

Fact Sheet

Intersex



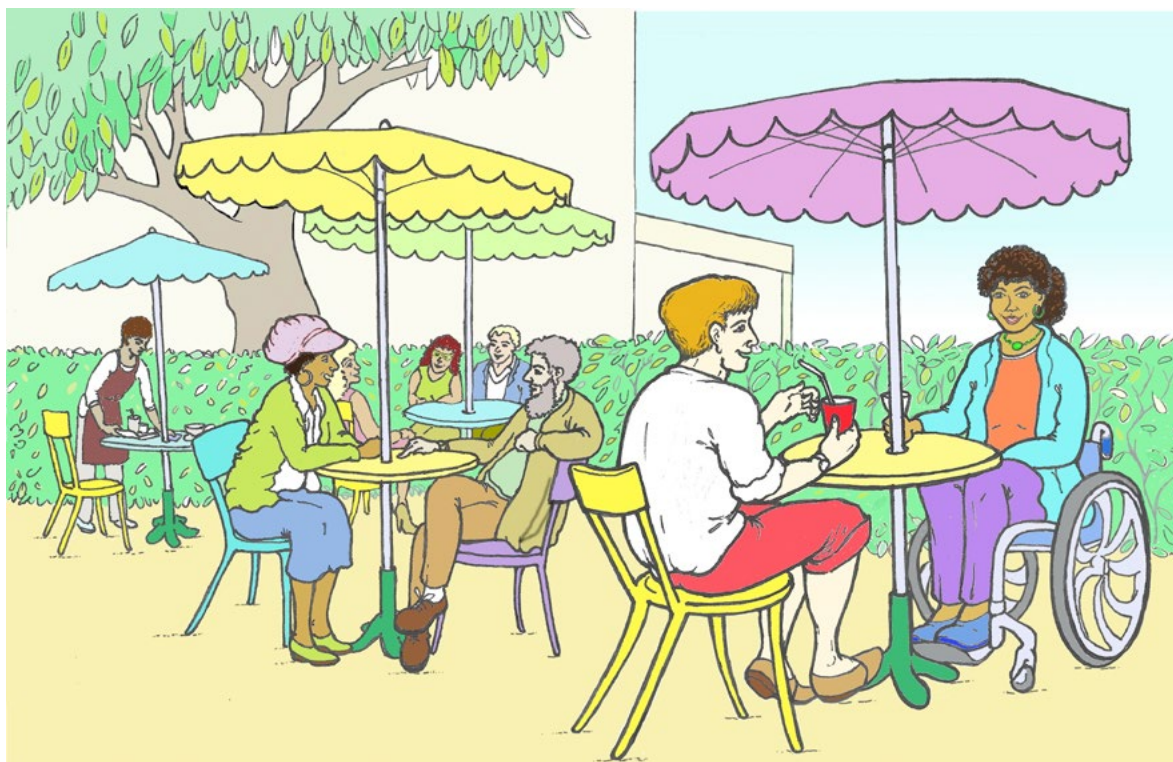
Intersex people are born with bodies that are different to what people usually think about men's or women's bodies.

Intersex people might have private body parts that look different to what men's or women's private body parts usually look like. Or they might have private body parts that work differently to how men's or women's private body parts usually work. Every intersex body is different.

Intersex people might have different bodies, but they do not have something wrong with them.

Being intersex does not mean a person is gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Intersex people have all different identities, just like people who are not intersex.

You might not have heard of the word intersex before. That is OK. We should treat all people with respect even if their bodies are different to our own.



*In this picture there are lots of people meeting in a public place.
They all look different. You cannot tell if a person is intersex by looking at them.*

How does somebody know if they are intersex?

Some people might know they are intersex from when they are born. Some people find out when they go through puberty and become an adult. Some people might not know they are intersex until they are trying to have a baby.

Every intersex person is different. If you are an intersex person, it is your choice who you tell.

If you have questions or are worried about how your private body parts work or look, you should speak to your doctor about it.

How can you tell if somebody is intersex?

You cannot tell if a person is intersex just by looking at them. All people look different, just like all intersex people look different.

You might know somebody who is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. This does not mean they are also intersex.

You can go to the fact sheets called 'Lesbian', 'Gay', 'Bisexual' and 'Transgender' to learn more.

It is not OK to ask if someone is an intersex person. How a person's private body parts look or work is private. It is their right to choose who they tell.

Discrimination

Some intersex people have bad things happen to them

Sometimes people do not understand what intersex means and make fun of intersex people. It is wrong to hurt a person or make fun of people for being intersex. This is called discrimination.

Discrimination is when someone is treated unfairly because of who they are.

Some people have bad things happen to them because they are intersex.

They might have doctors or parents make decisions about their private body parts or whether they should live as a man or a woman.

They might have had surgery on their private body parts when they were a child.

Making decisions for intersex people about their private body parts is very harmful.

Every person has the right to make decisions about who they are and who they want to be.

What to do about discrimination

If an intersex person has experienced discrimination or harm, they can:

- Tell someone they trust like a family member, friend or support worker
- Contact a counselling service
- Report it to the Police

For more information go to the fact sheet 'Where to go for help'.



In this picture, the man is calling a counselling service to talk about what has happened to him.

