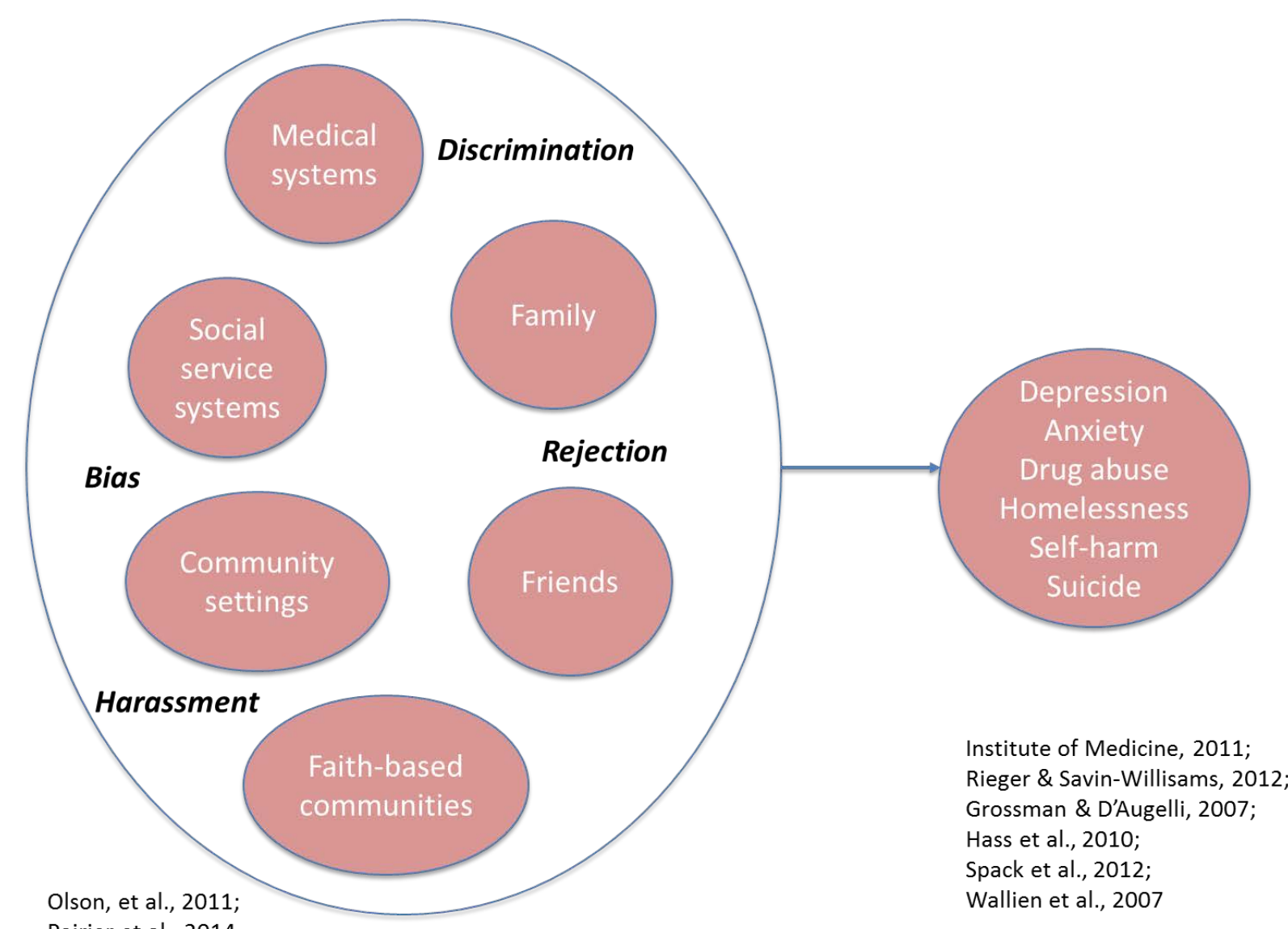


Camp Born This Way:

Support and Connection for Transgender and Gender Creative Kids and Their Families

Michele Walsh, PhD, Russell Toomey, PhD, Madeleine deBlois, ScD, Violeta Dominguez, MA

Family Support and Why it Matters



Percent of trans youth describing their mental health as very good or excellent
70% of those with very supportive parents

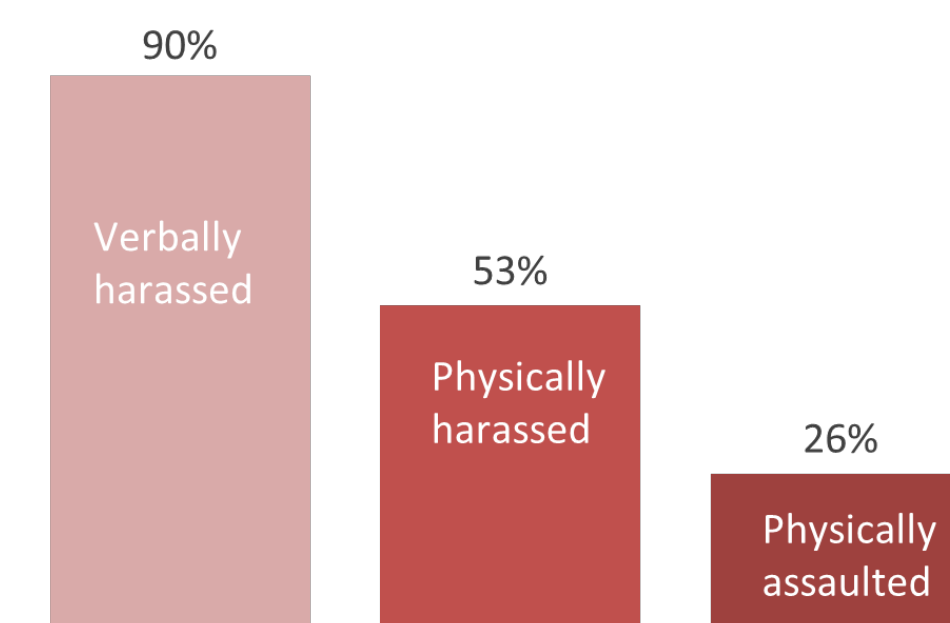
15% of those with somewhat or unsupportive parents

Travers, Bauer, Pyne, and Bradly, 2012

Attempted suicide rate
4% of those with very supportive parents

57% of those with somewhat or unsupportive parents

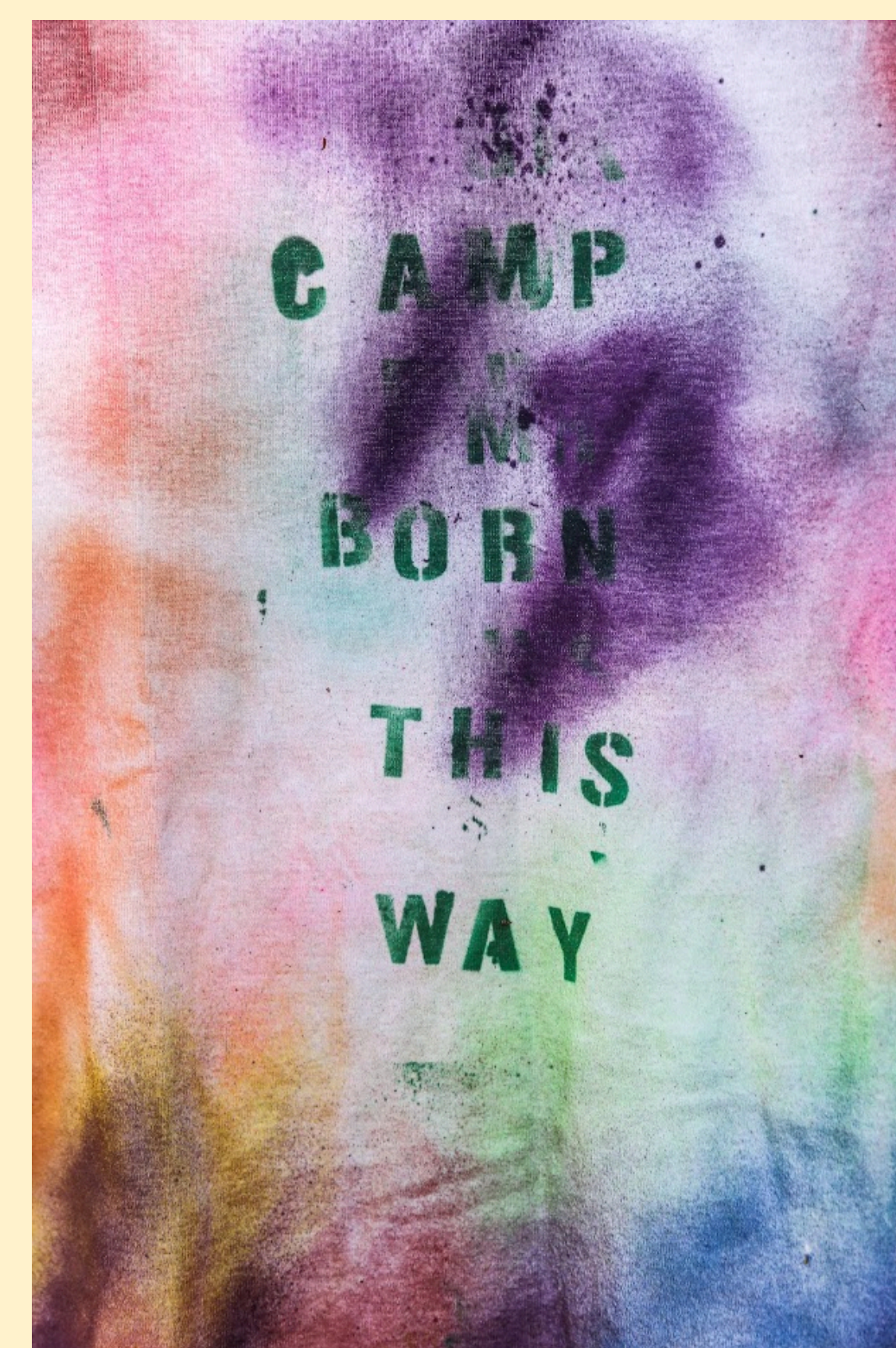
Two-thirds of trans* youth don't feel safe at school



Harsh Realities: The Experience of Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools (2007) Clay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network

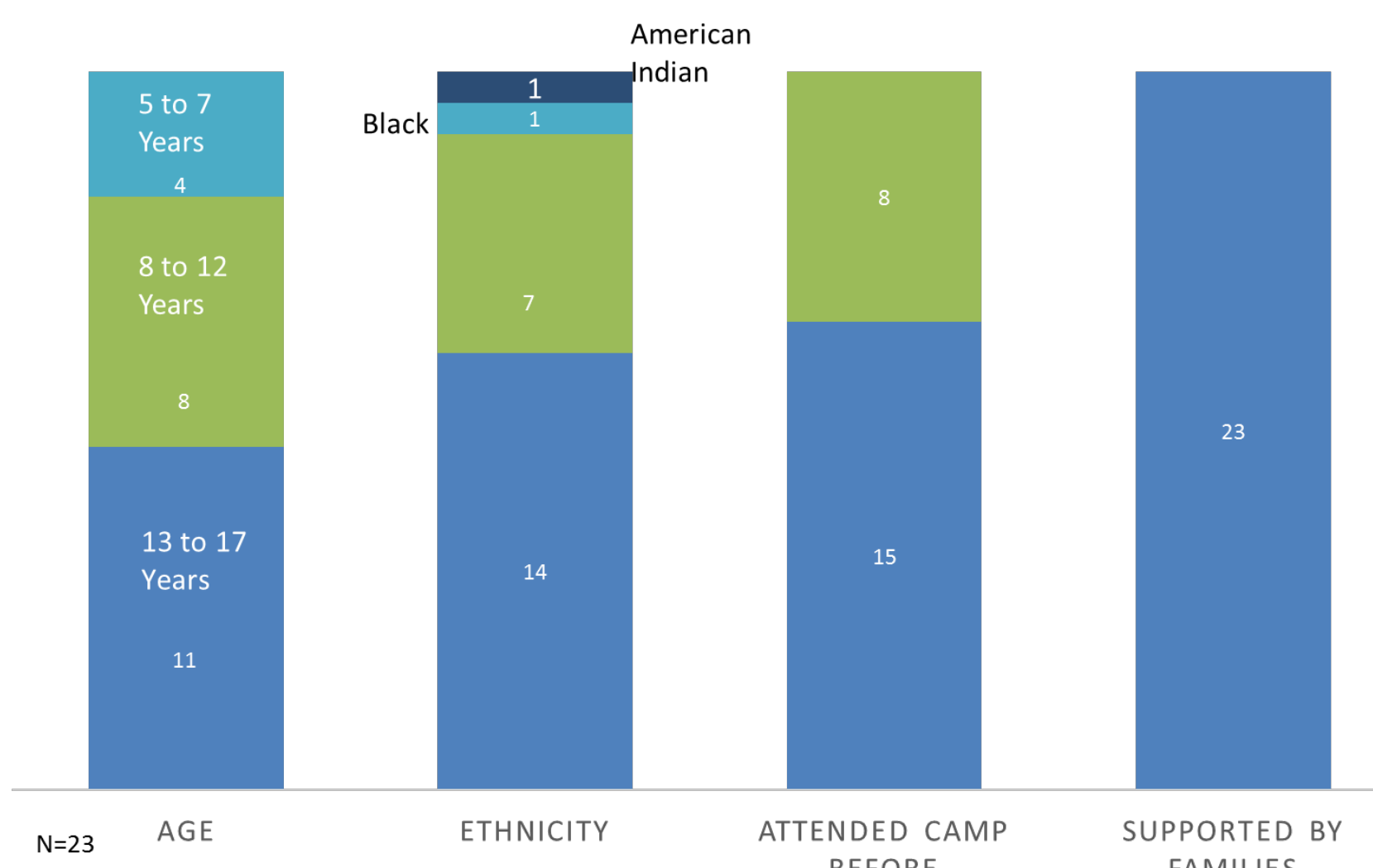
CAMP GOALS

- Provide an opportunity for gender-diverse youth to connect with other gender-diverse youth who are exploring their gender identity/expression
- Provide an opportunity for gender-diverse youth to participate in a camp experience, confidently as themselves, without fear or judgment
- Provide support and education for families who embrace their children's gender-diversity
- Expand the network of resources and support for these youth and families



Camp Attendees

Youth diverse in age, ethnicity and Camp experience, but all felt supported by their families



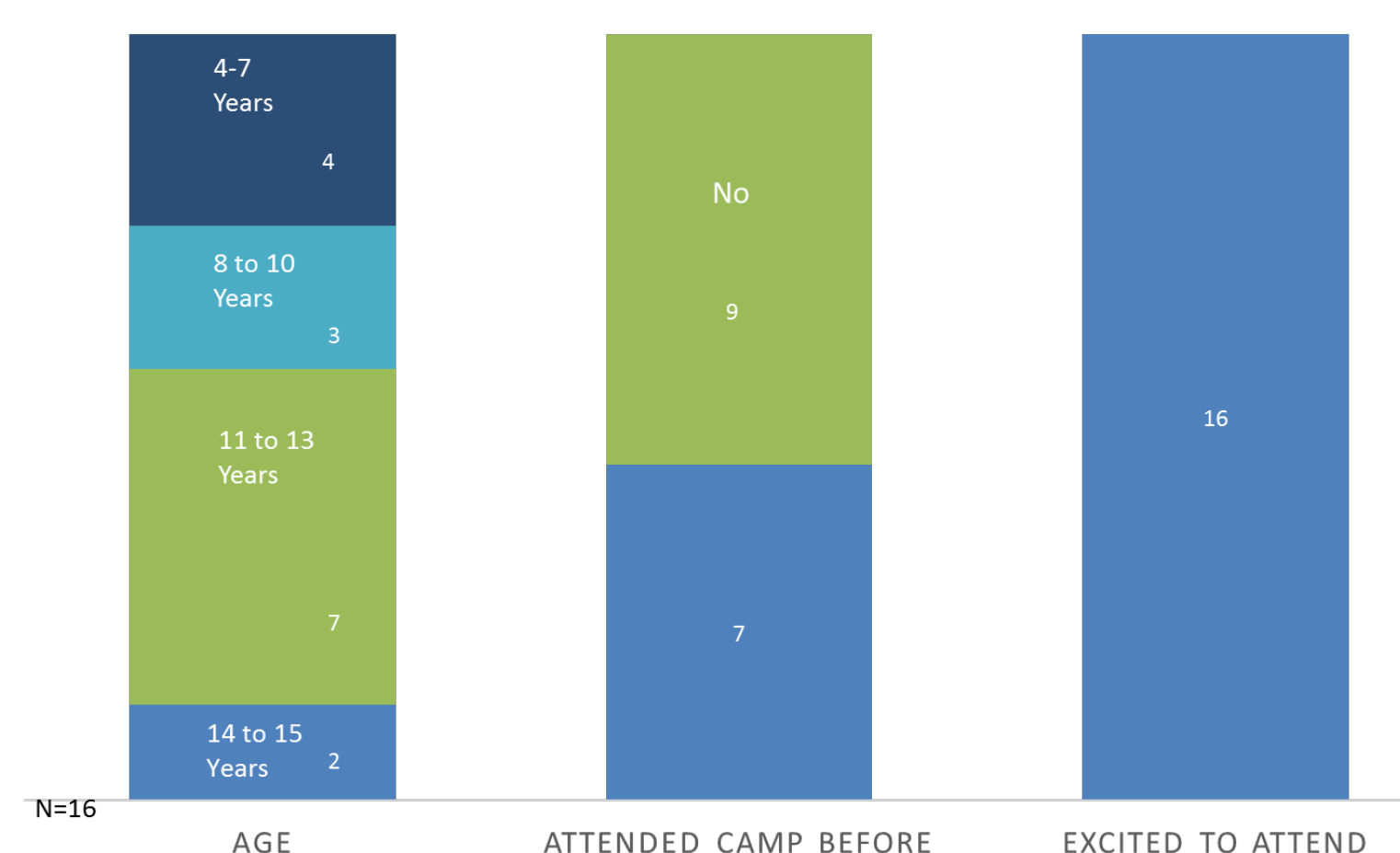
89% of parents wanted tools for talking with other family, schools and institutions about gender and gender identity

92% of parents would like support from other parents of gender creative kids.

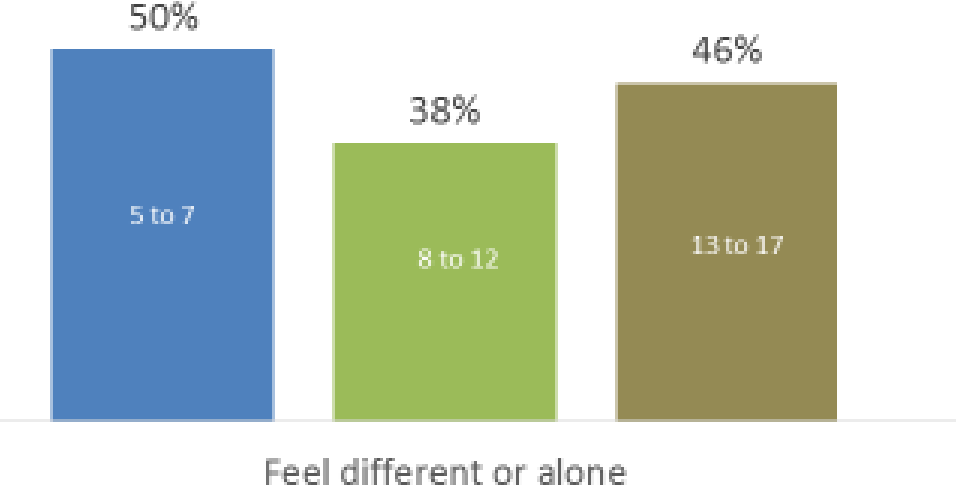
100% of parents would like their child to have the support of other gender creative kids.



Siblings diverse in age, and Camp experience, but all felt excited to be attending

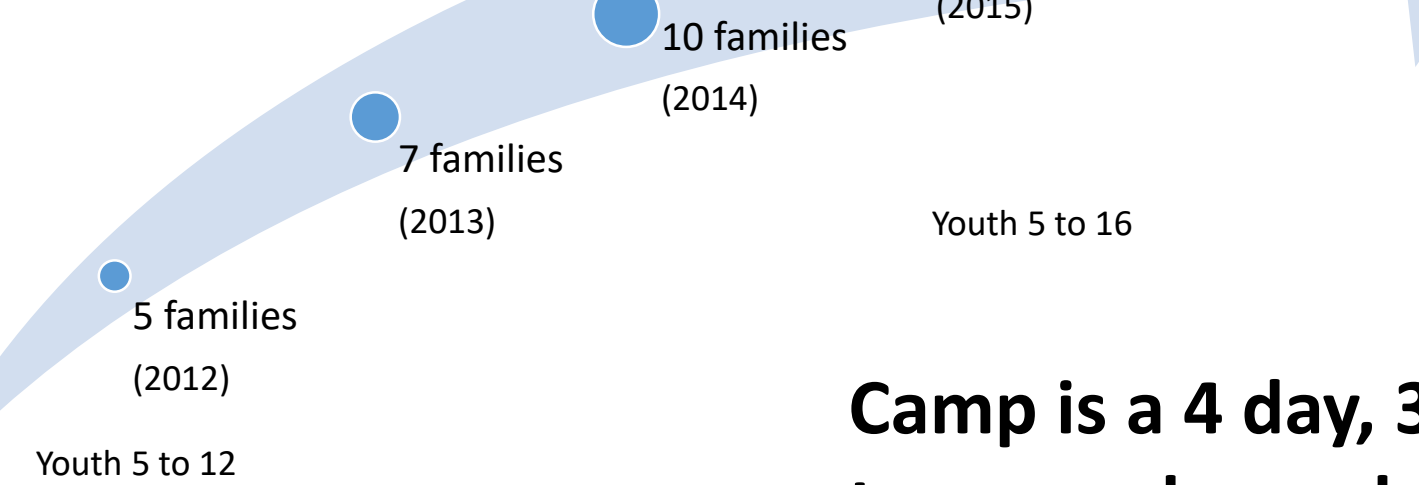


Even very young children report feeling different or alone because of their gender expression (how they dress, wear their hair play or behave)



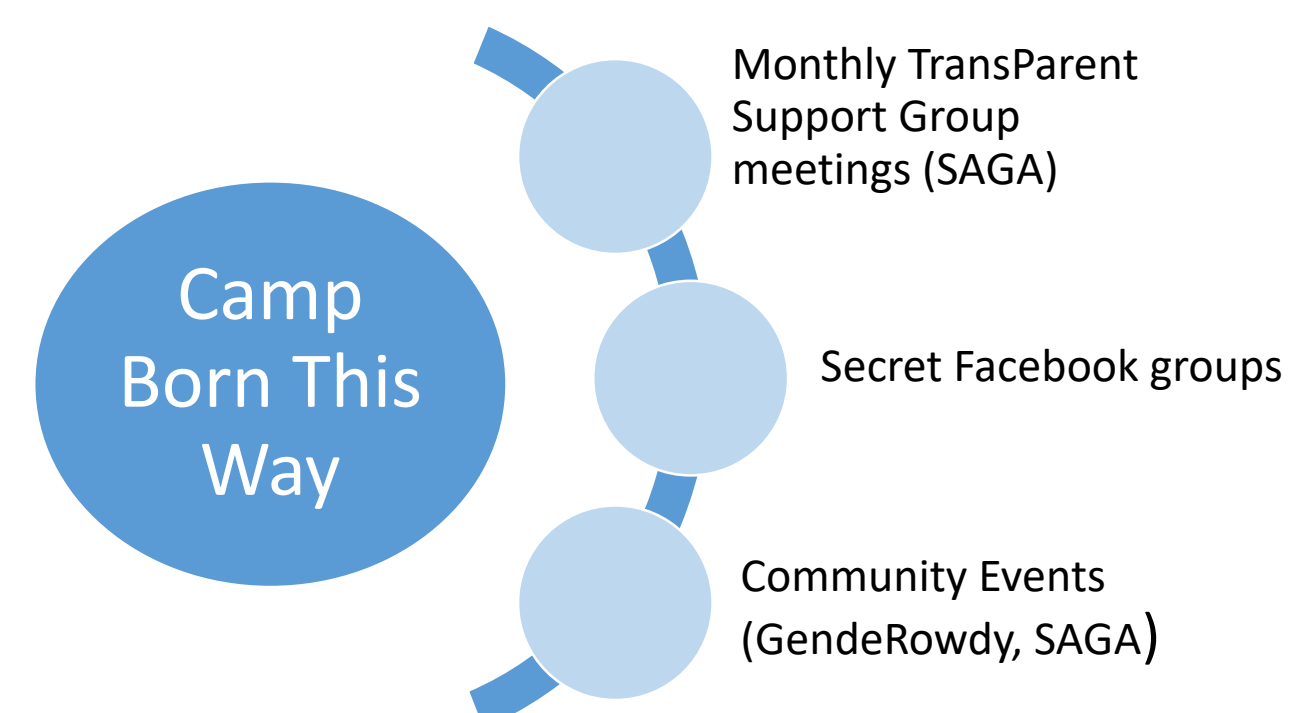
Background

Camp has grown every year



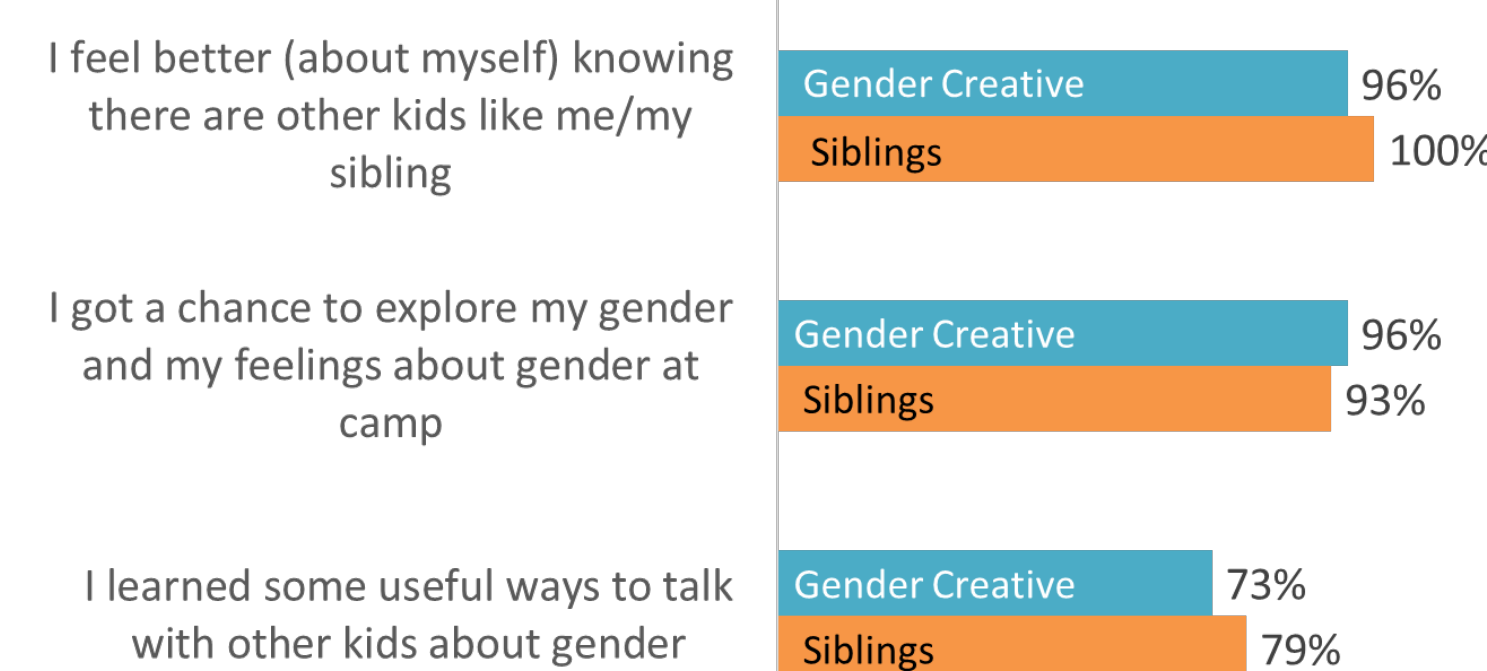
volunteers
 Love kids stories
 parent

Camp is a 4 day, 3 night summer camp experience for transgender and gender creative youth 5 to 17 and their families. Camp is developed and run by transgender, genderqueer and allied volunteers who serve as mentors and connect families with resources



Post-Camp Results

Interacting with gender-creative peers benefits both youth and their siblings



89% of parents reported having better tools to educate other family members, peers, schools and other institutions about gender and gender identity issues

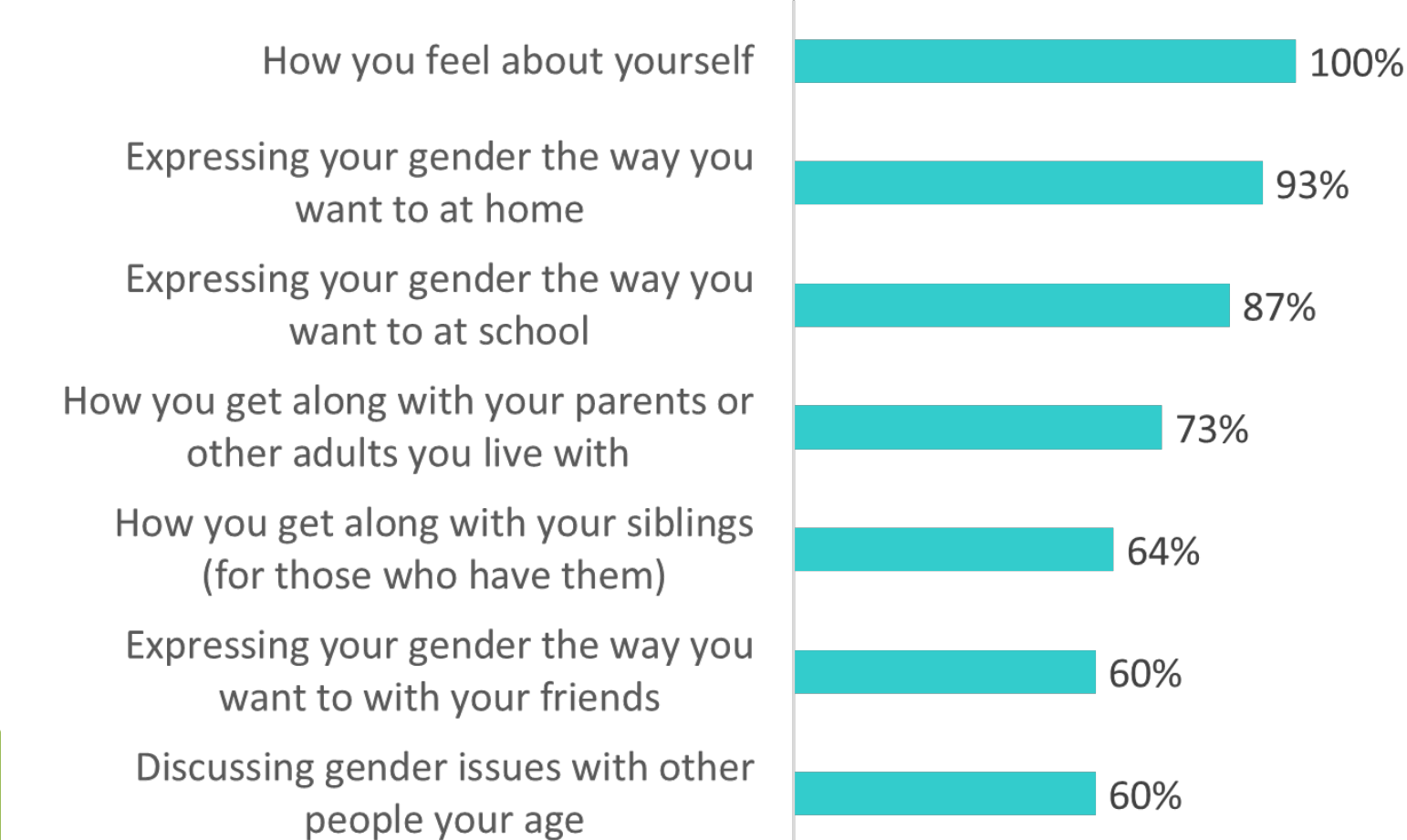
96% of volunteers reported feeling better able to support gender-creative youth and their families after attending Camp

100% of parents felt their child gained a sense of hope, self-confidence, and a sense of community from Camp



Longer Term

Gender-creative youth who had attended the previous year, reported that they felt Camp helped them in a number of areas:

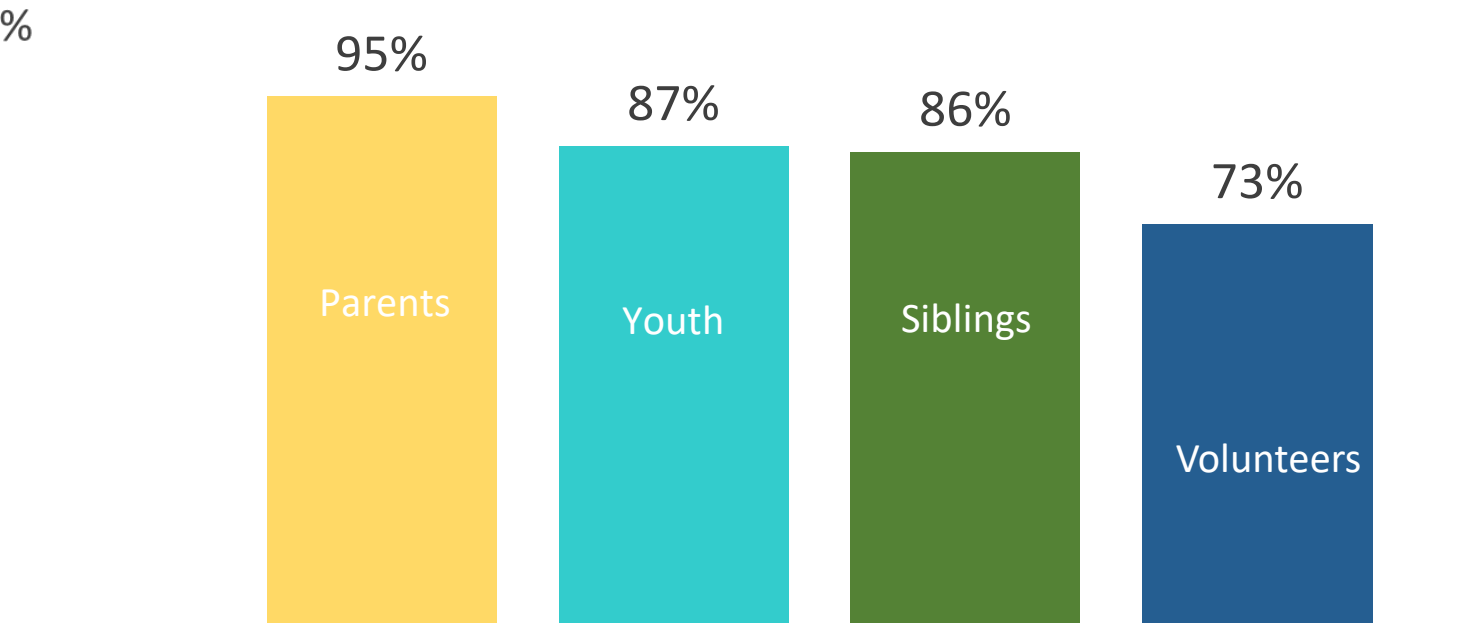


91% of parents felt that, over the course of the year, Camp had helped their child

feel more accepted,
 feel more confident,
 and advocate for themselves



Advocacy and Community Awareness



Camp helped in being an advocate for the rights of trans and/or gender creative people

With special thanks to Camp Born This Way families and staff!

