

Dad Allies
Provider Learning Series

QUEER DADS

Myths and Realities

Washington
Fatherhood
Council



▲ **Welcome + Acknowledgements**

Introductions in Chat

Session Recording

About Dad Allies

Father Friendly Principles

Thank You to Our Sponsors



Objectives

- ▲ Share + Reflect on the lived experiences of Queer Dads
- ▲ Discuss myths and facts of Queer Dad + Queer Parenting
- ▲ Reflect on the implications for child and family professionals, programs, and organizations



Our Time Together Today

- ▲ Welcome + Acknowledgements
- ▲ Context Setting + Language
- ▲ What are Your Questions?
- ▲ Myths + Facts
- ▲ Q + A





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Gay City



Trey Rabun
Amara



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▲ Context Setting + Language

Limitations of Labels

"Fathers" + "Dads"

"Queer" + "Gay"

Diversity + Intersectionality + History
of the **LGTBQIA2S+**



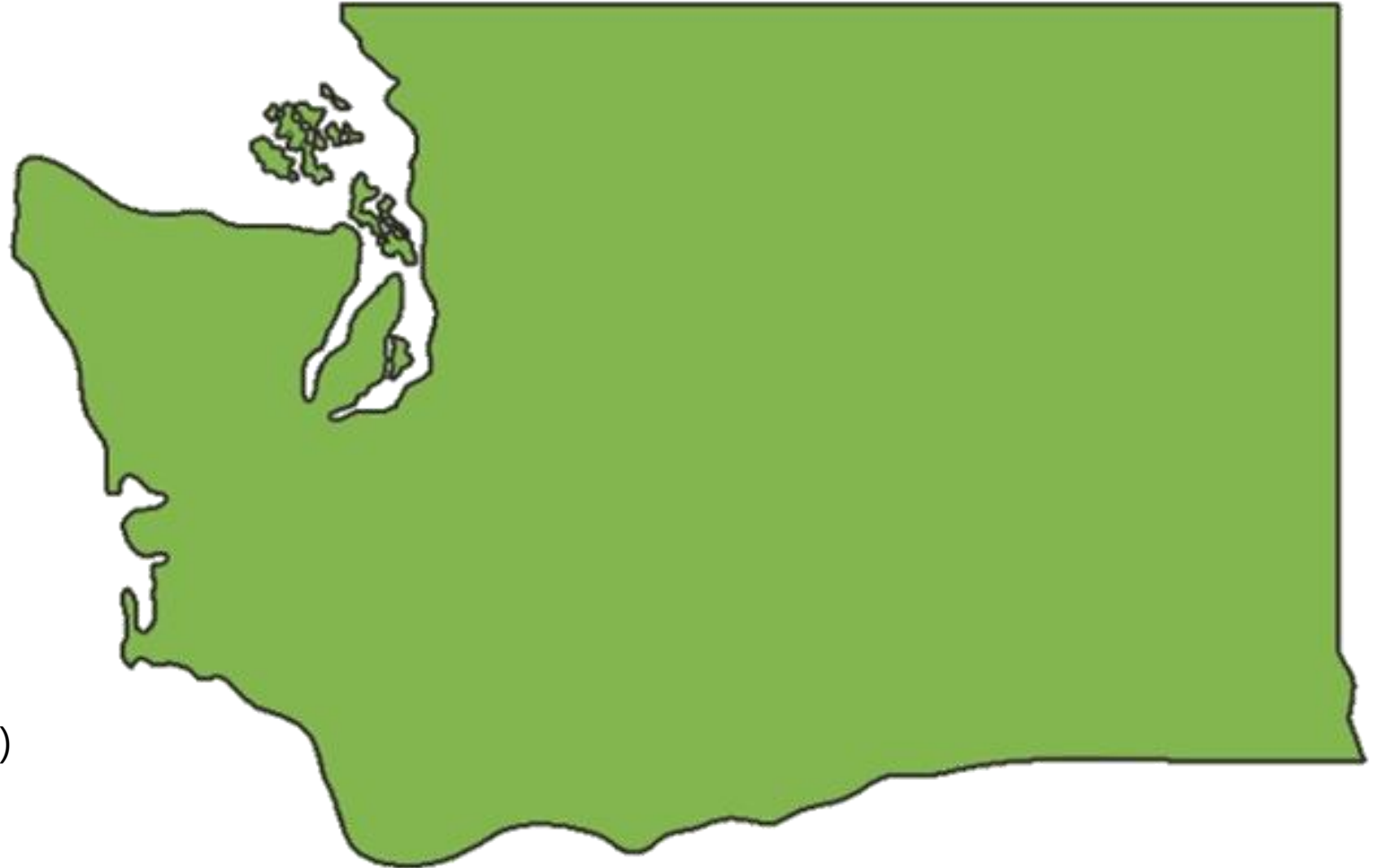
Washington State Statistics

Lesbian & Gay Population

- 5.2 % of WA Population
 - 28% with children
- 37% male - raising children

Queer Households

- 7.26 per 1k - SS couple
 - (19000 couples)
 - 15.8% raising children
 - 44% male-identified couples
 - (3.18 per 1k HH) (8,334 couples)
- Raising children not available





MYTHS + FACTS

about

QUEER DADS

+ LGBTQIA2S+ Parenting



Myth 1

Children Need a
“Mom” + “Dad”



Research

- ▲ Some evidence that the play behavior of girls and boys in same-sex parent families may be less gender-stereotyped than the play behavior of children in different sex-parent families (Goldberg, Kashy, & Smith, 2012)
- ▲ More equally share in childcare, housework, and paid employment (Chan, Ra boy, & Patterson, 1998; Goldberg, Smith, & Perry-Jenkins, 2012; Patterson, Sutfin, & Fulcher, 2004)
- ▲ Gay men create family in all ways; including from a previous straight relationship (Goldberg, 2010; Tasker, 2013)

IRL

- ▲ Queer parents ensure that their children are in contact with a variety of role models
- ▲ More likely to explore gender identity and sexual identity
- ▲ Different and complementary parenting
 - Children's brain development



Myth 2

Queer Dads are Incapable
of Being Good Parents



Research

- ▲ No significant differences between parents' outcomes (Bos, van Balen, & van den Boom, 2004; Goldberg & Smith, 2009; Golombok et al., 2003; Leung, Erich, & Kanenberg, 2005; Shechner, Slone, Lobel, & Schechter, 2013)
- ▲ No significant differences between children's outcomes (Goldberg, 2010; Farr, Forssell, & Patterson, 2010; Gartrell & Bos, 2010; Goldberg & Smith, 2013a; Golombok et al., 2003; Shechner et al., 2013; Tasker & Golombok, 1997; Wainright & Patterson, 2006; Wainright, Russell, & Patterson, 2004; van Gelderen, Bos, Gartrell, Hermanns, & Perrin, 2012)
- ▲ Men are biologically primed to be parents (Abraham, Hendler, Shapira-Lichter, Kanat-Maymon, Zagoory-Sharon, & Feldman, 2014)

IRL

- ▲ There are several forms of caregiving & parenting (single, kinship care, etc.) where children are raised without one or both biological parents?
- ▲ Stems from cultural beliefs that fathers can only play the role of “traditional” fathers
 - Praised for “babysitting” with low expectations
- ▲ Also related to the historical belief that “homosexuality” is a mental illness

Myth 3

Gay Men Pose a Risk of
Child Sexual Abuse and
other Dangers



Research

- ▲ No evidence that gay men molest children at higher rates than heterosexual men (Herek, 2018)

IRL

- ▲ Impact on parenting that some one thinks you might be abusing your kids
 - Internalized fear and influence on behavior and sense of self - Being seen as a predator



Myth 4

Being raised by gay parents
will cause kids to be gay



Research

- ▲ Children of gay parents identify as LGBTQ+ at the same rate as children of heterosexual parents (Bailey, Bobrow, Wolfe, & Mikach, 1995; Golombok & Tasker, 1996; Huggins, 1989; Tasker & Golombok, 1997)
- ▲ Some evidence that the play behavior of girls and boys in same-sex parent families may be less gender-stereotyped than the play behavior of children in different sex-parent families (Goldberg, Kashy, & Smith, 2012)

IRL

- ▲ What makes people gay to begin with?
- ▲ Most LGBTQ+ folks have straight and/or cis-gender parents
- ▲ Sexuality is an intersection of biological predisposition and social-cultural context



Myth 5

Children in Queer Headed
Households have More
Adversity to Navigate



Research

- ▲ Studies looking at teasing/bullying are conflicting, with some suggesting higher rates of reported bullying among children with LGB parents (Kosciw & Diaz, 2008) and others finding no differences in these rates (Maccallum & Golombok, 2004; Rivers et al., 2008)
- ▲ Adolescents and adults of LGB parents indicate strengths associated with their family, including resilience and empathy toward diverse and marginalized groups (Goldberg, 2007a; Saffron, 1998)

IRL

- ▲ Both external and internal stigma
- ▲ Whereas perceived stigmatization by peers has been linked to compromised well-being in children of LGB parents, both the broader school context and family processes may offset some of the negative impact of bullying
- ▲ Caution and Awareness



▲ Q + A

