

## Sexual Minority Youth



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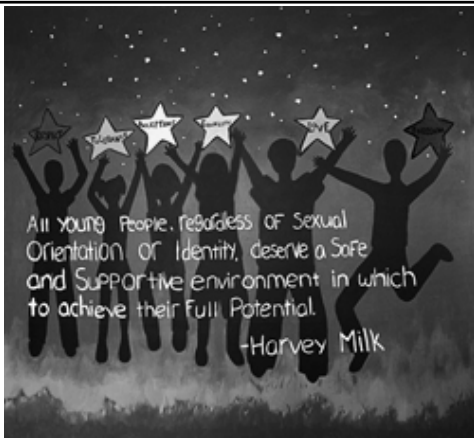
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## Sexual Minorities: Terminology

- Usually referred to by the acronym LGBT
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender



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## Sexual Minorities Terminology

- Sometimes LGBTQ
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Questioning or sometimes Queer

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## Sexual Minorities Terminology

- Sometimes LGBTQI2-S
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Questioning or Queer
- Intersex
- 2-Spirit

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## Sexual Minorities Terminology

- Lesbian—a woman who forms physical and emotional relationships with some women
- Gay—commonly used to describe men, refers to people who form physical and emotional relationships with persons of the same gender.



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## Sexual Minorities Terminology

- Bisexual—someone who is attracted physically and emotionally to persons of the same and different genders. Bisexual people are not necessarily attracted equally to both men and women and are not always attract



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## Sexual Minorities Terminology

- Transgender—an umbrella term that includes transsexual and gender nonconforming people.
- Transsexual—refers to someone whose gender identity is different from the biological sex they were assigned at birth. Transsexuals may change their physical gender through hormones, surgery, or dress.



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## Sexual Minorities Terminology

- Questioning – someone who is uncertain yet of their sexual identity
- Queer – developed primarily for social/political/intellectual purposes, this umbrella terms seeks to encompass rather than compartmentalize a broad range of sexual identities, behaviors and expressions

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## Sexual Minorities Terminology

- Intersex – refers to people who are born with atypical or ambiguous genitalia. An older term, “hermaphrodite,” is now considered inappropriate.
- 1 percent of live births exhibit some degree of sexual ambiguity. Between 0.1% and 0.2% of live births are ambiguous enough to become the subject of specialist medical attention, including surgery to disguise their sexual ambiguity.
- The prevalence of intersex "restricted to those conditions in which chromosomal sex is inconsistent with phenotypic sex, or in which the phenotype is not classifiable as either male or female" is about 0.018%.

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## Sexual Minorities Terminology

- Two-Spirit – A term for Native American people who identify as transgender.
- It may include gay, lesbian or bisexual people, but the term does not definitively refer to sexual-orientation
- Two-Spirit people had positive and elevated status among many Native American tribes prior to the arrival of the Europeans.

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## Sexual Minorities Terminology

- Sexual Orientation—how a person identifies sexually—meaning the physical and emotional ways we are attracted to persons of the same gender, another gender, or all genders.
- Sexual orientation and sexual behavior are not necessarily the same. Not everyone acts on their attractions.

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### Three Concepts Related to Sexual Orientation

-  Attraction

- Behavior



- Identity – what you call or label yourself

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### Identities are on a Continuum

#### Biological Sex

Female ← Intersex → Male

#### Sexual Orientation

Gay or Lesbian ← Bisexual → Heterosexual

#### Gender Identity

Feminine ← Transgender (Androgynous, Gender Non-Conforming) → Masculine

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### Identities are on a Continuum

- Important to keep the three concepts related to sexual orientation and the continuum of identity separate.
- Someone might have sex with someone of the same gender but not identify as lesbian or gay.
- As psychologists, it is important to target our interventions toward *behavior*.

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### Culturally Sensitive Practices

- Refer to student's relationships as *same-sex* or *same-gender* vs. gay or lesbian relationships as a sexual identity may not be established yet.
- Due to the association with a former psychological disorder, *homosexual* is very loaded. Use *gay* or *lesbian* instead.
- Avoid using terms such as *sexual preference*, *sexual lifestyle* or *choice*.

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### Risk Factors for LGBT Students

- A sense of difference
- Social isolation
- Invisibility
- Lack of Role Models
- Misunderstanding
- Myth
- Lack of information
- Stigmatization
- Harassment & Violence
- Discrimination
- Rejection by Family
- Homelessness
- Depression & Suicide
- Drug & Alcohol Abuse
- STDs
- Religious Conflicition

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