

Different Destinations

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Transgender - One Person's Journey

76% of trans people have had hormone therapy.

23% of trans women have had bottom surgery.

43% of trans men have had top surgery.

Only 1–3% of trans men have had bottom surgery.* Because the surgery is complex and expensive, and the technology is not there yet to create a penis that looks and responds as a biological man's, most trans men opt instead to "pack" during everyday life and strap on a dildo for sex.

No two journeys are the same

For some people, crossdressing is a destination in itself; for others, it's an early step in the transition process. Some trans people cannot afford hormones and surgery, while others want their authentic gender identity to be recognized without them. Some trans people take hormones only, while others access the full range of medical interventions available to bring their bodies into alignment with how they feel inside. Some people never go to full time.

"Passing"

It's sad but true that the general population treats trans people in dramatically different ways based solely on their appearance. Trans people who "pass" as their identified gender can more easily access jobs, housing, and health care and can walk down the street without being harassed or assaulted.

However, as Julia Serano points out in *Whipping Girl*, the word "pass" "is a highly problematic term in that it implies that the trans person is getting away with something... thereby reinforcing the idea that transsexual genders are illegitimate."

For many trans people, passing is a goal. Other people choose, or accept, a place between genders.

"Shattering the gender binary" is popular among young trans people today.

Definitions:

non-op: A transgender person who has decided not to undergo sexual reassignment surgery and yet lives full-time in their identified gender.

packing: Wearing a phallic object in one's underwear to give the appearance of having a penis.

passing: Being generally recognized and accepted in society as one's identified gender.

shattering the gender binary: a form of expression where a person does not adhere to traditional male or female rolls.