# Yale report challenges Cass Review on care for transgender youth



In recent developments, a report by Yale Law School and Yale School of Medicine has brought to light concerns over the Cass Review on gender-affirming care for transgender youth, an evaluation commissioned by the National Health Service (NHS) in the U.K. According to Jake News, the Cass Review, completed by Dr. Hillary Cass, resulted in the NHS implementing restrictions on the use of puberty blockers for those under 18. Dr. Cass, a former president of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health, emphasized a necessity for more research and caution in gender-affirming treatments. Her findings have thus been influential, shaping legislative decisions in the U.S. as well.

The Yale report critiques the Cass Review, suggesting it has misrepresented data and the scientific method. Even though the NHS has set forth restrictive measures, the Yale report points out that the Cass Review does not advocate for a complete ban on treatment but is aligned with guidelines from professional organizations such as the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH).

The Cass Review team stood by their findings, noting their examination of 237 papers covering over 113,000 subjects, all of which were peer-reviewed. They stressed the challenge of poor-quality existing research as a significant issue.

Moreover, the Yale report disputes the Cass Review’s assertion of an "exponential" increase in referrals, indicating that the data actually reflects a plateau followed by a decrease. The report also counters the Review's critique of early interventions like social transitioning and puberty blockers, arguing that the data does not support claims that these interventions lead youth into lifelong medical paths. Yale researchers also observe that the Cass Review's own data points to a very low detransition rate, challenging concerns about widespread regret.

The debate mirrored in these reports emphasizes the complexities and ongoing disputes surrounding the provision of gender-affirming care for transgender youth.