



# **Eliminating Disparities in Sexual Health of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

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# Overview

- Sexual Health Framework
- Social Determinants of Health
- Sexual Violence
- Women with IDD Risk Factors
- Prevention Strategies
- Policy and Program Recommendations

# Sexual Health (SH)

- Physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social well-being
- Not merely the absence of the 3 D's = pervasive social meaning of sex
  - Disease
  - Disaster
  - Dysfunction
- Requires respect and protection of everyone's sexual rights

# Social Determinants of SH

- Social Determinants of Health
  - Structural and institutional violence
  - Microaggressions
  - Hate crimes
  - Internalized oppression
- Somatic truth: embodied outcomes

# Sexual Violence (SV)

“Nonconsensual completed or attempted contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus involving penetration, however slight; nonconsensual penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object; nonconsensual intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks; or nonconsensual non-contact acts of a sexual nature such as voyeurism and verbal or behavioral sexual harassment.”

# SV against Women with IDD

- 1.5-10x times as likely to be abused as non-disabled women
- 97-99% of perpetrators in these are known to the survivor and often the service-provider
- SV prevention programs ignore the needs of women with IDD
- SV prevention programs tailored to women with IDD are patronizing and offensive

# Women with IDD Risk Factors

- Dependence on care providers
- Perception of powerlessness
- Less perceived risk of discovery
- Difficulty in believing survivor
- Less or no sexual education
- Social isolation and increased risk of manipulation
- Physical helplessness

# CDC SV Prevention Strategies

- Bystander Intervention
- Working with Men and Boys
- Sexual Health/Healthy Communities



# Policy Recommendations

- Qualitative PAR study on key issues
- Develop curriculum based on findings
- Train peer-trainers
- Evaluate outcomes from trainings
- Media campaign
- SV State Coalitions trained in cultural competency

# Questions/Comments

