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Day

May 1st, 12:00 AM

Barriers to Parent-Child Sex Communication: Exploring the perspective parents with gay, bisexual, and queer adolescent sons.

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Mansour, Maikel; Allen, Angela; Amador, Idelys; Cortes, Carolina; Cottrell, Alaina; Goodman, James; Henriquez, Lady; Iqbal, Zanib; Kashine, Nicole; Kovoov, Mary; Mohammed-Bashiru, Halima; Moody, Amanda; O'Connor, Racquel; Pierre, Ludween; Scambia, Nicole; Yu, Cathy; and Bond, Keosha, "Barriers to Parent-Child Sex Communication: Exploring the perspective parents with gay, bisexual, and queer adolescent sons." (2020). *Annual SHSP Student Research and Scholarship Day*. 3. <https://touro scholar.touro.edu/shspstudentresearchday/2020/publichealth/3>

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Presenter Information

Maikel Mansour, Angela Allen, Idelys Amador, Carolina Cortes, Alaina Cottrell, James Goodman, Lady Henriquez, Zanib Iqbal, Nicole Kashine, Mary Kovoov, Halima Mohammed-Bashiru, Amanda Moody, Racquel O'Connor, Ludween Pierre, Nicole Scambia, Cathy Yu, and Keosha Bond



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Parents as HIV/STI Prevention Agents for Gay, Bisexual, Queer Adolescent Sons: Exploring the Facilitators and Barriers to Parent-Child Sex Communication

Presented by: BSHM 7096: Capstone (DL)

Capstone Advisor: Keosha T. Bond, EdD, MPH, CHES

May 7, 2020





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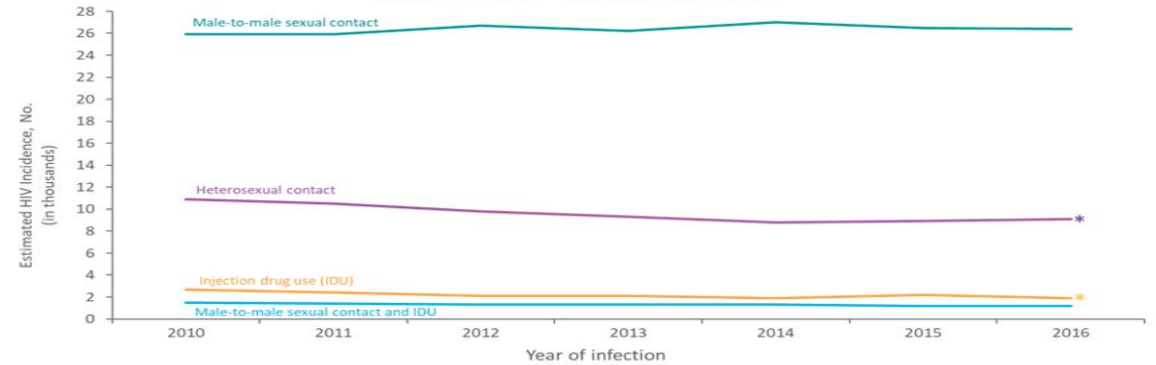
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38,739

In 2017, 38,739 people received an HIV diagnosis in the US²

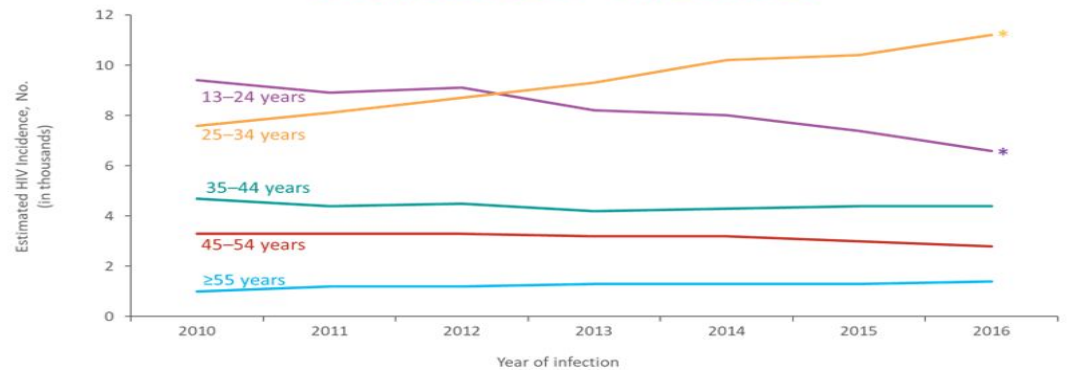
FROM 2012-2017,
YOUTH
(AGED 13-24) ACCOUNTED FOR OVER
1/5 OF ALL **NEW HIV DIAGNOSES.**

Estimated HIV Incidence among Persons Aged ≥13 Years, by Transmission Category 2010–2016—United States



Note. Estimates were derived from a CD4 depletion model using HIV surveillance data. Data have been statistically adjusted to account for missing transmission category. Heterosexual contact is with a person known to have, or to be at high risk for, HIV infection.
* Difference from the 2010 estimate was deemed statistically significant ($P < .05$).

Estimated HIV Incidence among Men who Have Sex with Men Aged ≥13 Years by Age, 2010–2016—United States



Note. Estimates were derived from a CD4 depletion model using HIV surveillance data. Data have been statistically adjusted to account for missing transmission category. Data on men who have sex with men do not include men with HIV infection attributed to male-to-male sexual contact and injection drug use.
* Difference from the 2010 estimate was deemed statistically significant ($P < .05$).



Parent-Child Sex Communication (PCSC)

Bi-directional discussions between parents and their children about sex-related topics

- Enhances efficacy with condom use
- Encourages resistance when pressured to have sex
- Initiates conversations about HIV prevention before engaging in sex
- Increases adolescents' tendency to access and use reproductive and sexual health services



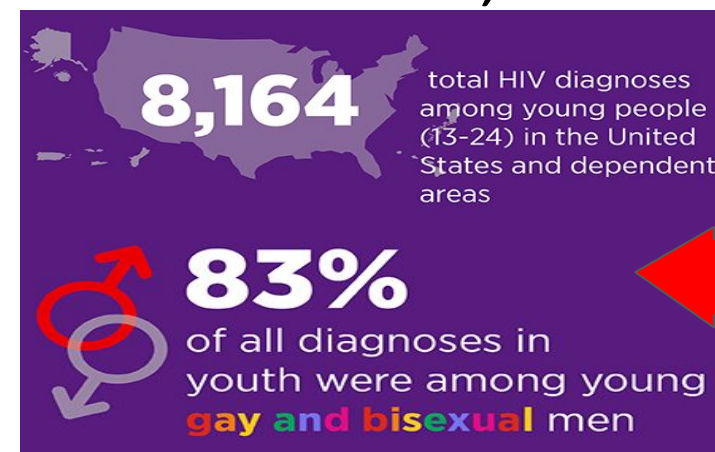
Protective effects of PCSC among GBQ adolescents = **UNKNOWN**



Use of Parents as HIV/STI Prevention Agents for GBQ Adolescents

- Lack of inclusive sex education in school
- Easy access to adolescent children
- Concern for child's health and protection from HIV
- Influence child's development of sexual attitudes and beliefs
- GBQ sons' preferred source of sex information

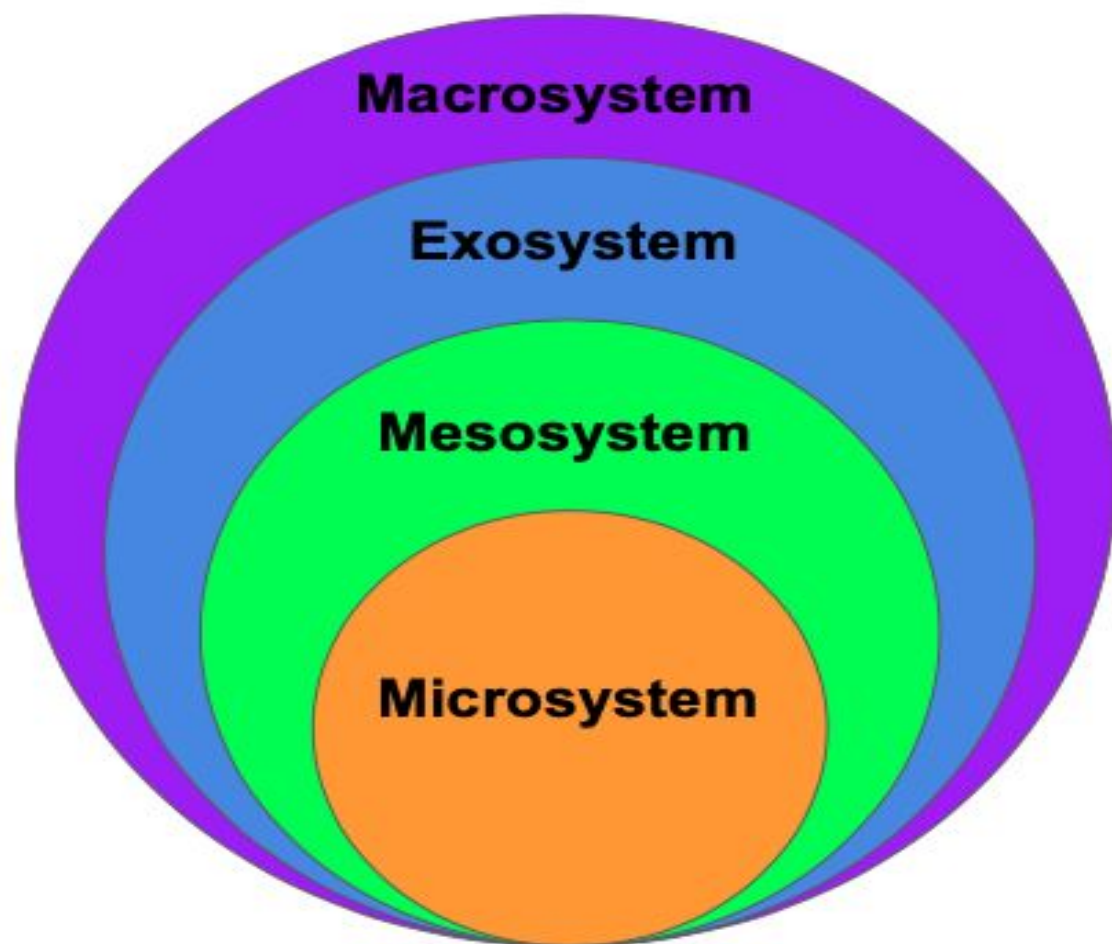
In 2017,



Parents as HIV/STI prevention agents can potentially decrease sexual risk behaviors and HIV incidence.



Bronfenbrenner's Bioecological Theory of Development



- Microsystem
 - Immediate environments
- Mesosystem
 - Direct aspects of the microsystem that influence a person's development
- Exosystem
 - Outside of an individual's control
- Macrosystem
 - Cultural and societal beliefs that influence an individual's development process



Study Purpose: Explore parents' perceptions of PCSC

The specific questions that guided the study are as follows:

1. What factors inhibit and encourage parents from having broad discussions about sexual health with GBQ adolescent sons?
2. What individual-, family-, cultural-factors prevent and potentiate parents' capacity for sexuality-specific discussions about sexual health with their GBQ adolescent sons?





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Methods



Study Design

- Original Study: Multi-method qualitative study conducted by UPenn Study Team from Oct 2018 – May 2019
 - **Phase 1: Parents**
 - Phase 2: Parent-Child Dyads
- Current Study: Secondary analysis of one-on-one, in-depth interviews from phase 1
 - 15 participants
 - Identified barriers and facilitators to:
 - General sex communication
 - GBQ-centered sex communication
 - Interviews lasted 1.5 - 2 hours
 - Compensation: \$40 Gift Card





Recruiting Participants

- Parents of GBQ adolescent males were recruited from local PFLAG chapters in nearby cities through the use of flyers which contained researcher's contact information
- Eligibility determined through telephone screening
- Snowball sampling was used to expand recruitment from outside of primary recruitment site





Inclusion and Exclusion



Criteria

Parents who expressed interest in the study were included using the following criteria:

- be an English-speaking parent or legal guardian (mother, father or legal guardian)
- may or may not have discussed sex with GBQ sons/dependents
- have sons currently between the ages of 12 to 20
- be residents of Philadelphia and nearby cities in Pennsylvania, including nearby cities in New Jersey and Delaware.



Measure & Materials: Interview Guide

Rapport-Building

- How old is your son?
- Is he active in school?
- What sort of activities does he do for fun?

Open Ended

- Please tell me about the time you first talked about/addressed sex with your son.

Probes

- What was it like? How old was he?
- What topics did you cover during that conversation?



**Analysis
answers the
following
questions:**



Who?
The investigative team analyzed the research findings that were initially collected during the one-on-one interviews conducted by Dalmacio Dennis Flores, PhD, ACRN (2020) in Project S.T.E.P. (Sex Talk to Empower Parents).



What?
The sub-investigative team was composed of students from the NYMC Behavioral Sciences and Health Promotion Capstone course (BSHM 7096), led by Dr Keosha Bond.



Why?
Critical analysis of the data helps to identify barriers & facilitators to PCSC. It also enabled the investigative team to create a codebook.



How?
(1) Development of codebook (2) Software utilization (3) Address discrepancies



Secondary Analysis

Objective: understand the perspective of factors that facilitate & impede PCSC between parents & their GBQ male sons

- Thematic analysis was used to identify major themes within the interview transcripts.
- Parent-Child Sex Communication was summarized.
- A priori codes were gathered in order to form an initial coding scheme to build upon.
- Facilitator & barrier codes were used to create the codebook, using the Bronfenbrenner's Bioecological model and the existing literature for PCSC as guides.
- Codes were continuously refined.
- Within the sub-investigative team, 4 people were selected as Coders.
- Qualitative data software, Dedoose, was used to analyze transcripts.
- Despite being a multi-step process, inter-coder agreement was 100% & all themes represented the data in a consistent fashion.





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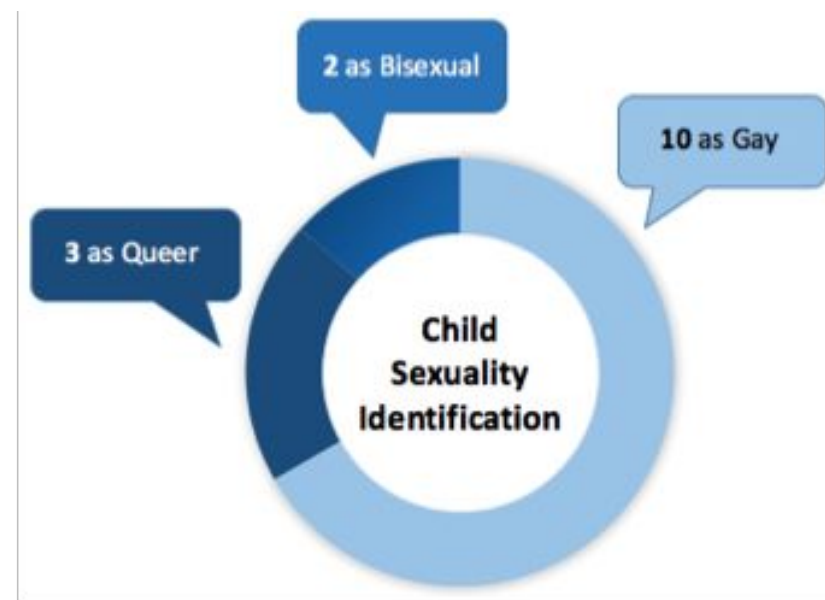
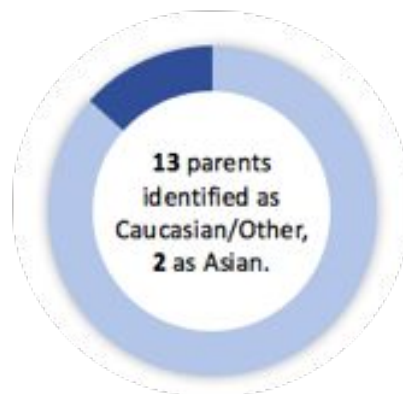
Results



Results

The Sample

Sample (10 Mothers, 5 Fathers)



Child Age Range and Mean (in Years)

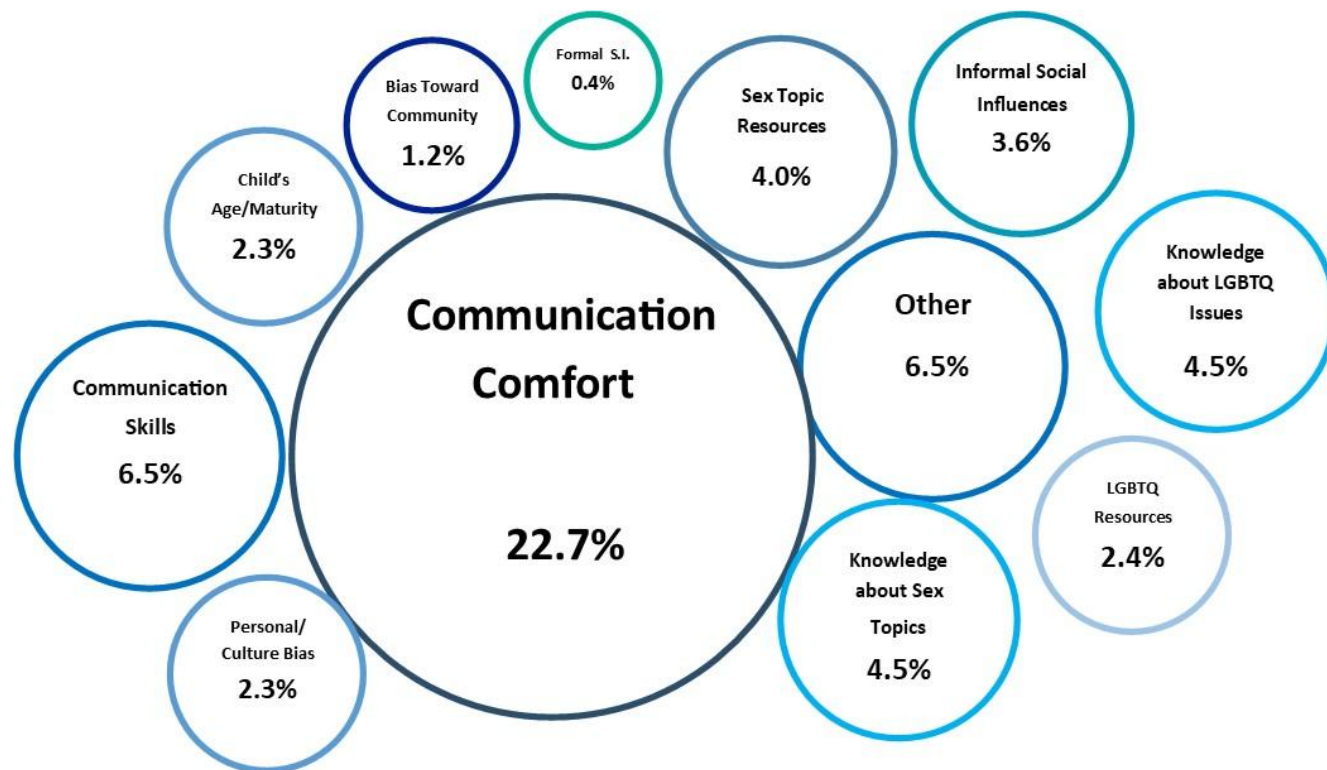


Results

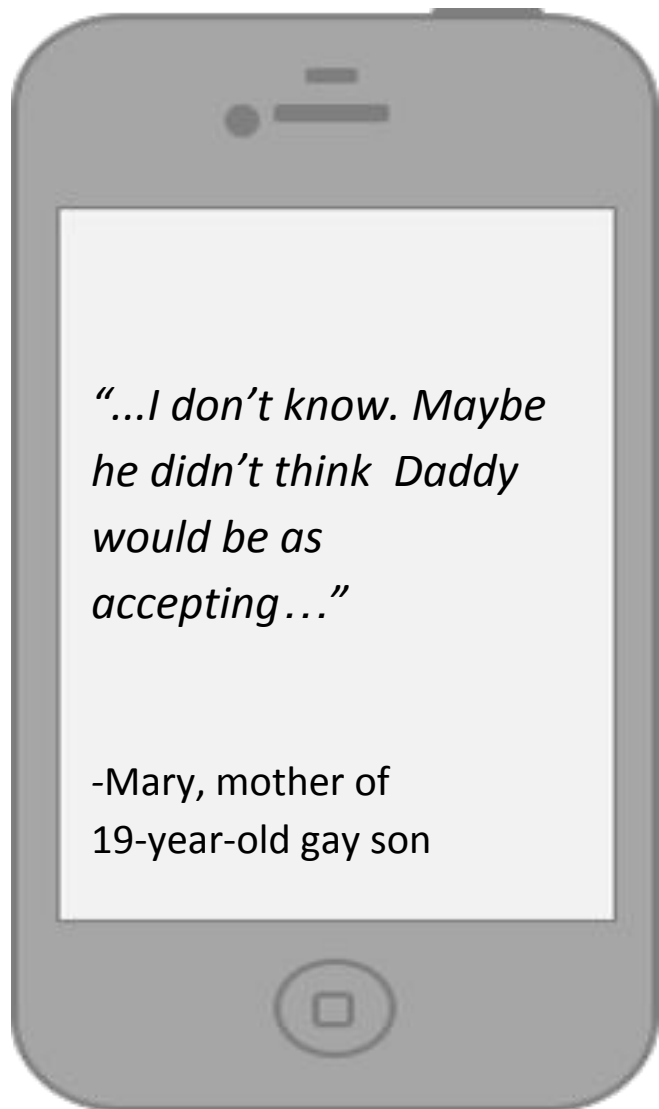
Parent Barriers

"I just feel like approaching it is gonna make my child feel so uncomfortable that I hesitate to do it".

-Mary, mother of 15 year old gay son

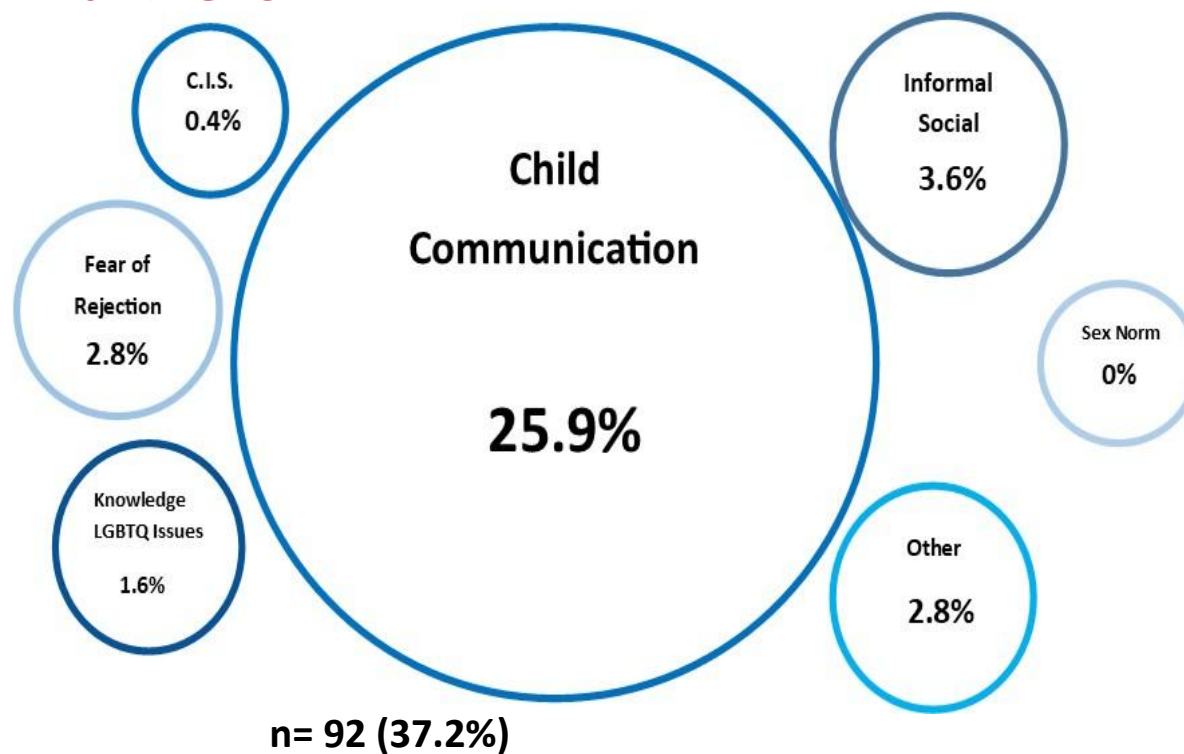


n= 155 (62.8%)



Results

Child Barriers



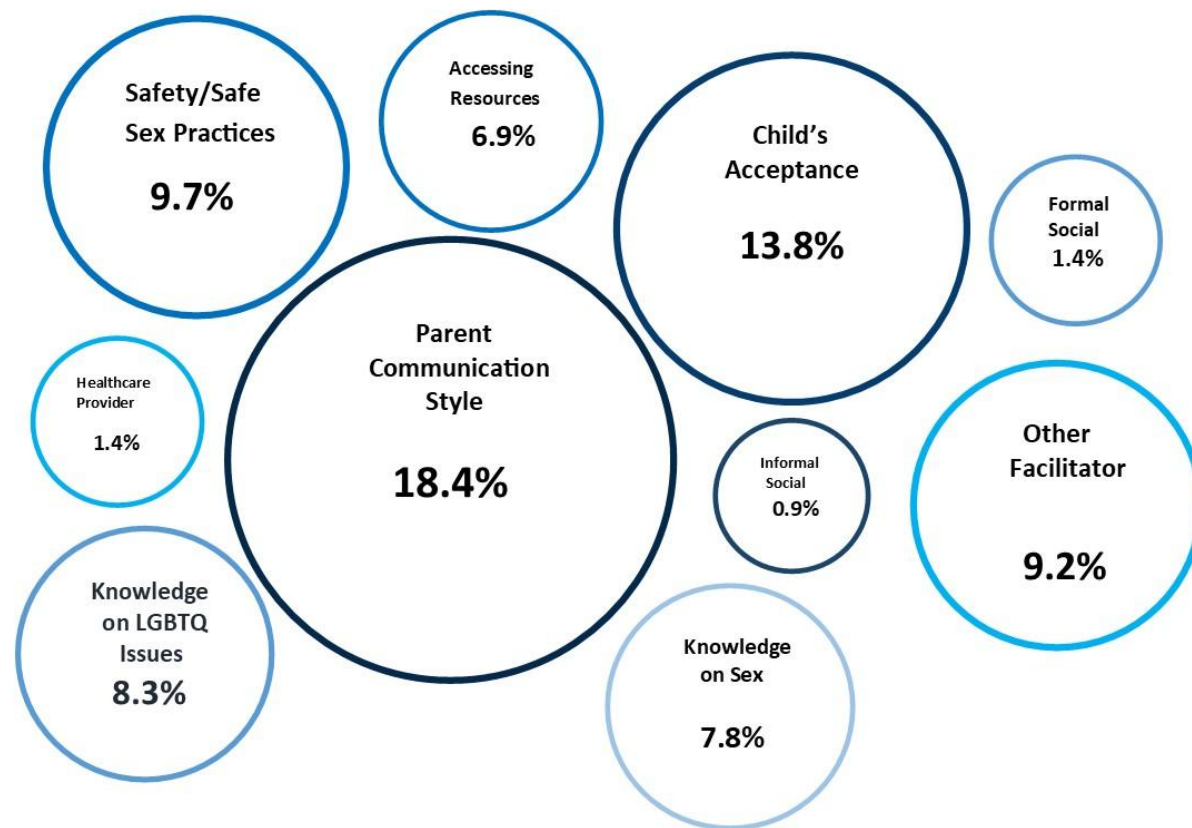


Results

Parent Facilitators

“We always tried to, you know, use language around the house that was very inclusive.”

- James, father of a 19 year old gay son



n=169 (77.9%)



Results

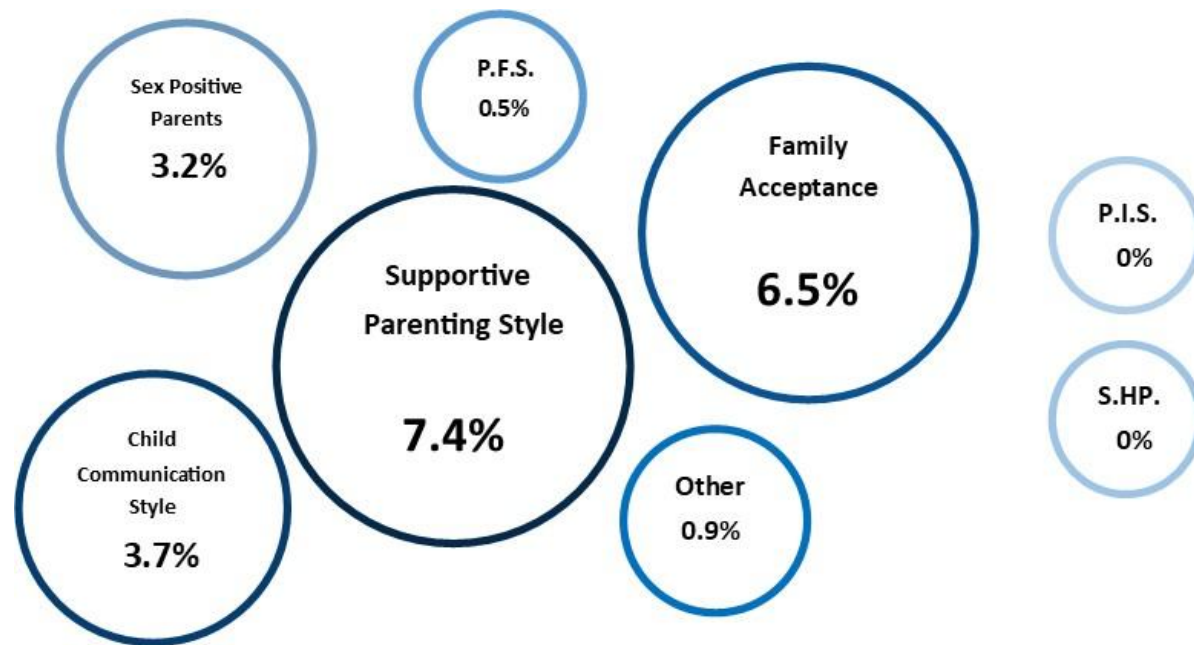
Child Facilitators

“Rules should be the same for straight teenagers, I would think. You don’t have to sneak around, um, don’t be embarrassed, it’s not a problem.”

-Tom, father of 15-year old gay son

“Some of the early indications that make you question, you know, the direction an individual’s sexuality may be going. So we were both perfectly fine with that. It really didn’t matter to either of us.”

- James, father of 19-year old gay son



n= 48 (22.1%)



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Discussion



Discussion

Aim 1: Description of parents' perceptions of non-heteronormative parent-child sex communication

Aim 2: Recommendations to initiate and sustain inclusive parent-child sex communication with respect to barriers and facilitators





Interpretation of results in the context of previous research

Child-specific Barriers

- Heteronormative-specific information overload
- Fear of rejection or disapproval from parents.
- External informal influences on parent strict concepts about sexuality.
- Generational gap between parent and child.
- Lack of resources for comprehensive LGBTQ sexual education.
- Inadequacy in inclusive sexual education among medical providers.

Parent-specific Barriers

- Lack of understanding about LGBTQ-specific sexuality
- Discomfort in communicating about sex with their LGBTQ children
- Heightened fear about their children having negative experiences with sexuality.
- Lack of necessary communication skills or tactics that are important in facilitating conversations about sex with their children.
- Preconceived ideas about their children's future heterosexual relationship.



Interpretation of results in the context of previous research

Child-specific Facilitators

- Supportive parenting styles
- Knowledge of family's acceptance



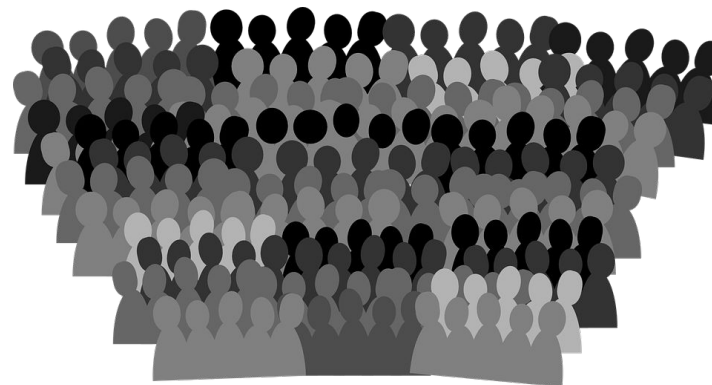
Parent-specific Facilitators

- Comfort in discussing sex
- Acceptance of their son's identity
- Knowledge on LGBTQ issues and sex topics
- Desire to protect child from HIV/STIs
- Availability of LGBTQ educational resources



Limitations

- Small sample size
- Includes only English speakers
- Lack of racial/ethnic diversity
- Theories not widely tested in context of PCSC
- Highly sensitive topic
- Demographics were self reported





Implications for Future Research

- Extend studies to other members of LGBTQ community
 - Lesbian, bisexual, queer girls
 - Transgender youth
 - Non-binary youth
 - Other geographical locations
- Expand to other aspects of the GBQ youth experience
 - Stigma
 - Stereotyping
 - Shame





Conclusion

Overall Factors that Determine Positive Parent-Child Sex Communication:

- Parent- and Child-communication style
- Communication comfort
- Parents' high degree of acceptance of their children

Recommendation for Positive and Inclusive Parent-Child Sex communication

- Parents must develop the ability to engage in consistent, sex-positive, non-heteronormative sexual discussions with their GBQ sons.
- Healthcare providers should advise parents about the value of discussing sex topics with their LGBTQ children.



BSHM 7096: Capstone

- Angela Allen
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- Nicole Scambia
- Cathy Yu



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