

How Common is Intersex?

Prevalence of Variations

VARIATION	PREVALENCE
Not XX and not XY	1 in 1,666 births
Klinefelter (XXY)	1 in 1,000 births
Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (CAIS)	1 in 13,000 births
Partial Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (PAIS)	1 in 130,000 births
Classical Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH)	1 in 13,000 births
Late Onset Adrenal Hyperplasia (LOAH)	1 in 66 individuals
Vaginal Agenesis	1 in 6,000 births
Ovotestes	1 in 83,000 births
Idiopathic (no discernable medical cause)	1 in 110,000 births
Iatrogenic (caused by medical treatment, for instance progestin administered to pregnant mother)	No estimate
5 Alpha Reductase Deficiency	No estimate
Mixed Gonadal Dysgenesis	No estimate
Complete Gonadal Dysgenesis	1 in 150,000 births
Hypospadias (urethral opening in perineum or along penile shaft)	1 in 2,000 births
Hypospadias (urethral opening between corona and tip of glans penis)	1 in 770 births
Total number of people whose bodies differ from standard male or female	1 in 100 births
Total number of people receiving surgery to “normalize” genital appearance	1 or 2 in 1,000 births

Source: Blackless, Melanie, Anthony Charuvastra, Amanda Derryck, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Karl Lauzanne, and Ellen Lee. 2000. *How sexually dimorphic are we?* Review and synthesis. *American Journal of Human Biology* 12:151-166.

Please Note: The new term – Disorders of Sex Development (DSD) – which OII rejects for many different reasons includes a whole host of intersex variations which were never considered intersex before but which OII has always included as intersex, since OII’s definition of intersex is “anyone born with a body which is not standard female or standard male according to the norms arbitrarily sanctioned by medical and legal institutions throughout the world.”

Thus the numbers listed in the chart above would be extremely low if one were counting all the people born with what doctors are now calling a DSD.