

# HOW TO TALK TO QUEER KIDS

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# Terminology

## LGBTQQI

- ▣ Lesbian
- ▣ Gay
- ▣ Bisexual
- ▣ Transgender
- ▣ Questioning
- ▣ Queer
- ▣ Intersex

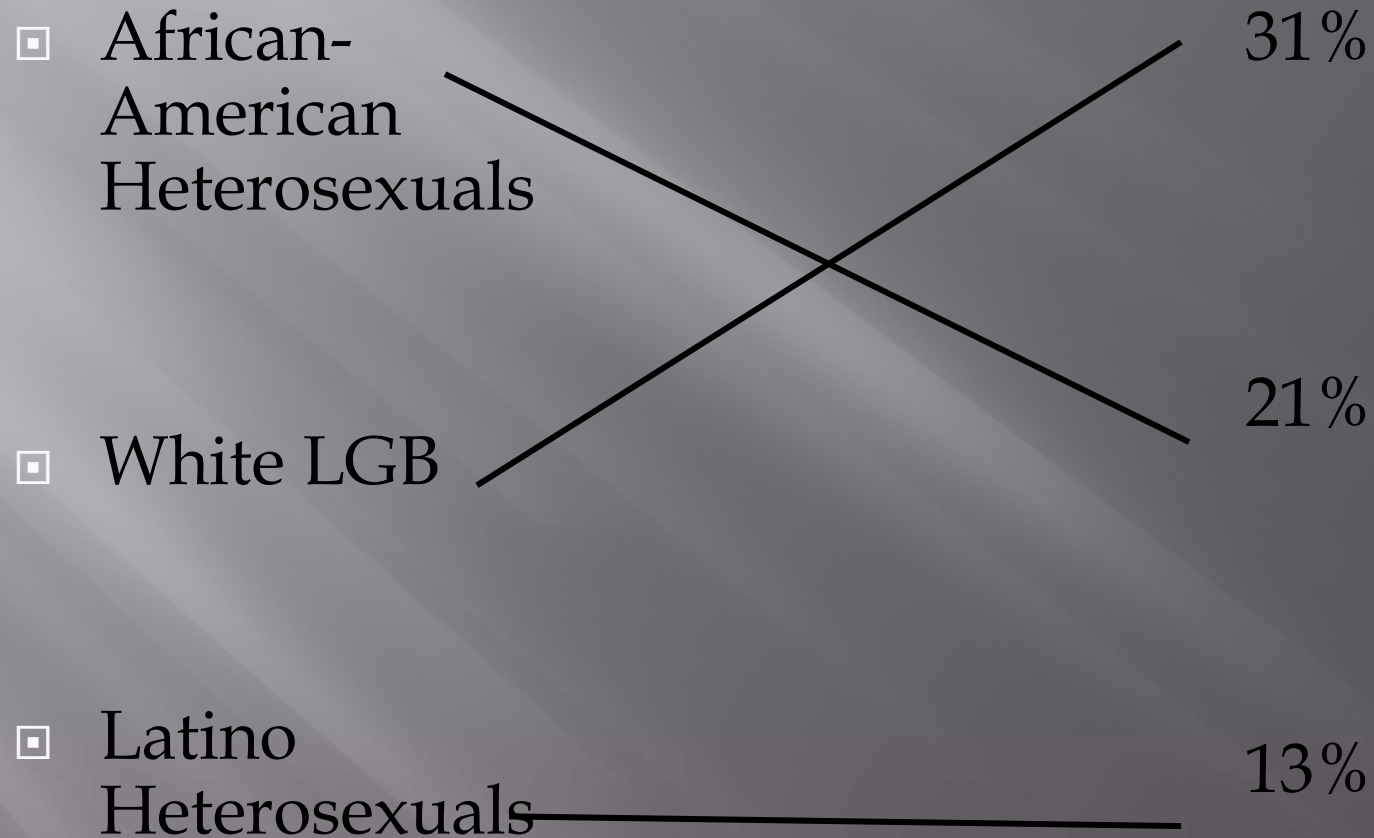


# Family Acceptance Project Research

- ▣ Caitlyn Ryan, 2009
- ▣ When families reject youth-
  - Higher rates of suicide
  - Higher rates of serious depression
  - Higher rates of substance abuse
  - Higher rates of STIs and HIV
  - Higher rates of unprotected sex
- ▣ (Ryan C, Huebner D, Diaz R, Sanches J; Family Rejection as a Predictor of Negative Health Outcomes in White and Latino Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young Adults; Pediatrics 2009)



## Adults Delaying or Not Seeking Health Care





# Imagery Exercise



# CASE EXAMPLE, “Sara”

- 18 year old female
- African American
- Sickle Cell Disease
- “Dating a girl”
- Home-schooled

Guess What Sara is  
Feeling?



# **“Sara”**

- ▣ Isolated/ Alone**
- ▣ Different/ Marginalized**
- ▣ Depressed**
- ▣ Suicide Attempts**

# Case Example – “John”

- ▣ 15yo white male.
- ▣ Found after anoxic brain injury in shower.
- ▣ “dating a dude”.
- ▣ Only talks to his boyfriend.
- ▣ Lives with single mother, no siblings.

Guess What John is  
Feeling?



# John

- ▣ Alone/ Isolated
- ▣ Sad
- ▣ Depressed
- ▣ Afraid to tell mother for fear of rejection
- ▣ Shower incident – suicide?

# The Clinician's Role

- ▣ Assist in self-acceptance
- ▣ Make a LGBT safe environment
- ▣ Open and honest dialogue
- ▣ Ask non-judgmental questions
- ▣ Respect confidentiality
- ▣ Be prepared with resources and referrals

# The Client Interview

- ▣ Take history as conversation, not checklist.
- ▣ Be sensitive, but not reactive.
- ▣ Always interview youth alone, even if with parent first.
- ▣ Chief complaint may not be reason for visit.
  - “Do you have any other problems, have any questions, or want to talk about anything else while you are here? Anything bothering you?”



# The Client Interview

## ▣ Language

- They may never actually tell you/ or “come out”.
- Let them use their own language.
- Their language may not match their behavior.
- They often reject labels.
- They embrace fluidity/ bisexuality/ pansexuality/  
Gender Queer
- May use “woman-centered” or “men-loving”.
- Don’t be afraid to ask questions.

# The Client Interview

- ▣ Language
- ▣ Cultural Considerations
- ▣ “Two-Spirited” Native American
- ▣ “Hijras” Transgender, East Indian
- ▣ “Bakla” Filipino or “Third Gender”

# The Client Interview - with a teenager





What  
could I  
have  
done  
better?



# Happy and Gay

- ▣ “Hana”, 16yo.
- ▣ First coming out – to teacher at age 12, +
- ▣ Came out in stages to her mom, +
- ▣ Dr. experience, +
- ▣ School bullying- teacher experience +
- ▣ Identifies as “gay”.
- ▣ Started GSA at her high school.

GOAL = HAPPY AND GAY

