“We want them to be as heterosexual as possible”

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Introduction

- I analyzed and explored Solebello’s article about how fathers want their children to be as heterosexual as possible, especially their sons. This article provides research conducted explaining why father’s prefer their children to be heterosexual. This project began with interest in father’s experiences raising teenagers and issues with puberty, dating and sexuality.
Sexuality

● Women have expressed monitoring their sexual behavior in an effort to avoid the label slut because it is so derogative.
● On the other hand for boys, they tend to avoid feminine or behavior that defines them as weak in attempt to avoid being called a fag.
● It has been expressed that there is a lack of research about how father’s feel about their teens’ sexuality
Mothers & Sex Ed

- As we all know, at some point in our life we are subject to sexual education.
- Parents are more likely to talk about sex education who share biological sex; for example mother-daughter, father-son.
- Mothers often drop the ball on sex education finding it uncomfortable and difficult to discuss.
- Furthermore, African American and Latina mothers express more discomfort and less communication.
Fathers & Sex Ed

- Fathers participate very little in sex education and figure that someone else will do it.
- They care a lot about their children (especially sons) being heterosexual.
- However, they express being more accepting about lesbian daughters.
Sexual Orientation

- Many mothers assume their children are heterosexual especially in ages 3-6.
- Some mothers express concern about non-normative gender behavior and seek to teach their children that homosexuality is wrong.
- Parents will often times blame themselves for their children’s homosexuality and feel accountable for their homosexual actions.
Responses from Fathers

- In asking father’s how they feel about their children’s heterosexuality, one responded saying “Oh yeah. Definitely. We want them to be as heterosexual as possible.”
- Out of the 23 fathers in this study, only 4 said they would be okay with their son being homosexual.
- Some fathers reported that it wouldn’t make a difference if his daughter was homosexual but if his son was, he would feel as if he had failed.
"Signs"

- It seems like parents assume their child is heterosexual if they have any interest in girls and interest in men’s like activities.
- Parents often search for “signs” of homosexuality and panic and try to engage them in same-sex “normal” activities to try to stray them away from homosexuality.
Now that you’ve read the research conducted and how other people feel about homosexuality.... How do you feel about it? How would you feel if your child was homosexual? We live in a world that needs change. We need to change and accept everyone for who they are and their sexual orientation.
"WE WANT THEM TO BE AS HETEROSEXUAL AS POSSIBLE": Fathers Talk about Their Teen Children's Sexuality

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