

# **Regulatory Policy, HIV & Bisexual People**

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March 2, 2016

Federal AIDS Policy Partnership Meeting

Washington, D.C.

# Overview

- **People**

- Bisexual Population Demographics
- The Bisexual Community

- **HIV**

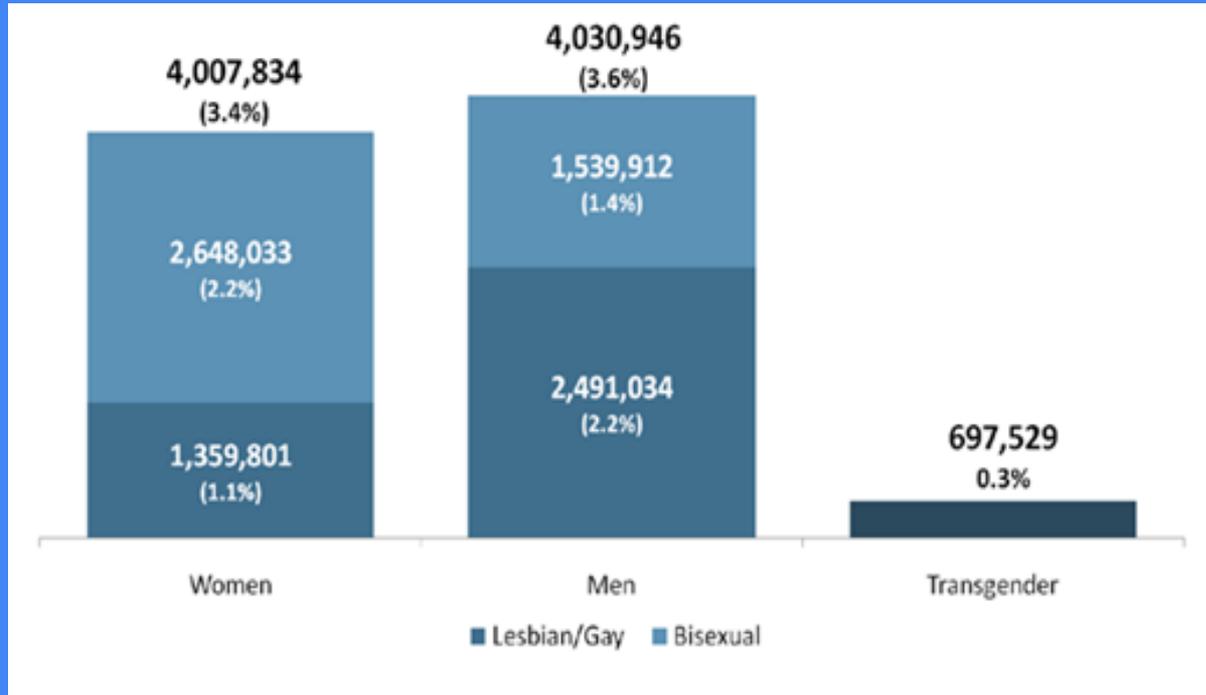
- The Bisexual Community Responds to HIV
- Bisexual HIV epidemiological data (i.e. the comparative lack thereof)

- **Policy**

- Review of the NHAS: Where are the bi-specific policy recommendations?
- Bisexual Inclusive HIV/AIDS Policy Recommendations

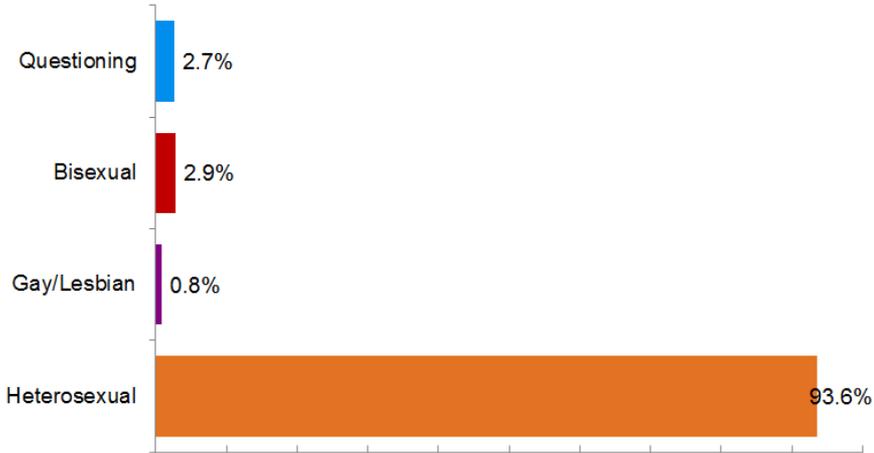
The term, “bisexual” is used as an umbrella term for people who have the potential for sexual, emotional, and/or romantic attraction to more than one sex or gender. This includes people who may identify as bisexual, pansexual, fluid, queer, and questioning as well as people who do not but whose emotions, desires and/or actions have the capacity to occur across more than one point along the gender spectrum.

# Bisexuals - We Are Many...



# Especially among youth...

## Sexual Orientation



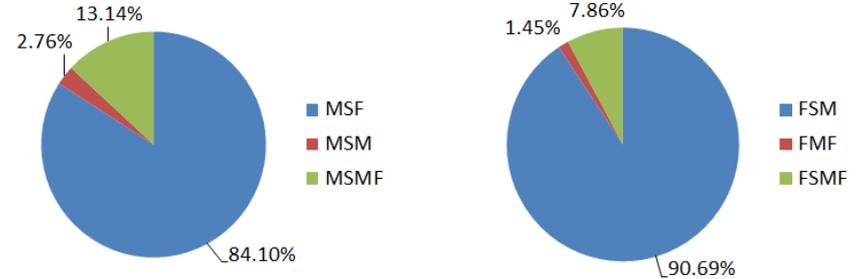
n=77,758



## Sexual Behavior

Males

Females



n=8,107

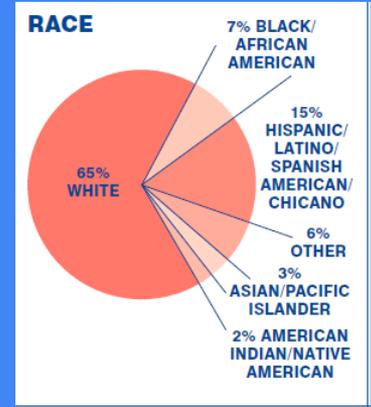
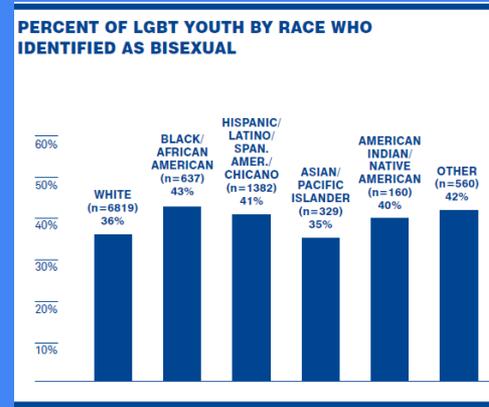
n=8,198



“Preliminary Findings on the Health of Bisexual Youth from the 2013 Minnesota Student Survey [9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grader students in MN].”  
BECAUSE Conference, Minneapolis, MN 2014.

# And People of Color...

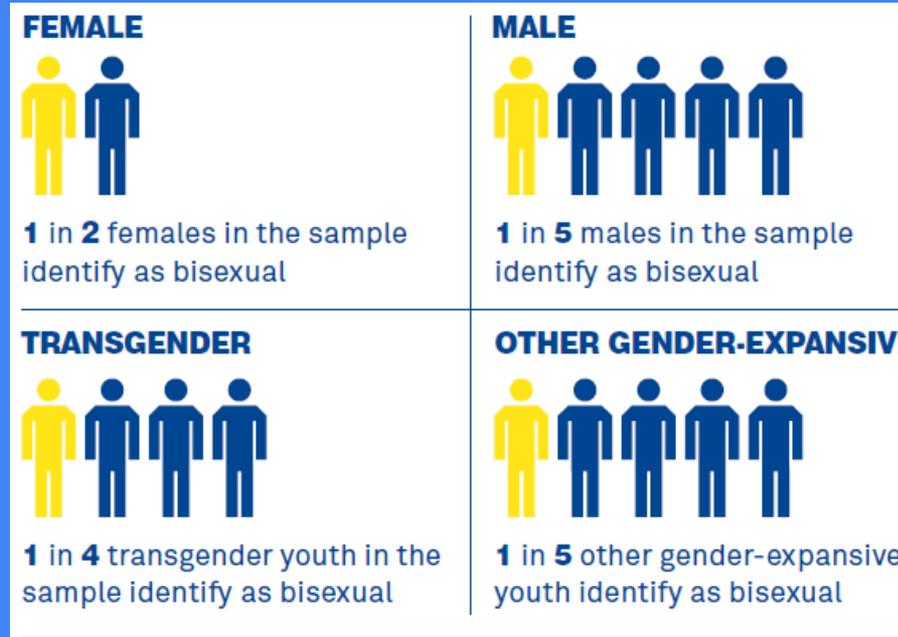
Ethnic Origin	Heterosexual N=25093	Gay/Lesbian N=502	Bisexual N=801
American Indian/Alaska Native	2.4	3.4	4.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.8	3.6	5.0
Black-Not Hispanic	4.5	4.2	5.2
Latino/Hispanic	2.6	4.0	4.7
White-Not Hispanic (Includes Middle Eastern)	86.6	87.5	86.6
Other	2.0	3.2	3.5



"2007-2011 College Student Health Survey Report: Minnesota Postsecondary Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Students." 2013. Boynton Health Service. Available at [http://www.bhs.umn.edu/surveys/survey-results/2012\\_LGB\\_CSHSReport.pdf](http://www.bhs.umn.edu/surveys/survey-results/2012_LGB_CSHSReport.pdf)

"Support and Caring for Our Bisexual Youth," Human Rights Campaign, 2014. Available at [http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/Supporting\\_and\\_Caring\\_for\\_Bisexual\\_Youth.pdf](http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/Supporting_and_Caring_for_Bisexual_Youth.pdf)

# And Transgender People...



“Support and Caring for Our Bisexual Youth,” Human Rights Campaign, 2014.  
Available at [http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/Supporting\\_and\\_Caring\\_for\\_Bisexual\\_Youth.pdf](http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/Supporting_and_Caring_for_Bisexual_Youth.pdf)

**We have Proud  
Bisexual Communities**

**Bisexual community organizations and individuals have been marching in national demonstrations since they began. In 1993, Lani Ka'ahumanu was the first out bi speaker to address the crowd at the national LGBT March on Washington.**





**Thirty-three bi+ activists gathered in Washington, DC for the first White House Bisexual Issues Roundtable 2013**

# One hundred bisexual activists gathered for the 2015 White House Policy Briefing on Bisexual Issues



**But -- Bisexuals are Impacted by  
Biphobia in Straight and “LGBT”  
Community Spaces**

# Biphobic Isolation & Stigma Lead to Enhanced Disparities

- Compared to Gay, Lesbian and Straight People, Bisexual People Experience
  - Higher levels of Poverty
  - Lower educational attainment
  - Lesser connection to LGBTQIA community (vs. GL)
  - Higher levels of suicidality, depression & PTSD
  - Higher levels of sexual assault & relationship violence
  - Higher levels of homelessness

**From the beginning of the  
HIV/AIDS epidemic, bisexuals  
have been disproportionately  
impacted by HIV**

# ...And Led HIV Advocacy Efforts



**CO-DIRECTORS of the Bisexual Center are, left to right, Dr. David Loreau, Dr. Maggi Rubenstein and Dr. Harriet Leve.**

Dr. David Loreau, a co-director of The Bisexual Center (founded in 1976), was also a pioneer in the fight to end HIV/AIDS. In 1981, Dr. Loreau and bisexual / leather icon Cynthia Slater presented safer-sex education workshops in bathhouses and BDSM clubs in San Francisco. Photo Credit: [Queerest Library](#)

[Ever Blog](#)

After a two year battle, BiPOL activist, AIDS educator, and therapist Dr. David Lourea persuades the San Francisco Department of Public Health to recognize bisexual men in a weekly "New AIDS cases and mortality statistics" report. This model is then used by other department of public health offices around the country. Dr. Lourea went on to criticize the Department of Public Health for closures of bathhouses and sex clubs in a [March 1984 letter](#).

1982

care | resource

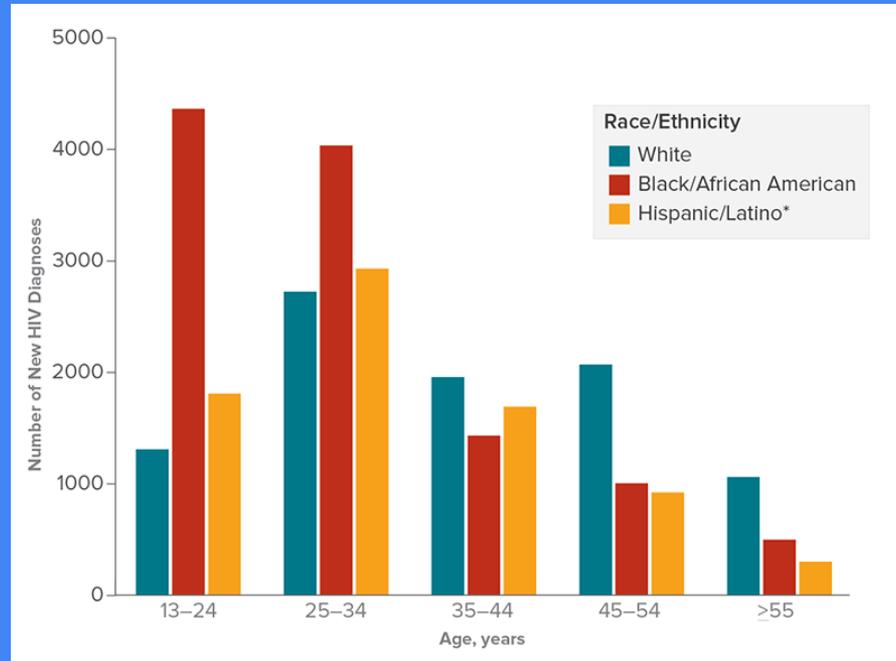
MIAMI | MIAMI BEACH | FT. LAUDERDALE

Former BiNet USA President Alexei Guren helps co-found the Health Crisis Network (now [CareResource](#)) in Miami, and begins outreach and advocacy for Latino married men who have sex with men.

# **But Current US Federal Data Reporting Practices Make Us**



# US HIV Epidemiology: Gay and Bisexual Men (Aggregated Data Alert!)



Source: CDC. [Diagnoses of HIV infection in the United States and dependent areas, 2014](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/msm/bmsm.html). *HIV Surveillance Report* 2015;26, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/msm/bmsm.html>

# The National HIV/AIDS Strategy

**Goal 1:** Reducing New HIV Infections

**Goal 2:** Increasing Access to Care and Improving Health Outcomes for PLWHA

**Goal 3:** Reducing HIV-Related Disparities and Health Inequities

**Goal 4:** Achieving a More Coordinated Response to the HIV Epidemic

# The National HIV/AIDS Strategy

## Named Priority Populations:

Black and Latino people

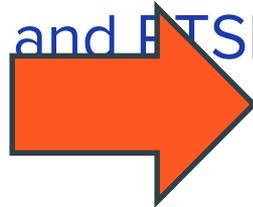
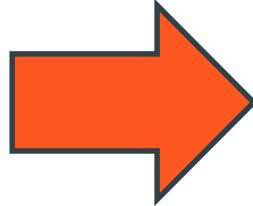
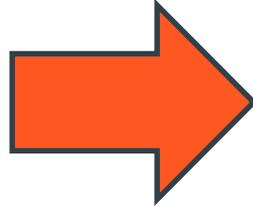
Youth

Gay (and bisexual) men

Transgender women

Women experiencing IPV and PTSD

Homeless people



# “Bisexual HIV+ US Men Differ in Key Ways from HIV+ Heterosexuals and Gays - CDC Study”

“Bisexual HIV+ men [in the Medical Monitoring Project] are more likely to be black, less educated and poorer than gay men.”

“Little research has compared demographic or risk behaviors of bisexual HIV-positive US men with those variables in gay or straight HIV-positive men”

“Sexual risk behaviors of bisexual men significantly different from gay and heterosexual men. Compared to bisexual men, heterosexual men are independently less likely to report unprotected sex, but do not differ from gay men in unprotected sexual behavior.”

“Prevention interventions for bisexual men need to be appropriately tailored as evidence suggests they are less likely to be reached by programs targeting gay or heterosexual men.”

# Bisexual Recommendations: HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Care

## Disparities

The experiences of bisexual individuals in HIV prevention, treatment, and care have been obscured by combining the data on bisexual and gay men and transgender women into the category of “MSM” or men who have sex with men.

Evidence suggests that current HIV prevention interventions geared toward MSM do not effectively address the sexual health needs of bisexual men, particularly sexual risk behaviors with female partners. We do not know enough about the situations and contexts in which bisexual individuals are making decisions regarding HIV prevention, treatment and care, particularly in relation to the sex or gender of their sexual and relationship partners.

## Recommendations

Ensure agency funding in the social and behavioral sciences is sufficient and focused toward training new researchers who are bisexual. We especially need more bisexual researchers of color, bisexual transgender researchers, and bisexual researchers from other underrepresented communities.

CDC and NIH should:

- Provide guidance on patterns and meanings of bisexual self-identification, labeling and practice, particularly among youth;
- Provide bisexual cultural competence training focused on bisexual self-identification, labeling and practice;
- Prioritize research funding for studies focused specifically on health among bisexuals not typically included in previous research on sexual and gender minority health.
- We need a specific line item for bisexual HIV funding in the federal HIV/AIDS budget

# Bisexual Recommendations: Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence

## Disparities

61.1% of bisexual women and 37% of bisexual men report experiencing rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, compared to 43.8% of lesbian women, 26% of gay men, 35% of heterosexual women, and 29% of heterosexual men.

More than 25% of transgender individuals have been sexually assaulted after the age of 13.

When reporting sexual assault, bisexual women receive the fewest positive social reactions, compared to lesbian and heterosexual women. Bisexual women also have higher Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression after sexual assault.

## Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should add bisexual specific resources to its LGBT health pages addressing sexual assault.

Federal funding available for domestic violence shelters and rape/sexual assault crisis centers should include a mandate and associated technical assistance funds that grantee organizations receive cultural competence training developed and delivered by LGBT researchers about serving sexual and gender minority survivors. These trainings must include specific modules about bisexual and transgender people that include narratives, data and best practices for serving youth, elders, people of color, and people with disabilities within these populations.

# Bisexual Recommendations: Data Collection

## Disparities

Many studies of sexual minorities report aggregate research results that do not distinguish the outcomes of bisexual people from those of lesbian and gay people. Federally funded research studies and reports often conflate gay and bisexual men and transgender women under the umbrella of “men who have sex with men,” ignoring the unique disparities and needs of men who have sex with people of more than one sex or gender and of transgender women.

These practices result in commingled data that make it hard to set targeted research priorities or tailored interventions to improve outcomes for bisexual people. Data should report research results of self-identified and behaviorally bisexual people separately from gay and lesbian people, and MSM and WSW.

## Recommendations

**All federal agencies and researchers should begin reporting bisexual HIV data within its own, separate category**

Federal agencies should consult with diverse bisexually identified researchers and related research and community organizations when designing surveys to examine sexual orientation and/or sexual behavior.

The NIH and CDC should fund studies to determine best survey design practices to measure sexual orientation, sex, gender identity and sexual behavior in health surveys.

The White House should order all agencies to review their programs, services, and regulations for areas that can be amended to be more supportive of bisexual people.

# Contributors and Acknowledgments

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- **Brian Dodge, PhD**
- **William Burleson**
- **Bisexual Community Organizations**
- **Bisexual Community Leaders**

# Resources

## Community 501(c)(3) Nonprofits:

### **BiNet USA @BiNetUSA**

Bi Awareness Week

### **Bisexual Organizing Project @biorgproject**

BECAUSE - April 8-10, 2016, Minneapolis

### **Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago**

Bi+ Suite at CC16

### **Bisexual Resource Center @BRC-Central**

Bi Health Awareness Month #bham

## Research & Events:

### **American Institute of Bisexuality**

Journal of Bisexuality

### **Bisexual Research Collective on Health**

(The Fenway Institute)

### **The Williams Institute (UCLA Law)**

### **BiCon + BiReCon**

Euro BiCon + BiReCon - July 28-31, 2016,  
Amsterdam

**Sign up to receive electronic copies of the finalized briefs.**

# Resources

## Folks of Color

### **Bi Women of Color @BIWOC**

Facebook and Tumblr

### **Fluid By Design (for men of African descent) @fluidbidesign**

New York City Meetup

### **Bis of Colour**

UK-based, online presence

## Affiliation Groups

### **BiLaw**

Lawyers

### **Bi Academics**

Professors, researchers, writers

### **BiRCH**

Health research and data collection

**Sign up to receive electronic copies of the finalized briefs.**



# #BHAM

# BISEXUAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

FEATURED

## Bisexual Health Awareness Month 2016!

BHAM is BACK! And this year's theme is **bisexual+ youth!**

Join the Bisexual Resource Center and #BiHealthMonth partners throughout March as we raise awareness about the unique health needs and experiences of bisexual+ (e.g. bisexual, fluid, no label, pansexual, queer) youth and promote resources and actions that can best support them at home, in school, and within their communities.

Want to become involved with this year's campaign? Have any questions? Reach out to us at [gham@biresource.net](mailto:gham@biresource.net)

*...Because our health matters, too!*



Bisexual Health Awareness Month (BHAM) is a social media campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the bisexual community's social, economic, and health disparities and advocating for resources and actions that can prevent or decrease these disparities. This year's focus is bisexual+ youth!

Connect with the BRC on Facebook!



<http://bihealthmonth.org/>



**Qs?**

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