

Measuring Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity on the American Community Survey

UNECE Group of Experts on Gender Statistics

4. Measuring sex and gender

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10-12 May 2023

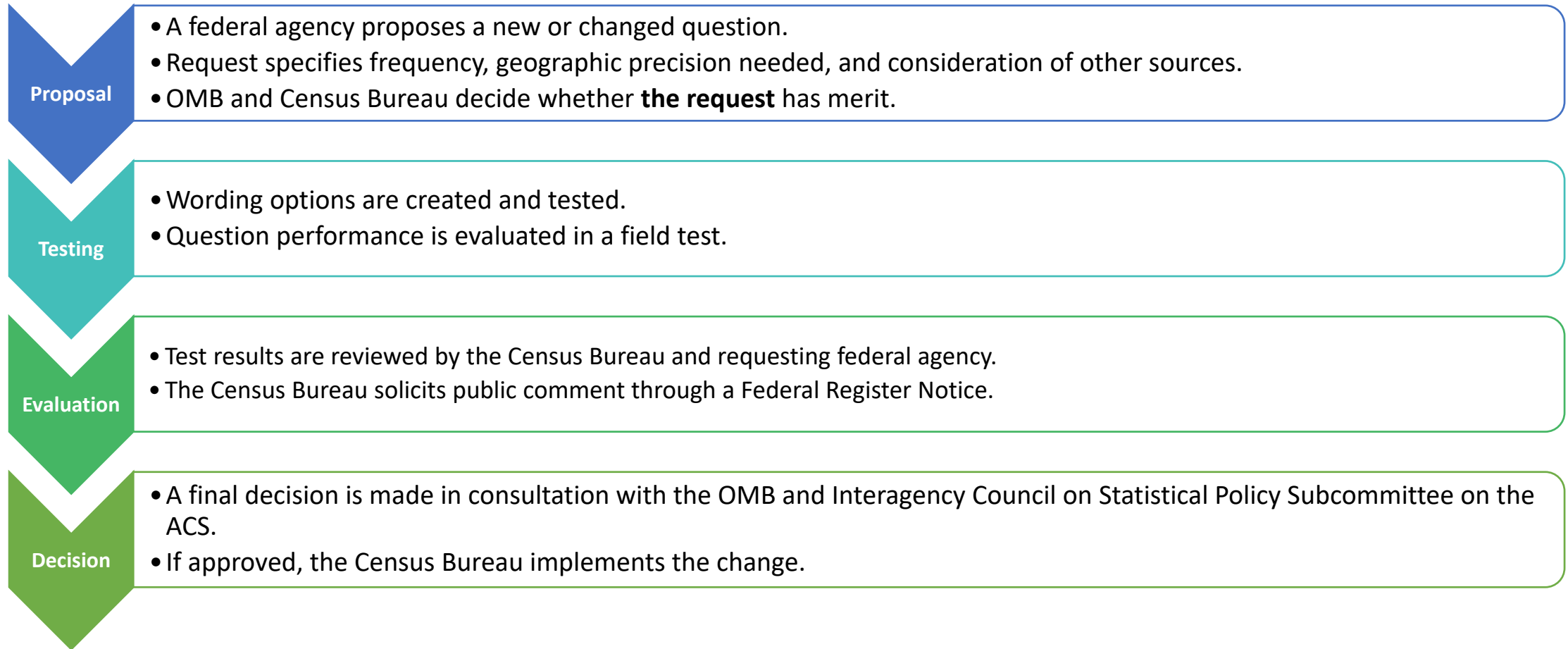
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Data Collection

- The Census Bureau continues to engage with stakeholders on sexual orientation and gender identity data, including international peers
- Quarterly meeting with SOGI advocacy and expert groups to share progress and solicit input on plans
- Staff from across the Census Bureau participate in the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology SOGI Working Group
- Same-sex relationship categories added to American Community Survey, Current Population Survey, Survey of Income and Program Participation, and 2020 Census
- SOGI questions added to the Household Pulse Survey in July 2021

American Community Survey - Overview

- Replaced the Decennial Census “long form” between the 2000 and 2010 Censuses
- Largest demographic survey conducted by United States federal government
- Sample of ~3.5 million households per year divided into 12 monthly panels
- Data are collected via Internet, mailed paper questionnaires, and persona interviews; includes special enumerations for group quarters, Remote Alaska, and tribal lands
- Data are used to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually
- Used by state and local governments, communities, and businesses to assess past and future demographic and economic trends
- Data are released in 1-year and 5-year products, with 5-year combined data going down to very small levels of geography
- Participation is required by law
- Content must have a statutory or regulatory justification

How a Question Becomes Part of the ACS



Request for SOGI Content on the ACS

- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) submitted a request in December 2022 to add SOGI content to the ACS. This request was deemed to meet the strict requirements for adding content to the ACS.
- Working with DOJ to determine specific requirements of data needs, including:
 - Level of reporting for sexual orientation/gender
 - Level of geographic detail needed for data products
 - Level of accuracy needed for survey estimates
 - Specific concepts to be measured (e.g., identity vs expression)
 - Degree to which data about gender can supplant sex data

Cognitive Testing

- Cognitive testing is planned to begin sometime in 2023
- Goals of cognitive testing will include:
 - Evaluation of Spanish translations
 - Evaluation of impacts of proxy reporting
 - Evaluation of differences between self-response modes and personal interview modes
 - Comprehension of non-gendered relationship categories (e.g., “Child” vs “Son or daughter,” “Sibling” vs “Brother or sister,” “Child-in-law” vs “Son-or daughter-in-law”)

Field Test Design

- Field testing planned for 2024
- Self-Response test with personal interviews for non-respondents if funding allows
- Two treatments and potentially a control treatment
- Reinterview of respondents to determine response reliability

Field Testing Goals

- Evaluation of question designs and placement
- Evaluation of question reliability
- Evaluation of impact of including a gender question on the sex distribution
- Evaluation of self-response modes vs personal interview modes
- Evaluation of proxy interviews
- Evaluation of write-in responses
- Evaluation of item missing data rates
- Evaluation of survey break off rates

Analysis and Results

- Following the conclusion of field testing, the Census Bureau will analyze data to answer our research questions
- Hope to have conclusions available by the end of 2024
- Results will be evaluated and decisions on implementation made
- After testing, must create technical documentation for processing, editing, imputation, and tabulation
- Implementation not expected until 2027 at the earliest

Contact Info

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