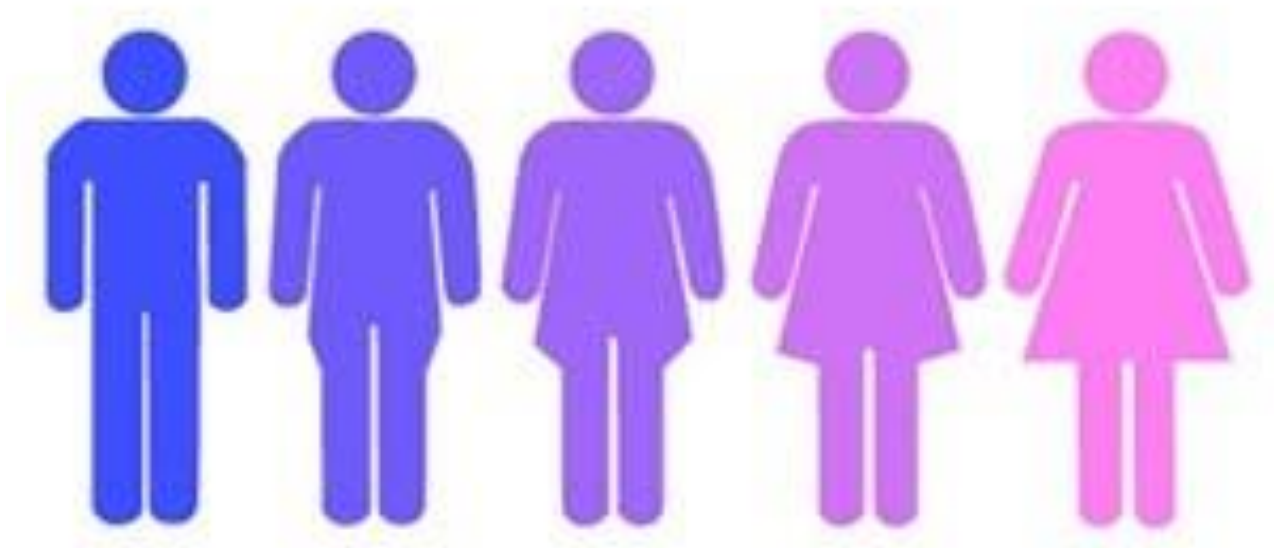


INTERSEX 101:

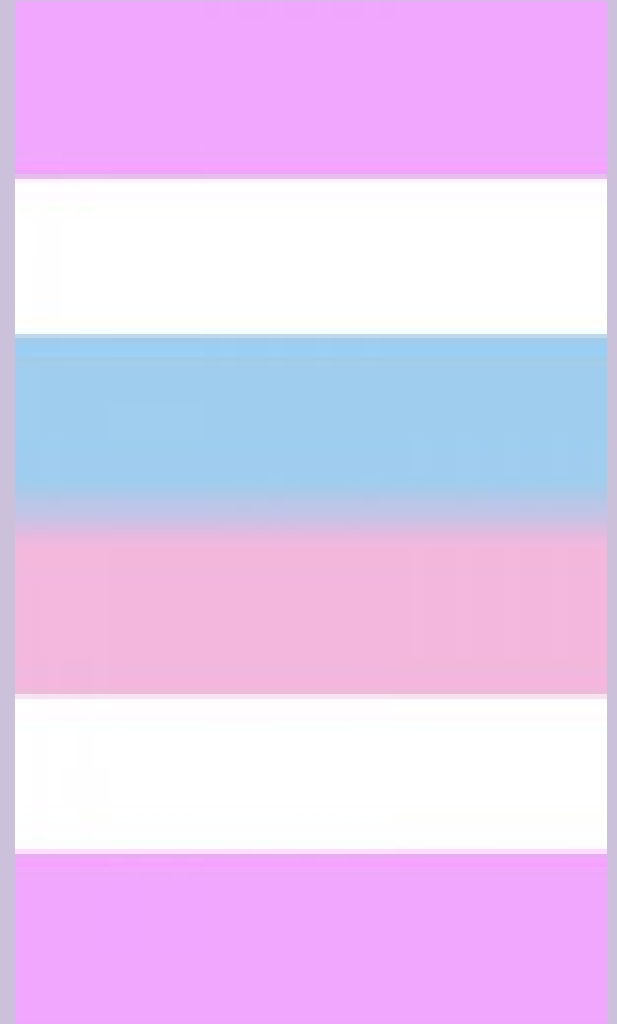


**The “I” Stands for
Intersex**

What Is Intersex?

Intersex is a general term that refers to a variety of experiences in which a person is born with a genetic, sexual, or reproductive anatomy that does not fit the typical definitions of a male or female body.

Just as skin and hair color vary along a wide spectrum, so do genetic, sexual, and reproductive anatomies. Intersex variations are not uncommon or a social pathology. Intersexuality covers more than 25 genetic and hormonal variations.



Intersex FAQs

How Many Intersex People Are There?

The most thorough existing research has found that intersex births constitute about **1.9% of the population**, making intersex individuals more common than red-headed individuals (who are about 1-2% of the population). However, given that some intersex individuals do not realize that they have an intersex variation, and some individuals who could be considered intersex do not identify as such, the figure is likely substantially higher.

Do Intersex Individuals Need Medical Treatment?

There are very few instances when a child's intersex variation poses health risks that require immediate medical attention. Intersex activists and human rights groups, including the United Nations, urge no medical intervention until the person themselves can have a say in any possible changes to their bodies.

Intersex FAQs

Do Intersex Individuals Identify as Male or Female?

It depends on the individual. Some identify as male or female; some identify as intersex men or intersex women; some identify only as intersex; and some identify as none of these.

Are Intersex Individuals Hermaphrodites?

Biologically speaking, hermaphrodites are beings with fully functioning sets of “male” and “female” sex organs. Snails, slugs, and earthworms are hermaphroditic; humans can never be. The word is considered insulting by many intersex people and should never be used by non-intersex individuals.

How to Be an Intersex Ally

Speak Up for the Rights of Intersex People

Intersex people often have their human rights violated by the medical profession through medically unnecessary, non-consensual cosmetic genital surgeries. Everyone should have the right to determine what is done to their own bodies.

Be Intersex Inclusive by Using “LGBTQIA”

Use “LGBTQIA,” with the “I” for “intersex”(and the “A” for “asexual”), in your speech and writing.

Make Intersex More Visible

- “Like” intersex groups on Facebook.
- Share articles, blog posts, You Tube clips by intersex people.

Learn about Intersex People

Educate yourself about the experiences of intersex people, particularly as told by intersex individuals themselves.

Prominent Intersex Figures



Hida Viloria is a Latina intersex writer, spokesperson, activist, and chairperson of the Organization Intersex International (OII). She is also the founding director of OII-USA.

Prominent Intersex Figures



Bo Laurent (better known by her pseudonym Cheryl Chase) is an intersex activist and founder of the Intersex Society of North America.

Prominent Intersex Figures



Phoebe Hart is a filmmaker known for her autobiographical film, *Orchids: My Intersex Adventure*.

Resources

Websites

Organization Intersex International, USA: <http://oii-usa.org>

Blogs

Full Frontal Activism: Intersex & Awesome: <http://fullfrontalactivism.blogspot.com>

Intersex and Out: <http://intersexandout.tumblr.com>

Intersex Roadshow: <http://intersexroadshow.blogspot.com>

Books

Abigail Tarttelli, *Golden Boy: A Novel*

Katrina Karkazis, *Fixing Sex: Intersex, Medical Authority, and Lived Experience*

Elisabeth Reis, *Bodies in Doubt: An American History of Intersex*

Sharon E. Preves, *Intersex and Identity: The Contested Self*

Documentaries

Intersexion (2012)

Orchids: My Intersex Adventure (2011)

XXY (2007)

One in 2000 (2006)