Cognitive Testing Results for Proxy SOGI items about Children and Adults in English and Spanish

October 24, 2024
Federal Committee on Statistical Methods, College Park, MD

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This presentation is intended to promote ideas. The views expressed are part of ongoing research and do not necessarily reflect the position of the U.S. Department of Education.

Presentation Overview

- National Household Education Survey
  - Background
  - Respondent and questionnaire structure
- SOGI Cognitive Study
  - Methods
  - Participant demographics
- Results
- Conclusions and Next Steps

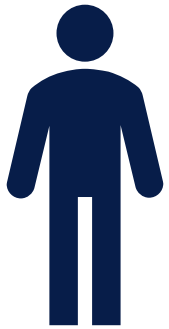
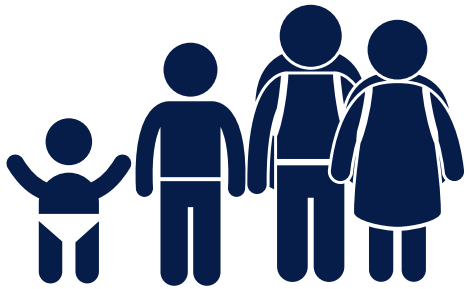
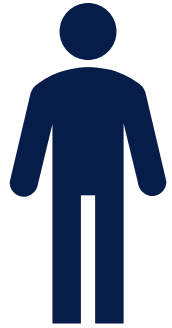
National Household Education Survey (NHES)

A cross-sectional study, conducted every 3-4 years beginning in 1991.

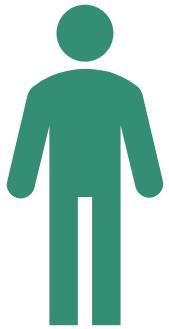
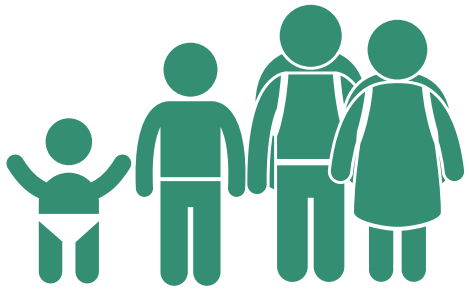
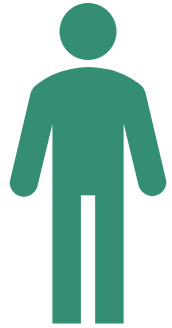
A household-based study of children

Collects information about early childhood care and education and family involvement in their children's education

NHES - Respondents and questionnaire structure

Respondent/Parent 1	Focal Child	Parent 2
		
• Self response • Asked in English or Spanish	• Respondent asked about one child identified from the screener • Proxy information about child identity/demographic background reported by Respondent • Asked in English or Spanish	• Respondent asked about one second parent who lives in the household (when there is a second parent) • Proxy information about the second parent's identity/demographic background reported by Respondent • Asked in English or Spanish

NHES - Gender identity question text

	Respondent/Parent 1	Focal Child		Parent 2
Subject				
2023	**Is this parent or guardian male or female?** Male Female	**What is this child/youth's sex?** Male Female *Asked in screener*		**Is this parent or guardian male or female?** Male Female
New	**What is your current gender?** Male Female Transgender, nonbinary, or another gender	**What is [child]'s current gender?**		**What is this parent or guardian's current gender?** Male Female Transgender, nonbinary, or another gender
		Male Female Another gender *Responses for children 0-14*	Male Female Transgender, nonbinary, or another gender *Responses for children 15-18*	

NHES - Sexual orientation question text

	Respondent/Parent 1	Focal Child (aged 15 or older)	Parent 2
Subject			
New	**Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?** Gay or lesbian Straight, that is not gay or lesbian Bisexual I use a different term. Specify__ I don't know	**Which of the following best represents how [child] thinks of [pronoun]?** Gay or lesbian Straight, that is not gay or lesbian Bisexual [child name] uses a different term. Specify__ I don't know	**Which of the following best represents how this parent or guardian thinks of themselves?** Gay or lesbian Straight, that is not gay or lesbian Bisexual They use a different term. Specify__ I don't know

NHES - Gender neutral and pronoun question

	Relationship language	Pronoun Question
2023	**How are you related to [this child]?** Mother (birth, adoptive, step, or foster) Father (birth, adoptive, step, or foster) Grandmother Grandfather Parent's girlfriend/boyfriend/partner Aunt Uncle Sister Brother Other relationship – specify	No question asked, a pronoun was assigned based on the child sex variable from the screener (male = him/his; female = her/hers, unknown = this child)
New	**How are you related to [this child]?** Parent (birth, adoptive, step, or foster) Grandparent Parent's girlfriend/boyfriend/partner Aunt/Uncle Sibling Other relationship – Specify	**We would like to ask you additional questions about [child name]. For ease of question wording, which pronoun would you like us to use for [child name]?** He/his She/her They/them

Study Methods

Online interviews in English and Spanish

Online recruitment and screening

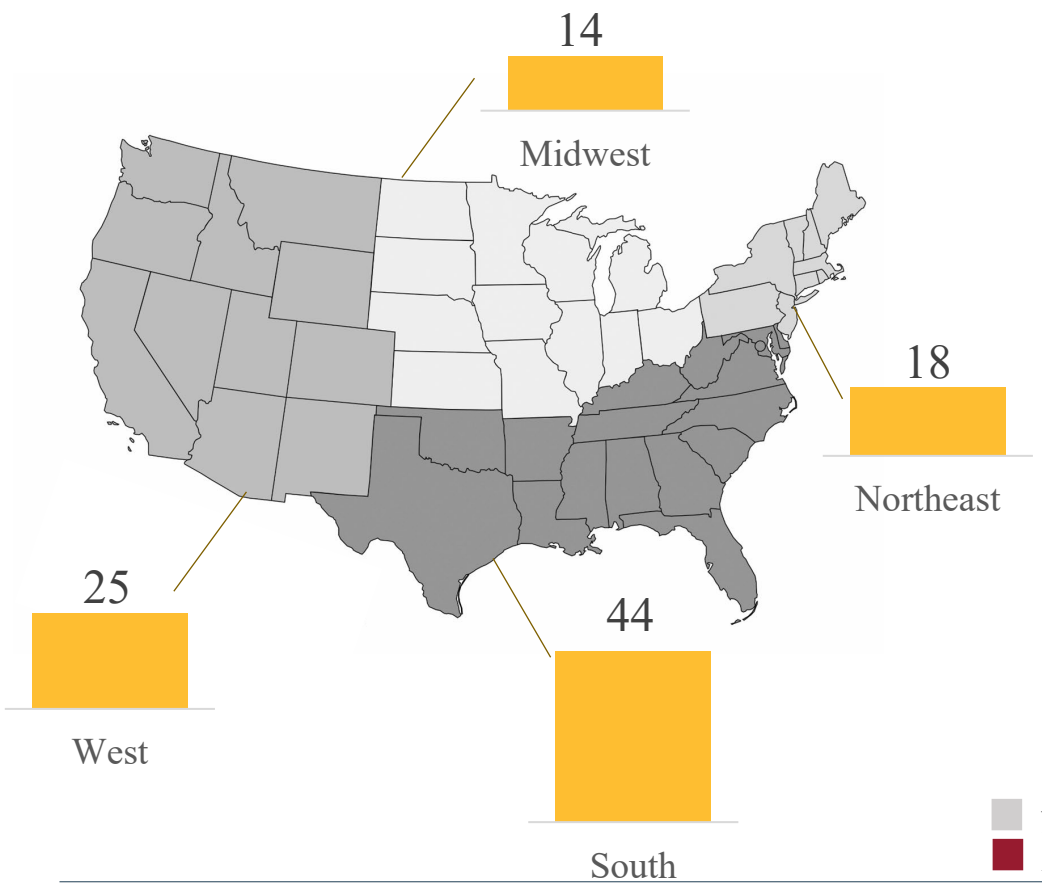
May – September 2024

60 minute interview

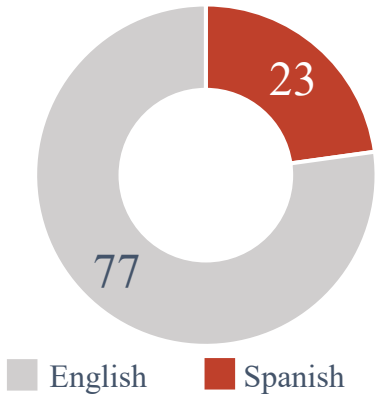
$40 cash incentive

About 60 participants

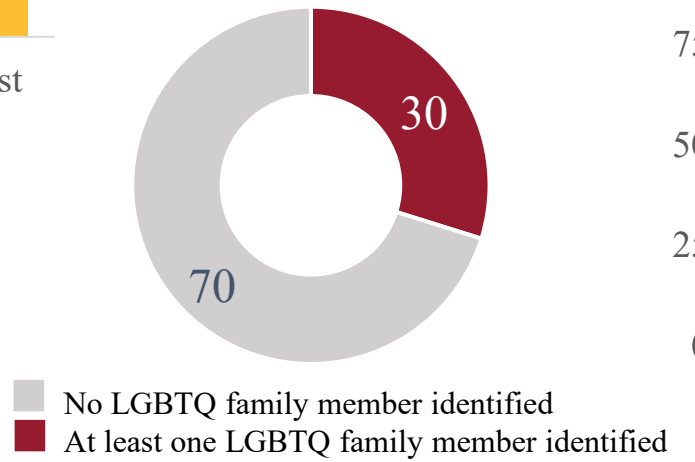
Percentage of participants from each US Census region



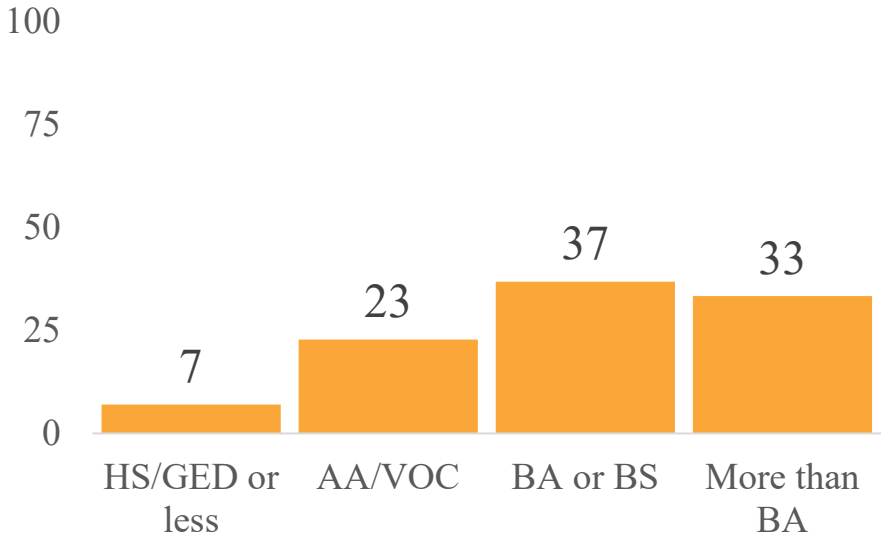
Percentage of participants by language spoken



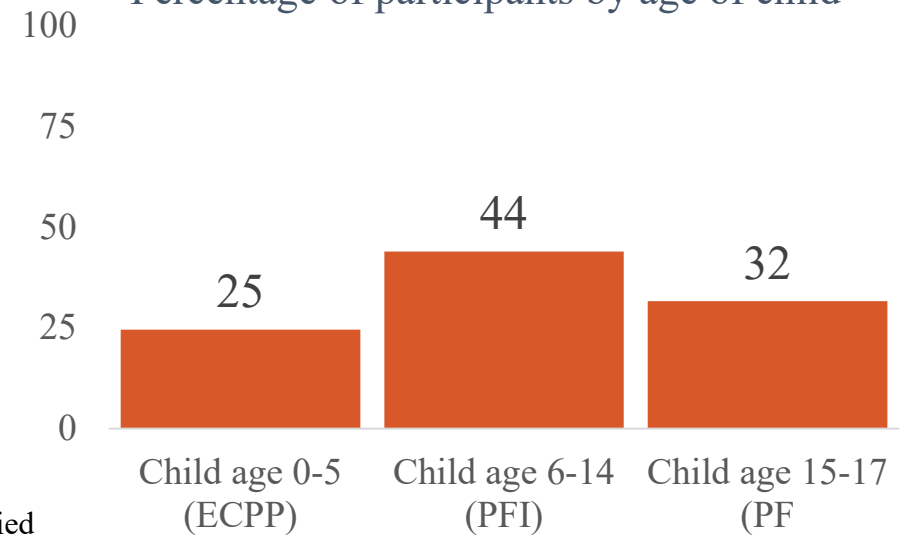
Percentage of participants by LGBTQ identification



Percentage of participants by educational attainment



Percentage of participants by age of child



Findings

Were there issues understanding or being able to answer SOGI questions in English or Spanish?

Tested question	GENDER IDENTITY	SEXUAL ORIENTATION
	What is your/your child's/the parent's current gender? ***Response options for adults and children 15 and older:*** Male Female Transgender, nonbinary, or another gender ***Response options for children under 15:*** Male Female Another gender	**Which of the following best represents how you/this parent/the child think of yourself/themselves?** Gay or lesbian Straight, that is not gay or lesbian Bisexual They use a different term. Specify__ I don't know *Asked about both adults and children 15 and older*

Were there issues understanding or being able to answer SOGI questions in English or Spanish?

Generally, no issues found in understanding the questions in Spanish or English

Quotes about gender identity

For me it was definitely very easy. I think the definitions pretty much cover it.

Easy to answer because she has always been female but it's good to have options. Nowadays it's normal.

Quotes about sexual orientation

Easy to answer because I know my son. I recognized all terms and like the options.

To me, it was easy. We've talked about how she identifies moving forward, without me being nosy.

What was the reaction to asking about personalized pronouns?

Tested question

We would like to ask you additional questions about [child name]. For ease of question wording, which pronoun would you like us to use for [Child Name]?

He/his

She/her

They/them

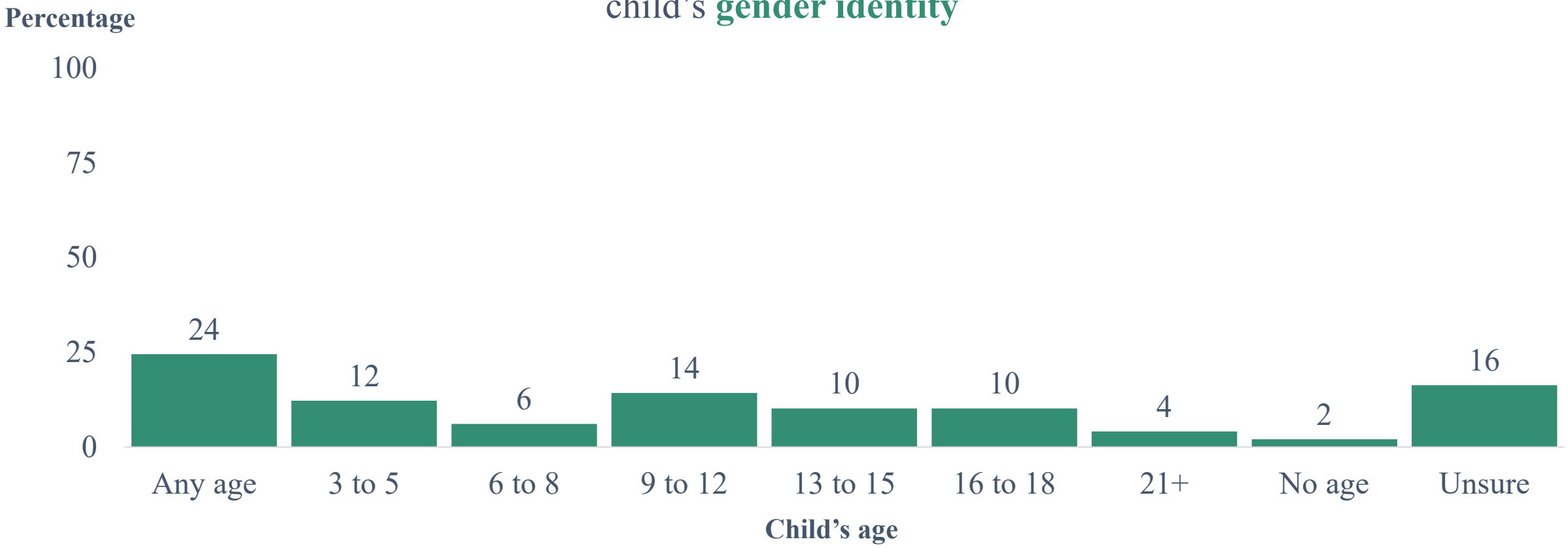
What was the reaction to asking about personalized pronouns?

There were notably negative reactions to the pronoun question.

This question is basically asking [child's] gender. I could've sworn I pushed out a boy, so he is a boy. I don't do that gender fluid stuff. It's a boy or a girl to me. I don't understand it.

Age at which respondents feel it's appropriate to ask SOGI questions about children

Percentage of respondents by the age they feel it is appropriate to ask about a child's **gender identity**

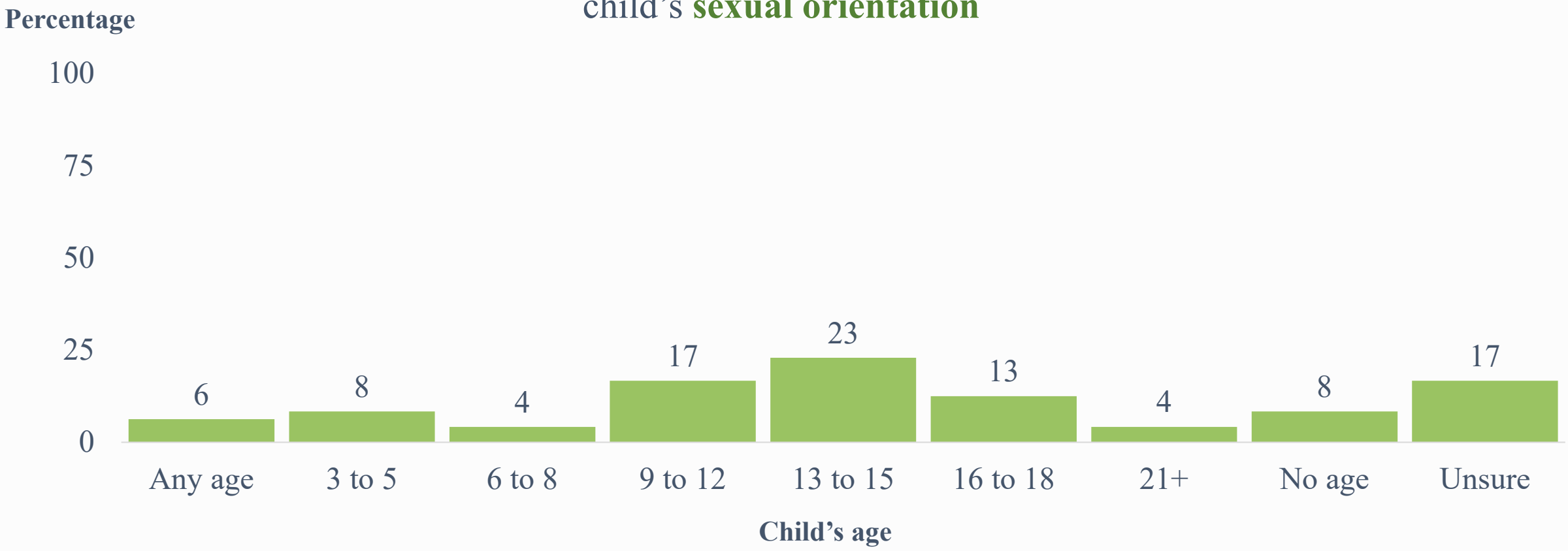


National Center for Education Statistics

Note: Estimates based on approximately 50 respondents.
Respondents were asked an open-ended question to provide an age. Responses were categorized for this chart. No respondents indicated that 19 or 20 would be an appropriate age, so those ages are not reflected in this chart.

Age at which respondents feel it's appropriate to ask SOGI questions about children

Percentage of respondents by the age they feel it is appropriate to ask about a child's **sexual orientation**



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Age at which respondents feel it's appropriate to ask SOGI questions about children

A few participants indicated concern about divulging LGBTQ status to the government.

I don't have anything against that under the current presidential administration. If there's [an] administration that is hostile ... then I will hide. If my kid were trans, I would skip and lie if there was [a hostile administration].

I want to know what the [Department of Ed] would use that private information for.

Conclusions and next steps

Conclusions

Respondents understood these SOGI questions in English and Spanish

A majority of respondents felt it was appropriate for a survey to ask these SOGI questions about their minor children

Customize web survey using a child's name rather than asking about preferred pronouns

Use multiple methods to verify eligibility for online recruitment

Next steps

Split panel testing adult SOGI questions

Testing accuracy of parent proxy responses on child SOGI questions

Testing cut-off ages for child SOGI questions

Pilot testing child SOGI questions because of changes to screener and the estimates NHES produces

Thank You