

Bridging the Gaps: Eliminating Disparities in Teen Pregnancy and Sexual Health

June 4 – 6, 2014

Health Disparities Among LGBT Youth

Melissa Perkins, MPPM, MEd
Persad Center – Pittsburgh, PA

Disclaimer

- ▶ Persad Center receives a sub-award from the Pennsylvania Department Health on the PREP Project. As such the views expressed in written training materials, publications, or presentations do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Objectives

1. Participants will be able to identify the three aspects of the Triple H Threat, and how that relates to the social context of discrimination that LGBT youth encounter.
2. Participants will be able to identify the health disparities that persist among LGBT youth.
3. Participants will be able to describe a minimum of three strategies that they and/or their organization can utilize to create a more welcoming environment for LGBT individual.

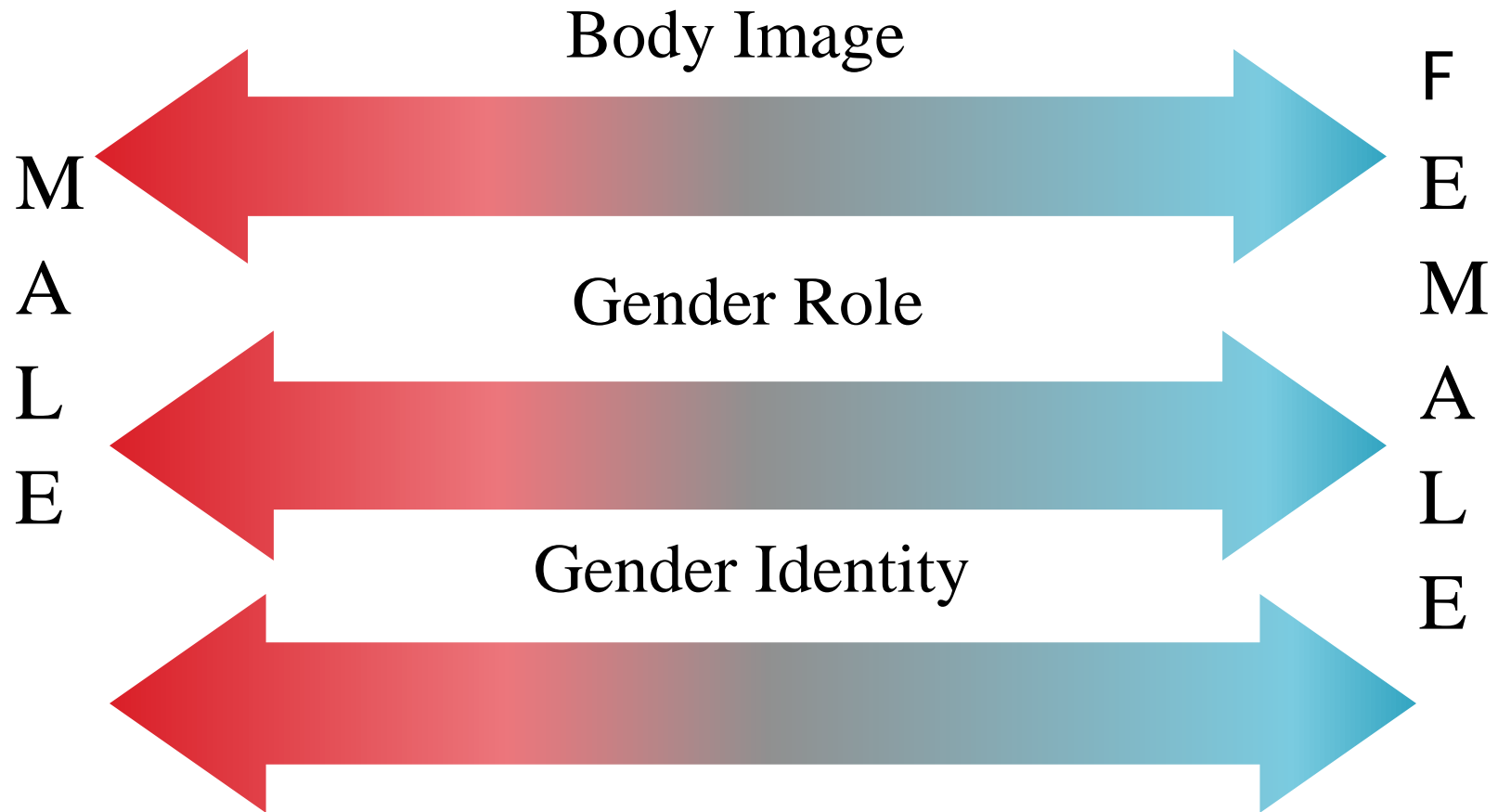
Pennsylvania's PREP Project

- ▶ The initial funding announcement including the following language:
“As States design their programs, ACF also encourages them to consider the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth and how their programs will be inclusive of and non-stigmatizing toward such participants.”

Pennsylvania's PREP Project

- ▶ Persad Center's role:
 - Increase LGBT Cultural Competence
 - Site Assessment & goal development
 - Provide LGBT 101 training
 - Provide advanced training
 - Facilitate conference calls
 - Provide consultation
 - Regional Meetings
 - Training of Champions

Gender Identity Continuum



Sexual Identity Continuum

Sexual Orientation



Sexual Behavior



Sexual Identity



HETEROSEXUAL BISEXUAL HOMOSEXUAL

Triple Threat

- ▶ Heterosexism
- ▶ Homophobia
- ▶ Internalized homophobia

Heterosexism

- ▶ Assumption that everyone is heterosexual
- ▶ Blindness to existence of minority population
- ▶ How many gay people are there?
- ▶ Systematic elimination of natural occurrence of minority in the population
- ▶ Gives the message: “You don’t belong.”

Homophobia

- ▶ “Fear” of
- ▶ Negative attitude towards
- ▶ Harmful descriptions/myths perpetuate the fear
- ▶ Gives the message: “You are bad.”

Internalized Homophobia

- ▶ Living in the context of homophobia
- ▶ Taking it in
- ▶ Can be unconscious
- ▶ Gives the message: “I am bad.”

Differences in Sexual Behaviors Among LGB US Youth

	Gay/Lesbian	Bisexual	Heterosexual
Had sexual intercourse before age 13	19.8%	14.6%	4.8%
Had sexual intercourse with 4 or more persons	29.9%	28.2%	11.1%
Sex in the past 3 months	53.2%	52.6%	32%

Pregnancy

- ▶ Lesbians on average are 4Xs more likely to become pregnant
- ▶ A British Columbia study reports the same numbers for gay males

STIs Among Gay Men

- ▶ Syphilis
- ▶ Hepatitis B
- ▶ HPV

STIs Among Lesbians

- ▶ Less documentation/research
- ▶ Women who have never had sex with men have been found to have HPV, trichomoniasis, and genital warts

HIV Rates Among MSM

- ▶ According to the CDC, new infections among MSM aged 13 – 24 increased 22% between 2008 – 2010
- ▶ Young black MSM account for more than 55% of new infections

HIV Prevalence Within the Transgender Community

- ▶ HIV prevalence rate is less than 1% for the general US population
- ▶ For transgender population in major metropolitan areas it is as high as 60%
- ▶ MTF transgender youth 19 – 22%
- ▶ 2009 CDC found newly-infected rates of 2.8% for transgender persons vs. .9% for non-transgender males and .3% for females

HIV Prevalence Within the Transgender Community

- ▶ Transgender people compared to other groups are among the groups at the highest risk of HIV
- ▶ Highest percentages in blacks and Hispanics
 - 41 – 63% among African American transgender women (MTF)
 - 14 – 50% among Hispanic transgender women (MTF)

STIs Among the Transgender Community

- ▶ 3 – 79% Syphilis
- ▶ 4 – 14% Gonorrhea
- ▶ 2 – 8% Chlamydia
- ▶ 2 – 6% Herpes
- ▶ 3 – 7% HPV
- ▶ 11 – 24% Hepatitis C
- ▶ 4 – 76% Hepatitis B

Additional Risks

- ▶ Suicide
- ▶ Bullying
- ▶ Homelessness
- ▶ Substance Use
- ▶ Tobacco Use
- ▶ Violence & Victimization

Differences in Sexual Behaviors Among LGB US Youth

	Gay/Lesbian	Bisexual	Heterosexual
Substance use before last sex	35.1%	29.9%	18.7%

Case Study - Becky

- ▶ 16 year old, female
- ▶ Identifies as lesbian – recently ‘redisclosed’ her sexual orientation to her family
- ▶ Became sexually active at 12 – reports 10 partners
- ▶ History of cutting, eating disorder, drug & alcohol use
- ▶ Placement since 13

Strategies to Create a More Welcoming Environment

- ▶ Policy
- ▶ Visibility
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Specific Outreach
- ▶ Diverse Staff
- ▶ Confront discriminatory remarks/jokes
- ▶ Inclusive Assessment Questions/Forms
- ▶ Knowledge of Resources

Best Practices

- ▶ Ensure that sexual education curriculum is inclusive
- ▶ While there are many well-adjusted LGBT youth, be aware of the health disparities that plague some LGBT youth
- ▶ Provide competent and nonjudgmental care

Resources

- ▶ Persad –
<http://www.persadcenter.org>
- ▶ PFLAG (Parents Friends of Lesbians and Gays) –
<http://www.pflag.org>
- ▶ GLMA (Gay Lesbian Medical Association) –
<http://www.glma.org>
- ▶ Family Acceptance Project –
<http://www.familyproject.sfsu.edu>

References

- ▶ <http://www.eurekalert.org> – Safer Sex: Study Examines Sexual Communication in Transgender Community
- ▶ <http://www.uchaps.org> – Transgender HIV Prevention
- ▶ <http://www.thetaskforce.org> – Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey

References

- ▶ <http://www.samhsa.gov> – Top Health Issues for LGBT Populations Information & Resource Kit
- ▶ <http://www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu> – Sexual Health Disparities Among Disenfranchised Youth
- ▶ <http://www.cdc.gov> - HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report 2012

References

- ▶ <http://www.publicaffairs.ubc> – Discrimination Linked to higher Rates of Pregnancy Among LGB Teens: UBC Study
- ▶ <http://www.factsaboutyouth.com> – Facts About Youth – Physical Health
- ▶ <http://www.camh.net> – Asking the Right Questions 2
- ▶ <http://www.advocatesforyouth> – Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Questioning Youth

References

- ▶ <http://www.cwla.org> – CWLA Best Practice Guideline
- ▶ <http://www.sophe.org> – Adolescent Health Planting Seeds for a Healthier Generation
- ▶ <http://www.glsen.org> – The 2011 National School Climate Survey

Melissa Perkins, MPPM, MEd
mperkins@persadcenter.org