

# The ABCs of LGBTs

Language, Religious Involvement and  
Risk Factors

**Why should we  
learn about  
LGBT people?**

# Education Matters

- ▶ Clarify our language
- ▶ Gain understanding of a minority population
- ▶ A foundation for relationships with LGBT populations
- ▶ Christ-like respect for others

# What is LGBT?

- ▶ Lesbian: a woman who is exclusively attracted to other women
- ▶ Gay: a man who is exclusively attracted to other men; also used as an overarching term to describe same-sex attracted individuals or as a self-identifying label by same-sex attracted people

# What is LGBT?

- ▶ Bisexual: an individual who experiences sexual attraction to both men and women
- ▶ Transgender: an individual whose biological sex does not align with their gender identity. Many people who identify as transgender choose to medically and/or socially transition

# Additional Terms

- ▶ Queer- term typically used by younger LGBT people to describe any identity within the LGBT community.
  - ▶ Due to it's historical context as a gay slur, queer is a controversial term in many communities

# Additional Terms

- ▶ Intersex- term used to describe individuals born with both male and female biological traits
- ▶ Asexual: an individual who does not experience the desire to engage in sexual relationships

# Population Statistics

- ▶ Approximately 4.1% of population identify as LGBT
- ▶ 0.3% of population identified as transgender



# Population Statistics

- ▶ “Estimates of those who report any lifetime same-sex sexual behavior and any same-sex sexual attraction are substantially higher than estimates of those who identify as LGB. An estimated 19 million Americans (8.2%) report that they have engaged in same-sex sexual behavior and nearly 25.6 million Americans (11%) acknowledge at least some same-sex sexual attraction.” (The Williams Institute, 2011)

# Generational Statistics

## ▶ Percentage of U.S. Adults Identifying as LGBT by Birth Cohort, 2016

- |                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| ▶ Millennials (1980-1998)     | 7.3% |
| ▶ Generation X (1965-1979)    | 3.2% |
| ▶ Baby boomers (1946-1964)    | 2.4% |
| ▶ Traditionalists (1913-1945) | 1.4% |

# Misconceptions

- ▶ While no longer mainstream in western communities, LGBT identity is sometimes misunderstood to be a term for sexual predators or pedophiles
- ▶ Identity vs behavior
  - ▶ Identifying as part of the LGBT community does not equate participation in same-sex sexual expression
  - ▶ There are LGBT people who choose to remain celibate but still identify as part of the LGBT community

# Misconceptions

- ▶ Identity vs behavior
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# Terms to Avoid

- ▶ Gay Lifestyle

- ▶ Reason to avoid: derogatory connotations and presumption of one particular set of behavior for all LGBT people
- ▶ Alternatives: Specify what behavior you are trying to address. A possible alternative term is same-sex sexual expression

# Terms to Avoid

- ▶ Homosexuals

- ▶ Reasons to avoid: outdated, often associated with harmful medical practices, generally perceived as derogatory by younger generations.
- ▶ Alternatives: LGBT or LGBTQ individuals, sexual minorities, those experiencing same-sex attraction

# When Someone You Know Comes Out...

- ▶ **Assure** your friend or loved one that you care for them and they have a place within your community
- ▶ **Ask** your friend or loved one for ways they would like you to love and support them

# When Someone You Know Comes Out...

- ▶ **Respect** the privacy of your loved one by keeping confidence and allowing them to share personal information when they feel most comfortable
- ▶ **Learn** through respectful questions and research to grow in your understanding of their identity and experience



# When Someone You Know Comes Out...

- ▶ **Protect** your loved one from unkind speech or messages by calling for respectful conversation in both public and private contexts