

## Asking Older Adults about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Social Surveys: Findings from Cognitive Interviews

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In recent years, the growing interest in sexual and gender minorities has led to an increase in methodological studies on how to ask about sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) in social surveys. However, limited research has focused on older adults, who may be less familiar with SOGI concepts. In this study, we conducted cognitive interviews with 18 participants aged 60 and older to examine how older adults understand and respond to SOGI questions in social surveys. We found that, although older adults often did not fully understand SOGI terminology, they were less likely to respond incorrectly because of this lack of understanding. In addition, as a phenomenon unique to older adults, we found that some cisgender heterosexual respondents who no longer experience sexual attraction may choose asexual, an identity category for those who do not experience sexual attraction to others, as their sexual orientation identity. Overall, cognitive interviewing was shown to be a useful method for improving questions in social surveys.

keywords: sexual orientation and gender identity, older adults, measurement, cognitive interviews, cognitive aspects of survey methodology