# Sexual and Gender Minorities, Social Networks, and Health





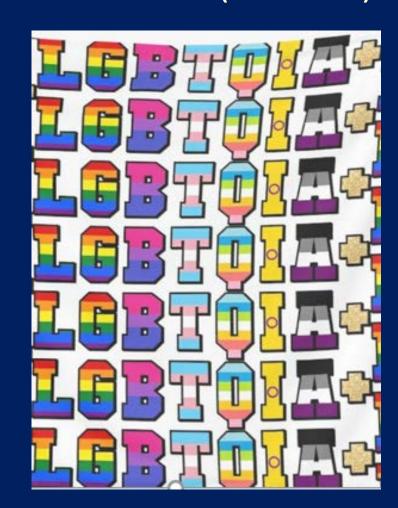


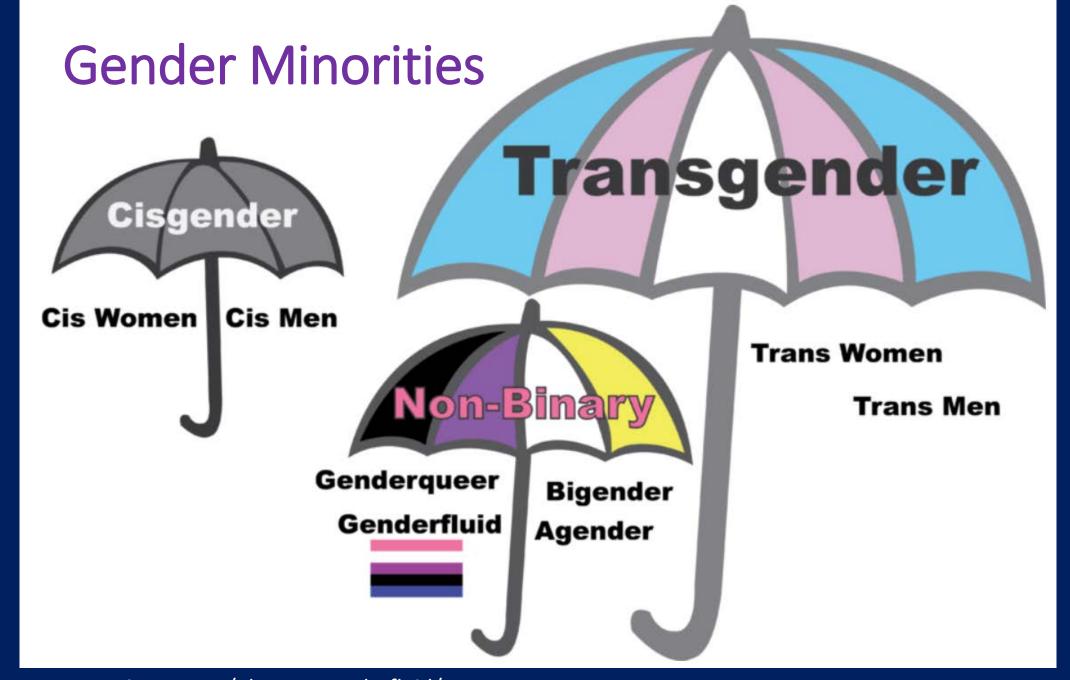
Cindi Matsumoto, MS, RN-BC

# LGBTQIA+ = Sexual and Gender Minorities (SGMs)

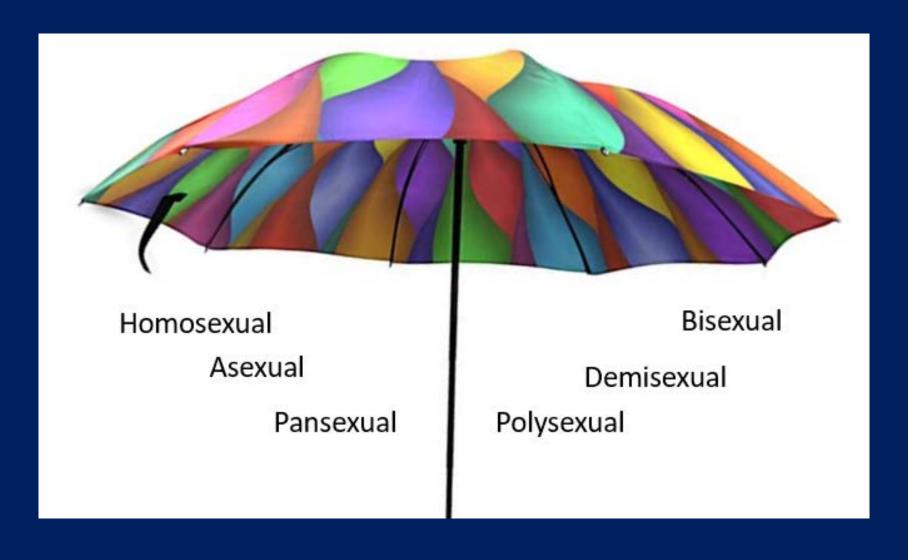
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Queer
- Intersex
- Asexual







#### Sexual Minorities

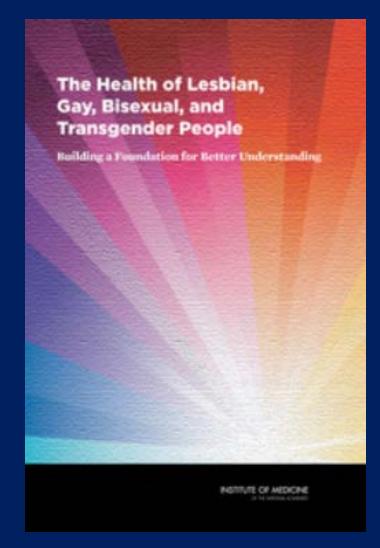


### National Efforts to Expand SGM Research

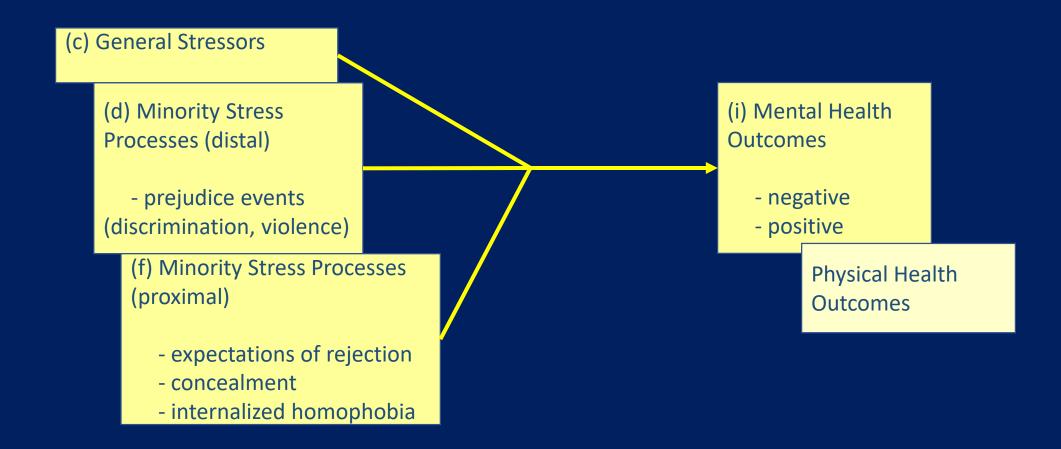


Healthy People.gov





#### Minority Stress and Outcomes



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#### Health for SGMs

- Depression
  - 6x higher in older SGM people
    - 4.8% in non-SGMs
    - 31% in SGMs
  - 48% in transgender women
  - 51% in transgender men



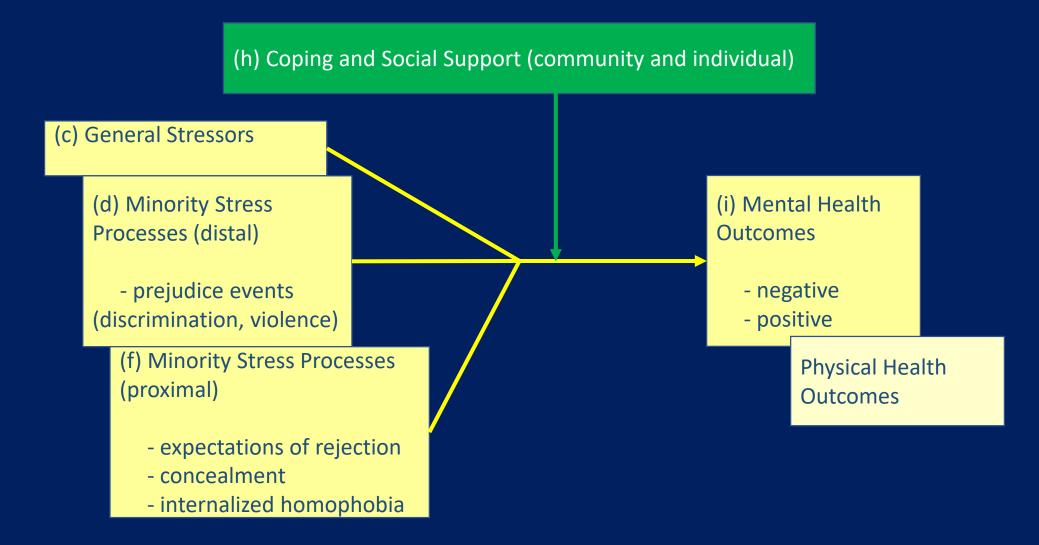


Worse in Bisexual women

- Higher Risky Health Behaviors
  - Smoking
  - Obesity
  - Unprotected sex



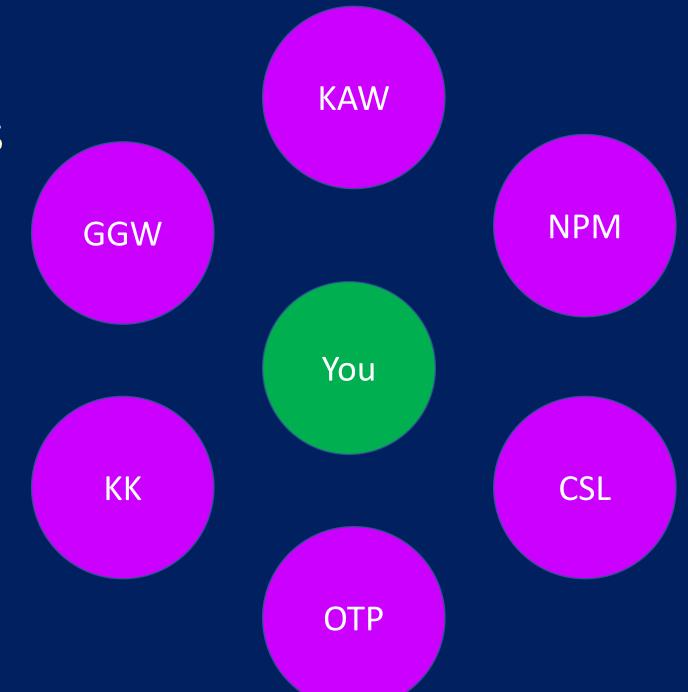
#### Minority Stress and Outcomes



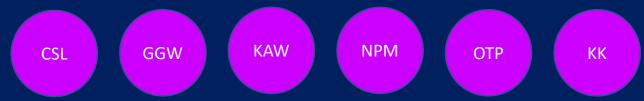
#### Egocentric Social Network Methodology



Name Generators



#### Name Interpreting Questions



Relationship

Gender, race/ethnicity (demographic information)

How do you keep in touch?

How close do you feel to that person?

## UC Berkeley Social Network Study



- Goal: observe changes in egocentric social networks in response to life changes
- 2 cohorts:
  - Younger cohort (21- to 30-year-olds)
  - Older cohort (50- to 70-year-olds)
- Included a variable on sexual orientation
  - Heterosexual or straight, Homosexual or gay, or Something else

#### Purpose



The purpose of this study is to understand egocentric social networks and their relationship to health in sexual minorities (SMs).

Decrease in scope from SGMs to SMs

#### Aim 1



• Aim 1: characterize and compare the egocentric social networks of SMs and of non-SMs in a younger and an older cohort.

# Social Network Characteristics: Younger SMs versus non-SMs

#### Younger SMs Younger non-SMs

Kin (relatives)

31%

34% (p=0.01)

Same race/ethnicity

60%

64% (p=0.03)

Feels especially close 39%

43% (p=0.04)





### Social Network Characteristics: Older SMs versus non-SMs



#### **Older SMs**

Kin (relatives)

Non-kin friends

Same race/ethnicity

28%

55%

69%

• Feels especially close 41%

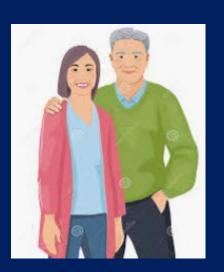
#### Older non-SMs

40% (p<0.01)

46% (p<0.01)

76% (p<0.01)

48% (p=0.04)



#### Aim 2



• **Aim 2**: Examine if social network characteristics are associated with depression and poor health in an older cohort.

#### Depression & Social Network Characteristics

- Social network characteristics associated with a decrease in depression
  - Relatives providing socializing support
    - SMs have fewer relatives providing socializing support than non-SMs
  - Non-relative friends providing socializing support

- Network members of the same race/ethnicity
  - SM have fewer network members of the same race/ethnicity than non-SMs

#### Overall Health & Social Network Characteristics

- Social network characteristic associated with better overall health
  - Feeling especially close
    - SMs feel less close with their networks than non-SMs

Frequent contact electronically











Coronavirus: How can we stay in virtual touch with older relatives

# Stay Connected to the Elderly During Social Distancing

For elder family members in long-term care facilities, social distancing because of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be lonely. Here's how you can stay in touch.

March 18, 2020



#### Implications



 Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (WHO)

Extends knowledge of social networks of a marginalized population

- Reinforces the need to disaggregate study populations by sexual orientation (and not assume heterosexual)
  - And disaggregate by gender identity (and not assume cisgender and binary)

Wellness with Pride

### Dissertation and Qualifying Exam Committee



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Dissertation Chair



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Dissertation (& QE) Member



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Dr Sheryl Catz QE Chair



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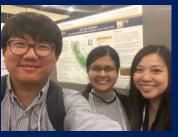
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#### **Dedication**

To everyone who does not fit into the binary/heterosexual box –

When you feel alone or lonely trust that your people are out there. Reach out. Find them. You are not alone.

- Surround yourself with people who validate and affirm your identity and your truth
  - Janet Mock, It Gets Better Project





#### Gender Minorities and Sexual Minorities

