

Effects of Same Sex Parenting

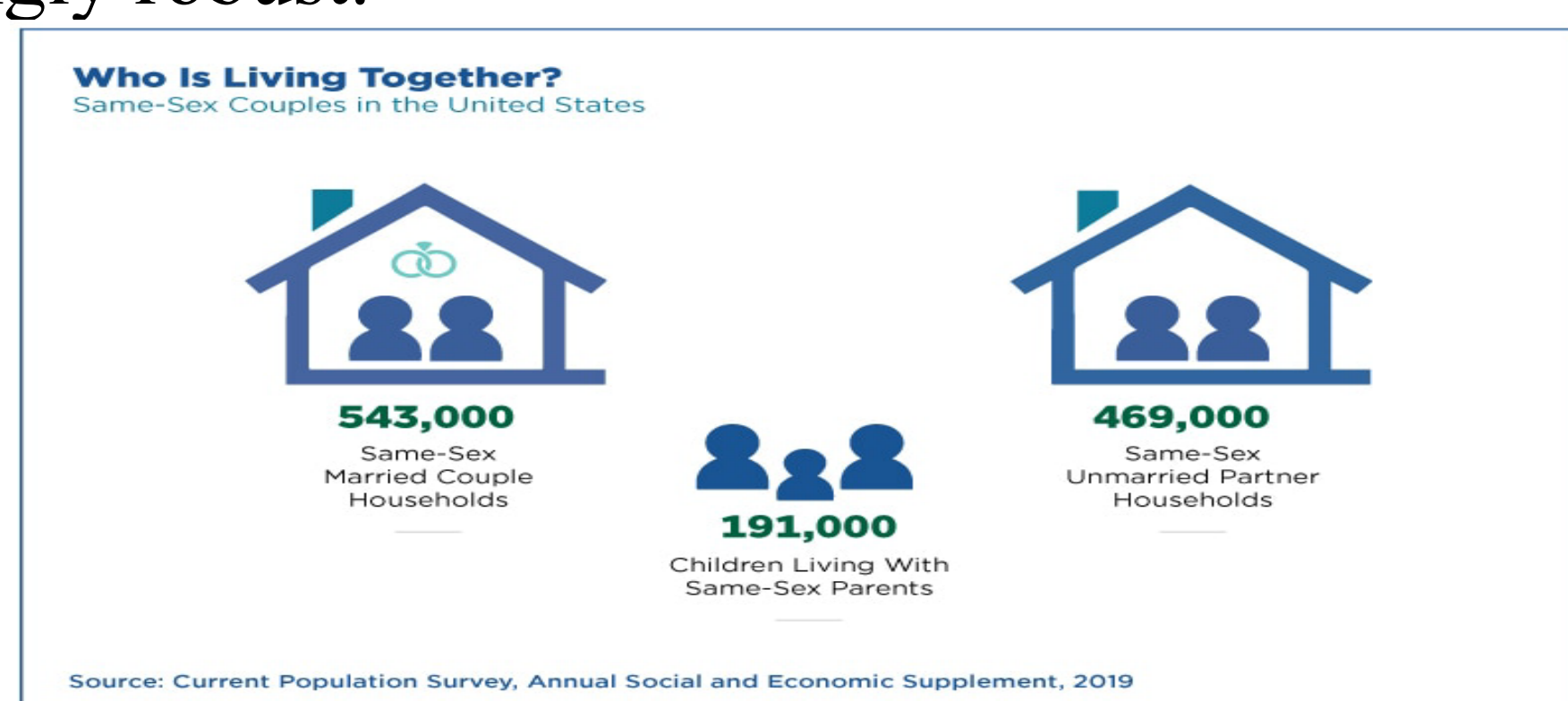
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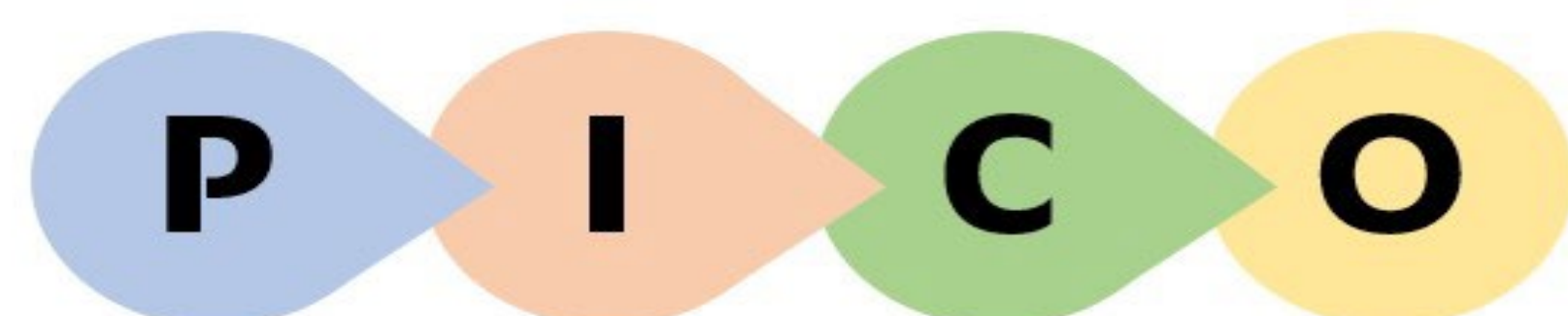
Background

- Ensuring the safety and welfare of children has a lasting effect on society. As we progress to a more inclusive concept of what constitutes a family, the effect of same sex parenting (SSP) must be considered.
- Health related outcomes describing the advantages, disadvantages and unique challenges experienced by this population is surprisingly robust.



Purpose and Research Question

- To identify the relationship between SSP and the physical, emotional and psychosocial outcomes of children.
- Does same-sex parenting increase the risk of physical, emotional, or psychosocial harm in children ages 0-18 years?



Method

- An integrative literature review utilizing various databases including Google Scholar, PubMed, and CINAHL related to health care outcomes among children living in SSP homes was executed.
- Interpretive synthesis of the included meta-analyses explore the connection of same-sex parenting to well-being of children reared in same sex and LGBT households.
- Evaluation of the validity, reliability, and level of evidence was considered with 18 articles included in this report.

Results

- Physical**-Children living in SS households experience positive physical outcomes such as proper adjustment to diversity, educational performance, and socioeconomic status (Knight, et al., 2017; Miller, Kors, & Macfie, 2017).
- Emotional**-Children of SSP can suffer from emotional disadvantages; however, research shows that the majority of children do not experience negative emotional outcomes (Green, et al., 2019; Sullins, 2015).
- It is the family processes such as *parenting quality*, rather than the *family structure*, that affect children's emotional well-being (Knight et al., 2017).
- Psychosocial** - There was no difference in gender role behavior, gender identity, sexual preference, or psychological development in children living in SS households (Crowl, Ahn, & Baker, 2008).



Discussion

- Evidence supports LGBTQ+ parenting as a result of healthy, happy, and secure childhood experiences (Farr, 2017).
- In many cases, children raised by same sex were more well-adjusted than their counterparts raised by heterosexual couples.
- Children present in same-sex couple households are provided the same physical and emotional benefits as children of heterosexual couples (Morawska, 2020).
- International research and professional associations reiterate that parents' sexual orientation is NOT a criterion of parenting quality (American Academy of Pediatrics).

Clinical Significance and Future Research

- There is a lack of evidence that suggesting children of same-sex couples suffer disadvantages when compared to opposite-sex households (Perrin, Cohen, & Caren, 2013).
- Children cared for by SSP are functioning just as well, if not better, than children in the general population with opposite-sex parents (Green, et al., 2019).
- Children's well-being is based on family functionality, rather than sexual orientation of parents (Knight et al., 2017).
- Nurse leaders must be inclusive of families regardless of their parental structure as we have evidence-based research, trials, and studies to support positive outcomes for children raised by SSP.
- It is vital for nurses to educate their staff members on same-sex families and the positive effects their children receive in these supportive and nurturing environments.
- Nurses who practice inclusion of diverse families promote the healthy growth and development of children and uphold the standards set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics (2013)



Care.
Discover.
Teach.

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