Chapter 1

Sexuality in Perspective
Sex and Gender

- **Sex** refers to sexual anatomy and sexual behavior.
- **Gender** refers to the state of being male or female.
- **Sexual behavior** produces arousal and increases the chance of orgasm.
Cross-Species Perspectives on Sexuality

• Human uniqueness - sexual behavior is more instinctively controlled among lower species & more controlled by the brain in higher species.

• Nonsexual uses of sexual behavior - animals sometimes use sexual behavior for nonsexual purposes.
Cross-Species Perspectives on Sexuality

- Masturbation - found among many species of mammals.
- Same-gender behavior - found in many species.
- Sexual signaling - found in other species.
- Bonobo Sex
Understanding Sexuality: Religion

• Until about 100 years ago, religion provided most of the information people had about sexuality.
• People of different religions hold different understandings of human sexuality.
• These religious views often have a profound impact.
Sex at Dawn

Sex at Dawn Theme
Having Sex Like a Caveman
How Darwin Can Save Your Marriage

New York Times Bestseller

SEX AT DAWN
How We Mate, Why We Stray, and What It Means for Modern Relationships

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Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Sexuality

• **Culture** refers to traditional ideas and values.

• *Ethnocentrism* influences our understanding of human sexual behavior.
Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Sexuality

• Societies respond differently to:
  – Kissing
  – Inflicting pain
  – Masturbation
  – Premarital sex
  – Extramarital sex
  – Sex with same-gendered partners
Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Sexuality

• Incest taboos - regulations prohibiting sexual interaction between blood relatives are nearly universal.

• Most societies also condemn forced sexual relations such as rape.

• Almost every society has a postpartum sex taboo.

• Different societies have different standards of attractiveness.
Significance of the Cross-Cultural Studies

• Give us an understanding of the enormous variation in human sexual behavior.

• Help us put our own standards and behavior in perspective.

• Provide us with evidence concerning the importance of culture and learning in the shaping of sexual behavior.
Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Model
Understanding Sexuality: The Media

- Primetime TV programs average 10 instances of sexual behavior per hour.
- Media has 3 types of influence:
  - cultivation – people think what is portrayed really represents what happens in our culture
  - agenda-setting – reporters select what to report or ignore and what to emphasize (necessitates that professionals protect themselves from accusations)
  - social learning – actors serve as models whom are imitated
Internet as a Media Form

• The Internet is the newest, perhaps most powerful, mass media influence.
• 84% of homes in the USA with children have Internet access.
• 28% of male and 3% of female adolescents report once a week viewing of pictures of people having sex.
• In 2010, 9% of youth between 10 and 17 had received at least one sexual solicitation over the Internet in the past year.
Understanding Sexuality: Science

- Scientific study of sex began in the 19th century.
- Major breakthroughs in the scientific understanding of sex came with the massive surveys in the United States by Alfred Kinsey and investigations by Masters and Johnson.
- The scientific study of sexuality has not emerged as a separate academic discipline. It is a joint effort by biologists, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, & physicians.
Important Sex Researchers

- Sigmund Freud – late 1800s, Victorian era – theory emphasizes sexual tensions and conflict
- Henry Havelock Ellis – Physician in Victorian England, viewed women as equally interested in sex as men – believed sexual deviations from the norm are often harmless and urged society to accept them. Approach of collecting information about human sexuality rather than making judgments about it became a forerunner of modern sex research
Important Sex Researchers

• Richard von Krafft-Ebing – 19th Century psychiatrist, collected >200 case histories of pathological individuals, coined concepts of sadism, masochism, and pedophilia, introduced terms heterosexuality & homosexuality

• Magnus Hirschfeld – founded 1st sex research institute & administered 1st large-scale sex survey (130 questions) (n=10,000), established 1st journal devoted to study of sex
Victorian Sex Researcher
Clelia Mosher, M.D.

- Conducted sex survey of women over 30 yr period
- Found they enjoyed sex with their husbands
- 80% said they felt a desire for sexual intercourse
- 72% had experienced orgasm
- 64% used some form of birth control
History of Sex Research

Freud and the psychoanalytic movement

Magnus Hirschfeld and the German sexual reform movement

Kinsey begins survey

Kinsey publishes *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* and *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*

John Money, atypical sexual differentiation

Social psychologists and experimental sex research

fMRI studies

Havelock Ellis, *Studies in the Psychology of Sex*

Malinowski, Mead anthropological studies

Masters and Johnson, physiology of sexual response and sexual disorders

Explosion of AIDS-related research

Contemporary sex surveys

Web-based surveys
# Sexuality Practice Varies by Social Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less than High School</th>
<th>High School Graduates</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>College Graduates</th>
<th>Graduate Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent who masturbated in last year</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent who have performed oral sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of conceptions terminated by abortion</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent who have had two or more sexual partners in the last 12 months</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Laumann et al. (1994), Table 3.1 (p. 82), Table 3.6 (p. 98), Table 12.6A (p. 458), Table 5.1A (p. 177).*

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Less than High School</th>
<th>High School Graduates</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>College Graduates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women aged 15–44 using the pill</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women whose first union was cohabitation</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First premarital cohabitations that transition to marriage</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of first marriages for men that are intact at 20 years</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Daniels et al. (2014); Copen et al. (2013); Copen et al. (2012a).*
# Variations in Sexual Behaviors Among Ethnic Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of the Sexuality of Whites, African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender ratio (number of males per 100 females),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30- to 34-year-olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos/Latinas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women 15–44 using the Pill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orleans experience with the opposite sex among</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>females 15–24 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69% for Whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49% for Whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral sex occurred before first vaginal intercourse, females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49% for Whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent who masturbated in the last year,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18- to 24-year-olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of first marriages intact after 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68% for Whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion rate*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6 for Whites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Abortion rate is the number of abortions per year per 1,000 women in the group (Pazol et al., 2014).
NA means not available.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2000a, b); Daniels et al. (2014); Copen et al. (2012a); Copen et al. (2012b); Dodge et al. (2010).
The Sexual Health Perspective

• Sexual health is a state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being in relation to sexuality.

• For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected, and fulfilled. (World Health Organization 2002)