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The Relationship Between Gay-Related Stress and Ethnicity for Homosexual and Bisexual Males

Keyona Jarrett
Illinois Wesleyan University

Joseph Williams, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Oral Presentation O9.2

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GAY-RELATED STRESS AND ETHNICITY
FOR HOMOSEXUAL AND BISEXUAL MALES**

Keyona Jarrett and Joseph Williams*
Psychology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Past research suggests that homosexual men of minority backgrounds tend to have more difficulties during the coming-out process because their cultural values conflict with their homosexual identity. For instance, ethnic minority homosexual males are less likely to self-disclose their sexual orientation to family and friends than Caucasian homosexual males. The current study examines the influence of ethnicity in the process of homosexual identity development in two groups of males: a Caucasian group (control) and an ethnic minority group. All of the participants self-identified as homosexual. The participants were recruited from local organizations that address issues of homosexuality. Participants were asked to sign a consent form, and they were interviewed by the student researcher (Keyona Jarrett) or other trained student researchers about their coming-out experience. The data from the interviews was statistically analyzed to determine whether minority homosexual males experienced a greater or different degree of gay-related stress than Caucasian homosexual males. A secondary analysis was also performed on data previously collected by the Lighthouse Institute. This data was used to compare the rate of substance abuse for African-American minority homosexual males, African-American heterosexual males, Caucasian homosexual males, and Caucasian heterosexual males.