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Recent Works on Practice with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Families

Providing Safe and Supportive Placements for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Foster Care.

Willis, Clarissa.

2010

Fostering families today

9 (6) p. 40-41

The incidence of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) youth in the foster care system is discussed, as well as specific challenges faced by LGBT youth. Suggestions are provided to help caregivers and social workers be more inclusive of LGBT youth and to provide them with necessary supports and services.

Getting Down to Basics: Tools to Support LGBTQ Youth in Care

Fostering Transitions. Child Welfare League of America. Lambda Legal.

2010

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning ("LGBTQ") young people are in America's child welfare and juvenile justice systems in disproportionate numbers. Like all young people in care, they have the right to be safe and protected. All too often, however, they are misunderstood and mistreated, leading to an increased risk of negative outcomes. This tool kit offers practical tips and information to ensure that LGBTQ young people in care receive the support and services they deserve. Developed in partnership by the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and Lambda Legal, the tool kit gives guidance on an array of issues affecting LGBTQ youth and the adults and organizations who provide them with out-of-home care. (Author abstract)

<http://www.lambdalegal.org/take-action/tool-kits/getting-down-to-basics/>

Self-Defense, Sexism, and Etiological Beliefs: Predictors of Attitudes toward Gay and Lesbian Adoption.

Rye, B. J. Meaney, Glenn J.

2010

Journal of GLBT Family Studies

6 (1) p. 1-24

While attitudes toward gay and lesbian civil rights issues have generally become more positive, attitudes regarding the rights of gay and lesbian couples to adopt children are relatively more

negative. It is proposed that attitudes toward homosexual adoption are rooted in self-protective defense mechanisms, sexism, and beliefs about the etiology of sexual orientation. A sample of Introductory Psychology students was asked to read one of three adoption scenarios. The three scenarios were identical except that the gender composition of the candidate couple was manipulated (i.e., heterosexual couple, gay male couple, or lesbian couple). Results for men and women were analyzed separately because previous evidence suggests that men and women process attitudes related to sexual orientation differently. Men's attitudes toward homosexual adoption were predicted by self-protective defense mechanisms, beliefs about the etiology of sexual orientation, and hostile sexism; women's attitudes were predicted by beliefs about the etiology of sexual orientation, self-protective defense mechanisms, hostile sexism, and benevolent sexism. The importance of a theoretical understanding of the determinants of attitudes toward gay and lesbian adoption and the implications of the current theory for professionals working with gay or lesbian adoption candidates are discussed. (Author abstract)

Family Members' Support for GLBT Issues: The Role of Family Adaptability and Cohesion.

Reeves, Teresa. Horne, Sharon G. Rostosky, Sharon Scales. Riggle, Ellen D. B. Baggett, Linda R. Aycock, Rebecca A.

2010

Journal of GLBT Family Studies

6 (1) p. 80-97

Families high in cohesion and adaptability are often able to function better than families low in cohesion and adaptability. This study hypothesized that heterosexual family members who report their family adaptability and/or cohesion to be high rather than low would have more contact with their GLBT family member, report more GLBT friends, family members, and GLBT acquaintances, as well as have more favorable attitudes toward and greater knowledge of GLBT issues. This study explored family environment (adaptability and cohesion as assessed by FACES III) of 136 family members of GLBT individuals and knowledge and attitudes (assessed by the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Knowledge and Attitudes Scale for Heterosexuals; GLB-KASH). Participants reporting high adaptability in their families reported having more contact with the GLBT family member and more GLBT acquaintances than participants reporting low adaptability in their families. Participants from more cohesive families reported more GLBT friends and family members, more knowledge about GLBT issues, and more internalized affirmativeness than participants reporting unbalanced cohesion. Participants from families high in both cohesion and adaptability reported more contact with GLBT family members, more GLBT friends and family members, more GLBT acquaintances, more knowledge about GLBT issues, and more internalized affirmativeness than participants reporting either unbalanced cohesion or adaptability in their families. Implications for counseling are discussed. (Author abstract)

The Health and Health Care of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adolescents.

Coker, Tumaini R. Austin, Bryn. Schuster, Mark A.

2010

Annual Review of Public Health

31 p. 457-477

Adolescents face a variety of challenges in their transition to adulthood; lesbian, gay, and bisexual adolescents face these typical challenges as well as additional challenges that are related to the social stigma of their sexual orientation. For some lesbian, gay, and bisexual adolescents, this stigma may induce psychosocial stress, leading to increased health risk behaviors and poorer health outcomes. In this article, we review data on the health and health care of LGB adolescents. We examine health indicators and health risks for LGB youth, including substance use, eating disorders, suicidality, risky sexual behaviors, violence exposure and victimization, and homelessness. We also examine health care provision and utilization for LGB youth. Lastly, we discuss ways in which researchers and clinicians can improve LGB adolescent health and health care. (Author abstract)

Know Your Rights: Transgender Youth in Foster Care.

Sylvia Rivera Law Project.

2010

<http://srlp.org/files/kyr%20foster%20care%20eng-.pdf>

Gay, Lesbian, and Heterosexual Adoptive Parents: Couple and Relationship Issues.

Farr, Rachel H. Forssell, Stephen L. Patterson, Charlotte J.

2010

Journal of GLBT Family Studies

6 (2) p. 199-213

This study explored some dynamics of couples' relationships in 106 adoptive families headed by 29 gay, 27 lesbian, and 50 heterosexual couples with young children. Regardless of sexual orientation, most couples reported long-term relationships, secure attachments, and high relationship satisfaction. Parental sexual orientation was related to how often couples reported having sex. Lesbian couples reported having sex the least often, while gay couples reported having sex the most often. Sexual relationship satisfaction did not, however, differ as a function of parental sexual orientation. Overall relationship satisfaction was significantly correlated with sexual satisfaction, frequency of sexual relations, and greater attachment security. We discuss these results in context of earlier research on sexual orientation, parenting, and couple relationships. (Author abstract)

Factors Associated with Parents' Knowledge of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youths' Sexual Orientation.

D'Augelli, Anthony R. Grossman, Arnold H. Starks, Michael T. Sinclair, Katerina O.

2010

Journal of GLBT Family Studies

6 (2) p. 178-198

This study examined factors associated with gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) youths' parents' knowledge of their children's sexual orientation. Over a 2-year period, we studied 196 youths whose parents were aware or unaware of their children's sexual orientation, and youths whose

sexual orientation became known to their parents. Differences between youths in their sexual orientation development, psychosocial adjustment, support, victimization by parents, and involvement in GLB social activities were considered. Youths whose parents were aware of their sexual orientation indicated that they were more same-sex oriented and reported less internalized homophobia than youths in the other two groups. Youths whose sexual orientation became known had poorer parental relationships and also feared parental harassment and rejection. (Author abstract)

Home Study/Family Assessments and Child Matching With LGBT Families [Presentation Slides].

Kahn, Ellen.

Human Rights Campaign Foundation Family Project.

2010

<http://nysccc.org/wp-content/uploads/LGBTAssess.pdf>

Hidden Injustice: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth in Juvenile Courts.

Majd, Katayoon. Marksamer, Jody. Reyes, Carolyn.

National Juvenile Defender Center. National Center for Lesbian Rights. Legal Services for Children.

2009

This report examines the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth in juvenile courts across the United States. It is based on information collected from 414 surveys and 65 interviews with juvenile justice professionals, including judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, probation officers, detention staff, and other juvenile justice advocates; focus groups and interviews of 55 youth who possess relevant firsthand experience; and an extensive review of relevant social science and legal research findings. This report begins by discussing barriers to fair and effective juvenile justice systems, the responsibility of professionals to treat youth in juvenile courts fairly, common misconceptions and biases about LGBT youth in the juvenile justice system, and attempts to change, control, or punish LGBT adolescent sexual orientation and gender identity. The impact of family rejection and school harassment on LGBT youth involvement in the juvenile justice system and the lack of services to meet the needs of LGBT youth are also described. Following chapters consider the harmful and inappropriate use of pretrial detention, unsafe and unfair conditions of confinement for LGBT youth, and barriers to zealous defense advocacy for LGBT youth. The report concludes LGBT court-involved youth across the country often face denials of due process, unduly punitive responses, harmful services and programs, and unsafe conditions of confinement. Recommendations are made for guaranteeing due process protections and improving outcomes for all youth in delinquency proceedings, including LGBT youth. 51 references.

<http://www.lsc-sf.org/wp-content/uploads/hidden-injustice-low-res-final.pdf>

Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care.

National CASA Association.

2009

The Connection (National CASA Association)

p. 6-13

This brief begins by describing the unique challenges faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth in foster care. Challenges include a stigmatized identity, a lack of permanency, and a lack of safety. Perspectives of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), youth, and child welfare workers on these challenges are shared, and initiatives CASA programs are implementing to help LGBTQ youth are described. Success stories of LGBTQ youth who have been helped by CASAs are included, as well as a list of resources related to LGBTQ youth in care.

http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/site/publications/TheConnection/Fall2009/Cover_Story.pdf

Lesbian and Gay-Parent Families: Development and Functioning (Chapter 12 in Families and Change: Coping With Stressful Events and Transitions. 4th Ed.)

Goldberg, Abbie E.

2009

This chapter discusses research on various aspects of lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) people's experiences. It begins with a discussion of LGB people's coming out experiences, as well as their experiences forming and maintaining intimate relationships, with attention to the barriers they face in doing so. Next, the multiple barriers that LGB people face in becoming parents are discussed, as well as stressors that LGB-parent families experience, and implications for practice. 71 references.

Social Work Practice With Transgender and Gender Variant Youth. Second Edition.

Mallon, Gerald P.

2009

Through personal narratives and case studies, this text explores the childhood and adolescent experiences of transgender and gender variant young people. It is designed to offer practical guidance to help social workers and youths' families learn more about the reality of transgender and gender variant youths' lives. An introductory chapter discusses the language and terminology of trans culture, definitions related to trans youth, and the development of trans identity for trans youth. Following chapters address: using an ecological approach in practice with transgender and gender variant youth; ethical issues in the mental health treatment of trans adolescents; internal and external stress factors associated with the identity development of transgender and gender variant youth; social work practice with transgender and gender variant youth; social work practice with female-to-male transgender and gender variant youth; the experiences of an emerging male-to-female transgender and gender variant youth; group-work practice with transgender and gender variant youth; social work practice with transgender and gender variant youth and their families; and legal advocacy on behalf of transgender and gender nonconforming youth in different settings, including youth in foster care, juvenile justice settings,

schools, and homeless shelters. A final chapter discusses creating a trans-affirming culture and transforming the culture of agencies. The book closes with a summary of recommendations for the clinical treatment of transgender and gender variant youth. Numerous references. (Author abstract modified)

12 Tips for Advocating for LGBTQ Youth.

Top Tips for Volunteers.

Oberloh, LaRae.

National CASA Association.

Sioux Falls Area CASA Program (Sioux Falls, S.D.)

2009

The Connection (National CASA Association)

p. 14-15

This fact sheet lists 12 ways Court Appointed Special Advocates and Guardians ad Litem can advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Strategies include: examine biases and recognize it is okay to be uncomfortable at times, obtain specific education and training on advocating for LGBTQ youth, research and be aware of resources, use general terms when speaking with people, respect confidentiality, recognize the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, ensure safety for LGBTQ youth, learn laws pertinent to LGBTQ individuals, be a visible advocate, recognize system failures that impact youth, recognize educational failures, and advocate for permanency.

http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/site/publications/TheConnection/Fall2009/Top_Tips.pdf

LGBTQ: Sexual Orientation Questions of Youth.

Youth In Progress. New York (State). Office of Children and Family Services. Center for Development of Human Services.

2009

This brochure explains the key terminology surrounding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, lists facts about LGBTQ people, and emphasizes that all foster youth, including LGBTQ youth, have rights while in care. A list of additional resources is provided, as well as contact information for New York Youth In Progress regional offices.

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub5090.pdf>

Heterosexual, Lesbian, and Gay Preadoptive Parents' Preferences About Child Gender.

Goldberg, Abbie E.

Clark University.

2009

Sex Roles

61 (1-2) p. 55-71

Little research has explored the child gender preferences of preadoptive parents. This study utilized a mixed-methods approach to explore child gender preferences (and individuals' reasons for such preferences) in a geographically diverse, US sample of 93 heterosexual, 61 lesbian, and

48 gay male preadoptive couples. Heterosexual men were the least likely to demonstrate a gender preference and gay men were the most likely. Individuals in heterosexual relationships were more likely to prefer girls than individuals in same-gender relationships. In explaining their preferences, sexual minorities often emphasized gender socialization considerations (e.g., their perceived inability to socialize a child of the opposite gender) and concerns about heterosexism (e.g., some gay men preferred girls because they felt a boy would encounter more harassment). (Author abstract)

7 Tips for CASA/GAL Programs on Working with LGBTQ Youth.

National CASA Association.

2009

The Connection (National CASA Association)

Cover Story Sidebar 2

The following tips were compiled from interviews with 25 CASA staff members and volunteers, youth formerly in foster care, parents and national experts on the needs of LGBTQ youth.

(Author abstract)

http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/site/publications/TheConnection/Fall2009/Seven_Tips_for_Programs.pdf

Helping Courts Serve the Best Interests of LGBTQ Youth.

Bermudez, Flor.

National CASA Association.

Lambda Legal.

2009

The Connection (National CASA Association)

This fact sheet discusses the challenges faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth in foster care, and the role Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers play in helping judges understand the risks LGBTQ youth in care face and the impact they may have on children's lives. CASA volunteers are urged to recognize that anti-LGBTQ attitudes are the product of prejudices with no place in the child welfare system. The need for CASA programs to implement basic LGBTQ competence trainings is stressed, as well as the need for CASA volunteers to fully explain to youth their role as agents of the court. Additional recommendations include: having CASA service recommendations address support and guidance for parents and foster parents, helping LGBTQ youth receive culturally competent services, helping the court assess whether foster families and congregate settings are able to ensure safety and positive development for these youth, and ensuring health care providers are informed of the risks these youth face.

http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/site/publications/TheConnection/Fall2009/Partner_Perspective.pdf

What Makes a Family? A Closer Look at Gay Adoption.

Sioco, Maria Carmela.

2009

Children's Voice.

18 (6) p. 18-23

Gay adoption in Florida is explored, as well as recent court cases, public perceptions of gay adoption, and the increasing willingness of public and private adoption agencies to accept applications from gay and lesbian parents. Research findings countering the arguments of those opposed to gay adoption are discussed, and the future of gay adoption is considered. Web resources for gay parents and families are listed.

Family Rejection as a Predictor of Negative Health Outcomes in White and Latino Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young Adults.

Ryan, Caitlin. Huebner, David. Diaz, Rafael M. Sanchez, Jorge.

San Francisco State University.

2009

Pediatrics

123 (1) p. 346-352

OBJECTIVE. We examined specific family rejecting reactions to sexual orientation and gender expression during adolescence as predictors of current health problems in a sample of lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults. **METHODS.** On the basis of previously collected in-depth interviews, we developed quantitative scales to assess retrospectively in young adults the frequency of parental and caregiver reactions to a lesbian, gay, or bisexual sexual orientation during adolescence. Our survey instrument also included measures of 9 negative health indicators, including mental health, substance abuse, and sexual risk. The survey was administered to a sample of 224 white and Latino self-identified lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults, aged 21 to 25, recruited through diverse venues and organizations. Participants completed self-report questionnaires by using either computer-assisted or pencil-and-paper surveys. **RESULTS.** Higher rates of family rejection were significantly associated with poorer health outcomes. On the basis of odds ratios, lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults who reported higher levels of family rejection during adolescence were 8.4 times more likely to report having attempted suicide, 5.9 times more likely to report high levels of depression, 3.4 times more likely to use illegal drugs, and 3.4 times more likely to report having engaged in unprotected sexual intercourse compared with peers from families that reported no or low levels of family rejection. Latino men reported the highest number of negative family reactions to their sexual orientation in adolescence. **CONCLUSIONS.** This study establishes a clear link between specific parental and caregiver rejecting behaviors and negative health problems in young lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults. Providers who serve this population should assess and help educate families about the impact of rejecting behaviors. Counseling families, providing anticipatory guidance, and referring families for counseling and support can help make a critical difference in helping decrease risk and increasing well-being for lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth. (Author abstract)

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/123/1/346>
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/123/1/346>

Gay and Lesbian Adoptions: Next Battle of Rights.

APSA 2009 Toronto Meeting Paper.

Do, Lynna Lan Tien Nguyen.

Walden University.

2009

Gays and lesbians have been fighting an uphill battle for equality from having benefits to being recognized as family members in emergency situations to the right to marry. In light of the current Unmarried Couple Adoption Ban in the state of Arkansas, this paper will explore this battlefield on the right to adopt children. The focus will be on the battle between both sides for and against gay and lesbian couples' right to adopt. It will explore the ways that other states are making it illegal for homosexual couples to adopt children, without out right saying that these individuals cannot adopt children. (Author abstract)

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1451904

Supporting LGBTQ Youth: A Judicial Bench Card.

American Bar Association. Opening Doors Project.

2009

Designed to assist judges, this tip sheet lists strategies for supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth (LGBTQ). Tips are provided for fostering an inclusive environment in the courtroom, ensuring fair treatment of LGBTQ youth, and providing necessary services and support for LGBTQ youth. Placement and permanency strategies are also listed for supporting LGBTQ youth for reunification, adoption, guardianship or relative placement, and for another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA).

<http://www.abanet.org/child/Bench%20Card.pdf>

Who May Adopt, Be Adopted, or Place a Child for Adoption?

State Statutes Series

Child Welfare Information Gateway

2009

This briefing reviews State laws regarding parties to an adoption. Statutes dealing with who may adopt, be adopted, and may place a child for adoption are identified for each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S Virgin Islands.

http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/parties.cfm

http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/parties.pdf

Psychosocial Problems Associated With Homelessness in Sexual Minority Youths.

Gattis, Maurice N.

2009

Journal of human behavior in the social environment.

19 (8) p. 1066-1094

Sexual minorities are overrepresented among homeless youths, and this is often related to reactions to their status as sexual minorities. While on the streets, they are at increased risk for victimization, substance and alcohol use, sexual risk behaviors, and mental health issues compared to homeless heterosexual youths. This article uses ecological systems theory to examine psychosocial problems associated with homelessness among sexual minority youths and reviews empirical literature examining outcomes related to homeless sexual minority youths including mental health, substance use, and sexual risk behavior. Implications for social work are discussed including practice, policy, and suggestions for future studies. (Author abstract)

A National Approach to Meeting the Needs of LGBTQ Homeless Youth.

National Alliance to End Homelessness.

2009

This two-page fact sheet provides an overview of the prevalence and experience of LGBTQ youth, causal factors, and risks to LGBTQ youth while homeless. It also highlights a reform agenda to end homelessness for LGBTQ youth and makes best practices recommendations for youth-serving professionals, case workers, and advocates, for administrators and supervisors, and for residential services. (Author abstract)

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2240>

http://www.endhomelessness.org/files/2240_file_LGBTQ_Homeless_Youth_Factsheet_4_9_09_.pdf

A Glimpse Within: An Exploratory Study of Child Welfare Agencies' Practices With LGBTQ Youth.

Rosenwald, Mitchell.

Barry University School of Social Work.

2009

Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services

21 (4) p. 343-356

This article presents findings from a national survey of agency members of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) with respect to organizational culture and service delivery for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Sixty-seven study participants provided quantitative and qualitative data via an Internet questionnaire. Overall, agencies fall short of fully subscribing to recommendations made by the CWLA. They could improve their support for providing an inclusive environment, creating supportive policies, and selecting childcare providers regardless of sexual orientation/gender identity. In addition, agencies varied with respect to the relative emphasis that services geared specifically for LGBTQ should occur. Although some progress has been made, much work remains for child welfare agencies to fully address the needs of LGBTQ youth. (Author abstract)

Courting Change: Queer Parents, Judges, and the Transformation of American Family Law.

Richman, Kimberly D.

University of San Francisco.

2009

This text challenges prevailing notions that gay and lesbian parents and families are hurt by the indeterminacy of family law, and argues that because family law is so loosely defined, it allows for the flexibility needed to respond to changes in how society conceives family, parenting, and the role of sexual orientation in family law. Drawing on every recorded judicial decision in gay and lesbian adoption and custody cases over the last 50 years (n=316), and on interviews with 36 lawyers and 20 judges between 2001 and 2004, the book explores how parental and sexual identities are formed and interpreted in law and how gay and lesbian parents can harness indeterminacy to transform family law. Chapters provide an overview of gay and lesbian rights, family law, and the historical and social constructions of sexuality and family; analyze the indeterminacy of family law and how it functions and affects the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents and families over time in family law; review the deployment, successes, and failures of rights discourses in the context of gay and lesbian parents' custody and adoption; and look at the role of dissenting opinions in paving the way for change over time. A final chapter concludes that the indeterminacy in rights, identities, rationales, and custody outcomes provide a fertile ground for the revision, negotiation, and eventual sedimentation of new social and legal concepts of family, sexuality and the best interest of the child. Numerous references.

Asset-Based Approaches for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQI2-S) Youth and Families in Systems of Care.

FMHI Publication ; 252.

Gamache, Peter. Lazear, Katherine J.

Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health (Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute).

2009

Families with a parent, child, or youth who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, two-spirit (LGBTQI2-S) or transitioning navigate varying levels of acceptance and support when accessing and utilizing needed services within the mental health system. This monograph offers a public health approach for communities to meet the needs of these families. It presents a description of the research literature related to youth and families who are LGBTQI2-S. It also discusses a conceptual model of cultural competence to develop programs to serve the LGBTQI2-S population, and provides recommendations for next steps in a research agenda to develop an inclusive and asset-based system of care to meet the needs of youth and families who are LGBTQI2-S. (Author abstract)

<http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/rtcpubs/FamExp/lgbt-mono.pdf>

Information Packet: LGBTQ Youth and Spirituality.

Tidhar, Noam.

National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections.

2009

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Children's Bureau.

This paper discusses the challenges lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, and queer (LGBTQ) youth face in general and in various religions. It shares findings that indicate there is a direct correlation between spiritual practice and a positive sense of well being amongst LGBTQ individuals, and that religion, faith, and spirituality have proven to be helpful in the healing process and self-affirmation of LGBTQ people dealing with the homophobia of religious fundamentalism, substance abuse, and terminal illness. A shift towards the greater acceptance of LGBTQ adults and youth within religious organizations is noted, and the need for families to use their faith and values to support their LGBTQ children is stressed. Lists of websites that address general issues for LGBTQ youth, resources that address LGBTQ youth and spirituality, and website resources for LGBTQ youth by type of faith are included. 28 references.

[http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/Tidhar LGBTQ Youth Spirituality2009.pdf](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/Tidhar_LGBTQ_Youth_Spirituality2009.pdf)

Foster Care Laws and Regulations in the U.S.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

2009

This fact sheet highlights States with laws restricting foster parenting. It reviews regulations in Nebraska prohibiting homosexuals from becoming foster parents, and regulations in Utah and Arkansas prohibiting cohabiting persons from becoming foster parents. A regulation in North Dakota that allows child-placing agencies to discriminate against prospective parents based on religious or moral objection is also noted.

http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/issue_maps/foster_care_regs_7_09_color.pdf

The Desire for Parenthood among Lesbians and Gay Men (Chapter 4 in International Adoption: Global Inequalities and the Circulation of Children.).

Gross, Martine. Thiers-Vidal, Leo.

2009

This chapter discusses the results of a survey with 285 members of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Parents and Future Parents and interviews with 60 gay fathers, lesbian mothers, or gay men and lesbians who wanted to become parents. Findings indicate gay men and lesbians do not articulate their parental projects and conjugality in the same way, with women more often consider parenting a couple project. 3 tables and 22 references.

Supporting the Emotional and Psychological Well Being of Sexual Minority Youth: Youth Ideas for Action.

Davis, Tamara S. Saltzburg, Susan Locke, Chris R.

2009

Children and Youth Services Review
31 (9) p. 1030-1041

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) populations are susceptible to stress-related mental health disorders because of daily imposed stigma and prejudice. Yet minimal information exists from the perspective of sexual minority youth about how to support them in managing a challenging social environment during critical stages of development. Through the lens of youth from two geographic communities this study examined what is needed to support GLBT adolescent mental health. The study employed inductive secondary analysis of qualitative and quantitative data gathered through Concept Mapping needs assessments. Findings include 61 unduplicated ideas for support across the two groups of youth; 14 primary themes emerged with 22 stated needs common among both groups. Areas of need in multiple service systems are identified. The importance of the supports for meeting youths' emotional needs varied between the two communities. Ideas generated represent youth ideas for improving conditions which contribute to disparate community supports needed to develop positive emotional and psychological well being. The findings are conceptualized with regard to psychological and physical safety; community impact on emotional well being; schools and psychosocial supports; and access to relevant mental health and health care. Discussion includes implications for practice and policy. (Author abstract)

Gay and Lesbian Identity Development: An Overview for Social Workers.

Levy, Denise L.
2009

Journal of human behavior in the social environment.
19 (8) p. 978-993

Social work literature on the topic of gay and lesbian identity development is sparse. Although some texts do include sections on social work practice with gay and lesbian individuals, rarely is this information presented within the broader context of the history of sexuality and contemporary gay and lesbian theory. Practitioners, students, and researchers often have to look outside the field to find resources on this topic. In an effort to advance social work literature, this article provides a comprehensive description of gay and lesbian identity development and recommendations for advancing the literature. (Author abstract)

Tool for Attorneys Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Survivors of Domestic Violence.

Lynn, Morgan.
American Bar Association. National LGBT Bar Association.
Women Empowered Against Violence.
2009

http://www.abanet.org/irr/enterprise/lgbt/ABA_LGBT-tools_Final.pdf

Helping Families Support Their Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Children.

Ryan, Caitlin.

Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development.

San Francisco State University.

2009

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

This practice brief was developed for families, caretakers, advocates, and providers to: Provide basic information to help families support their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children; Share some of the critical new research from the Family Acceptance Project™ (FAP) at San Francisco State University. This important new research shows that families have a major impact on their LGBT children's health, mental health, and well-being; and Give families and LGBT youth hope that ethnically, religiously, and socially diverse families, parents, and caregivers can become more supportive of their LGBT children. This practice brief reports on specific findings from FAP research. (Author abstract)

http://www11.georgetown.edu/research/gucchd/nccc/documents/LGBT_Brief.pdf

Opening Doors: Improving the Legal System's Approach to LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care Project [Website].

American Bar Association. Opening Doors Project.

2009

As a judge, lawyer or other child welfare professional do you understand the risk factors common to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth? These include high suicide rates, substance abuse, health issues, and harassment in foster care and in school. Do you know how a youth's LGBTQ status affects permanency (including reunification, adoption, guardianship, or placement with a fit and willing relative)? The Opening Doors Project aims to increase the legal community's awareness of LGBTQ youth in foster care and the unique issues they face, and provide the legal community with advocacy tools to successfully represent these youth. (Author abstract)

<http://www.abanet.org/child/lgbtq.shtml>

Parenting in Nontraditional Families and Special Populations (Chapter 10 in Parenting: A Dynamic Perspective)

Holden, George W.

Southern Methodist University.

2009

This chapter begins by describing the characteristics and challenges faced by four types of nontraditional family structures: single parents (including adolescent parents), gay and lesbian parents, adoptive parents, and grandparents. Issues faced by parents with serious mental illnesses and parents with children with serious developmental problems are then explored. The chapter includes case examples and closes with thought questions. 8 boxes.

National Recommended Best Practices for Serving LGBT Homeless Youth.

National Alliance to End Homelessness. Lambda Legal. National Network for Youth. National Center for Lesbian Rights.

2009

This policy brief provides a brief overview of homelessness among LGBT youth. It makes recommendations about improving practice, improving organizational culture, and improving residential services. The recommendations are broken down into three sections. The first section includes steps intake workers, case managers, social workers, youth supervisors, and others who have regular, direct contact with youth should take to improve the experiences of LGBT youth accessing services. The second section includes steps administrators should take to improve agency-wide culture and effectiveness in serving LGBT youth. The final section includes specific steps both administrators and youth workers should take to improve the experiences of youth in residential settings, whether these settings are emergency shelters or longer term transitional living. (Author abstract)

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2239>

http://www.endhomelessness.org/files/2239_file_Recommended_Best_Practices_for_LGBT_Homeless_Youth_4_9_09.pdf

Cost of Florida's Ban on Adoption by GLB Individuals and Same-Sex Couples.

Goldberg, Naomi G. Badgett, M.V. Lee.

University of California. The Williams Institute.

2009

This memo estimates the impact on children and the cost to the State of Florida of the current prohibition on adoption by gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) individuals and same-sex couples. We use data about the number of children adopted each year as a way to estimate the number of GLB individuals and same-sex couples who would be likely to serve as adoptive parents if the ban were not in place. Prohibiting GLB individuals and same-sex couples from adopting means that 165 children must remain in foster care or must have alternative adoptive homes recruited for them. As a result, we estimate that the ban costs the State of Florida over \$2.5 million in per year. As explained below, this estimate is conservative since some likely additional costs are difficult to quantify. In addition, because of the current prohibition on GLB individuals and same-sex couples adopting children in Florida, it is possible that more GLB individuals and same-sex couples would be interested in adopting if the ban were lifted. We estimate that if the ban were lifted, both adoption and foster care by GLB individuals and same-sex couples would increase to the average United States level, leading to 219 children being adopted, and saving the State of Florida \$3.4 million dollars in the first year. (Author abstract)

<http://repositories.cdlib.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1115&context=uclalaw/williams>

The Politics and Ethics of Same-Sex Adoption.

Sullivan, Richard. Harrington, Margaret.

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

2009

Journal of GLBT Family Studies
5 (3) p. 235-246

While Canada's Civil Marriage Act assures same-sex couples the right to equality of treatment before the law and challenges provincial authority to make revisions in areas of family policy that abrogate that equality, there is a long way to go before that legislation can ensure equality of treatment by the many professions with legislative mandates to serve families. This study reports on unexpected findings from a study of barriers to adoption in which experienced social workers practicing in the field of adoption reported that same-sex couples were now being approved for adoption in equal proportion to heterosexual applicants but were not being matched to children awaiting placement in the same proportion. This finding necessitates a discussion of further research questions to uncover the sources of this discrepancy. This paper also proposes some ethical criteria for assuring that adoption remains child centered. (Author abstract)

Best Practices for Meeting the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Homeless Youth.

Larkin Street Youth Services.
2009

This brief explores the incidence of homeless youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ), reasons why they become homeless, and the unique needs of LGBTQ youth that should to be addressed. Statistics are provided that highlight the demographics of the LGBTQ youth and their length of time without stable housing. Issues the youth are dealing with are reviewed and include: daily survival, physical health, mental health issues, and substance use. The additional stigma and challenges faced by transgender youth are noted, and strategies professionals can use to serve LGBTQ homeless youth are discussed in the areas of housing, behavioral health, educational support, workforce development, and independent living skills. Finally, the importance of program policies that address gender orientation issues, staff training, data collection, and community collaboration in developing programs is emphasized. 28 references.

<http://www.larkinstreetyouth.org/news/pdf/LGBTQYouthBrief%2010.09.pdf>

An Evaluation of Gay/Lesbian and Heterosexual Adoption.

Averett, Paige. Nalavany, Blace. Ryan, Scott.
2009

Adoption Quarterly
12 (3/4) p. 129-151

Many experts in the helping professions have agreed that there is no scientific credence to support a gay and lesbian adoption ban. Nevertheless, there continues to be persistent mythology pertaining to outcomes for children adopted by gay and lesbian parents. This position may be somewhat due to the dearth of research that compares heterosexual and homosexual parenting outcomes with adopted children. To respond to this gap in the literature, this study explored the extent of emotional and behavioral problems among children aged 1.5 to 5 years (n = 380) and 6 to 18 years (n = 1,004) with gay and lesbian or heterosexual adoptive parents. A multiple

regression analysis was used to assess the association between the dependent variables (child internalizing and externalizing behavior) on adoptive parent sexual orientation (gay and lesbian or heterosexual) while controlling for child age, child sex, pre-adoptive maltreatment, co-sibling adoption, adoption preparation, family income, and family functioning. As hypothesized, results indicated that child internalizing and externalizing behavior was not contingent upon adoptive parent sexual orientation. Rather, regardless of sexual orientation, adoptive parents are likely to encounter similar challenges in terms of risk factors for child behavioral problems and mitigating factors of such behavior. Recommendations for practice, policy, and future research are highlighted. (Author abstract)

Moving the Margins: Training Curriculum for Child Welfare Services with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth in Out-of-Home Care.

Elze, Diane. McHaelen, Robin.

National Association of Social Workers. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.
2009

The National Association of Social Workers and the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund joined in partnership to improve out-of-home care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning/queer (LGBTQ) youth. Moving the Margins: Training Curriculum for Child Welfare Services with LGBTQ Youth in Out-of-Home Care is intended to provide training on building the capacity, awareness and skills of social workers and other child welfare practitioners to better serve and respond to the needs of this population of youth. This curriculum is divided into modules, assuming that trainers will present aspects of the materials to a range of different audiences, with differing levels of understanding, prior knowledge and job responsibilities. The first half of the curriculum (LGBTQ 101) is designed as an introduction for trainees just beginning their journey toward cultural competency with LGBTQ clients, staff and peers. The basic LGBTQ 101 is a 2.5-hour values clarification training that offers participants the opportunity to explore their personal views and values regarding this population, differentiate between a value or belief and a myth or stereotype and develop strategies to balance personal views and professional responsibilities when the two are in conflict. Module V (Learning Lab) may be added to the basic curriculum when there is a minimum of 3 hours to train or as a second, skill-building training with the same participants. The second half of the curriculum (LGBTQ 201) is designed in skill-building modules. Each module explores in greater depth many of the issues LGBTQ clients face in out-of-home care systems. These modules include scenarios that can be explored in small group discussions, through role-play and in learning labs. Because facilitators may be required to provide training in less than the optimal 2.5 to 3 hours, the curriculum also provides sample agendas for 1 hour, 1.5 hour and 2 hour workshops. (Author abstract)

http://data.lambdalegal.org/publications/downloads/mtm_moving-the-margins.pdf

An Empirical Analysis of Factors Affecting Adolescent Attachment in Adoptive Families with Homosexual and Straight Parents.

Erich, Stephen. Kanenberg, Heather. Case, Kim. Allen, Theresa. Bogdanos, Takis.
2009

Children and Youth Services Review

31 (3) p. 398-404

Data were collected on 154 adoptive families with gay/lesbian and straight adoptive parents (154 parent respondents and 210 adolescent respondents). This study was principally interested in factors affecting adolescent attachment including parent sexual orientation, adolescent and parent life satisfaction, and parent level of relationship satisfaction with their adopted child as well as other key parent, child and adoption characteristics. The results suggest that higher level of adopted adolescent attachment to parents is not related to adoptive parent sexual orientation. Adolescent attachment to parents is related to adolescent life satisfaction; parent level of relationship satisfaction with their adopted child, number of placements prior to adoption, and adolescent's current age. Adolescent life satisfaction, like level of attachment is an indicator of youth well-being. This variable was found to have a significant relationship with parent level of relationship satisfaction with their adopted child. The results also indicated parent's level of relationship satisfaction with their adopted child was related to parent life satisfaction. The variable child's age at adoption was found to have significant relationships with parent life satisfaction, parent's level of relationship satisfaction with their adopted child, and number of placements prior to adoption. Implications for policy, practice, education and further research are discussed. (Author abstract)

Lesbian and Gay Parenting: A Research Summary.

Lewellen, Denver.

Equality Arizona.

2009

The 2000 Census report revealed that 96% of all U.S. counties have at least one same-sex couple with children [1]. As in the case of same-sex marriage, the issue of lesbian and gay parenting is a deeply contested terrain, and legal and social progress on this issue varies from state to state. This research summary presents an overview of 1) the key legal challenges facing same-sex headed households with children and 2) the significant research studies conducted on various issues related to same-sex parenting. Additionally, the 1995 pro same-sex parenting policy statement of the American Psychological Association (APA) will be examined, as well as the right-wing reaction which attempts to politicize and discredit the scientific validity of the research considered by the APA in its formation of the policy. (Author abstract)

<http://education.equalityarizona.org/Portals/0/Lesbian%20Gay%20Parenting.pdf>

Family Outings: Disclosure Practices Among Adopted Youth With Gay and Lesbian Parents.

Gianino, Mark. Goldberg, Abbie. Lewis, Terrence.

2009

Adoption Quarterly

12 (3/4) p. 205-228

This study uses qualitative data from 14 interviews with multicultural youth aged 13 to 20 to explore how they negotiate disclosures of their adoptive status and gay and lesbian parent-headed family structure within their schools and friendship networks. Findings reveal a

continuum of disclosure practices ranging from not telling anyone that they have gay or lesbian parents to more open disclosure, with several participants being forced to "come out" often about their families. Participants described receiving positive responses from others about their adoptive status, but they were often apprehensive about disclosing that their parents were gay or lesbian. Findings suggest that parental preparation for dealing with adoptism, racism, and heterosexism/homophobia can facilitate an easier disclosure process for youth regarding their multicultural identities and family structure. Implications for research, policy, and adoption practice are discussed. (Author abstract)

Promising Practices in Adoption and Foster Care: A Comprehensive Guide to Policies and Practices That Welcome, Affirm and Support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Foster and Adoptive Parents. 3rd Ed.

Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

2009

The Promising Practices Guide is the first comprehensive, practical tool aimed to help adoption and foster care agencies and exchange organizations improve policies and practices that affect their work with LGBT prospective adoptive parents. The Guide features sample policies and materials, along with tips from leaders of welcoming agencies and exchange organizations, researchers in the field and LGBT adoptive and foster parents. Topics include leadership and governance; staff training and recruitment strategies; pre-adoption services; home study practices; placement; services for foster parents; post-permanency support for adoptive families and retention of foster families. (Author abstract)

<http://www.hrc.org/issues/parenting/adoptions/8941.htm>

Incidence and Vulnerability of LGBTQ Homeless Youth.

Youth Homelessness Series ; Brief No. 2.

National Alliance to End Homelessness.

2009

This brief reviews research concerning LGBTQ homeless youth and offers suggestions for interventions with positive outcomes for homeless adolescents and young adults. (Author abstract)

http://www.endhomelessness.org/files/2141_file_LGBTQ_Brief_2007.pdf

Early and Late Stage Adolescence: Adopted Adolescents' Attachment to Their Heterosexual and Lesbian/Gay Parents.

Erich, Stephen. Hall, Sharon K. Kanenberg, Heather. Case, Kim.

2009

Adoption Quarterly

12 (3/4) p. 152-170

Data were collected on 154 adoptive families with gay/lesbian and straight adoptive parents (154 parent respondents & one randomly chosen adolescent from each family). This study was designed to examine three research questions: 1) Are there differences in adopted adolescent

attachment to parents among early (12-15) and late (16-19) adopted adolescents; 2) are there differences in attachment to adoptive parents during early adolescence and late adolescence by parent sexual orientation; and 3) what are the factors (IVs) that contribute to level of adolescent attachment to adoptive parents (DV). The results indicated that early adolescent attachment to parents was significantly stronger than late adolescent attachment to parents. There were no significant differences in early and late adopted adolescent attachment by parent's sexual orientation. A Stepwise Regression Model indicated adolescent life satisfaction and parent satisfaction of the relationship with their adopted child were significant predictors of adopted adolescent attachment to parents among this sample of gay/lesbian and heterosexual adoptive parents. The implications of these findings are discussed. (Author abstract)

The Experiences of Gay Men and Lesbians in Becoming and Being Adoptive Parents.

Brown, Suzanne. Smalling, Susan. Groza, Victor. Ryan, Scott.

2009

Adoption Quarterly

12 (3/4) p. 229-246

The purpose of this study was to explore the adoption and parenting experiences of lesbian and gay (LG) adoptive parents. Data for the present study are from a larger national cross-sectional survey of LG adoptive parents. Participants were recruited through advertisements placed in metropolitan LG newspapers, Web sites, and organizations across the country that serve LG individuals. This paper presents an analysis of the qualitative data gathered from 182 participants who responded to the following statement and two questions: 1. Write three short statements describing the biggest barriers or challenges that you faced in your efforts to become an LG adoptive parent. 2. What are the three biggest challenges you now face as an LG adoptive parent? 3. What are the three biggest joys you have experienced as an LG adoptive parent? The sample in this study was 54.9% female and 90% White. Thematic analysis was utilized to summarize the nature of the adoption experience from the LG parent perspective. Parents identified LG-specific barriers to becoming adoptive parents including perceived discrimination at all levels of the adoption process. Further, parents report a lack of role models to guide and mentor them. LG challenges included legal fears and struggles as they attempted to finalize both the initial and second-parent adoption. LG joys included being a role model to other parents, unanticipated increased extended family involvement, and unanticipated community support and acceptance. (Author abstract)

Transracial Adoption by Lesbian, Gay, and Heterosexual Couples: Who Completes Transracial Adoptions and With What Results?

Farr, Rachel H. Patterson, Charlotte J.

2009

Adoption Quarterly

12 (3/4) p. 187-204

Who completes transracial adoptions and with what results? This study explored pathways to and outcomes of transracial adoption among 106 families headed by lesbian (n = 27), gay (n = 29),

and heterosexual (n = 50) couples. Transracial adoptions occurred more often among lesbian and gay than among heterosexual couples, and they occurred more often among interracial than among same-race couples. Lesbian and gay couples were more likely than heterosexual couples to be interracial. Transracial adoptions were also more common among those who gave child-centered reasons as compared to adult-centered reasons for adoption. There were, however, no differences in adjustment between transracial and inracial adoptive families. Implications for child welfare agencies and for legal and policy debates are discussed. (Author abstract)

Perceived Parenting Skill Across the Transition to Adoptive Parenthood Among Lesbian, Gay, and Heterosexual Couples.

Goldberg, Abbie E. Smith, JuliAnna Z.

Clark University.

2009

Journal of Family Psychology

23 (6) p. 861-870

Little research has examined change in perceived parenting skill across the transition to parenthood or predictors of change in perceived skill. The current study used an ecological framework to examine predictors of self-perceived parenting skill among 47 lesbian, 31 gay, and 56 heterosexual couples who were adopting their first child. Findings revealed that, on average, all new parents perceived themselves as becoming more skilled, although gay men increased the most and lesbians the least. Participants who were female, reported fewer depressive symptoms, expected to do more child care, and reported higher job autonomy viewed themselves as more skilled pre-adoption. With regard to change, parents who reported more relational conflict and parents who expected to do more child care experienced lesser increases in perceived skill. These findings suggest that regardless of gender, sexual orientation, and route to parenthood, new parents experience similar, positive changes in perceived skill, thereby broadening our understanding of parenting skill in diverse groups. The findings also highlight the importance of examining how gender, sexual orientation, and the family context may shape perceived skill across the transition to parenthood. (Author abstract)

<http://www.clarku.edu/faculty/goldberg/Goldberg%20and%20Smith%20JFP%202009.pdf>