



## Collecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Demographic Data

The Institute of Medicine recommends the collection of **sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) demographics** in electronic health records and research studies. Such data are essential for understanding the status and health needs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community.

In order to facilitate the collection of SOGI information, the Penn Medicine Program for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health has developed three standardized demographic questions. The development of these questions were based on the review of literature and input from Penn faculty, staff, trainees, and students.

**Below are the three SOGI demographic questions we recommend to be used in research and data collection at Penn, when appropriate.**

*QUESTION 1:*

**What is your sexual orientation?**

- Lesbian, gay, or homosexual
- Straight or heterosexual
- Bisexual
- Something else – Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_

*QUESTION 2:*

**What sex were you assigned at birth?**

- Male
- Female

*QUESTION 3:*

**What is your gender?**

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Do not identify as male or female (gender non-conforming, gender queer)

For more information about the Penn Medicine Program for LGBT Health and to access LGBT research resources, visit [www.pennmedicine.org/lgbt](http://www.pennmedicine.org/lgbt)

1. Institute of Medicine. *The Health of LGBT People. Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*, 2011
2. Baker & Cray. *FAQ: Collecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data*. Center for American Progress, 2012
3. The Williams Institute. *Best practices for asking questions to identify transgender and other gender minority respondents on population-based surveys.*, 2014