

Consequences of Homophobia Within Intercollegiate Athletics

The Tucker Table
April 30, 2010

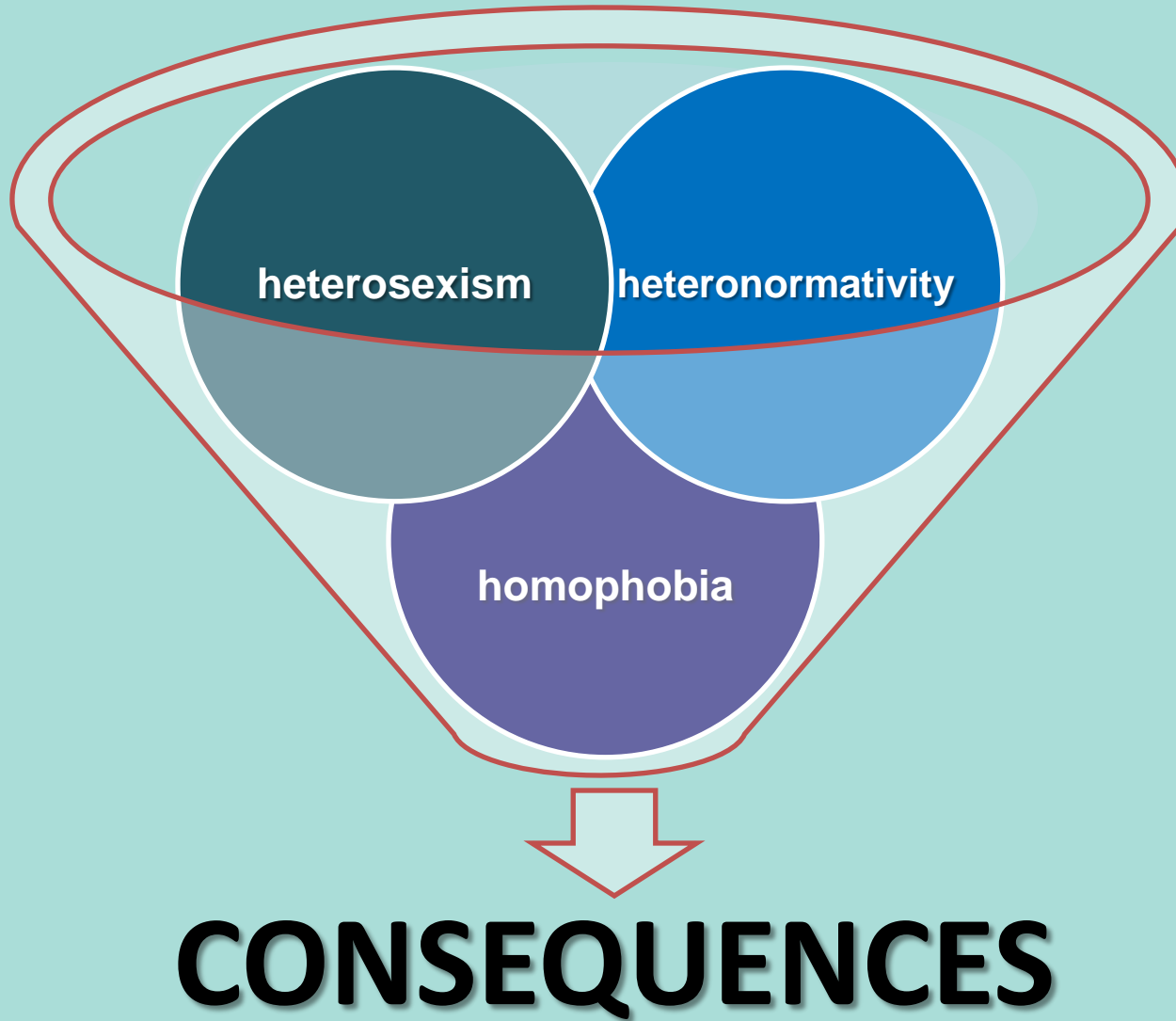


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The Issue



Framing with Family: Examining Online Coaching Biographies for Heteronormative and Heterosexist Narratives

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Relevant Literature

- **Griffin (1998)**

Strong Women, Deep Closets

- **Anderson (2003)**

Trailblazing: America's First Opening Gay High School Coach

- **Hardin & Whiteside (2009)**

The Rene Portland Case: New Homophobia and Heterosexism in Women's Sports Coverage



Sample

- **Pilot Study**

- *Big Ten Conferences (n = 226 coaches)*

- **National Study**

- *Six Division I Conferences (n = 1213 coaches)*

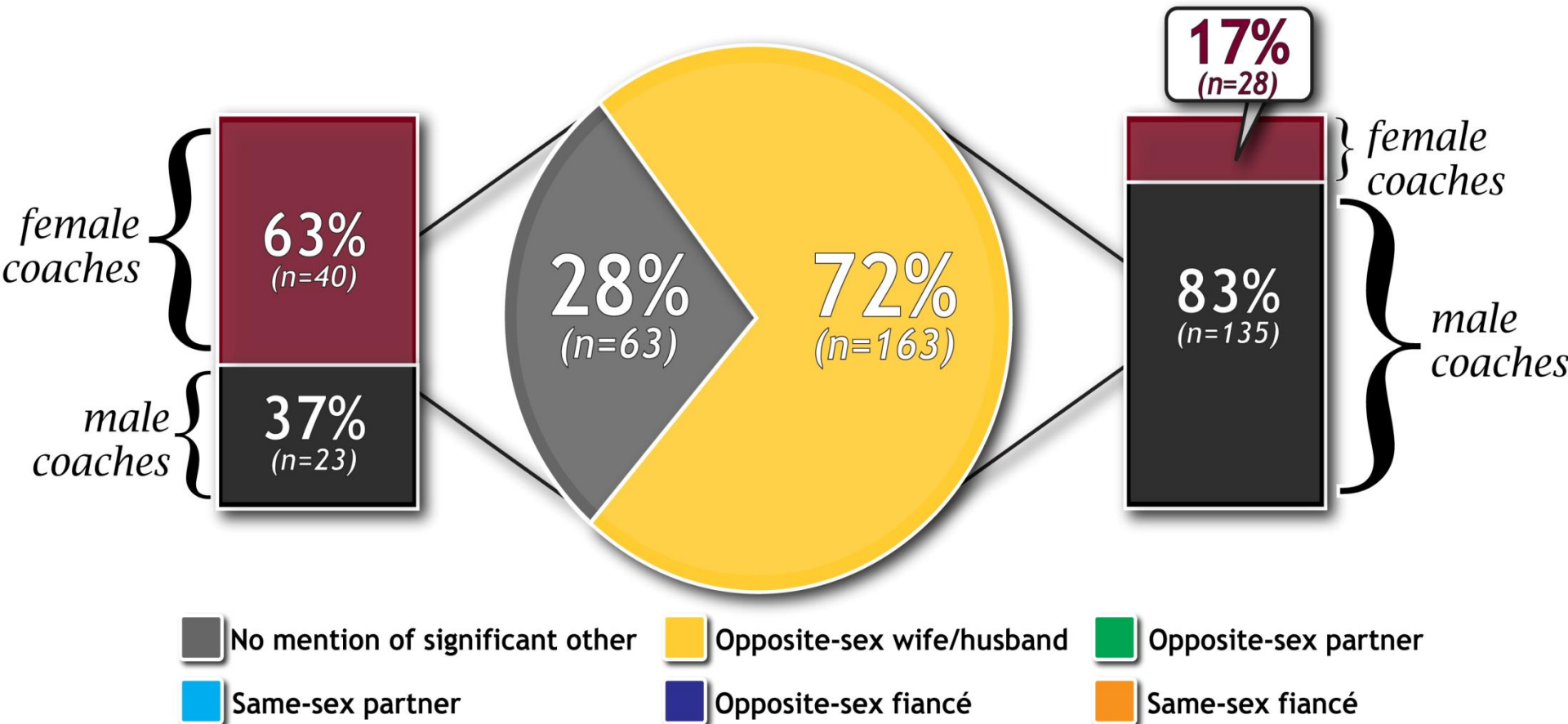
- *Six Division III Conferences (n = 689 coaches)*

**1,902 ONLINE COACHING
BIOGRAPHIES WERE CODED**

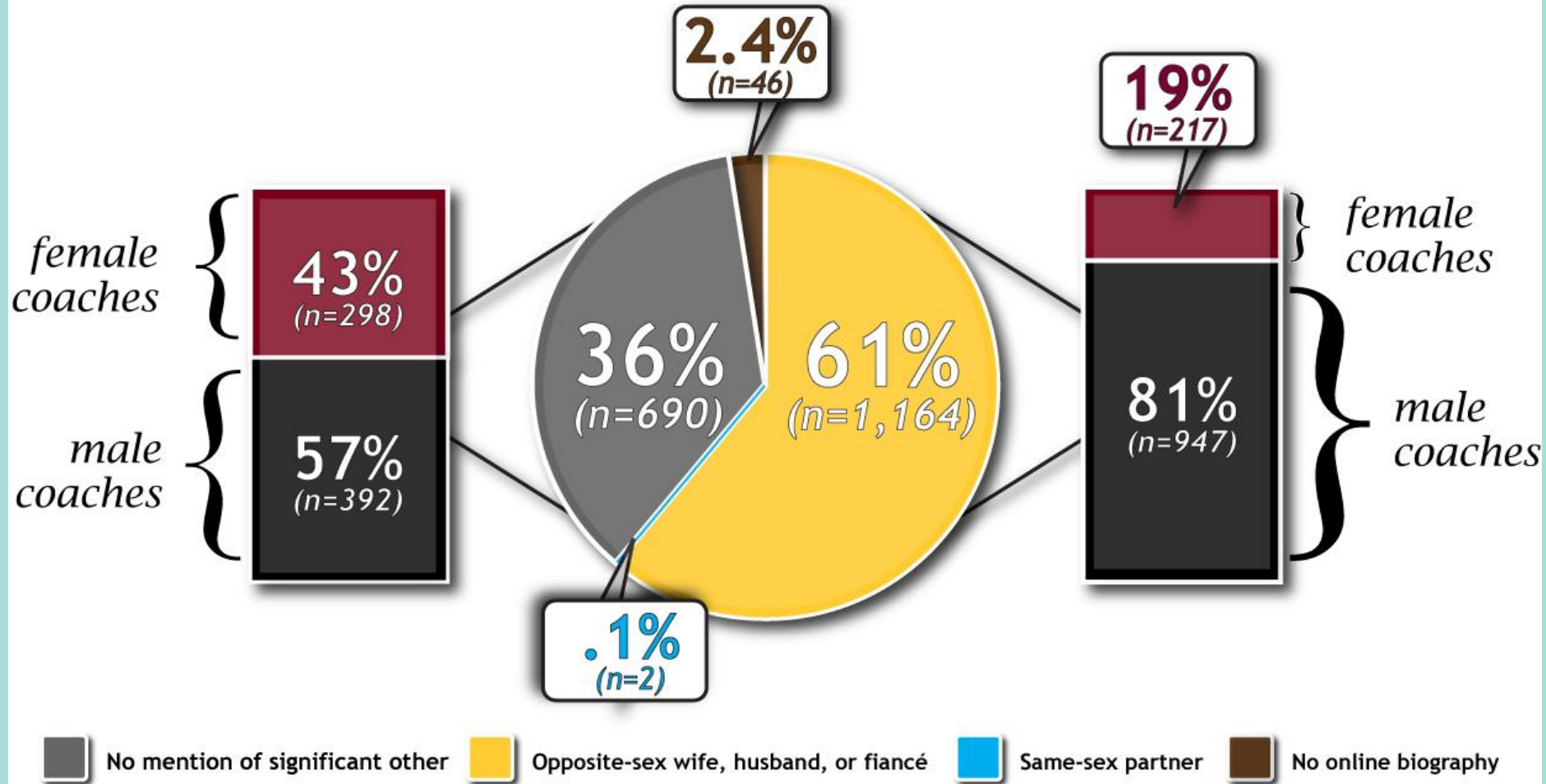




Results From Pilot Study



Results from National Study





Discussion

- **Virtual absence of non-heterosexual orientations**
- **Relationship between sex of coach and heteronormative frames**
- **Divisional differences in content in online coaching biographies.**



Future Research

- **Representations of coaches in the media**
- **Gatekeeping mechanisms of intercollegiate athletic websites**
- **Institutional policies & power structures**



Key Take Home

*“Any kind of
conversation is good
rather than silence.”*

-Pat Griffin (2005)



Speaking Out: Lesbian coaches on heterosexism and the decline of college women coaches

Amy Sandler, Ph.D.



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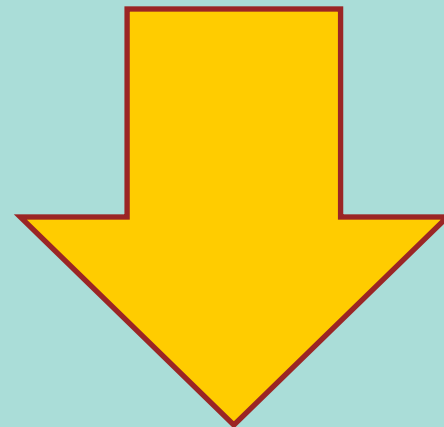
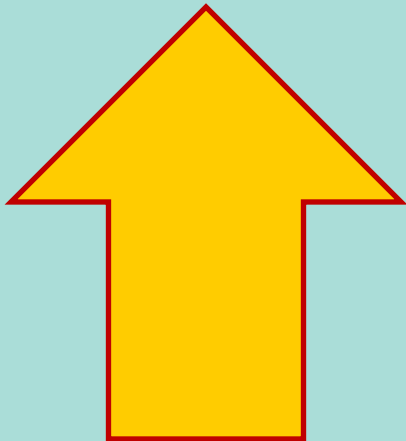
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Background and Problem

Prior to the implementation of Title IX, in 1972, women led 90 percent of collegiate women's teams (Carpenter & Acosta, 2010). Today...

Female student athletes
are at an all-time high

Female coaches just .02%
above the all-time low



Relevant Literature

Theme	References
<p><u>Homologous Reproduction:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dominants reproduce themselves	<p>e.g., Kanter, 1977; Sagas, Cunningham, & Teed, 2006; Stangl & Kane, 1991</p>
<p><u>Work-Family Conflict</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• male-dominated workplace• home responsibilities• social expectations of women as mothers	<p>Dixon & Bruening, 2007</p>
<p><u>Discrimination and Stereotyping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sex bias in hiring• sex-role conflict• salary inequity• lesbian label	<p>e.g., Griffin, 1992; Griffin, 1998; Hasbrook et. al; Inglis, Danylchuck, & Pastore, 1996; Knoppers et. al, 1991; Lowery & Lovett, 1997; Lovett, Lowery, & Lopiano, 1991; NCAA, 1989; Sweeney, 2004</p>



Method

- **Qualitative**
- **Criteria**
 - Current /former NCAA division one female head coaches who do not identify as heterosexual
- **Interview Questions**
 - Perceptions
 - Social/outside of work functions
 - Recruiting
 - Hiring Process/es
 - Career Intentions



Collective Portrait



Participants cover the Northeast, Northwest, South, Mid-Atlantic, Southwest, and Midwestern regions

- 38 Conference titles**
- 39 *NCAA tournament appearances***
- 10 *NCAA Elite Eight appearances***
- 2 *NCAA Final Four appearances***
- 1 *NCAA Final appearance***
- 2 *National Championships***



Theme One: Coaches Perceptions of the Role of Heterosexism in the Decline

- **Participants believe that heterosexism plays a role in the decline of collegiate women coaches.**
- **Subthemes:**
 - Preference for Male Coaches
 - Preference for Married Women Coaches
 - Heterosexism is Difficult to Prove



Theme Two: Impact of Heterosexism on Lesbian Coaches' Upward Mobility

- **Location restrictions based on desire to live in a location where they would feel comfortable being themselves and/or visible with their female partner**



Heterosexism in Women's Collegiate Sport

ENVIRONMENT

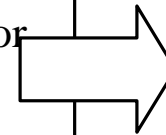
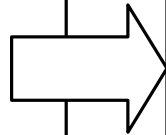
Don't Ask, Don't Tell
Questioning the Gay
Issue/Problem
Negative Recruiting
Predominately Men

ACTIONS

Asking Assistant Coaches
to Hide their Sexual
Orientation
Compensational Behavior
Head Coaches Hiding
Lesbian Coaches Marrying
Men

FEELINGS

Relationship Stress
Alienation
Hypocritical



Future Research should explore...

- 1. Lesbian, and perhaps all women coaches' experiences working under the heteronormative and male dominant structure of college sport.**
- 2. Collegiate women coaches' perceptions of sexism in their work environments.**
- 3. The experiences of NCAA division one, two, and three female coaches to see how the coaches' experiences differ between divisions.**
- 4. "Out" college coaches**
- 5. Why men coach women and the experiences that led them to pursue coaching collegiate women's sport.**



Implications for Policy

- **Inconsistency between NCAA principle of non-discrimination and NCAA bylaw 13.1.2.**
- **NCAA Self Study: Asks for structures in place and inclusive programs/policies for student-athletes of all sexual orientations.** It should expand to include *coaches and athletic administrators.*



Key Take Home

- Heterosexism does play a role in the continued decline
- Continued advocacy for congruency between policy and practice at the NCAA level and amongst membership.