



Access to gender-affirming breast or chest surgery in a sample of transgender adolescents living in Pennsylvania; a preliminary analysis

Zaine Roberts BA¹, Rosemary C. Roden MD²

¹Penn State Harrisburg, ²Penn State College of Medicine-Department of Pediatrics

Aims

- Examine total time in care between stated desire for surgery and undergoing desired intervention in transgender youth.
- Evaluate barriers to surgery including distance to surgeon and time to surgeon.

Method

- Single site, longitudinal retrospective chart review from initial appointment 6/1/2020 to 6/1/2021 to any time between 7/2020 to 6/2022 for follow-up.
- Patients aged 10 to 24 presenting for medical evaluations for gender affirming care (N = 70) who state a desire for future chest/breast surgery (n = 30) at least once.
- Structured interview administered at each medical evaluation.
- “Do you plan to have a surgery in the future? If so, what kind?”
- Provider asks about new medical and surgical interventions at each follow-up appointment

Data Analysis

- Analyzed by reported desire for breast or chest surgery. Analyzed by obtainment of surgical intervention (n = 7) and total time in care
- Descriptive statistics were conducted to assess the prevalence of surgery goal, mean time in care until attainment of surgery, and mean distance to surgeon.

Patients at the Penn State Children's Hospital Gender Health Center were in care for medical management of gender dysphoria for an average of 531 days (stdev 276.42) before obtaining chest surgery, and travelled an average of 380.34 miles (stdev 509.75) to see their surgeons.

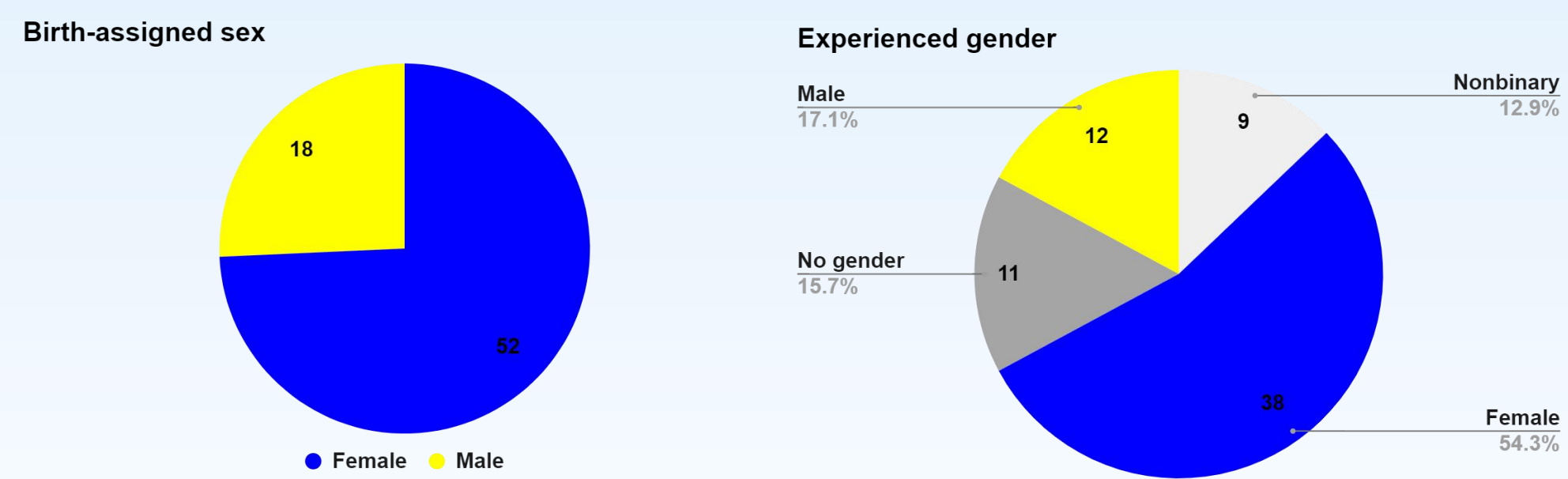
Average age at surgery was 19.

This does not include time in mental healthcare.

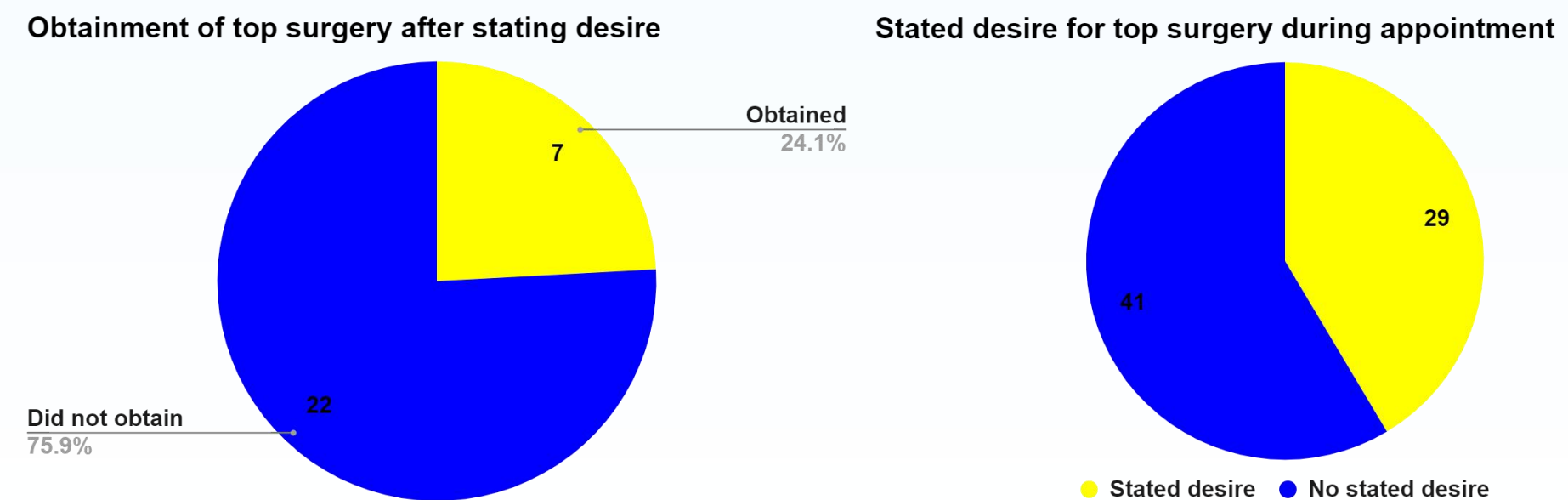
Conclusions

- Desire for surgical intervention was present in 30 out of the 70 total adolescents identified.
- Of the 30 adolescents indicating desire for surgical intervention, seven underwent surgery.
- Stated barriers included distance, referrals, age, timeframe and financial concern.
- In this population patients were in care with medical provider for an average of 531 days prior to undergoing surgery.
- All adolescents traveled significant distances for surgery, with a mean distance of 380.34 miles and a range of 1113 miles.
- All participants maintained their surgical goal throughout care.

Eligible Participants



Goal of top surgery and receipt of surgery



References

