B15: Gender Role Socialization

**Type of Exercise:** discussion  
**Level:** basic  
**Length of time:** 30 minutes  
**Resources needed:** none

**Instructions:** The main focus of this exercise is to help the group explore gender role socialization. As you grapple with answering the different questions, consider the responses that someone of a different sexual orientation or gender identification might have in answering them.

**Suggested Discussion Questions:**

- When did you learn that you were a girl or boy? How did you know?
- What were social influences that helped you learn what it means to be a girl or a boy in society?
- Are there certain activities that you associate with being a girl or boy?
- How did you learn about these activities and which ones were associated with girls versus boys?
- How did others contribute to your understanding of what it means to be a girl or a boy? For example, what did you learn from your parents, siblings, peers, teachers, or religious leaders when you were a child?
- Were there occasions when your understanding of gender role was different than those around you? How did you deal with this?
- How have you seen others react to someone who doesn’t engage in behaviors commonly associated with assigned gender roles?
- How do gender stereotypes affect the health care environment?
- How do you view your role as a health care provider in discussing gender roles and commonly expected social behaviors?