

The Circles of Sexuality

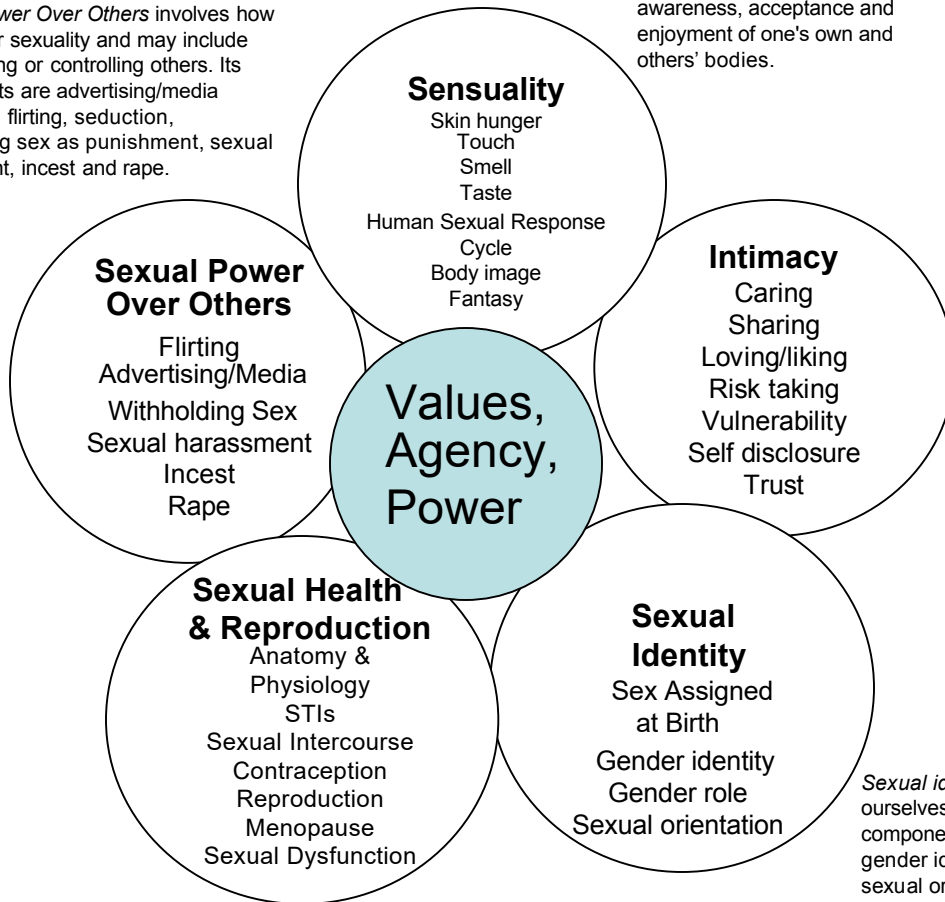
Sexuality encompasses nearly every aspect of our being, from attitudes and values to feelings and experiences. It is influenced by the individual, family, culture, religion/spirituality, laws, professions, institutions, science and politics.

Sexual Power Over Others involves how we use our sexuality and may include manipulating or controlling others. Its components are advertising/media messages, flirting, seduction, withholding sex as punishment, sexual harassment, incest and rape.

Sensuality involves our level of awareness, acceptance and enjoyment of one's own and others' bodies.

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

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



Sexual health and reproduction relates to the facts, figures, and biology of the body and sexual and reproductive systems. It includes the care of the organs, the impact on health of sexual behaviors, and the biology of producing children.