

# Bisexuals at the White House: Federal to Local Policy Advocacy

OPPORTUNITY CONFERENCE

ST. PAUL, MN

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# Overview

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Invisible Majority Report: Data and Disparities
- ▶ Federal policy 2017-2020
- ▶ Potential for positive action
  - ▶ Targeted state-level bi+ policy

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**Who's in the  
room?**

**WHO'S NOT IN THE  
ROOM?**

# Invisible Majority Report

[www.lgbtmap.org/  
invisible-majority](http://www.lgbtmap.org/invisible-majority)

## INVISIBLE MAJORITY: THE DISPARITIES FACING BISEXUAL PEOPLE AND HOW TO REMEDY THEM

September 2016



**MAP**  
movement advancement projects

Author



Partners

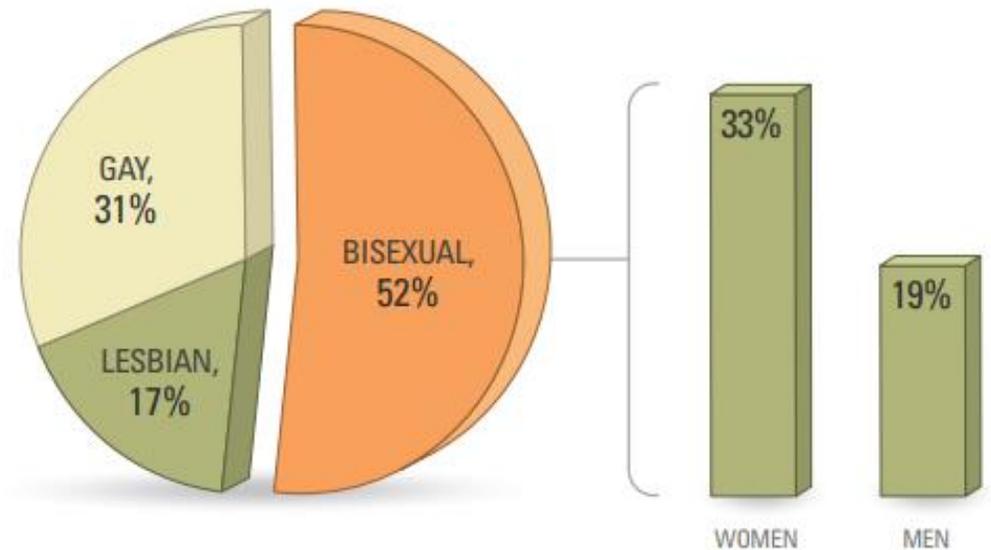
# Invisible Majority, cont: Terminology

- ▶ In general, the term **bisexual** refers to a person's sexual orientation and describes people who can be attracted to individuals of more than one gender. The terms lesbian and gay also refer to a person's sexual orientation and describe people who are attracted to individuals of the same gender.
- ▶ **Behaviorally bisexual** refers to people who may not identify as bisexual but who have experienced attraction to and/or sexual contact with people of more than one gender.
- ▶ **Gender identity** is a person's deeply felt inner sense of being male, female, or along the spectrum between male and female. Gender expression refers to a person's characteristics and behaviors such as appearance, dress, mannerisms and speech patterns that can be described as masculine, feminine, or something else. Note that gender identity and expression are independent of sexual orientation, and transgender people may identify as heterosexual, gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
- ▶ The term **queer** is an umbrella term used by individuals to describe their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, frequently with an understanding of their identity as fluid. Some people who identify as gender non-conforming in some ways, but may or may not identify as transgender, may also use this term.
- ▶ **Different-sex spouses/partners** refer to spouses or partners who are of different sexes or genders. Where applicable, this report uses the term **opposite-sex spouse/partner** to identify the same individuals, but only when that term is used in the data we are citing. Likewise for the term **both sexes** and terms such as **men and women** and **boys and girls**, etc.

# Invisible Majority, cont.

## Bi the Numbers

### WITHIN THE LGBT COMMUNITY



Source: Gary J. Gates, "How Many People Are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender?" (The Williams Institute, April 2011), <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/census-lgbt-demographics-studies/how-many-people-are-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender>.

## Invisible Majority, cont.

### Bi the Numbers

- More than 40% of LGBT people of color identify as bisexual
- According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, 14% of transgender people identify as bisexual, 21% as queer, and 18% as pansexual

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**TRANSGENDER  
PEOPLE**

**AND**

**PEOPLE  
OF COLOR**

**COMPRISE LARGE PORTIONS  
OF THE BISEXUAL COMMUNITY**

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# Invisible Majority, cont.

## Bi the Numbers

### AMONG ALL YOUTH BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION



### BY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR



**Figure 1: Bisexual People Are More Likely to Be Parents**  
Percent of People Who Are Parents, by Sexual Orientation



Source: Abbie E. Goldberg, Nanette K. Gartrell, and Gary Gates. 2014. "Research Report on LGB-Parent Families." The Williams Institute. <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/lgb-parent-families-july-2014.pdf>.

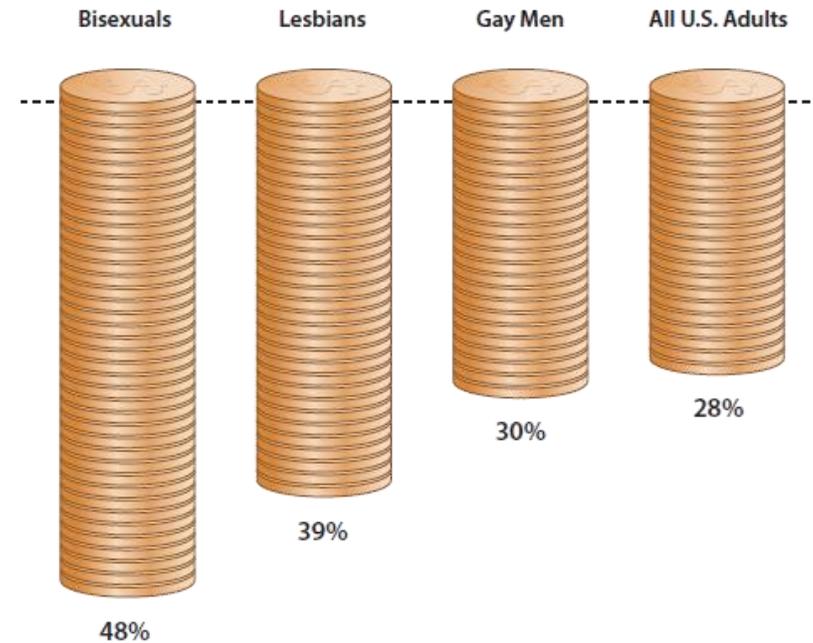
Invisible Majority, cont.  
**Bi the Numbers**

# Invisible Majority, cont.

## Bi the Numbers

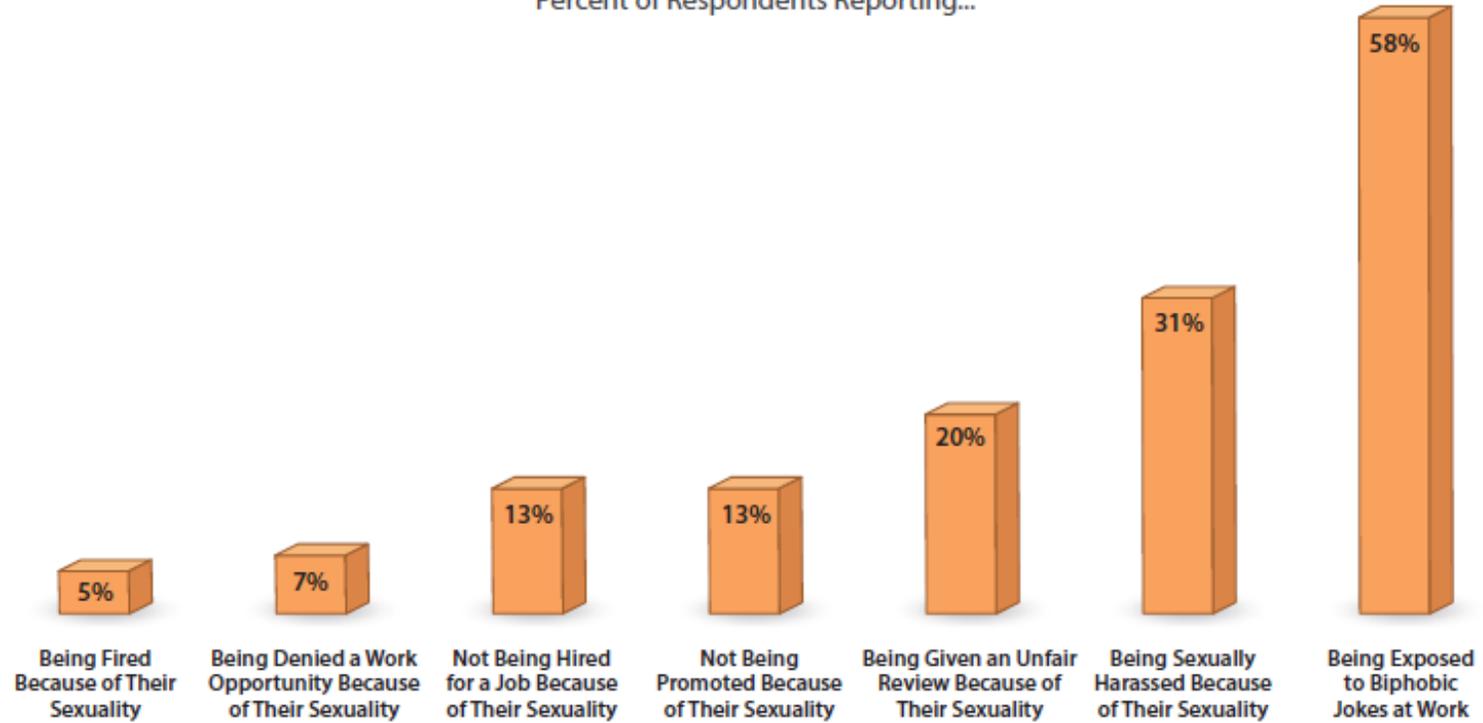
Figure 5: Bisexuals Are More Likely To Live on Less Than \$30,000 per Year

Percent of . . . people living on annual household income of less than \$30,000



Source: "A Survey of LGBT Americans: The LGBT Population and Its Sub-Groups" (Pew Research Center, June 13, 2013), <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/06/13/a-survey-of-lgbt-americans/#the-lgbt-population-and-its-sub-groups>.

**Figure 4: Bisexual People Experience High Levels of Employment Discrimination**  
Percent of Respondents Reporting...



Source: Ann E. Tweedy and Karen M. Yescavage, "Employment Discrimination Against Bisexuals: An Empirical Study," *William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law* 21 (2015): 699, doi:10.2139/ssrn.2297924.

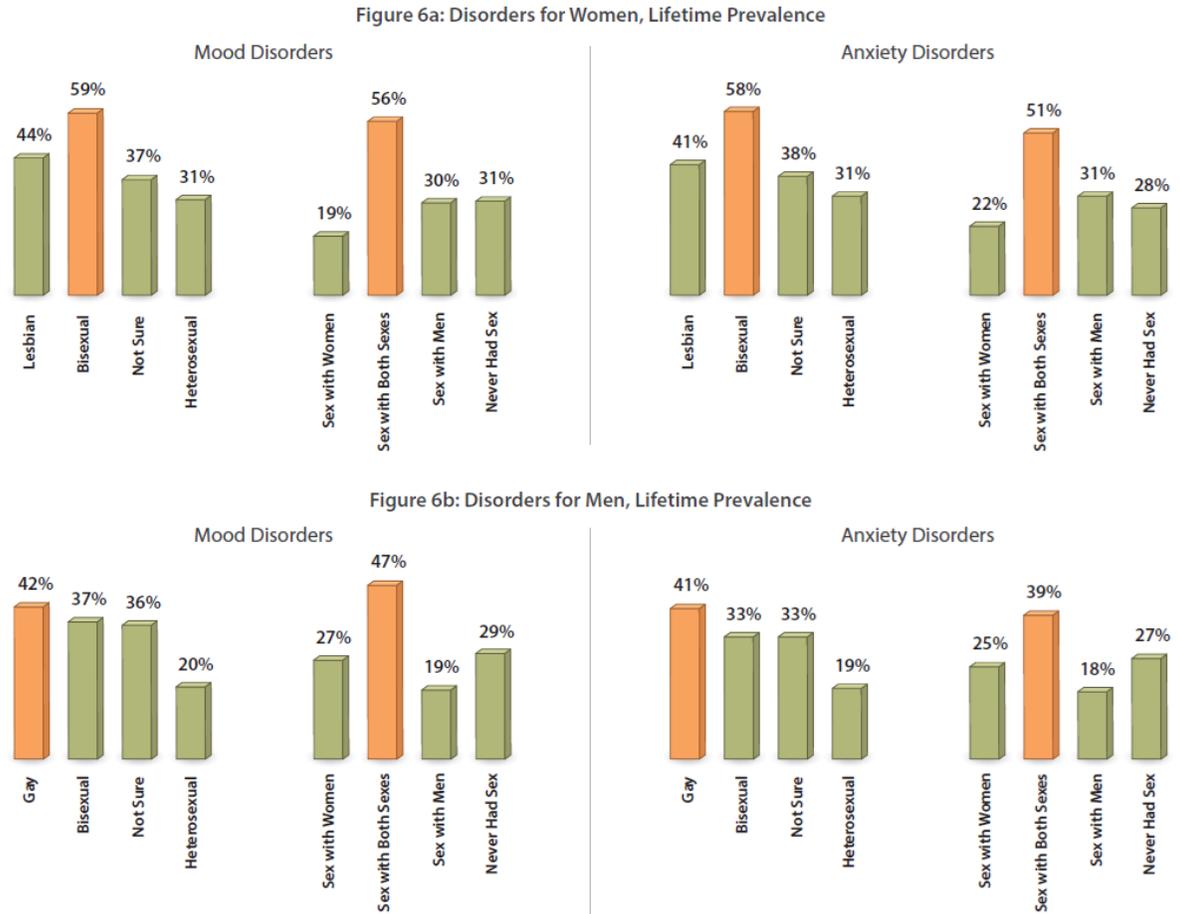
Invisible Majority, cont.

Employment Discrimination

Invisible Majority,  
cont.

# Mental Health

Figure 6: Bisexual-Identified and Behaviorally Bisexual People Are More Likely to Have Anxiety and Mood Disorders  
Percent of People, by Sexual Orientation and Sexual Contact



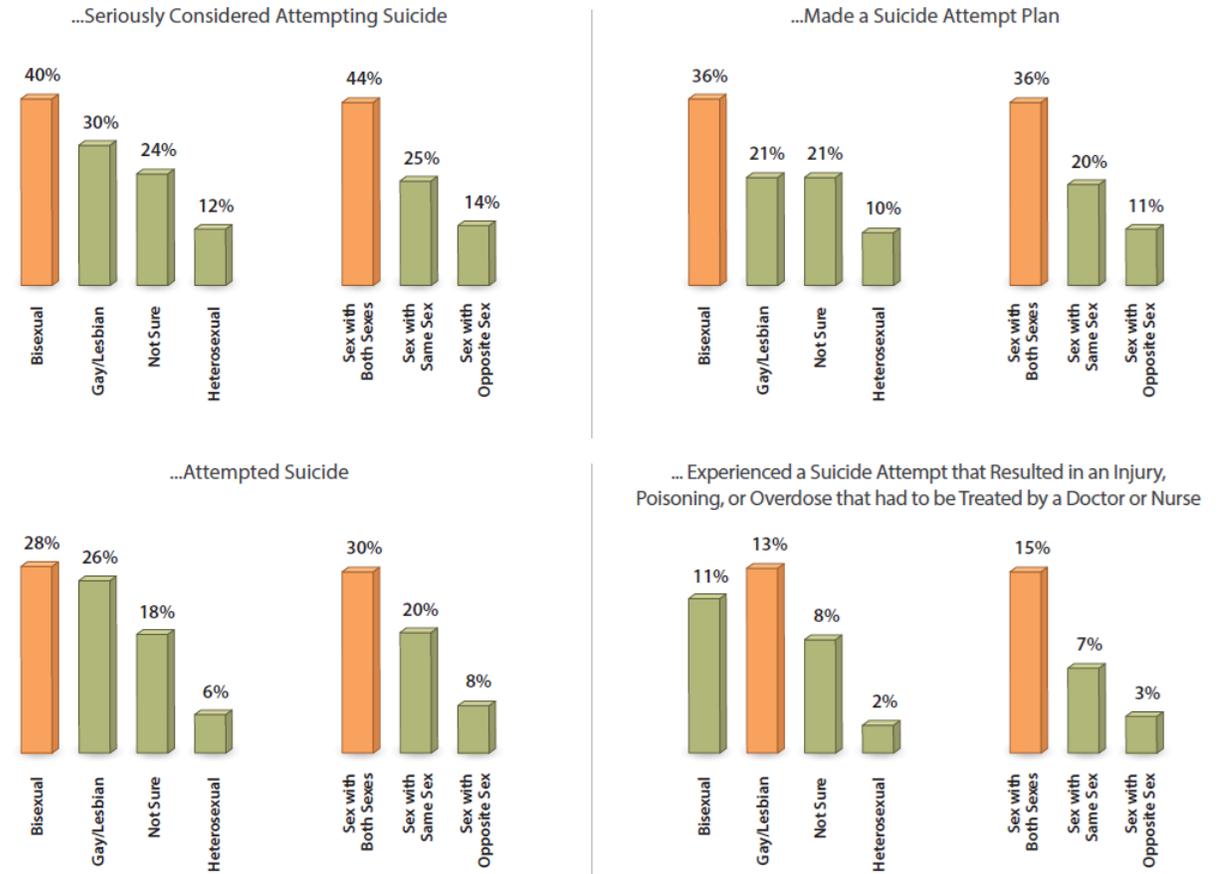
Source: Wendy B. Bostwick et al., "Dimensions of Sexual Orientation and the Prevalence of Mood and Anxiety Disorders in the United States," American Journal of Public Health 100, no. 3 (2010): 468-475, doi:10.2105/AJPH.2008.152942.

## Invisible Majority, cont.

# Mental Health

Figure 8: Behaviorally-Bisexual and Bisexual-Identified Youth Are More Likely to Think About Suicide or Make a Plan To Attempt Suicide

Median Percent of High School Students Who...



Source: Laura Kann, et al. 2011. "Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors among Students in Grades 9-12: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, Selected Sites, United States, 2001-2009." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Early Release 60: 1-133. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss60e0606.pdf>.

# Invisible Majority, cont.: Substance Use

**Figure 7: Bisexual-Identified and Behaviorally Bisexual Youth Have High Rates of Drug Use**  
Percent of Respondents Using Drugs,  
by Sexual Orientation and Sexual Contact

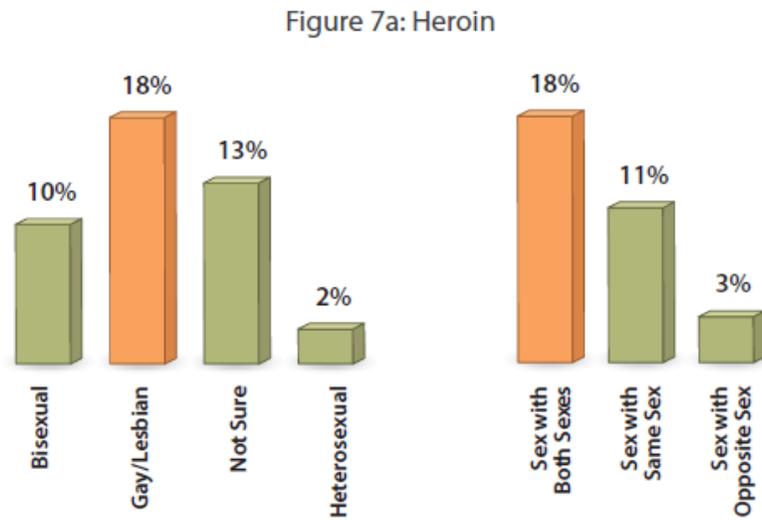
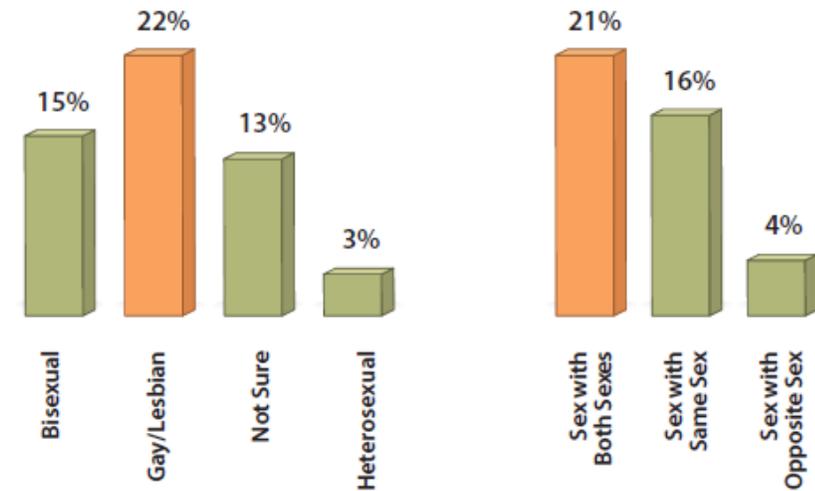
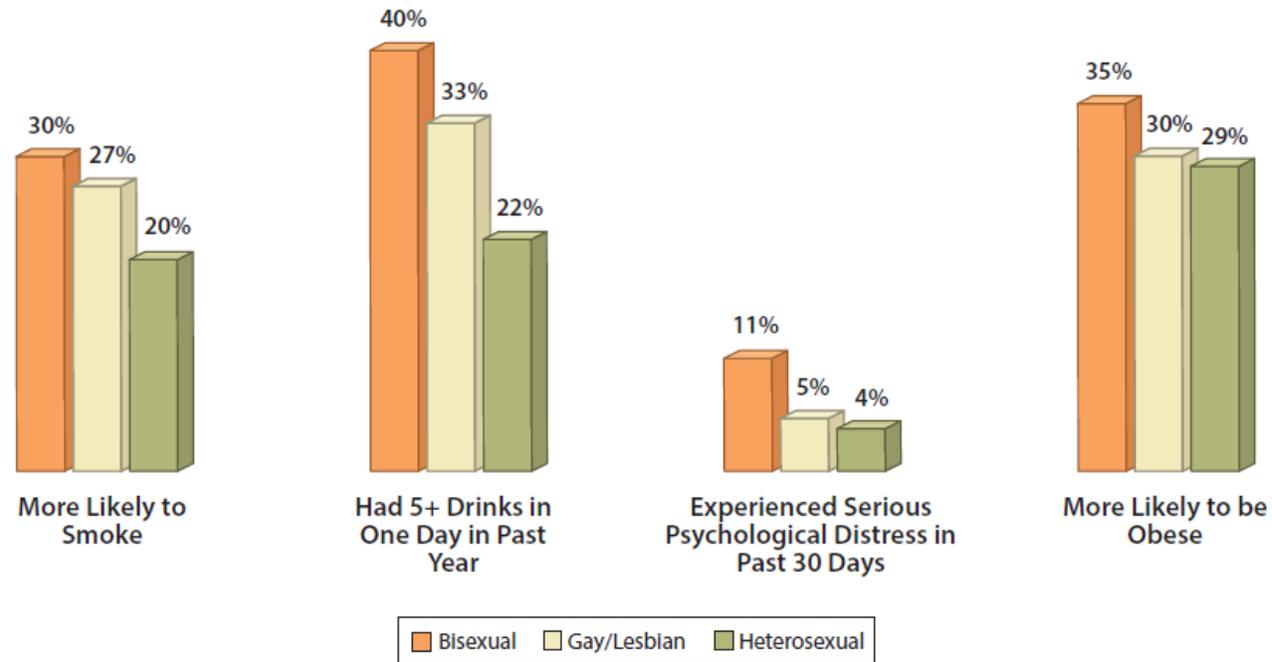


Figure 7c: Methamphetamines



Source: Laura Kann, et al. 2011. "Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors among Students in Grades 9-12: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, Selected Sites, United States, 2001-2009." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Early Release 60: 1-133. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss60e0606.pdf>.

Figure 9: Bisexual Adults Are More Likely to Have Specific Negative Physical and Mental Health Outcomes  
Percent of Respondents, by Sexual Orientation



Source: Brian W. Ward et al., "Sexual Orientation and Health Among U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2013," National Health Statistics Reports 77 (July 15, 2014): 1-10.

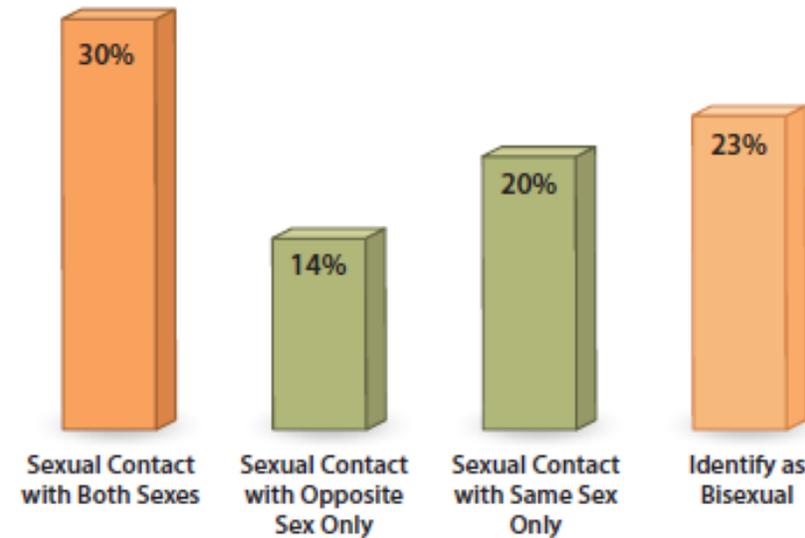
# Invisible Majority, cont.:

## Physical Health

Data,  
Continued

# Dating Violence

**Figure 3: Behaviorally Bisexual Youth Experience More Dating Violence**  
Percent of Students Experiencing Dating Violence, by Sexual Contact and Sexual Orientation



Source: Laura Kann, et al. 2011. "Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors among Students in Grades 9-12: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, Selected Sites, United States, 2001-2009." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Early Release* 60: 1-133. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss60e0606.pdf>.

# Invisible Majority, cont.: Sexual Assault

Figure 12b: Students Reporting a Sexual Assault Within the Past 12 Months

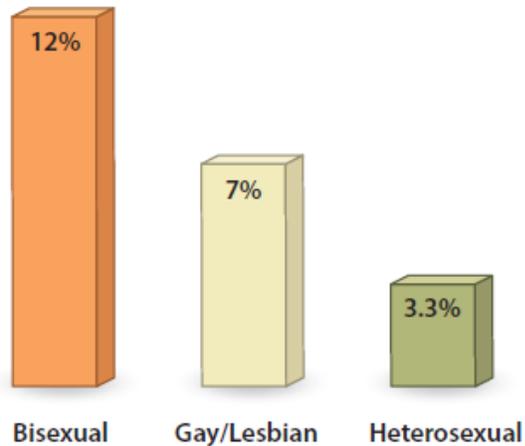
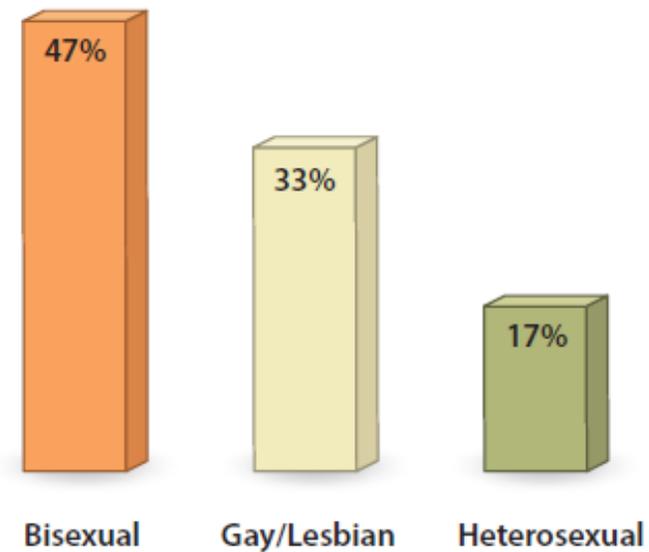


Figure 12a: Students Reporting One or More Instances of Sexual Assault in Their Lifetime



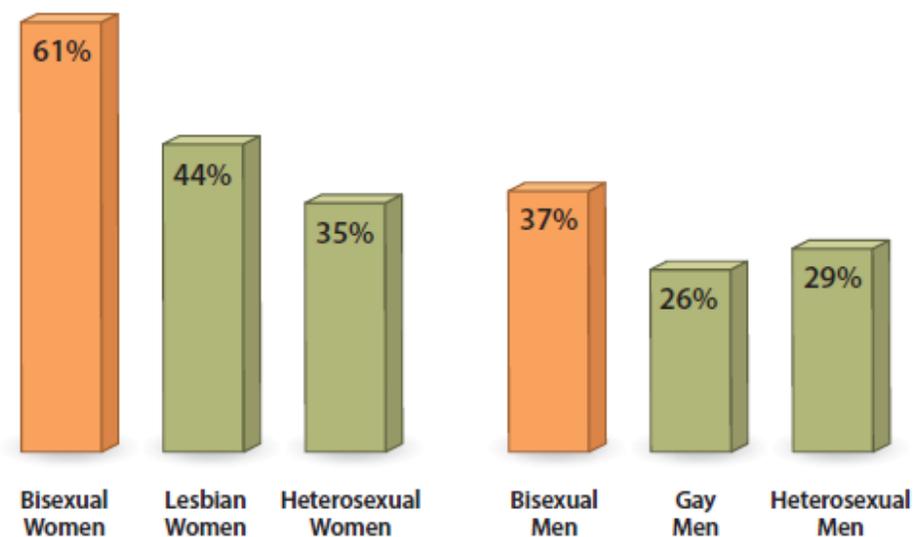
Source: Katherine Lust, "College Student Health Survey Report 2007-2011: Health and Health-Related Behaviors Minnesota Postsecondary Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students" (Boynton Health Service, University of Minnesota, February 2013), [http://www.bhs.umn.edu/surveys/survey-results/2007-2011\\_LGB\\_CSHSReport.pdf](http://www.bhs.umn.edu/surveys/survey-results/2007-2011_LGB_CSHSReport.pdf).

Invisible  
Majority,  
cont.

Intimate  
Partner  
Violence

**Figure 11: Bisexual People Experience High Rates of Intimate Partner Violence**

Percent of Respondents Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence, by Sexual Orientation



Source: Mikel L. Walters, Jieru Chen, and Matthew J. Breiding, "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation" (Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 2013), [http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs\\_sofindings.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_sofindings.pdf).



# Brief Q&A on Disparities

# Federal Policy

2017-2020

- ▶ We anticipate no “positive” federal policy will be passed 2017-2020
- ▶ Some existing LGBT protections likely to be repealed
- ▶ The new focus of federal policy will be defensive

# Federal Policy, cont.: FADA

## First Amendment Defense Act

(a) In general.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal Government shall not take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially on the basis that such person believes or acts in accordance **with a religious belief or moral conviction that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman, or that sexual relations are properly reserved to such a marriage.**

(b) Discriminatory action defined.—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—

(1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a);

(2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

(3) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise deny any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, loan, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person;

(4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise deny any benefit under a Federal benefit program from or to such person; or

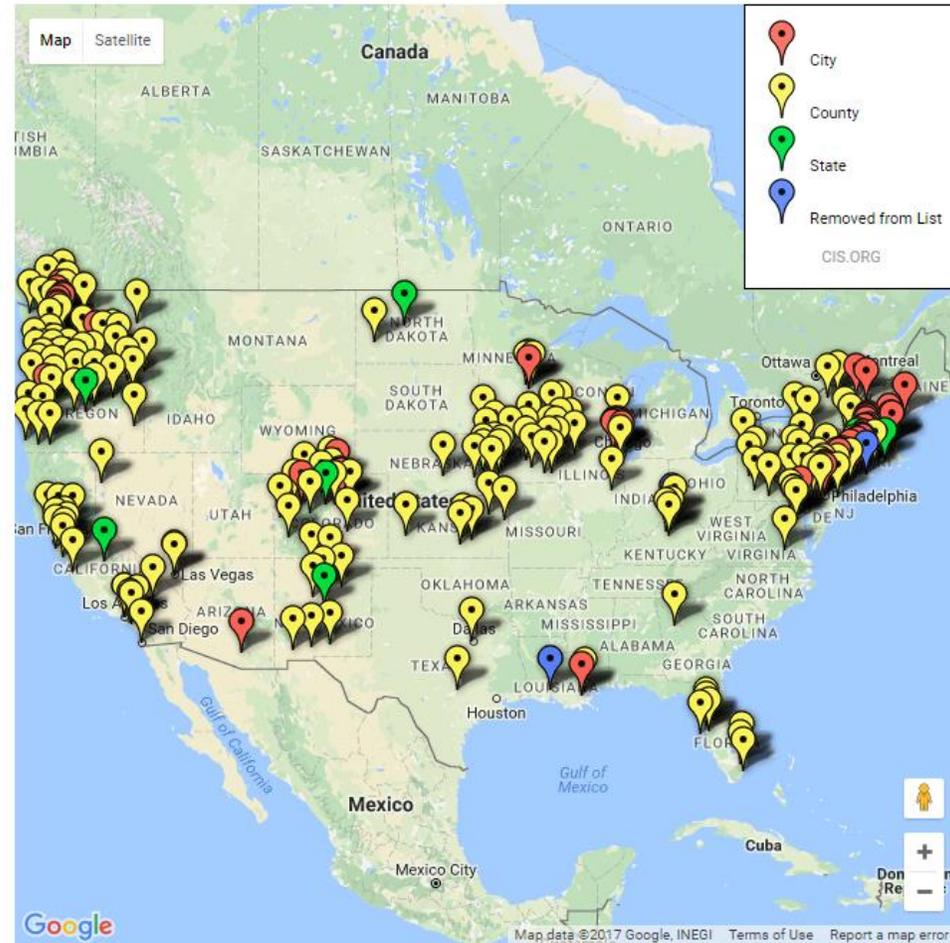
(5) otherwise discriminate against such person.

(c) Accreditation; licensure; certification.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person believes or acts in accordance with a religious belief or moral conviction that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman, or that sexual relations are properly reserved to such a marriage.

# Federal Policy, cont.

## Immigration Protections

- Sanctuary Cities



## Federal Policy, cont.: Federal Contractor EO

On December 9, 2014, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) published a Final Rule revising the regulations implementing Executive Order 11246, to **prohibit federal contractors and subcontractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity**. The amended regulations became effective on April 8, 2015, and apply to all covered contracts entered into or modified as of that date.

See: [www.dol.gov/ofccp/lgbt.html](http://www.dol.gov/ofccp/lgbt.html)

# Federal Policy, cont.: Obamacare

- ▶ Section 1557 of the ACA prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity (including sex stereotyping, which includes bisexual people).
- ▶ Repeal of Medicaid expansion will hurt all low income people, including many LGBT people and PLWH
- ▶ Repeal of ACA will result in widespread losses of reproductive and preventive care

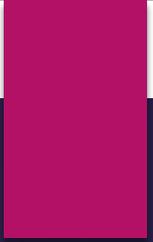
# Federal Policy: What do we do

## Policy

- ▶ Public Accommodations (FADA)
- ▶ Immigration
- ▶ Repeal of federal contractor EO
- ▶ Health care repeal

## Actions

- ▶ What could the bi+ narratives be to oppose these actions?
- ▶ What can we do to push back?
- ▶ How can we inform our communities on what protections remain, what protections are being lost?

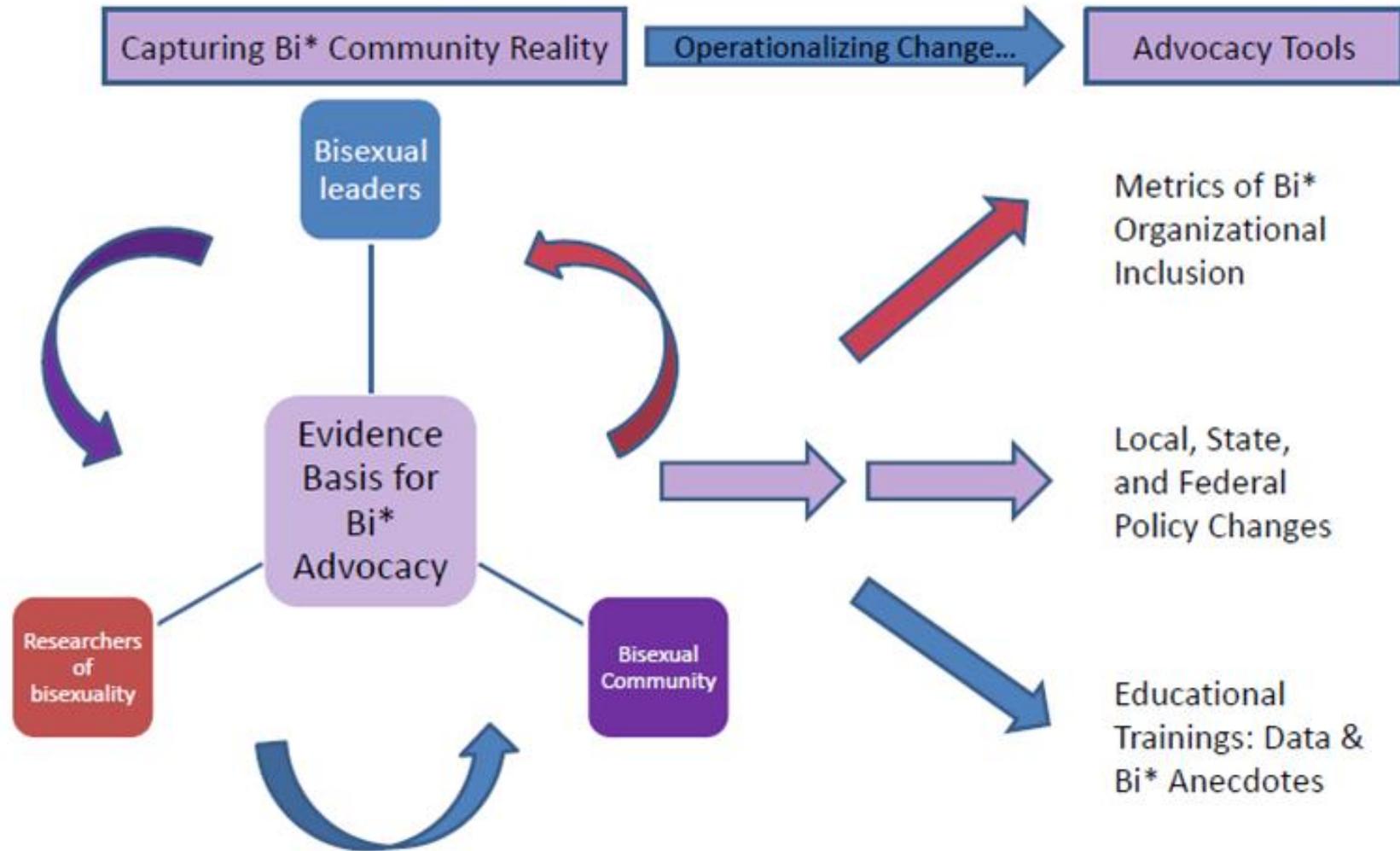


# State + Local Level Advocacy

THE POTENTIAL FOR POSITIVE BI+ POLICY



# A Community Participatory Research & Advocacy Framework



# Bi People = Bi Power

- ▶ Work with your local group to bring the bi+ narrative and perspective into state policy work
- ▶ State/local data + citizens + groups = change

# Advocacy Planning Activity

# Prioritizing Disparities

- ▶ Employment discrimination
- ▶ Mental health
- ▶ Substance use
- ▶ Physical health
- ▶ Sexual assault
- ▶ Intimate partner violence

# Common Advocacy Tactics

- ▶ The **Moral Case**: “This is the right thing to do”
- ▶ The **Evidence-Based Case**: “According to study X, taking this action would help decrease bisexual health disparities”
- ▶ The **Anecdotal Case**: “Listen to Person X tell their powerful story in their own words”
- ▶ **Standard Practice**: “All the health departments like us are already doing this” (if requested change is common)
- ▶ **Leadership**: “This will make our state a leader in bisexual Health” (If requested change is less common)
- ▶ **Competitive Edge**: “This will help maintain our state's health leadership tradition”
- ▶ **Strategic Partnerships**: “University X is interested in partnering if we do this”
- ▶ **Return on Investment**: “This will save the state money in future health expenditures; this will make the state eligible for new grant funding and/or federal funds”
- ▶ **Equal Representation**: “Bisexual population health is not being treated with the same concern as other population health issues that have a similar public health impact”
- ▶ **Compliance**: “The Health Department could be sued if it doesn't do this”
- ▶ **Democratic Accountability**: “The community is demanding this” (better serving the public)
- ▶ **Better Community Relations** – positive emphasis: “This will build community trust in the Health Department”
- ▶ **Better Community Relations** – negative emphasis: “If this doesn't happen, there will be community protests” or, “The community protests will stop if we do this”

# Creating Your Own Change

- ▶ Support your local bisexual elected officials
- ▶ Volunteer for candidates running for election
- ▶ Consider running for election yourself

# Bisexual Elected Officials

- ▶ Kate Brown, Governor, OR
- ▶ Kyrsten Sinema, Member of Congress (AZ)
- ▶ Cecil Brockman, NC State Representative
- ▶ Angie Buhl O'Donnell, SD State Senator
- ▶ Mary E. González, TX State Representative
- ▶ Joanna Cole, VT State Representative
- ▶ JoCasta Zamarripa, WI State Representative

# Bisexuals Running for Office

- ▶ Andrea Jenkins, Minneapolis, MN  
City Council
- ▶ MaryAnn Mohanraj, Oak Park, IL  
Library Board
- ▶ Basilio Bonilla, Jr., Bethlehem, PA,  
Lehigh County Commissioner



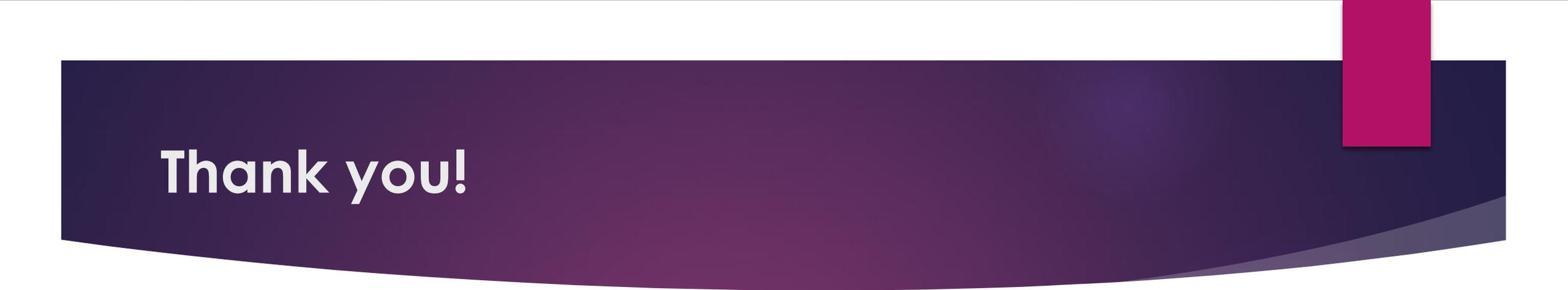
Campaign: Oak Park  
Village Library Board

I'm MaryAnn Mohanraj, and I'm running for library board trustee in the Village of Oak Park; the election will be April 4, 2017. The Library Board sets policy and manages the budget, to ensure our libraries are effectively helping Oak Parkers find the resources they need in a safe, kind environment.

So far, our libraries have been well-supported and defended. They are fantastic, and I want them to continue to be fantastic, even under national administrations that may be hostile to information, community services, diverse populations and freedom of expression.

I'm the person who can help make sure this continues to be the case because I am a library patron, a mother, a writer, and an English teacher; key to every part of my personal and professional life, and I want to make sure strong and accessible for every aspect of your personal and professional lives





# Thank you!

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