Measuring Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity on the Experimental Household Pulse Survey

Presentation for the FCSM SOGI Research Group

Thom File
Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division
U.S. Census Bureau
November 9, 2021

Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author and do not represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau. All results are from the Household Pulse Survey website that notes the following: The U.S. Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release. CBDRB-FY21-091.
Today you will hear about...

- Overview of the Census Bureau’s experimental Household Pulse Survey (HPS)
- Decision and process of adding SOGI questions to Phase 3.2 of the HPS
- Data products and SOGI results from 6 biweekly collection cycles
- Ongoing evaluative work and plans for future research
- Questions, feedback and discussion
The Household Pulse

Experimental Rapid Response Survey

- COVID-19 onset (March 2020) shut down data collection operations
- How to collect data during a pandemic?
- Rapid data collected entirely online
- Large sample vs low response – how to strike the correct balance?

What are the goals of the pulse?

- Focus on quickly and efficiently collecting data during a global health crisis
- Serve federal agency partners by filling critical information gaps
- Provide data rapidly but with transparency and quality
- Experimental data collection – Proof of concept – Will not meet regular quality standards
## Agency Collaboration

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<td>Council of Economic Advisors</td>
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</table>

### Average Interview Length

- **11 MIN**
- **18-20 MIN**
- **18-20 MIN**
- **18-20 MIN**
- **20-21 MIN**
- **20 MIN**
Content: Phase 3.2

Basic demographics
Age (including age of children), race, Hispanic origin, marital status, educational attainment, SOGI (Census/OMB/DPC)
Disability status (NCHS/CDC)
Armed forces status (DOD)

Employment questions
Employment and employment income (BLS/Census)
Spending source of funds (BLS)
Child Tax Credit receipt (CEA/DPC/BLS/Census)
Series on expenditures (BLS)
Essential worker occupations (NIOSH)

Food security questions
Past and current food sufficiency (USDA-ERS)
Free meals (USDA-ERS)
SNAP receipt (USDA-ERS)

* New content for Phase 3.2*

Health questions
Mental health and mental health services use (NCHS)
Health insurance (NCHS/Census)
Vaccination receipt, intentions, and COVID diagnosis (CDC)
Children’s vaccination receipt (CDC)
Tele/Video health (NCHS/MCHB)
Children’s preventive health care (MCHB)

Housing questions
Tenure (HUD)
Living quarters (HUD)
Rent and mortgage current payment status (HUD)
Confidence about paying rent/mortgage next month (HUD)
Eviction and foreclosure expectations (HUD)
Months behind on rent/mortgage (CFPB)
Use of rent assistance (CFPB)
Energy assistance and use (EIA)

Education questions
Catch-up education experience K-12 (NCES)
Post-Secondary questions (NCES)
Data Products: Detailed Tables

- Released for all biweekly collection cycles
- Focus on rapid turnaround
  - Collection ends Monday; data released 9 days later
- Phase 3.2 had 37 tables; Phase 3.3 will likely have couple more
- Grouped by topic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Tax Credits (payment and use)</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Food Sufficiency and Security</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Spending</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Data Products: Detailed Tables

### Child Tax Credit Table 1: Child Tax Credit Payment Status and Use, by Select Characteristics: United States


Note: These data are experimental. Users should take caution using estimates based on subpopulations of the data – sample sizes may be small and the standard errors may be large.**

Total Population 18 Years and Older

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select characteristics</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Someone in household received a Child Tax Credit payment in the last 4 weeks</th>
<th>Did not receive a Child Tax Credit payment in the last 4 weeks</th>
<th>Did not report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mostly spend it</td>
<td>Mostly save it</td>
<td>Mostly use it to pay off debt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>250,265,449</td>
<td>16,511,846</td>
<td>13,363,564</td>
<td>19,535,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Tax Credit payment used*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food (groceries, eating out, take out)</td>
<td>26,953,007</td>
<td>12,268,539</td>
<td>4,297,212</td>
<td>11,450,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing (clothing, accessories, shoes)</td>
<td>16,860,145</td>
<td>7,033,391</td>
<td>2,288,072</td>
<td>5,506,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare (formal facility, paying family or caregiver directly)</td>
<td>5,887,803</td>
<td>2,688,932</td>
<td>1,079,541</td>
<td>1,902,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School books and supplies</td>
<td>7,803,828</td>
<td>3,384,419</td>
<td>1,211,157</td>
<td>3,241,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School tuition</td>
<td>2,023,067</td>
<td>1,225,229</td>
<td>529,873</td>
<td>880,307</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutoring services</td>
<td>547,945</td>
<td>317,288</td>
<td>83,277</td>
<td>142,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation for school (bus service, metro, etc.)</td>
<td>2,395,569</td>
<td>1,289,233</td>
<td>354,262</td>
<td>732,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational goods (sports and fitness equipment, bicycles, toys, games)</td>
<td>2,421,239</td>
<td>909,609</td>
<td>212,641</td>
<td>1,279,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>8,716,522</td>
<td>2,629,471</td>
<td>701,000</td>
<td>12,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage (scheduled or monthly)</td>
<td>6,362,746</td>
<td>2,133,800</td>
<td>524,145</td>
<td>3,727,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities and telecommunications (natural gas, electricity, cable, internet, cellphone)</td>
<td>16,175,006</td>
<td>5,559,621</td>
<td>1,600,256</td>
<td>8,569,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle payments (scheduled or monthly)</td>
<td>7,316,155</td>
<td>2,360,690</td>
<td>602,781</td>
<td>4,223,145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paying down credit card, student loans, or other debts</td>
<td>9,004,008</td>
<td>1,433,202</td>
<td>918,160</td>
<td>6,671,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable donations or giving to family members</td>
<td>562,417</td>
<td>142,679</td>
<td>135,458</td>
<td>302,199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savings or investments</td>
<td>8,436,833</td>
<td>457,465</td>
<td>7,387,146</td>
<td>588,582</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,780,586</td>
<td>885,423</td>
<td>1,181,833</td>
<td>655,782</td>
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<tr>
<td>Did not report</td>
<td>201,059,536</td>
<td>213,820</td>
<td>507,569</td>
<td>273,275</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Data Products: Interactive Data Tool
COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker

83.3% of U.S. adults 18 years and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

10.9% of U.S. adults 18 years and older are hesitant about receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

National Reasons for Vaccine Hesitancy

- 61.9% (2.4%) Concerned about the side effects
- 44.4% (< 2.0%) Don’t trust COVID-19 vaccines
- 41.6% (1.5%) Don’t believe I need a vaccine
- 38.8% (5.0%) Don’t know enough about COVID-19
- 34.9% (4.9%) Prefer to wait and see if it’s safe
- 31.6% (9.5%) Fears about being asked to participate in research
- 31.1% (4.1%) Concerned about cost
- 28.5% (2.3%) Too much happening too fast
- 21.2% (< 0.1%) Prefer to wait and see if it’s safe
- 16.7% (1.7%) neighbourhood

National Hesitancy Rate by Characteristic
Next Phase of the HPS

• Phase 3.3 scheduled for December
• Collection moving to two weeks on/two weeks off approach
• Will continue for 12 additional weeks (3 collection cycles instead of 6)
• Future of rapid response surveys at the Census and pulse redesign
SOGI and the HPS

• Designed to understand pandemic impact across demographic groups
• Rapidly changing content built into framework of HPS
• Process for adding items very different from other Census surveys
• No household rostering or proxy responses
• Limited editing and straightforward weighting approach
• Guided by interagency technical working group and OMB
HPS SOGI Questions

Sexual Orientation
Q1. Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?
- Gay or lesbian
- Straight, that is not gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- Something else
- I don’t know

Gender Identity
Q1. What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?
- Male
- Female
Q2. Do you currently describe yourself as male, female or transgender?
- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- None of these
Q3. Just to confirm, you were assigned {FILL} at birth and now you describe yourself as {FILL}. Is that correct?
- Yes
- No <skip back to Q1 and/or Q2 to correct>
ITWG Recommendations

• SOGI items not intended as prevalence estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended Reporting Categories</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male – Q1 male AND Q2 male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female – Q1 female AND Q2 female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender minority - Q1 female and Q2 male; Q1 male and Q2 female; Q2 transgender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HPS Methodology

• HPS has relatively low overall response rate
• 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)
• Turnaround time for processing = only counts of open-ended responses
• Census Bureau dissemination policies determine granularity of products
• Limited time for Census to cognitively test revisions to baseline SOGI items
SOGI and HPS Data Products

• Consultation with internal and external stakeholders
• Decided to add SOGI to reoccurring table package
• Focus on SOGI as standard demographic measure
• Phase 3.2 package includes 37 tables; 34 include SOGI breakdowns
# Household Spending Table 1. Difficulty Paying Usual Household Expenses in the Last 7 Days, by Select Characteristics: United States

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, Week 34.

Note: These data are experimental. Users should take caution using estimates based on subpopulations of the data — sample sizes may be small and the standard errors may be large.**

Total Population 18 Years and Older

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select characteristics</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Not at all difficult</th>
<th>A little difficult</th>
<th>Somewhat difficult</th>
<th>Very difficult</th>
<th>Did not report</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>250,265,449</td>
<td>109,742,559</td>
<td>51,571,788</td>
<td>35,911,785</td>
<td>25,589,511</td>
<td>27,449,806</td>
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<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>18 - 24</td>
<td>22,625,834</td>
<td>8,067,834</td>
<td>5,017,683</td>
<td>3,216,440</td>
<td>2,060,893</td>
<td>4,252,984</td>
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<td>25 - 39</td>
<td>65,381,322</td>
<td>23,716,976</td>
<td>14,251,881</td>
<td>10,243,082</td>
<td>8,693,315</td>
<td>8,476,068</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 - 54</td>
<td>63,711,121</td>
<td>25,846,338</td>
<td>13,172,082</td>
<td>5,783,206</td>
<td>7,799,529</td>
<td>7,109,966</td>
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<td>55 - 64</td>
<td>43,308,128</td>
<td>19,834,564</td>
<td>9,121,176</td>
<td>6,787,913</td>
<td>3,903,057</td>
<td>3,601,419</td>
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<td>65 and above</td>
<td>55,239,045</td>
<td>32,278,847</td>
<td>10,008,968</td>
<td>5,881,144</td>
<td>3,072,717</td>
<td>3,993,370</td>
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<td><strong>Sex at birth</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>121,078,275</td>
<td>56,426,521</td>
<td>24,147,072</td>
<td>15,999,465</td>
<td>11,195,268</td>
<td>13,309,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>129,187,174</td>
<td>53,316,037</td>
<td>27,424,716</td>
<td>19,912,320</td>
<td>14,339,983</td>
<td>14,140,118</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cisgender male</td>
<td>115,088,468</td>
<td>54,693,201</td>
<td>23,435,365</td>
<td>15,084,188</td>
<td>10,280,932</td>
<td>11,594,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cisgender female</td>
<td>123,912,126</td>
<td>52,077,613</td>
<td>26,796,134</td>
<td>19,142,855</td>
<td>13,383,402</td>
<td>12,312,122</td>
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<td>Transgender</td>
<td>2,344,440</td>
<td>678,499</td>
<td>360,427</td>
<td>473,153</td>
<td>595,955</td>
<td>236,406</td>
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<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
<td>4,827,520</td>
<td>1,449,666</td>
<td>556,426</td>
<td>900,398</td>
<td>970,799</td>
<td>950,232</td>
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<td>Did not report</td>
<td>4,092,895</td>
<td>843,580</td>
<td>423,436</td>
<td>311,191</td>
<td>158,443</td>
<td>158,443</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sexual orientation</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay or lesbian</td>
<td>8,265,780</td>
<td>3,659,135</td>
<td>1,507,361</td>
<td>1,150,499</td>
<td>1,122,086</td>
<td>828,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>214,740,059</td>
<td>98,215,798</td>
<td>44,543,737</td>
<td>29,029,418</td>
<td>20,701,325</td>
<td>21,349,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>11,231,791</td>
<td>3,378,659</td>
<td>2,620,462</td>
<td>2,366,328</td>
<td>1,532,594</td>
<td>1,333,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something else</td>
<td>4,772,202</td>
<td>1,513,711</td>
<td>1,080,565</td>
<td>781,160</td>
<td>929,994</td>
<td>457,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t know</td>
<td>5,719,190</td>
<td>1,703,823</td>
<td>1,078,102</td>
<td>1,108,314</td>
<td>946,572</td>
<td>882,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not report</td>
<td>5,536,426</td>
<td>1,271,873</td>
<td>741,561</td>
<td>576,066</td>
<td>356,870</td>
<td>2,590,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20,550,465</td>
<td>7,307,141</td>
<td>4,269,560</td>
<td>3,739,885</td>
<td>2,947,422</td>
<td>2,286,548</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>211,468,408</td>
<td>96,957,738</td>
<td>44,025,024</td>
<td>29,456,721</td>
<td>20,246,513</td>
<td>20,782,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11,274,214</td>
<td>3,625,426</td>
<td>2,243,221</td>
<td>1,550,286</td>
<td>1,335,715</td>
<td>1,518,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not report</td>
<td>6,972,362</td>
<td>1,851,204</td>
<td>1,033,973</td>
<td>764,873</td>
<td>459,962</td>
<td>2,882,350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data User Note

- User note designed to further highlight the inclusion of the new items, and to provide additional context for data users interested in using the questions.

“This dissemination approach was decided following careful deliberation with internal and external stakeholders but is not intended to serve as a standard for presenting SOGI measurement in other surveys. As part of the Census Bureau’s Experimental Data Products series, the HPS was designed to have low respondent burden, provide quick turnaround on product releases, and produce estimates that meet urgent public needs. The HPS questions related to sexual orientation and gender identity aim to understand the impact of the coronavirus pandemic across different subpopulations. However, because the HPS is designed to rapidly produce experimental estimates, caution should be exercised when using these data as standalone markers of the prevalence of LGBT adults in the general population.”
The U.S. Census Bureau now asks about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) as part of the Household Pulse Survey (HPS). You can find data and information here:

census.gov
Household Pulse Survey Data Tables
America Counts Stories

Household Pulse Survey Updates Sex Question, Now Asks About Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Phase 3.2 of Census Bureau Survey Questions Now Include SOGI, Child Tax Credit, COVID Vaccination of Children
THOM FILE AND JASON HAROLD LEE
AUGUST 05, 2021

LGBT Community Harder Hit by Economic Impact of Pandemic

Household Pulse Survey Shows LGBT Adults More Likely to Report Living in Households With Food and Economic Insecurity Than Non-LGBT Respondents
THOM FILE AND JOEY MARSHALL
AUGUST 11, 2021
LGBT Americans reported higher rates of food and economic insecurity than non-LGBT people, Census Bureau's pandemic survey finds

Federal COVID survey to request sexual orientation, gender identity for first time

LGBTQ adults are facing hunger at almost twice the rate as others, new data shows
Presentations and Data Calls

• LGBTQI+ Rights in Foreign Assistance Working Group at USAID (August 2021)
• Williams Institute at UCLA’s School of Law
• Movement Advancement Project
• The Center for America Progress
• Whitman-Walker
• FCSM Measuring Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Research Group: 2017-present (November 2021)
Evaluation and Future Research

• SOGI items will continue in Phase 3.3 of HPS (December 2021 – February 2022)

• Characteristics and predictors of “other” responses (PAA)

• Multipronged evaluation for AAPOR
  • Built in experiment from Phase 3.2 assessing impact of SOGI question order
  • Characteristics of respondents who “correct” their sex at birth and/or current gender identity answers when prompted by an automated “check” question
  • Detailed item nonresponse analysis of SOGI items

• Colleagues in CBSM have proposed additional research
  • Coding scheme for open-ended sexual orientation responses to “something else”
  • Privacy and confidentiality concerns of SGM respondents
Resources and External Links

Household Pulse Survey main page: https://www.census.gov/householdpulsedata
Household Pulse Survey Data tool: https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/hhp
Household Pulse Survey Data Tables main page: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/data.html
Household Pulse Survey Respondent overview: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey.html
SOGI Interactive Data Tool: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Household Pulse Survey (census.gov)

National Center for Health Statistics Data Tool: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/mental-health.htm

Small Business Pulse Data Visualization and Downloads Page https://portal.census.gov/pulse/data/
COVID19 Data Hub Link – uses downloads data: https://covid19.census.gov/
   ESRI uses data download files from data viz page (MSA, National, Sector)

Data Equity Page: https://covid19.census.gov/pages/data-equity
Thank you!

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