



# Sexual & Gender Minority Research Working Group of the Council of Councils



Dr. Kimberly Leslie, Working Group Chair  
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# Sexual & Gender Minority

“Sexual and gender minority” is an umbrella phrase that encompasses lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations as well as those whose sexual orientation, gender identity and expressions, or reproductive development varies from traditional, societal, cultural, or physiological norms.



# Structural Stigma and All-Cause Mortality in SGM Populations<sup>1</sup>

- Evaluated role of structural stigma on SGM outcomes
- Defined as communities with high level of anti-gay prejudice using data from General Social Survey
- Linked to National Death Index prospectively
- SGM living in high-prejudice areas compared to low-prejudice areas had a Hazard ratio of mortality = 3.03 (95% CI = 1.50, 6.13)
- ***Projected to a shorter life expectancy of 12 y***
- Suicide, homicide/violence, and cardiovascular diseases were elevated as causes of death

# The Health of SGM Populations

- Of the homeless youth population of 1.6 million to 2.8 million, 20-40% are SGM youth. The estimated number of SGM youth facing homelessness each year is 320,000 to 400,000. <sup>2</sup>
- SGMs living in states that banned same-sex marriage (a measure of “institutional discrimination”) have higher mood disorder (36.6% increase), generalized anxiety disorder (248.2% increase), any alcohol use disorder (41.9% increase), and psychiatric comorbidity (36.3% increase).<sup>3</sup>
- SGMs have been subjected to violence and harassment because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. SGM students routinely experience more school victimization (threatened or injured with a weapon, not going to school because of safety concerns and being bullied) than heterosexual students. <sup>4</sup>



# The Health of SGM Populations (cont.)

- Depression and anxiety disorders are 1.5 times higher than non-SGM populations.<sup>5</sup>
- Rates of smoking and alcohol/substance use that are 1.5 times higher than the general population.<sup>6</sup>
- Suicide attempts in lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are more than twice the rate of their heterosexual peers.<sup>6</sup>
- Higher rates of HIV/AIDS in men who have sex with men (MSM); black and Latino men are disproportionately affected.<sup>7</sup>
- Significantly higher 5-year and lifetime risk for lesbians developing breast cancer.<sup>8</sup>

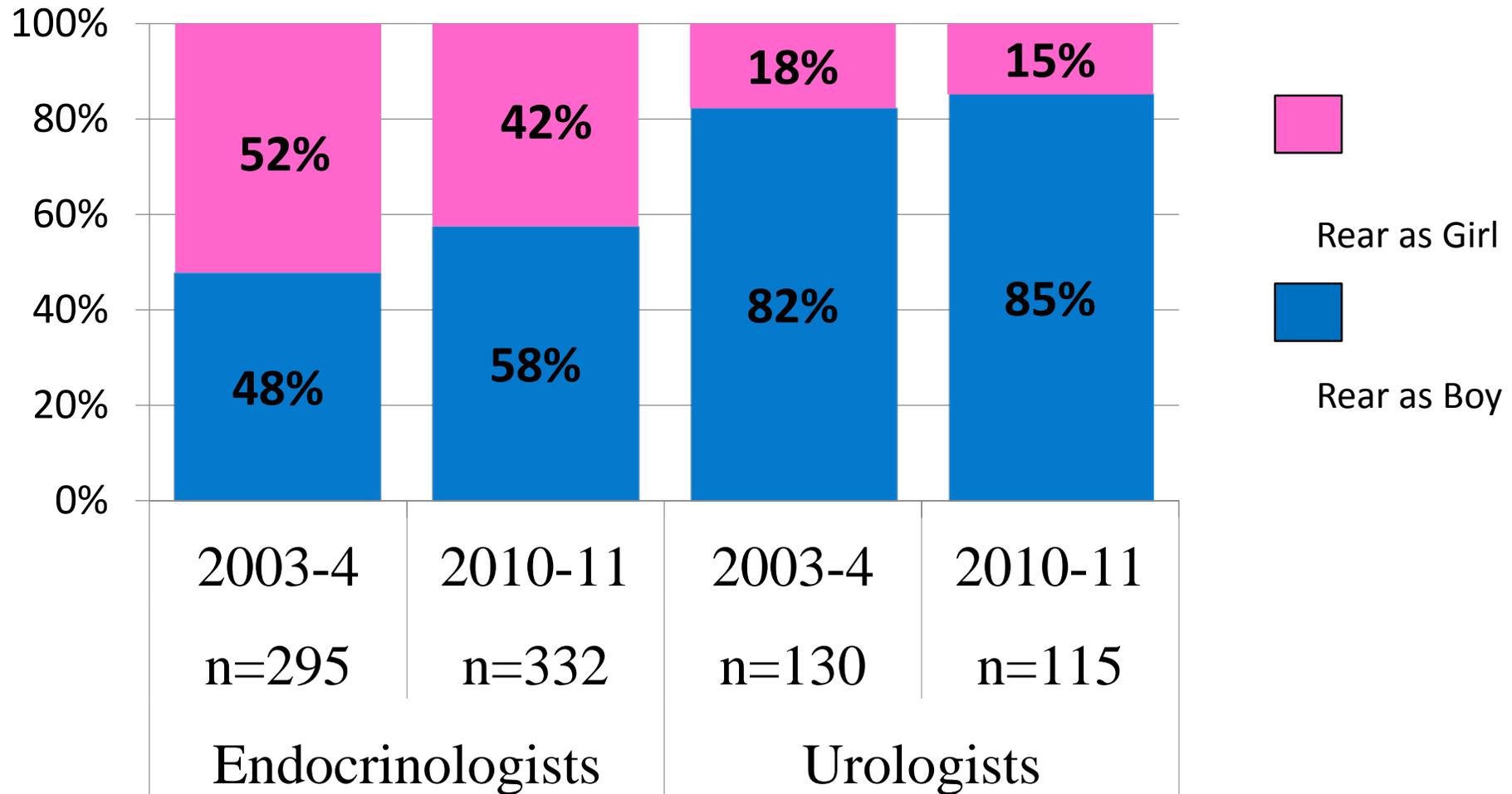


# *Is the Baby a Girl or a Boy?*

- The first question everyone asks at the birth of a new baby.
- The answer to that question is arguably the most important determinant of your future role in society: being a girl is very different than being a boy in all aspects of your life, including your health!
- What if your sex assignment at birth does not match your eventual psychological gender identity or orientation?
- What if sex assignment at birth cannot be made with confidence, as in the case of disorders of sexual development?

**Results (Presented by David Sandberg, University of Michigan)**

**Gender of Rearing: partial AIS (46 X,Y; androgen insensitivity)**



# Importance of SGM Health and Research

- Contemporary health disparities based on sexual orientation and gender identity are rooted in and reflect the historical stigmatization of SGM populations.
- Heterosexual and cisgender people (including many health care professionals), institutions, and systems function in a society that often stigmatizes SGMs.
- This has important implications for their ability to address the health needs of SGMs.<sup>9</sup>



# Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO)

Established in late 2015, the role of the SGMRO is to:

- Coordinate SGM health research across NIH;
- Represent NIH at conferences and events on trans-NIH activities focused on SGM research;
- Coordinate and convene conferences and workshops to inform priority setting and research activities;
- Collaborate with NIH Institutes and Centers on development of SGM health research reports;
- Manage information dissemination related to SGM research; and
- Work to leverage resources and/or develop initiatives to support SGM health research.



# Council of Councils SGM Research Working Group (RWG) Charge

The Council of Councils (Council) Sexual & Gender Minority Research Working Group (SGMRWG) will advise the Council on activities of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI) that relate to sexual and gender minority research including activities of the Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO).



# Council of Councils SGMRWG Charge (cont.)

In response to the NIH DPCPSI and SGMRO Directors, the SGMRWG will provide scientific expertise and advice to the Council on:

- Opportunities for trans-NIH research collaborations;
- Strategies for increasing the number of SGM investigators and the number of investigators conducting SGM-relevant research;
- Approaches for optimizing outreach to the SGM research and stakeholder communities;
- Priorities for the most needed and promising areas of SGM-related research; and
- Other activities requested by DPCPSI.



# SGMRWG Membership

**Kimberly Leslie, M.D.** University of Iowa

**Efrain Gutierrez, M.P.A.** Foundation Strategy Group

**Brian Mustanski, Ph.D.** Northwestern University

**Tonia Poteat, Ph.D.** Johns Hopkins

**John Sánchez, M.D., M.P.H.** Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

**David Sandberg, Ph.D.** University of Michigan

**Karina Walters, Ph.D., M.S.W.** University of Washington



# SGMRWG August 4 Webinar

- Introductions/Charge to the Working Group
- Overview—SGMRO and NIH SGM Research Strategic Plan
- Guidelines for Working Groups
- Open Discussion, Questions & Answers



# SGMRWG September 8 Meeting

- Update—SGMRO
- Background—National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Review of Action Plans for All Goals
- Overview—Disorders/Differences in Sex Development (DSD)
- Review—NIH SGM Strategic Plan Draft Strategies
- Discussion—NIH Principal Deputy Director, Lawrence A. Tabak



# Forthcoming Recommendations to the Council of Councils

- NIH SGM Strategic Plan Strategies
- Strategic Plan-Related Outputs/Outcomes
- Strategic Plan Progress Tracking



# Citations

1 Hatzenbuehler ML, Bellatorre A, Lee Y, Finch BK, Muennig, P, Fiscella K. Structural Stigma and All-Cause Mortality in Sexual Minority Populations. *Social Science and Medicine*. February 2014, Vol. 103, pp. 33-41.

2 Quintana SN, Rosenthal J, Kehely J. *On the Streets: The Federal Response to Gay and Transgender Homeless Youth*. Washington, D.C: Center for American Progress (CAP); 2010. Available at: <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/report/2010/06/21/7983/on-the-streets/>

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4 O'Malley Olsen E, Kann L, Vivolo-Kantor A, Kinchen S, McManus T. School Violence and Bullying among Sexual Minority High School Students, 2009-2011. *Journal of Adolescent Health*: September 2014, Vol. 55, No. 3, pp. 432-438. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24768163>

5 King M, Semlyen J, See Tai S, Killaspy H, Osborn D, Popelyuk D, Nazareth I. Systematic review of mental disorder, suicide, and deliberate self harm in lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. [Internet]. 2008 [cited 2013 Mar 10]. First published in *A BioMed Central Psychiatry*, 8(70):1-17. Available at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-244X/8/70>

6 Russell ST, Joyner K. Adolescent sexual orientation and suicide risk: Evidence from a national study. *American Journal of Public Health* 2001;91:1276–1281.

7 Ward BW, Dahlhamer JM, Galinsky AM, Joestl SS. Sexual orientation and health among U.S. adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2013. *National health statistics reports*; no 77. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2014. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/>

8 Kerr DL, Ding K, Thompson AJ. A comparison of lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual female college undergraduate students on selected reproductive health screenings and sexual behaviors. *Women's Health Issues*: November – December 2013, Vol.23, No. 6:e347-55. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24183409>

9 IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2011. *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64806/>



# Thank you!

