LGBT Youth in Detention
Understanding and Integrating Equitable Services

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Presenters

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Workshop Objectives

• To describe the available data on lesbian, gay, bisexual and gender non-conforming youth in detention
• To discuss the implications for practice
• To describe integration of these issues in site-based reform efforts
Workshop Agenda

• Quiz: what do we know?
• Case example: how can we apply this knowledge?
• Santa Clara and Calcasieu: what is happening on the ground?
Question #1

What percentage of youth incarcerated in detention facilities nationwide are lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, or gender non-conforming?

a) 4%
b) 11%
c) 15%
c) 15% of youth incarcerated in detention facilities nationwide are lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, or gender non-conforming

Angela Irvine, 2010: ‘We’ve Had Three of Them’: Addressing the Invisibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Gender Non-Conforming Youth in the Juvenile Justice System
Question #2

Every person has a gender identity.

a) True
b) False
a) True
Every person has a gender identity.
Question #3

The term “transgender” refers to:

a) People who are not sure whether they are male or female.
b) People whose gender identity is different from their anatomical sex.
c) People who are asexual.
Answer #3

b) The term “transender” refers to people whose gender identity is different from their anatomical sex.
Question #4

What percentage of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) students missed a day of school in the last month because they felt unsafe at their school?

a) 10%
b) 30%
c) 40%
Answer #4

b) 30% of LGBT students missed a day of school in the past month because of safety concerns, compared to only 6.7% of a national sample of secondary school students.

GLSEN: The 2009 National School Climate Survey
Question #5

Of the incarcerated youth who reported being sexually victimized by other youth, the number of LGB (lesbian, gay, bisexual) youth was about ___ times the number of heterosexual youth.

a) 4  
b) 6  
c) 10
c) 10 times higher
Youth with a sexual orientation other than heterosexual reported significantly higher rates of sexual victimization by other youth (12.5%) compared to heterosexual youth (1.3%).

Beck, A.J., et al., 2010: Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth 2008-09
Question #6

Which ethnic or racial group had the highest rate of disclosure of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or gender non-conforming identities?

a) White/Caucasian  
b) Black/African American  
c) Native American  
d) Hispanic/Latino
Answer #6

c) Native American youth had the highest rate of disclosure rate of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or gender non-conforming identity.

White/Caucasian: 10%
Black/African American: 10%
Native American: 24%
Hispanic/Latino: 10%

Angela Irvine, 2010: ‘We’ve Had Three of Them’: Addressing the Invisibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Gender Non-Conforming Youth in the Juvenile Justice System
Question #7

Lesbian, bisexual, and questioning girls have a higher detention rate for prostitution than heterosexual girls.

a) True
b) False
a) True

11% of lesbian, bisexual and questioning girls were detained for prostitution compared with 5% of their peers.

Angela Irvine, 2010: ‘We’ve Had Three of Them’: Addressing the Invisibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Gender Non-Conforming Youth in the Juvenile Justice System
Question #8

Up to ____ of homeless youth are LGBT.

a) 10%
b) 20%
c) 40%
Answer #8

c) Up to 40% of homeless youth are LGBT.

Nicholas Ray, 2006: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth: An Epidemic of Homelessness
Question #9

The majority of LGBT youth don’t attempt suicide in spite of the discrimination & harassment they face. A recent study found which of the following to be the most important protective factor in preventing LGBT youth from considering suicide?

a) Getting good grades at school.
b) Seeing LGBT role models in the media.
c) Having supportive family and friends.
c) Having supportive family and friends is the most important protective factor in preventing LGBT youth from considering suicide.

Richard T. Liu and Brian Mustanski: Suicidal Ideation and Self-Harm in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth
Meet Sami

Sami is a 16 year old youth who is charged with assault for a fight that occurred at school. This is Sami’s first offense, though the police report indicates a history of running away and truancy. Sami has also been in and out of foster care.
Intake and Risk Assessment

Assume that you are the intake officer in the detention facility, and you are conducting a risk assessment. Sami’s gender is not immediately apparent to you. Although the arrest report indicates that Sami is male, the youth’s clothing and mannerisms seem feminine. Sami is wearing tight white jeans, and a pink polo shirt. Sami has long hair, and appears to be wearing lipstick.
Gender and Sexual Orientation

• Do you ask about Sami’s gender? If so, what do you ask Sami?
• Do you ask about Sami’s sexual orientation? If so, what do you ask Sami?
Name and Pronoun

• The arrest documents indicate that the youth’s name is Samuel, but she insists that her name is Samantha and she prefers to be called Sami. What name would you use?
Assessing Risk

- Does Sami’s gender expression prompt you to ask background questions about her alleged offense? If so, what would you ask?
Detention and Family Involvement

- What factors would you consider in making a decision about whether to detain Sami?
- What if Sami’s parents refuse to accept custody?
Housing

• Assume you recommend detention pending a hearing. What factors would you consider in deciding on a housing unit?
Race

- Assume that Sami is African American. Would her race factor into your assessment of risk?
- What if Sami is white?