

ARTICLE SUMMARY:

A Content Analysis of State Hospital Policies on Sex Between Inpatients

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Psychiatric Services 2/02

- Contacted 7 New state hospitals (AL, IO, LA, MI, ND, OK, WI) as well as state hospitals used in 1997 survey (see other summary), and all asked to send a copy of their policy about pt sexual behavior. Had 31 policies to review for content analysis.
- 58% of policies had statements on contraception or on prevention of sexual relations through sex ed and counseling. But only 16% had any mention of staff training as part of policy.
- More than half addressed issue of competency, ad various levels of detail
- Most included a preamble mentioning how complex an issue it was to balance pts rights to freedom of expression with the need to safeguard other pts' right to be freed from harassment. One mentioned basic sexual freedoms (of sexual thought, of sexual identity, of self stimulation in private, of consensual sex in private and with dignity, of choice of contraception) and included caveat that these may not infringe on other's freedom.