

identifying that orientation, usually to intimate friends and family first and then the wider social group; and (7) an intimate, committed sexual relationship with a person of the gender appropriate to one's orientation.

There is no evidence that homosexual or bisexual adults are more or less likely to create long-term, stable relationships than are heterosexual couples. It should be noted that bisexual adolescents and adults do not generally engage in sexual relationships with both genders concurrently; self-identification as bisexual usually refers to the ability to be attracted to either gender but does not imply that such a person requires partners of both genders or that one must be equally attracted to and have sexual experience with both genders in order to be bisexual.

Although the order of these milestones varies greatly among adolescents, adolescents who identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual tend to publicly self-identify later than heterosexual peers. Without positive gay, lesbian, or bisexual role models or a supportive peer group, sexual-minority teens can feel isolated, and they may not share their orientation with anyone for fear of rejection or violence (see [Critical Thinking Case Study](#) box).

Critical Thinking Case Study

Discussing Sexual Orientation with Adolescents

John, a 17-year-old adolescent, comes into the school-based clinic and tells the nurse practitioner that he thinks he is gay. Based on this information, answer the following questions:

Questions

1. Evidence: Is there sufficient evidence to draw any conclusions about John's statement regarding his sexual orientation at this time?
2. Assumptions: Describe an underlying assumption about each of the following issues:
 - a. Development of sexual orientation in adolescents