Asking Adults and Juveniles About Their Sexual Orientation: Practical Considerations for the PREA Screening Standards

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Logistics

Webinar Information

- Use the question box to ask a question, or email Tara Graham at tgraham@nccdglobal.org

- If you have technology issues, call Tara Graham at (510) 874-5921.
Collecting SOGIE Data

Agenda

• Introduction—What is “sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression” (SOGIE)?

• Why is it important to collect SOGIE data?

• Case study: Stanislaus County and the central region of California

• What questions should jurisdictions ask?

• Close

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Welcome

Tom Talbot
PREA Management Office
What is “SOGIE”? 

SOGIE: sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression

Sexual orientation is about who you are emotionally, sexually, or romantically attracted to, whether you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, straight, asexual, questioning, or other.

Which is different from...

Gender identity, which is about how a person sees themselves and understands their own gender (a man, a woman, other).

Gender expression is about how a person expresses their gender identity through their manner of dress, speech, behavior, and/or other physical expressions of themselves.
SOGIE Terminology

**Lesbian:** A woman who is emotionally, romantically, and sexually attracted to other women.

**Gay:** A man who is emotionally, romantically, and sexually attracted to other men.

**Bisexual:** A man or woman who is emotionally, romantically, and sexually attracted to both men and women.

**Straight:** A person who is emotionally, romantically, and sexually attracted to another person who is of a different sex and/or gender.

**Asexual:** A person who is not sexually attracted to any sex and/or gender.
Gender-conforming is used to describe a person whose appearance or manner conforms to traditional societal gender expectations (e.g., a person who was designated female at birth identifies as a girl/woman and dresses in a way that society determines a girl/woman should dress).

Gender-nonconforming (GNC) is used to describe a person whose appearance or manner does not conform to traditional societal gender expectations (e.g., someone who identifies as a girl/woman but wears clothing typically assigned to boys/men).
**SOGIE Terminology**

**Transgender** is used to describe a person whose gender identity (i.e., internal sense of feeling male or female) is different from the person’s assigned sex at birth.

Note: “Gender Identity Disorder” was replaced with “Gender Dysphoria” in the fifth edition of the American Psychiatric Association’s *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5).

**Cisgender** is used to describe a person whose gender identity is the same as the sex the person was assigned at birth.

*Which are different from ...*

**Intersex**, which is used to describe a person whose sexual or reproductive anatomy or chromosomal pattern do not seem to fit typical definitions of male or female. Intersex medical conditions are sometimes referred to as disorders of sex development.

Note: Approximately 1 in every 1,500 to 2,000 people is born intersex.
Collecting SOGIE Data

Quiz Question #1

Everyone has a sexual orientation.

a) True
b) False
Quiz Answer #1

a) True. Everyone has a sexual orientation. Most people become aware of romantic attraction around the age of 10 years.

Collecting SOGIE Data

Quiz Question #2

Everyone has a gender identity.

a) True
b) False
Quiz Question #2

a) True. Everyone has a gender identity. Gender identity is formed for everyone between the ages of 2 and 4 years.

Quiz Question #3

The majority of LGBQ and GNC youth in juvenile detention facilities are white.

a) True
b) False
Quiz Answer #3

a) False. 85% of LGBQ and GNC youth in detention facilities are youth of color.

• **28 C.F.R. § 115.41(d)(7)—Screening for risk of [sexual] victimization and abusiveness.** The intake screening shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: Whether the inmate is or is perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender-nonconforming.

• **28 C.F.R. § 115.341(c)(2)—Obtaining information from residents.** At a minimum, the agency shall attempt to ascertain information about: Any gender-nonconforming appearance or manner or identification as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex, and whether the resident may therefore be vulnerable to sexual abuse.
28 C.F.R. § 115.42(g)—Use of Screening Information

- Prohibits placement of LGBTI inmates in dedicated facilities, units, or wings solely on the basis of such identification or status, unless such placement is in a dedicated facility, unit, or wing established in connection with a consent decree, legal settlement, or legal judgment for the purpose of protecting such inmates.

Note: This standard does not apply to lockups.

Unique to Juvenile Facilities

- 28 C.F.R. § 115.342(c): Prohibits placement of LGBTI residents in particular housing, beds, or other assignments solely on the basis of their identification or status.

- 28 C.F.R. § 115.342(c): LGBTI identification cannot be used as a factor to predict sexual abusiveness.
Facility, housing, and programming assignments for transgender and intersex inmates or residents shall be made on a case-by-case basis considering the following:

- The inmate’s or resident’s health and safety;
- Management or security problems;
- The inmate’s or resident’s own view of their safety.

Transgender and intersex inmates or residents must be given the opportunity to shower separately from other inmates or residents.

Note: This standard does not apply to lockups.
PREA Standards Require an Affirmative Ask

“While agencies are required to ask the inmate/resident if he or she chooses to identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and/or intersex, it is clear that the agency may not compel the inmate/resident to answer.”

See http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/faq#n1061
Why collect SOGIE data?

**Using SOGIE Information for PREA and Beyond**

- To make housing decisions that protect LGBTI and GNC inmates and residents, and to track outcomes within secure facilities, we need to ask about SOGIE.

- SOGIE data also should be used for community supervision.
  
  » We need this information in order to identify where disparities exist in arrest charges, pretrial and detention decisions, sustained charges, or sentences and dispositions.

- As a field, knowledge about the best program referrals is lacking.
  
  » By collecting SOGIE data and identifying points of disparity, probation and parole departments can begin to develop intervention programs to address specific problems.
Case Study

Stanislaus County and the Central Region of California

- Where is Stanislaus County and what is the central region of California?

- Why did Stanislaus County begin to collect SOGIE data? What were some challenges and successes?

- How did the central region of California begin to collect SOGIE data? What were some challenges and successes?

- Next steps. How will the region use the data?
Making People Feel Comfortable

Mention that you ask everyone the same questions. Do this before every interview generally, not just before the SOGIE questions.

Your goal is to create a safe space for people to disclose their SOGIE at their own pace.

Be mindful of your own beliefs, cultural norms, and gaps in knowledge.

Remember “silent” communication: Ensure that your physical space is welcoming by including posters, signs, books, and materials that are affirming of LGBTQI people.
Perceptions of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

People may see themselves in a way that is different than the way you see them.

Keep in mind that many people do not use labels to define themselves, but you must be aware of behaviors and appearances that place them at risk of discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual victimization.

Remember that some transgender people will refer to their gender as the one they transitioned to and not use the term “transgender” (e.g., someone assigned “male” at birth who transitioned to being a female or a girl will say she is a “girl” and not a “transgender girl”).
Recommended Questions

**Asking these six questions will get you a lot of information.**

- What is your gender?
- What was your sex at birth?
- What is your gender expression?
- What is your sexual orientation?
- Who are you attracted to?
- For the interviewer: Does the person’s gender expression match the cultural and societal expectations for that gender in their general community?
Order of Questions

- It is very important to weave SOGIE-related questions into other demographic questions, such as age and race/ethnicity, to make everyone as comfortable as possible.
Your Questions
For More Information

For more information about the National PREA Resource Center (PRC), visit www.prearesourcecenter.org. Direct questions to info@prearesourcecenter.org

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