



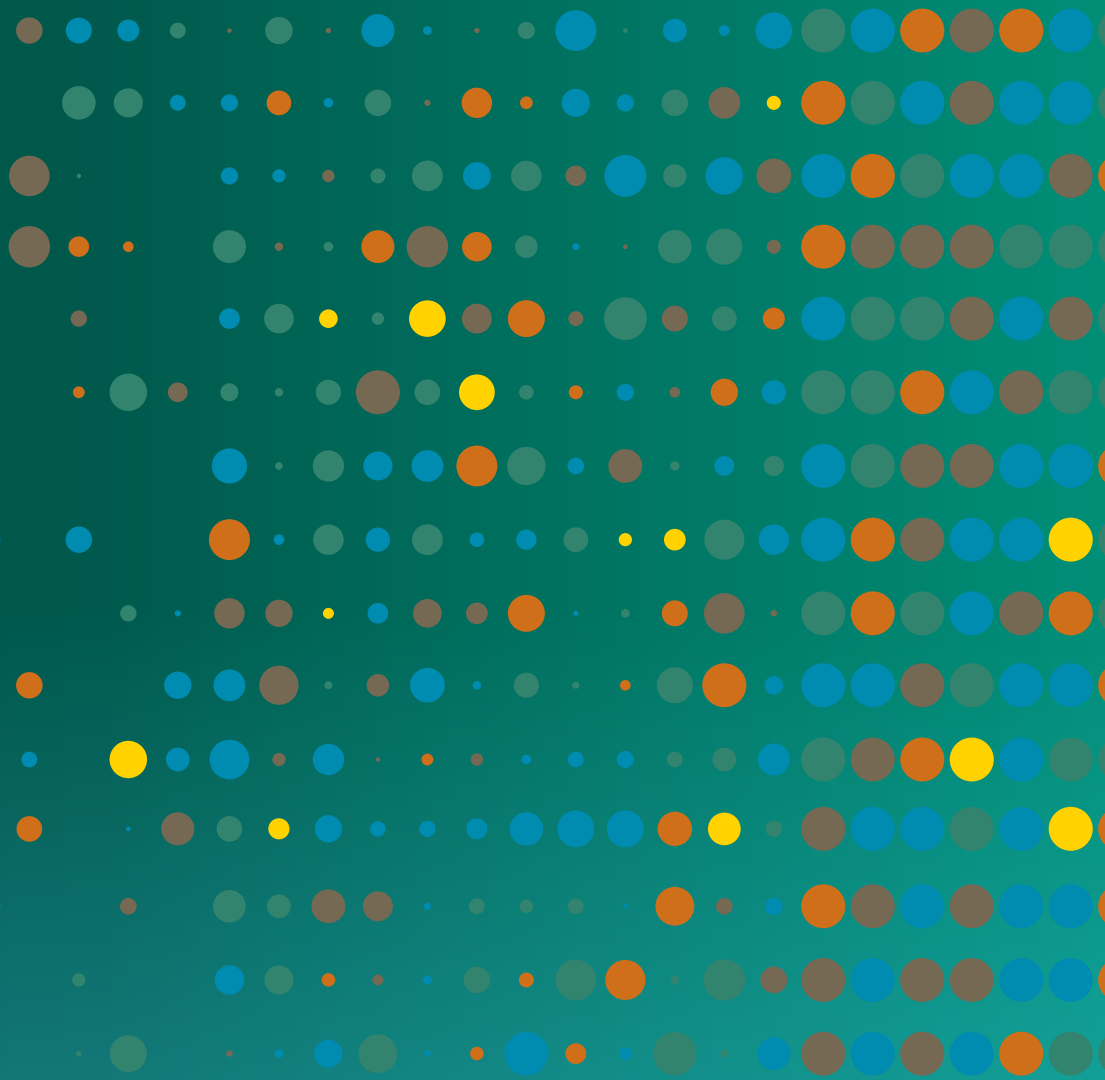
The Current State of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Question Research at NCHS: Where We've Been and Where We're Headed

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FCSM Conference

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Gender Identity



Gender Identity Work

- **Over 350 cognitive interviews**

- Passports gender X
- Employee management system
- NCHS health surveys, gen pop
 - Spanish translation

- **Multiple rounds of Research and Development Survey**

- RANDS 5 (n = 6,896)
 - Jan & March 2022
- RANDS 6 (n = 2,312)
 - Aug 2022
- RANDS 7 (n = 6,821)
 - Nov – Dec 2022
- RANDS 8 (n = 16,648)
 - June – July 2023

Our [SOGI reports and presentations](#) on Q-Bank.

Cognitive Interview Findings: Response Process Differences

■ Gender minority

- Response process framed by opposing interests: Inclusion vs Privacy
- Fluid understanding of self; shifting identities
- Sophisticated understanding of concepts

■ Non-minority

- No risk in reporting
- Gender is typically understood as inherent and fixed
- Gender and sex are typically understood as the same
- Some respondents conflate 'sex,' 'gender,' with 'sexual orientation'

Single, Non-binary Gender Question

You may select more than one answer.

Are you:

- Female
- Male
- Transgender, non-binary, or another gender?

- **Mark all that apply**
 - Complexity of R's understanding of self
- **Vocabulary**
 - 'Sex' and 'gender' not included
 - Simple response format
- **3 Categories**
 - Self-administered context, limited space
 - Gender minority categories collapsed for analysis

RANDS Background

- Research and Development Survey (RANDS)¹ program: ongoing series of surveys by the Division of Research and Methodology at NCHS using quantitative and mixed methods to assess measurement error, validity, and bias
- Currently administered by NORC at the University of Chicago, AmeriSpeak survey probability-based panel (+ opt-in non-probability for RANDS 8)
- RANDS 5, Jan & March, 2022 (n = 6,896)
 - 2 x 2 question order and question version experiment
- RANDS 8, June - July, 2023 (n = 16,648)
 - Gender minority oversample (n > 700)
 - ½ sample three-item question, ½ sample single-item question

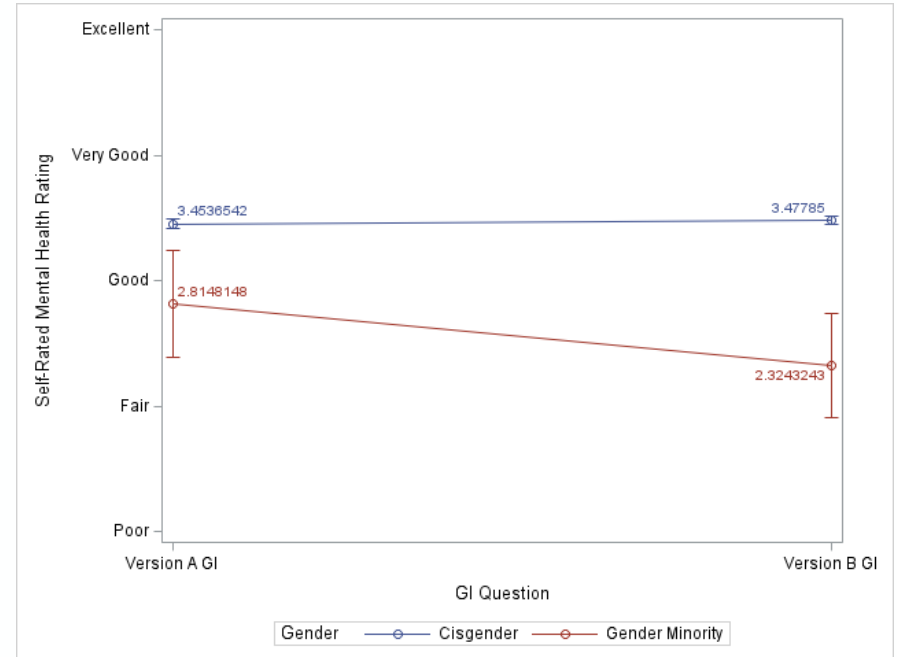
RANDS 5 Experiment

Treatment A: Version A, GI first	Treatment B: Version B, GI first	Treatment C: Version A, SAAB first	Treatment D: Version B, SAAB first
<p>How do you describe yourself? Select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • Female • Transgender • Something else, specify [open textbox] 	<p>Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, or in some other way? Select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man • Woman • In some other way, specify [open textbox] 	<p>What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • Female 	<p>What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • Female
<p>What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • Female 	<p>What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • Female 	<p>How do you describe yourself? Select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • Female • Transgender • Something else, specify [open textbox] 	<p>Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, or in some other way? Select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man • Woman • In some other way, specify [open textbox]

RANDS 5 Findings

- Self-rated health and self-rated mental health estimates varied for gender minority respondents based on treatment group
 - Gender minority Rs who were asked SAAB first with Version B of the gender identity question (Treatment Group D) had the lowest SRH and SRMH ratings
- Confirmation question likely not catching all misclassification

Effect of question type on self-rated mental health

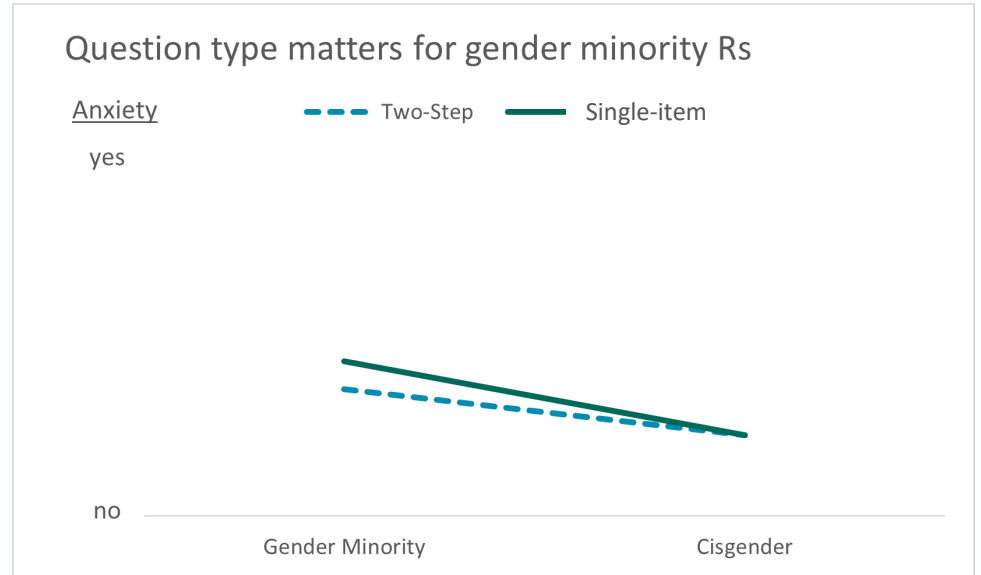


RANDS 8 Experiment

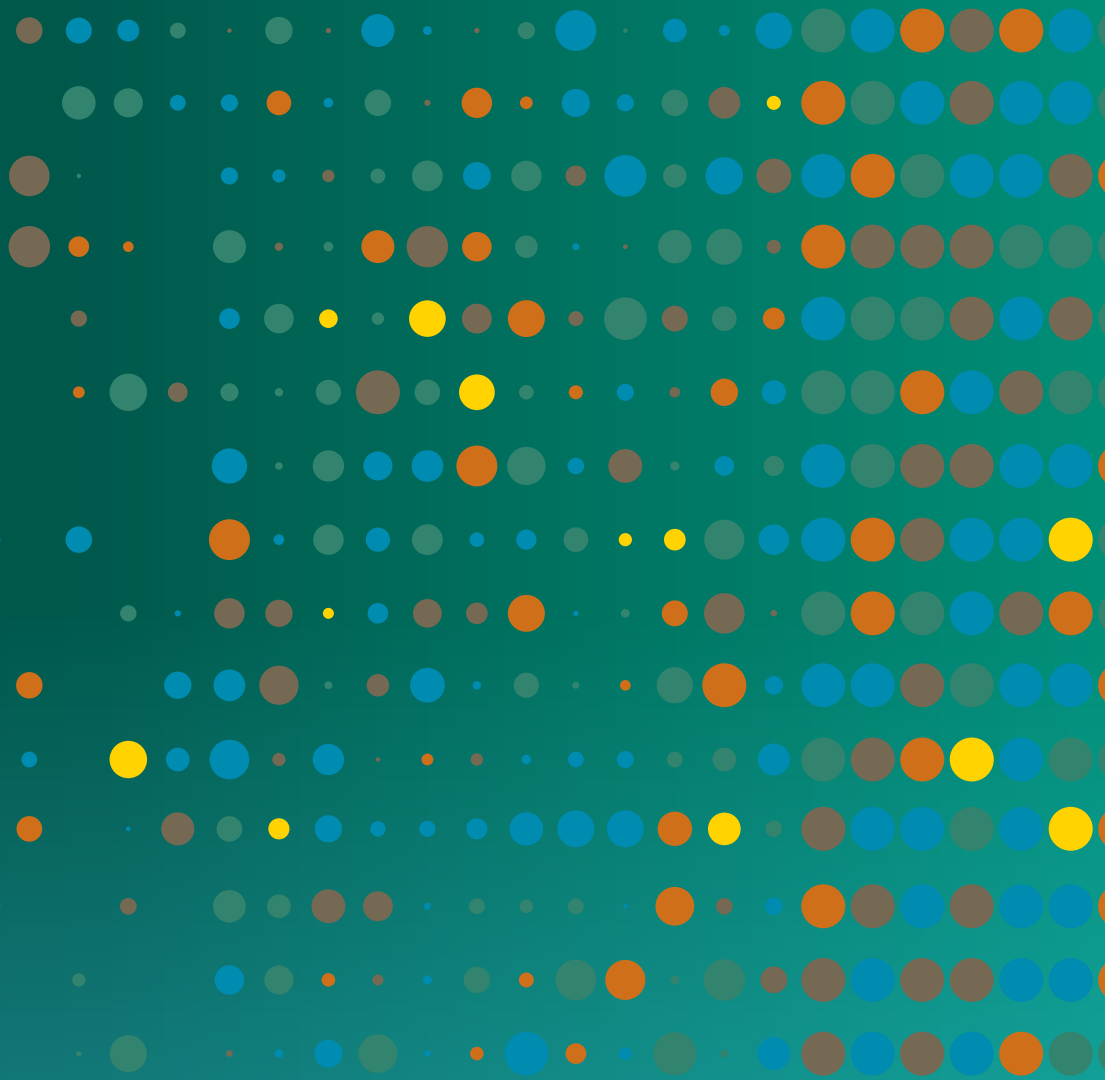
Single-Item	Two-Step Without Correction	Two-Step With Correction
<p>1. Are you: Select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Female• Male• Transgender, nonbinary, or another gender	<p>1. What sex were you assigned at birth on your original birth certificate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Female• Male <p>2. What is your current gender? Mark only one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Female• Male• Transgender• Two-Spirit [AI/AN only]• I use a different term, please specify:	<p>1. What sex were you assigned at birth on your original birth certificate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Female• Male <p>2. What is your current gender? Mark only one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Female• Male• Transgender• Two-Spirit [AI/AN only]• I use a different term, please specify: <p>3. Just to confirm, you were assigned {FILL} at birth and describe yourself as {FILL}. Is that correct?</p>

RANDS 8 Results

- Similar performance between the single-item and the two-step on some measures
- For anxiety, question type mattered: significant differences between the two-step and the single-item for gender minority Rs



Sexual Identity



Sexual Identity

■ RAN DS 5

- Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?
 - Lesbian or gay
 - Straight, that is not lesbian or gay
 - Bisexual
 - **Something else, please specify:**

■ RAN DS 6-9

- Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?
 - Lesbian or gay
 - Straight, that is not lesbian or gay
 - Bisexual
 - **Something else [close-ended probe]**

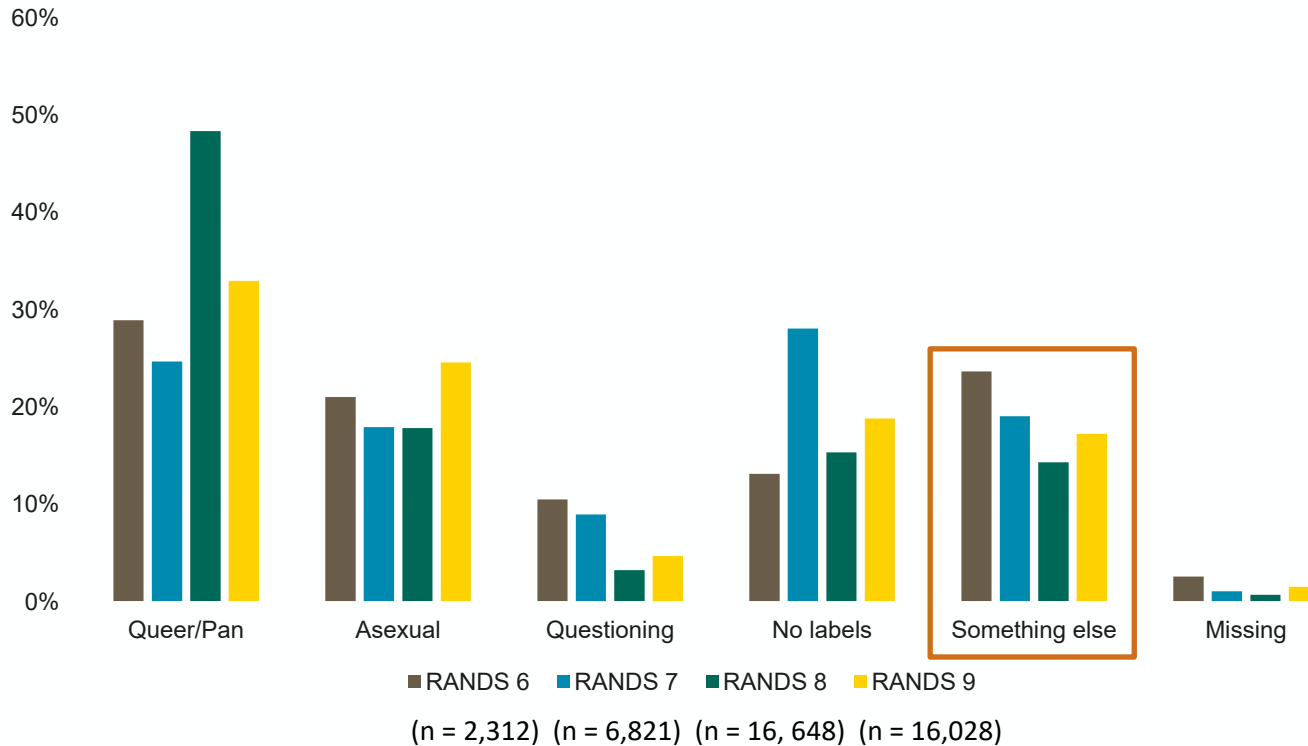
RANDS 5 Findings

- **1.2% chose ‘something else’ and wrote in a response (n = 84)**
 - 70% of those responses could be back coded; other 30% protest, out of scope, or unclear
 - Codable responses: pansexual, asexual, queer, straight
 - Protest: “attack helicopter”, “human being”, disparaging remarks about trans people
 - Out of Scope: gender, race
 - Unclear: “CONFUSED”, “kinkster, heteroflexible”

Something Else Close-Ended Probe: RANDS 6-9

- What do you mean by something else?
 - I am not straight, but identify with another label such as queer, trisexual, omnisexual, polysexual, or pansexual
 - **I am asexual or on the asexual spectrum (including, but not limited to, demisexual and greysexual)**
 - I have not figured out or am in the process of figuring out my sexuality
 - I do not use labels to identify myself
 - Something else, please explain:

RANDS 6-9 Close-Ended Probe Frequencies

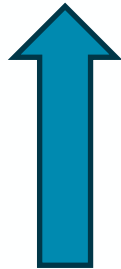


RANDS 6-9 Findings

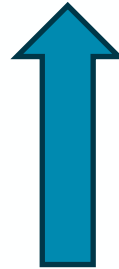
- **Something else write-ins (n = 116, across all 4 rounds)**
 - 49% could *possibly* be back coded; other 51% protest, out of scope, or unclear
 - Codable responses: queer, asexual, pansexual, straight
 - Protest: “human”, “Walmart shopping cart”, they’re too old
 - Out of Scope: gender, straight people who really want to share about their sexual behavior
 - Unclear: sexual fluidity, people telling stories that don’t clarify identity
 - “i am different. i thought i would never be with a man, but my partner and i am getting our marriage annulled. and in process of dating a man”

Where We're Headed

- Moving forward with our single, non-binary gender identity question
- Tweaked the sexual identity close-ended probe, RANDS 11
 - What do you mean by something else?
 - I am not straight, but identify with another label such as queer, pansexual, or omnisexual
 - I am asexual or on the asexual spectrum



Simplified: removed
demi and greysexual



Simplified: removed
'trisexual' and 'polysexual'

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The [RANDS](#) website.

The [Q-Bank](#) website. Q-Bank provides access to survey question evaluation reports, question design and performance.

The [Q-Notes](#) website. Q-Notes was designed to facilitate the management and analysis of cognitive interviews.

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

