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Meeting the Health Care Needs of Homeless Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People

Part I: The Challenges

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THE NATIONAL LGBT HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER



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- ❑ HRSA (BPHC) National Cooperative Agreement
- ❑ Training and Technical Assistance
- ❑ Grand Rounds for Faculty, Staff, and Trainees
 - ❑ Co-sponsored by the American Medical Association
- ❑ Consultation on Creating Strategic Change
- ❑ Resources and Publications

Our Roots:

Fenway Health

- ❑ Independent 501(c)(3) FQHC
- ❑ Founded 1971
- ❑ Mission: To enhance the wellbeing of the LGBT community as well as people in our neighborhoods and beyond through access to the highest quality health care, education, research and advocacy
- ❑ Integrated Primary Care Model, including HIV services

The Fenway Institute

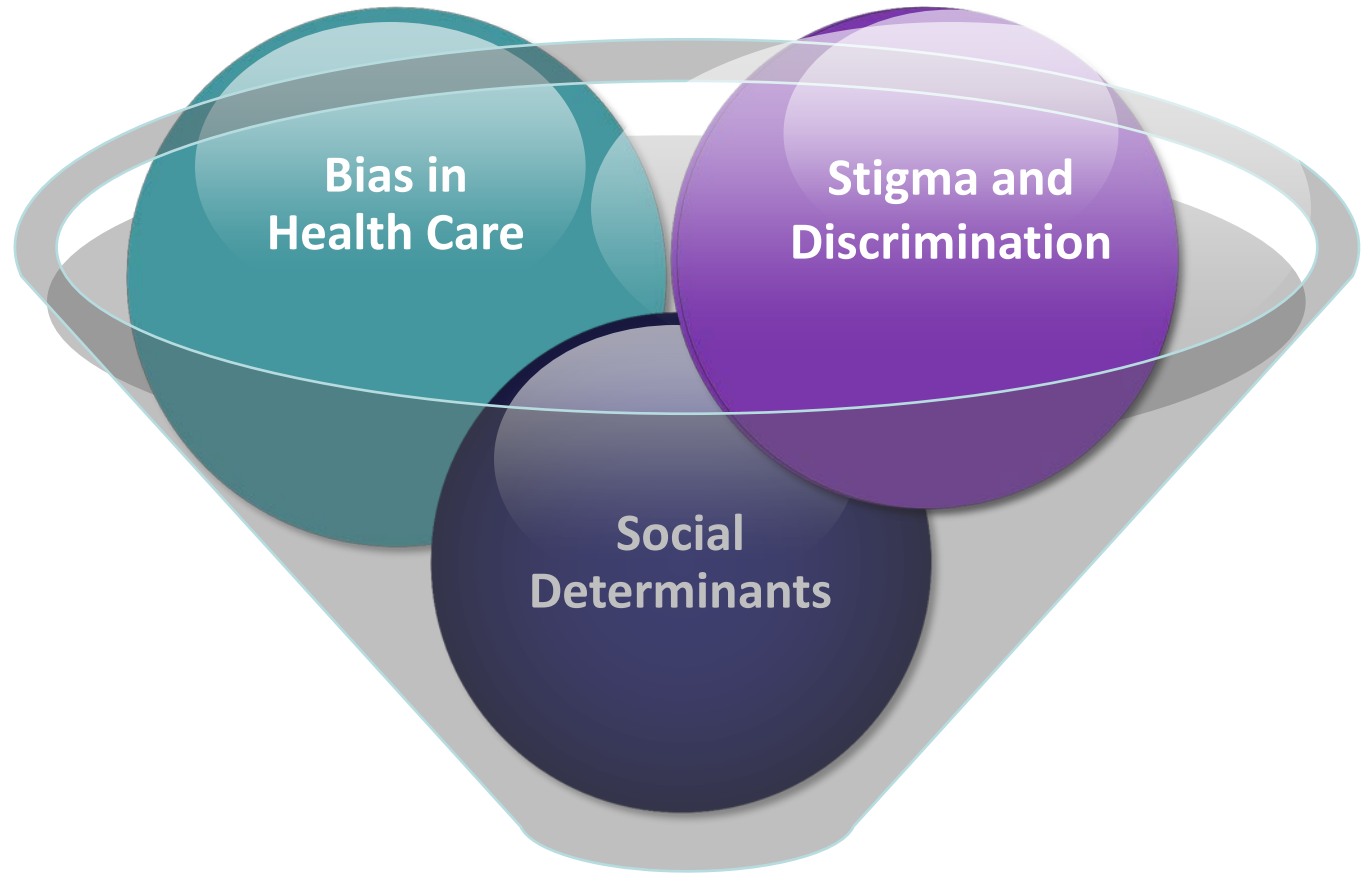
- ❑ Research, Education, Policy



Learning Objectives

- ❑ Describe how disparities affect homeless LGBT people.
- ❑ Discuss LGBT demographics, and terminology

Why LGBT Health?



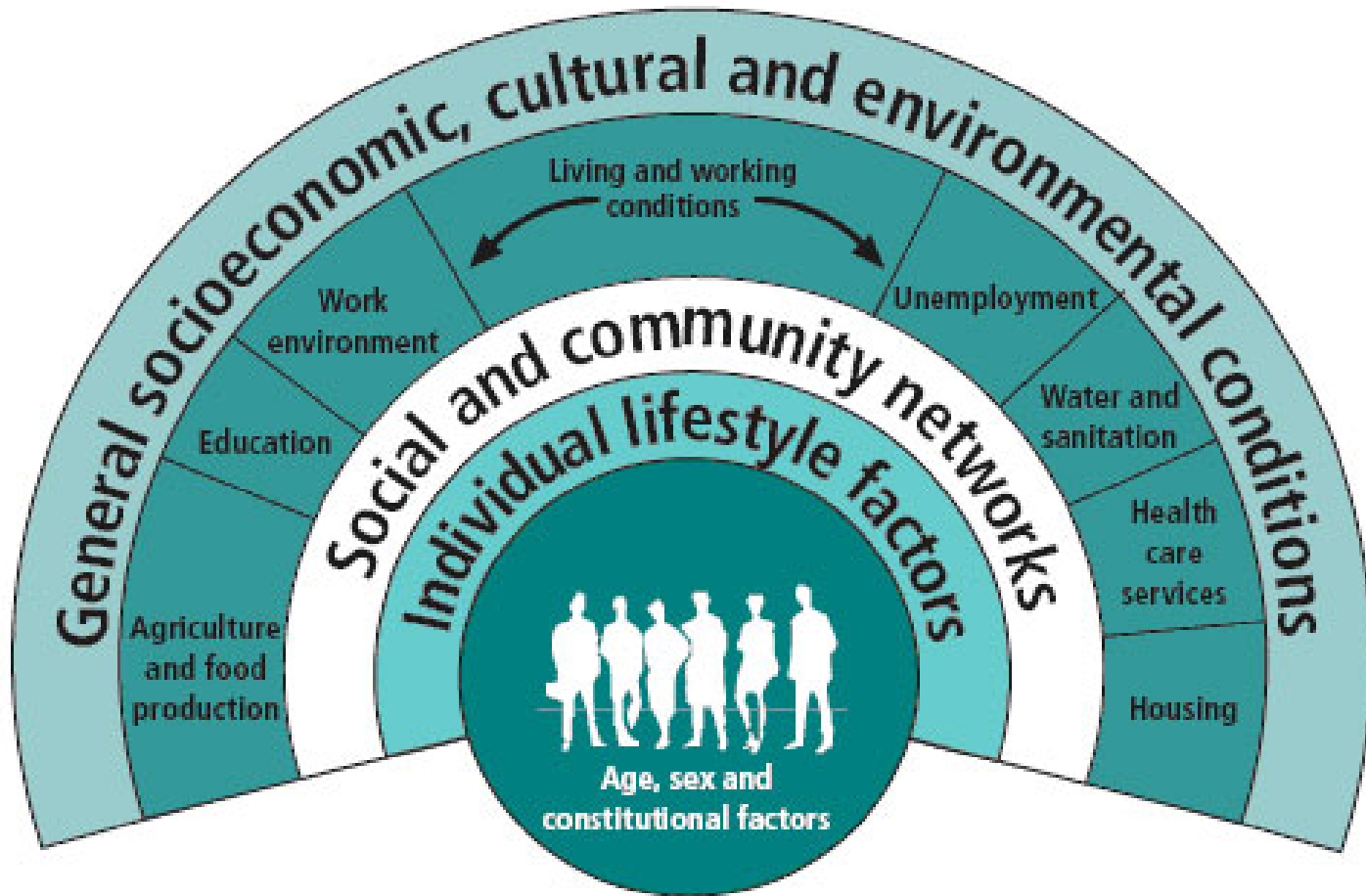
Health Care Disparities

A Long History of Bias in Health Care

- ❑ 1999 survey (CA): 18.7% of physicians sometimes or often uncomfortable providing care to gay patients (Smith and Mathews, 2007).
- ❑ 2007 survey: 30.4% of patients would change providers upon finding out their provider was gay/lesbian (Lee et al., 2008)
- ❑ 2005/6 surveys of medical students (AAMC reporter, 2007)
 - 15% reported mistreatment of LGBT students at schools
 - 17% of LGBT students reported hostile environments



Social Determinants of Health



Source: G. Dahlgren and M. Whitehead, Policies and Strategies to Promote Social Equity in Health (Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm, 1991)

The Impact of Stigma and Discrimination



Lungile Cleopatra Dladla, who was raped in this field. Photograph by Zanele Muboli.

LGBT People and Homelessness

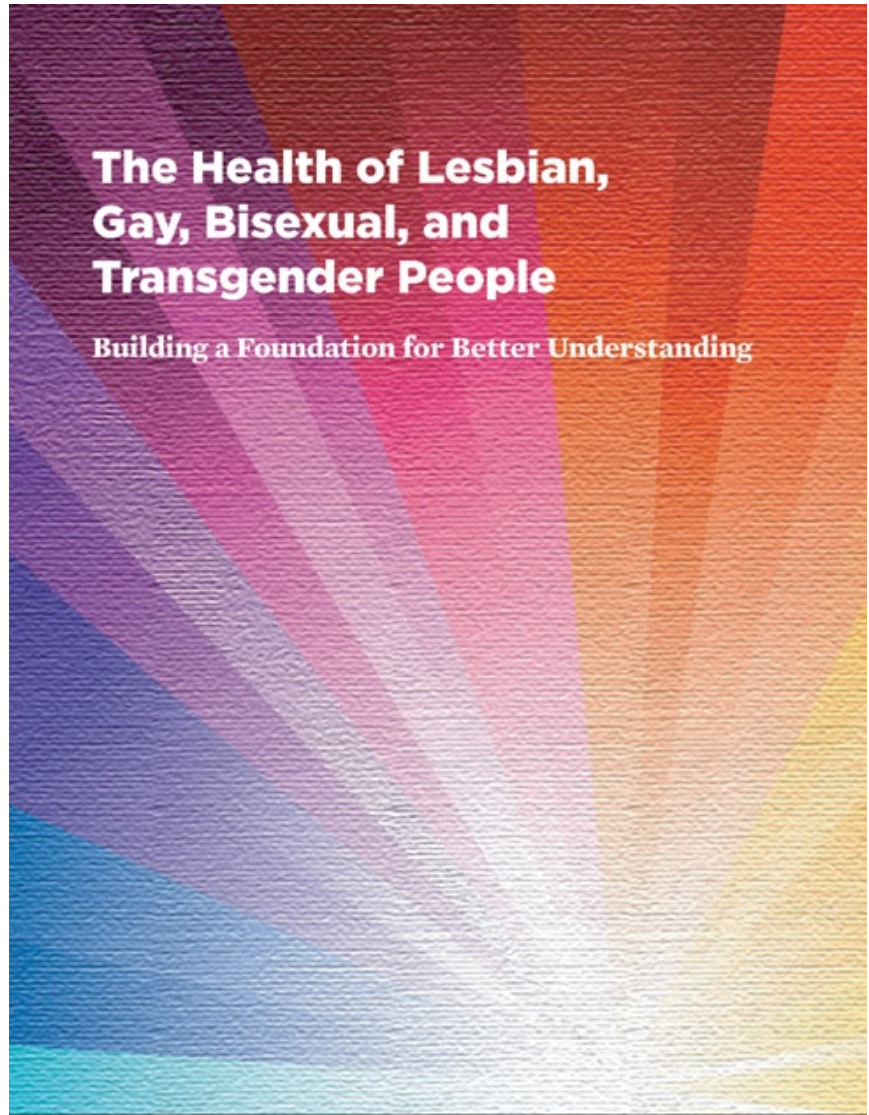


Healthy People 2020



The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People

Building a Foundation for Better Understanding



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Health Disparities Exist Across the Life Cycle



Experiences in Health Care: Childhood and Adolescence

- ❑ The burden of HIV continues to fall disproportionately on young men, particularly young black men who have sex with men.
- ❑ LGBT youth are at increased risk for suicide attempts and depression. Small studies suggest the same may be true for transgender youth.
- ❑ Rates of smoking, alcohol consumption, and substance use may be higher among LGBT than heterosexual youth.
- ❑ The homeless youth population comprises a disproportionate number of LGBT youth.
- ❑ LGBT youth report experiencing elevated levels of violence, victimization, and harassment.
- ❑ Challenges regarding the care of gender variant children and adolescents

Experiences in Health Care: Early/Middle Adulthood

- ❑ On average, LGBT adults appear to experience more mood and anxiety disorders, more depression, and an elevated risk for suicide compared with heterosexual adults.
- ❑ Lesbians and bisexual women may use preventive health services less frequently than heterosexual women.
- ❑ Lesbians and bisexual women may be at greater risk of obesity and have higher risk of breast cancer than heterosexual women.
- ❑ HIV/AIDS continues to exact a severe toll on men who have sex with men, particularly young black MSM.

Experiences in Health Care: Early/Middle Adulthood

- ❑ LGBT people are frequently the targets of stigma, discrimination, and violence.
- ❑ LGBT adults may have higher rates of smoking, alcohol use, and substance use than heterosexual adults. Most research in this area has been conducted among women, with much less being known about rates among gay and bisexual men.
- ❑ Although gay men and lesbians are less likely to be parents than heterosexuals, children of gay and lesbian parents are well adjusted and developmentally similar to children of heterosexual parents

Experiences in Health Care: Later Adulthood

- ❑ Although HIV infection rates among young men are higher, older adults do get infected with HIV/AIDS. There are few, if any, HIV prevention programs that target older adults.
- ❑ LGBT elders experience stigma and discrimination across the life course and may experience violence at higher rates than heterosexual elders.
- ❑ LGBT elders are less likely to have children than heterosexual elders and are less likely to receive support from adult children.



Family Matters

Relationships



Marriage



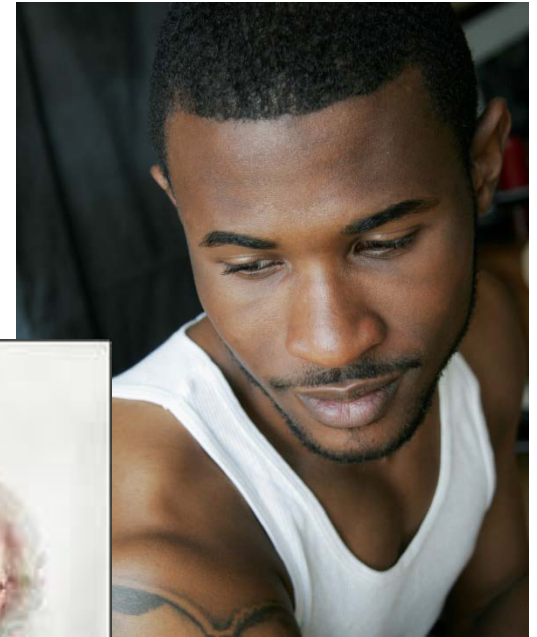
Parenting

Family Matters

Relationships



LGBT Demographics, Concepts, and Terminology



L,G,B,T Demographics, Concepts, and Terminology



LGB Demographics in the U.S.

- ❑ Identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual
 - 1.7 - 5.6% (average 3.5%)
 - Women were more likely than men to say they were bisexual
- ❑ Same-sex sexual contact ever
 - 8.2%
- ❑ Same-sex attraction (at least some)
 - 7.5 - 11%

(Laumann et al., 1994; Gates et al., 2011)

A Darker Rainbow:

Percentage of People Identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender

		Men				Below average	Average = 3.4%	At or above average
		Undesignated	Non-Hispanic White	Asian	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic Black	Other	
18-29		2.6	3.9	4.8	5.8	6.1	4.1	
30-49		1.1	3.1	4.1	3.6	3.6	6.9	
50-64		2.8	3.0	1.7	3.3	2.3	3.1	
65+		1.4	2.4	5.2	1.4	4.1	0.0	
Women								
18-29		6.0	8.6	8.0	6.6	9.6	11.0	
30-49		0.6	3.3	2.7	2.6	3.4	3.7	
50-64		1.5	2.3	1.2	2.0	2.6	4.7	
65+		2.3	1.5	0.4	1.5	2.0	0.7	

Source: Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup Daily tracking survey June 1-Sept. 30, 2012, with a random sample of 121,290 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling. For results based on the total sample of [national adults /registered voters], one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 1 percentage point Chart adapted from The New York Times



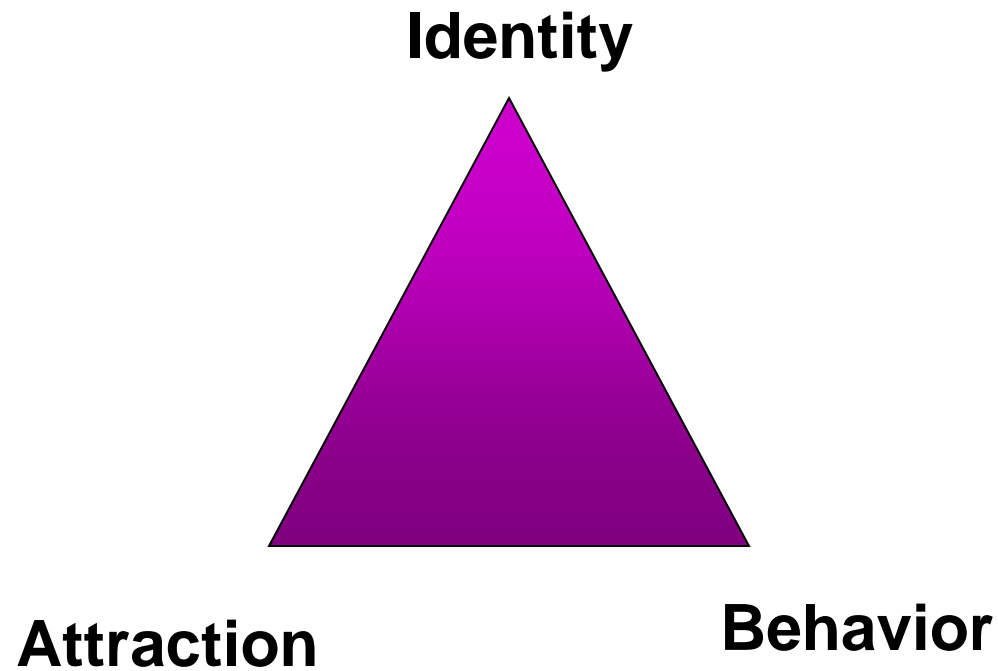
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“No, we are not twins.”

L,G,B,T Diversity



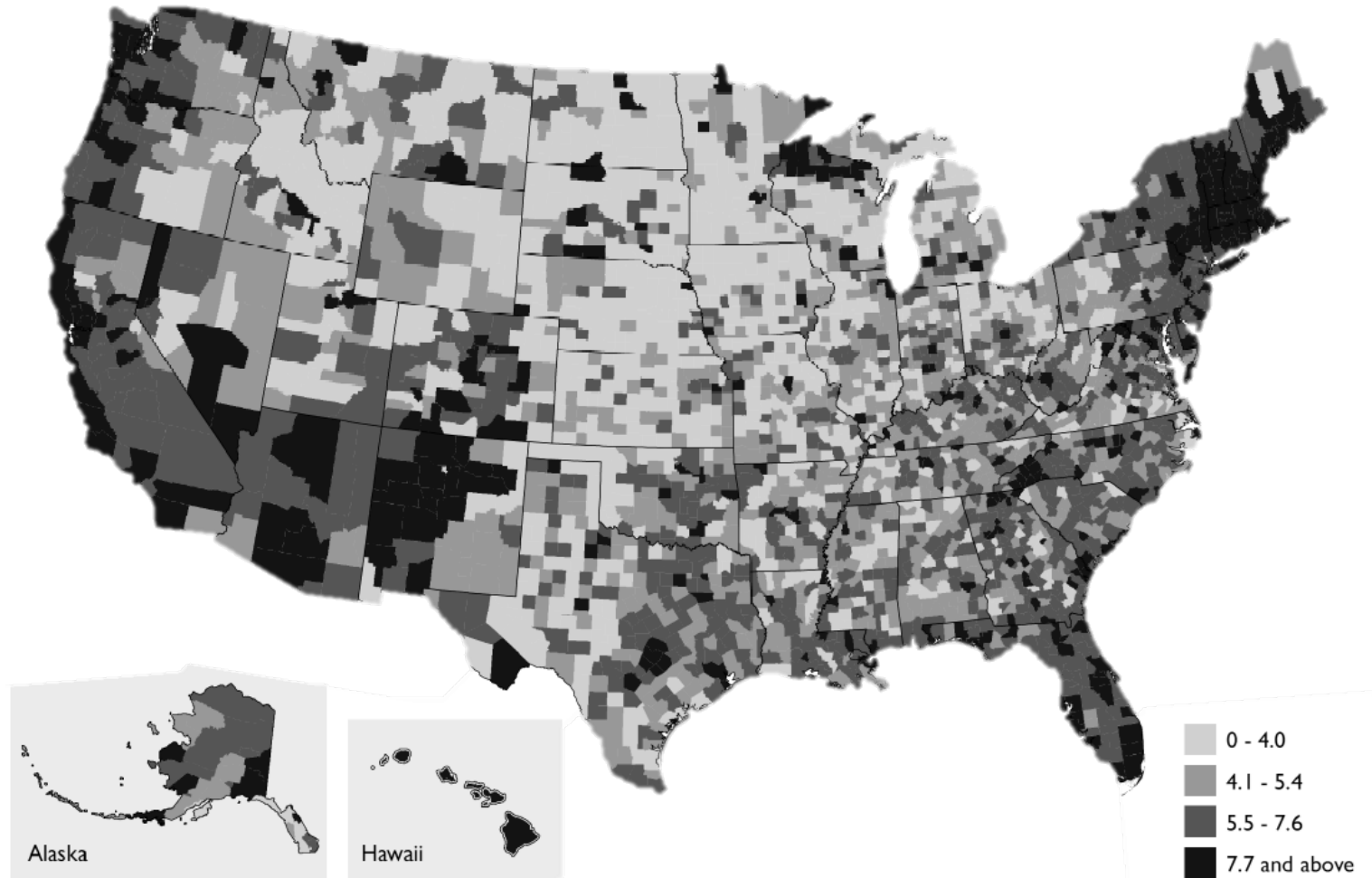
Understanding Sexual Orientation



Discordance between Sexual Behavior and Identity

- ❑ 2006 study of 4193 men in NYC (Pathela, 2006)
- ❑ 9.4% of men who identified as “straight” had sex with a man in the prior year
 - These men were more likely to:
 - belong to minority racial and ethnic groups,
 - be of lower socio-economic status,
 - be foreign born
 - Not use a condom
- ❑ 77-91% of lesbians had at least one prior sexual experience with men
 - 8% in the prior year (O’Hanlan, 1997)

Same Sex Families/1000 Households by County:2010 Census



Understanding the T in LGBT

- ❑ People who persistently identify and/or express their gender as the opposite of their biologic birth sex and often have hormonal and surgical treatment.

(sometimes called **transsexualism**)



- ❑ People who define themselves as a gender outside the either/or construct of male/female – e.g., having no gender, being androgynous, or having elements of multiple genders (some use the term **genderqueer**)
- ❑ People who enjoy the outward manifestations of various gender roles and cross dress to varying extents (some use the term **cross-dressers, transvestites**)
- ❑ All may use the term Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming or Gender Variant



Alternative Constructs of Gender Identity: Terminology Follows Concept

