

Update on the Census Bureau's SOGI Data Action Plan

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Progress on Evidence-Building Activities

- SOGI content request and the ACS SOGI Test
- Household Pulse Survey
- Annual Business Survey
- Stakeholder engagements, working groups, international community

SOGI Content and ACS Test

Considerations for Asking SOGI on the ACS

Test is an evaluation of:

- Response modes: self-response and interviewer-administered
- Respondents: self and proxy response
 - One person responds for themselves and for other members of the household
- Language: English and Spanish

Sexual Orientation Question

- Aligns with NASEM and OMB recommendations
 - Reworded for proxy reporting
 - An explicit “Don’t Know” option is not offered for any questions on the ACS
- Only one version of the question being tested
- Asked of people age 15 and over

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Which of the following best represents how this person thinks of themselves? *Mark (X) ONE box.*

- Gay or lesbian
- Straight, that is not gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- This person uses a different term - Specify ↴


Gender Identity Question

- Two-step question
- Questions replace the sex question on the ACS (What is Person 2's sex?)
- Similar to NASEM recommendation, except:
 - Question stem reworded for proxy response
 - Removed language about birth certificate in sex assigned at birth question
 - Male and Female category order matches other Census Bureau surveys
 - Added nonbinary category to current gender question
- Current Gender question asked for people age 15 and over

4 What sex was Person 2 assigned at birth?
Mark (X) ONE box.

Male Female

5 What is Person 2's current gender?
Skip this question if this person is less than 15 years old.
Mark (X) ONE box.

Male
 Female
 Transgender
 Nonbinary
 Person 2 uses a different term. Specify 

Gender Identity Treatments

Treatment 1: Only one response option can be marked.

Treatment 2: More than one response option can be marked.

4 What sex was Person 2 assigned at birth?

Mark (X) ONE box.

- Male Female

5 What is Person 2's current gender?

Skip this question if this person is less than 15 years old.
Mark (X) ONE box.

- Male
 Female
 Transgender
 Nonbinary
 Person 2 uses a different term. Specify ↕

4 What sex was Person 2 assigned at birth?

Mark (X) ONE box.

- Male Female

5 What is Person 2's current gender?

Skip this question if this person is less than 15 years old.
Mark (X) one or more boxes.

- Male
 Female
 Transgender
 Nonbinary
 Person 2 uses a different term. Specify ↕

Cognitive Testing

- Assess respondents' ability to comprehend and answer SOGI across languages, survey modes, and subgroups (e.g., sexual/gender identities, education level, geography)
- Probe respondents on willingness and ability to proxy report
- Evaluate performance of the “nonbinary” category in the current gender question
- Evaluate performance of the gender-neutral relationship categories
- Evaluate performance of fertility skip and pronoun changes
- Collect preliminary feedback on a question about intersex status

Field Test Plans

- Field test kicked off this past August
- Initial testing will focus on self-response modes: internet and paper
- 2 wording treatments
- Sample: 240,000 cases per treatment
- Personal interview component of the test planned for spring of 2025

Household Pulse Survey

Measuring SOGI in the Household Pulse Survey

- HPS remains an experimental survey.
- HPS has relatively low overall response rate (~4-7%).
- Questions asked only of respondents (i.e., no proxy response).
- Questions asked only of those aged 18 years and over.
- Self-response, online survey (no interviewer-administered option).
- Census Bureau dissemination policies determine granularity of products.
- SOGI items added to HPS in Cycle 34 (July 2021).

Existing SOGI Evaluations

- Effect of allocated SAB values on transgender estimates
- Performance of SAB/gender identity confirmation check
- Question order experiment
- Sexual orientation write-in evaluation
- Incorporation of a nonbinary response category for gender identity
- Record linkage evaluation

Annual Business Survey

ABS Overview

- Annual collection of economic and demographic characteristics for employer businesses by sex, ethnicity, race and veteran status
- Sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Census Bureau
- Conducted on a firm (company) basis rather than establishment
- Samples 300,000 employer businesses annually

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Measures

- Gender Identity is asked of up to 4 owners if the business meets the above criteria. Gender identity is *not* a test question
- Sexual orientation *is* a test question and is being used for research purposes only. Data collected will not be used and disseminated in any aggregated form for official statistics
- We are testing 2 versions of the explanatory text and will split the panel evenly to determine which respondents will see which version of the text

Sexual Orientation- Panel 1 question

SO Note

The next question is being used for research purposes only. Data collected from the next question will not be used and disseminated in any aggregated form for official statistics.

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Owner Sexual Orientation

Do any of this business's owners identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



The Annual Business Survey is asking a sexual orientation question to be more inclusive in our understanding of business owners in the United States.

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Sexual Orientation- Panel 2 question

SO Note

The next question is being used for research purposes only. Data collected from the next question will not be used and disseminated in any aggregated form for official statistics.

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Owner Sexual Orientation

Do any of this business's owners identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer



The Annual Business Survey collects demographic information to gain a better understanding of business owners in the United States.

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Gender Identity

OWNER 1

If the business had no owners, then proceed to the instructions on the bottom of page 20.


B.1.1 Sex

What is the sex of *Owner 1*?

- Male Female

B.1.2 Gender

What is *Owner 1's* gender?

- Man
 Woman
 Transgender
 Nonbinary
 They use a different term:
(specify) 

- Don't know

*Stakeholder Engagements,
Working Groups and the
International Community*

Overview

- Regular quarterly meetings with LGBTQI+ stakeholders
- SOGI expert group meetings
- FCSM SOGISC Working Groups
- Learning sessions with Statistics Canada, UK, New Zealand and Mexico to gain insights related to:
 - Collecting information on the intersex population and for people with variations in sex characteristics
 - Publishing gender data that balances privacy considerations data granularity
 - Discussions about gender identity data collections that do not use the two-step approach

Thank you for your attention!

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