

# Disaggregating the Data for Bisexual People



General and Specific Comments

Phillip Phan, Ph.D.



JOHNS HOPKINS  
CAREY BUSINESS SCHOOL



# General Comments

## Purpose of disaggregating

- Discover mechanisms of action (**Theory** development)
- Theory testing
- Discover meaningful sub-group effects (size of the effect relative to the main effect is important)

## What is the basis for defining a sub-group?

- Empirical?
- Sociopolitical?
- Self-definitional (e.g., buzzfeed survey)?
- Limits (relative to policy implications)?

## Risks in disaggregating

- Misunderstandings of cause and effect.

## Policy utilization of disaggregated data research

- In health services research one benchmark against a standard outcome is cost effectiveness (of an intervention)
- What is the benchmark in determining the meaningfulness of a disaggregation?



## Specific comments

Bi+ in the original survey is self-defined and self-reported

- Male or female dominant family role (related to caregiving)? Bi-curious?

Sample size (135/1864) is too small to draw any meaningful conclusions. Effect size?

Bi+ individuals have poorer outcomes but experience less discrimination. Theory?