

**How do young
women with
VCFS
view their
personal
relationships,
sexuality &
parenthood?**



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Relationships, Sexuality & Parenting

- ▶ A normal and often expected part of life
- ▶ Can be more challenging for adults with intellectual disability
- ▶ How do people with VCFS think about these life areas?



What we already know

For adults with ID, most...

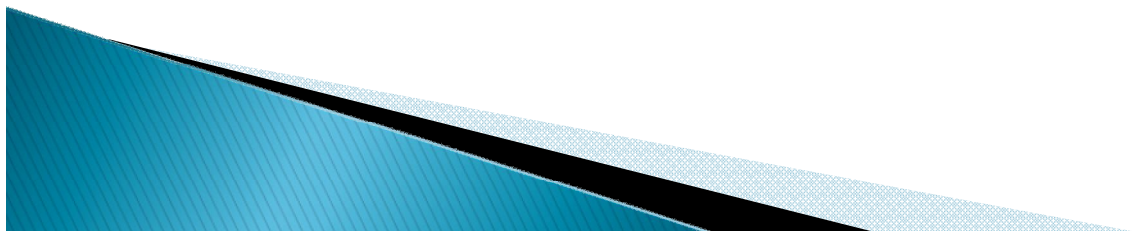
- ▶ Do not marry, have children, or enjoy intimate relationships.
- ▶ Poorer sexual education & sexual knowledge
- ▶ Face stigma, prejudice, & social isolation



Stigma & Genetic Disorders

▶ Stigma attached to genetic disease/ disorders

- Hemophilia
- Down Syndrome
- Huntington's disease

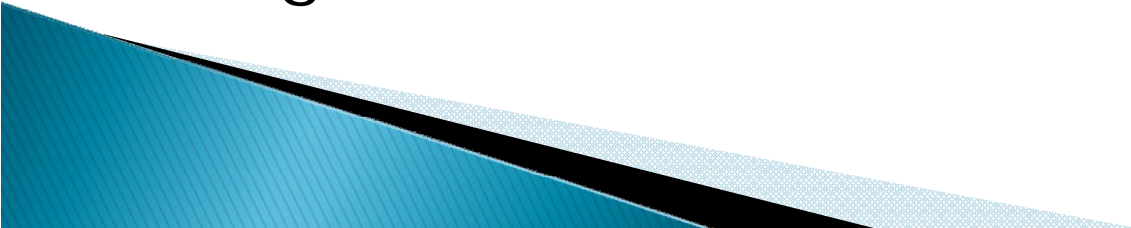


What we don't know...

- ▶ What it is like to have VCFS?
- ▶ How do people with ID experience relationships, sexuality, and parenting?
- ▶ Do people with VCFS experience "stigma"?



What we are interested in...

- ▶ Does the genetic component affect how people with ID experience relationships, sexuality and parenthood?
 - ▶ Do similar barriers exist, how do people with VCFS experience them, and do they impact on decision making?
 - ▶ Is stigma associated with VCFS? Is there a stigma or even a "double stigma"?
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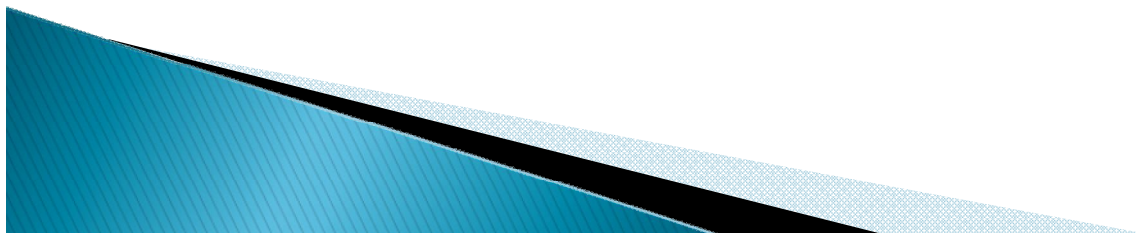
The study....

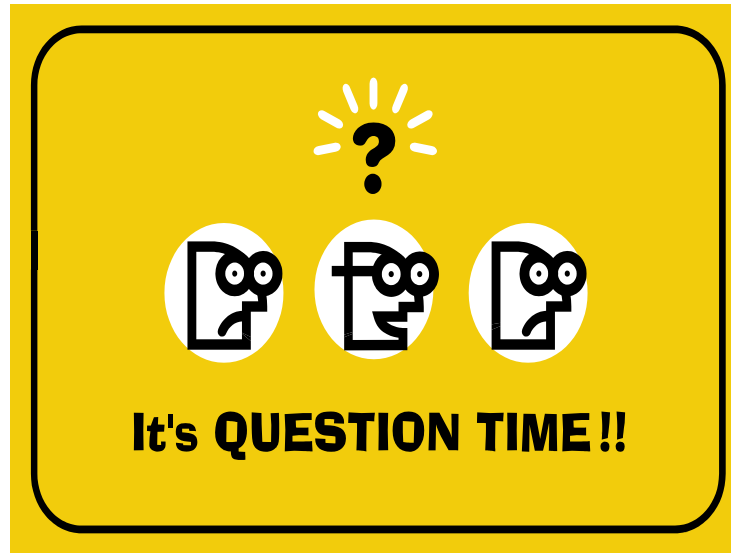
- ▶ Interviews with young women with VCFS:
 - 8-10 adult women with VCFS
 - Mild ID or learning difficulties
 - 18- 35 years old
 - With no children



Where to from here?

- ▶ Interested participants or their families/ support persons can contact either Linda or myself
- ▶ Interviews from September 2011
- ▶ Information packs-
 - Information Statement
 - Consent Form





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Thank you

