

Sex, gender identity and sexual orientation in Stats NZ Household Surveys

What, how and why, and what next?

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Outline

- NZ Household surveys – What are they, what do they collect?
- Current questions
- What changes are we making and how – Sex, gender identity and sexual identity
- Some background and context
- Next steps
- Questions

Stats NZ Household surveys

- Sample surveys – covering different dimensions of New Zealanders lives, e.g.:
 - General Social Survey (GSS) – Wellbeing statistics
 - Household Economic Survey (HES)
 - Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS)
- All household surveys include core demographic variables, e.g. ethnicity, sex and age to reflect different aspects of someone's personal characteristics
- Commitment to make collection more inclusive and reflective of the NZ population

What is currently collected? Sex variable

- Based off census question and current sex standard
- Question not specifying concept (sex or gender identity) – up for individual interpretation
- Commonly an ‘ask if necessary’ question, both in NZ and internationally
- Currently tied to census categories – weighting the data, flow through impacts

3 Are you?

male

female

Mark your answer like this:

Demographics – Core content of household surveys

What are we moving to?

- “Two step” approach- Questions on sex at birth and gender
- Sexual identity included in demographic module of surveys
- ...in a phased approach, based on international best practice and consultation/ feedback
- Self complete setting where possible

At birth, what was your sex recorded as?

- Male
- Female
- Indeterminate
- Prefer not to say

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- A gender not listed above – please describe if comfortable

Gender will be what the data is primarily broken down by in our standard tables. Sex at birth is collected in this context for the purposes of cross-tabulating with gender to enable disaggregation of data for trans and gender minority groups.

More details to be worked out in very near future about data outputs and analysis – will be a collaborative effort

Question collecting information about sexual identity

Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?

- heterosexual or straight
- gay or lesbian
- bisexual
- other – please describe
- don't know
- prefer not to say



Source: RNZ

How will we collect this information?

In line with the Statistical Standard – leading by example

- Respecting and protecting our respondents
 - Enabling self-identification
 - Self-complete for privacy
- Aiming to maximise data quality and meet information needs
- Balancing risks to respondent privacy, data quality for our customers and security for Stats NZ



Why collect this information?

- To ensure we can better reflect NZ's diverse population in our statistics
- People can see themselves in our surveys
- Meet a known information need for NZ communities, NGOs, researchers and advocates
- In line with UN and international efforts
- Human rights
- A priority for the Government Statistician and Minister of Statistics
- Taking action incrementally - Implementing changes which we can build upon and refine as we learn



Parliament rainbow room

One survey at a time...GSS

Make a start...learn and improve as we go

- Stats NZ first asked about **sexual identity** in GSS 2018 – results to be published 26 June 2019

Selected well-being measures by sexual identity: April 2018–March 2019

Measure	Sexual identity			
	Heterosexual or straight	Gay or lesbian	Bisexual	Other identities
Population distribution				
Overall life satisfaction				
Financial well-being				
Self-rated general health status				
Fear of crime effect on life				
Social contact and loneliness				

One survey at a time...HES

Make a start...learn and improve as we go

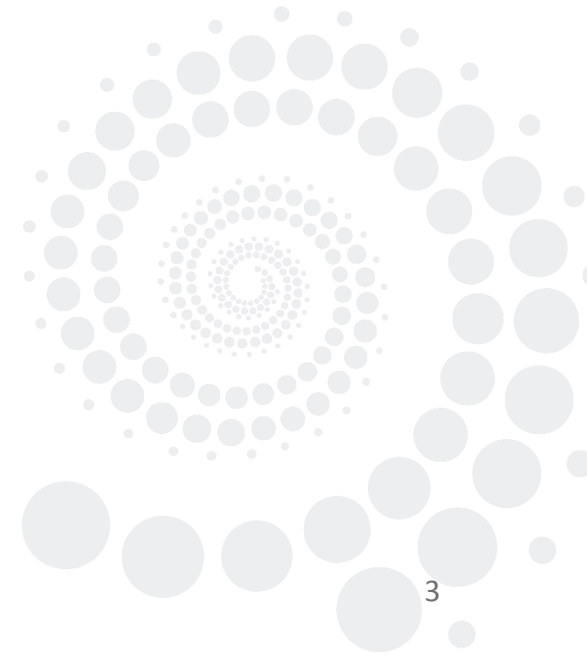
- In HES 19/20, we will ask about sex at birth, gender and sexual identity for the first time (Collection starts 1st July 2019)
- This will also be the first use of self-complete mode in a Stats NZ household survey
- We are using follow-up questions to further understand the effectiveness of the self-complete mode



One survey at a time...

Make a start...learn and improve as we go

- Plan is to introduce as core demographic content to other household surveys
 - GSS 2020 next...
 - ...then HLFS...
 - ...then next Census



Questions?

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