

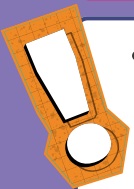
Why does SOGI data matter?

What is SOGI data?



SOGI data refers to information collected on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, used to highlight diversity, understand disparities, and inform inclusive policies, programs, and research.

Quick Facts



- A study in 2018 found U.S. federally qualified health centers had missing sexual orientation data for **77%** of patients, and gender identity data was missing for **62%** of patients.¹
- A report commissioned by the UK government found that the conflation of 'sex' and 'gender' in data collection has led to the **loss of accurate sex data**.²
- Collecting SOGI data in cancer care settings has been linked to **improved** understanding of patient needs, leading to more personalized care plans.³

Why implement SOGI in my work?



- **Equity & Inclusion** – Ensures diverse populations are represented and not overlooked.
- **Identifying Disparities** – Helps uncover and address gaps in healthcare, employment, and social services.
- **Better Policy & Programs** – Informs evidence-based decisions that reflect real community needs.
- **Legal & Ethical Responsibility** – Supports anti-discrimination laws and human rights protections.
- **Improved Data Accuracy** – Prevents misclassification and provides a fuller picture of society.
- **Funding & Resource Allocation** – Helps secure resources for LGBTQ+ communities based on actual data.
- **Community Empowerment** – Validates lived experiences and strengthens advocacy efforts.

Learn more about the LBTQ Health Equity Initiative at : bit.ly/LBTQPage

1. Cahill, S. R., Singal, R., Grasso, C., King, D., Mayer, K., Baker, K., & Makadon, H. (2019). Required sexual orientation and gender identity reporting by US health centers: First-year data. *American Journal of Public Health*, 109(8), 1111-1118. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305130>.

2. Sullivan, A. (2025, March). Independent review of data, statistics, and research on sex and gender. UK Government. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-data-statistics-and-research-on-sex-and-gender>

3. Christopher W. Wheldon et al. Advancing Equity in Cancer Care: The Critical Role of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data Collection. *JCO Oncol Pract* 20, 1146-1148(2024). DOI:10.1200/OP.24.00360

Why does SOGI data matter?

Why should I answer SOGI data questions?



LGBTQ+ Respondents:

Answering SOGI questions helps create policies for safety and protection, ensures access to inclusive services, and can highlight disparities in discrimination and injustice. It empowers advocacy for safer spaces and holds institutions accountable for LGBTQ+ security and respect. *However, it's understandable if you feel unsure about responding; your safety and security are the priority.*

Cisgender and/or straight respondents:

Responding to SOGI questions helps protect LGBTQ+ individuals, fosters safe environments, and supports the fight against systemic injustices. It shows allyship and encourages institutions to ensure equal access and safety for everyone. *It's important to respect others' privacy and understand that some may not feel safe answering these questions.*

Why should I ask SOGI questions to everyone?



Asking SOGI questions of **everyone** is vital for fostering inclusivity, challenging assumptions, and ensuring equitable services and accurate data collection.

By gathering this information from all individuals, we **avoid** making assumptions about anyone's identity, minimizing the risk of reinforcing stereotypes or providing care and research that is exclusionary or inaccurate. This practice helps include diverse identities and experiences and ensures data and care that reflect **everyone**.

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