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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

An optimal state of health is a well-established and universal goal. "When you have your health, you have everything" summarizes the importance we place on maintaining good health. While we cannot control the occurrence of many illnesses in our lives, in fact we can avert some of them through lifestyle and behavior choices. This is particularly true in the area of sexual health. Accurate information enables individuals to make choices that can reduce their risk of disease, ill health and diminished opportunities in future years. Such information can also help those who advise patients, clients or others of the health risks associated with risky choices they might tend to make.

This monograph investigates health implications associated with homosexuality. It begins with a demographic analysis of the homosexual population of this country. Following this analysis is a review of data concerning health ramifications associated with homosexual practices and lifestyle choices. The findings of this study include the following information:

- The percentages of men who have sex with men and women who have sex with women are substantially smaller than the 10 percent of the overall population commonly reported.
- Homosexual men, on average, become sexually active approximately three years earlier than do heterosexual men.
- In general, homosexual men tend to have significantly more lifetime sexual partners than do heterosexual men.

- Homosexual men are at significantly increased risk of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, anal cancer, gonorrhea and a variety of gastrointestinal infections as a result of their sexual practices.
- Women who have sex with women are at significantly increased risk of bacterial vaginosis, breast cancer and ovarian cancer than are heterosexual women.
- Women who are exclusively lesbian are at decreased risk of contracting syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes, HPV and HIV than are bisexual and heterosexual, though similar comparisons with only lower-risk heterosexual women (e.g., virginal couples until marriage) have not been conducted.
- Nearly two-thirds of women who have sex with women also report having recent sex with men. These bisexual women have significantly higher risk of STD infection than do exclusively lesbian women.
- Significantly higher percentages of homosexual men and women abuse drugs, alcohol and tobacco than do heterosexuals.
- Higher percentages of homosexual men appear to have been sexually abused as children or adolescents than have heterosexuals.
- Significant numbers of homosexuals, especially men, are the victims of physical violence.
- Domestic violence is at least as common and probably more common, among homosexuals than among heterosexuals.
- Homosexuals are overly represented among groups with certain psychological problems.

Practice	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCE	Practice	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCE
CLOSE BODY CONTACT	1. Public Lice. 2. Scabies (MITES) 3. Pungal infections	RECEIVER OF ORAL SEX	1. Physical abrasions 2. Bites 3. Herpes 4. Urethiritis from various STDs
PERFORMER OF ORAL SEX	1. Oral gonorrhea 2. Oral lesions from herpes, HPV (warts), changroid, lymphogranuloma venereum, or granuloma inguinale 3. Nongonococcal pharyngitis from chlamydia, other STDs 4. Syphilis 5. Hepititis B 6. Enteric (intestinal) infections	INSERTIVE ANAL INTERCOURSE	1. Nongonococcal urethritis 2. Gonnococcal urethritis 3. Genital herpes 4. Molluscum contagiosum 5. Genital warts 6. Syphilis 7. Trichomoniasias 8. Epididymitis and/or proctitis 9. Fungal infections 10. Lympeogranuloma venerrum 11. Granuloma inguinale 12. Changroid 13. Heratitis B 14. HIV/AIDS
RECEPTIVE ANAL INTERCOURSE	1. Traumatic proctitis 2. Rectal gonorrhea 3. Anal warts 4. HIV/AIDS 5. Nonspecific proctitis (from cheamydia and other STDs) 6. Anorectal herpes 7. Anorectal herpes 8. Hepatitis B 9. Rectal trichomomiasis 10. Lymphogranuloma venereum 11. Anorectal granuloma inguinale 12. Anorectal chancroid 13. Cytomegalovirus 14. Anorectal candidiasis	ORAL-ANAL INTERCOURSE	1. EMTERIC (INTESTINAL) INFECTIONS 2. SHIGELLOSIS 3. CAMPYLOBACTER FETUS (BACTERIA) 4. ENTEROGENIC E. COLI BACTERIA 5. HEPATITIS (A, B, AND OTHERS) 6. AMEBIASIS 7. GIARDIASIS 8. SALMONELLOSIS 9. ENTEROBIUS VERMICULARIS (PARASITE) 10. ORAL WARTS 11. ORAL GONORRHEA 12. SYPHILIS 13. LYMPHOGRANULOMA VENEREUM 14. ORAL GRANULOMA INGUINALE 15. ORAL CHANGROID 16. HIV/AIDS 17. HERPES 18. ANORECTAL MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION
RECEPTIVE MANUAL- ANAL INTERCOURSE	1. Enteric (intestinal) infections		