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Peers, Caregivers, Religion, and Sex Education: Relationships to Sexual Awareness

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Outline for this Presentation

- **Definitions**
- **Literature Review**
 - Sex Education,
Religion,
Caregivers,
Peers
- **Methods**
 - Participants
 - Measures
- **Results**
- **Discussion**
- **References**
- **Questions!**

Definitions

- Religiosity
 - The extent to which people are religious (irrespective of their religion)
- Sexual Awareness
 - How and to what extent people think about their own sexuality



Origins of sex research

- Prevalence of Sexualities (Ramsey, 1949)
- Opinions about sex (Ramsey, 1949)
- Hirschfeld, Kinsey, Masters & Johnson



General themes of sexuality research

- Themes:
 - Sex education (Kohler, 2007)
 - Abstinence vs. Comprehensive
 - Peers influence (Adamczyk, 2009)
 - Contraceptives
 - When they become sexually active
 - Religion (Ahrold & Meston, 2010)
 - Focus on behaviors
 - Acceptance of non-normative sexuality
 - Caregivers (Moore & Rosenthal, 1991)
 - 2 parent households
- Cognition research
 - Focused on shame and guilt
 - (Janda & O'Grady, 1980; Janda et al, 1981)
- Feelings about others sexuality

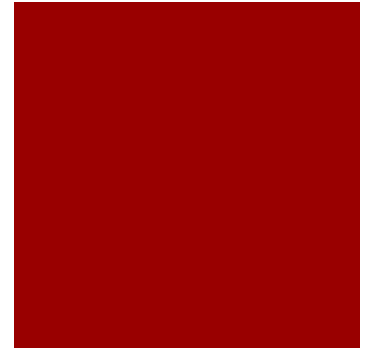
Purpose of Study

- Look at:
 - Cognitions not behaviors
 - Thought about own sexuality, not others
 - General exploration
 - No hypotheses



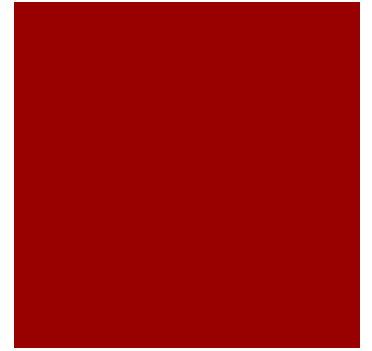
Methods: Participants

- Convenience sample
- 77 participants
- Demographics
 - Avg age: 20.14



Gender

- Women - 78%
- Men - 21%
- Genderqueer - 1%



Race

- White/European American - 74%
- Asian American/Pacific Islander - 9.1%
- Mixed-race/ Multiracial - 9.1%
- American Indian - 3.9%
- Latino - 2.6%
- Indian - 1.3%



Religion

- Christian - 53.2%
- Other - 16.9%
- Agnostic - 15.6%
- Atheist - 8.1%
- Buddhist - 3.9%
- Hindu - 1.3%
- American Indian Spiritual - 1.3%
- Jewish - 1.3%
- Taoist - 1.3%



Sexual Orientation

- Straight - 70.1%
- Bisexual - 11.7%
- Gay - 3.9%
- Queer - 3.9%
- Other - 3.9%
- Pansexual - 2.6%
- Asexual - 2.6%



Methods: Measures



- Questionnaires
 - Sex Education (Byers et al, 2003)
 - Caregivers & Peers (Moore & Rosenthal, 1991)
 - Systems of Beliefs Inventory* (Holland et al, 1998)
 - Sexuality Scale* (Snell & Papini, 1989)
 - Sexual Awareness Questionnaire* (Snell, Fisher & Miller, 1991)
 - Demographics
 - Open Ended Questions

* These measures have been validated

Peers and Sexual Awareness

- Overall scales
 - moderate positive relationship ($r(73) = .441, p < .001$)
 - moderate effect size ($r^2 = .194$)
- Peer influence in adolescence (Moore & Rosenthal, 1991; Potard, Courtois, & Rusch, E, 2008)

Caregivers and Sexual Awareness



- Sexuality Scale subscales:
 - Caregivers & Sexual Depression:
 - weak positive relationship ($r(73) = .259, p = .025$)
 - small effect size ($r^2 = .0671$)
- Caregivers only significantly correlating with one measure (Moore & Rosenthal, 1991)
 - Influence of parenting on teens (Harris, 2000)

Religion & Sexual Awareness



- Overall scales
 - weak inverse relationship ($r(73)=-.273, p=.018$)
 - small effect size ($r^2=.075$)
- Religiosity (Meier, 2003)
- Thinking about sex and religion
 - Sexual awareness

Differences between groups: Gender

Results

- Significant
 - Sexual Awareness
 - ($t(72) = -2.020$), $p = .047$)
- Not significant
 - Sexual Esteem/Depression
 - ($t(73) < 1.145$), $p < .256$)

Discussion

- Sexual attitudes of men and women (Geer & Robertson, 2005; Hendrick, Hendrick, Slapion-Foote, & Foote, 1985).
- Sexual Esteem/Depression (Petersen & Hyde, 2011)

Differences between groups: Sexual Orientation

Results

- Significant
 - Sexual Awareness
 - ($t(72) = 4.508$), $p < .001$)
- Not significant
 - Sexual Esteem/Depression
 - ($t(73) < -1.036$), $p > .304$)

Discussion

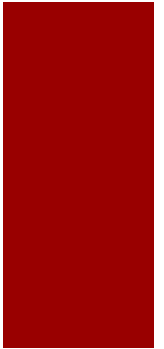
- Sexual attitudes in gay and straight men (Jellison, McConnell, & Gabriel, 2004)
- Sexual orientation and stigma/depression (Lewis, Derlega, Brown, Rose, & Henson 2009)

Limitations

- Sex ed measure incomplete
- No data about sexual activity of participants
- No data on rape and sexual assault/abusive relationships (Bartol & Kinder, 1998)
- Sample consists of only college students
- Some measures not validated

Further Research

- More gender diversity (Geer & Robertson, 2005; Petersen & Hyde, 2011)
- More racial diversity
- Relationships with caregivers
 - different relationships with different caregivers
- Media influence not discussed



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Questions?



Peers and Sexual Awareness

- Peers & Sexuality Scale subscales
 - Peers & Sexual Esteem
 - weak inverse relationship ($r(74) = -.233, p = .043$)
 - small effect size ($r^2 = .0523$)
 - Peers & Sexual Preoccupation
 - moderate inverse relationship ($r(74) = -.436, p < .001$)
 - moderate effect size ($r^2 = .190$)
- Peer influence (Moore & Rosenthal, 1991; Potard, Courtois, & Rusch, E, 2008)

Religion & Sexual Awareness

- Religion subscale & Sexual Awareness:
 - Religious Beliefs & Practices & Sexual Awareness
 - weak inverse relationship ($r(73)=-.291, p=.011$)
 - small effect size ($r^2=.0847$)
- Religion Overall & Sexual Awareness subscale
 - Religion & Sexual Monitoring
 - moderate inverse relationship ($r(75)=-.310, p=.006$)
 - moderate effect size ($r^2=.0961$).
 - Religion & Sexual Preoccupation
 - moderate positive relationship ($r(73)=.473, p<.001$)
 - moderate effect size ($r^2=.224$)



Differences between groups: Gender

Results

- Not significant
 - Peers
 - ($t(74) = .397$), $p = .692$)
 - Caregivers
 - ($t(72) = -.825$), $p = .412$)

Discussion

- Peers double standard?
(Moore & Rosenthal, 1991)
- Caregivers double
standard? (Moore & Rosenthal, 1991)

Differences between groups: Sexual Orientation

Results

- Significant
 - Peers
 - ($t(74) = 3.021$), $p = .003$)
- Not significant
 - Caregivers
 - ($t(72) = 1.644$), $p = .104$)

Discussion

- Supportive peers (Freidman & Morgan, 2009)
- Unsupportive caregivers?
(Freidman & Morgan, 2009)

Religion and Sex Ed

- Overall subscales
 - Moderate positive relationship ($r(74) = .300, p < .001$)
 - Moderate effect size ($r^2 = .09$)

