

BRIDGING THE GAP (cont.)

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CLINICIANS' BARRIERS AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN CROSS-CULTURAL SEXUAL HEALTHCARE: SEXUALITY, TABOOS, EXPRESSION, AND IDENTITY

Mitra Rashidian, Ph.D., LMFT, ACS
Sexuality, Identity, Mental Health & Well-being
University of New England
Adjunct Faculty – School of Health
mrashid3@une.edu.au

Copyright © 2018 by Mitra Rashidian, Ph.D.



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

BRIDGING THE GAP (cont.)

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Describing** the various roadblocks to sexual healthcare, among both the mainstream and sub-population clinicians.
- Identifying** three communication strategies among clinicians, to facilitate effective cross-cultural sexual healthcare.
- Applying** two brief therapy interventions, suitable for treating sexuality related stress among diverse clients.



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

BRIDGING THE GAP (cont.)

CLINICIANS AS CATALYSTS OF SEXUAL HEALTHCARE

- Do clinicians promote or inhibit patients' sexual healthcare?
- Do clinicians encourage patients to tell their sexual stories?
- ROADBLOCKS TO DISCUSSING SEXUAL HEALTHCARE**



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

BRIDGING THE GAP (cont.)

MY PERSONAL STORY

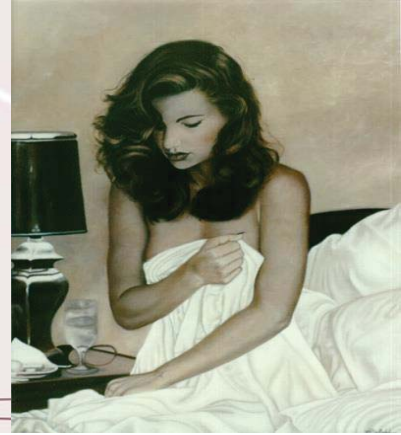
- Always wondered what kept sex as a taboo topic !?
- My research journey in human sexuality
- The understanding of my own sexual-self
- Becoming a sexologist



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018



11/29/2018



11/29/2018



11/29/2018



11/29/2018

MY RESEARCH JOURNEY IN HUMAN SEXUALITY

- ❑ Middle Eastern-American Women’s Experience With Their Sexuality: A Survey Study
 - ❑ California State University Northridge – Educational Psychology, Northridge CA (Rashidian 2002)
- ❑ Understanding the Sexual-selves of Iranian-American Women: A Qualitative Narrative Study
 - ❑ University of New England, School of Health, Australia (Rashidian et al. 2011)
- ❑ Survey of the Iranian-American Physicians As Providers of Sexual Health Care in the USA
 - ❑ Collaborative Research Network (CRN)-University of New England, School of Health, Australia (Rashidian et al. 2014)
- ❑ Publications (ResearchGate)



WHAT KEEPS SEX A TABOO TOPIC?

CULTURE

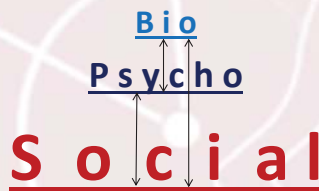
- ❑ Interplay of historical heritage (norms)
- ❑ Politics
- ❑ Economy
- ❑ Religion

❑ BASICALLY EVERYTHING IN SOCIETY!

(Rashidian 2002; Rashidian et al. 2013-2014-2015,2017,2018)



HUMAN SEXUALITY (SEXOLOGY PERSPECTIVE)



PERCEPTION → THOUGHTS → FEELINGS → BEHAVIOR



Conceptualization of Human Sexuality (Rashidian et al. 2014)

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) DEFINING:

- ❑ Sexual Health: Concept and Scope
 - “...a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality...”
- ❑ Sexuality
 - Sexuality refers to “...a core dimension of being human, which includes sex, gender, sexual and gender identity, sexual orientation, eroticism, emotional attachment/love, and reproduction...”

(World Health Organization, 2006)



SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM - KEY FACTS

- ❑ **Increasing rates:**
 - ❑ Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
 - ❑ Sexual Difficulties (SDs)
 - ❑ Divorce – intimacy, sexually related issues, & lack of effective communication



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM - KEY FACTS

- ❑ **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
 - ❑ Nearly 2.4 million Americans living with Hepatitis C (November 6, 2018)
 - ❑ Newborn syphilis cases more than double in four years, reaching 20-year high (September 25, 2018)
 - ❑ 2018 STD Prevention Conference: New CDC analysis shows steep and sustained increases in STDs (August 28, 2018)
 - ❑ **Approximately 60-120 millions - One in every third person in the USA has at least one form of SDs!**



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM - KEY FACTS

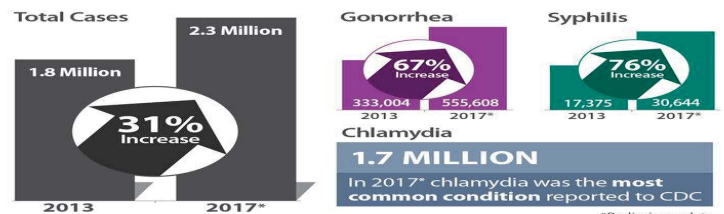
- ❑ In the USA, the rates of STIs, and SDs, are higher, compared to many other developed countries!
- ❑ It is time to have a one-on-one talk about how clinicians' pervasive roadblocks inhibits the discussion of sexual healthcare with patients!



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

THE U.S. IS EXPERIENCING STEEP, SUSTAINED INCREASES IN SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Combined diagnoses of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis **increased sharply over the past five years**

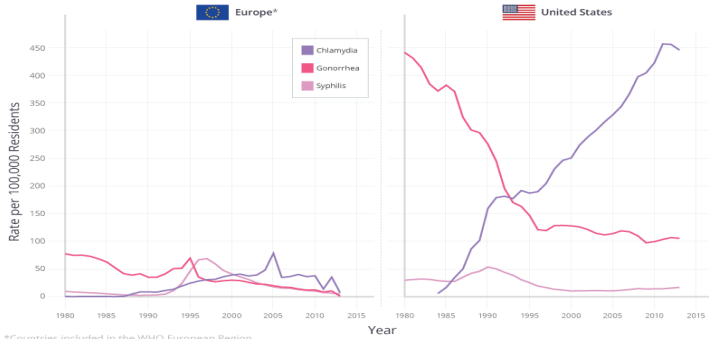


For more information, visit cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Europe vs. US - Comparing the Incidence of STDs Since 1980



Top 5 European Countries per STD

Average Rate per 100,000 Residents from 2000 - 2013

Chlamydia	Rate	HPV	Rate
1. Iceland	618.82	1. United Kingdom	131.65
2. Norway	424.42	2. Ireland	72.90
3. Denmark	371.42	3. Iceland	38.24
4. Sweden	361.56	4. Russian Federation	28.86
5. United Kingdom	281.07	5. Belarus	27.02

Hepatitis B	Rate	Hepatitis C*	Rate
1. Iceland	13.08	1. Iceland	22.75
2. Latvia	11.71	2. Sweden	21.97
3. Russian Federation	10.53	3. Finland	20.23
4. Ukraine	10.46	4. Ireland	14.54
5. Bulgaria	10.21	5. United Kingdom	10.77

Herpes	Rate	Gonorrhea	Rate
1. Republic of Moldova	67.21	1. Russian Federation	68.47
2. United Kingdom	35.80	2. Belarus	56.42
3. Estonia	21.06	3. Republic of Moldova	44.85
4. Russian Federation	18.52	4. Ukraine	35.80
5. Belarus	17.96	5. United Kingdom	34.60

Syphilis	Rate	HIV	Rate
1. Republic of Moldova	78.46	1. Estonia	45.25
2. Russian Federation	74.29	2. Russian Federation	33.61
3. Bulgaria	46.79	3. Ukraine	27.05
4. Ukraine	44.69	4. Portugal	17.35
5. Monaco	41.11	5. Latvia	17.34

*Hepatitis C average rate per 100,000 residents, 2000 - 2012

Top 5 American States per STD

Average Rate per 100,000 Residents from 2000 - 2013

Chlamydia	Rate	Gonorrhea	Rate
1. Delaware	627.95	1. District of Columbia	421.0
2. District of Columbia	570.40	2. Mississippi	232.45
3. Alabama	567.73	3. Louisiana	225.01
4. Alaska	513.46	4. Alabama	209.84
5. Mississippi	503.48	5. South Carolina	195.79

Hepatitis B	Rate	Hepatitis C*	Rate
1. West Virginia	5.52	1. Kentucky	2.58
2. Kentucky	3.04	2. West Virginia	1.9
3. Oklahoma	2.92	3. Oklahoma	1.16
4. Tennessee	2.74	4. Connecticut	1.04
5. Arkansas	2.24	5. Tennessee	0.98

Syphilis	Rate	HIV	Rate
1. District of Columbia	75.54	1. District of Columbia	179.56
2. Louisiana	35.85	2. Maryland	39.58
3. Georgia	23.52	3. Georgia	38.0
4. New York	22.82	4. Florida	32.6
5. Florida	20.27	5. Louisiana	32.02

*Hepatitis C average rate per 100,000 residents, 2000 - 2012

BRIDGING THE GAP SMALL

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM - KEY FACTS

Prevalence of SDs (USA)

Female sexual difficulties

- Painful Intercourse: Deep dyspareunia/vaginismus: one in 10 women
- Lack of libido: four in 10 women
- Anorgasmia: one in three women

Male sexual difficulties

- Erectile difficulties: one in five men
- Premature/delayed ejaculation: one in four men
- Lack of libido: one in four men
- Anorgasmia: one in five men
- Concerns about penis: almost one in two men



DSM-5, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth edition.
FSAD, Female sexual interest/arousal disorder; MHSDO, male hypoactive sexual desire disorder
Laumann and Gagnon, National Health and Life Survey (NHLSS survey years)

brieftherapy

Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM - SOLUTIONS

- ❑ CDC's recommendations
 - ❑ Awareness
 - ❑ Get tested (at least once/year)
 - ❑ STIs are mostly asymptomatic
- ❑ Health complications of certain untreated STIs
- ❑ Etiologies for STIs/SDs increase in the USA

Chikley et al. Infectious Diseases Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine



SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM - SOLUTIONS

- ❑ CDC's recommendations
 - ❑ CLINICIANS' ENGAGEMENT IN SEXUAL HEALTHCARE
 - ❑ Talking about sex
 - ❑ Assessment
 - ❑ Education
 - ❑ Prevention
 - ❑ Encourage testing



FACTORS RELATED TO PATIENTS' RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS SEXUAL DIFFICULTIES WITH CLINICIANS

- ❑ Mainstream patients' reports - at least:
 - ❑ 85% - Want to discuss sexual difficulties
 - ❑ 71% - Don't ask, due to physicians' lack of time
 - ❑ 68% - Don't ask, due to physicians' embarrassment
 - ❑ 76% - No knowledge of treatment availability
 - ❑ 75% - Fearing sexual concerns being dismissed
 - ❑ 90% - Believe it is physician's role to address sexual health concerns

Endic, et al. 1984
Marwick C. JAMA 1993; 281:2173-4 - Maurice WI, Bowman MA, Sexual Medicine in Primary Care 1999
Rashidian 2002; Rashidian et al. 2011, 2013, 2014)



SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM - SOLUTIONS

- ❑ We clinicians (**Physicians and Mental Health Practitioners**) have a key role to play in initiating discussions about sexual healthcare with our patients.

❑ WHY DON'T WE TALK ABOUT SEX WITH OUR PATIENTS!?



WHY CLINICIANS DON'T ASK PATIENTS ABOUT SEXUAL ISSUES?!

- ❑ No sufficient trainings in human sexuality
- ❑ Lack of comfort with sexual issues
- ❑ Beliefs/ biases/ attitudes
- ❑ Lack of time
- ❑ Worry about offending the patient
- ❑ Stereotyping and marginalizing patients (i.e., patient is too old, sick, or disabled for sex, bias towards LGBTQ, minority/ethnic members)
- ❑ Don't want to 'open a can of worms...'
- ❑ Lack of awareness of clinicians' own cultural conditioning
- ❑ Lack of insight about clinicians' own sexual-self



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

❑ SURVEY OF THE IRANIAN-AMERICAN PHYSICIANS AS PROVIDERS OF SEXUAL HEALTH CARE IN THE USA

Collaborative Research Network (CRN) -University of New England, School of Health, Australia (Rashidian et al. 2014)

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- ❑ Part of a larger research program: Investigates physicians' barriers & attitudes, impacting their management of sexual healthcare
 - ❑ Survey of 409 randomly selected GPs in New South Wales (Khan et al. 2008)
 - ❑ Survey of 371 physicians, using cluster random sampling in 3 provinces in Vietnam, in non-STI specialist setting (Do et al. 2014)
 - ❑ Survey of 327 Iranian-American Physicians' barriers, attitudes, & management of sexual healthcare, practicing in California (Rashidian et al. 2014)



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

11/29/2018

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- ❑ Pilot study - The first ever done on this population on sexual healthcare
- ❑ A cross-sectional survey study
- ❑ Self-administered questionnaire
 - ❑ Physicians' and their patients' profiles
 - ❑ Sexual history taking; Practices of physicians
 - ❑ The level of physicians' sexual healthcare training

(Rashidian et al. 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

11/29/2018

Table 1. Physician Characteristics

	n(%)
Gender	
Male	203 (57.5%)
Female	132 (37.4%)
Missing	18 (5.1%)
Age	
30 – 39 years	36 (10.2%)
40 – 49 years	110 (31.1%)
50 – 59 years	71 (20.1%)
60 – 69 years	97 (27.4%)
70 – 89 years	15 (4.2%)
Missing	24 (7.1%)
Place of Birth	
Iran	290 (82.2%)
Other	35 (9.9%)
Missing	28 (7.9%)
Country of Medical Education	
Iran	190 (53.8%)
USA	130 (36.8%)
Other	8 (2.3%)
Missing	25 (7.1%)
Location of Medical Practice	
Suburban	175 (49.6%)
Urban	138 (39.1%)
Rural	20 (5.7%)
Missing	20 (5.7%)
Religion	
Muslim	192 (54.4%)
Jewish	77 (21.8%)
Other	64 (18.1%)
Missing	20 (5.7%)

I: $\alpha=0.94$	Q7: Mentally challenged patients are not sexual	50.5	0.886	0.199	0.200
FACTOR I	Q4: Sick patients are not sexual		0.855	0.159	0.239
	Q6: Overweight patients are not sexual		0.847	0.847	0.220
	Q5: Blind, deaf, cerebral palsied, and paraplegic patients are not sexual		0.846	0.189	0.284
FACTOR II	Q10: Women's lack of orgasmic response may be self-interpreted as reducing her value as a person	16.9	0.186	0.853	0.135
	Q11: For women, self-masturbation is more guilt-laden than for men		0.239	0.843	0.061
	Q09: Obtaining sexual history may be seen as questioning the women's sexual value system		0.189	0.833	0.275
	Q12: Traditionally, in most cultures, women have less freedom to express their sexuality		0.004	0.803	0.066
	Q08: American women have adequate sex education		0.419	0.570	0.129
III: $\alpha=0.82$	Q3: Married patients cannot have Venereal disease	8.8	0.186	0.198	0.879
FACTOR III	Q1: Iranian adolescent patients are not sexual		0.343	0.097	0.835
	Q2: Iranian elderly patients are not sexually active		0.499	0.201	0.585
Notes:	Factor Loading above 0.5 are bold for clarity of reading *Cronbach Alpha				
	%Var: Percent of variations explained by each factor				
ATTITUDE	Factor I: Physicians' attitudes towards various patients				
	Factor II: Physicians' attitudes towards female sexuality				
	Factor III: Physicians' attitudes towards age and married patients				

Table 2. Factor loading values along with Cronbach's Alpha			
	Factor1	Factor2	Factor3
BARRIERS			
Factor 1: Embarrassment ($\alpha^{**}=0.91$)			
I feel embarrassed with Iranian females	0.76471		
I feel embarrassed with Iranian males	0.77918		
I feel embarrassed with non-Iranian females	0.89086		
I feel embarrassed with non-Iranian males	0.88646		
Factor 2: Cultural and religion ($\alpha=0.87$)			
My religion does not allow it		0.81285	
A family member presence with the patient		0.50160	
My culture doesn't allow it		0.85946	
I have not had enough training in obtaining sexual history		0.69278	
Fear of patients 'taking it personally'		0.73668	
Factor 3: Time and financial constraint ($\alpha=0.87$)			
Lack of time			0.89156
Lack of reimbursement			0.88676
Values less than 0.5 are not printed.			
Note: Factor Loading below 0.5 are left blanked for clarity of reading. **Cronbach Alpha			

BRIDGING THE GAP (cont.)

□ HOW OFTEN DO YOU INQUIRE ABOUT SEXUAL ISSUES WITH YOUR PATIENTS?

Patients Profile	Never	Sometimes	Only if patients ask	Very often	Total
Iranian Female	19.6%	22.9%	38.2%	19.3%	327
Iranian Male	24.7%	26.5%	36.7%	12.0%	324
Non-Iranian Female	12.7%	32.0%	35.0%	20.2%	327
Non-Iranian Male	19.5%	28.6%	35.6%	16.4%	324

□ WHAT ELEMENT OF SEXUAL HISTORY DO YOU FOCUS ON MOST?

	Never	Only if patients ask	Sometimes	Always	Total
Reproductive Care	18.4%	19.3%	26.0%	36.3%	327

Razhdan et al. 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

11/29/2018

BRIDGING THE GAP (cont.)

THE EFFECT OF PHYSICIANS' CHARACTERISTICS ON ALL FACTORS

- GENDER
 - Has significant impact on Factor1 (P= 0.03)
 - Partially significant on Factor3 (P= 0.051)
 - Female physicians spend more time with their patients
- PLACE OF BIRTH
 - Has significant impact Factor2 (P= 0.02)
 - Partially significant on Factor4 (P= 0.09)
 - Physicians born in Iran are more reluctant to communicate sexual health issues, due to religion and cultural beliefs
- RELIGION
 - Has significant impact Factor1 (P= 0.04)
 - Religious clinicians are significantly more reluctant to communicate sexually related issues with patients.
- COUNTRY OF GRADUATION
 - Has significant impact Factor2 (P< 0.001) and Factor3 (P= 0.01).
 - Physicians graduated from Iran, are more reluctant to communicate sexually related issues, due to cultural beliefs.
- CLINICAL SPECIALTY: Has no significant impact on any of the factors (P> 0.10).
- PLACE OF PRACTICE: Has no significant impact on any of the factors (P> 0.10).

(Razhdan et al. 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

11/29/2018

IMPACT OF CULTURE/ACCULTURATION ON CLINICIANS OF DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

- Home culture vs./and mainstream culture
- “My culture haunts me no matter where I go...”
- Challenges of letting go of the cultural attitudes

(Rashidian et al. 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)



PHYSICIANS' NARRATIVES (CURRENT STUDY)

- Mainstream cultural prohibitions due to:
 - Lack of educational curriculums in medical/counseling schools
 - Focusing on patients' demands (the belief that patients need to initiate talking about sexual issues)
 - Pharmaceutical companies don't encourage it
 - The need to have a medication, first!
 - The need to have a diagnosis
 - Gender inequality

(Rashidian et al. 2018)



LET'S TALK OPENLY ABOUT SEX...

- What do we need to do to destigmatize sex as a taboo topic ?
- As clinicians, in charge of patients' well-being, it begins with an examination of our own cultural conditioning, & the understanding of our own sexual-self !



LET'S TALK OPENLY ABOUT SEX...

- What do we need to do, to destigmatize sex as a taboo topic?
 - The realization that sexuality is a core part of a human being's life
- (Michel Foucault 1978)
- De-stigmatization begins with us talking openly about sex!
 - Need to 'open the can of worms...'
 - Begins with self-modeling

(Michel Foucault 1978)
Rashidian et al. 2018



LET'S TALK OPENLY ABOUT SEX...
What do we need to do, to destigmatize sex as a taboo topic ?

STRATEGY I

- Examining and understanding your own sexual-self
- Learning to address your own sexual concerns and desires
- Understanding and confronting your own limiting beliefs and biases about sex and sexuality
- Desiring your own personal sexual growth

(WHO)World Health Organization (2010)
(Rashidan S 2018)
(Rashidan et al. 2014)



LET'S TALK OPENLY ABOUT SEX...
What do we need to do, to destigmatize sex as a taboo topic ?

STRATEGY II

- Education and training
- Seeking personal therapy
- Sexual Attitude Reassessment and Restructuring (SAR)
- Knowledge
- Skills
- Cultural Competency

(WHO)World Health Organization (2010)
(Resnick S 2018)
(Britton P 2017)
(Rashidan et al. 2018)



LET'S TALK OPENLY ABOUT SEX...
What do we need to do, to destigmatize sex as a taboo topic ?

STRATEGY III

- Taking a sexual history from your client/patient as soon as possible
 - What is a sexual history format?
- Communicating empathy, compassion, sensitivity
- Having a holistic approach to sexuality

(WHO)World Health Organization (2010)
(Rashidan et al. 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)



VITAL CONSIDERATIONS AS PART OF SEXUAL HISTORY TAKING

- Desire to have sex is not limited to young generation
- Many children know about sex as early as 6-7 years old
- Many children have sex as early as 8-10 years old
- The following groups of people are sexual members of society too:
 - Menopausal women
 - Marginalized people
 - Immigrants
 - Ethnicity/minorities
 - Individuals with disabilities (mental and physical)
 - LGBTQ
 - All religious backgrounds
 - All socio-economical status



VITAL CONSIDERATIONS AS PART OF SEXUAL HISTORY TAKING

- ❑ Significant increase in the rate of STIs/STDs among elderly (age 65-up) population (CDC 2018)
- ❑ Elderly population can teach us much about quality sexual relationships



VITAL CONSIDERATIONS AS PART OF SEXUAL HISTORY TAKING

A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

STEP I:

- ❑ General psychosocial and sexual history
- ❑ Prevalence Of Sexual Disorders
- ❑ The problem as the patient sees it

VITAL CONSIDERATIONS AS PART OF SEXUAL HISTORY TAKING
A systematic approach

STEP II:

- ❑ Specifics of the presenting problems
- ❑ The emotional dimension
- ❑ The cognitive dimension
- ❑ The physical dimension
- ❑ The behavioral dimension
- ❑ The relational dimension
- ❑ The spiritual dimension
- ❑ The cultural dimension
- ❑ Socio-cultural issues – The anesthetized shame

BRIEF THERAPY INTERVENTIONS (BTI):

- ❑ Patients' education and awareness
 - ❑ We are born as sexual beings
 - ❑ Sexual desires are both normal and healthy
 - ❑ Challenge cultural norms
 - ❑ Hierarchy & power dynamics
 - ❑ Assigned roles and places

BRIEF THERAPY INTERVENTIONS

☐ Focusing on cultural implications

- ☐ Sex is NOT dangerous
- ☐ Power tends to corrupt
- ☐ In organized religions
 - ☐ The power hierarchy in many cases has attempted to control their followers, in part, by dictating what is permissible, and what is not permissible sexually
- ☐ Next to survival, sex is the most powerful drive
 - ☐ It tends to present as a powerful threat to those who seek to control others



BRIEF THERAPY INTERVENTIONS


☐ Ask about sexual stories (Narratives)

- ☐ Internal struggles
- ☐ Fear, guilt, shame, sinfulness
- ☐ Secrets
- ☐ The do's and don'ts
- ☐ The attitudes
- ☐ **Assertiveness** (unlearning and relearning)
- ☐ **Communication** (begins by learning and knowing how to find their sexual words)
- ☐ **Resourcefulness**



BRIEF THERAPY INTERVENTIONS

☐ Focusing on "Sex Positive Culture"

- ☐ Understanding sexual wants & desires
- ☐ Making informed decisions - safety
- ☐ Sex as a component of intimacy 
 - ☐ Pleasure and compassion
 - ☐ Personal growth within sexual relationships
 - ☐ Understanding our authentic true sexual-selves
 - ☐ Having transcendent sexual experiences



Focusing on "Sex Positive Culture"

☐ Steps for making positive cultural changes

- ☐ **Improving sexual healthcare requires:**
 - ☐ A collaborative response throughout society
 - ☐ Supported by the public health community, and healthcare systems, government and policy makers
 - ☐ Physicians & mental health professionals need to be effectively supported to; **Refuse /challenge the 'appropriate laws and policies'**, if they are not addressing patients' best interests.



Focusing on "Sex Positive Culture"

❑ The elimination of "VIRGINITY-TESTING"

(WHO, UN Human Rights and UN Women, October 17, 2018)

- ❑ Has no scientific or clinical basis.
- ❑ Such procedures must never be carried out.
- ❑ Impacts girls' physical, psychological, and social well-being.
- ❑ Reinforces stereotyped notions of female sexuality, and gender inequality.



brieftherapy

Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

❑ Steps to making cultural positive change

❑ "VIRGINITY TESTING"

- ❑ The examination can be painful, humiliating, traumatic, and ultimately dehumanizing.
- ❑ It is unethical for doctors or other health providers to undertake them! (WHO, UN Human Rights and UN Women, October 17, 2018)



brieftherapy

Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

❑ My support/theory of promoting sexual healthcare in accordance to WHO's policies:

- ❑ A human rights-based approach
- ❑ A gender-responsive approach
- ❑ A people-centered healthcare systems approach
- ❑ A whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach.
- ❑ A public health approach

brieftherapy

Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

❑ WE, AS CLINICIANS, ARE COLLECTIVELY, RESPONSIBLE TO:

- ❑ DESTIGMATIZE SEX AS A TABOO TOPIC, AND BREAK THE UNHEALTHY AND DEADLY HISTORICAL CONTROL OF PEOPLE'S SEXUALITIES!
- ❑ ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE TALKING ABOUT SEX ACROSS SOCIETIES!

❑ CULTURE IS A TANGIBLE PHENOMENA ... WE MUST CHALLENGE IT!

- ❑ GOVERNMENT MAKING DECISIONS FOR SEXUAL HEALTH CARE
- ❑ ECONOMICAL LIMITATIONS IMPACTING SEXUAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
- ❑ EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS FOR NOT PROVIDING EFFECTIVE CURRICULUMS FOR MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH STUDENTS
- ❑ RELIGIOUS DOGMA

brieftherapy

Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

WE (CLINICIANS) ARE THE CHAMPIONS & THE LEADERS...

WE MUST IMPLEMENT HUMANE & EFFECTIVE SEXUAL HEALTHCARE FOR OUR PATIENTS!



LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX...



THANK YOU!



RESOURCES

- ❑ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- ❑ World Health Organization (WHO)
- ❑ American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT): www.aasect.org
- ❑ Center for sexual health/ UMHS: 1 – 734 – 763 – 963 ; www.med.umich.edu/sexualhealth
- ❑ Sexual Health Sheffield – UK



REFERENCES

- ❑ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchstdat/newsroom/fact-sheets.html> - Accessed November 17, 2018
- ❑ Abdel-Tawab N, et al. (1999). Effects of husband involvement in postabortion patients' recovery and use of contraception in Egypt. In: Huntington D, Piel-Polon NI. *Postabortion Care: Lessons from Operations Research*. New York, Population Council.
- ❑ AIDSNET (2006). *Brazil refuses \$40 million in US AIDS grants to protest policy requiring groups to condemn commercial sex work* (<http://www.aids.net.au/press-releases.htm>, accessed 25 August 2010).
- ❑ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Frequently asked questions about STIs.
- ❑ <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstdat/newsroom/2013/04M-2013.html> (2013, accessed 21 November 2013).
- ❑ Care International (2002). *AIDS briefing paper: Preserving the human rights of people affected by HIV/AIDS*. (<http://care.ca/userfiles/file/HumanRights.pdf?99P555338-478ea3a5ef6ca2be77568a799407e29>, accessed 25 August 2010).
- ❑ Coletivo Feminista Sexualidade e Saúde (2006). *História do Coletivo Feminista Sexualidade e Saúde* (<http://www.mulheres.org.br/historia.html>, accessed 9th October 2010).
- ❑ Connell R (1995). *Masculinities*. Berkeley, University of California Press.
- ❑ Dyer K, Hons BSc, Nair RD, CPsychol, AFBCoS. Why don't healthcare professionals talk about sex? A systematic review of recent qualitative studies conducted in the United Kingdom. *Journal of Sex Research*. 2013; 3:10, 2658-2670. doi: 10.1111/j.1743-6109.2012.02856.x.
- ❑ Family Health International (2006a). *Youth Net - Partners in reproductive health and HIV prevention. Out-of-school youth*. (<http://www.fhi.org/en/youthnet/publications/out-of-school-youth.htm>, accessed 25 August 2010).
- ❑ Family Health International (2006b). *Homes Unidos, El Salvador: Peer Education with Gang Members- Protecting Life and Health* (<http://www.fhi.org/en/youthnet/publications/focus/focushighlights/homesunidoselavador.htm>, accessed 8 October 2010).
- ❑ International Center for Research on Women (2006). *Reducing women's and girls' vulnerability to HIV/AIDS by strengthening their property and inheritance rights*. Information Bulletin May 2006. Washington DC, ICRW .
- ❑ Kaplan H (1992). A neglected issue: The sexual side effects of treatments for breast cancer. *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*, 18:3-19.



References

- Laumann E, Paik A, Rosen R (1999). Sexual dysfunction in the United States: Prevalence and predictors. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 281:537-544.
- Nusbam MR, Hamilton GD. The proactive sexual health history. *Journal of American Family Physician*. 2002; 64(9):1705-1713.
- Pan American Health Organization/WHO (2000). *Promotion of sexual health: Recommendations for action* (<http://www.paho.org/english/hcp/haa/promotionsexualhealth.pdf>, accessed 25 August 2010).
- Partnership for Child Development (2005). Focusing resources on effective school health (<http://www.freshschools.org/Pages/default.aspx>, accessed 25 August 2010).
- Poljaki C, Tasker C, Andrews C, Wijesinha S, Piterman L, De Krestser D. GP attitudes to male reproductive and sexual health education and promotion: a qualitative study. *Journal of Australian Family Physician*. 2003; 33(6):662-665.
- Rashidian M, Hussain R, Minichiello V. 'My culture haunts me no matter where I go': Iranian-American women discussing sexual and acculturation experiences. *Culture, Health & Sexuality: An International Journal for Research, Intervention and Care* 2013; 15(7): 866-877. doi: 10.1080/13691058.2013.790128.
- Rashidian M, Minichiello V, Knutzen SF, Ghannam M. (2014) Barriers to sexual health care: a survey of Iranian-American physicians in California, USA - Collaborative Research Network, University of New England, School of Health, Armidale, Australia. *BioMed Journal of Health Research - Under Rev*
- Rubman BE, et al. (2002). The sexual health model: Application of a sociological approach to HIV prevention. *Health Education Research, Theory & Practice*, 17(1), 43-57.
- Rutgers University (2006). Sex, etc. <http://www.sexetc.org/index.php>, accessed 25 August 2010).
- Swartzendruber A, Zenilman JM. A National Strategy to Improve Sexual Health. *Journal of American Medical Association*. 2010; 304(9):1005-1006.
- UNESCO (2008b). Good policy and practice in HIV and AIDS and education: HIV and AIDS and supportive learning environments. Paris, UNESCO.
- UNFPA (2009). *Lesotho: Management of unsafe sex among young people* (http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2009/unfpa_govtcard_leso_en.pdf, accessed 25 August 2010).



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

References

- US Surgeon General (2001). *The US Surgeon-General's call to action to promote sexual health and responsible sexual behaviour* (<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/sexualhealth/call.htm>, accessed 25 August 2010).
- USAID (2007). Integrating HIV services in local family planning: The expanded community-based distribution model and Zimbabwean experience (<http://www.hrhresourcecenter.org/node/1972>, accessed 25 August 2010).
- Warwick L, Aggleton P (2002). The role of education in promoting young people's sexual and reproductive health (<http://www.safespassages.org.uk/06/educationreport.pdf>, accessed 25 August 2010).
- Weiss E, Rao Gupta G (1998). Bridging the Gap: Addressing Gender and Sexuality in HIV Prevention. Washington, DC, International Center for Research on Women.
- Weinstock H, Berman S, Cates W. Sexually transmitted diseases among American youth: incidence and prevalence estimates, 2000. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*. 2004; 36(1):6-10.
- WHO (2002). World report on violence and health (http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/, wvrh1/en/, accessed 25 August 2010).
- WHO (2003a, b, c). Global health sector strategy for HIV/AIDS 2003-2007: Providing a framework for partnership and action. Geneva, World Health Organization.
- WHO (2004). Unsafe abortion: Global and regional estimates of the incidence of unsafe abortion and associated mortality in 2000. Geneva, World Health Organization.
- WHO (2006a). Defining sexual health: Report of a technical consultation on sexual health, 28-31 January 2002. Geneva, World Health Organization.
- WHO (2006b). Sexually transmitted infections (http://www.who.int/health_topics/sexually_transmitted_infections/en/, accessed 25 August 2010).
- WHO (2006c). Sexual and reproductive health of women living with HIV/AIDS. Guidelines on care, treatment and support for women living with HIV/AIDS and their children in resource-constrained settings. Geneva, World Health Organization.



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

References

- WHO (2006d). Integrating sexual and reproductive health-care services. Policy brief 2. Geneva, World Health Organization.
- WHO (2008). Eliminating female genital mutilation: An interagency statement (<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/fgm/9789241596442/en/index.html>, accessed 25 August 2010).
- WHO (2009a). Violence against women. Fact sheet 239. Geneva, World Health Organisation. (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/index.html>, accessed 9 October 2010).
- WHO (2009b). Women and health: Today's evidence, tomorrow's agenda. Geneva, World Health Organization.
- WHO/UNAIDS (2007). Guidance on provider initiated HIV counselling and testing in health facilities (http://www.who.int/hiv/pah/guidelines/978924159558_en.pdf, accessed 25 August 2010).
- World Bank (1993). *World Development Report 1993: Investing in health*. New York, Oxford University Press.
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2016. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017. Available at: www.cdc.gov/std/stats16/default.htm. Accessed May 18, 2018.
- Adams DA, Thomas RR, Tajovky KA, et al. Summary of notifiable infectious diseases and conditions—United States, 2015. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2017;64(53):1-143. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm6453a1.
- Satterwhite CL, Tortore E, Meites E, et al. Sexually transmitted infections among US women and men: prevalence and incidence estimates, 2008. *Sex Transm Dis*. 2013;40(3):187-193. doi: 10.1097/OLQ.0b013e318286b653.
- Soper DE. Pelvic inflammatory disease. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2010;116(2 Pt 1):119-126. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0b013e3181e92e54.
- Workowski KA, Bolan GA. Sexually transmitted diseases treatment guidelines, 2015. *MMWR Recomm Rep*. 2015;64(RR-03):1-137. Available at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6403a1.htm. Accessed May 22, 2018.
- Wu T, Lahra MM, Ndowa F, et al. Antimicrobial resistance in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: global surveillance and a call for international collaborative action. *PLoS Med*. 2012;14(7):e1001344. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001344.
- Chesson HW, Kircaldy RD, Gift TL, Ouwusu-Edusei K Jr, Weinstock HS. An illustration of the potential health and economic benefits of combating antibiotic-resistant gonorrhoea. *Sex Transm Dis*. 2018;45(4):250-253. doi: 10.1097/OLQ.0000000000000725.
- Kissinger P. Epidemiology and treatment of trichomoniasis. *Curr Infect Dis Rep*. 2015;17(6):1-9. doi: 10.1007/s11908-015-0484-7.
- Silver BJ, Guy RJ, Kaldor JM, Lamell MS, Rumbold AB. *Trichomonas vaginalis* as a cause of perinatal morbidity: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Sex Transm Dis*. 2014;41(6):369-376. doi: 10.1097/OLQ.0000000000000134.
- Kissinger P, Amedee A, Clark RA, et al. *Trichomonas vaginalis* treatment reduces vaginal HIV-1 shedding. *Sex Transm Dis*. 2009;36(11):11-16. doi: 10.1097/OLQ.0b013e318181816d.
- Van Der Pol B, Kwak C, Pierre-Louis B, et al. *Trichomonas vaginalis* infection and human immunodeficiency virus acquisition in African women. *J Infect Dis*. 2008;197(4):548-554. doi: 10.1086/526496.



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018

References

- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi-us-eu/>
- Resnick, S (2019). *Body-4-Body Intimacy – Transformation Through Love, Sex, and Neurobiology*. Routledge, N.Y., N.Y.
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases Across Space and Time: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi-us-eu/> Accessed on November 24, 2018.
- The State Department Order: <https://uk.businessinsider.com/state-department-decreases-women-health-programs-2018-10/?r=US&ir=T> Accessed on November 24, 2018.
- Why Are Young People Having So Little Sex? <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/12/the-sex-recession/573949/> Accessed on November 24, 2018.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – News Media Fact Sheets. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbhdq/newsroom/fact-sheets.html> Accessed on November 24, 2018.



Burlingame, California | December 6 - 9, 2018