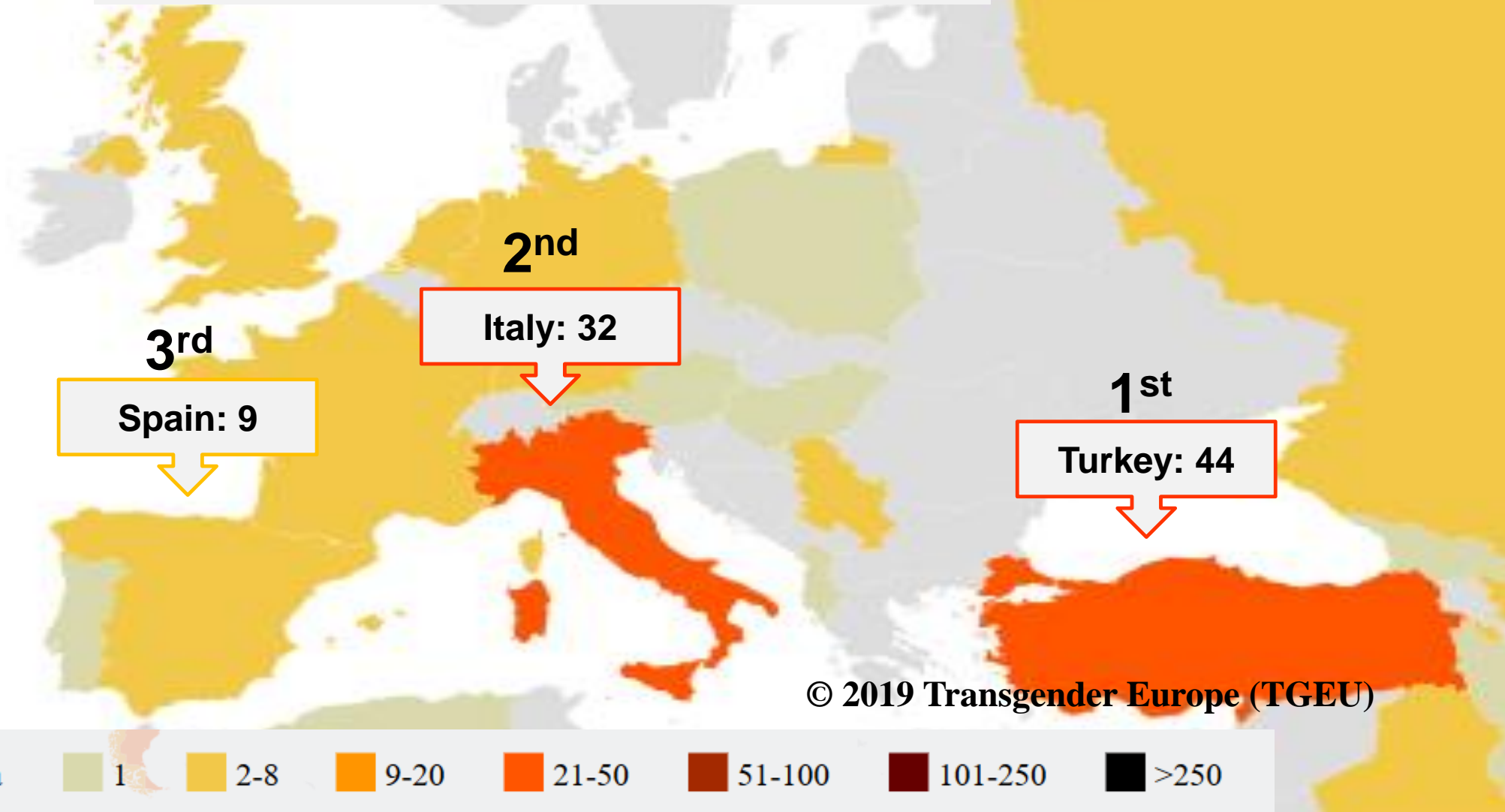


2) Barriers in accessing care

Trans murder monitoring in Europe: Italy the 2nd after Turkey (2008-2016)

Europe

Turkey	44
Italy	32
Spain	9
UK	8
France	5
Azerbaijan	4
Russia	3
Germany	2
Netherlands	2
Serbia	2
Albania	1
Austria	1
Georgia	1
Hungary	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Total	117

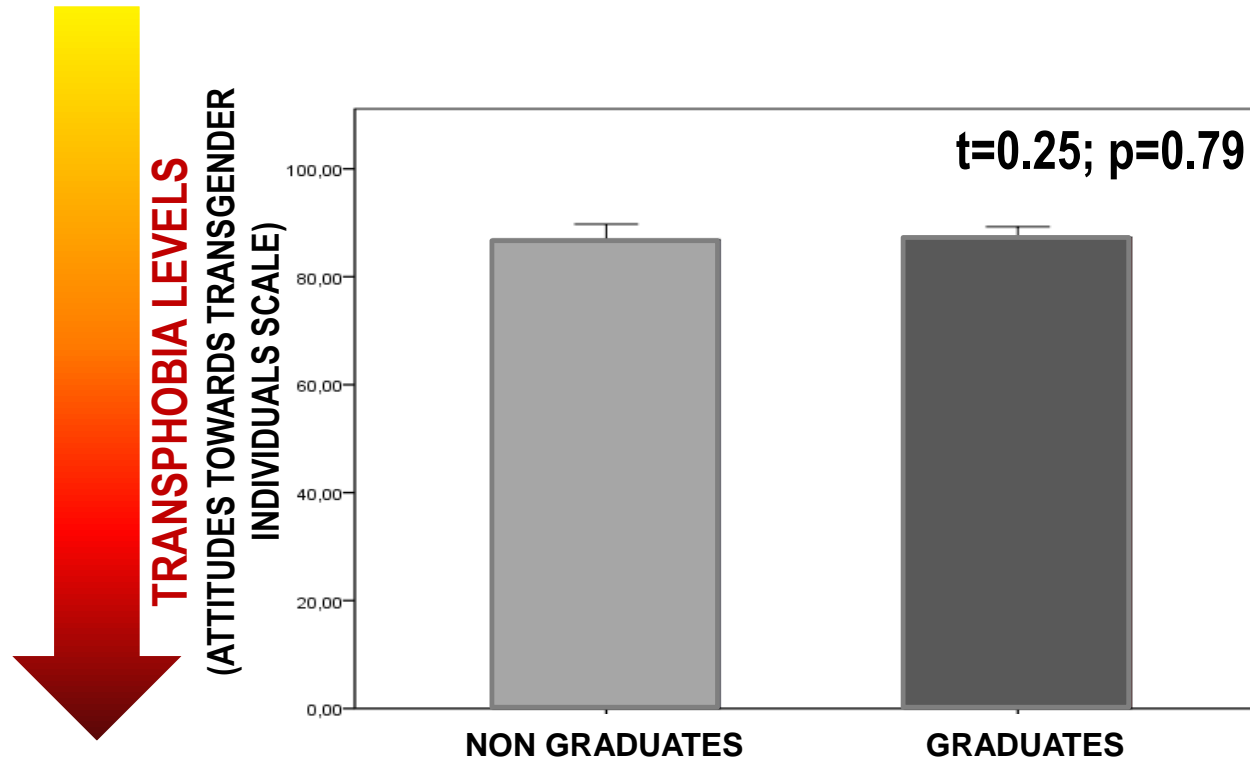


2) Barriers in accessing care

Why are some (Italian) persons transphobic?

Is a matter of a **scholarization**?

N=188 Italian cisgender persons



NO

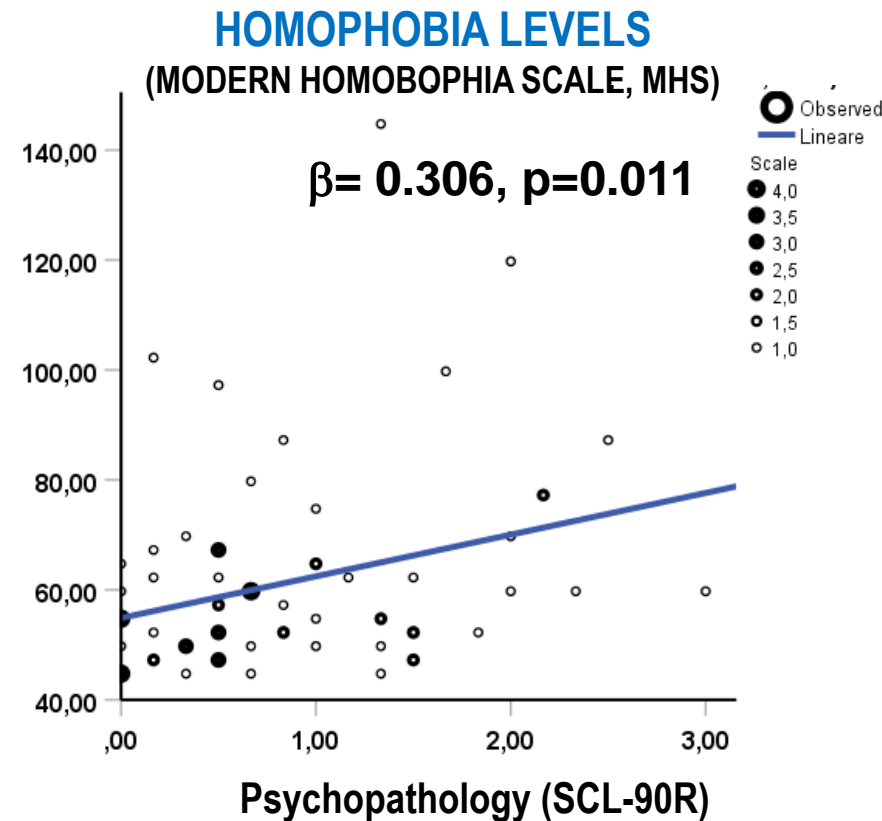


2) Barriers in accessing care

Why are some (Italian) persons transphobic?

Is a matter of a **dysfunctional personality**?

N=188 Italian cisgender persons



Fisher et al. (2016) *Journal End Invest.*, 1-11;
Ciocca G et al., (2015) *J Sex Med* 2015;12:1953–1960

2) Barriers in accessing care

Why is an (Italian) person transphobic?
Is a matter of a **religious fundamentalism**?

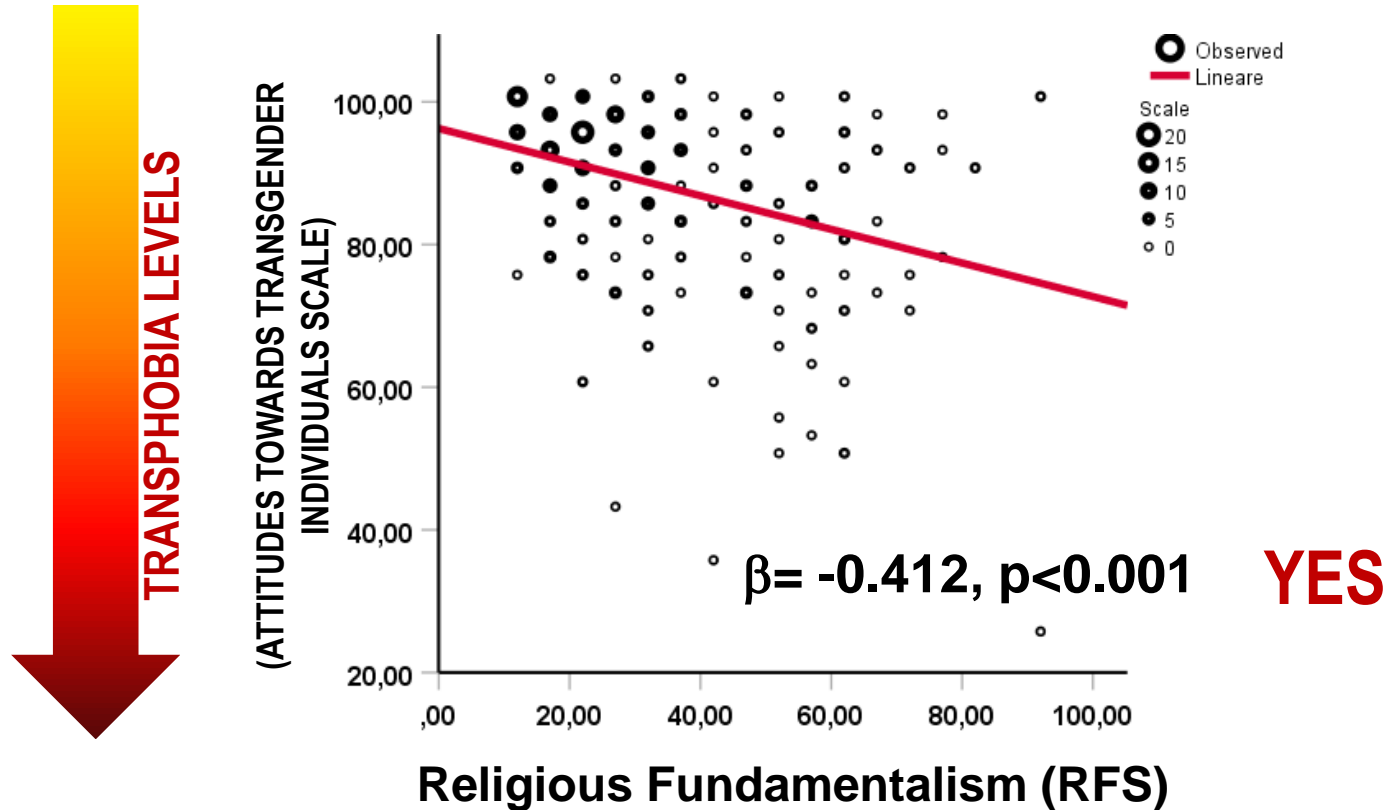


2) Barriers in accessing care

Why is an (Italian) person transphobic? Is a matter of a religious fundamentalism?



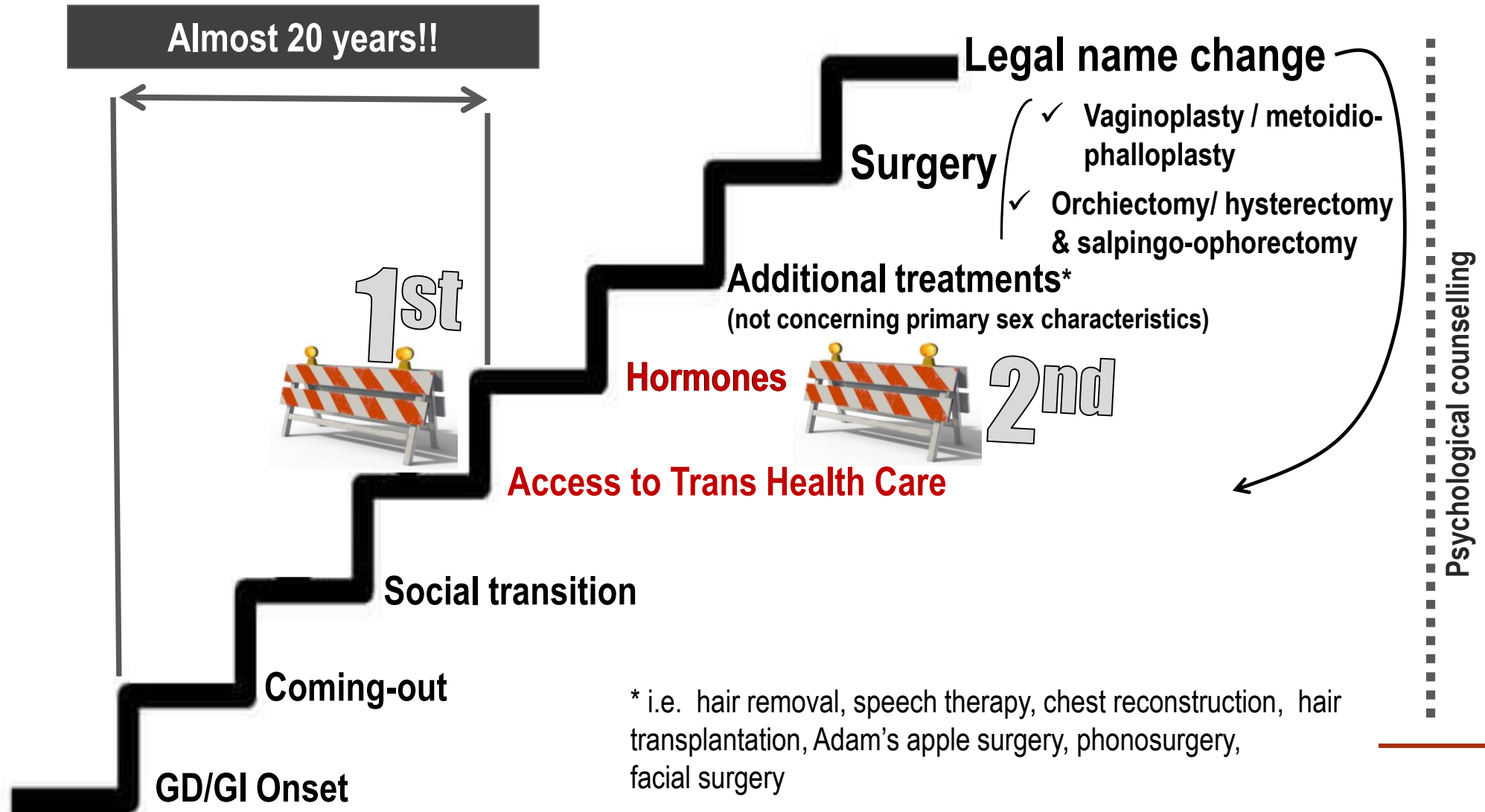
N=188 Italian cisgender persons



2) Barriers in accessing care



Gender affirming path: barriers in Italy



Adults

Non homogeneous healthcare in Italy



Gender teams offering
psychological support (NHS)



HT (NHS)



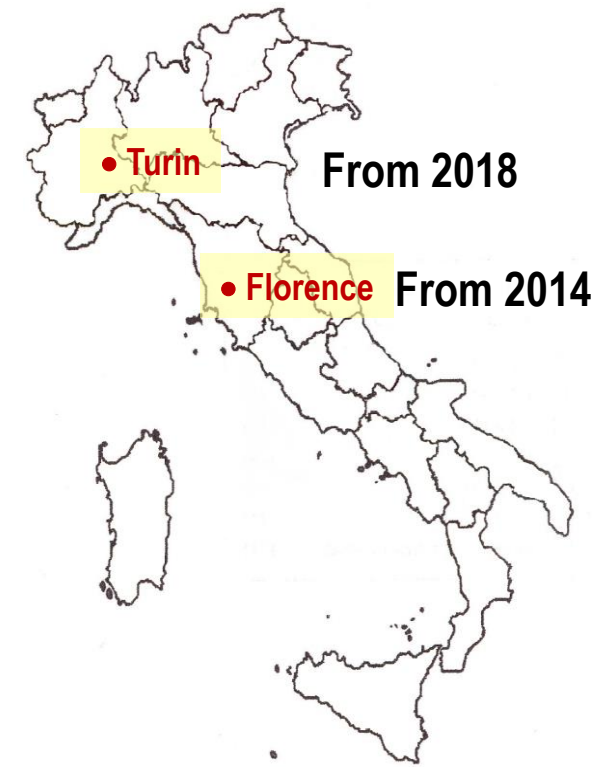
Gender Affirming surgery
(NHS)

2) Barriers in accessing care

Children and Adolescents Non homogeneous healthcare in Italy



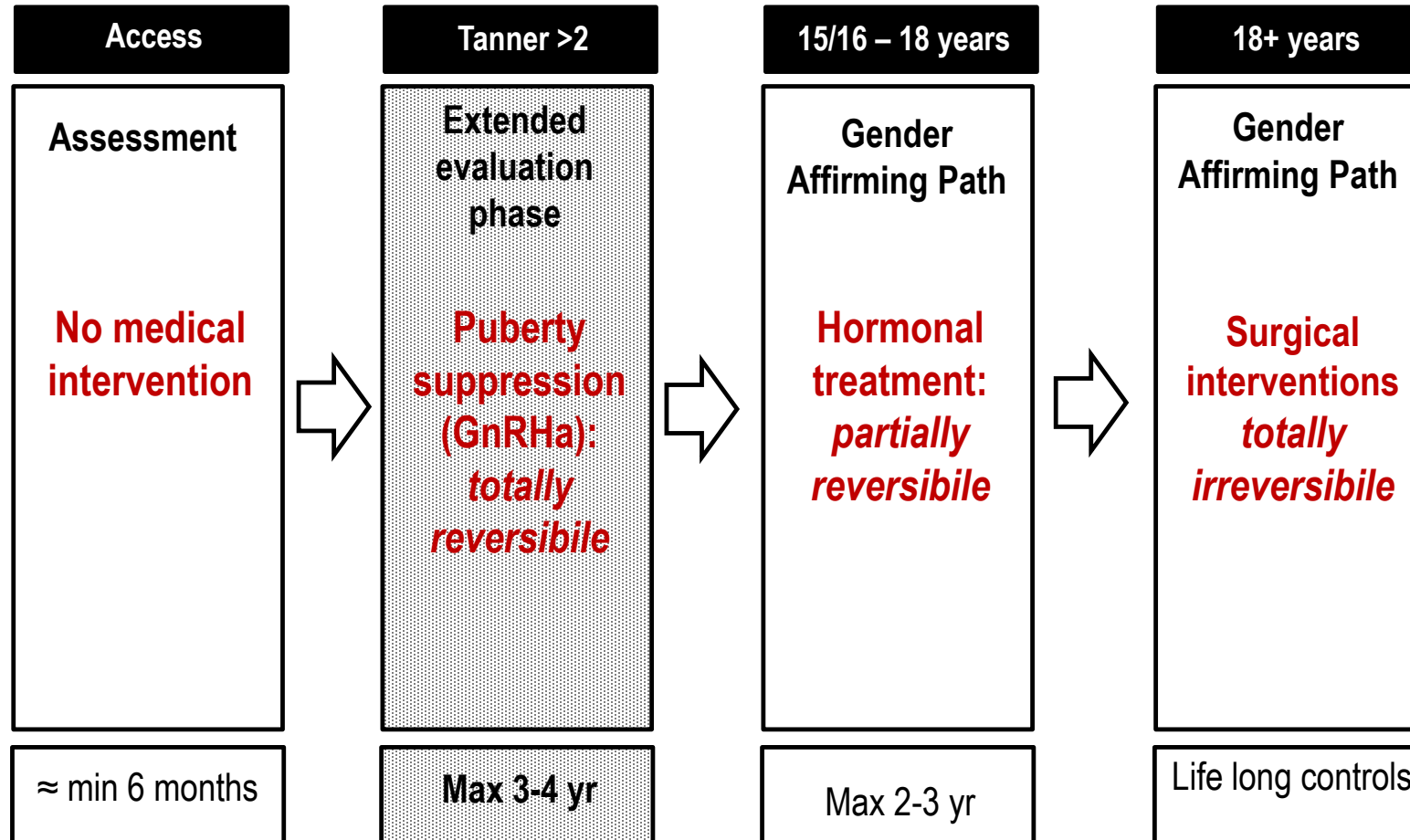
Psychological care
(NHS)



Medical care
(NHS)

2) Barriers in accessing care

Children and Adolescents Non homogeneous healthcare in Italy



(modified de Vries et al., Pediatrics, 4:1-9,2014)

Children and Adolescents

NEED TO DEVELOP ITALIAN RECOMMENDATIONS

POSITION STATEMENT

**Medical treatment in gender dysphoric adolescents endorsed
by SIAMS–SIE–SIEDP–ONIG**

Fisher AD et al., J Endocrinol Invest. 2014;37:675-87



Italian Society of
Endocrinology



Italian Society for Paediatric
Endocrinology and Diabetes



National Observatory
of Gender Identity

IN LINE WITH



WPAT



2) Barriers in accessing care

Media attention

Firenze / Cronaca

Sex change: shock proposal by Florence University Hospital

Chiesto il via libera alla Regione Toscana per aprire la via libera alla diagnosi precoce nei bimbi che manifestano

Firenze ★ 98

ALTRI 3 ARGOMENTI

FIRENZE - Sentirsi donna ma avere un corpo da uomo, oppure sentirsi uomo ma avere un corpo da donna. Tecnicamente viene definita «disforia di genere» e secondo i medici può essere diagnosticata già da bambini. Proprio per questo all'ospedale di Careggi il reparto di Medicina ha chiesto il via libera alla Regione Toscana per aprire la via libera alla diagnosi precoce nei bimbi che manifestano

PARLAMENTARY INTERROGATION
«It would be unforgivable if children were treated with devastating hormonal therapy... Minors should be protected and not violated during the frailest phase of their growth...»

LGBT Lobbies impose
«sexually correct»
proposing sex change in
children

THE NEW IDENTITY

The third gender



Il Tribunale di Messina ha concesso a S.D. di cambiare sesso sui documenti senza intervento chirurgico

La battaglia legale

Il comitato di sessantotto persone, di cui ventisei donne, si è formato per sostenere la battaglia legale di S.D. contro il Tribunale di Messina.

«S.D. è una ragazza di 25 anni, che ha chiesto di cambiare sesso sui documenti senza intervento chirurgico».

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In the Dutch Clinic, where puberty is suspended in adolescents

The use of GnRH analogs



Regione Toscana



Florence Gender Clinic

1st Prescription of GnRH analogs
in September 2014 with

Ethical Committee Approval
(life saving procedure)



siams

Italian Society of
Andrology and
Sexual Medicine



Italian Society of
Endocrinology

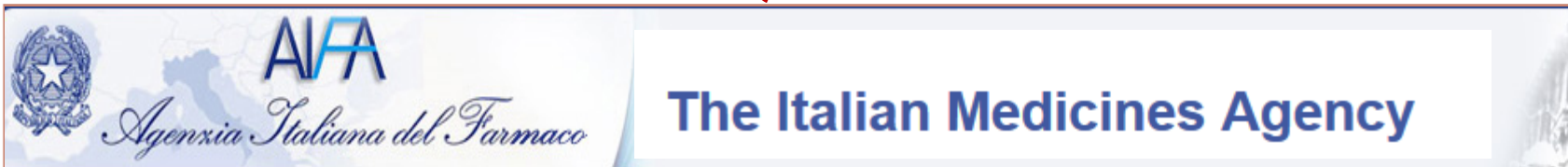


Italian Society for Paediatric
Endocrinology and Diabetes

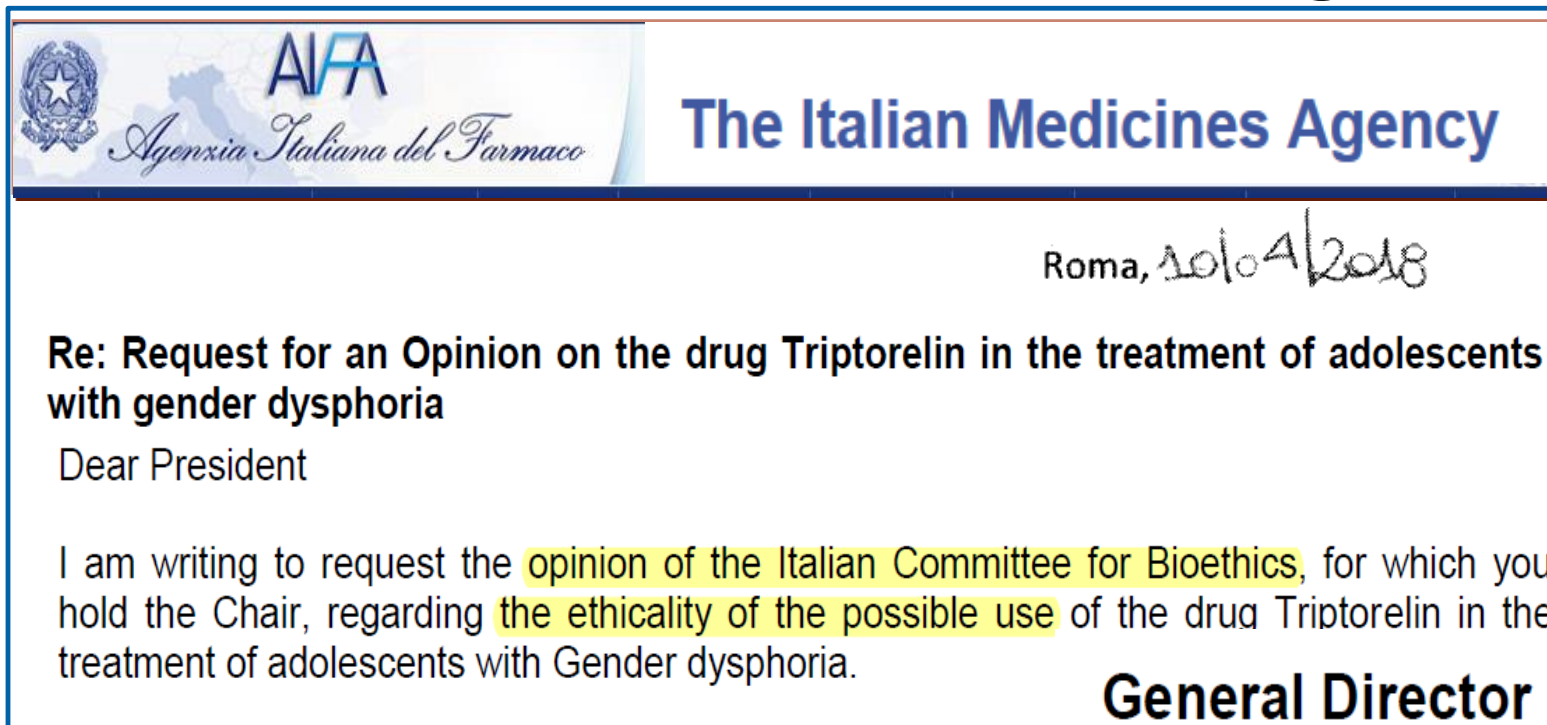


National Observatory
of Gender Identity

FORMAL REQUEST TO THE



The use of GnRH analogs



Presidency of the Council of Ministers



ITALIAN
COMMITTEE FOR
BIOETHICS



2) Barriers in accessing care



DETERMINA 25 febbraio 2019.

Inserimento del medicinale triptorelina nell'elenco dei medicinali erogabili a totale carico del Servizio sanitario nazionale, ai sensi della legge 23 dicembre 1996, n. 648, per l'impiego in casi selezionati in cui la pubertà sia incongruente con l'identità di genere (disforia di genere), con diagnosi confermata da una équipe multidisciplinare e specialistica e in cui l'assistenza psicologica, psicoterapeutica e psichiatrica non sia risolutiva. (Determina n. 21756/2019).

**GnRH analogs use
is now approved
for Gender Incongruent Adolescents
and covered by NHS
(March 2nd, 2019)**



*A land of
contradictions*

Media attention

GENDER INDENTITY BECOMES AN OPINION

ALLOWED (IN ITALY) THE DRUG WHICH BLOCKS SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT IN YOUTH

(March 6th 2019)



In Italy we must have turned **completely crazy**
NHS will cover the drug which changes sex in
youth

HOME

MISSIONE

NOTIZIE

RIVISTA

AGISCI!

PETIZIONI

EVE

AIFA sulla Triptorelina, ProVita e Gen. Famiglia:

«Ministro Grillo ritiri quel farmaco gender»

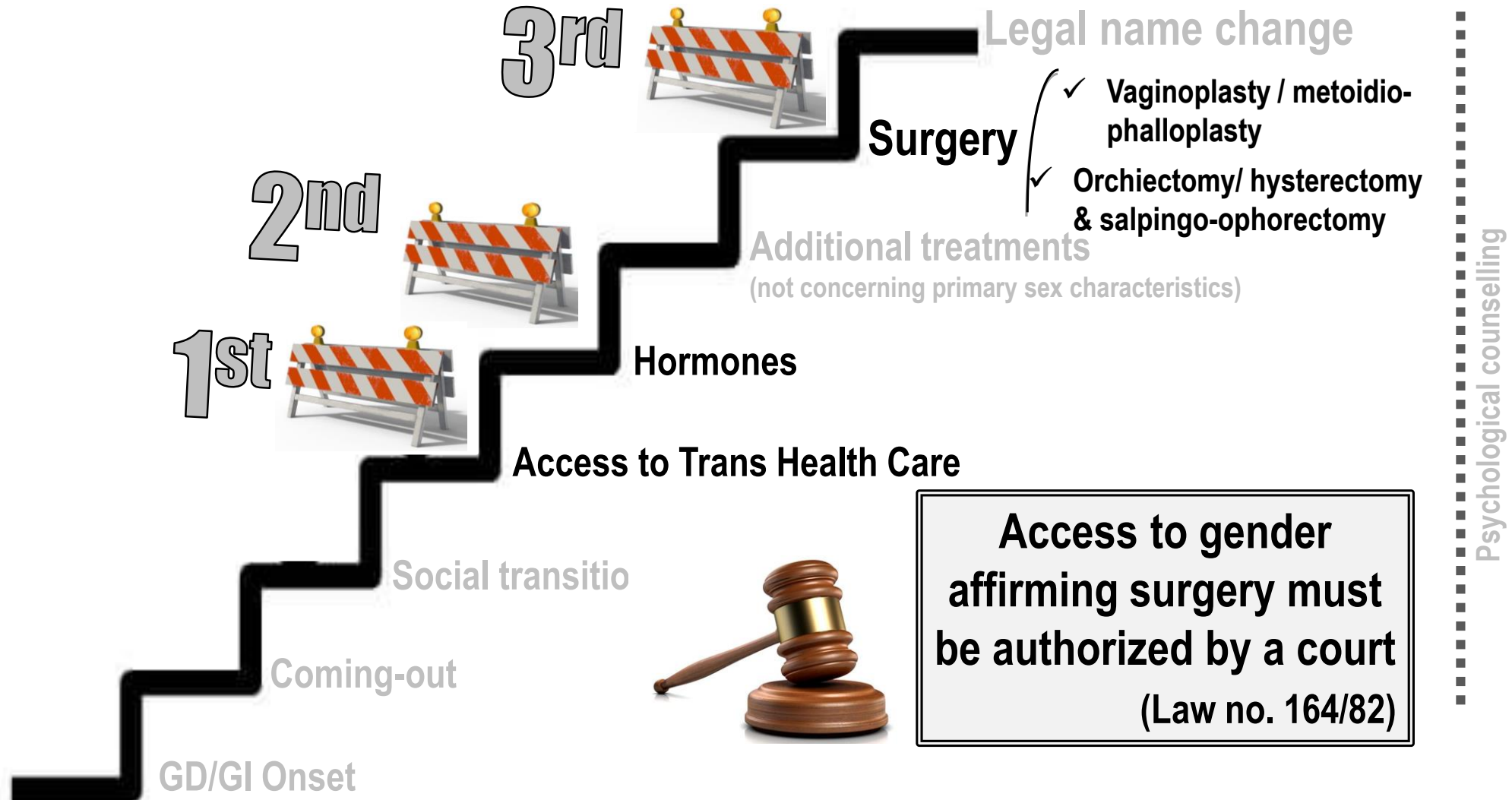
«THE GENDER DRUG»
AUTHORIZATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED
IN THE INTEREST OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND OF
THOSE WHO EXPLOIT OUR FRAIL KIDS IN THE NAME OF
«GENDER THEORY»

(March 7th 2019)

2) Barriers in accessing care



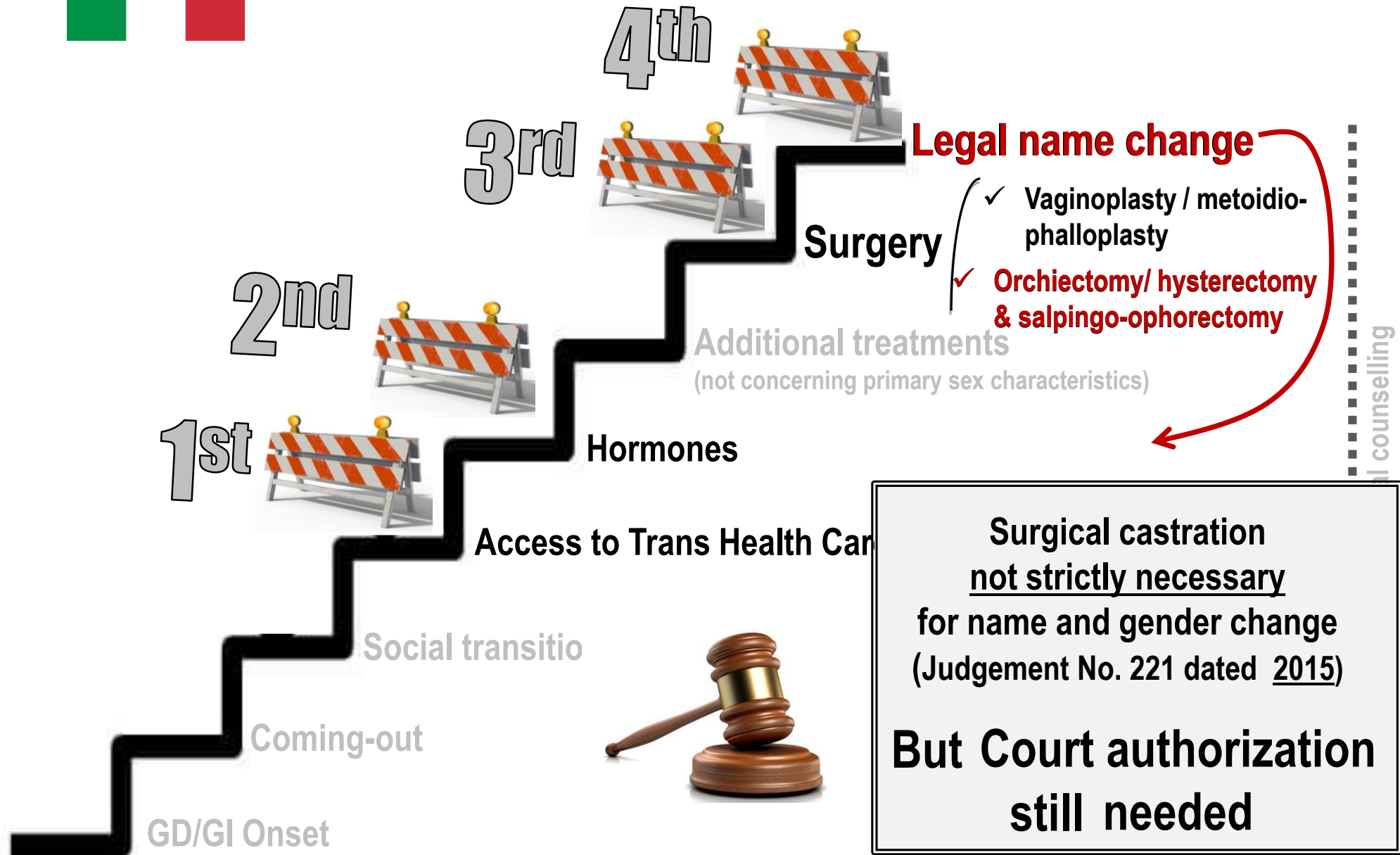
Gender affirming path: barriers in Italy



2) Barriers in accessing care



Gender affirming path: barriers in Italy



AGENDA:

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Epidemiology.

2) Barriers (stigma) in accessing care.

3) What does being a transgender person in Italy mean?

3) Being transgender in Italy

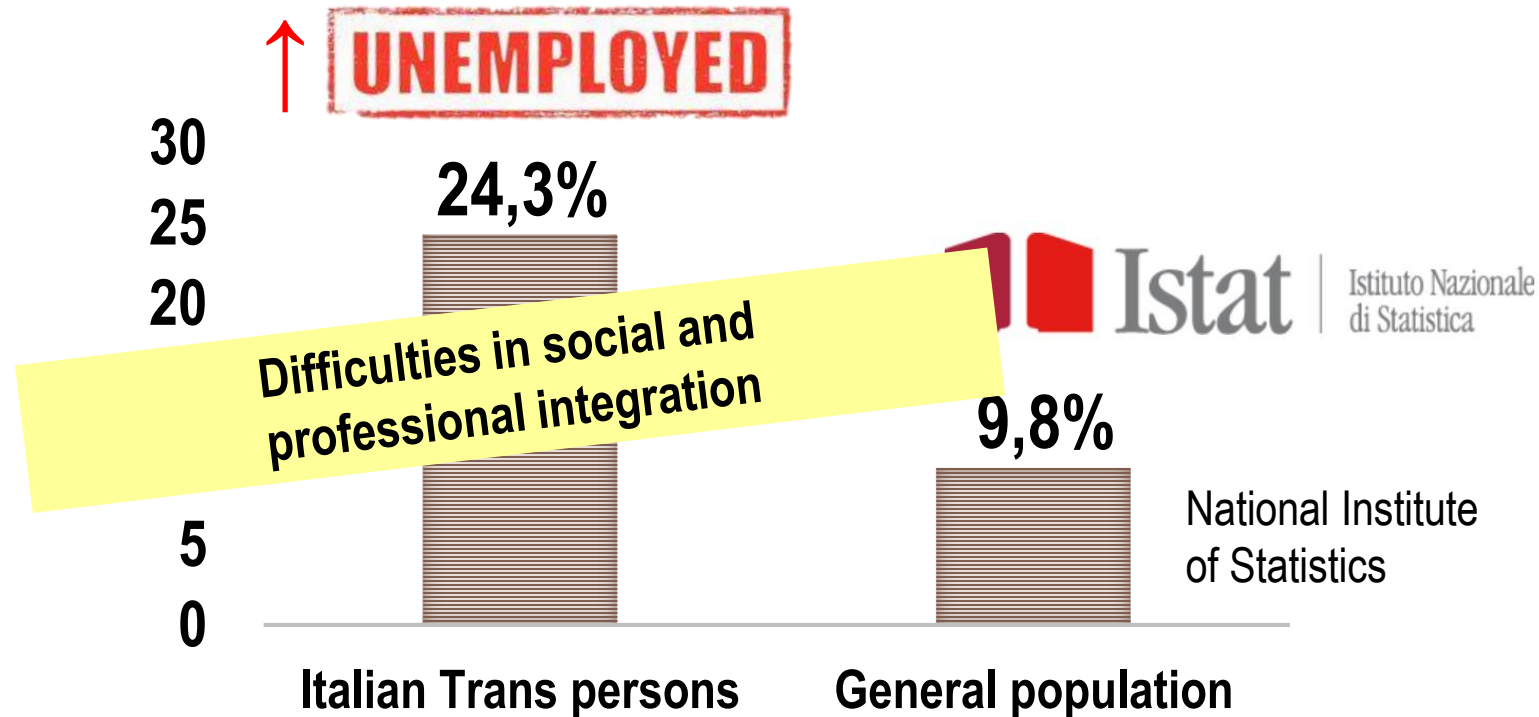
Sociodemographic and Clinical Features

An Italian Multicentric Evaluation

N=140 trans Italian persons



UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



3) Being transgender in Italy

Sociodemographic and Clinical Features

An Italian Multicentric Evaluation

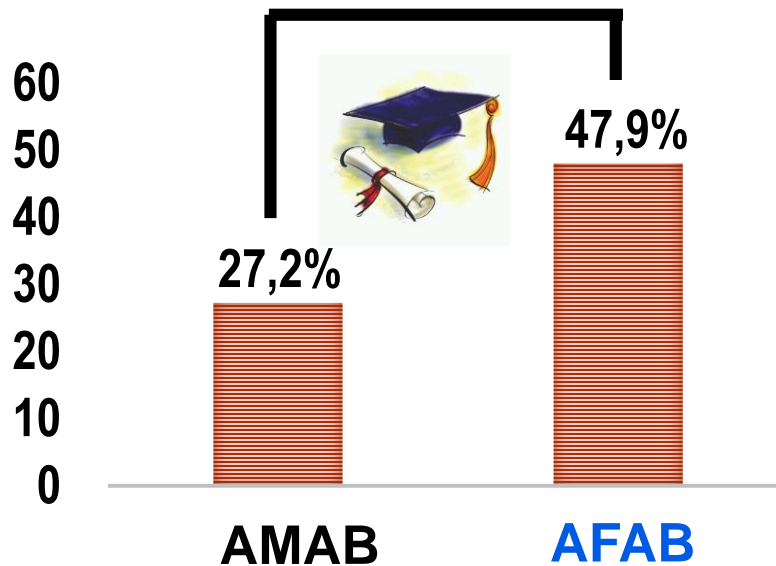
N=140 trans Italian persons



AFAB

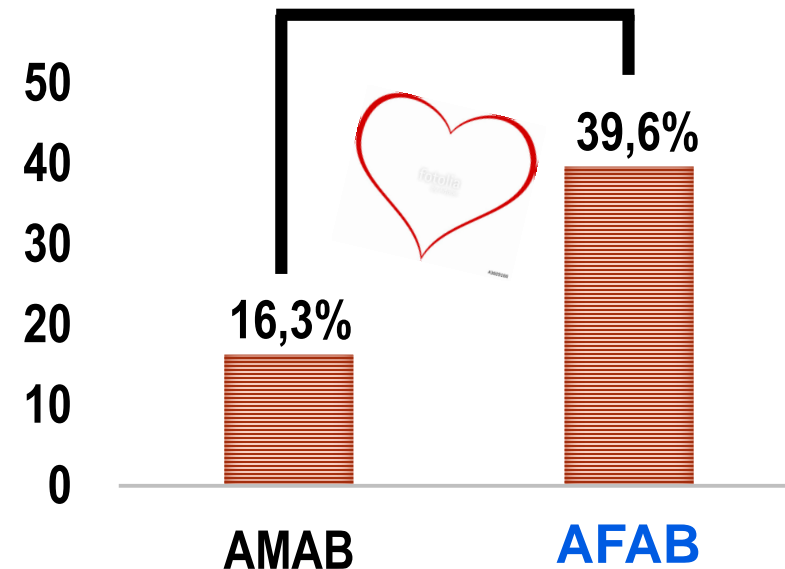
Higher educational level
(>13 yrs)

p=0.011



More often within a
living together relationship

p=0.001



3) Being transgender in Italy

Sociodemographic and Clinical Features

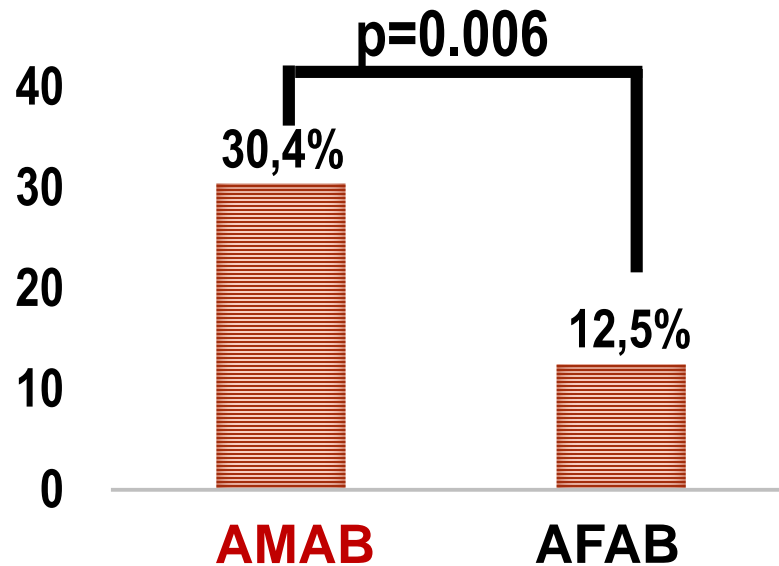
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N=140 trans Italian persons

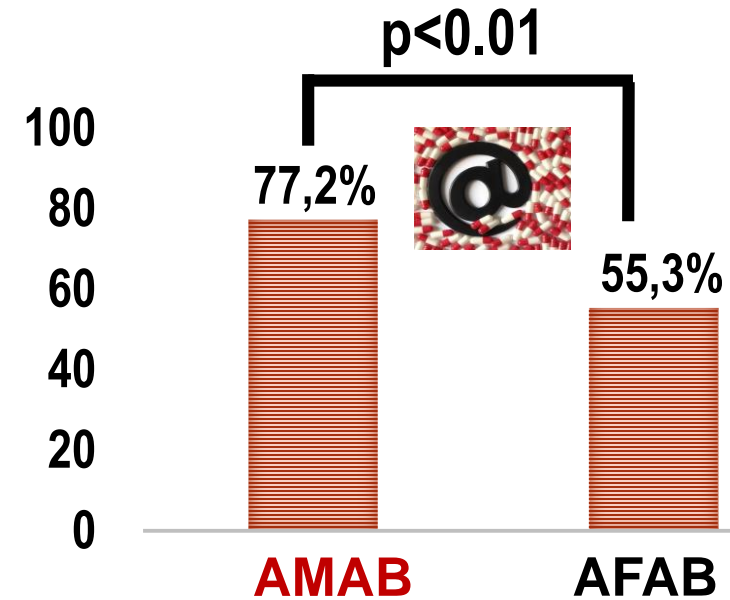


AMAB

UNEMPLOYED



Self-medicated



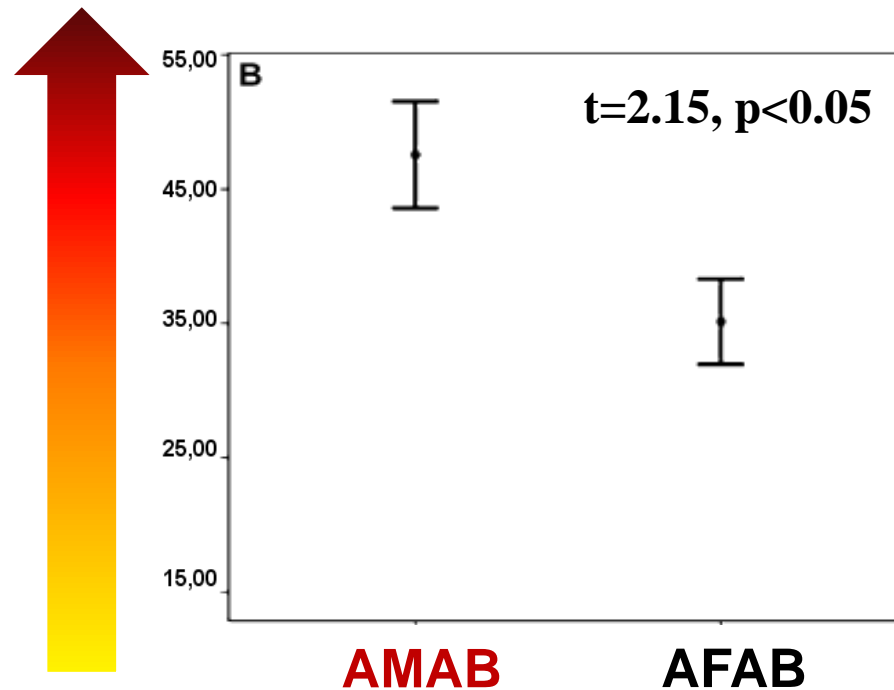
3) Being transgender in Italy

Who does experience higher levels of...?



SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION

N=167 Italian trans people



Fisher et al. (2016) Who has the worst attitudes towards sexual minorities? Journal End Invest., 1-11

Transition is like a journey...
stop where you feel comfortable

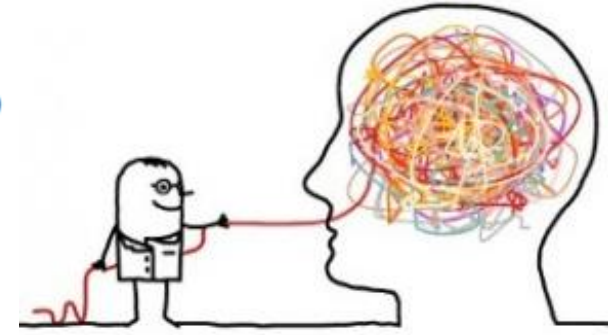


Individualized treatment

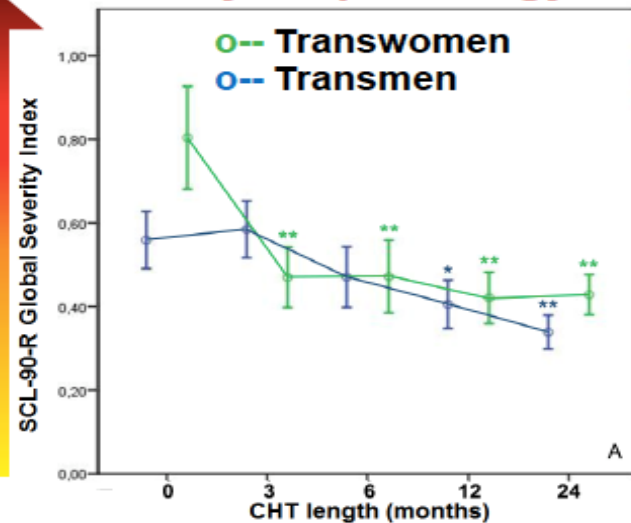
Cross-Sex Hormone Treatment and Psychobiological Changes in Transsexual Persons: Two-Year Follow-Up Data

2016 JCEM

Alessandra D. Fisher, Giovanni Castellini, Jiska Ristori, Helen Casale, Emanuele Cassioli, Carolina Sensi, Egidia Fanni, Anna Maria Letizia Amato, Eva Bettini, Maddalena Mosconi, Davide Dettore, Valdo Ricca, and Mario Maggi

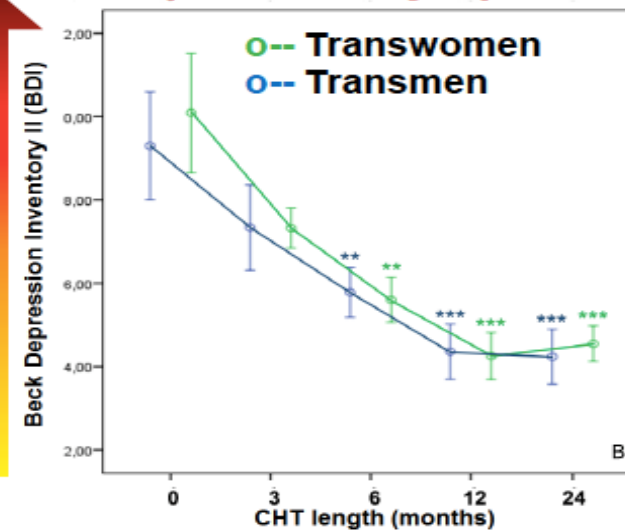


Psychopathology



* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$ across time vs. Time 0

Depressive symptoms



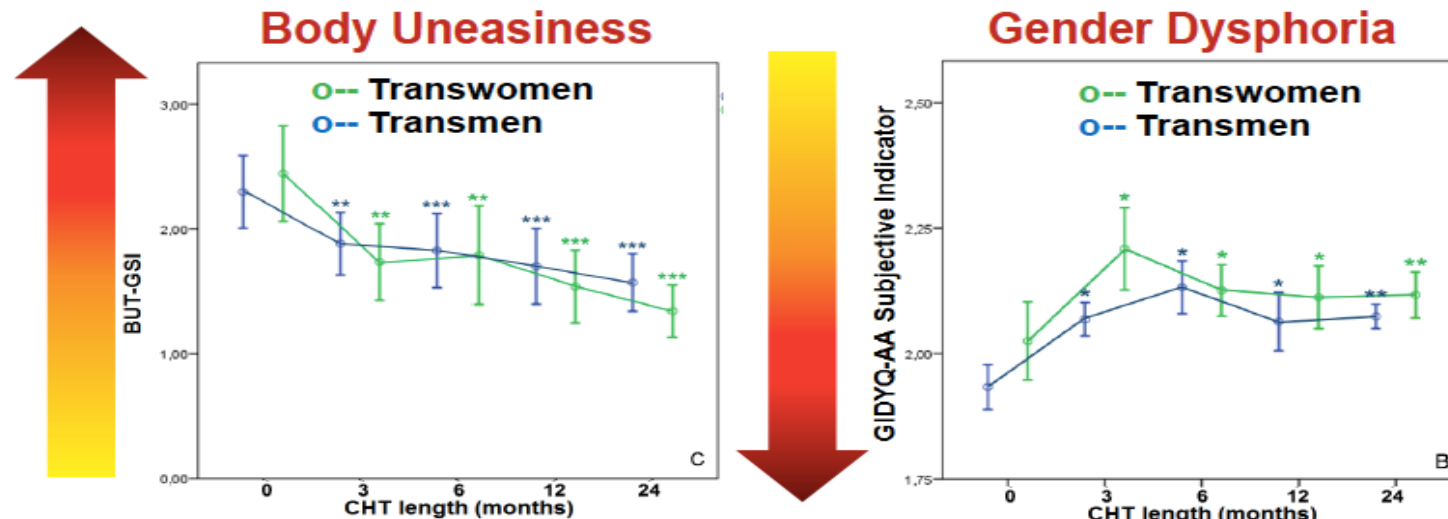
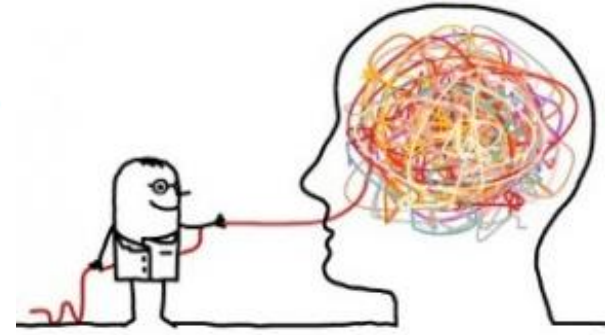
Fisher et al., JCEM 101:4260-69, 2016

Individualized treatment

Cross-Sex Hormone Treatment and Psychobiological Changes in Transsexual Persons: Two-Year Follow-Up Data

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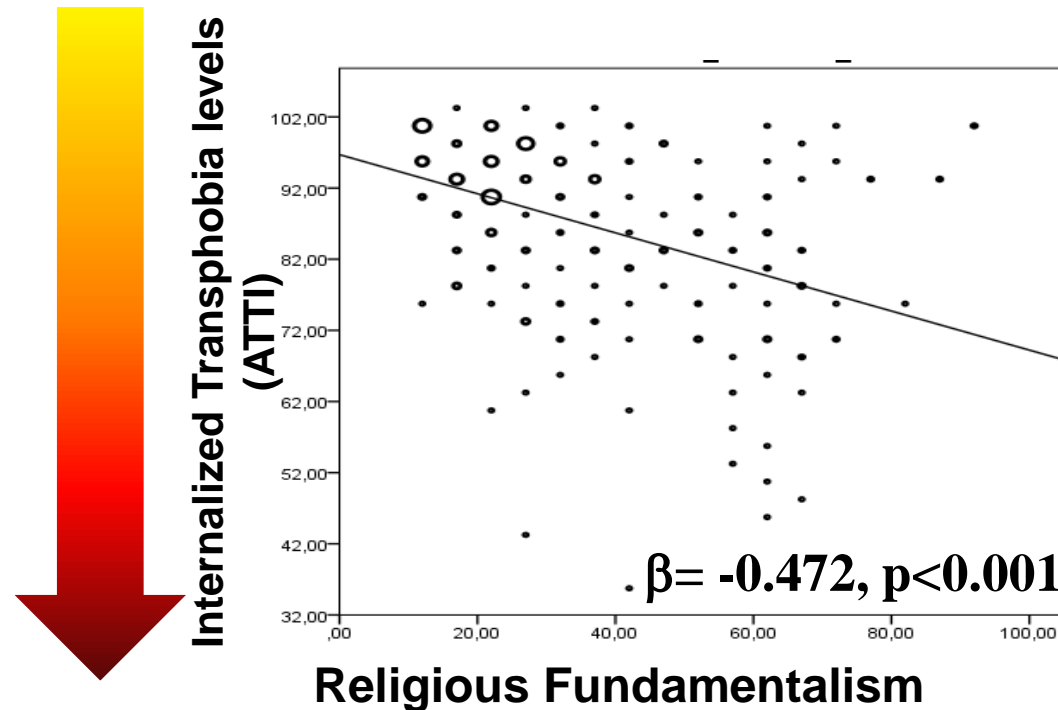
* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$ across time vs. Time 0

Fisher et al., JCEM 101:4260-69, 2016

Body changes induced by HT (without surgery) are effective in alleviating psychological distress in adults with Gender Incongruence

Why does an (Italian) transgender person experience internalized transphobia?

N=167 Italian trans persons
(Florence and Rome Gender Clinics)



What does being an Italian gender incongruent adolescent mean?

J Endocrinol Invest
DOI 10.1007/s40618-017-0647-5



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

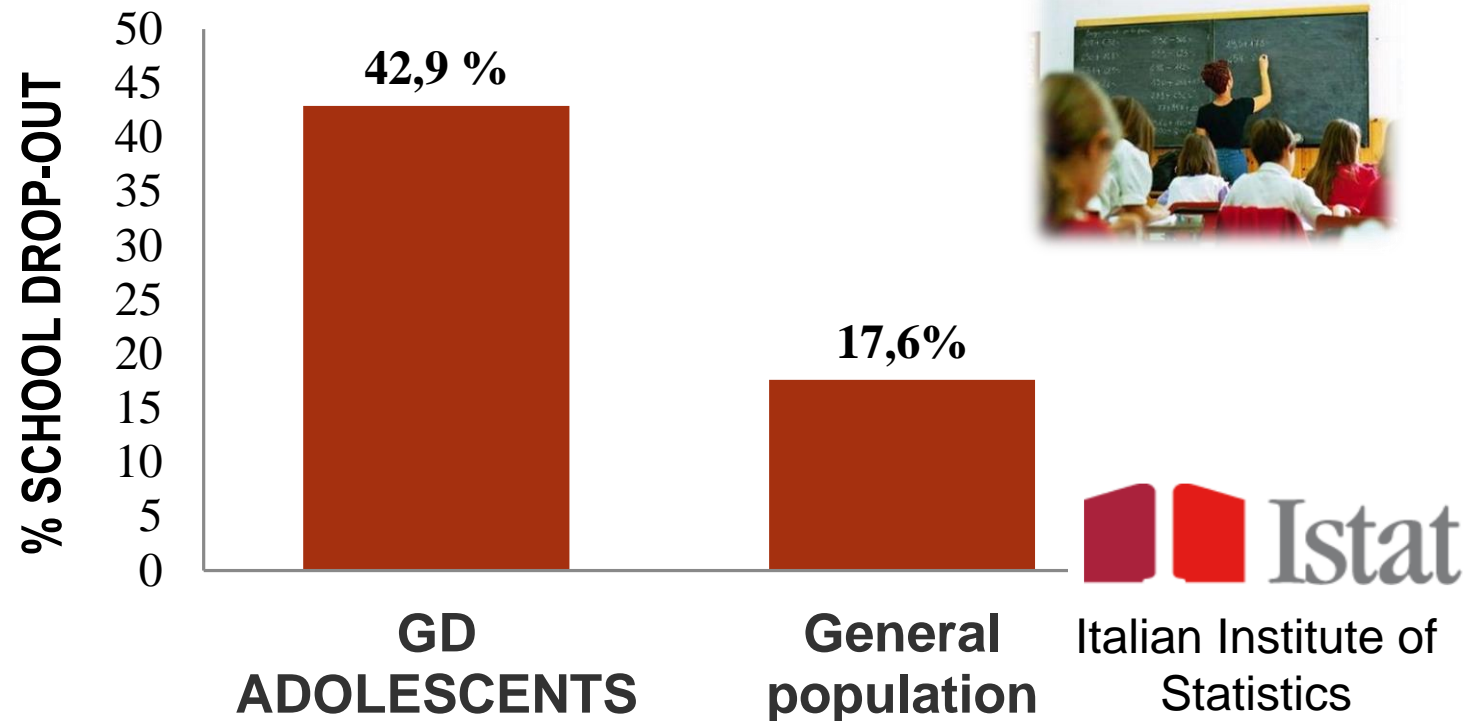
Psychological characteristics of Italian gender dysphoric adolescents: a case–control study

A. D. Fisher¹ · J. Ristori¹ · G. Castellini² · C. Sensi² · E. Cassioli² · A. Prunas³ ·
M. Mosconi⁴ · R. Vitelli⁵ · D. Dèttore⁶ · V. Ricca² · M. Maggi¹



What does being an Italian gender incongruent adolescent mean?

N=23 Italian trans persons
(Florence and Rome Gender Clinics)



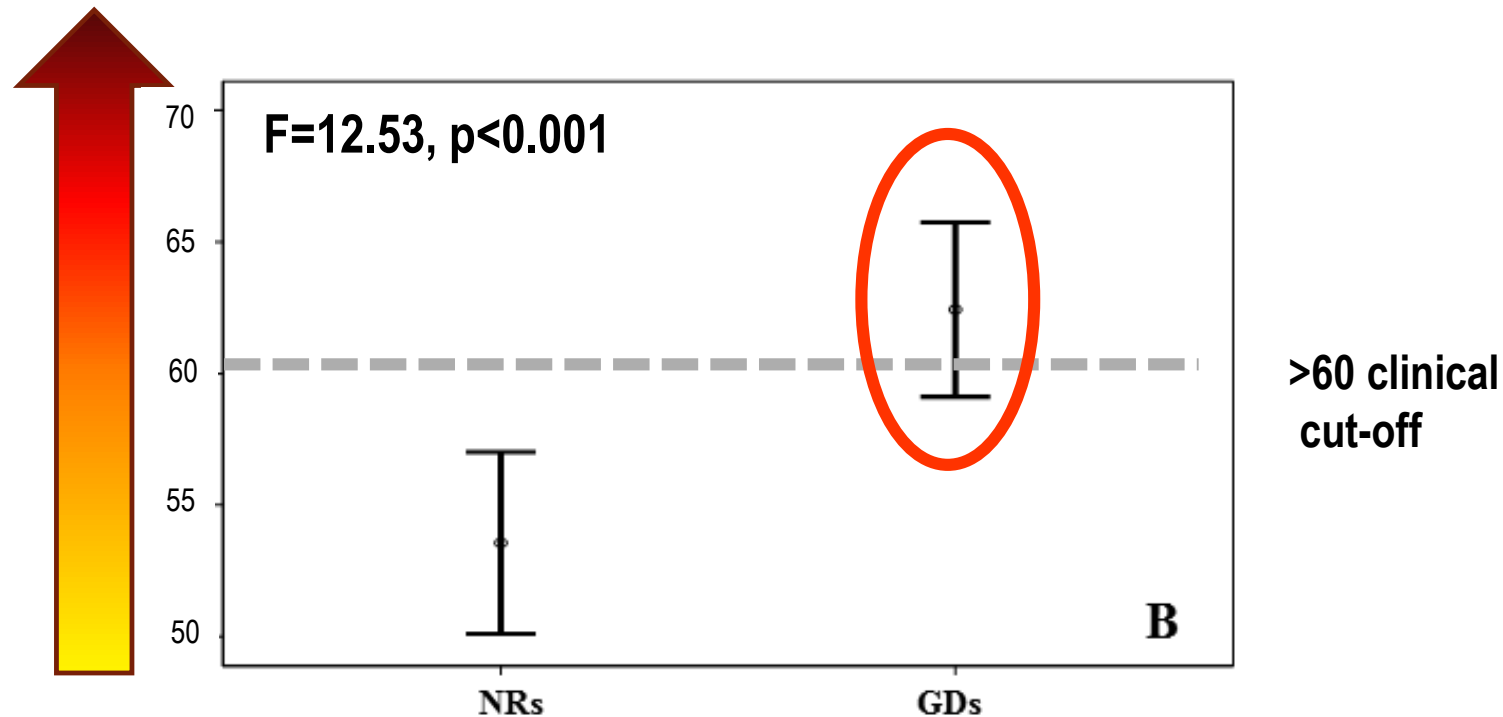
3) Being transgender in Italy

What does being an Italian gender incongruent adolescent mean?

N=46 adolescents with GD and N=46 age matched
Non-referred adolescents (NRs)



Youth Self Report Internalizing problems



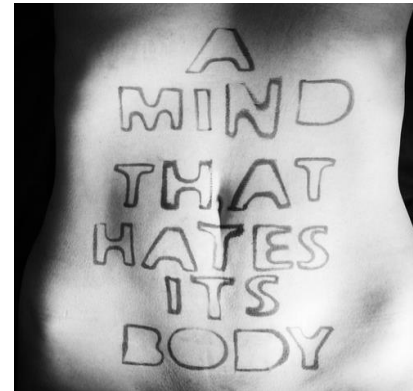
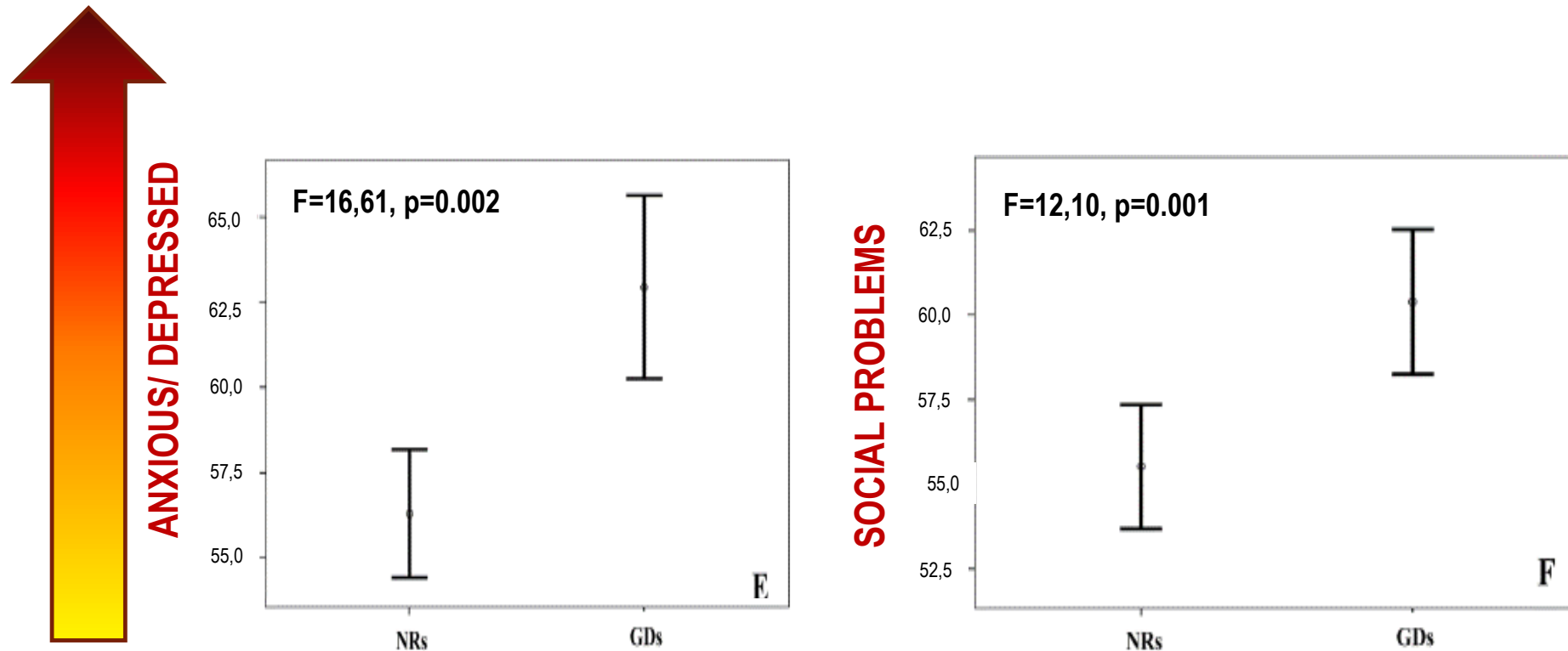
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Youth Self Report



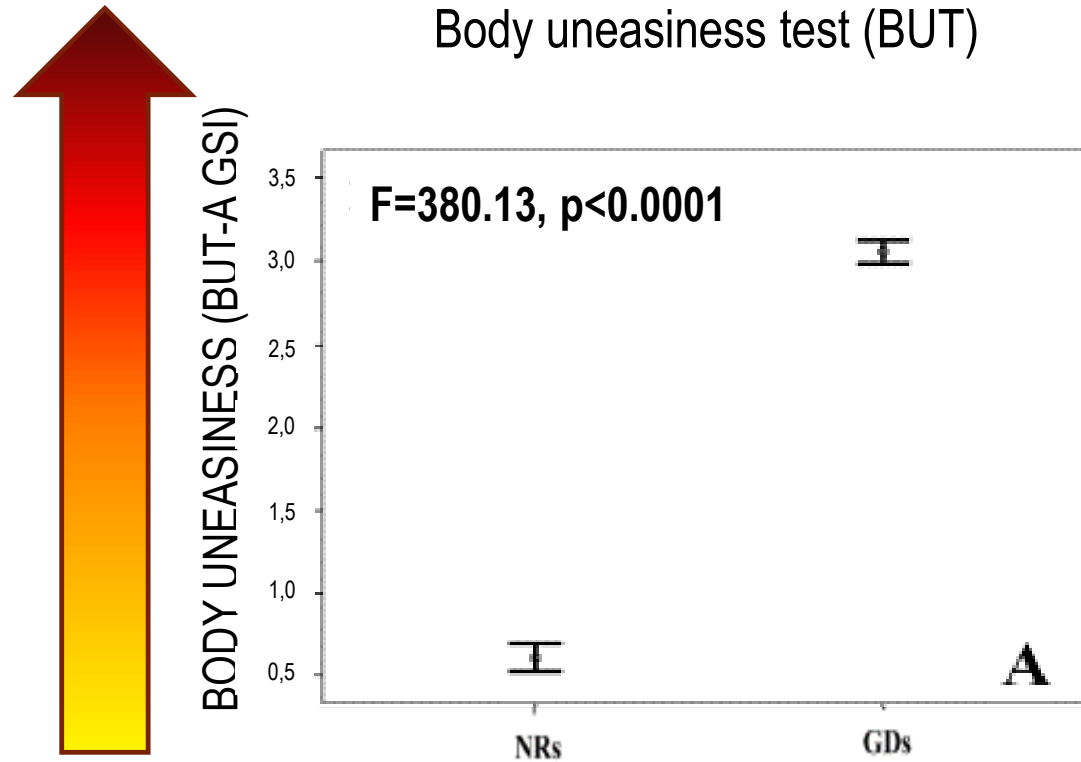
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Body uneasiness

Body uneasiness test (BUT)



3) Being transgender in Italy

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Body uneasiness

Body uneasiness test (BUT)

Height (FtM)
F= 19.09
P < 0.0001

Nose
F=15.45
p<0.0001

Facial hair
F=112.60
p<0.0001

Shoulders
F= 59.33
p<0.0001

Hips
F= 42.57
p<0.0001

Breast
F= 97.72
P<0.0001

Genitalia F= 241.16 p < 0.0001



3) Being transgender in Italy

What does being an Italian gender incongruent adolescent mean?

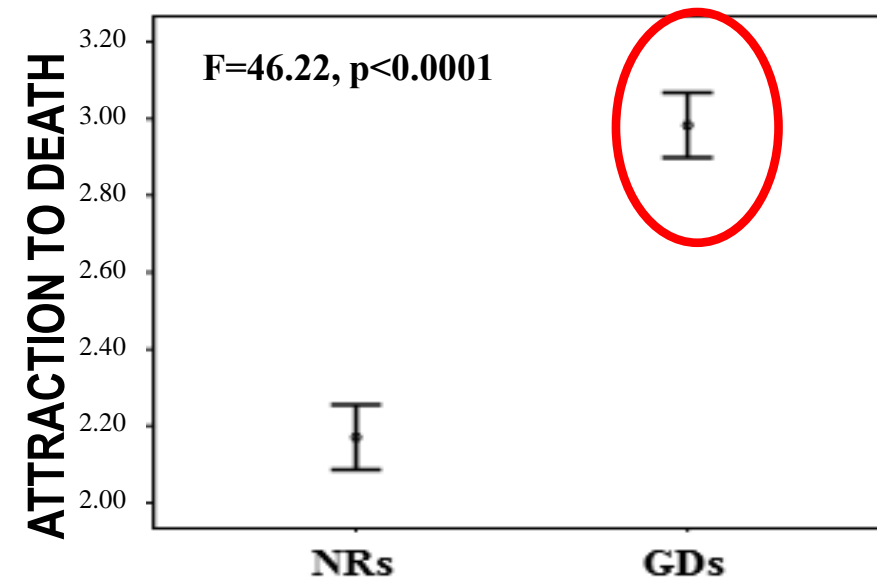
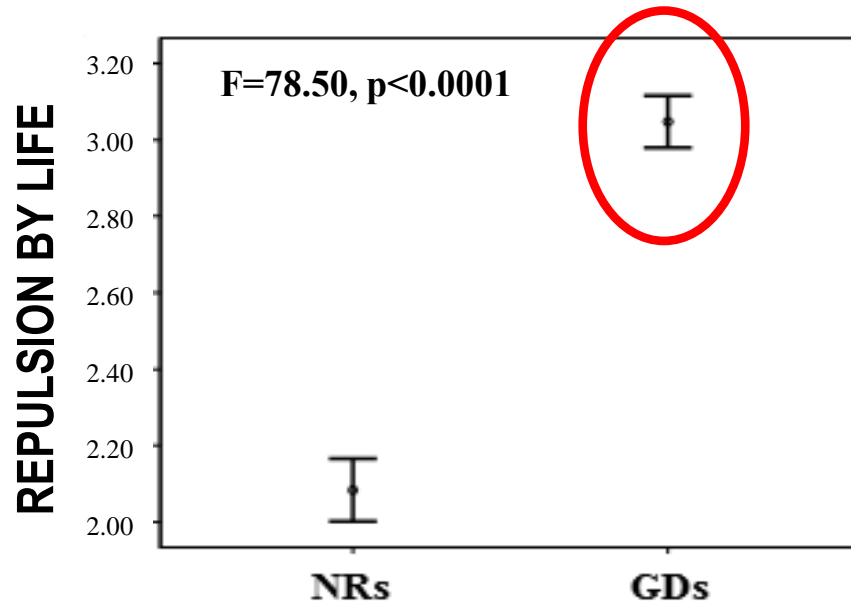


N=46 adolescents with GD and N=46 age matched
Non-referred adolescents (NRs)

Suicide risk

Multi-Attitude Suicide Tendency Scale (MAST)

(Osman et al., *J Clin Psychol.* 1993)



Transgender health care in Italy

make it better



