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| Sexual Identity Terms | |
| Sex | A person’s biological status on a continuum from male to female that is largely determined by physical attributes, including sex chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, internal reproductive structures, and external genitalia. |
| Intersex | A term applied to people who possess biological attributes of both sexes. |
| Gender | The culturally determined roles, behaviors, activities, and psychological attributes that a particular society considers appropriate to being male or female. |
| Gender Identity | A person’s internal, deeply-felt sense of being male or female, something in-between, something other, or none. |
| Gender Expression | Attributes and behaviors that communicate our gender identity to others, such as clothing, hairstyles, mannerisms, way of speaking, and social roles. |
| Cisgender | Term used to describe people who identify as the gender they were assigned at birth. |
| Transgender | An umbrella term used to describe a person whose gender identity (sense of self as being male or female) or gender expression differs from that usually associated with the sex that was assigned to the person at birth. |
| Transsexual | A person who lives, or is in transition to live, as a person of another sex than the one he or she was assigned at birth. The person may or may not seek surgery or hormone therapy to increase congruity between his/her physical features and preferred sex. |
| Sexual Orientation | An enduring emotional, romantic, or sexual attraction that one feels toward a certain sex(es) or gender(s). May also, but does not necessarily, refer to a person’s identity or the sexual behaviors based on those attractions. |
| Heterosexism | The assumption that everyone is heterosexual and that this sexual orientation is superior. |
| Sexual Fluidity | Variability in same-sex and other- sex attraction and involvement at different times and in different situations throughout the life span. |
| Coming Out | An ongoing process of disclosure of one’s sexual orientation or gender identity to others. |
| Bisexuality | Refers to degrees of sexual attraction to both sexes including erotic attraction, sexual behavior, emotional attachment and definition of self. |
| Asexuality | Lack of sexual attraction to either sex. |