What is SOGIE?

- **Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression**
  - Sexual Orientation is about who you are attracted to
  - Gender Identity is about how you identify your own gender
  - Gender Expression is how you showcase your gender through clothes, behaviors, etc.
What does LGBTQ mean?

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Queer*/Questioning
- Other Letters: I for Intersex, A for Asexual, 2S for 2-Spirit
- LGBTQ+ to encompass them all
*Why the word Queer?

- Considered a reclaimed word
- Younger generations identifying with it
- Older generations may not identify with it
- Commonly used as an umbrella term
- Encompasses many LGBTQ identities at once
Why Is This Important?

- One in five youth identify*
  - Disproportionate number of LGBTQ youth in justice settings
  - Behaviors of LGBTQ youth with families who reject them are similar to delinquent behaviors
  - Outcomes and efficacy of services for LGBTQ youth

- SOGIE-specific supports
  - LGBTQ affirming/informed care is critical
  - LGBTQ youth more likely to engage when they feel their SOGIE is being respected by adults
  - We cannot connect an LGBTQ youth to LGBTQ-specific or affirming services until they feel comfortable enough to disclose their SOGIE
**SOGIE Spectrum**

- **Gender Identity**
  - Female/Woman/Girl
  - Male/Man/Boy
  - Other Gender(s)

- **Gender Expression**
  - Feminine
  - Masculine
  - Other

- **Sex Assigned at Birth**
  - Female
  - Male
  - Other/Intersex

- **Physically Attracted to**
  - Women
  - Men
  - Other Gender(s)

- **Emotionally Attracted to**
  - Women
  - Men
  - Other Gender(s)

To learn more, go to: www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore
How can we be affirming?

• Using chosen names and pronouns whenever possible
• Visual cues:
  • Pride flag(s)
  • Safe Space sign/sticker
  • Zoom window and virtual background
• Comfort with the conversation
  • This takes time
  • Current events
  • Online learning
SOGIE Data Collection Best Practices

• Before the conversation:
  • Education on the topic
  • Visibility in shared space
  • Assess personal biases (we all have bias)
  • Introduce yourself with pronouns, ask theirs

• Be prepared for a wide range of responses
  • Uncomfortable
  • Angry
  • Scared
  • Confused
Asking the Questions

• Introduction to SOGIE Demographics
  • Ask all youth
  • Ask alongside other demographics questions

• Important Information for Youth
  • We support and affirm LGBTQ young people
  • We ask all youth their SOGIE because all youth (and all people) have a SOGIE
  • This will be kept confidential
  • This can be uncomfortable and an answer of “I don’t know” or choosing not to answer is acceptable
Hearing the Answers

• Discomfort/Anger
  • Some youth will become defensive
  • Teachable moment that being LGBTQ is normal
  • “We ask all youth”

• Confusion
  • Some youth will not understand the question
  • Answer questions whenever possible
    • [2016 Desk Aid Resource](#)
Hearing the Answers

• Fear
  • Some youth may identify, but be afraid to say it out loud
  • Reassure that it is confidential
  • Reassure that we are LGBTQ affirming/safe space
  • “We are asking in order to make sure LGBTQ youth are supported and connected to affirming care”

• Unknown Terms
  • “I haven’t heard that term before, what does it mean to you?”
  • “We must record based on these data points, which best aligns for you?”
  • Never dismiss or criticize an identity
## SOGIE Data Points

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<thead>
<tr>
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2020-2021 Provider Roster Response Options
Scenario #1

A young person named Cris comes in and during the intake he says that he is bisexual. His birth certificate says M, and he identifies as a boy. How do we record this?

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Scenario #2

- During intake, a young man says that he is transgender, and that he was assigned female at birth. He also says that he identifies as straight even though he’s transgender. How do we record this?

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Scenario #3

• A youth tells you that they identify as gender nonbinary, they use they/them pronouns, and consider themselves pansexual. How do we record this?

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*Trick Question!*
Scenario #3

• We need more information:
  • I understand you identify as gender nonbinary, but the form requires your sex assigned at birth and your gender identity. What sex were you assigned at birth? (What does your birth certificate say?)
  • For gender identity, since we don’t have “gender nonbinary” as a choice, which of these options would you prefer I check?
  • For your sexual orientation, while we don’t have “pansexual” as a choice, which of these options would you prefer I check?

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Hearing the Answers

• Coming Out
  • Record data points
  • “Thank you for trusting me with this information”
  • Who else knows?
    • Is the youth concerned about safety?
    • Let youth be in charge of coming out process
    • Offer support
  • Treat them exactly the same
SOGIE Data Resources

- Gender Unicorn
- The Nuts and Bolts of SOGI Data Implementation: Toolkit
- National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center Webinars
- CDC: Importance of the Collection and Use of These Data
Questions?

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