



# INTERSEX

LEARN MORE.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE INTERSEX?

INTERSEX IS A GENERAL TERM USED TO DESCRIBE A WIDE RANGE OF VARIATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR TO THE REPRODUCTIVE OR SEXUAL ANATOMY OF A FETUS, DURING THE DEVELOPMENTAL PERIOD. THIS MAY RESULT IN A PERSON BEING BORN WITH ANATOMY THAT IS OUTSIDE OF TRADITIONAL MALE/FEMALE CONSTRUCTS. INTERSEX ANATOMY DOES NOT ALWAYS SHOW UP AT BIRTH, SOMETIMES INTERSEX TRAITS ARE FOUND LATER IN LIFE, DURING PUBERTY OR BEYOND (INTERSEX SOCIETY).

## HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE INTERSEX?

INTERSEX TRAITS ARE MUCH MORE COMMON THAN THE GENERAL PUBLIC BELIEVES. BECAUSE THE TERM INTERSEX COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF ANATOMICAL DIFFERENCES THE EXACT NUMBER IS NOT KNOWN. HOWEVER, 1.5-1.7% OF BABIES ARE BORN WITH NOTICEABLY ATYPICAL SEX ANATOMY.

## ADVICE FOR PARENTS:

FINDING OUT THAT YOUR CHILD IS INTERSEX MAY COME WITH A LOT OF BIG EMOTIONS, IT IS OK TO FEEL A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS UPON LEARNING THIS INFORMATION. YOU ARE NOT ALONE. IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT. IT IS OK TO FEEL CONFUSED OR UPSET. YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS RIGHT NOW. "SUPPORTING YOUR INTERSEX CHILD" CREATED BY IGLYP, OII EUROPE & EPA (SEE BACK OF HANDOUT).

## SUPPORTING YOUR INTERSEX CHILD.

YOUR CHILD IS UNIQUE AND WILL HAVE DEEPLY PERSONAL CHOICES THAT THEY WILL DECIDE AS THEY GROW. THESE CHOICES MAY INCLUDE WHICH PRONOUNNS THEY DECIDE TO USE. THESE CHOICES MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SURGERY. IN MOST INTERSEX CASES SURGERY IS NOT REQUIRED, OR NOT REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY. SURGERY CAN HAVE LONG LASTING IMPLICATIONS ON YOUR CHILDS SEXUAL HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES.

## LIFE AS INTERSEX:

AS A PARENT IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN FROM YOUR CHILD, JUST LIKE ANY CHILD, THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCES WILL BE DIFFERENT THAN YOURS AND THERE IS SO MUCH BEAUTY IN THAT. LEARN FROM THEM, LOVE THEM, AND LET THEM BE WHO THEY ARE. "YOU ARE HUMAN; YOU ARE WHOLE. YOU ARE NORMAL. INTERSEX IS NORMAL...WE LOVE YOU, AND YOU ARE NOT ALONE." - FORMER HRC FOUNDATION YOUTH AMBASSADOR JAHNI LEGGETTE (SHE/THEY)



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

LEARN MORE.

## WHAT IS INTERSEX? READ MORE.

INTERSEX SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA -

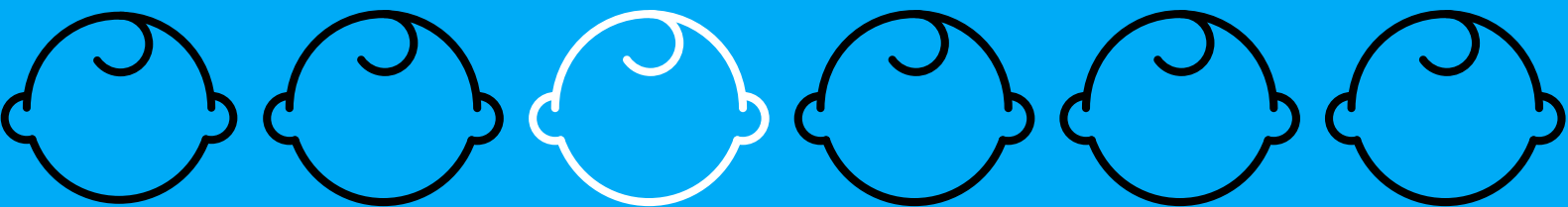
[HTTPS://ISNA.ORG/FAQ/WHAT\\_IS\\_INTERSEX/](https://isna.org/faq/what_is_intersex/)

INTERACT IS A RESOURCE COMMITTED TO SHARING ACURATE INFORMATION SURROUNDING INTERSEX. INTERACT ADVOCATES FOR INTERSEX YOUTH.

[HTTPS://WWW.IGLYO.COM/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2018/10/SUPPORTING-YOUR-INTERSEX-CHILD.PDF](https://www.iglyo.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/supporting-your-intersex-child.pdf)

## UP TO 1.7 PERCENT OF BABIES

ARE BORN WITH SEX CHARACTERISTICS THAT DO NOT FIT INTO THE TYPICAL DEFINITIONS OF MALE AND FEMALE.



THAT MAKES IT AS COMMON AS BEING BORN A REDHEAD.

[HTTPS://WWW.UNFE.ORG/PERFECT-JUST-AS-THEY-ARE/](https://www.unfe.org/perfect-just-as-they-are/)

## A PARENTS PERSPECTIVE:

YOU CANT UNDO SURGERY -

[HTTPS://WWW.NBCNEWS.COM/FEATURE/NBC-OUT/YOU-CAN-T-UNDO-SURGERY-MORE-PARENTS-INTERSEX-BABIES-ARE-N923271](https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/you-can-t-undo-surgery-more-parents-intersex-babies-are-n923271)

## SURGERY FOR INTERSEX: NCBI

CREIGHTON S. SURGERY FOR INTERSEX. J R SOC MED. 2001 MAY;94(5):218-20. DOI: 10.1177/014107680109400505. PMID: 11385087; PMCID: PMC1281452.

## UNDERSTANDING THE INTERSEX COMMUNITY

[HTTPS://WWW.HRC.ORG/RESOURCES/UNDERSTANDING-THE-INTERSEX-COMMUNITY](https://www.hrc.org/resources/understanding-the-intersex-community)

[HTTPS://4INTERSEX.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2018/10/4INTERSEX-ALLY-DOS-AND-DONTS.PDF](https://4intersex.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/4intersex-ally-dos-and-donts.pdf)