

Capturing Demographic Data on Queer-Spectrum and Trans-Spectrum Students



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THE CONTEXT: FROM THEN TO NOW

Tyler Clementi Center Analysis

- Included four national research programs that have recently added sexual identity and gender identity demographic variables to their respective instruments
- Queer-Spectrum Undergraduate Student Across 7 surveys (n=62, 208)
- Trans-Spectrum Undergraduate Students Across 7 Surveys (n=6,976)
- 918 Unique Institutions
- Unprecedented analysis

CHALLENGES & COMPLEXITIES

- Evolving Language and Notions about Sexuality and Gender
- Operationalizing Items
- Familiarity with Terminology
- Social Stigma
- Politics of Language within Queer-Spectrum and Trans-Spectrum Communities
- Issues of Privacy/Confidentiality
- Relevance to Study
- Consideration of Audience(s)
- Intersections of Identity & Impact on Lived Experience of Gender & Sexuality



HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE



HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

"The Mission of the Higher Education Research Institute is to inform educational policy and promote institutional improvement through an increased understanding of higher education and its impact on college students."

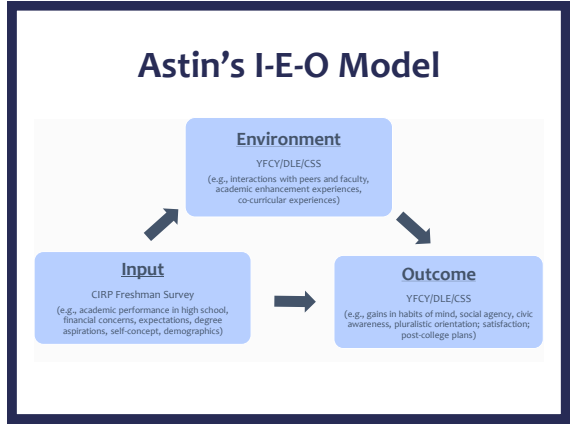
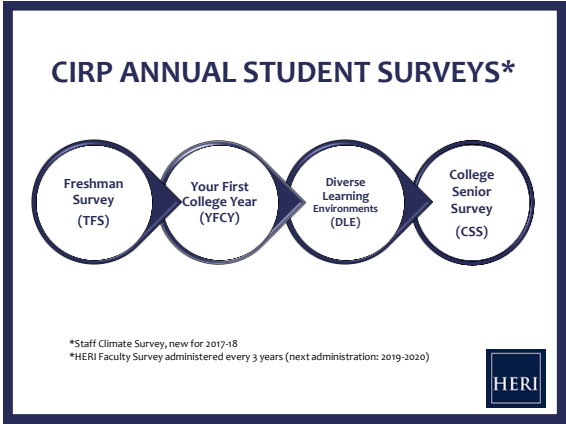


- National Science Foundation
- National Institutes of Health
- Helmsley Trust



- Annual Student Surveys
- New Staff Climate Survey
- Triennial Faculty Survey





SEXUAL IDENTITY & GENDER IDENTITY

What Is Your Sexual Orientation?

- Heterosexual/Straight
- **Bisexual**
- **Gay**
- **Lesbian**
- **Queer**
- **Other**


Do You Identify As Transgender?

- **Yes**
- No




UNIQUE CHALLENGES

- Most of the CIRP surveys are on paper, so there was limited real estate to add additional measures
- After the 50th administration of the TFS, they were able to take some of the measures off that are used to track trends and make SOGI additions (2015)
- Challenges between being accurate with language vs useable in a research context
- CIRP survives on sales & services, not state funding, but they were not willing to remove the question for schools who would not otherwise pay for a CIRP survey administration on their campus





NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Annual survey of first-year and senior student engagement at four-year colleges and universities
- In 2017, 517,850 students from 725 institutions responded
- NSSE measures the time and effort that students invest in activities that relate to student learning and development and how institutions create environments conducive to learning and development

SEXUAL IDENTITY: 2013-PRESENT

2013 Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Questioning or unsure
- I prefer not to respond

[OPTIONAL ITEM]

2014 Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?



- Heterosexual
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Another sexual orientation, please specify:
- Questioning or unsure
- I prefer not to respond

[OPTIONAL ITEM]

2017 Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

- Straight (heterosexual)
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Queer
- Questioning or unsure
- Another sexual orientation, please specify:
- I prefer not to respond

REQUIRED!!!

GENDER IDENTITY: 2012-PRESENT

2012 Your sex:



- Male
- Female

2013 What is your gender?

- Male
- Female



2014-present What is your gender identity?

- Man
- Woman
- Another gender identity, please specify:
- I prefer not to respond

UNIQUE CHALLENGES

- Change is hard! Striving for longitudinal data
- If it ain't broke.... Educating on the damage
- How do we know this matters? Promising to prove it
- Limited real estate—asking only what you need
- “Best practices” -> Honoring survey design
- Will anyone bother to use it? Promising to make magic
- Don't ask, don't tell; fearing the consequences
- Change is still hard! Making progress and saying farewell


SERU RESEARCH CONSORTIUM



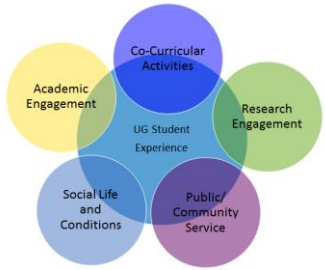
SERU RESEARCH CONSORTIUM


"Every student has a voice. Every voice is heard."

- Create new data sources and policy relevant analysis
- Broaden understanding of the student experience in the Research University
- Promote a culture of institutional self-improvement
- Share best practices, data, information and collaborations
- Develop research collaborations and studies related to student experience




SERU FRAMEWORK





2009: SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY

What is your sexual orientation?	With which gender do you identify?
Bisexual	Female
Gay/Lesbian	Male
Heterosexual	Transgender
Questioning/Unsure	Genderqueer
Self-identified Queer	Decline to state
Decline to state	Other
Other	




Recent past: SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY

Do you consider yourself to be:	What is your current gender identity?
Heterosexual or Straight	Male/Man
Gay or Lesbian	Female/Woman
Bisexual	Trans Male/Trans Man
Queer	Trans Female/Trans Woman
Questioning	Genderqueer/Gender Non-conforming
Other; please specify [open text box]	Other; please specify [open text box]
Decline to state	Decline to state

****Added in 2015****

What sex were you assigned at birth, such as on an original birth certificate?

Male
Female
Intersex
Decline to state




2018 CURRENT SERU UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE SURVEYS: GENDER IDENTITY & SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Do you consider yourself to be:	What is your current gender identity?
Heterosexual or Straight	Man
Gay or Lesbian	Woman
Bisexual	Trans Man
Queer	Trans Woman
Questioning	Genderqueer/Gender Non-conforming
Not listed above (please specify)	Not listed above (please specify)

What sex were you assigned at birth, such as on an original birth certificate?

Male
Female
Intersex/Non-binary




UNIQUE CHALLENGES

- What to do with “not listed above” or what was other in the past? Does it offer an appropriate alternative over fixed responses?
 - Political affiliation/religious affiliation impacts these responses
- Language choices have fluctuated over time, not consistent—feed back from LGBTQIA campus resources and student feedback on past surveys
- We do not vary or allow changes to the core items—same across all institutions across the country
- Identifying Trans status: those who identify as one sex assigned at birth but transitioning to the that same sex (is this measurement error)?




ACHA-NATIONAL COLLEGE HEALTH ASSESSMENT



American College Health Association
National College Health Assessment

ACHA-NATIONAL COLLEGE HEALTH ASSESSMENT

- Roots in the CDC YRBS effort
- Health behaviors, needs, impediments to academic performance
- Safety and violence, mental health, sexual health, substance use, sleep, physical activity, and more
- 1.7 million students at more than 850 institutions since 2000
- Sharing data from Spring 2016: 95,761 students at 137 US institutions
- Limitations



American College Health Association
National College Health Assessment

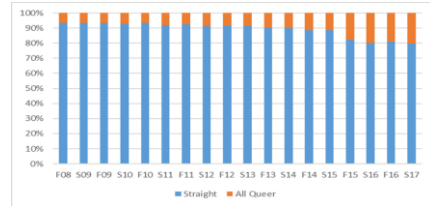
ACHA-NCHA HISTORY: SPRING 2000

Which of the following best describes you?

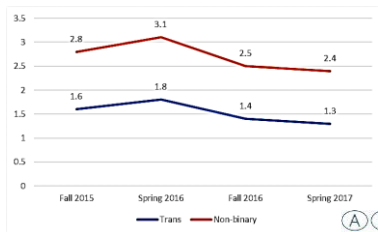
- Heterosexual
- Gay/Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Transgendered
- Unsure



SEXUAL ORIENTATION AS REPORTED OVER TIME



GENDER – SINGLE QUESTION VS. THREE QUESTIONS



NOW: SEXUAL IDENTITY

What term best describes your sexual orientation?

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Pansexual
- Queer
- Questioning
- Same Gender Loving
- Straight/Heterosexual
- Another identity (please specify: _____)



NOW: GENDER IDENTITY

What sex were you assigned at birth, such as on an original birth certificate?

- Female
- Male

Do you identify as transgender?

- No
- Yes

Which term do you use to describe your gender identity?

- Woman
- Man
- Trans woman
- Trans man
- Genderqueer
- Another identity (please specify: _____)



UNIQUE CHALLENGES

- Because they are oriented towards public health, and there was a lot of existing data on health disparities, they did not get as much pushback on adding the question
- They did have pushback from schools on the SOGI questions, along with some of the sexual health questions- but that is changing
- Language from 2000-2008 which conflated gender and sexual identities- which was not accurate. ACHA resisted changing it because they wanted to be able to have comparability/ability to measure trends
- When they broke gender identity into three separate questions, they were challenged with how to report out the findings- now they have included non-binary to male and female
- When in alphabetical order, a large number of students chose “asexual”, which ACHA was concerned might be inaccurately depicted. Now they are randomizing the question to see if that changes the response



TYLER CLEMENTI CENTER STUDY

Review of queer-spectrum and trans-spectrum students responses to:

- The National Survey of Student Engagement
- The Student Experience at the Research University Undergraduate Survey
- The American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment
- The CIRP Freshman Survey
- The CIRP Your First College Year Survey
- The CIRP Diverse Learning Environments Survey
- The CIRP College Senior Survey



ADDITION OF SOGI VARIABLES

Survey Instrument (Year Established)**	Sexual Identity	Gender Identity
CIRP Freshman Survey (1966)	2015	2015
CIRP Your First College Year (2000)	2011	2011
CIRP College Senior Survey (1993)	2015	2015
CIRP Diverse Learning Environments Survey (2011)	2011	2011
Nat'l Survey of Student Engagement (2000)	2013	2014
Student Experience at the Research Institution (2010)	2010	2010
ACHA National College Health Assessment (2000)	2008*	2008*

**From 2000-2007, sexual identity and gender identity were inductively collapsed into a single question, "which of the following best describes you?" (Heterosexual, Gay/Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Other." In 2008, the NSSE revised the survey with two distinct questions.
*Survey information retrieved from the following publications: 2017 (2017), [http://www.acha.org](http://ches.clemi.edu/http://www.acha.org), <http://nsse.iuims.edu>, and <http://www.acha.org>

GOALS OF THE STUDY

- Increase visibility of queer-spectrum and trans-spectrum student experiences
- Examine unprecedented sample sizes
- Look at variables that measure climate, academic engagement/disengagement, and health outcomes



UNIQUE CHALLENGES OF THIS PROJECT

- Determining Which Items to Include in Queer-Spectrum and Trans-Spectrum Populations Across Surveys that Measure These Differently
- Establishing Consistency Across Different Approaches to Analysis
- Identifying which Items Represent Climate, Academic Engagement, and Health Outcomes Across Multiple Instruments



SEXUAL ORIENTATION: Survey Questions & Response Options



What Is Your Sexual Orientation? Heterosexual/Straight, **Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer, Other**



Do You Consider Yourself To Be: Heterosexual or Straight, **Gay or Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer, Questioning, Other (please specify): _____**, Decline to State



Which Of The Following Best Describes Your Sexual Orientation? Straight (Heterosexual) **Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Queer, Questioning/Unsure, Another Sexual Orientation (please specify): _____**, I Prefer Not To Respond



What Term Best Describes Your Sexual Orientation? Asexual, **Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Pansexual, Queer, Questioning, Same Gender Loving, Straight/Heterosexual, and Another Identity (please specify)*: _____**

GENDER IDENTITY: Survey Questions & Response Options



Do you identify as transgender? Yes or No



- **What sex were you assigned at birth, such as on an original birth certificate?** Male*, Female*, Intersex, Decline to State
- **What is your current gender identity?** Male/Man*, Female/Woman*, **Trans Male/Trans Man, Trans Female/Trans Woman, Genderqueer/Gender Non-Conforming, Prefer to Self Describe (Short Answer)**, Decline to State



What Is Your Gender Identity? Man, Woman, **Another Gender Identity (short answer)**, I prefer not to respond



- **Do You Identify As Transgender?** Yes, No
- **Which term do you use to describe your gender identity?** Woman*, Man*, **Trans Woman, Trans Man, Genderqueer, Another Identity (Short Answer)**
- **What sex were you assigned at birth, such as on an original birth certificate?** Female*, Male*

Questions & Comments