From Data to Decision Making: Ensuring SOGI Data is Collected, Analyzed and Used

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Gay Men’s Health Equity Work Group

- NASTAD recognizes the disproportionate impact HIV and other STDs have on gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBM).

- The work group provides a platform for conversations on best practices as well as new resources and tools to support an effective response.

- If interested in joining, contact Andrew Zapfel (azapfel@nastad.org)
Why is SOGI Data Collection Important?

- We know sexual orientation and gender identity play integral parts in people’s lives.

- LGBT individuals have lower rates of health insurance coverage and greater disease burden. (Kaiser Family Foundation)

- Yet, in demographic research, LGBT populations are often undercounted or not represented.
  - Transgender women often included with men who have sex with men in public research studies.
  - Lack of data on transgender men.
  - Lack of disaggregated data among gay and bisexual men.
American Men’s Internet Survey – Emory University

- Annual, web-based survey for men who have sex with men in the United States
- In 2016, 10,166 individuals were surveyed
- Emory University is open to adding additional questions, just need to contact the researchers to discuss the needs of your jurisdiction.
- Example of Research: The reported use of marijuana, methamphetamines, and substances in the past 12 months was higher among HIV-positive participants than among HIV-negative/unknown-status participants
American Men’s Internet Survey

Users support sexual health strategies

AMIS, 2017
App owners have incorporated many structural features

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<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>CONDOMS</th>
<th>PrEP USE</th>
<th>UNDETECTABLE</th>
<th>HIV STATUS</th>
<th>TEST REMINDERS</th>
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AIDSVu

- An interactive, online mapping tool that visualizes impact of the HIV epidemic.

- Allows users to:
  - View local data
  - Understand PrEP need
  - Locate services
  - Compare to Ending the HIV Epidemic goals

More information can be found at: www.aidsvu.org
Population Size Estimation

- University of Washington provides capacity building assistance to jurisdictions to conduct population size estimates. The below information is from work done in Nebraska.

- Methodology showed:
  - Black MSM with HIV: 37.3% (310/832)
  - Hispanic MSM with HIV: 12.5% (271/2,160)
  - White MSM with HIV: 6.8% (970/14,284)

- Such information allowed the Nebraska HIV response to reprioritize black gay and bisexual men for programming.
The YRBS, a national tool to collect health needs of adolescents, can include questions on sexual orientation and gender identity.

It is critical to collect such information:
- In 2016, 34% of LGB youth were likely to be bullied at school compared to 19% of their heterosexual peers.
- In 2015, 43% considered suicide and 30% attempted suicide.

Research shows us that SOGI-inclusive policies, staff professional developed, resources and information, and the presence of student-led groups reduce bullying and discriminatory behavior. (Day et al 2019)

Only 3 states have a gay-straight alliance in more than half of their schools. (Child Trends)
The Secret Shopper tool provides a framework and step-by-step guide for health facilities to adapt an innovative approach to engage the community in monitoring and evaluating stigma and discriminatory behaviors.
Stigma research can be done!

Yale University and Building Healthy Online Communities Coalition have been studying stigma on gay and bisexual male dating apps

Research to see user uptake of the following:
- Code of ethics: Requires users to read and agree to rules before they can join
- Flagging and Educational Video:
- Badge/Rating System
- Pre-Generated Messages
How much would you like to have this feature on this app?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
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<th>Moderately like</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Generated Message</td>
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A global, US Agency for International Development funded project focused on strengthening research in health programming.

Includes trainings on how best to develop and conduct SOGI surveys to gather relevant health information.

Developed a literature review and framework for thinking through survey development process for SOGI related research.
Thank You!

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