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 its 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
“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
  - 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
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.