**Abstract**

**Grant Number:** 1R01MH065871-01  
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**PI Title:** ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
**Project Title:** Health Survey of Two-Spirited Native Americans

*Abstract:* DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): American Indian and Alaskan Native lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and two-spirited individuals (two spirits) are a drastically understudied and underserved group, at risk for multiple health and mental health problems. There are no national, quantitative, representative studies of this population on any topic. This application, in response to PA-01-096, is for a FIRST TIME R01 by a NEW INVESTIGATOR. Building upon solid preliminary data, it proposes three innovative and significant aims. First, we will conduct structured survey interviews with 400 two spirits drawn from six sites across the U.S. With these interview data, we will test a theoretical model of stress and coping specific to this population. Sub-aims are to (a) establish preliminary prevalence rates of trauma and health outcomes (i.e., HIV sexual risk behaviors, alcohol and other drug use, and mental health indicators); (b) test the direct associations between trauma and health outcomes; (c) determine how cultural and spiritual coping factors moderate the effect of trauma on health outcomes; and (d) examine the mediating role of substance use on the trauma-HIV sexual risk behavior and trauma-mental health relationships. The second aim is to test the feasibility of an innovative non-probability sampling methodology that combines targeted, partial network, and respondent-driven sampling procedures in order to approximate a representative national sample of two spirits. Additionally, we will test the feasibility of two different mechanisms (agency based vs. census based) by which we execute this sampling method. Our results will contribute toward the refinement of a sample strategy useful in studying other hidden and stigmatized populations. Our third and final aim is to conduct a qualitative study involving 12 focus groups and 60 key informant interviews in order to identify emergent themes regarding stressors and coping strategies specific to two spirits. Through the course of this project, we aim to develop the research infrastructure at the six community agencies comprising our participant recruitment sites in order to facilitate future goals of designing and evaluating interventions to address the urgent needs of two spirits.

*Thesaurus Terms:*  
Native American, coping, health survey, mental health epidemiology, sexual orientation, stress  
HIV infection, culture, group therapy, high risk life style, prejudice, psychological shock, racial/ethnic difference, socioenvironment, substance abuse related behavior  
behavioral/social science research tag, clinical research, human subject, interview

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Fiscal Year: 2002
Department: NONE
Project Start: 28-JUN-2002
Project End: 31-MAY-2007
ICD: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH
IRG: ZRG1
Abstract

Grant Number: 1R03HD041770-01
PI Name: BAILEY, J MICHAEL.
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Project Title: IS FEMALE SEXUAL AROUSAL TARGET SPECIFIC?

Abstract: DESCRIPTION (adapted from investigator's abstract): One of the strongest correlates of male sexual orientation is sexual arousal to male versus female stimuli. Subjectively and genitally, gay men respond much more strongly to sexual stimuli depicting men than women, and heterosexual men show an opposite pattern. The investigators refer to the tight linkage between sexual orientation and sexual arousal patterns as "target specificity." There has been inadequate attention to the question of whether female sexual orientation is target specific. However, some research to data, including our own preliminary data, suggests that target specificity is much weaker for women than for men. This is particularly true of genital sexual arousal. To date research has failed to identify any aspect of sexual stimuli, including the sex of individuals depicted in the stimuli, that correlates reliably with female sexual orientation. One interpretation is that female genital arousal is provoked by a broad range of sexual stimuli. The investigators will assess the subjective and genital arousal of 180 lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual women as they watch erotic video clips of lesbian, gay, or heterosexual interactions. They will also include a sexual stimulus depicting nonhuman animals, which we expect to be nonarousing, in an attempt to demonstrate at specificity of female genital response. If female target specificity exists, then lesbians should be most aroused by lesbian stimuli, and heterosexual women should be most aroused to the gay male stimuli, with bisexual women showing an intermediate pattern. The investigators argue that results will inform psychological theories of female sexual orientation regardless of specific outcome. This proposed study represents a marked departure from the principal investigator's previous work, which has primarily focused on the genetic and developmental origins of male and female sexual orientation.

Thesaurus Terms:
arousal, bisexual, female, heterosexual, homosexual, psychophysiology, sex behavior, sexual orientation, stimulus /response
libido, male, sex role, visual stimulus
adult human (19+), behavior test, behavioral /social science research tag, clinical research, human subject, videotape /videodisc

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Fiscal Year: 2001
Department: PSYCHOLOGY
Project 01-SEP-2001
Start: 
Project End: 31-AUG-2003
ICD: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
IRG: ZRG1
Abstract

SPECIFIC AIMS: The proposed study will describe drug use and HIV-related behaviors among Asian female commercial sex workers at massage parlors (Asian masseuses) in San Francisco. The study will also conduct an intervention and evaluate the efficacy of two intervention modalities: One which targets the environmental level (Massage Parlor Owner Education Program) and one which targets the individual level (Peer/Professional Counseling Program). Through this intervention study, the determinants of HIV-related risk and protective behaviors among the targeted Thai and Vietnamese masseuses will be identified. The study will be conducted through the collaboration with the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center (APIWC), which has been providing AIDS prevention programs to the target groups. The objectives of the study are: 1) To describe drug use and HIV-related behaviors among Asian masseuses at massage parlors, where risk and urgent needs for interventions are evident but research has thus far been limited, 2) To examine the working conceptual model for the intervention, which is specific to masseuses' gender, culture, and occupation, 3) To develop and evaluate the intervention programs, in which the constructs of the conceptual model will be addressed at both individual and environmental levels to increase masseuses' protective behaviors against drug abuse, HIV/STD infection, and violence, and 4) To disseminate the study findings through local and national networks among AIDS service organizations (ASOs) and Asian American ethnic organizations and in professional journals.

METHODS: The study has three stages: 1) Preparation of the study, including staff training, mapping, focus groups, and a pilot study, 2) Conducting the intervention study, and 3) Data analyses and dissemination of the study findings. Eight focus groups (2 for each group: Thai masseuses; Vietnamese masseuses; massage parlor owners; customers) will be conducted to identify and describe drug use and HIV-related behaviors at massage parlors. Based on the focus groups, mapping, and a pilot intervention study (2 owners and 24 masseuses), the intervention study will be finalized. The study will evaluate the efficacy of the intervention based on a 2 (Owner Education vs. Control) by 3 (Peer Counseling vs. Professional Counseling vs. Control), 2 (Thai vs. Vietnamese) longitudinal design (pre-, post-, and follow-up tests). A total of 12 owners, and 96 Thai and 96 Vietnamese masseuses will be randomly assigned to the conditions. The specific hypotheses and conceptual model will be tested by qualitative as well as quantitative analyses.

SIGNIFICANCE: This will be the first HIV prevention intervention study targeting Asian commercial sex workers at massage parlors in the U.S. Asian masseuses are hard to reach and have been neglected by HIV/AIDS and drug abuse prevention efforts and health care systems. The study will assess the impact of drug abuse and HIV/STDs among the targeted and affected populations in the community, promote
protective work environment through massage parlor owners, promote protective behaviors among masseuses, and contribute to HIV prevention theories through incorporating the constructs of gender, culture, and occupation.

**Thesaurus Terms:**
AIDS education /prevention, Asian American, drug abuse, female, health behavior, occupation, occupational health /safety counseling, culture, disease /disorder prevention /control, information dissemination, racial /ethnic difference, sexually transmitted disease, substance abuse related behavior, violence behavior /social science research tag, clinical research, human subject, women's health

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**Fiscal Year:** 2002
**Department:** MEDICINE
**Project Start:** 05-JUL-2001
**Project End:** 30-JUN-2005
**ICD:** NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE
**IRG:** ZRG1
Abstract

Sexuality has an enormous impact on the quality of life of aging men. Numerous studies have shown that the decline in sexual function and frequency of intercourse is strongly related to age, but that many men remain sexually active into their 80s and 90s. Studies also suggest that declines in intercourse and function (and other 'objective' aspect of sexual behavior) are often not accompanied by declines in levels of interest or satisfaction (or other 'subjective' aspects). However, none of these studies provide unconfounded estimates of the normative decline in sexual behavior, especially with regard to behavior, especially with regard to behaviors (such as masturbation) that may be substituted for more rigorous activities. With the graying of the American population, these issues should become increasingly important. Indeed, a recent conference on Gender and Human Sexuality sponsored by Columbia University and the NIH strongly recommended additional research on aging and sexual function among non-patient samples. Limitations of current knowledge in the area of older male sexual behavior include: (1) the use of cross-sectional rather than longitudinal data; (2) limited data on a range of sexual behavior outcomes; (3) limited information on variables that may confound the relation of age to sexual behavior; and finally, (4) the use of small, clinic-based, convenience samples. The proposed study will make use of the rich dataset of the longitudinal population-based Massachusetts Make Aging Study to examine trends over a 9-yr period in a range of sexual behavior (e.g., frequency of intercourse, orgasm, erections, and masturbation, as well as sexual fantasies, desire, interest, enjoyment, and expectations). Unlike similar studies, the MMAS database has available information on demographics, health status, physiological measures (hormones, anthropometrics), psychosocial and social status factors, and lifestyles. As proposed, this research will provide the most comprehensive picture to date of the sexual behavior of aging men with respect to its trends over time, what factors contribute to these trends, and whether declines in sexual behavior are associated with sexual dissatisfaction.

Thesaurus Terms:
aging, human middle age (35-64), human old age (65+), male, sex behavior chemotherapy, health, longitudinal human study, quality of life, satisfaction, social psychology, social status, sociology /anthropology, testosterone behavioral /social science research tag, clinical research, human data, questionnaire

Institution: NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH INSTITUTES, INC.
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Fiscal Year: 2002
Department:
Project Start: 15-AUG-2001
Project End: 31-JUL-2004
ICD: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
IRG: CHHD