

University of Cincinnati Publishes Inaccurate Report On Sexual Orientation

By Frank York

The University of Cincinnati's Psychological Services Center has published an online report on sexual identity and sexual orientation for students at the university.

The report, "Some Facts Psychologists Know About ... SEXUAL IDENTITY—SEXUAL ORIENTATION," begins with a relatively uncontroversial statement:

"There is increasing evidence that sexual orientation has at least some biological basis, and most people report that their sexual orientation is not something they have chosen."

Then it overreaches to make the following unsupported claims:

"...inclusive research has indicated that homosexuality, when considered alone, is not associated with emotional or social problems. Other studies reveal that adult gays and lesbians are no more likely to have been molested or otherwise sexually abused in childhood than were heterosexuals."

In discussing reparative therapy, the report begins by discussing aversion therapy, which NARTH is aware of no practitioner using:

"These therapies include a variety of techniques. Some conversion therapies subject their clients to electric shocks or drugs that induce vomiting and nausea in an effort to alter their sexual orientation."

Completely ignoring a body of research that includes the recent Spitzer study, the report continues: "More commonly, religious-based talk therapy is utilized. Many conservative Christian therapists and ministries promote these therapies as safe and effective, although their effectiveness is anecdotally-based. These therapies have never been presented in a peer-reviewed journal."

"To claim that our perspective is 'religious,' and theirs is 'scientific,' is to create a false dichotomy," said NARTH's Joseph Nicolosi. "The two approaches are based on different anthropologies—different understandings of human nature and of the meaning and purpose of sexuality."

"Furthermore, the University of Cincinnati report ignores the recent Spitzer study, and also falsely claims that homosexuality *per se* has been proven to be associated with no psychopathology. I invite the authors of the report to present us with any such evidence."