



Policy Attachment: 20.8 Reproductive Health Education and Services

Subject:	Definitions
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Additional Information:

Gender and Sexuality

Genetic/biological gender- a person's chromosomal inheritance.

Physical gender- a person's primary and secondary sexual characteristics.

Brain gender- functional structure of the brain along gender lines.

Brain sex- love/sex patterns, how a person relates to others on a social and interpersonal as well as sexual level.

Gender identity- a person's subjective gender, how we feel ourselves to be male or female.

Heterosexual- refers to sexual and/or romantic attraction between individuals of the opposite sex.

Homosexuality- refers to sexual and /or romantic attraction between individuals of the same sex. The term *gay* is used predominantly to refer to self-identified homosexuals of either sex. *Lesbian* is a gender-specific term that is only used for self-identified homosexual females.

Bisexuality- refers to sexual and/or romantic attraction to individuals of both sexes.

Having feelings about or even having a sexual experience with a person of the same sex doesn't necessarily mean that a person is gay or bisexual. It's not uncommon for people to experiment with their sexuality, especially during adolescence and young adults.

Gender Identity Disorder

Gender identity disorder- describes a conflict between a person's physical or apparent gender(sex) and that person's self-identification. This is distinct from homosexuality. Homosexuals nearly always identify with their apparent gender. When one's gender identity does not match their physical gender, the individual is termed gender dysphoric.

These terms define gender identification, not sexual orientation.

Transgender- a person whose sense of identity as a male or female is inconsistent with their genitalia and other anatomical sexual characteristics.

Male to female (MTF) transgender individual is a transgender woman.

Female to male (FTM) transgender individual is a transgender male.

Subject: Definitions

Transgenderist- a person who avoids gender role extremes and exhibits an androgynous presentation of gender. They incorporate elements of both masculinity and femininity into their appearance.

Transvestite or cross dresser- a person who will dress as a member of the opposite sex but does not identify as the opposite sex.

Intersex- a person who has both, neither, or ambiguous male or female genitalia.