



## Gender-Affirming Care in Tennessee

- Note: Health centers **are not** surgical centers and therefore do not provide surgeries including gender transition surgeries.

### Tennessee's 2023 ban on gender-affirming care to minors

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A law passed in 2023 by the Tennessee General Assembly prohibits healthcare providers from administering puberty-blocking or puberty-delaying medications, hormone therapy (like testosterone or estrogen), or surgical procedures to individuals under 18 if the treatment is intended to enable a minor to live as an identity inconsistent with their sex assigned at birth.

The law does not restrict or ban psychological counseling or mental health care for transgender youth.

- Tennessee's law was challenged by three transgender teens, their parents, and a Memphis doctor.
- The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the law in a landmark case in 2025 ([read more here](#)).
- Now, more than half of states ban this care <https://www.kff.org/lgbtq/gender-affirming-care-policy-tracker/>

### More laws passed in 2026

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After U.S. Supreme Court justices upheld Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming care, Tennessee lawmakers passed more bills on the topic:

- **Ban on healthcare provider questions:** SB 1664/HB 1665 prohibits a healthcare provider, other than certain licensed mental health professionals, from knowingly or willfully asking a minor certain verbal or written questions relating to gender confusion or gender dysphoria, unless it is directly related to the diagnosis or treatment of a specific medical or psychological condition currently being evaluated and the minor's parent is fully informed and gives written consent. The law does not apply to questions regarding a female's menstrual period.



## Policy Issues Affecting TN Community Health Centers

- **TennCare ban on gender-affirming care:** [Public Chapter 765](#) prohibits TennCare from providing medical assistance coverage or reimbursement for medical procedures performed on or administered to an individual to a) enable the individual to identify with, or live as, a purported identity inconsistent with the individual's sex; or b) treat purported discomfort or distress from a discordance between the individual's sex and asserted identity.
  - “Medical procedure” means surgically removing, modifying, altering, or entering into tissues, cavities, or organs of a human being; or prescribing, administering, or dispensing any puberty blocker or hormone to a human being.
  - This law does not apply to treatment of an individual's congenital defect, precocious puberty, disease, or physical injury.
  - It is not a violation of the law if the medical procedures started before the effective date of the law on July 1, 2026, and conclude on March 31, 2027.
  - The law applies to medical procedures performed or administered in the state, including via telehealth.
- **Gender transition data tracking/detransition services:** [Public Chapter 932](#) regulates requires healthcare professionals and gender clinics to report gender transition statistics monthly to the Department of Health.
  - Reported data includes patient ages, biological sex, county of residence, prescribed drugs (as part of a gender transition procedure), and types of transition or detransition procedures performed.
  - The legislation protects the right for individuals to provide and receive mental health therapy to address inconsistencies between a minor's sex at birth and their perceived gender.
  - Additionally, any insurance policy in Tennessee offering health benefits for gender transition procedures must also include coverage for detransition procedures.

### Latest news

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May 2026:



## Policy Issues Affecting TN Community Health Centers

- U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy, chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, took aim at CHCs and other health care providers for allegedly providing gender-affirming care (GAC). He has sent a letter to HRSA Administrator Tom Engels requesting detailed information about GAC activities in CHCs, including the names of every CHC that provides GAC, and how these activities intersect with grant requirements and FTCA.

### June 2026:

- The Senate HELP Committee held a hearing June 3 on the topic of gender-affirming care, but it did not focus on health centers.
- HRSA announced June 16 in the Federal Register ([link](#)) that it is proposing that Uniform Data System reporting elements include a question added Appendix D:
  - For individuals under 19 years of age, does your health center provide services that use puberty blockers, sex hormones, or surgical procedures for the purpose of transforming their physical appearance to align with an identity that differs from their sex? *Puberty blockers may include GnRH agonists and other interventions, to delay the onset or progression of normally timed puberty in an individual. Sex hormones may include androgen blockers, estrogen, progesterone, or testosterone. Surgical procedures may include alteration or removal of an individual's sex organs.*

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