



Poster Presentation

## Examining Attitudes Towards Sexuality in CHARGE Syndrome

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### Presenter Information

Emily Mathis is a doctoral student in School Psychology at Mississippi State University and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Mathis holds a Master's degree in Educational Psychology from Mississippi State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Mississippi College. Mathis has been a member of the Bulldog CHARGE Syndrome Research Lab at Mississippi State University for three years. Mathis has worked on various CHARGE related research projects including sexuality education and the quality of behavioral services. In addition to her research in CHARGE, Mathis is a graduate assistant and clinical coordinator for the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic at Mississippi State University where she provides behavioral services rooted in applied behavior analysis to individuals with disabilities.

### Presentation Abstract

There are many negative perceptions of sexuality and sexuality education, particularly in regard to individuals with disabilities. The current study aims to examine perceptions of sexuality and sexuality education from adults with CHARGE Syndrome, as well as parents of individuals with CHARGE Syndrome). Additionally, this study aims to identify concerns and discrepancies regarding perceptions of themes surrounding a comprehensive sexuality education for individuals with CHARGE Syndrome from both parents of individuals with CHARGE Syndrome and individuals with CHARGE Syndrome themselves. This exploratory study is an initial step to understanding barriers preventing the delivery of sexuality education to this underserved population. Preliminary results of this study will be discussed.