

## **Addressing Social and Health Disparities in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning Communities**

**Satellite Conference and Live Webcast  
Wednesday, July 21, 2010  
2:00-4:00 p.m. Central Time**

**Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health  
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division**

## **Faculty**

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Board Member  
Gay Activist  
Equality Federation**

### **Health Care and the Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Gay Community**

- **Dynamics of the LGBT Community**
  - **The Closet**
    - **It's not just for your clothes**
  - **Discrimination/oppression**
    - **What does it mean to develop in a hetero normative society?**

### **Health Care and the Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Gay Community**

- **Spiritual oppression**
- **Jobs, housing, students, relationship status, etc.**

### **Health Care and the Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Gay Community**

- **Legal barriers**
  - **Currently there is only one law that addresses the protection of LGBT people**
- **Class issues**
  - **Stereotypes**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- **Multiple minorities**
  - **LGBT and aging**
    - **Age discrimination and the closet**
    - **Healthcare facilities, caregivers, other residents**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

**– Minority and LGBT**

- African American
- Latino/Latina
- Female
- Transgender

### **Health Care and LGBT**

• **Health and Wellness**

**– Primary Care Physicians**

- Fewer every day and even fewer who are sensitive to the community

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- Only 10 of the state's 67 counties have adequate medical access, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 2008 listing of medically underserved areas

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- 10 Things Gay Men Should Discuss with Their Healthcare Providers**
- 10 Things Lesbians Should Discuss with Their Healthcare Providers**
- 10 Things Transgender Persons Should Discuss with Their Healthcare Providers**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

• **Mental Health Care**

- Alabama has 7.1 psychiatrists per 100,000 populations while other neighboring states have 8.1 and the nation has 13.7**
- Alabama is below Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida with only Mississippi below our levels**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- Alabama has shortages of psychologists, social workers, and nurses who specialize in mental health in comparison to our neighbors and the nation**
- The psychiatric workforce is rapidly aging with most over the age of 50 and many (24%) over the age of 69**

## Health Care and LGBT

- The national rate of growth in training of psychiatrists is declining while the rate of growth for demand of services is rising

## Genetic Influences

### A Family History Study of Male Sexual Orientation Using Three Independent Samples

*Received 8 Sept. 1998—Final 25 Dec. 1998*

Available evidence suggests that male homosexuality is both familial and somewhat heritable and that some cases may be caused by an X-linked gene. However, most studies have recruited subjects in a relatively unsystematic manner, typically via advertisements, and hence suffer from the potential methodological flaw of ascertainment bias due to volunteer self-selection. In the present study we assessed the familiarity of male homosexuality using two carefully ascertained samples and attempted to replicate findings consistent with X-linkage in three samples. The percentage of siblings of the probands rated as either homosexual or bisexual, with a high degree of certainty, ranged from 7 to 10% for brothers and 3 to 4% for sisters. These estimates are higher than recent comparable population-based estimates of homosexuality, supporting the importance of familial factors for male homosexuality. Estimates of  $\lambda$ , for male homosexuality ranged from 3.0 to 4.0. None of the samples showed a significantly greater proportion of maternal than paternal homosexual uncles or homosexual male maternal first cousins. Although our results differed significantly with those of some prior studies, they do not exclude the possibility of moderate X-linkage for male sexual orientation.

**KEY WORDS:** Family history; male sexual orientation; X-linked gene; male homosexuality.

J. Michael Bailey, Richard C. Pillard, Khytam Dawood, Michael B. Miller, Lindsay A. Farrer, Shrutil Trivedi, and Robert L. Murphy

## Genetic Influences

### Male Homosexuality: Absence of Linkage to Microsatellite Markers at Xq28

Several lines of evidence have implicated genetic factors in homosexuality. The most compelling observation has been the report of genetic linkage of male homosexuality to microsatellite markers on the X chromosome. This observation warranted further study and confirmation. Sharing of alleles at position Xq28 was studied in 52 gay male sibling pairs from Canadian families. Four markers at Xq28 were analyzed (DXS1113, BGN, Factor 8, and DXS1108). Allele and haplotype sharing for these markers was not increased over expectation. These results do not support an X-linked gene underlying male homosexuality.

George Rice, Carol Anderson, Neil Risch, George Ebers  
www.sciencemag.org SCIENCE VOL 264 23 April 1999

## Genetic Influences

- Nat Genet 1995 Nov;11(3):248-56
- Linkage between sexual orientation and chromosome Xq28 in males but not in females
- Hu S, Pattatucci AM, Patterson C, Li L, Fulker DW, Cherny SS, Kruglyak L, Hamer DH

## Genetic Influences

- Laboratory of Biochemistry, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, USA

## Genetic Influences

“We have extended our analysis of the role of the long arm of the X chromosome (Xq28) in sexual orientation by DNA linkage analyses of two newly ascertained series of families that contained either two gay brothers or two lesbian sisters as well as heterosexual siblings...”

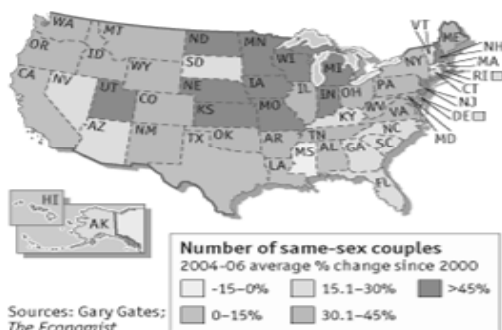
### Genetic Influences

“... Linkage between the Xq28 markers and sexual orientation was detected for the gay male families but not for the lesbian families or for families that failed to meet defined inclusion criteria for the study of sex-linked sexual orientation...”

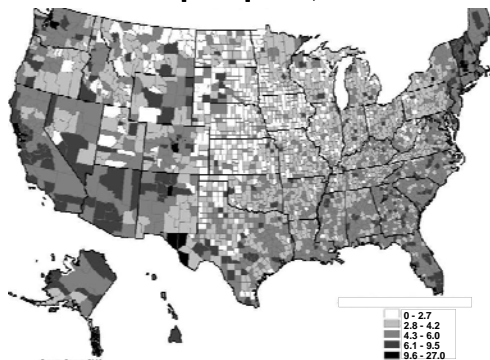
### Genetic Influences

“... Our results corroborate the previously reported linkage between Xq28 and male homosexuality in selected kinships and suggest that this region contains a locus that influences individual variations in sexual orientation in men but not in women.”

### Out of the Ghettos



### Same Sex Couples per 1,000 Households



### Health Care and LGBT

- Same-sex couples and the LGB population in Alabama
  - In 2000, there were 8,109 same-sex couples living in Alabama

### Health Care and LGBT

- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 8,602
  - This increase likely reflects same-sex couples’ growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys

### **Health Care and LGBT**

– In 2005, there were an estimated 94,639 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Alabama

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- Individuals in same-sex couples are demographically and geographically diverse
  - There are more female same-sex couples (51%) than male same-sex couples (49%) in Alabama

### **Health Care and LGBT**

– Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 41 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (47 years old) in Alabama

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- Same-sex couples live in every county in Alabama and constitute 0.8% of coupled households and 0.5% of all households in the state

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- Jefferson County reported the most same-sex couples with 1,488 couples (0.57% of all households in the county), followed by Mobile County with 800 couples (0.53%), and Madison County with 430 couples (0.39%)

### **Health Care and LGBT**

– The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Perry County (0.72% of all county households), Hale County (0.64%), Choctaw County (0.63%), and Bullock County (0.63%)

### Health Care and LGBT

- Alabama's same-sex couples are more racially and ethnically diverse than their married counterparts
  - 30% of same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared to 18% of married couples

### Characteristics of Couples

|                                  | Same-sex | Married               |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| At least one partner 65 or older | 15.4%    | 18.8%                 |
| Percent disabled                 | 38.8%    | 34.4%                 |
| Average household income         | \$59,145 | \$61,486              |
| Median household income          | \$43,000 | \$49,400              |
| Income gap between partners      | \$15,283 | \$25,118 <sup>*</sup> |
| Single wage earner               | 29.1%    | 33.8%                 |
| Homeownership                    | 57.9%    | 86.0%                 |
| % with children under 18         | 25.1%    | 46.4% <sup>*</sup>    |

<sup>\*</sup>Difference significant at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests)

<sup>^</sup> Difference significant at the 10% level or better (two-tailed tests)

### Health Care and LGBT

- There is little or no data on transgender people in Alabama
- It is suspected that transgender persons represent anywhere from .04% to 1% of the population in the United States

### Health Care and LGBT

- Identification of medical professionals in the state that specialize in providing care is a closely kept secret
- Most transgender persons seek healthcare in other states

### Health Care and LGBT

- Reparative Therapy aka Conversion Therapy aka Reorientation Therapy
  - Does not work

### Health Care and LGBT

- American Psychiatric Association opposes any psychiatric treatment, such as “reparative” or “conversion” therapy, that is based on the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or is based on the a priori assumption that the patient should change his or her homosexual orientation

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- **Several major professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, have made statements against “reparative therapy” because of concerns for the harm caused to patients**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- **John’s story**
- **Torro’s story**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- **Recent changes for the LGBT community**
  - **Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act**
  - **Hospital Visitation**
  - **Family Medical Leave Act**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- **Strategies to change the landscape**
  - **A welcoming environment**
    - **Creating welcoming spaces**
    - **How many LGBT employees do you have?**
    - **Are your policies LGBT friendly?**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- **Support the LGBT Community**
  - **Financially support LGBT organizations**
    - **Equality Alabama**
    - **PFLAG**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- **Outreach and Coalition Building**
  - **Create synergies that promote working together**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- **Be an advocate**
  - **Find opportunities to be supportive**
  - **Write a letter to the editor**
  - **Help get laws that provide equality and protection to these communities passed**

### **Health Care and LGBT**

- **Create an LGBT resource guide for your community**

### **Resources**

- [www.glma.org](http://www.glma.org)
- [www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute](http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute)
- [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org)
- [www.equalityfederation.org](http://www.equalityfederation.org)
- [www.equalityalabama.org](http://www.equalityalabama.org)
- [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)
- [www.lgbthealth.net](http://www.lgbthealth.net)
- [www.ifge.org](http://www.ifge.org)