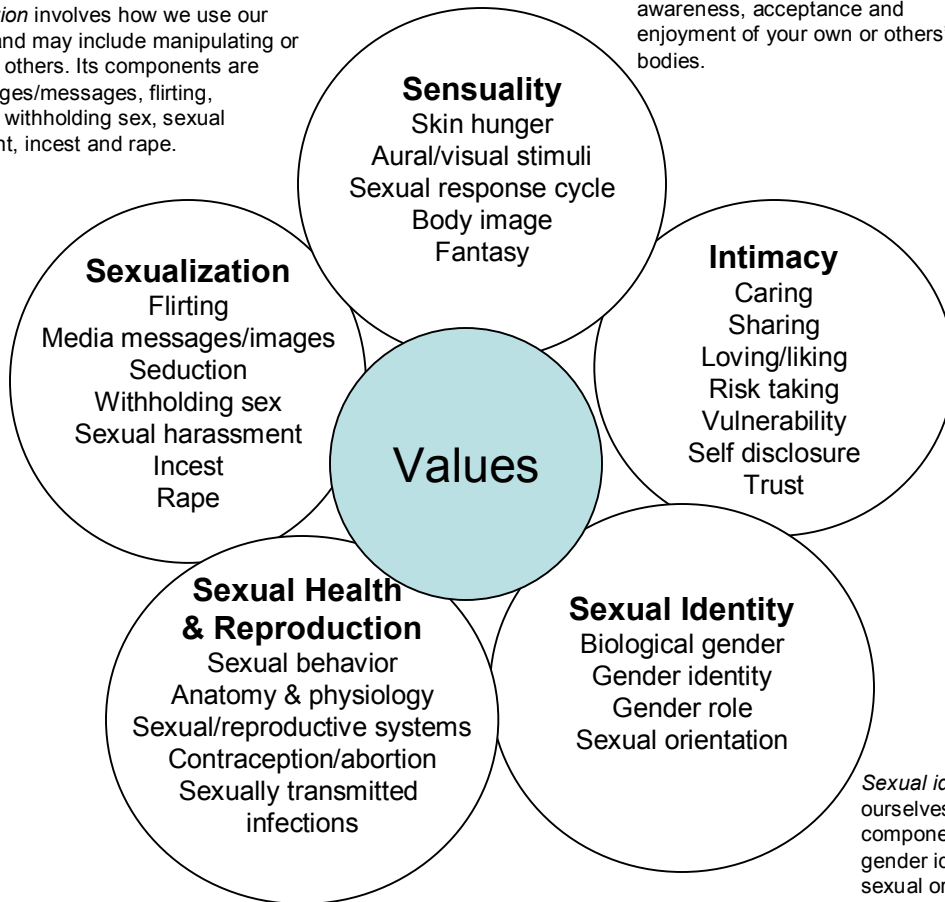


The Circles of Sexuality

Sexuality encompasses nearly every aspect of our being, from attitudes and values to feelings and experiences. It is influenced by the individual, family, culture, religion/spirituality, laws, professions, institutions, science and politics.

Sexualization involves how we use our sexuality and may include manipulating or controlling others. Its components are media images/messages, flirting, seduction, withholding sex, sexual harassment, incest and rape.

Sensuality involves our level of awareness, acceptance and enjoyment of your own or others' bodies.



Intimacy is the degree to which we express and have a need for closeness with another person. Its components are caring, sharing, liking/loving, trust, vulnerability, self-disclosure and emotional risk taking.

Sexual health and reproduction relates to attitudes and behaviors toward our health and the consequences of sexual activity. Its components are behavior, anatomy and physiology, sexually transmitted infection, contraception and abortion (spontaneous or induced).

Sexual identity is how we perceive ourselves as a sexual being. Its components are biological gender, gender identity, gender role and sexual orientation.