



Men's Health

More than Erectile Dysfunction

Stephen Alexander
Executive Director
AIDS New Brunswick



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OBJECTIVE

To promote the importance of having men-sensitive health services, practices, and interventions specific to gay men.



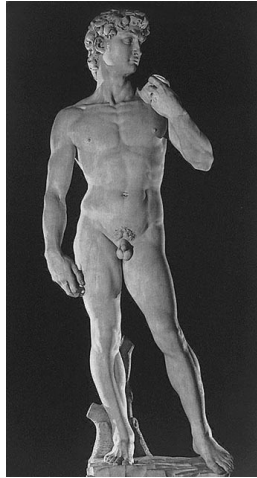
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OVERVIEW

- ✧ Defining "Gay Men"
- ✧ Context
- ✧ Rethinking Social Determinants
- ✧ Barriers
- ✧ Challenging ourselves
- ✧ Research: Issues & Gaps
- ✧ Structural and Policy Issues
- ✧ Key actions
- ✧ Acknowledgements



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Defining "Gay Men"

- ✧ MSM - "men who have sex with men"
- ✧ Epidemiological
- ✧ Erases cultures, identities and lived experiences
- ✧ Define solely by with whom they have sex
- ✧ Cultural and social meanings and values
- ✧ Do not identify as gay
- ✧ Diversity of identities and terms



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Context

- ✧ Change of focus to HIV and AIDS
- ✧ Cultural shift to change sexual practices
- ✧ HIV incidence among gay men is not decreasing
- ✧ Understand and address challenges
 - ✧ depression
 - ✧ isolation
 - ✧ homophobia
 - ✧ drug use
 - ✧ bullying in school
 - ✧ effects of childhood sexual abuse



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Rethinking Social Determinants

- ✧ Pre- existing requirements
 - ✧ housing/shelter
 - ✧ income equality
 - ✧ access to food
 - ✧ education
 - ✧ social inclusion
 - ✧ health services
 - ✧ healthy environments

- ✧ More resources - better overall health outcomes



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Rethinking Social Determinants

- ✧ *economic and social conditions that shape the health of individuals, communities, and jurisdictions as a whole*
- ✧ *primary determinants to stay healthy or become ill*
- ✧ *physical, social, and personal resources*
- ✧ *personal aspirations, satisfy needs, cope with the environment*
- ✧ *quantity and quality of a variety of resources that a society makes available to its members*

Raphael, D. (Ed.). (2008). *Social Determinants of Health: Canadian Perspectives* (2nd ed.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Incorporated.



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Rethinking Social Determinants

- ✧ Heterosexism
- ✧ Homophobia
- ✧ Class
- ✧ Language,
- ✧ Gender identity
- ✧ Religious beliefs
- ✧ Transphobia
- ✧ Oppression and discrimination



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Barriers

"If you look at New Brunswick, there is no HIV strategy at all coming from the province. So that really means that agencies have to depend on federal funding, and that federal funding doesn't trickle down as well as it should."



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Barriers

- ✧ not adequately represented, recognized at provincial, national levels of government
- ✧ need to address the co-factors that affect vulnerability
- ✧ primary and secondary school systems that ignore gay men, LGBTQ issues
- ✧ services for gay men are unevenly distributed, focused in urban centres.



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Barriers

- ✧ experiences of rural gay men are unique and often unaddressed.
- ✧ newcomer/immigrant men
- ✧ racialized communities.
- ✧ Funding structures create significant barriers



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Challenging ourselves

- ✧ Defining and re-defining
- ✧ Is there complacency
- ✧ Balancing - health issues defined by HIV
- ✧ assumptions and conceptions
- ✧ Being Gay Men, but also just being Men.



AIDS THE NATIONAL SIDA logo is in the top left. The title 'Men's Health' is in blue. Below it is the sub-section 'Research: Issues' in bold. There are five bullet points, each starting with a diamond symbol.

Research: Issues

- ✧ clear language and has to focus on outcomes with applicable conclusions.
- ✧ readily useable
- ✧ arise from the community,
- ✧ impact policy,
- ✧ strength-based analysis
- ✧ links between the community and academia



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Research: Gaps

- ✧ broader social-structural influences
- ✧ specific populations
- ✧ national and provincial levels
- ✧ Community-level
- ✧ Organizational-level
- ✧ Individual
- ✧ behavioural-level



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Structural and Policy Issues

- ✧ Invisibility of LGBTQ populations
- ✧ Conducting research
- ✧ Using the research we do have
- ✧ Community and organizational capacities
- ✧ Challenges we face as people
- ✧ Ideological underpinnings
- ✧ Data collected not reflective of organizational work



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Identifying key actions

- ✧ address the broader social-structural influences
- ✧ efforts at provincial and national levels
- ✧ continue community-level action and improve upon it
- ✧ action at the level of organizations



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Acknowledgements

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The End



Thank You!