CHIS Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity 2022 Cognitive Pretest Report: Findings from Waves I and II

Todd Hughes, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
Nicole Lordi, Public Health Institute
Royce Park, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
Priyanka Shrivastava, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
Jiangzhou Fu, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
Valerie Steinmetz, Public Health Institute
Daniela Aguilar, Public Health Institute
Wanli Wan, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

April 2023

UCLA CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments

Introduction

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and the Public Health Institute conducted two waves of a CHIS pretest from June 29-July 12, 2022 (Wave I) and October 11-19, 2022 (Wave II), in order to evaluate questions for the 2023-2024 CHIS questionnaires proposed by several sponsors and stakeholders. Wave I included recruitment from the general population in California, whereas Wave II included more focused recruitment among the LGBTQ+ population, including parents of gender non-conforming children. Most, but not all, Wave I participants identified as cisgender and heterosexual. The pretest included the self-administered web instrument (CAWI) and computer-assisted telephone interview instrument (CATI). The CA Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects and the UCLA IRB approved the CHIS 2022-2023 adult, adolescent, and child pretest questions on June 17, 2022, June 27, 2022, and October 21, 2022.

This report presents findings for CHIS questions related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI). The SOGI questions tested were based on the recommendations from the National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine panel "Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation[1]," with additional recommendations developed by the CHIS SOGI Working Group in 2022. This report focuses on findings from the cognitive interviews conducted with English-speaking respondents.

Methods

Respondents

Nichols Research was retained to recruit respondents based on pre-determined characteristics intended to ensure coverage of pretest items. In Wave I, 42 respondents completed 21 adult CAWI, five adult CATI, 11 adolescent CAWI and five adolescent CATI questionnaires, with 10 adults also completing the child pretest questionnaire. The primary characteristics of interest for Wave II included adolescents and adults who identified as LGBTQ+, and parents of gender non-conforming children ages 5-11 years old. Thirty-two respondents completed 17 adult CAWI, five adult CATI, four child CAWI and 10 adolescent CAWI questionnaires in Wave II. Note that parent respondents are counted as adult CAWI for adult questions, and child CAWI for child questions.

Table 1a. Wave I CHIS Adult Pretest Respondent Characteristics

	CAWI	CATI	Total
Adult	**21**	**5**	**26**
Parent of child age 0-11	10		
Age (years)			
18-35	13	1	14
36-49	7	1	8
50 and older	1	3	4
Gender			
Female	12	3	15
Male	9	2	11
Race/Ethnicity			
Latino/Hispanic	6	1	7
White	5	4	9
African American	4		4
Asian	5		5

[1] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2022. *Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. https://doi.org/10.17226/26424.

Two or more races	1		1
Income $55,000 per year or less	9	2	11
Education			
Bachelor's degree or higher (4 or more years of college)	11	4	15
Some college, no degree	7	1	8
Associate degree (2 years)	2		2
High School graduate (high school diploma or GED)	1		1
Has diabetes	3	1	4
Has high blood pressure	6	2	8
Current smoker, vape	2	1	3
Received housing voucher past 12 months	0	0	0
Used prescription pain killer or stimulant past 12 months	6	1	7
Witnessed or been the victim of harassment or violence	7	1	8
Adolescent	**11**	**5**	**16**
Age			
12-14	4	3	7
15-17	7	2	9
Gender			
Female	7	2	9
Male	4	3	7
Race/Ethnicity			
Latinx	5	1	6
White	3	2	5
African American	2		2
Other	1	2	3

Table 2b. Wave II CHIS Adult Pretest Respondent Characteristics

	CAWI	CATI	Total
Adult (includes demographics for 4 parent respondents)	**17**	**5**	**22**
Age (years)			
18-35	8		5
36-59	9		8
60-75		5	5
Current Gender Identity[2]			
Transgender	3		3
Transgender, non-binary	1		1
Transgender, non-binary, male	1		1
Transgender, female	1		1
Non-binary	2		2
Female	7	4	11
Male	2	1	3
Sexual Orientation[3]			

---

[2] Nichols Research used the following to identify current gender identity during Wave II recruitment: "How do you currently describe yourself… Male, Female, Transgender, Non-binary, or Other _____? Is this different than what is listed on your original birth certificate? Yes, No"

[3] Nichols Research used the following to identify sexual orientation during Wave II recruitment: "Do you think of yourself as… Lesbian or gay, Straight, Bisexual or pansexual, Queer, or Other _____?"

Bisexual/Pansexual	7	2	9
Queer	3		3
Lesbian/Gay	4	3	7
Asexual (I use a different term)	1		1
Straight/Heterosexual (parent)	1		1
DK	1		1
Race/Ethnicity			
Latinx (only)	3		1
Latinx/AI/AN	4	1	5
White (only)	3	4	6
African American (only)	3		3
Asian (only)	2		1
AI/AN (not Latinx)	1		1
Two or more races (not AI/AN, not Latinx)	1		1
Witnessed or been the victim of harassment or violence	4	2	
Adolescent	**10**		**10**
Age			
12-14	3		3
15-17	7		7
Current Gender[4]			
Transgender, male	1		1
Non-binary	1		1
Nonbinary, male	1		1
Other: Gender Fluid	1		1
Female	4		4
Male	2		2
Race/Ethnicity			
Latinx	5		5
White	3		3
African American	2		2
Other	1		1
Child			
Age			
5-7	3		
8-11	1		
Current Gender (as reported by the parent)			
Female, non-binary	1		
Female	1		
Male	2		

[4] Nichols Research used the following to identify current gender identity during Wave II adolescent recruitment: "How do you currently describe yourself… Male, Female, Transgender, Non-binary, Other (Specify_____)?
Is this different than what is listed on your original birth certificate? Yes, No"

Procedures

The pretest utilized Nichols Research's Zoom-based qualitative research platform. Before each session, Nichols staff confirmed the respondent's identity and performed a technology check to ensure the respondent could use chat and share screen features. At the beginning of the debrief sessions, CHIS staff introduced themselves, reviewed the pretest's purpose, and provided informed consent to the respondents. CAWI respondents received a link to the survey and shared their screens, so staff could monitor progress through the questionnaire. Once the respondent began the survey, staff turned off cameras and muted microphones. Respondents selected for the CATI instrument followed a similar process, but a trained interviewer from SSRS, the CHIS data collection firm, administered the survey. After completing the survey, CHIS staff asked the respondent a series of probing questions to evaluate the respondent's understanding of the pretest items and to collect feedback on the questions and survey overall. For Wave I, adolescent respondents received $100 for a one-hour session, and adults and parents received $125 for 1.5 hours. For Wave II, all sessions were planned for one hour (since the overall survey length and debriefing questions were shorter), so all respondents received $100.

Findings

This report summarizes findings for adult, child, and adolescent pretest items in the following topic areas:

ADULTS: gender identity, sexual orientation, and family planning.
PARENTS OF CHILDREN: gender identity of the child and gender expression of the child
ADOLESCENTS: gender identity and gender expression

For each topic, we provide the pretest items and scripted probes, and present general findings and recommendations.

Gender Identity (Adult, Adolescent)

Table 2. Gender identity pretest items and scripted probes, adult (age 18+) and adolescent (age 12-17) respondents.

Pretest Items	Scripted Probes
[AD65E] – What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? o Female o Male o Don't know o Prefer not to answer	o Were you able to easily respond to this question? o What did you think this question was asking? o Can you tell me what you think "assigned at birth" means? What about "original birth certificate"

[AD66C] - What is your current gender? [Mark all that apply]
 	
☐ Female
☐ Male
☐ Transgender
☐ Non-binary
☐ Two-spirit
☐ I use a different term: [_____]
o Don't know
o Prefer not to answer
	• Were you able to easily respond to this question?
	
	• Were there any terms that you did not recognize?
	
	• [IF RESPONDENT SELECTS "NONBINARY"]
	    o What does the term nonbinary mean to you?
	    o Are there other terms you would normally use instead of nonbinary?
	    o If nonbinary was not listed, which would you have selected?
	
	• [IF RESPONDENT SELECTS "TRANSGENDER"]
	    o Are there other terms you would have preferred to see listed?
	    o Would you have liked to see "trans man" or "trans woman" listed?
	
	• [IF RESPONDENT SELECTS "TWO-SPIRIT"]
	    o I see you selected the "Two-spirit" category—what does that term mean to you?
	    o If this option were not listed, what would you have selected?
	    o Do you think that identifying as "Two-spirit" is limited to certain groups of people? If yes, who?
	
	• [IF RESPONDENT SELECTS MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE CATEGORY]
	    o I saw that you selected more than one response category for this question. Tell me how you approached answering this?
	    o If you had only been able to select one response category, which would you have selected, and why?
	
	• [IF RESPONDENT MAKES AN ENTRY IN THE "I USE A DIFFERENT TERM:___" FIELD]
	    o Had there not been a space for you to type in your entry for a different term, which would you have chosen out of the other options?
	• Are there additional terms we should use?

| *If responses for AD65E and AD65C were different, then ask:*

Just to confirm, you were assigned (INSERT RESPONSE FROM AD65E) at birth and now describe yourself as (INSERT ALL RESPONSES FROM Q2). Is that correct?
    o   Yes
    o   No | |

Summary Findings

AD65E - Sex Assigned at Birth

Wave I (General Recruitment)
- Cisgender adult respondents expressed a clear understanding of the sex at birth question, including the usage of terms "assigned at birth" and "original birth certificates." One cisgender adult mentioned not liking the term "assigned."
- Many adolescent respondents in Wave I linked the definition of "assigned at birth" to mean what the doctors assigned based on an assessment of biological features and the "original birth certificate" to reflect the original doctors' assessment, regardless of how someone currently identifies.
- One adolescent acknowledged that the "prefer not to answer" option was good for those "who don't want to share."

Wave II (LGBTQ+ Recruitment)
- All adult and adolescent respondents expressed a clear understanding of the sex at birth question, including the usage of terms "assigned at birth" and "original birth certificates".
- During probing questions, many respondents referred to what was determined by the physician in the hospital based on biological or anatomical characteristics.
- Although some respondents shared that it is possible to obtain a revised birth certificate, it was clear to them that this question refers to the original document issued near the time of birth.
- One respondent felt the wording was a little complicated, saying "It was very clear, just a very complicated sentence, it just puts your mind to think very intellectual-like."
- Although the version of the sex assigned at birth question included in the pretest differs from the current CHIS version by changes to the question stem and the additional response options of "Don't Know" and "Prefer not to answer", none of the respondents in the pretest selected those categories.

AD65C - Current Gender

Wave I (General Recruitment)
- Most Wave I adult and adolescent respondents stated that they did not recognize the term "Two-spirit" in the answer categories, but no respondents selected that category.
- Two adolescents stated they had heard the term "Two-spirit," and one of them suggested we only ask about that category from people who describe themselves as being from AIAN cultures, and leave it off for others.
- One cisgender female adult respondent mentioned that she appreciated the term "current gender" and was excited to see "Two-spirit" included, though she was less familiar with that term.

- One adolescent selected "female" and typed in "genderfluid" in the write-in, and explained, "Typically people assume female when see me, even though I agree more with genderfluid—but I prefer female instead of people calling me male." When asked what they would have selected if only one response selection was possible, they answered, "probably just genderfluid in the write-in." When asked what they would have done if there was no write-in field, they said, "probably just check the female category."

Wave II (LGBTQ+ Recruitment)
- The version of AD65C included in the pretest differed from the current CHIS version with the inclusion of several new response categories, which were selected with the following frequencies during the Wave II adult and adolescent cognitive interviewing:
    o Non-Binary: 4 adults and 2 adolescents
    o Two-Spirit: no adults or adolescents
    o I Use a Different Term: no adults and one adolescent
    o Don't Know: no adults or adolescents
    o Prefer Not to Answer: no adults or adolescents
- Almost all respondents stated that they were able to easily respond to this question.
- Two respondents (one transgender, one non-binary) made reference to the sensitive nature of the question during the debriefing when asked whether they were able to easily respond to this question.
- Six adult and five adolescent respondents stated they did not recognize the term **"Two-Spirit."** At least one of these respondents identified as American Indian and Latino. None of the respondents in this pretest selected the "Two-Spirit" response category. One of the respondents who did not recognize the term stated "I didn't understand that and wanted to have a little 'i' next to it so I could click on it and say 'what?' Maybe I'm a Two-Spirit and I don't even know it." One adolescent respondent who identified as White stated they would have marked "Two-Spirit" if there was not a write-in field where they could have entered "gender fluid".
- When asked whether any **additional terms** should be added, two respondents suggested adding "agender" and one respondent suggested adding "intersex."
- Two adult respondents and two adolescent respondents selected **more than one response**. Their combinations of responses and answers to what they would have answered if only one response option had been possible are listed below:
    o Adult--Male, Transgender, and Non-Binary (sex assigned at birth response was Female): "I appreciated that it was a multiple selection option. Having to only select the category I would probably give less information [than] I would normally come forward with. I was more able to describe my gender experience more accurately. [If I had to choose one, I would pick] transgender just because I think that is more accurate than only selecting male or female. I think transgender more accurately describes my medical history and so I would think since it is a health questionnaire it offers more info than if I were to only select non-binary or just male."
    o Adult—Transgender and Non-Binary (sex assigned at birth response was Female): "Non-binary is under the transgender umbrella. Non-binary is not gender non-conforming. In all of my experience, people regard non-binary as under trans."
    o Adolescent—Male and Non-Binary (sex assigned at birth response was Male): "Sometimes I identify as male and sometimes I don't. I would select male because that is the one I most identify with."
    o Adolescent—Male and Transgender (sex assigned at birth response was Male): "I do not usually tell people I am transgender male, but for the survey, would select Transgender and Male, but if I go out, usually just say, "I'm a guy". [If I had to choose one I would pick] Male because I do not usually say Transgender, unless I am close to the person."
- Four adult and two adolescent respondents selected the **"Non-Binary"** category:

- o Non-Binary adult: "For me, just not being put in a box where it can be checked. More so of an inner emotion for me. [If Non-Binary was not listed, I would have selected] either 'none' or 'I use a different term' and then fill in non-conforming or not applicable."
- o Non-Binary adult: "I call myself Asexual when people ask me for it, when people bring it up. Or non-binary. The list covered all terms and I think the open-ended response is very helpful to those who want to add their own terminology. [If Non-Binary was not listed, I would have selected] 'neutral gender' into the 'I use a different term' field."
- o Male, Transgender and Non-Binary adult: "[Non-Binary means] anyone that doesn't fully align with their sex assigned at birth but doesn't strictly align with opposite end of the gender binary. Either only partially aligns with their sex assigned at birth, or somewhat aligns with the other end of the gender binary."
- o Transgender and Non-Binary adult: "Non-Binary is under the transgender umbrella. Non-binary is not gender non-conforming. In all of my experience, people regard non-binary as under trans."
- o Male and Non-Binary adolescent: "Sometimes I don't associate with the nonbinary or the male term. [If Non-Binary was not listed, I would have selected] something of the sort, 'I use a different term.' If that's not there, then male." (Note that their sex assigned at birth response was Male.)
- o Non-Binary adolescent: "Non gender conforming. You don't associate yourself with anything-neither male [nor] female. Right in between, kinda. [If Non-Binary was not listed, I would have selected] probably, 'don't know' because I don't really know any other."

- • Five adult and one adolescent respondents selected the **"Transgender"** category. They shared the following feedback about other beneficial terms or the potential use of "trans man" or "trans woman" (note that one transgender adult did not provide feedback):
  - o Transgender adult: "I'd recommend using 'Trans persons' or 'Trans people' unless it's necessary to be specific that way--if they need to know if it's a trans male to female, or female to male, you know."
  - o Transgender adult: "Transgender is very general, which is good. But if more specifics needed, transgender man, transgender woman would be better terms."
  - o Transgender, Male and Non-Binary adult: "I think [using trans man and trans woman] is a good option if it is also accompanied with specifying that the other options are cis-female or cis-male because I think that can create some confusion between the options, but I think having it there it would be more clarifying if I was looking at the data."
  - o Transgender and Non-Binary adult: "Yes, would be more helpful for us, for specificity- would do 'trans man', 'trans woman'. Without that they might pick 'transgender' then 'male' or 'female', but that's only if you can select more than one, and they might not."
  - o Male and Transgender adolescent: "Add an 'Agender' option. There's a lot of people I know that are agender." This respondent also answered "yes" to "Would you have liked to see 'trans man' or 'trans woman' listed?"

- • One adolescent made an entry in the **"I use a different term"** field.
  - o Gender fluid adolescent: This respondent said that if there was not a space to write in an entry for a different term, they would have selected "Two-Spirit" (even though their race was non-Latino White).

Recommendations:

1. The authors recommend incorporating the tested versions into the 2023-2024 adult and adolescent CHIS, including the category "Non-Binary" which was recommended by the CHIS SOGI working group, with the following changes:

    a. Remove the category "Two-Spirit", since the majority of LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ respondents were unfamiliar with this term. Although no respondents selected this category during the pre-test, one White/non-Latino adolescent respondent stated he would have selected it if he hadn't been able to select "I use a different term" and enter "Gender fluid."

    b. Do not allow multiple responses for the current gender question, AD66C, given the impact on trending with prior years' data, and the potential for increases in gender minority reporting from those who do not primarily identify as non-cisgender.

2. Although some respondents recommended adding categories for "Agender" or "Intersex," we do not recommend adding these categories at this time. Rather, we recommend analyzing 2023 CHIS write-in responses to the revised question before considering additional changes.

3. All respondents who selected "Transgender" agreed that adding more specific categories for "Trans man" or "Trans woman" might provide clearer options for trans respondents, and provide additional data specificity for the survey. However, we did not evaluate whether this change would create confusion for cisgender men and women. We therefore recommend future cognitive testing of this issue, and investigation of other alternatives, such as the presentation used in the U.S. Trans Survey.

Gender Identity (Parents of Children Age 0-11)

Table 3. Gender identity pretest items and scripted probes asked of parent respondents of gender nonconforming children (age 0-11 years)

Pretest Items	Scripted Probes
[CA1B] – Some of the questions are based on (CHILD's) characteristics, like their age. First, I will ask you some background questions. What sex was (CHILD) assigned at birth, on (CHILD's) original birth certificate? o Female o Male o Don't know o Prefer not to answer	o Any difficulties answering this question?
[CA73] - What is (CHILD's) current gender? [Mark all that apply] ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Transgender ☐ Non-binary ☐ Two-spirit ☐ I use a different term: [_____] o Don't know o Prefer not to answer	• Any difficulties answering this question? • We are considering a couple of alternates to this question and would like your opinion. o Alternate 1: *Does CHILD describe their gender using any terms different than their sex on their birth certificate? (Y/N)* o Alternate 2: *Are there any terms CHILD uses to describe their gender that are different than their sex on birth certificate?* o Which version of the question do you prefer? Why? • [If Respondent selects more than one response category] o I saw that you selected more than one response category for this question. Tell me how you approached answering this? o If you had only been able to select one response category, which would you have selected, and why? • [If respondent makes an entry in the "I use a different term:___" field] o Had there not been a space for you to type in your entry for a different term, which would you have chosen out of the other options?
If responses for CA1B *and* CA73 *were different, then ask CA74:* **[CA74]** - Just to confirm, (CHILD) was assigned (INSERT RESPONSE FROM CA1B) at birth and now describe	• Any difficulties answering this question?

themself as (INSERT ALL RESPONSES FROM CA73). Is that correct?
   ○ Yes
   ○ No	

Summary Findings
CAIB - Sex Assigned at Birth

- All Wave I and Wave II respondents easily identified either female or male as their response and did not voice any difficulties answering this question when probed.
- One parent expressed some concern with the wording in this way: "The phrasing 'was assigned' makes it sound like a choice in a delivery room- they are either female or male. The wording here is weird. We are not 'assigned' you come out as you come out."

CA73 - Current Gender

Wave I (General Recruitment)
- The parents in Wave I generally had no problems selecting a response to CA73, with two parents preferring the original wording, two parents preferring Alternate 1, and one parent preferring Alternate 2.
- The parent in Wave II that preferred Alternate 2 has a family member who was born a male, but now identifies as transgender and stated that's why she felt Alternate 2 was worded better.

Wave II (LGBTQ+ Recruitment: Parents of Gender Non-Conforming Children)
- Three parents provided the same response to CA73 as CA1B, but two of them clarified in probing they were considering other responses for CA73:
  - Male / Male: "I want to say, I could have listed non-binary. That was the option I was thinking of, but I chose male at the time because it is what my son... I guess he considers himself male, but he is practicing non-binary terminology. At this current moment, he is male. It is a transitioning time. He understands he was born a male so there is no questioning of that. It's by choice he's considering not being called a male. He is still considering himself as a male, but it is TBD. It is in transition."
  - Female / Female: "I don't know what is going on in her head. I feel she is more non-binary, but will find out when older- don't know how to answer for her."
- Two parents selected different responses in CA73 than CA1B, and described their thinking as follows:
  - Female / Female & Non-Binary: "Children's gender changes and fluctuates, takes different shapes in different times. I was a little stuck on this one, maybe one more option 'gender changing'."
  - Male / Non-Binary: "I put nonbinary because child prefers, they or she pronouns. Leans heavily on feminine side. Looked at it as what child thinks of himself--likes to be around girls, play with dolls, etc."
- One parent selected more than one response in CA73, and explained their thoughts, and how they would have answered if only one response category was allowed:
  - Female / Female & Non-Binary: "The child is calling herself boy/girl but also she/her. [If I had only been able to select one response, I would have selected] Non-Binary, since the child is calling herself boy/girl—two different genders."
- When provided the two alternate question wordings for CA73 during probing, one preferred Alternate 1, one preferred Alternate 2 (but then said they preferred the current question wording over either

alternate version), another respondent said they preferred the current question wording, and two others did not express a preference.

Recommendations

1. The authors recommend using a consistent two-step question for gender measurement for children age 0-11 as recommended in the earlier section for adults and adolescents.

Gender Expression (Adolescents and Children Age 5-11)

Table 4. Gender expression pretest items and scripted probes asked of adolescent respondents (age 12-17 years and parent respondents of children (age 5-11 years)

Pretest Items	Scripted Probes
[TL37/CA75] - A person's appearance, style, dress, or the way they walk or talk may affect how people describe them. How do you think other people at school would describe [you/child's name]? ○ Very feminine ○ Mostly feminine ○ Somewhat feminine ○ Equally feminine and masculine ○ Somewhat masculine ○ Mostly masculine ○ Very masculine	○ Were you able to respond easily to this question? ○ What did you think this question was asking? ○ [IF Somewhat feminine selected]: If somewhat feminine was not listed, which option would you have selected? ○ [IF Somewhat masculine selected]: If somewhat masculine was not listed, which option would you have selected?

Summary Findings

Wave I (General Recruitment)

- In general, the adolescent respondents interpreted this question in the context of style, dress, appearance, and mannerisms, and how others would perceive them, or describe it to others. One 14-year-old wasn't sure how others would describe her, and one 12-year-old had difficulty understanding the terms "feminine" and "masculine" and had to ask his mother.
- Some parents answered the question with ease, but others expressed more difficulty in answering for their children:
  - One parent mentioned wondering if this question was asking if the child "identified more as a girl or a boy."
  - Two parents considered more than "style, dress, or the way they walk or talk" when selecting their answer and considered divergence from classical gender stereotypes (a daughter who was good at sports was classified as mostly feminine instead of very feminine, and a son who was very in touch with his emotions was classified as mostly masculine instead of very masculine).
- In Wave I, five respondents had selected "somewhat (masculine/feminine)" categories, two of which said they would pick the corresponding "mostly (masculine/feminine)" category, and three said they would pick "Equally feminine and masculine."

Wave II (LGBTQ+ Recruitment: Adolescents and Parents of Gender Non-Conforming Children)

- Although many adolescent respondents mentioned they interpreted this question in the context of style, dress, appearance, and mannerisms, some adolescents described a number of different interpretations of this question:
  - Two teen respondents mentioned a linkage to their sexual orientation, saying "how other people view me and my sexuality" and "everyone knows I like girls so I think other girls see me as more masculine."

- o One adolescent respondent mentioned a linkage to gender identity, saying "when it said feminine or masculine, would they assume I am trans or not."
- Some parents expressed difficulty in answering for their children:
  - o One parent who responded "somewhat masculine" mentioned it was somewhat difficult, since "masculine is very strong for a 9-year-old child," and recommended using "boyish" instead of "masculine."
  - o One parent who responded "equally feminine and masculine" said "I don't think my son is one way or another. He has many traits that are feminine and masculine. He is very in touch with both sides. [The question] is trying to decipher if person is leaning more dominant one way or another. There's a spectrum of ways, I'm glad it's not one way or another."
  - o One parent who responded "somewhat masculine" for their female child explained "I was stuck between somewhat and mostly masculine. The way she dresses is not the typical girly way, only way they know she is a girl is because of her hair."
  - o One parent of a male child who responded "somewhat feminine" explained, "There are kids I've noticed that do not behave or do things that you would expect a boy or girl to do, let's say the child is feminine, and around women they are sweeter. That's how I answered this question."
- Five adolescents and three parents of children selected a "somewhat masculine" or "somewhat feminine" category. When asked which category they would have selected had the "somewhat (masculine/feminine)" categories not been available, six said they would pick the corresponding "mostly (masculine/feminine)" category, and two said they would pick "Equally feminine and masculine".

Recommendations

1. The CHIS SOGI working group had recommended testing a 7-category option versus the current 5-category CHIS version to understand the impact of presenting "somewhat masculine" and "somewhat feminine" categories, to be more consistent with other studies, and to explore a possible explanation for the high rate of "equally feminine and masculine" responses in CHIS. This pretest provided some evidence against the argument that the absence of the "somewhat" categories is the cause for high "equally" responses, though this pretest was limited to a very small number of participants. When considering consistency with other studies that would be gained from the addition of the "somewhat" categories, and the additional detail it provides, the SOGI working group recommended moving forward with the 7-category version in the 2023-2024 CHIS for adolescents.

2. The move to the 7-category option in CHIS 2023, has implications for the construction of the TEENGEND construct used in CHIS data products for adolescent gender expression (with categories of "gender conforming" or "gender non-conforming"). The authors recommend defining gender non-conforming as: respondents assigned male at birth who respond *very feminine, mostly Feminine, somewhat feminine*, or *equally feminine and masculine*, or respondents assigned female at birth who respond *very masculine, mostly masculine, somewhat masculine, or equally feminine and masculine*. This matches the definition from the current 5-category question, with the addition of the *somewhat feminine* or *somewhat masculine* responses.

3. The pretesting of the question with parents of children ages 5 to 11 performed somewhat well, but there was sufficient evidence to delay implementation of the question for children ages 5-11 at this time, and instead conduct additional cognitive testing of using "feminine/girlish" and "masculine/boyish" throughout the categories when asked of children ages 5 to 11.

Sexual Orientation (Adult)

Table 5. Sexual orientation pretest and scripted probes asked of adult respondents

Pretest Items	Scripted Probes
[AD46C] – Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? [Select ONE] o {Lesbian or} Gay o Straight, not {lesbian or} gay o Bisexual or pansexual o Queer o Two-spirit o I use a different term [_____] o Don't know o Prefer not to answer	o Were you able to easily respond to this question? o Were there any terms that you did not recognize? o [If respondent selects "two spirit"] - o I see you selected the "Two-spirit" category—what does that term mean to you? - o Do you think that identifying as "Two-spirit" is limited to certain groups of people? If yes, who? o What do you think are the distinctions between the terms bisexual, pansexual, and queer? o [if respondent selected "bisexual or pansexual" or "queer" categories] - o In your opinion, do you think the pansexual category is best grouped with the bisexual category or the queer category? Why?

Summary Findings

Wave I (General Recruitment)

- None of the adult respondents in Wave I recognized the term "Two-Spirit."
- Four respondents ranging in age from 31 to 70 did not understand the term "pansexual."
- The term "queer" had different interpretations among Wave I respondents, with some seeing it as a derogatory term, some not understanding the term, and others describing it as "all-encompassing" or "a more open term that gives more freedom."
- The term "pansexual" was understood differently by different participants, with some seeing it as different from bisexual and suggesting it be a separate category. One respondent said bisexual means they are interested in males and females, not inclusive of other genders or broader spectrum, but was unsure what pansexual means. Another respondent thought bisexual is more connected to the physical/sexual part, whereas Pan and Queer are not. A different respondent defined bisexual as "liking men and women," pansexual as "being attracted to all humans whatever gender they may be."
- Two straight respondents felt the categories should be reordered with "Straight, not lesbian or gay" coming first.
- One participant had difficulty selecting a response because in the past she has had both male and female sex partners. She chose straight since her current partner is male.

Wave II (LGBTQ+ Recruitment)

- The version of AD46C included in the pretest differed from the current CHIS version with a modified question stem and the inclusion of several new or modified response categories, which were selected with the following frequencies during the adult cognitive interviewing:
    - Bisexual or Pansexual: 8 respondents
    - Queer: 3 respondents
    - Two-Spirit: 0 respondents

- - I use a different term (specify): one respondent selected this and entered "Asexual."
  - Prefer not to answer: 0 respondents
- Some non-cisgender respondents expressed some difficulty answering this question:
  - One respondent that identifies as transgender (assigned male at birth) selected the "Don't know" response category and explained, "it was confusing to me--I don't know how to answer. It is hard for me to say, because I don't present myself as female, and I don't seek gay men. Part of me wanted to say queer, but I don't know." They also explained that they were not too familiar with the term pansexual, and thought "even queer is different for me, because it can cover so many aspects of someone's sexuality."
  - Another respondent that identifies as transgender (assigned female at birth) selected the "Bisexual or pansexual" category, but then explained it was "A bit of a struggle. Lesbian and gay— I had identified as that, before becoming transgender, but not sure how to identify anymore. Becoming transgender male, not sure how to characterize now. As a pre-transitioning man, I would have said a lesbian. As a transgender man, I would have to be labeled as a lesbian or bisexual, so I'm struggling with this question."
  - Another respondent that identifies as Non-Binary (assigned female at birth) selected the "Queer" category, but then explained "I feel like it is kind of hard with me being non-binary to really identify with one of these."
- Respondents that selected "Bisexual or Pansexual" had different understandings of what the terms bisexual, pansexual, and queer meant, and different opinions on whether pansexual should be grouped with bisexual, with queer, or given a separate category:
  - "Pansexual should be with queer because queer does not mean that they are gay for the same sex. They are just, you know, something different in their sexuality from what I understand. I thought pansexuals could be attracted to anybody."
  - "In my neighborhood I feel like if anyone sees themselves as anything other than straight they are called queer. I am not sure what pansexual actually means or refers to. I think maybe it should be its own category. Queer is strange for me--when I go to LGBT center a lot of the people there refer to themselves as queer no matter which of the other labels they are--I didn't know it's like a separate thing."
  - "Bisexual and pansexual, difference between liking men and women, and liking everyone for pansexual. Pansexual should be its own category, it is far another apart from bisexual. Queer should be on its own."
  - "Knew term bisexual. Not sure what pansexual means. Queer is another word for gay. Wasn't sure what pansexual meant, so wasn't sure if it fits in with the both of them- thinks it should be its own category."
  - "Do not understand pansexual. Understand gender queer as basically genderless and able to love anyone. I see pansexual as a new terminology for new generation. Pansexual should have own label, because it is unique to new generations."
  - "Queer is apparently now straight or queer. Now, they are putting lesbian, gay, pansexual, bisexual and everything else under queer. Bisexual is when you have sex or are attracted to both sexes, and pansexual... I was confused about this, but there's not just men and women, so it's men, women, and transgenders, and pansexual is like all the sexes. Pansexual good to be grouped with bisexual, unless you want to know specifics, then I would put them in their own place."
- Respondents that selected "Queer" also had different understandings of what the terms bisexual, pansexual, and queer meant, and different opinions on whether pansexual should be grouped with bisexual, with queer, or given a separate category:

- o "Pansexual fits better with bisexual than queer. Queer is similar to non-binary and that it is meant to be an umbrella term, an identity that isn't well captured by other labels. Bi and pansexual are two or more genders, including our own."
  - o "I feel like for me personally, all of them. Besides, queer is basically like you have to identify as something. Pansexual should have its own spot- I feel like they are not the same."
  - o "I like that queer is there, because I identify as queer. If queer not there, would have put in "a different term" or selected pansexual. There's a bunch of debate on that, but I think it's fine the way you have it ('Bisexual or pansexual')."
- The term "Two-Spirit" was not always well understood and its place in a sexual orientation question raised some concern:
  - o One respondent who identified as "queer" said, "You'd probably want to look into Two-Spirit, because from what I know Two-Spirit is a gender identity not a sexuality."
  - o Another respondent who identified as "queer" similarly said, "I don't traditionally see two-spirit used when talking about sexuality as opposed to gender, but I don't see it as a negative thing."
  - o 5 other respondents either did not know the term "Two-Spirit" or said it was not well known to them.

Recommendations

1. Although there were diverse opinions among respondents on the placement of a pansexual category, there was concern expressed among the CHIS SOGI Working Group about the impact of adding a separate pansexual category, therefore the group decided to keep the category as "bisexual or pansexual."
2. Given that respondents who were familiar with the concept of being Two-Spirit expressed concern with the placement of Two-Spirit in the sexual orientation question (and thought it was only a gender identity concept), and most others were unfamiliar with the term, after receiving input from the CHIS SOGI working group, the CHIS team decided to exclude "Two-Spirit" from the CHIS 2023 sexual orientation question.
3. Although the sexual orientation question was not cognitively tested with adolescents in this project, members of the CHIS SOGI working group strongly recommended that CHIS include the sexual orientation question for adolescents, citing how it has been asked in other adolescent surveys. Based on this feedback, the sexual orientation question will be added to the CHIS adolescent questionnaire starting in 2023.
4. To help non-cisgender adult and adolescent respondents in selecting a response to the sexual orientation question, the research team recommends considering the potential merits of a sexual attraction question[5].

---

[5] As context, the 2005 CHIS adolescent questionnaire included the following attraction question: "Do you feel sexually attracted to boys, girls, or both about the same?" (see
https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/chis/design/Documents/_CHIS2005_adolescent_q.pdf)

Appendix: Production vs. Pretest CHIS SOGI Question Wording

The tables below display the SOGI question wording employed in the production version of the CHIS 2022 questionnaire, versus the versions tested in this pretesting project, and the final versions implemented for the 2023-2024 cycle of CHIS.

Table 6. CHIS 2021-2022, 2022 pretest, and 2023-2024 question wording for adult, adolescent, and child gender identity

CHIS 2021-2022 Wording	2022 Cognitive Testing Versions	CHIS 2023-2024 Wording
[AD65D] - On your original birth certificate, was your sex assigned as male or female? 1 Male 2 Female [AD66B] - Do you currently describe yourself as male, female, or transgender? 1 Male 2 Female 3 Transgender 4 None of these If AD66B=4, ask: [AD67B] - What is your current gender identity? 1 Specify: (_____) [AD68B] - Just to confirm, you were assigned {INSERT RESPONSE FROM AD65D} at birth and now describe yourself as {INSERT RESPONSE FROM AD66B OR AD67B}. Is that correct? 1 Yes 2 No	Q1: What sex were {you/[child's name]} assigned at birth, on {your/[child's name's]} original birth certificate? □ Female □ Male □ Don't know □ Prefer not to answer Q2: What is {your/[child's name's]} current gender? [Mark all that apply] (NOTE: CATI interviewers should read all categories) □ Female □ Male □ Transgender □ Nonbinary □ Two-Spirit □ I use a different term: [immediately adjacent free text entry box] □ Don't know □ Prefer not to answer Q3: Just to confirm, {you were/[child's name] was} assigned {INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q1} at birth and now describe {yourself/themself} as {INSERT ALL RESPONSES FROM Q2}. Is that correct? 1 Yes 2 No	AD65E: What sex were {you/[child's name]} assigned at birth, on {your/[child's name's]} original birth certificate? □ Female □ Male □ Don't know □ Prefer not to answer AD66C: What is {your/[child's name's]} current gender? (NOTE: CATI interviewers should read all categories) □ Female □ Male □ Transgender □ Nonbinary □ I use a different term: [immediately adjacent free text entry box] □ Don't know □ Prefer not to answer AD68B: Just to confirm, {you were/[child's name] was} assigned {INSERT RESPONSE FROM AD65E} at birth and now describe {yourself/themself} as {INSERT ALL RESPONSES FROM AD66C}. Is that correct? 1 Yes 2 No

Table 7. CHIS 2021-2022, 2022 pretest, and 2023-2024 question wording for adolescent and child gender expression

CHIS 2021-2022 Wording	2022 Cognitive Testing Version	CHIS 2023-2024 Wording
(Ask if age 12-17) A person's appearance, style, dress, or the way they walk or talk may affect how people describe them. How do you think other people at school would describe you? 1 Very feminine 2 Mostly feminine 3 Equally feminine and masculine 4 Mostly masculine 5 Very masculine	*(Ask if age 5-17)* A person's appearance, style, dress, or the way they walk or talk may affect how people describe them. How do you think other people at school would describe {you/[child's name]}? 1 Very feminine 2 Mostly feminine 3 Somewhat feminine 4 Equally feminine and masculine 5 Somewhat masculine 6 Mostly masculine 7 Very masculine	*(Ask if age 12-17)* A person's appearance, style, dress, or the way they walk or talk may affect how people describe them. How do you think other people at school would describe you? 1 Very feminine 2 Mostly feminine 3 Somewhat feminine 4 Equally feminine and masculine 5 Somewhat masculine 6 Mostly masculine 7 Very masculine

Table 8. CHIS 2021-2022, 2022 pretest, and 2023-2024 question wording for adult (and adolescent) sexual orientation

CHIS 2021-2022 Wording	2022 Cognitive Testing Version	CHIS 2023-2024 Wording
(Ask if age 18+) [AD46C] - Do you think of yourself as… 2 {Lesbian or} Gay 1 Straight, not {lesbian or} gay 3 Bisexual 93 Something else (Specify: _____) 6 I don't know	*(Ask if age 18+)* Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? [Select ONE]: ☐ Lesbian or gay ☐ Straight, that is, not gay or lesbian ☐ Bisexual or pansexual ☐ Queer ☐ [If respondent is not White only:] Two-Spirit ☐ I use a different term: [immediately adjacent free-text entry box] ☐ Don't know ☐ Prefer not to answer	*(Ask if age 12+)* Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? [Select ONE]: ☐ Lesbian or gay ☐ Straight, that is, not gay or lesbian ☐ Bisexual or pansexual ☐ I use a different term: [immediately adjacent free-text entry box] ☐ Don't know ☐ Prefer not to answer