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LGBTQ Youth and Systems Involvement

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LGBTQ Youth and Systems Involvement

Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of Terminology
- LGBTQ Youth Quiz
- Case Scenario
- Close

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What is “SOGIE”?

SOGIE: sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression

Sexual Orientation is about who you are emotionally, sexually or romantically attracted to, whether you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, straight, asexual, other.

Which is different from...

Gender Identity is about how a person sees themselves and understands their own gender identity (a man, a woman, other).

Gender Expression is about how a person expresses their gender identity through their manner of dress, speech, behavior and/or other physical expressions of themselves.

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Common SOGIE Terms

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- Straight

Common SOGIE Terms (cont.)

- **Gender Conforming** describes a person who expresses their gender in a manner that is consistent with societal norms for one's gender (e.g., a person who was designated "female" at birth, who identifies as a girl, and dresses in a way that society determines a girl should dress).
- **Gender Non-conforming** describes someone whose gender identity and/or expression breaks societal norms (e.g., someone who identifies as a girl but wears clothing typically assigned to boys).

Common SOGIE Terms (cont.)

- **Queer**– A person who refers to their sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression as outside of the definitions for LGBTQ and/or straight.
 - » This is also an umbrella term for the LGBTQ community.
 - » This term may be viewed as a political identity. Some feel that this term is more inclusive of other identities including race, class, ability, etc.
 - » Caution: Some LGBTQ people dislike this word and view it as problematic.
- **Questioning**– A person who is exploring their sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.

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Common SOGIE Terms (cont.)

- **Transgender**– A person whose gender identity and/or gender expression does not match the sex and/or gender they were assigned at birth.
 - » Note: This is also an umbrella term for identities
 - Note: Gender Identity Disorder to be replaced with Gender Dysphoria in the DSM-V
- **Intersex**– A general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male.
 - » Note: Use the term “intersex” instead of “hermaphrodite” or “ambiguous genitalia”.
 - » Note: Approximately 1 in 1500–2000 people are born intersex.
 - » Differences of Sex Development

Common SOGIE Terms (cont.)

- **Two-Spirit**– “Two-Spirit people are defined as LGBT and gender-variant members of the Native American community. The term ‘Two-Spirit’ was coined in 1990 by queer Native Americans gathering in Winnipeg. Many contemporary LGBT Native Americans use the term ‘Two-Spirit’ to maintain cultural continuity with their traditions. In many of our cultures, some individuals possessed and manifested a balance of both feminine and masculine energies, making them inherently sacred people.”

Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits

<http://www.baaits.org/two-spirits>

Common SOGIE Terms (cont.)

- **Cisgender**– A person whose gender identity matches the gender they were assigned at birth.
- **Cissexual**– A person whose understanding of their physical sex matches the sex they were assigned at birth.
- **Transsexual**– A person who uses hormonal and/or physical alterations to change their body so that their sex and gender identity are congruent.
 - » Note: This is a mostly outdated term.

Common SOGIE Terms (cont.)

- **Out/Out of the Closet**– Openly stating one’s sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression versus hiding or denying their sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.
- **Ally**– A person who is supportive of a community other than their own.

What Should I Say?

- **DO** call people by the name they prefer
- **DO** call people by the pronoun they currently use
- **DO** refer to people in the way that they prefer
- **DON'T** assume people's sexual orientation based on their gender identity and/or gender expression
- **DON'T** ask questions solely to satisfy your curiosity—stay focused on gaining information that is relevant to your work

Terminology to Avoid

- Homosexual
- “Lifestyle”
- “The gays” or “A gay”
- “Sexual preference”
- “Gay agenda”
- “Special rights”
- “Real” boy/man or girl/woman in reference to a transgender person
- And all the usual suspects: fag, faggot, dyke, lesbo, etc.

LGBTQ Youth Quiz Question #1

- What percentage of youth in detention facilities nationwide are lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, or gender non-conforming?
 - » a) 4%
 - » b) 11%
 - » c) 15%

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Answer #1

- c) 15% of youth in detention facilities nationwide are lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning or gender non-conforming.

Angela Irvine, 2010: 'We've Had Three of Them':
Addressing the Invisibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and
Gender Non-Conforming Youth in the Juvenile Justice
System

Sexual Orientation and Gender Conformity, Girls

	Heterosexual	LBQ
Gender Conforming	73%	19%
Gender Non-conforming	4%	4%

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Sexual Orientation and Gender Conformity, Boys

	Heterosexual	GBQ
Gender Conforming	89%	6%
Gender Non-conforming	3%	2%

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Question #2

- Children begin to become aware of their gender identity at around what age?
 - » a) 2–4 years old
 - » b) 5–7 years old
 - » c) 8–10 years old

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Answer #2

- a) 2-4 years old

Stephanie Brill and Rachel Pepper, 2008. *The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals*

LGBTQ Youth Quiz Question #3

- Children begin to become aware of their sexual orientation at around what age?
 - » a) 8 years old
 - » b) 10 years old
 - » c) 12 years old

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Answer #3

- b) 10 years old

Caitlin Ryan, et al., 2010. Family Acceptance in Adolescence and the Health of LGBT Young Adults

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Question #4

- About what percentage of LGBT students missed a day of school in the last month because they felt unsafe at their school?
 - » a) 10%
 - » b) 30%
 - » c) 40%

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Answer #4

- b) 31.8% of LGBT students missed a day of school in the past month because of safety concerns.

GLSEN: The 2011 National School Climate Survey

LGBTQ Youth Quiz Question #5

- Of the incarcerated youth who reported being sexually victimized by other youth, the number of LGB (lesbian, gay, bisexual) youth was about ____ times the number of heterosexual youth.
 - » a) 3
 - » b) 7
 - » c) 10

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Answer #5

- c) 7 times higher—Youth with a sexual orientation other than heterosexual reported significantly higher rates of sexual victimization by other youth (10.3%) compared to heterosexual youth (1.5%).

A.J. Beck, et al., 2013: Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012

LGBTQ Youth Quiz Question #6

- Which ethnic or racial group had the highest rate of disclosure of lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning or gender non-conforming identities?
 - » a) White/Caucasian
 - » b) Black/African American
 - » c) Native American
 - » d) Hispanic/Latino

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Answer #6

Race/Ethnicity	Total	LGB/GNC
White/Caucasian	18%	10%
African American	34%	10%
Hispanic, Latino, Chicano, Mexican, or Mexican American	30%	10%
Asian (Japanese, Chinese, Samoan or Pacific Islander)	1%	12%
Native American	4%	24%
Mixed race/ethnicity	13%	18%

Angela Irvine, 2010: 'We've Had Three of Them': Addressing the Invisibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Gender Non-Conforming Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

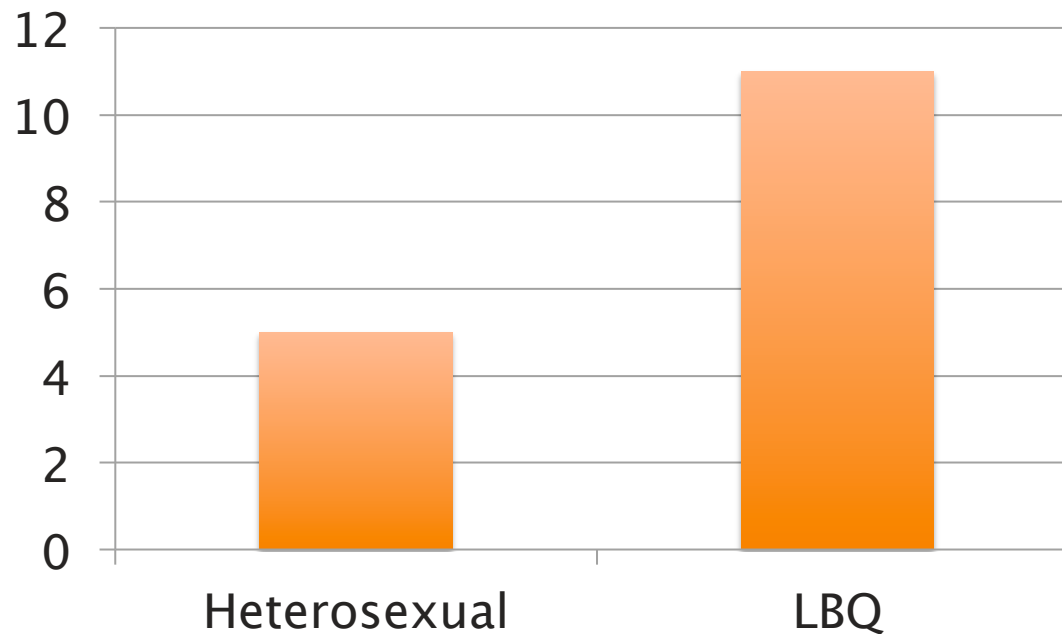


LGBTQ Youth Quiz Question #7

- Lesbian, bisexual, and questioning girls have a higher detention rate for prostitution than heterosexual girls.
 - » a) True
 - » b) False

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Answer #7



Angela Irvine, 2010: "We've Had Three of Them": Addressing the Invisibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Question #8

- Girls who identify as non-heterosexual are at greater odds for experiencing disproportionate school and criminal justice sanctions than boys who identify as non-heterosexual.
 - » a) True
 - » b) False

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Answer #8

- a) True—though girls and boys who experienced same-sex attraction and same-sex relationships had similar rates of sanctions. Total: 1.25–3 times greater odds than their heterosexual peers.

Kathryn E. W. Himmelstein and Hannah Brückner, 2010:
Criminal-Justice and School Sanctions Against
Nonheterosexual Youth: A National Longitudinal Study

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Question #9

- About ___ of homeless youth are LGBT.
 - » a) 10%
 - » b) 20%
 - » c) 40%

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Answer #9

- c) About 40% of homeless youth are LGBT.

Laura Durso & Gary Gates, 2012: Serving Our Youth: Findings from a National Survey of Service Providers Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth who are Homeless or At Risk of Becoming Homeless.

LGBTQ Youth Quiz Question #10

- What percentage of LGBT youth report experiencing physical violence in group homes due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity?
 - » a) 50%
 - » b) 70%
 - » c) 90%

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LGBTQ Youth Quiz Answer #10

- b) 70%. This includes abuse from facility staff and social workers, not just other youth.

Joint Task Force of New York City's Child Welfare Administration and the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies, 1994: Improving Services for Gay and Lesbian Youth in NYC's Child Welfare System: A Task Force Report

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Sexual Orientation

	Girls, H	Girls, LBQ	Boys, H	Boys, GBQ
Home removal	19%	33%	9%	20%
Group/foster home	27%	45%	17%	25%
Homelessness	23%	40%	16%	32%
Running Away	18%	37%	12%	28%
Truancy, Warrants, VOP (detention)	9%	15%	12%	22%

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Gender Conformity

	GC Girls	GNC Girls	GC Boys	GNC Boys
Home removal	20%	42%	9%	23%
Group/foster home	30%	47%	16%	34%
Homelessness	26%	41%	16%	43%
Running Away	21%	33%	12%	22%
Truancy, Warrants, VOP (detention)	NS	NS	NS	NS

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Recommended Practices: Child Welfare League of America, 2012

- Adopt written nondiscrimination policies: sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, HIV status
- Adopt confidentiality policies
- Provide mandatory LGBTQ competency trainings to employees and volunteers
- Require mandatory trainings for staff, foster and adoptive parents caring for LGBTQ youth
- Treat LGBTQ youth with respect and competency: language, affirming environment, avoid assumptions, use inclusive intake forms (only if competent, keep private, not required to answer), don't pathologize LGBTQ identities

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Recommended Practices: Child Welfare League of America, 2012

- Ensure effective services that address family rejection of LGBTQ youth and help reunification
- Ensure the safety and emotional development of LGBTQ youth
- Support transgender and gender-nonconforming youth
- Support access to appropriate medical and mental health care services for LGBTQ youth, and youth at risk or living with HIV: avoid “conversion” therapy
- Support access to safe educational services
- Ensure that faith-based providers working with LGBTQ youth meet their professional and legal obligations
- Provide access to LGBTQ community programs and services
- Collect and evaluate data

Case Scenario: Joshua

Joshua, age 5, just enrolled in your program. Joshua is African American and is identified as “male” on his birth certificate. Joshua wears a bow in his hair, which his dad takes out of his hair before Joshua goes to play with some children. Joshua becomes upset and his dad says, “Boys don’t wear bows in their hair!” Joshua yells, “I’m a girl!”

- 1) What do you do?
- 2) What questions do you ask the dad? Joshua?
- 3) What do you tell your staff?
- 4) How do you help foster healthy interaction/relationships between Joshua and other program participants?
- 5) What resources do you offer Joshua’s family for ongoing support?

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Resources: Joshua

National Center for Transgender Equality

<http://transequality.org/index.html>

<http://transequality.org/Resources/index.html>

Gender Spectrum

<http://www.genderspectrum.org/>

The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals

<http://www.genderspectrum.org/store>

World Professional Association for Transgender Health,
Standards of Care, 7th Version: [http://www.wpath.org/
publications_standards.cfm](http://www.wpath.org/publications_standards.cfm)

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Four Things to Do Now

- 1) Look at your office and the general environment. Is it welcoming for LGBTQ youth? Do you have positive LGBTQ literature, resources, posters? If not, place some there.
- 2) Begin using inclusive questions during your interviews. Be prepared to offer support and resources if a youth comes out to you.
- 3) Do not assume all youth are heterosexual, i.e., instead of asking “do you have a boyfriend or girlfriend?”, ask if youth is dating someone special.
- 4) Don’t just look for LGBTQ-specific centers/programs. Make a list of the current youth-serving organizations and find out which ones offer LGBTQ programming or are interested in offering them.

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Q and A

What's on your mind?

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Contact

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