Gender-related distress will alleviate for around 80% of pre-teen children once they become teenagers.

Evidence from 10 available prospective follow-up studies [1] from childhood to adolescence indicates that childhood gender dysphoria will recede with puberty in ~80% of cases. A Dutch paper [2] notes that follow-up studies show the persistence rate of gender identity disorder to be about 15.8%, or 39 out of the 246 children who were reported on in the literature.

In one study [3] of 54 children referred to a clinic in childhood because of gender dysphoria and then later investigated by a follow-up study, only 21 (39%) still had gender dysphoria.

A different study [4] of Canadian boys with gender identity disorder showed that 87.8% desisted, with only 12.2% — fewer than 1 in 8 — persisting in their transgender identity.

An ~80% desistance is not universally found [5]. Thorough investigations of the claims and counter-claims appear in two 2018 studies [6, 7].

REFERENCES


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