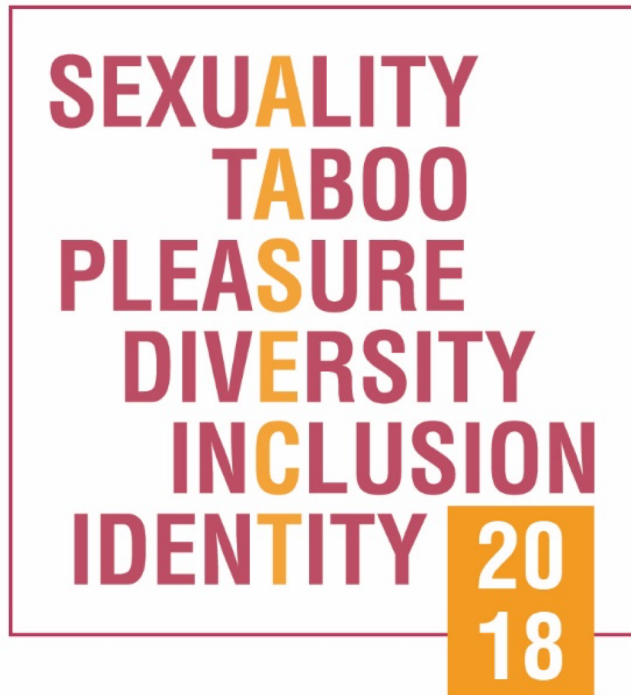


AASECT 50th Annual Conference

June 14 - 17, 2018 ♦ Denver, CO

**Life Size Sex Dolls: Moving Past the Stigma, Myths, and Taboo and
Enhancing Intimacy and Pleasure**



Bridging the Divide:

**SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE TABOOS
& PLEASURES OF SEXUALITY**



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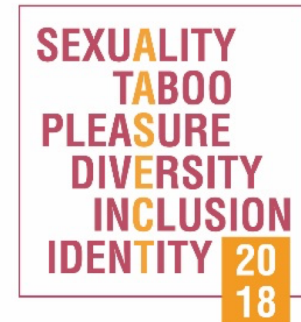
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Rhiannon Beauregard, MA, LMFT-S, CST, S-PSB

Speaker Disclosure:

I have no financial relationships
or affiliations to disclose.



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Stacey Townsend and Randi Ragsdale, MA

Synthetic Surrogates

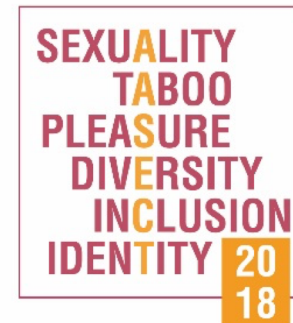
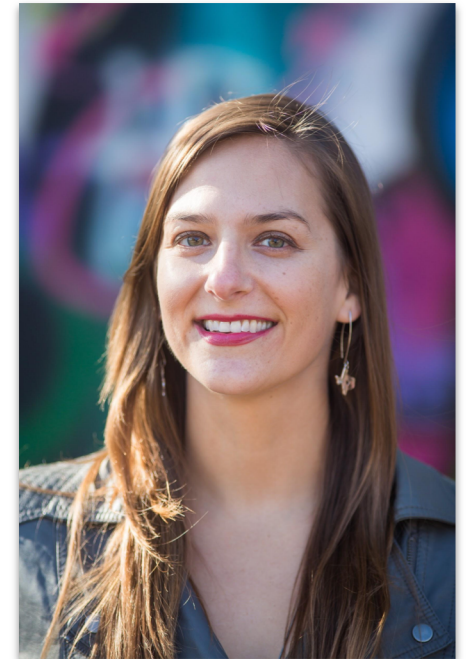
Speaker Disclosure:

- Stacey Townsend and Randi Ragsdale are the owners of Synthetic Surrogates.
- We have not received financial support, grant monies, or honorarium for giving this presentation.

Introduction:

Rhiannon C. Beauregard, MA, LMFT-S, CST, S-PSB

- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in ME, MA, NH, NY, & TX
- AASECT Certified Sex Therapist
- Specialist- Problematic Sexual Behavior
- Online and In-Person Practice based in Austin, TX: SexTherapy-Online, PLLC
- Host of Austin, TX Based Podcast: love.sex.atx
- Been in practice over 10 years



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Love. Sex. ATX

SEXUALITY
TABOO
PLEASURE
DIVERSITY
INCLUSION
IDENTITY

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18

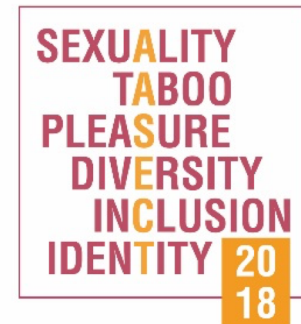
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Introduction:

Stacey Townsend and Randi Ragsdale, MA

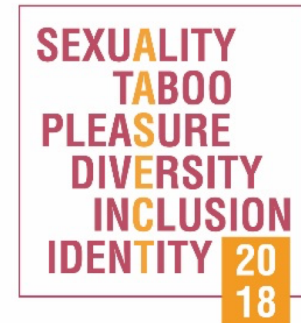
- Owner of Synthetic Surrogates / Director of Marketing and Operations
- Industry leaders for past 5 years
- No. 1 sellers of TPE sex dolls world-wide
- Woman-owned, family business based in Austin, Texas



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Our Dolls Have Been Featured On:

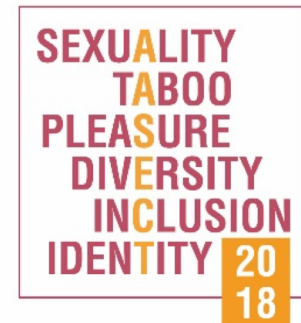


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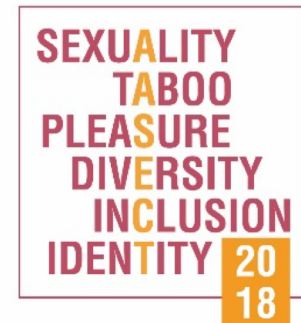
Learning Objectives

- At the conclusion of this workshop, participants will be able to:
 - Name three instances of stigma or myths that exist around life size sex dolls
 - Describe three ways individuals and relationships can develop intimacy and enhance pleasure with a sex doll
 - Discriminate whether a life size sex doll would be a good tool to have in their work with their clients and why.



What are we talking about?

- Life size sex dolls include a variety of types and styles of sex dolls:
 - TPE Dolls
 - Silicone Dolls
 - Fabric Dolls
 - Blow Up Dolls
- Also known to the community as love dolls, Dutch wives, and synthetic partners.
(Valverde, 2012)
- Can be male, female, and transgender, intersex and are completely customizable.

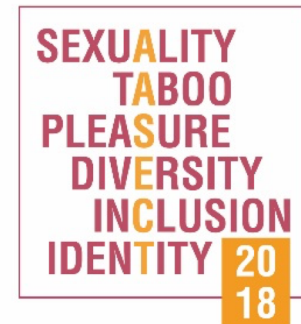


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What are we not talking about?

- We aren't going to address today ethics and sexual technology, sex robots, artificial intelligence, virtual reality or augmented reality and sex dolls. All this is definitely going to be coming down the pipeline VERY soon and will be incredible advancements in how sex dolls are used to enhance pleasure and intimacy.
- We also do not support or endorse child-like dolls or dolls that look like children. We will not be talking about dolls as a therapeutic treatment tool for offender behavior or pedo/hebephilia.



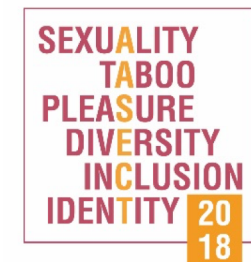
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Why Dolls?

- Dolls provide comfort
- Improves motor skills and social skills
- Assist in teaching how to use hands
- Utilizes imaginations with make-believe play and fantasy
- Learn more about how to “take care” of dolls, which teach them compassion and selflessness.
- Dressing, moving the doll around, etc causes motor skills to develop and improve dramatically.
- Improve speech; as they work to talk to the doll. It gives practice for speech and communication skills
- Dolls can teach them positive ways to interact socially
- Dolls further improves their social skills
- Creating imaginary scenarios for their dolls, they have the ability to see beyond themselves, to understand the repercussions of actions, and to develop important strengths, like empathy for others
- Help to learn to share and again use their imagination.

SOURCE: L., Adeola, K., Ripsam, A., R., Desrosiers, A., V, J., . . . BBC. (2014, July 31). Why kids should play with Dolls for Child Development.
Retrieved from <https://busycreatingmemories.com/why-kids-should-play-with-dolls-for/>



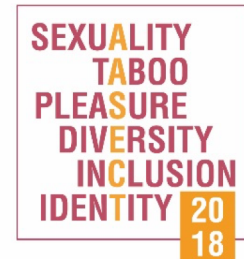
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Why Dolls?



The previous slide listed the developmental benefits of playing with dolls for CHILDREN- but it is our belief that these benefits carry over with our clients and customers who PLAY with dolls. From a young age, dolls and toys allow us to experience our world in safe and self-guided ways- why wouldn't we want our clients to experience all the benefits that playing with dolls has to offer their sexual, emotional, relational, and intimate lives?



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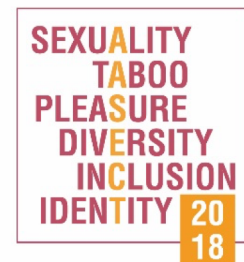
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Why do people love dolls?

- Play
- Companionship
- Sexual stimulation
- Cure for loneliness
- Sexual exploration
- Reports that they are purchased at the end of a relationship due to death or divorce (Itagaki, 2011).
- Artistic representations of human fantasy (Valverde, 2012)
- Creative pursuits (fashion, photography, artistry)(Valverde, 2012)
- Enhancing quality of life (Krivicke & Keller 2012)
- Therapeutic devices for treatment of sexual dysfunctioning and/or intimacy (Krivicke & Keller 2012)
- Clients with physical disabilities (Krivicke & Keller 2012)

Dolls for Companionship

- “Schewe and Moreno (2011) report not all doll-owners have sex with their dolls.
- **10% of doll owners surveyed said they did not purchase their dolls for sex.** - Anonymous Research Questionnaire for Doll Owners (2018)
- Among those who do have sex with their dolls, not all owners use their dolls as their only source of sexual excitement or gratification. Some doll-owners are in relationships with one or more living partners and use their dolls purely as a masturbation tool or as a supplement to their “normal” sexual relationships.”

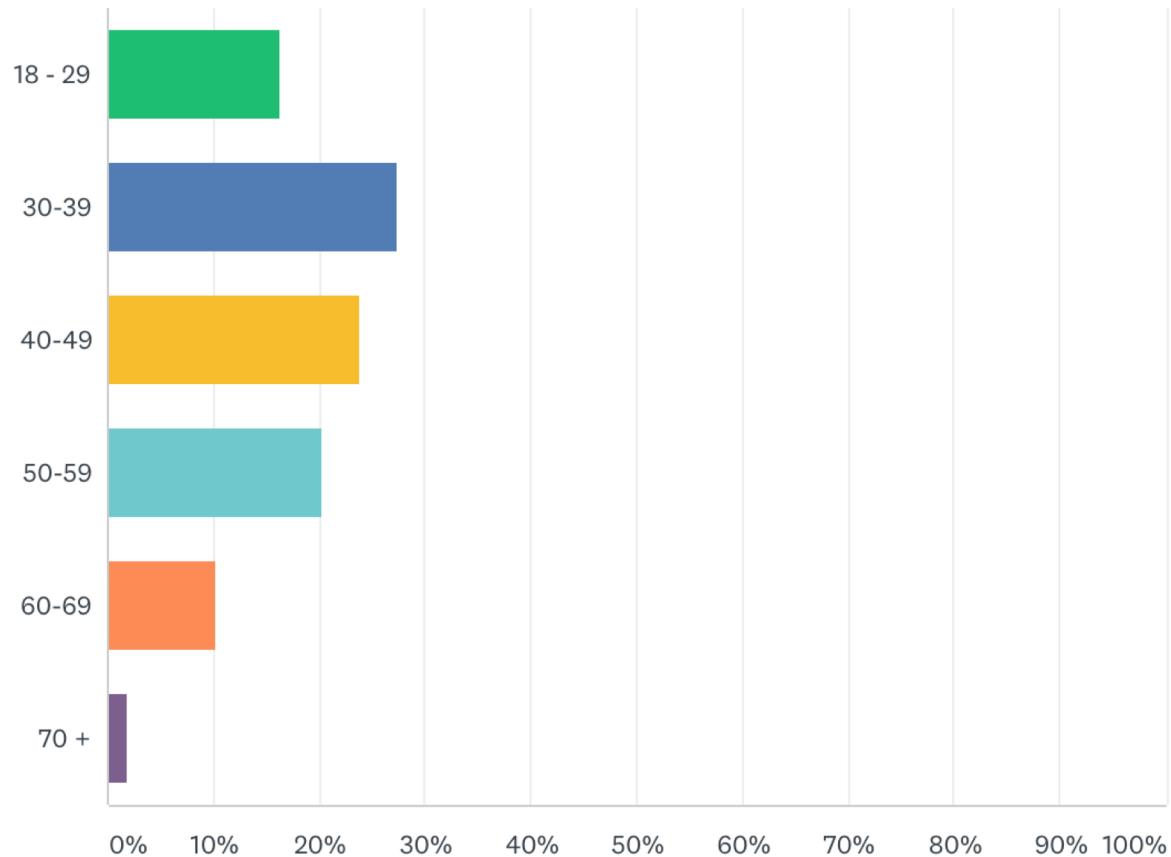


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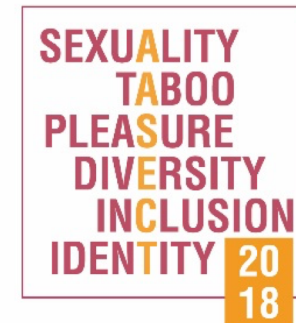
Who are our doll owners?

Age



- 27% 30-39 yrs
- 24% 40-49 yrs
- 20% 50-59 yrs
- 17% 18-29 yrs
- 10% 60-69 yrs
- 2% 70+

Anonymous Research Questionnaire for Doll Owner (2018)

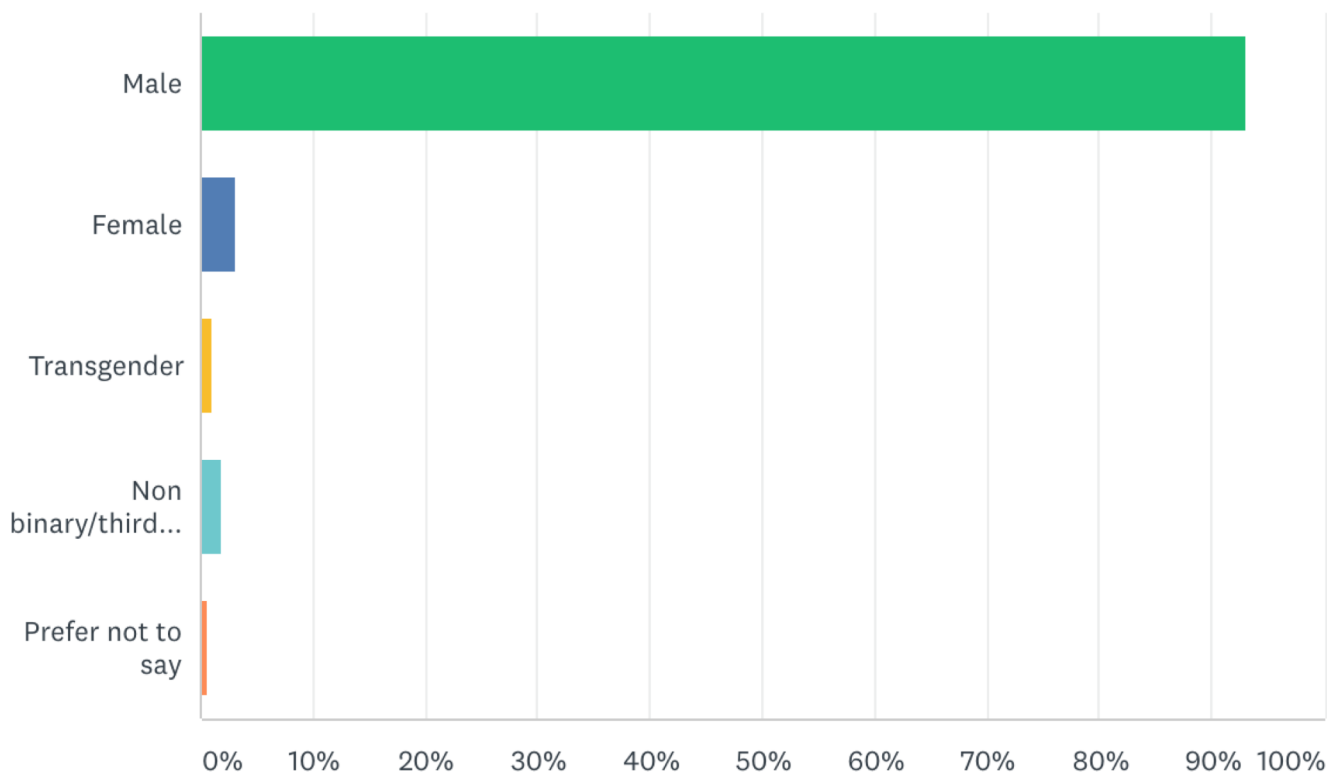


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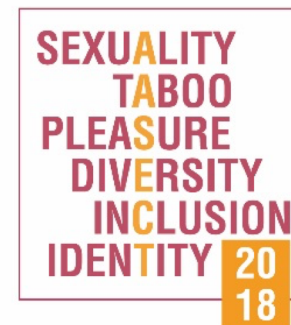
Who are our doll owners?

Gender



Anonymous Research Questionnaire for Doll Owner (2018)

- 93% identify as male
- 3% identify as female
- 1% identify as transgender
- 2% identify as non-binary
- >1% prefer not to say

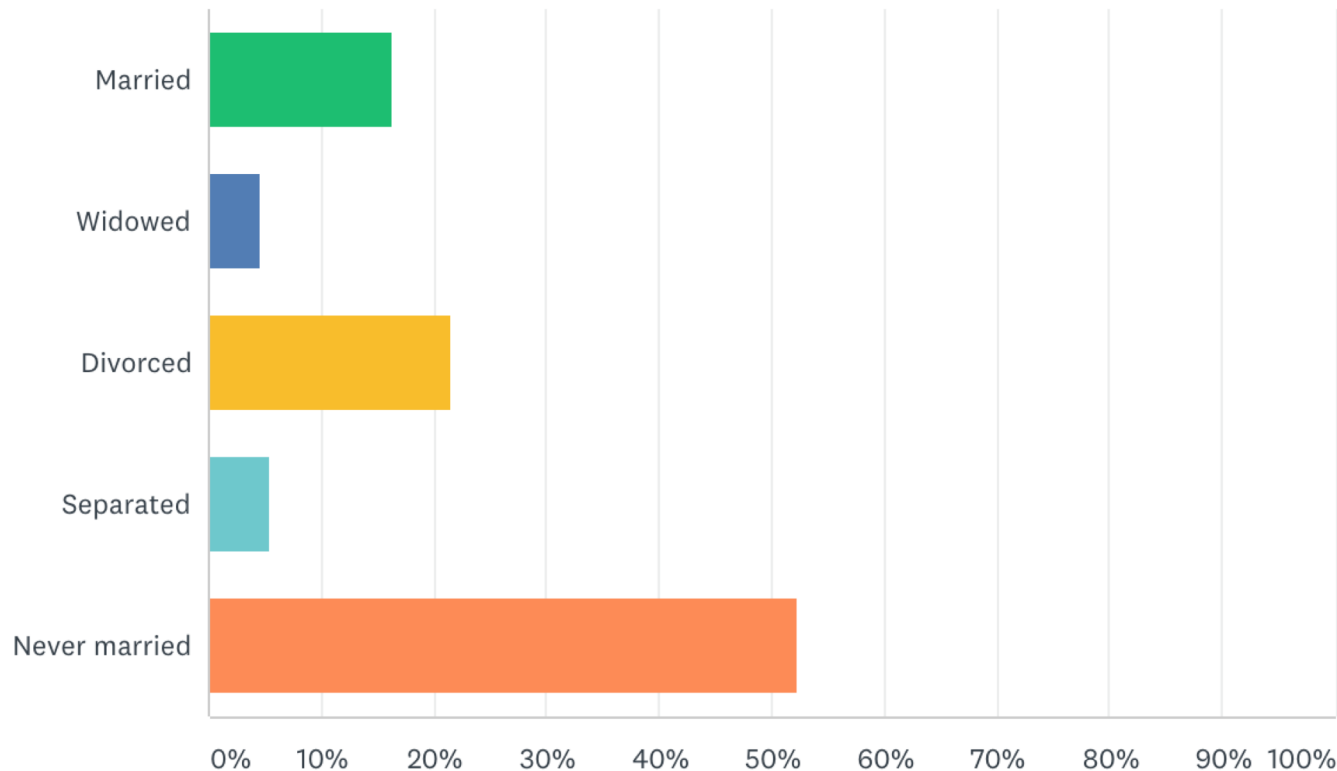


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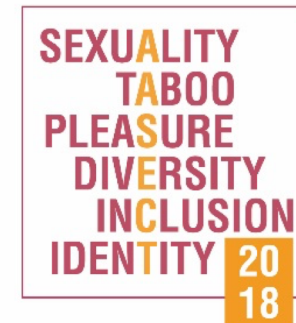
Who are our doll owners?

Marital Status



- 51% Never Married
- 22% Divorced
- 16% Married
- 6% Separated
- 5% Widowed

Anonymous Research Questionnaire for Doll Owner (2018)



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Types of Dolls



TPE



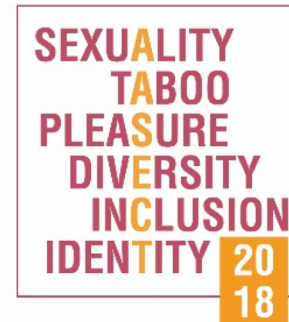
Fabric



Blow up



Silicone



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TPE vs. Silicone



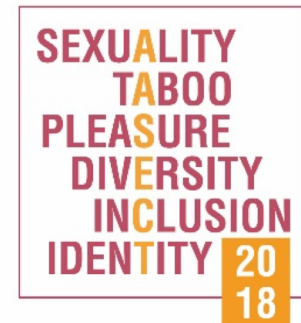
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INCLUSION
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TPE

- TPE (Thermoplastic elastomer) is a body-safe, soft elastomer material that mimics the experience of human skin. TPE is supple, squeezable, and bouncy with a velvety texture.
- TPE is porous and orifices need to be cleaned after each use. Sharing your sex doll is not recommended.
- TPE is less expensive, \$1500 to \$2700 on average.
- Shorter manufacturing time, 3-5 weeks on average.
- Water-based lubricants are safe for TPE.

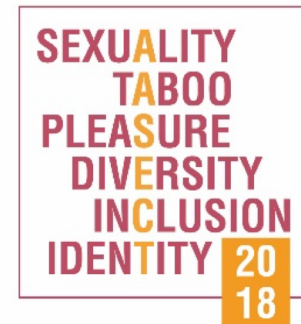


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Silicone

- Silicone is a non-porous material and medical grade can be sterilized.
- Silicone is an expensive option, \$4500 to \$10,000+ on average.
- Although realistic looking, skin is firm in texture and does not play like real skin.
- Manufacturing time, 6 months - year.

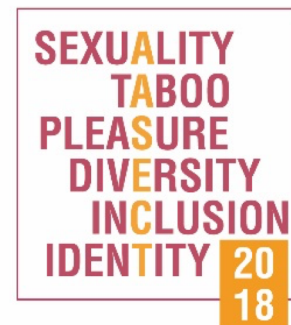


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What kinds of dolls do we produce?

- Synthetic Surrogates are high-quality, life-sized adult sexual/companion dolls for use within a therapeutic treatment plan.
- Our dolls are realistic, anatomically correct dolls made of the highest quality TPE.

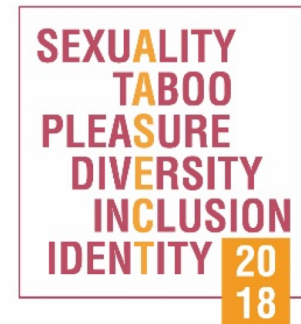


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Synthetic Surrogates

- Range is height from 4'7 to 5'8
- Weight 55 - 110 lbs
- Fully customizable
- Oral, anal and either a fixed or replaceable vagina
- Can stand, and bare weight on hand and knees
- Fully articulated metal skeleton
- Prices range from \$1500-\$2700, depending on the size of the doll.
- Male, female, and penial attachment option
- Trans-male/Trans-female available soon



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Synthetic Surrogates



Ivory



Fair



Pink



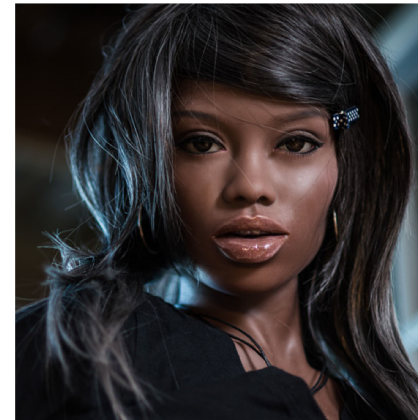
Medium



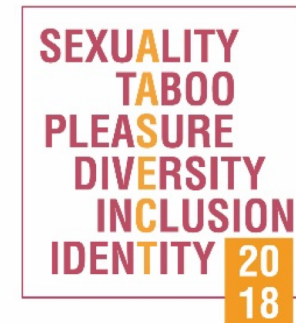
Tan



Cocoa



Ebony



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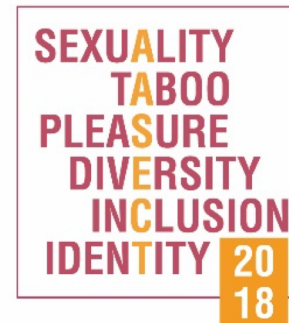
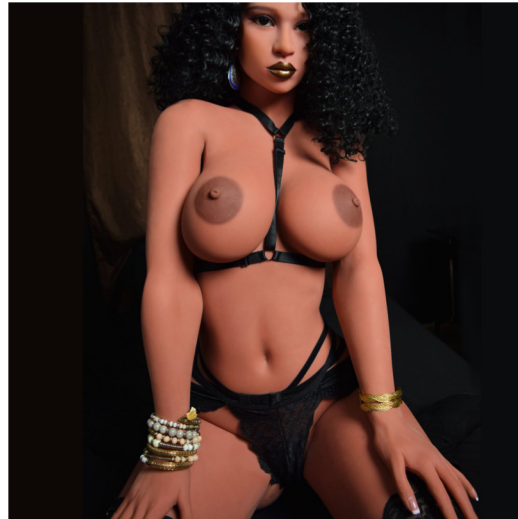
Synthetic Surrogates

- Over 100 different faces with a wide variety of expressions.



Synthetic Surrogates

- Choose from 25 different body styles of all shapes and sizes.



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Synthetic Surrogates

- YES, we have male dolls too!



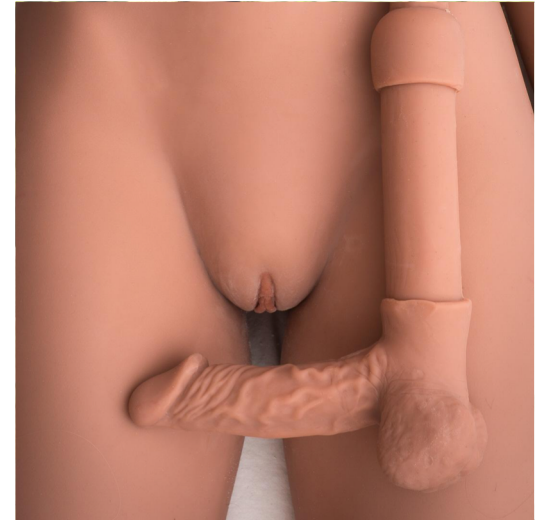
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Synthetic Surrogates

- This penile attachment for female dolls features an penis and testicles for maximum pleasure! The anus remains open for any penetration play.

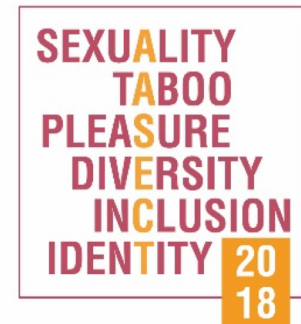


Trans-male and Trans-female dolls in development.

Sex Doll Benefits by the Numbers

- **61%** of doll owners surveyed said that their **sexual anxiety improved** since purchasing a doll.
- **77%** of doll owners surveyed said their level of **sexual drive increased**.
- **80%** of doll owners surveyed said their **sexual stamina improved**.
- **51%** of doll owners surveyed said their ability to **maintain an erection improved**.
- **40%** of doll owners surveyed said their ability to **ejaculate improved**.
- **15%** of doll owners surveyed noted a “high” or “very high” **increase in sexual confidence** since purchasing a doll.

Anonymous Research Questionnaire for Doll Owners (2018)



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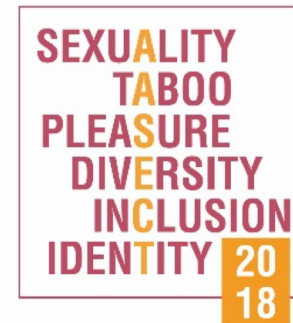
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Myths, Stigma & Sex Dolls



Myths & Sex Dolls

- Owning using human-like alternatives may only further demean some shy young men with inadequate interpersonal competence (Hughes-d'Aeth, 2013).
- Interest in sex dolls is PATHOLOGICAL (where is the evidence?)
- Linked to necrophilia (sexual intercourse with or attraction toward corpses)(Valverde, 2012)
- Is it **paraphilia**? A diagnosis of paraphilia would be unwarranted, without significant distress or impairment in functioning- most people report being VERY satisfied with their dolls and life with their dolls. (Valverde, 2012)

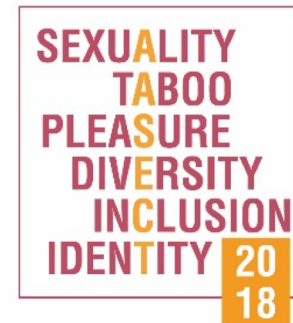


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Myths & Sex Dolls (continued)

- Is it a **fetish**? Provided a doll-owner doesn't need sex doll in order to achieve sexual satisfaction, a diagnosis of a fetish would not be appropriate (Valvede, 2012)
- Doll owners have mental disorders and are generally unsatisfied with their lives (Valverde, 2012)
- The only people that like sex dolls are weirdos, pervs, and losers who can't get a human partner.

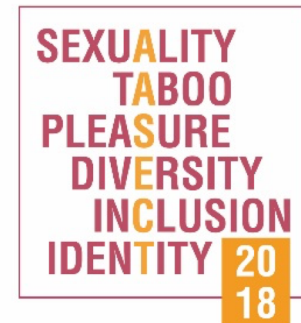


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Stigma & Sex Dolls

- “Sex doll-owners are members of a marginalized population, and accessing the population is challenging as many members of the community wish to remain anonymous for fear of judgment, persecution, and psychiatric labeling.” (Valverde, 2012)
- Our own bias prioritizing HUMAN sexual interaction over toy/doll sexual interaction.

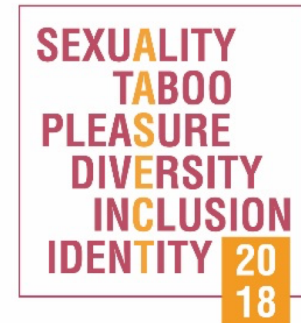


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Using Life Size Sex Dolls in Educational,
Counseling, and Therapeutic Settings

Enhancing Intimacy and Pleasure

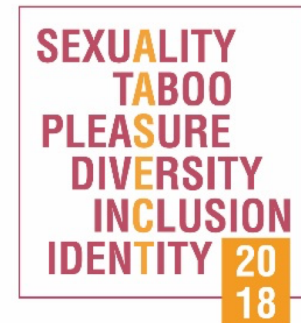


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How Can Life Size Sex Dolls be used in MY work?

- What are your clients treatment goals?
- How can a life size sex doll help your client achieve those goals?
- Does my client have any bias/preconceived notions about utilizing life size sex dolls and have we explored this?
- Do I have any bias/preconceived notions about utilizing life size sex dolls and have I explored this?
- What are the alternatives

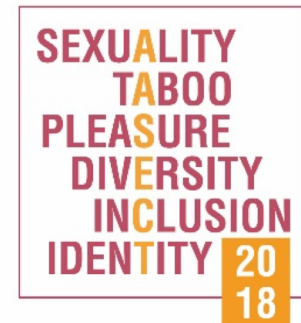


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Sex Dolls to TEACH CONSENT

- Life size sex dolls can be a great way to TEACH CONSENT to our clients.
- How many of you asked the DOLL consent before touching, fondling, or feeling the doll?
- How many of you asked US if you could touch the doll?
- Instead of just talking about consent as an abstract idea, we can PRACTICE asking for consent with the dolls.
- We can also address the myth of IMPLIED consent - just because you OWN the doll, doesn't mean we don't need to ask for continuous consent.

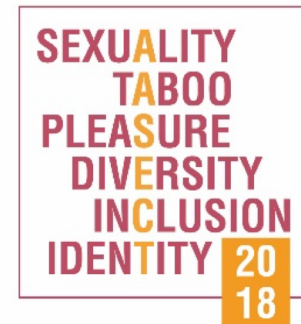


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Sex Dolls as a Hands On Educational Tool

- Life Size Sex Dolls provide a hands on experience for teaching anatomy and physiology of external sex organs as well as offers sex educators, counselors, and therapists a way to ethically and effectively teach clients sexual techniques and skills to clients without involving actual genitals or live subjects.
- Can also teach safe sex techniques.

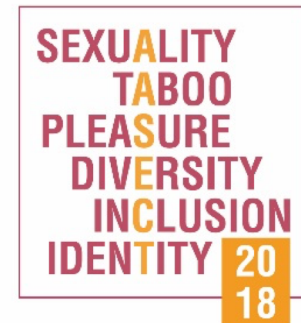


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Sex Education

Unhushed is a sexual education organization based in Austin that breaks through the social silence and stigma surrounding sexuality and invites youth and parents to engage in self-reflection, conversation, and dialogue.

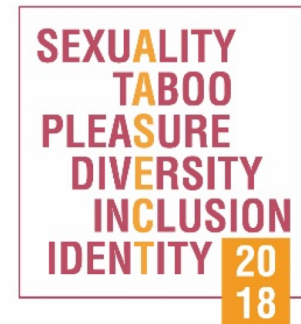


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Teach Skills on Dolls

- Because Life Size Sex Dolls attempt to replicate the look and feel of genitals and other body parts, Life Size Sex Dolls can be used to replicate the feel and look of body parts for clients who might need that as part of their educational and therapeutic treatment plan.
- We can HANDS ON teach skills on the dolls, with less concern or fear about boundary crossing or ethics.

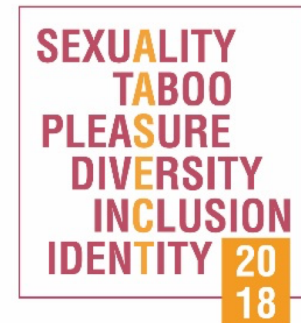


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*Inspire **Creativity, Playfulness and Care** in a Sex Life*

- Life Size Sex Dolls are very awesome and cool TOYS and can incorporate PLAY into an individuals or relationship sex life.
- Playfulness, creativity, and care are somethings that might be missing from a clients sex life and can be inspired by incorporating sex dolls into their sexual play.

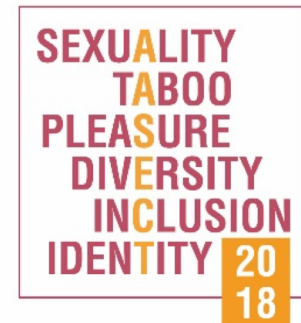


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Model Healthy Attachment and Enhance Relationship Satisfaction

- Doll owners have various attachments to their dolls which model relational attachment to others. Doll owners often describe an emotional attachment to their dolls- describing them as life partners while others may just describe their doll as a novelty item.
- If relationship satisfaction is a clients treatment goal, a Synthetic Surrogate might be an alternative solution for sexual pleasure and satisfaction as well as relationship pleasure and satisfaction.



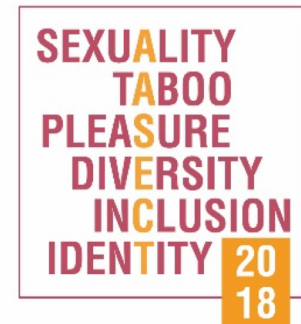
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Quote From a Happy Sex Doll Owner

- “I'm a proud owner and am extremely pleased with my doll! I dress her up in costumes, put makeup on her, play with her and have sex with her on a daily basis. She's my companion for Life” - KJ

Comment sent to love.sex.atx in regards to podcast episode



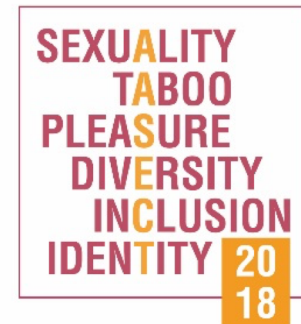
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Quotes From Happy Sex Doll Owners

- “If you are single or widowed or just need a physical presence and are great for fantasy play. Also having a sex doll assures you don't have to live a sexless life if you are single.” - Survey Respondent
- “It helped me be more relaxed around women and now is easier for me to open up a conversation with them.” - Survey Respondent
- “As a transgender male, where there is no “safe” partner to be found easily; the dolls are a great alternative” - Survey Respondent

Comments sent in response to Anonymous Research Questionnaire for Doll Owners (2018)



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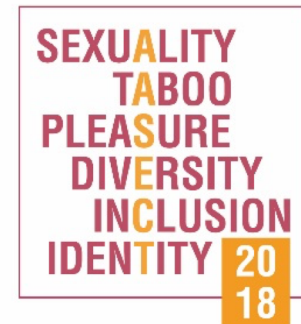
Provide an Alternative for Difficult Sex Therapy Situations

- How many times have we heard “I told them they could just go find someone else to have sex with- even though I didn’t really want them to do that”
- Life Size Sex Dolls can often take the place of a partner who might not be interested or willing to be directly involved in a certain sexual act or position.



Provide an Alternative for Difficult Sex Therapy Situations

- For example, if sexual pain is present that limits certain sex activities, a life size sex doll can fill in for a partner who might not be able to fully participate (i.e.: a partner who has sexual pain upon penetration) so that both partners can enjoy that experience without causing pain.
- Or if one partner identifies as kinky or non-monogamous but the other partner does not, a life size sex doll could possibly bridge that gap within the relationship.

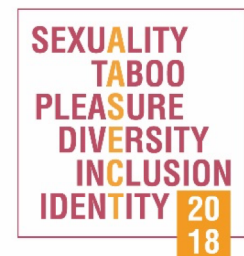


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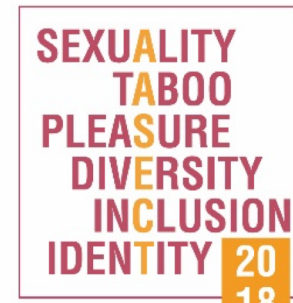
Non-Monogamous Relationships

- Consensually non-monogamous relationships might like to incorporate a Life Size Sex Dolls for various reasons to explore or express their non-monogamy.
 - A partner who is nervous about exploring non-monogamy with other partners might like a Life Size Sex Doll to “practice” interacting with another partner.
 - If one partner falls more non-monogamous than the other, a Life Size Sex Doll might offer an opportunity to for the relationship to explore consensual non-monogamy.



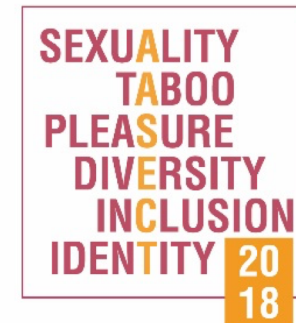
An Alternative and/or Stepping Stone for Surrogate Partners Therapy

- Clients who might be candidates for working with surrogate partners or other therapeutic sex workers might do well with starting with a doll or a doll might be an appropriate alternative to help assist a client achieve their treatment goals.
- Clients who might be resistant to SPT or therapists who might be hesitant to refer to a SPT, a life size sex doll might be a great place to start or a solution within itself.



Sex Dolls in the Audience

- How many of you visited the Synthetic Surrogate display in the Exhibition Hall?
 - Can you describe your experience when you first saw the dolls?
 - If you interacted with the dolls can you describe your experience with the interaction?
- What's it been like to be seated next to a doll or near a doll while you have been in this presentation?
 - What did you notice about being seated next to or near a doll?
 - Did you feel any way about the doll or yourself?
- Other comments insights?



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Questions?



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Contact Information

Rhiannon C. Beauregard, MA, LMFT-S, CST, S-PSB

rhiannon@sextherapy-online.com

www.SexTherapy-Online.com

512.765.4741

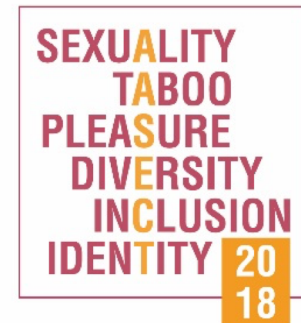
Stacey Townsend and Randi Ragsdale

Synthetic Surrogates

hello@syntheticsurrogates.com

www.SyntheticSurrogates.com

800.497.7393

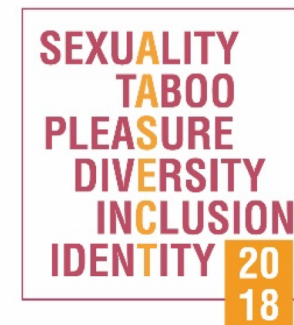


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