



Definitions

Sex: the anatomic distinction between male and female

Gender: the societal construct that is associated with men (masculinity) and women (femininity)

Sexual behavior: sexual activity

Sexual orientation: sexual and emotional attraction to another person

Sexual identity: expression and self-perception of one's sexual orientation

Tips for Visits and the History and Physical

- Encourage the use of office intake forms that include “transgender” under gender and “partner” instead of “husband/wife”
- Promote the posting of non-discrimination signs, including those regarding sexual orientation/gender identity, on the walls
- Sex, sexual behavior, sexual orientation and sexual identity are NOT synonymous → do not assume one from another
- Use gender neutral language, such as “partner,” when inquiring about relationship/sexual history
- Ask if you may document patient's sexual orientation/behavior and discuss issues of confidentiality

Resources

www.amsa.org/gender - AMSA's Gender & Sexuality Committee

www.lgbthealth.net - National Coalition for LGBT Health

www.pflag.org - Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

www.glma.org - Gay and Lesbian Medical Association

www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

www.nctequality.org - National Center for Transgender Equality

Gay Men's Health Disparities

1. **Cancer** – Increased risk for anal cancer unrelated to HIV/AIDS¹ (35 per 100,000 vs 2 per 100,000 gen. pop'n)
 - Risk factors include anal intercourse, history of STIs, smoking¹
2. **HIV/AIDS** – Men who have sex with men (MSM) accounted for 53% of new cases in 2005²
 - 46% of African-American MSM in five large US cities HIV positive compared to 21% white MSM³
 - Risk factors include unprotected anal intercourse, STIs, alcohol/illegal drug use, unknown serostatus³
3. **Mental health** – Poor methodology of current studies, but increased rates of bipolar⁴, major depressive⁵, generalized anxiety and conduct disorders⁶
4. **Suicidality** – Increased rate of suicidal ideation and attempts, especially in youth (3-7x the gen. pop'n)⁶
5. **Eating disorders** – Gay sexual identity a significant predictor of eating disorders in men⁷
6. **Vaccinations** – All MSM recommended to receive Hepatitis A and B vaccinations; only 3% of MSM were vaccinated against Hepatitis B in 1996⁸
7. **STIs** – Increased risk of HAV, HBV, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes, urethritis, proctitis, pharyngitis, and prostatitis⁹
8. **Alcohol/tobacco** – 42% smoking rate in gay men vs 29% of gen. pop'n^{10, 11}
 - Current alcohol studies equivocal, but more likely to be heavy drinkers¹²

To view references, please visit www.amsa.org/lgbt/wcc.cfm



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