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 genitilia, 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