

# Synthesis Across Multiple, Long-Term Outcomes of Prevention Interventions Delivered Early in Life Among LGBT Youth

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# General Introduction

- Responding to the IOM Report on LGBT health
- Many unanswered questions, including impact of early intervention on behavioral health
- Longitudinal data mostly from observational/survey datasets
- NIH has prioritized use of existing data
- Data harmonization is a way to combine datasets
  - Can facilitate use of datasets with common concepts but necessarily the same measures

# Backstory to Developing this Workshop

- Special issue on HRSB, following-up adults and older adolescents
  - Received interventions in elementary or middle school
  - School and/or family based intervention
  - Universal and selected
- Lack of sufficient LGBT people at follow-up in any one study
  - Recognized potentially missed opportunity
- Example of harmonizing similar studies to evaluate suicide

# Can We Harmonize? Fundamental Issues

- Sufficient numbers across studies? At first look, optimistic-overall
  - Unclear if samples can capture subgroups
  - Some variation items re:  
behavior/attraction/orientation/identity
- Sufficient bases for harmonization? Maybe
- Are PIs still collecting data? Quite a few
- Are PIs interested? Yes

# Harmonization: Key Methodological Issues

- How to harmonize? Dealing with different items, scales
- Meta-analysis versus pooling? Is pooling always practical?
- Confounds from developmental stage of intervention, social/societal context of intervention delivery
- Mediation & moderation: Right variables? Sufficient n
- Other small sample and selective sampling issues

# Harmonization: Practical & Organizational Issues

- Potential IRB issues related to data sharing
- Roles of investigators within a data sharing group
- Boundaries for data use within a collaborative group
- Adding new variables or levels of analysis

# Outcomes from this Workshop

- Is there a clear path forward for our original question?
  - Can we harmonize—why/why not
  - If yes, what can we harmonize?
    - How do we organize? How can we build on other work?
    - How to add new variables
    - Operationalizing LGBT:  
identity/orientation/behavior/attraction; more categories:  
Questioning Queer, Intersex
- Are there are other studies beyond our original scope?
- How can we best stimulate intervention work with LGBT youth?
- What mechanisms can move these agendas forward?