

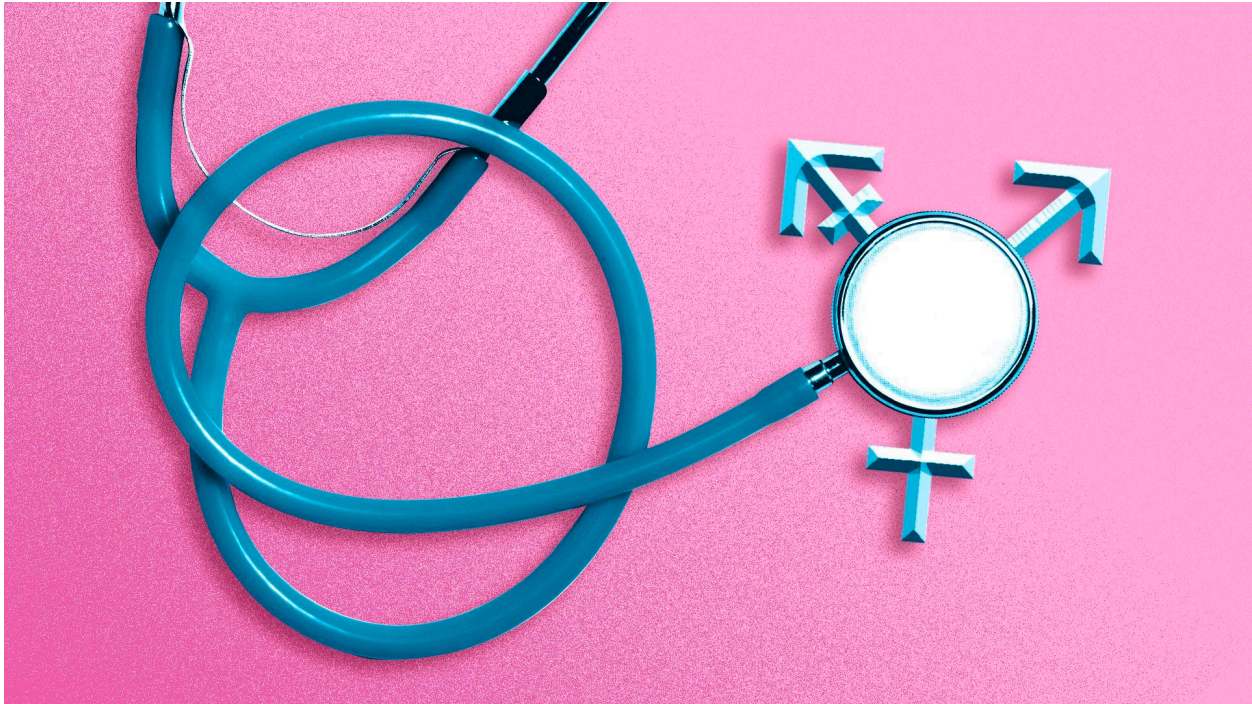
RuPaul



he/him or she/her

RuPaul has been paving the road for acceptance and educating the LGBTQ+ community on the runway and around the globe. He is a well-known individual who has battled for equality and supported LGBTQ+ rights all his life. Many members of the LGBTQ+ community credit RuPaul for popularizing drag. He received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2018, being the first drag queen to do so. As the first openly gay host of a major network television program on The RuPaul Show on VH1 in 1996, RuPaul paved the way. He has currently aided more than 120 drag queens in starting their careers as the host of RuPaul's Drag Race. In addition, he was the brand's first spokesperson and helped raise funds for AIDs awareness as M.A.C Cosmetics' first face. To date, the fund has received more than \$400 million. One thing is to change the world via tolerance and representation, but RuPaul stands out even more since he does it all while maintaining his integrity and impeccable appearance.

What is gender-affirming care? (hormones, surgery, voice therapy, etc.)



Gender-affirming care is a supportive form of healthcare encompassing medical and non-medical services for gender-diverse people. Health services may include puberty blockers or hormone replacement therapy (HRT), gender-affirming surgeries, mental health treatment, voice therapy, and more. Supportive services are typically socially affirming things that can be done to recognize genders, such as using correct names and pronouns, advocating for other healthcare providers or family members to use proper name and pronouns, gender-affirming hairstyles and clothing, or other actions that affirm the person's gender. Gender-affirming care for minors typically does not include surgeries, except on rare occasions (and in certain states) when their gender dysphoria is life-threatening.

The effects of puberty blockers are largely reversible, whereas some of the side effects of HRT are not. For example, breast tissue growth on feminizing HRT is permanent. However, these changes are often both welcome and lifesaving for transgender people, who suffer from depression and suicidality at much higher rates than the general population. Additionally, the regret rate for gender-affirming medical care is extremely low. The rate of regret has typically been cited at 1%, but a recent study by Jedrzejewski et al. (2023) found that 6 out of 1989 people (0.3%) regretted the transition. Across multiple studies, the most common reason cited for regret of transition is the broadly negative societal treatment of transgender people.

Local Resource: Kansas City Center for Inclusion



Kansas City Center for Inclusion (KCCI) is a resource and community center that provides education, resources, and activities for LGBTQIA2S+ people in the greater KC area. They have a clothing closet with toiletries, clothes, and shoes for any queer person who might need them - this is a great place to direct under-resourced patients or donate clothing! They also have a binder exchange program and carry gently used binders and gaffs (for chest binding/genitalia tucking). KCCI has several support groups, including ones for religious trauma, disability, and trans support. They also have regular activities for queer people, like a book club, an American sign language club, a club for tabletop roleplaying games (e.g., Dungeons & Dragons), and knitting. For the past couple of years, KCCI has also held a Queer Prom for youth in the KC area who want to attend an affirming prom night. In addition to these in-house resources, their website also hosts a comprehensive list of local legal, medical, housing, and employment resources.

Kink & Pride



Kink is broadly the use of non-conventional sexual practices, concepts, or fantasies. The word "kink" is often used interchangeably with fetishes, which is not necessarily accurate - kinks are typically seen as preferences, whereas fetishes might be fundamental to a person's sexual fulfillment/necessary for their arousal. To be ethical, kink needs to be both consensual and safe - this means ongoing consent throughout intimacy, agreed-upon roles and boundaries, and safe word(s) that are immediately respected. Ethical kink includes multiple aspects of safety: emotional safety (structured roles, boundaries, and stopping points), aftercare (addressing emotional needs after intimacy and processing anything that came up), and physical safety, especially during more dangerous play like bondage, temperature play, or choking (first aid kit & emergency plan). Kink is normal and not pathological; it has long been socially stigmatized but the limited research that exists has found no clear connection between kink and mental health problems.

Kink has been a part of pride since its inception in 1969. Pride originally included various forms of "sexual deviance," which at the time included "cross-dressing" and homosexuality. The leather community also has deep roots in queer spaces - leather bars were safe places for queer people in the 50s and 60s when most places were not. Leather communities also played a role in creating a chosen family for queer people, especially youth estranged from their families during this time. Kink communities were part of the Stonewall riots, a turning point for queer rights and resistance in the US. Though not everyone that practices kink is queer, it is important to recognize the historical and ongoing impact that kink communities have had on LGBTQIA2S+ movements.

Michael Sam



He/Him

Sam told his Missouri teammates about his sexual orientation during a team introduce yourself event in August 2013, and they accepted him. To avoid addressing speculations about his sexuality, he shied away from speaking with the media. A week before coming out to the public, he came out to his father. His father, an "old-school, man-and-a-woman type of guy," reportedly told the New York Times, "I don't want my grandkids raised in that kind of environment. "Although The New York Times insisted that he was reported "accurately and fairly," his father claimed that he was "terribly misquoted" to the Galveston Daily News. Sam provided comments in response to inquiries about his coming-out experience and his position as one of collegiate football's first publicly admitted gay players on February 9, 2014, during an interview with Chris Connelly on ESPN's Outside the Lines. No NFL player who was still playing at the time had ever publicly come out.

Trans Kids Playing Sports



In the last several years, there has been significant legislation proposed and passed that impacts the ability of transgender children to participate in sports with their peers. Many of these bans affect pre-pubescent children, meaning that neither sex necessarily has a biological advantage due to circulating levels of testosterone. Further, in many states where these bans have been proposed or passed, the number of children affected is in the single digits. For example, the recently passed sports ban in KS will affect three children.

These bans are problematic for a number of reasons. First, we do not have evidence to suggest that transgender people hold any type of athletic advantage over cisgender people when it comes to sports. Even in considering whether higher testosterone levels can create an advantage, this does not apply to most transgender children - typically, trans kids are on puberty blockers prior to turning 18, when they often begin hormone replacement therapy. In addition to this, most people (including trans people) simply are not elite athletes, nor do they want to be. Many transgender children want to play sports for fun and/or to fit in with peers, as any other child would. Most children generally are not playing sports to win, and most people playing sports do not win statistically. Last, many of these sports bans either do not specify how they will be enforced OR they are enforced by unnecessarily invasive and harmful tactics, including genital inspections or reviews of medical records. For updated information on laws in place, click here (**link this: https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/youth/sports_participation_bans). Note: This website only includes bans in place, not proposed legislation.

Bob the Drag Queen



He/She

Caldwell Tidicue, otherwise known as Bob the Drag Queen, is a comedian, actor, activist, and musician. Bob publicly identifies as pansexual and non-binary and uses both she/her and he/him pronouns. He won season 8 of RuPaul's Drag Race, where he declared himself a "queen for the people," combining his commitment to activism with his engagement with the art of drag. He previously was part of a group of drag queens who committed to doing drag queen demonstrations in NY Times Square weekly until NY State had marriage equality. He often talks about how his activism for queer and black communities comes from his own life experience. Bob was raised in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi and has spoken about how this experience was formative for his own experience as a black queer person. He is committed to being the representation he did not always have as a child, as well as using comedy and the art of drag to examine the complexities of intersectional identities.