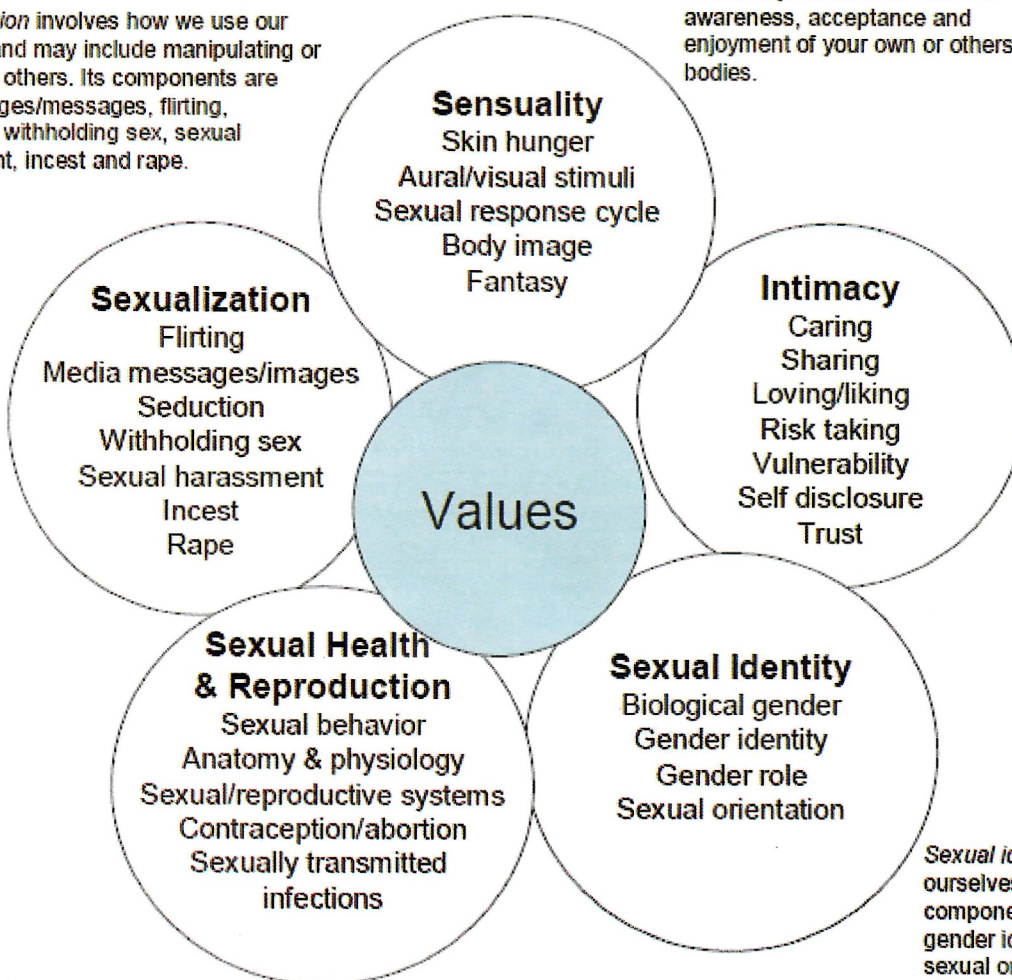


# The Circles of Sexuality

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.

*Sexualization* involves how we use our sexuality and may include manipulating or controlling others. Its components are media images/messages, flirting, seduction, withholding sex, sexual harassment, incest and rape.



*Sensuality* involves our level of awareness, acceptance and enjoyment of your own or others' bodies.

*Intimacy* is the degree to which we express and have a need for closeness with another person. 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 gender, gender identity, gender role and sexual orientation.

*Sexual health and reproduction* relates to attitudes and behaviors toward our health and the consequences of sexual activity. Its components are behavior, anatomy and physiology, sexually transmitted infection, contraception and abortion (spontaneous or induced).