


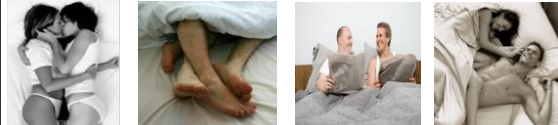
Chapter 12: Gender and Sexuality

Objective's for Today's Class:

- Sexual orientation
- Development of sexual identity



What motivates us to have sex?



Sexual Scripts

- **Traditional religious script**
 - Sex is accepted only within marriage
 - Extramarital sex is taboo, especially for women
 - Sex means reproduction and sometimes affection
- **Romantic script**
 - Sex is synonymous with love
 - If we develop a relationship with someone and fall in love, it is acceptable to have sex with the person whether we are married or not

How Often Do Americans Have Sex?

- One-third of 18- to 50-year-olds have intercourse as often as twice a week
- One-third of 18- to 50-year-olds have intercourse a few times a month
- One-third of 18- to 50-year-olds have intercourse a few times a year or not at all

What is the Likelihood of Sex Tonight? (Clark & Hatfield, 1989; Thiessen, 1994)

- Men and women were approached by an attractive member of the opposite sex and were asked if they would go out on a date that night, go back to the attractive person's house that night, or have sex with that attractive person that night
 - Women: 50% agreed to the date, 6% agreed to go back to his place, and 0% agreed to have sex
 - Men: 50% agreed to the date, 69% agreed to go back to her place, and 75% agreed to have sex



What are the male-female differences in sexuality?

In a review of 177 studies of gender differences (Oliver and Hyde, 1993) found the largest gender difference was the incidence of masturbation

Masturbation

- Males are more likely than females to report masturbating
- Males are more likely than females to begin masturbating at earlier ages

Casual Sex

- Males report more casual attitudes about premarital sex than do females
- Males report pleasure as a motive, while females emphasize love and emotional commitment

Are There Other Differences?

- On average, men more consistently experience orgasm during sex than women
- On average, men have a stronger sex drive than women do
- On average, men think about sex more often
- On average, men desire more sexual partners and a greater frequency of intercourse

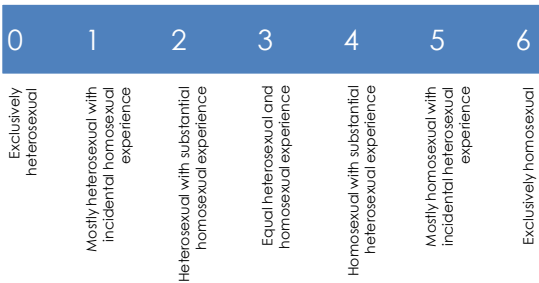
What is Sexual Orientation?

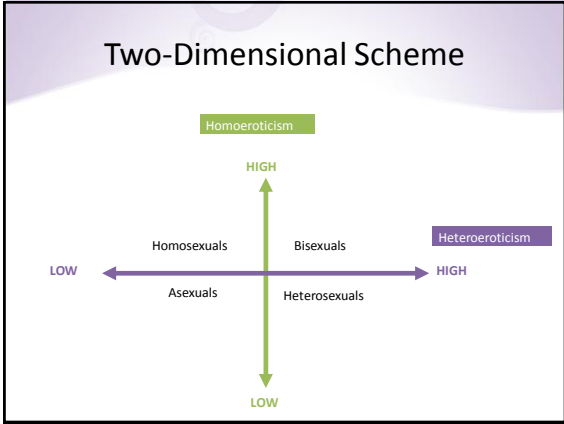


What is Sexual Orientation?

- A person's erotic and emotional orientation toward members of his or her own gender or members of the other gender
 - Heterosexual
 - Homosexual
 - Bisexual

Kinsey's Continuum





THINK

Why do people become heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual?

We do not know what causes sexual orientation. An individual's sexual orientation is determined by a combination of genetic, hormonal, cognitive, and environmental factors

The Statistics

- About 92% of men and 95% of women are exclusively heterosexual
- About 7-8% of men and about 4-5% of women have had at least one same-gender sexual experience in adulthood
- About 2% of men and 1% of women are exclusively homosexual

Development of a Sexual Identity

- An adolescent's sexual identity involves sexual orientation, activities, interests, and styles of behavior
 - Adolescent homosexual behavior *does not* seem to be predictive of adult homosexual orientation
 - About 10% of men in college and 6% of women report having had one homosexual partner in high school

Let's Talk About Dating and Sex

During adolescence heterosexual behavior gains prominence and becomes the major sexual outlet

Who Is Having Sexual Intercourse?

- The timing of sexual intercourse varies by country, gender, and other socioeconomic characteristics
 - 8 out of 10 girls and 7 out of 10 boys are virgins at age 15
 - 34% of 9th graders report having sexual intercourse compared with 63% of 12th graders

A New Trend

- A significant increase in oral sex (Schwartz, 1999)
 - Over 50% of boys and girls have engaged in oral sex at least once prior to their first sexual intercourse
 - Over 25% of boys and girls have engaged in oral sex on numerous occasions before ever having intercourse

Oral Sex: It is Casual Sex?

(comments from interviews with junior high and high school students)

- "It's a way to take the relationship to a different level without going all the way. It's a step in between." (boy)
- "I had oral sex when I was 15 with a male friend. I was wanting to fit in, so you make the choice." (girl)
- "It's not like having sex. It's not as big a commitment." (boy)
- "It's not like being committed. It's just basically friends with benefits." (girl)

Please be prepared to discuss these concepts in class when we return
