

Friendship Center for New Beginnings

162 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822

Summer 2023

(908) 806-4444 or Toll Free: (877) 88-4-MOMS

“SO GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE...MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM” GENESIS 1:27

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We are so delighted to see the progress of our sports outreach to children and teens in our local apartment complex in Flemington. Pastor Will and his helpers now see about 40 young people each week for soccer practice, followed by an age-appropriate Bible study on discipleship.

It is so important that their minds are constantly renewed in the truths of God's Word. We are not only called to save babies, but also to disciple young lives to be influences for good!

On August 2nd this year, the NJ State Board of Education adopted an amended Equity regulation that removes all language reflecting biological sex terms from state education policies. Financial penalties will incur on any district that fails to follow the plan. Examples include removing the words “male and female students” and replacing them with “based on gender identity,” and removing members of “both” sexes and replacing them with “all” sexes.

A proposal was made in New Jersey called Fairness in Women's Sports Act, based on the fact that males who have transitioned to female gender have significant advantages of strength, speed, and endurance, due to their greater cardiovascular reserve and lung volume per body mass. This act did *not* pass, despite the fact that 20 other states have already passed laws allowing only biological girls to play girls' sports, in order to protect fair competition and their opportunities for success and possible college scholarships.

Since in 2021, NJ Governor Phil Murphy signed into law a bill mandating sexual orientation and gender identity instruction for K-12 students, we encourage any who may be led of the Lord, to contact the Family Research Council to join their virtual School Board Boot Camp, equipping them to run for school board and influence future legislation.

Pray with us for our children in the new school year!



“SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES” PROVERBS 31:8

Our teens are so precious, and many of us wonder why there is such a sudden increase in teens becoming so dissatisfied with their biological sex that they are willing to undergo a lifetime on cross-sex hormones, and even the surgical removal of healthy body parts. As Christians, we understand that our enemy Satan is always trying to do all he can to destroy God’s creation.

Research is beginning to uncover some of the factors which are accelerating this growing trend. The affected teenagers, go from a seemingly normal gender acceptance to a sudden delusion that they are in the wrong body, around the time of puberty. These researchers say the influence of peers and social media can lead some to look for answers to their problems by assuming that it is caused by gender distress. They may have heard about transgender issues from teachers in the school, or watched videos online, leading them to believe it is a solution to the depression or anxiety they face.

Since they are not told that it would likely resolve in time *without* treatment, they assume it is their only option. Often neither parents nor teens fully understand the significant risks and permanent outcomes of these treatments.

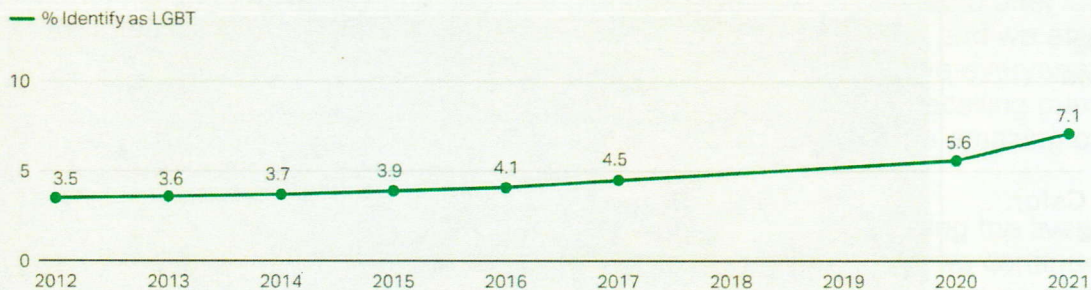
More than 60% of the parents involved said their teen had been diagnosed with a mental health disorder *before* claiming distress at their gender, and yet because of the guidance currently established in the medical community, the priority focus is on gender affirmation, as *the teen* believes it to be at that time.

However, it appears that surgeons may now be held accountable for procedures on minors too young to give informed consent. 18-year-old Chloe Cole is in the process of suing the California doctors who placed her on puberty-blockers and testosterone at age 13, and performed a double mastectomy at age 15, because at that time she wanted to transition from a female to a male. However, at age 16, she wanted to return to her biological female sex, and she said “I have been emotionally and physically damaged and stunted by medical professionals in my most important developmental period.” She has promised to “fight to ensure that no other children will be harmed.”

Please pray with us that her case will cause doctors to stop pursuing these treatments, and that therapists will have the freedom to help teens who are troubled to find effective help.

Americans' Self-Identification as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Something Other Than Heterosexual

Which of the following do you consider yourself to be? You can select as many as apply. Straight or heterosexual; Lesbian, Gay; Bisexual; Transgender



--Respondents who volunteer another identity (e.g., queer, same-gender-loving; pansexual) are recorded as "Other LGBT" by interviewers. These responses are included in the LGBT estimate.
--Data not collected in 2018 and 2019.
--2012-2013 wording: Do you, personally, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?

GALLUP

We are so grateful for all that God is doing with parents of teens and the teens themselves, as voices are now being raised by those who have had puberty-blocking hormones and mutilating surgeries, because they became confused about their gender. The Family Research Council (FRC) reported that up to 88% of females and 98% of males who were distressed with their biological sex and so they sought to change it, later came to want to return to their biological sex.

The backlash to these procedures is increasing, as the map below from FRC shows. In 2021 and 2022, only 4 states had passed laws protecting minors from gender reassignment procedures. (Arkansas was the first state in the nation to enact such a law). However, to date in 2023, a total of 21 states have now passed such laws, based on the FRC guidelines in a document called Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act.

In 2018 the American Academy of Pediatrics officially recommended that parents encouraged the preferred gender expressions of their children. Parents of the teens are warned that their child might commit suicide if not allowed to transition, even though research shows that transition treatment does *not* affect the rate of suicide attempts.

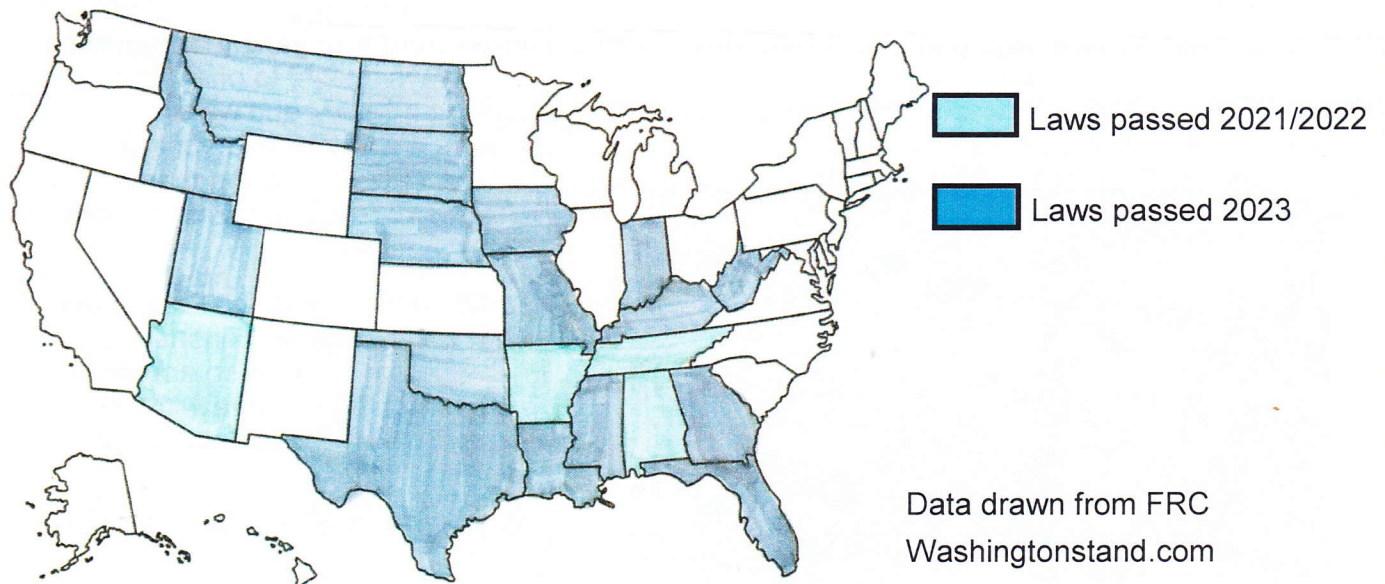
The first transgender clinic in the U.S. opened in Boston in 2007, and a decade later 40 such clinics were established. However, the research about the long-term effects from the medical and psychological treatment currently provided in gender clinics is lacking. Doctors faced with any other kind of medical condition where the majority of patients improve *without* medical intervention would just wait, and consider alternative therapy only if the condition persisted. The gender-affirming process however, begins with social transition like dress, name, and pronoun changes, and then currently almost inevitably leads to puberty-blocking hormone therapy.

The outcome for these teens therefore, includes increased risk of cardiovascular problems from the hormones, sterilization, scarring, and irreversible changes from the surgeries. Therapists and physicians who suggest it is better to encourage a child to embrace his or her biological sex often face scorn or retribution in the loss of their jobs, so, many are afraid to state their beliefs publicly.

Praise God for the miraculous advance of protective laws this year-in fact, nearly every state legislative chamber who approved the bills, did so by 2 to 1 or 3 to 1 margins!

Please pray with us that the SAFE Act is proposed and passed in every one of the remaining states.

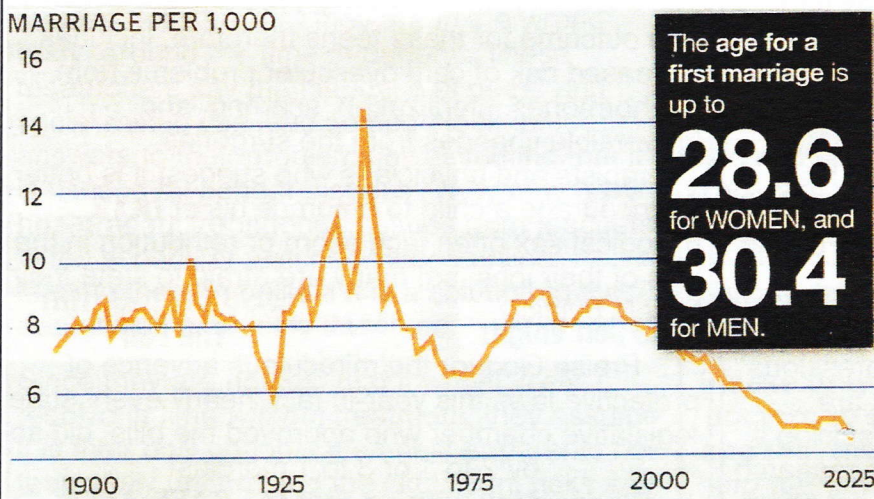
PROTECTING MINORS FROM GENDER REASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES



**“HE WHO FINDS A WIFE, FINDS WHAT IS GOOD
AND RECEIVES FAVOR FROM THE LORD” PROVERBS 18:22**

As the graph shows, marriages have declined dramatically over the last 100 years. The number of never-married women has grown from about 20% in 1950 to over 30% in 2022, while the percentage of currently-married women has declined from almost 70% in 1950 to under 50% today.

At the same time, birth rates were relatively stable, from 1980 to the present, hovering at 65 to 70 births per 1,000 women between ages 15 and 44. This means that an increasing number of children are being raised by single mothers or cohabiting couples, which research confirms raises the risk of unstable homes and poverty.



We believe that an equally important part of our ministry outreach to those facing an unplanned pregnancy, is to strengthen marriage and parenting skills, to support the growth of united Christian families. While our peer counselors have daily opportunities to mentor parenting skills, we do need to offer Saturday or weekday evening classes on marriage.

To do so, we are urgently in need of baby sitters for the parents involved, and if the Lord leads you to meet this need, please contact us as soon as possible, as we will be beginning a new series of marriage-strengthening classes in the Fall.

This would remove a significant barrier to some who are eager to attend, but cannot afford 12 weeks of babysitting fees!

“LET US DO GOOD TO ALL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS” GALATIANS 6:10

Throughout our 20 plus years in this location, we have had the joyful privilege of welcoming many work groups from local churches, who are willing to give a Saturday morning to assist us in maintaining this facility in a way that glorifies the Lord Jesus, Who gave it to us. We so much want to be a powerful witness to God’s faithfulness!



The jobs would be varied, but all within the realm of ordinary household and yard maintenance. We always delight to offer lunch to our kind helpers, and we enjoy the opportunity to give everyone a tour of the facilities, recalling many miracles of God’s amazing provision for our needs.

God is transforming the lives of our client families as we continue to mentor them, and we so appreciate the opportunity to share with you some of what God is doing in our community.

Please contact us if you can help!