

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

Agency Partner	Phase 1 Apr 23 - July 2020	Phase 2 Aug 19 - Oct 2020	Phase 3 Oct - Dec 2020	Phase 3 Jan. Update Jan 6 - Mar 1 2021	Phase 3.1 Apr 14 - July 5 2021	Phase 3.2 July 21 - Oct 11 2021
Bureau of Labor Statistics	X	X	X	X	X	X
National Center for Health Statistics	X	X	X	X	X	X
National Center for Education Statistics	X	X	X	X	X	X
Housing and Urban Development	X	X	X	X	X	X
USDA Economic Research Service	X	X	X	X	X	X
Office of Management and Budget	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bureau of Transportation Statistics		X	X	X	X	
Social Security Administration		X	X	X	X	
Centers for Disease Control				X	X	X
Nat. Inst. of Occ. Health and Safety					X	X
Maternal and Child Health Bureau					X	X
Department of Defense				X	X	X
Energy Information Administration						X
Consumer Finance Protection Bureau						X
Council of Economic Advisors						X
Domestic Policy Council						X
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:

Child Tax Credits (payment and use)	Education	Employment	Food Sufficiency and Security
Health	Housing	Spending	

Data Products: Detailed Tables

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

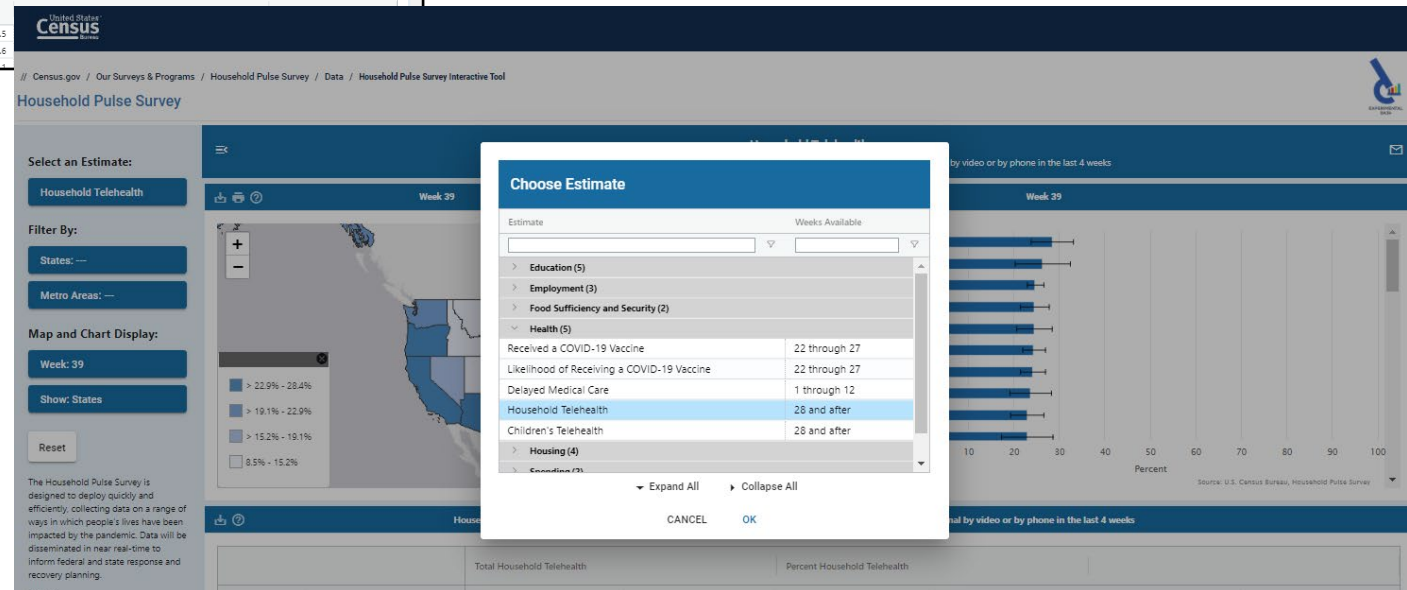
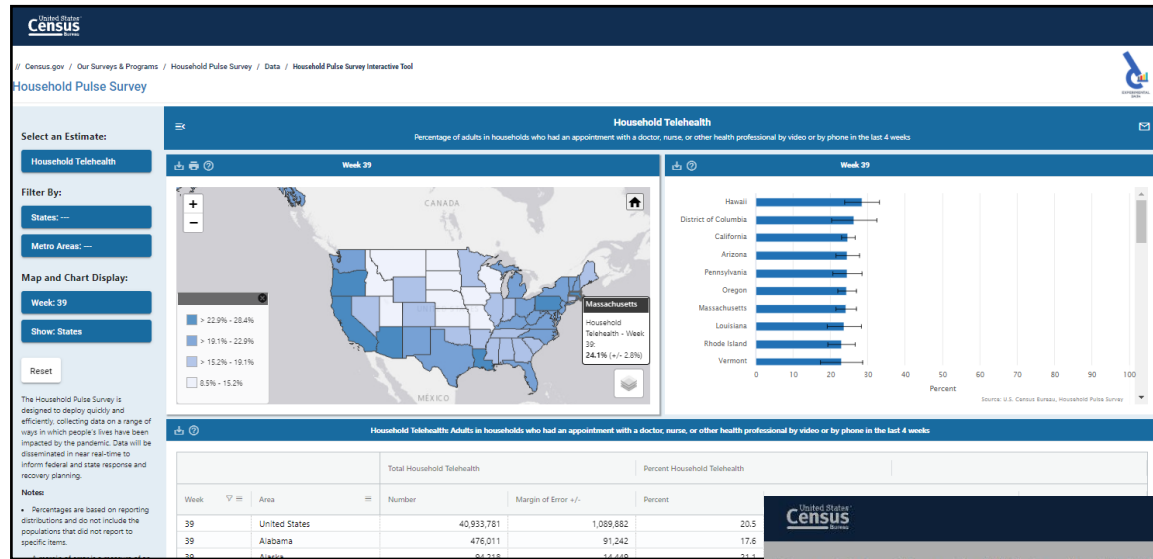
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, Week 39.

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

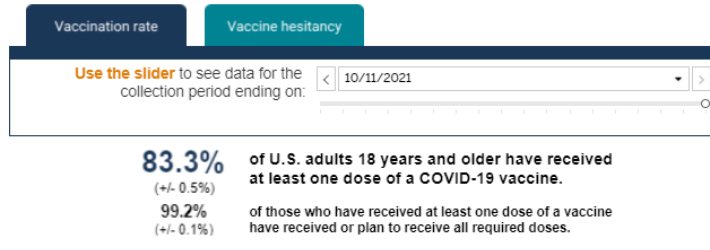
Select characteristics	Total	Someone in household received a Child Tax Credit payment in the last 4 weeks				Did not receive a Child Tax Credit payment in the last 4 weeks	Did not report
		Mostly spend it	Mostly save it	Mostly use it to pay off debt	Did not report		
Total	250,265,449	16,511,846	13,363,560	19,515,440	365,827	178,203,242	22,305,534
Child Tax Credit payment used*							
Food (groceries, eating out, take out)	28,093,007	12,268,939	4,297,212	11,408,745	118,111	-	-
Clothing (clothing, accessories, shoes)	14,860,145	7,023,391	2,286,072	5,506,980	43,702	-	-
Childcare (formal facility, paying family or caregiver directly)	5,687,803	2,683,932	1,079,541	1,902,081	22,249	-	-
School books and supplies	7,893,626	3,384,419	1,211,157	3,241,063	56,987	-	-
School tuition	2,623,007	1,225,229	529,873	860,307	7,597	-	-
Tutoring services	547,945	317,288	83,277	142,067	5,314	-	-
After school programs (other than tutoring and childcare)	2,396,649	1,289,223	354,202	732,184	21,040	-	-
Transportation for school (bus service, metro, etc.)	2,421,299	909,869	212,641	1,279,728	19,061	-	-
Recreational goods (sports and fitness equipment, bicycles, toys, games)	2,036,347	1,055,855	267,430	701,030	12,033	-	-
Rent	8,714,522	2,620,471	743,737	5,332,773	17,540	-	-
Mortgage (scheduled or monthly)	6,362,746	2,133,800	824,145	3,370,983	33,819	-	-
Utilities and telecommunications (natural gas, electricity, cable, internet, cellphone)	16,175,006	5,550,621	1,600,210	8,963,136	61,040	-	-
Vehicle payments (scheduled or monthly)	7,316,155	2,360,698	602,781	4,321,145	31,531	-	-
Paying down credit card, student loans, or other debts	9,024,008	1,433,292	918,162	6,671,033	1,522	-	-
Charitable donations or giving to family members	582,417	142,879	135,458	302,199	1,881	-	-
Savings or investments	8,436,833	457,465	7,387,148	588,582	3,637	-	-
Other	2,780,566	885,423	1,181,833	655,782	57,528	-	-
Did not report	201,659,536	213,820	507,509	271,275	158,156	178,203,242	22,305,534

Data Products: Interactive Data Tool

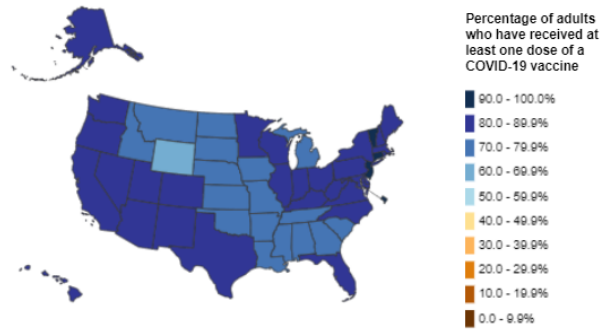


COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker

Household Pulse Survey COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker



Estimated Vaccination Rates by State: September 29–October 11, 2021
Hover over a state to view the percentage of vaccinated adults in that state.

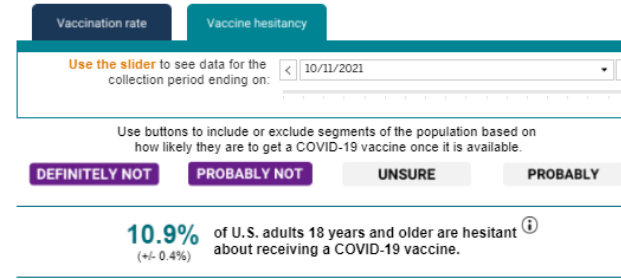


National Vaccination Rate by Characteristic

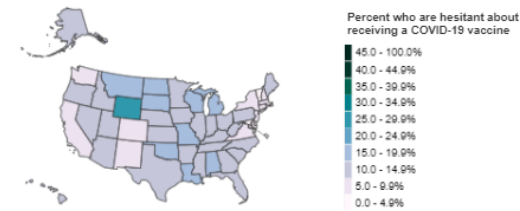
Age	Sex	Hispanic origin and race	Education	Insurance status	COVID-19 status
18-24					73.7% (+/- 2.8%)
25-39					76.7% (+/- 1.2%)
40-54					80.6% (+/- 1.2%)
55-64					88.1% (+/- 1.1%)
65 and above					94.2% (+/- 0.7%)



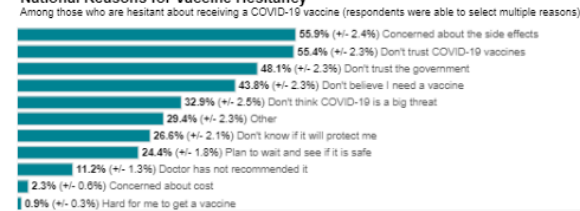
Household Pulse Survey COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker



Percentage of Those Aged 18 and Over Who Are Hesitant About Receiving a COVID-19 Vaccine
Hover on a state to see top reasons for vaccine hesitancy in that state.



National Reasons for Vaccine Hesitancy



National Hesitancy Rate by Characteristic

Age	Sex	Hispanic origin and race	Education	Insurance status	COVID-19 status
18-24					15.9% (+/- 2.1%)
25-39					14.8% (+/- 0.9%)
40-54					13.2% (+/- 1.0%)
55-64					7.7% (+/- 0.8%)
65 and above					4.3% (+/- 0.6%)

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

Recommended Reporting Categories	
Gender	Sexual Orientation
Male – Q1 male AND Q2 male	Gay or lesbian
Female – Q1 female AND Q2 female	Straight
Gender minority - Q1 female and Q2 male; Q1 male and Q2 female; Q2 transgender	Bisexual
None of these	Something else
	Don't know

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

Select characteristics	Total	Difficulty paying for usual household expenses during the coronavirus pandemic				
		Not at all difficult	A little difficult	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	Did not report
Total	250,265,449	109,742,559	51,571,788	35,911,785	25,589,511	27,449,806
Age						
18 - 24	22,625,834	8,067,834	5,017,683	3,216,440	2,060,893	4,262,984
25 - 39	65,381,322	23,716,976	14,251,881	10,243,082	8,693,315	8,476,068
40 - 54	63,711,121	25,846,338	13,172,082	9,783,206	7,799,529	7,109,966
55 - 64	43,308,128	19,834,564	9,121,176	6,787,913	3,963,057	3,601,419
65 and above	55,239,045	32,276,847	10,008,968	5,881,144	3,072,717	3,999,370
Sex at birth						
Male	121,078,275	56,426,521	24,147,072	15,999,465	11,195,528	13,309,688
Female	129,187,174	53,316,037	27,424,716	19,912,320	14,393,983	14,140,118
Gender						
Cisgender male	115,088,468	54,693,201	23,435,365	15,084,188	10,280,913	11,594,800
Cisgender female	123,912,126	52,077,613	26,796,134	19,142,855	13,583,402	12,312,122
Transgender	2,344,440	678,499	360,427	473,153	595,955	236,406
None of these	4,827,520	1,449,666	556,426	900,398	970,799	950,232
Did not report	4,092,895	843,580	423,436	311,191	158,443	2,356,245
Sexual orientation						
Gay or lesbian	8,265,780	3,659,135	1,507,361	1,150,499	1,122,086	826,700
Straight	214,740,059	98,215,798	44,543,737	29,929,418	20,701,395	21,349,710
Bisexual	11,231,791	3,378,659	2,620,462	2,366,328	1,532,594	1,333,749
Something else	4,772,202	1,513,271	1,080,565	781,160	929,994	467,211
I don't know	5,719,190	1,703,823	1,078,102	1,108,314	946,572	882,379
Did not report	5,536,426	1,271,873	741,561	576,066	356,870	2,590,056
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender						
Yes	20,550,465	7,307,141	4,269,560	3,739,895	2,947,322	2,286,548
No	211,468,408	96,957,788	44,025,034	29,456,731	20,246,513	20,782,341
Other	11,274,214	3,626,426	2,243,221	1,950,286	1,935,715	1,518,566
Did not report	6,972,362	1,851,204	1,033,973	764,873	459,962	2,862,350

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.”

SOGI Data Visualization

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Household Pulse Survey

NOVEMBER 04, 2021

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Household Pulse Survey



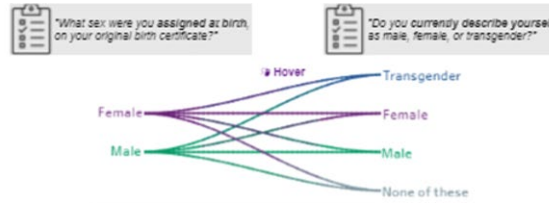
MEASURING
sexual orientation and gender identity

CHARACTERISTICS
of the LGBT adult population

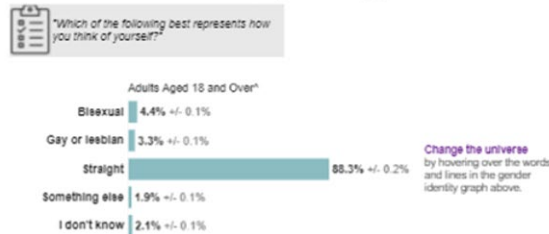
EXPERIENCES
during the coronavirus pandemic

Beginning in July 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau included questions regarding **sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)** on its **Household Pulse Survey (HPS)**. The following visualizations demonstrate how these concepts were measured and what survey data collected between July 21 and September 13, 2021, reveal.

Gender identity was measured using a combination of two survey questions.
Interact with the data by hovering over the words and lines in the graph.



Sexual orientation was measured using one survey question.



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Household Pulse Survey

NOVEMBER 04, 2021

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Household Pulse Survey



MEASURING
sexual orientation and gender identity

CHARACTERISTICS
of the LGBT adult population

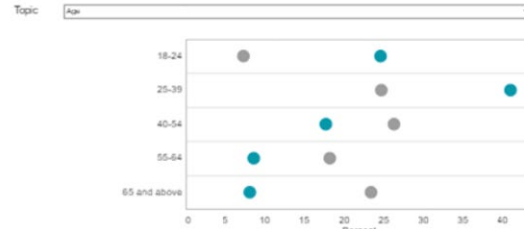
EXPERIENCES
during the coronavirus pandemic

Sex assigned at birth, current gender identity, and sexual orientation were used to define the categories **LGBT** and **non-LGBT**.
Hover over the data to view details about LGBT classification.*



* The acronym "LGBT" refers to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender population. Following consultation with internal and external stakeholders and experts, the U.S. Census Bureau created these categories to better understand the experiences of LGBT adults.

Compare the percent distributions of **LGBT** and **non-LGBT** adults aged 18 and over for selected characteristics.



Note: A circle denotes a statistically significant difference. An "x" denotes a not statistically significant difference between the LGBT and Non-LGBT values. All differences were tested at the 90% confidence level.

Hover over a state to view the percentage of adults aged 18 and over categorized as **LGBT**.



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Household Pulse Survey

NOVEMBER 04, 2021

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Household Pulse Survey

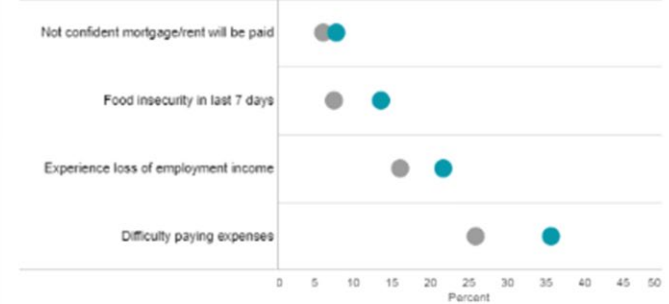


MEASURING
sexual orientation and gender identity

CHARACTERISTICS
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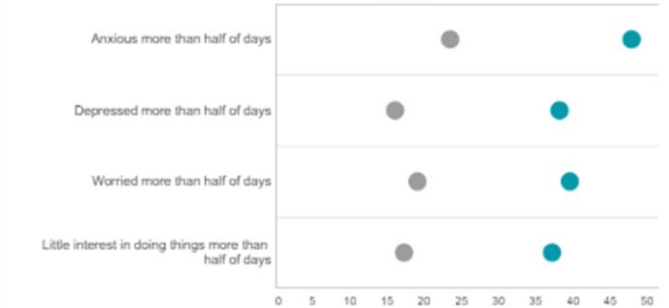
EXPERIENCES
during the coronavirus pandemic

Experiences of Economic Hardships for LGBT and non-LGBT Adults
Click on a label to view who is classified as being a part of that group.



Note: All differences are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Experiences of Mental Health Hardships for LGBT and non-LGBT Adults



Twitter Promotion



U.S. Census Bureau  @uscensusbureau · Sep 22



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

Press Coverage

CNN politics The Biden Presidency Facts First LIVE TV Edition

LGBT Americans reported higher rates of food and economic insecurity than non-LGBT people, Census Bureau's pandemic survey finds

By Devan Cole, CNN
Updated 7:54 PM ET, Wed August 11, 2021



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Jun 17, 2021 - Politics & Policy

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

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LGBTQ Adults Are Facing Hunger At Almost Twice The Rate As Others, New Data Shows

August 12, 2021 - 3:13 PM ET

JOSIE FISCHELS



NEWS

LGBTQ Americans taking bigger economic hit amid pandemic, census data finds

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LGBTQ Americans taking bigger economic hit amid pandemic, census data finds

LGBTQ households were nearly twice as likely to experience food insecurity as heterosexual families, 13.1 percent to 7.2 percent, a new census survey found.



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 Vaccine tracker: <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/household-pulse-survey-covid-19-vaccination-tracker.html>

Household Pulse Survey Data Tables main page: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/data.html>

Household Pulse Survey Technical Documentation: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/technical-documentation.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 Respondent Landing Page <https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/small-business-pulse-survey/take-survey.html>

Small Business Pulse Data Landing Page <https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/small-business-pulse-survey.html>

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)

Community Resilience Estimates: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/community-resilience-estimates.html/>

Data Equity Page: <https://covid19.census.gov/pages/data-equity>

Thank you!

Thom File

*Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division
U.S. Census Bureau*

thomas.a.file@census.gov