Human Sexuality

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Presentation Outline

• How do we define Sexuality?
  • Dimensions of Sexuality
  • Sexual Orientation
  • Sexual Behavior

• Consequences of Unprotected Sex

How would you define sexuality?
Working Definition

- **Human Sexuality:**
  is the total of our physical, emotional and spiritual responses, thoughts and feelings. Sexuality is more about who we are than about what we do.

Dimensions of Human Sexuality

- Biological (physiology of sex)
- Psychological
- Sociocultural factors

**Dimensions of Human Sexuality**

- **Biological Dimension:**
  - Gender
  - Genetics
  - Reproduction
  - Fertility control
  - Sexual arousal and response
  - Physiological cycles and changes
  - Physical appearance
  - Growth and development
Dimensions of Human Sexuality

- **Psychological dimension:**
  - Emotions
  - Experiences
  - Self-concept
  - Motivation
  - Expressiveness
  - Learned attitudes and behaviors
  - Body image

Dimensions of Human Sexuality

- **Sociocultural dimension:**
  - Religious influences
  - Multicultural influences
  - Socioeconomic influences (income, education)
  - Ethical influences
  - Media influences
  - Political influences

How do these dimensions influence YOU?

- Cultural values or beliefs
- Social forces
- Biological factors
- Psychological forces
How do we talk about sexuality?

- The language of sexuality

Mixed Signals...

Mixed Signals Can Be Dangerous...
In other’s words…

“Sex. In America is an obsession. In other parts of the world a fact”
— Marlene Dietrich

Sexual Orientation

- Sexual Orientation:
  - One’s erotic, romantic, and affectional attraction to the same sex, to the opposite sex, or to both
    - Heterosexual
    - Homosexual
    - Bisexual
  - Formed by complicated network of factors:
    - Social, cultural, biological, economic, political
Sexual Orientation vs. Sexual Identity

- **Sexual identity:**
  - An inner sense of oneself as a sexual being, including one’s identification in terms of gender and sexual orientation
  - Bisexual
  - Asexual
  - Homosexual
  - Heterosexual

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Kinsey Continuum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exclusive heterosexual behavior</th>
<th>8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largely heterosexual, but incidental homosexual behavior</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largely heterosexual, but more than incidental homosexual behavior</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal amounts of heterosexual and homosexual behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largely homosexual, but more than incidental heterosexual behavior</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largely homosexual, but incidental heterosexual behavior</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive homosexual behavior</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Homosexuality

Can be difficult for various reasons:

1. Political (and economic) implications - for or against gay rights
2. Some homosexuals hide their orientation
3. How to define “homosexual” for survey purposes?
"If homosexuality is inherited, shouldn’t it have died out by now?"
- George Booth (August 1993, New Yorker magazine)

What do you mean …“sex”?  
- An organism's sex reflects its biological function in reproduction, not its sexuality or other behavior  
- Thus, sex is really an anatomically-oriented term  
- “Sex” is the act of intercourse itself while sexuality is everything else that goes into making you a sexual being. 
  - That includes all of your sexual knowledge, thoughts, values, desires and behaviors.
- We will use sex as a shorthand term to refer to sexual behavior

Sex: Depends who the definition comes from?
- This meaning varies for which side of sex you are on.

Woman: To make sweet passionate love to your soul mate. Elevating each other's bodily experiences to a new level.

Man: What to do when you're not watching sports.
What Do YOU Know About Sex?

- If you’re like most people, you have received information (both truth and myths) from embarrassed parents, confused friends, “too little too late” high school sex ed classes, romantic movies, and perhaps your own experimentation.

- Sex exists in a realm of contrasts and contradictions.
  - On one hand, sex may be portrayed as dirty or sinful.
  - On the other hand, we are frequently encouraged to “save it for someone special.”

Sex Education

- Debates continue to rage about sexuality education.

- Federal and state governments support educational programs that promote abstinence.

- Policies or programs offering “abstinence only” or “abstinence until marriage” as a SINGLE OPTION for adolescents are flawed SCIENTIFICALLY and ETHICALLY.
Health care is founded on ethical notions of informed consent and free choice.

Federal abstinence-only programs are INHERENTLY COERCIVE, withholding information needed to make informed choices and promoting QUESTIONABLE and INACCURATE OPINIONS.

Federal funding language promotes a specific MORAL viewpoint, NOT a PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH.
Abstinence-only programs are INCONSISTENT with COMMONLY ACCEPTED NOTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

"Abstinence-only" as a basis for health policy and programs SHOULD BE ABANDONED.

What Do You Really Know About Sex?

- **True or False**
  - College students have one of the highest rates for STIs of all groups in the US.  
  - Most college students use condoms for intercourse.  
  - Females reach their sexual peak at about 30 and males at about 18.

**Answers**

College students have one of the highest rates for STIs of all groups in the US.  
**True**

Most college students use condoms for intercourse.  
**False, less than ½ report consistent use (43%)**

Females reach their sexual peak at about 30 and males at about 18.  
**False, myth that is probably left over from Kinsey’s work that measured the peak as the age of the highest frequency of orgasm – very misleading.**

**They tend to largely disappear when psychological & social factors are considered**
More Questions to Ponder
- Pregnancy cannot occur without male orgasm.
- The largest sex organ is the penis.
- Women cannot ejaculate.
- Men produce about 300 million sperm everyday.
- Proportionally and compared to other primates, human males have massive genitalia.

Answers
- Pregnancy cannot occur without male orgasm.
  - False – sperm swim
- The largest sex organ is the penis.
  - False – the brain, which is where sex begins
- Women cannot ejaculate.
  - False – skene's glands
- Men produce about 300 million sperm everyday.
  - True
- Proportionally and compared to other primates, human males have massive genitalia.
  - True

Wait, a Few More
- If a man is not allowed to release his erection, he will get "ill."
- Douching with Coca Cola after intercourse will prevent pregnancy.
- Sex in an airplane is safe since the high altitude assures you cannot get pregnant.
- The average length of a male penis is 10 inches.
More Answers

- If a man is not allowed to release his erection, he will get “ill.”
  - False – he may be uncomfortable and frustrated, but………..
- Douching with Coca Cola after intercourse will prevent pregnancy.
  - False – don’t even go there
- Sex in an airplane is safe since the high altitude assures you cannot get pregnant.
  - False
Now, think about this………
The average length of a male penis is 10 inches.
  - Guys, stop the cheering
  - Girls, stop laughing
- The CORRECT answer is ……………………

Only in Nature