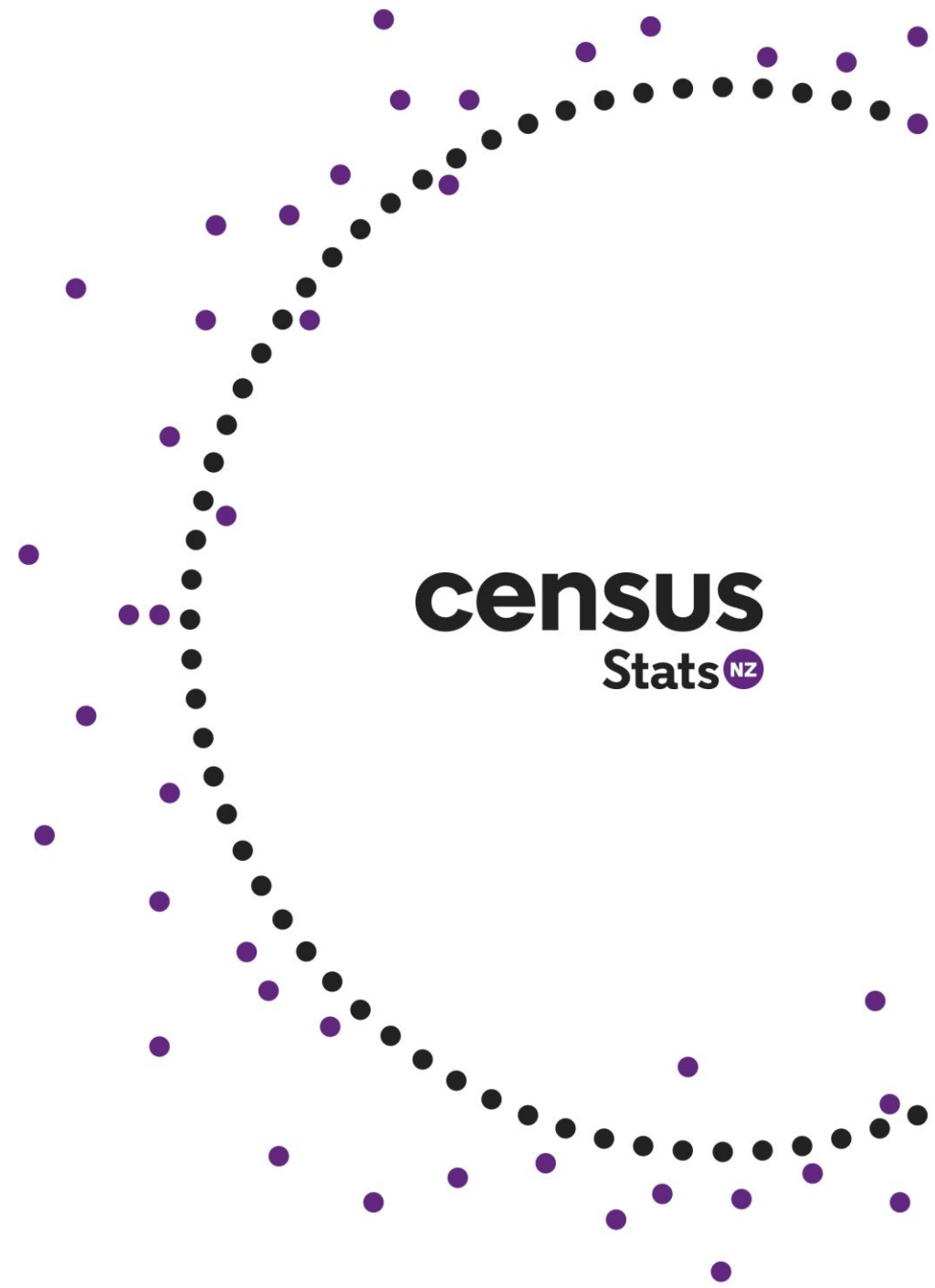


Sex, gender and sexual orientation

January 2018



Agenda

Terminology / topics – getting on the same page

Census testing programme

What we're working on across Stats NZ

Topics / terminology

Biological sex: sexual characteristics – male, female or a third category

Gender identity: a person's internal sense of being wholly female, male or aspects of female and/or male. Expressed in several ways, may not correspond with their recorded sex at birth.

Sexual orientation: the ways a person expresses their sexuality and the terms they use to identify with – range of terms in use across society

Census consultation

- Consultation began in 2015
- Large number of submissions on gender identity and sexual orientation
 - predominantly from NGOs, researchers, and individuals
 - interest from central government but not of primary concern
- Human rights complainant regarding sex question for intersex respondents
- **Pre-testing recommendation to test all three topics**

6 March 2018 **Let's find out**

Content for the 2018 Census

- The programme has undertaken an assessment and consultation on the content for the 2018 Census
- A refresh of content was necessary given the previous 'no change' census models
- Important to test and get evidence to inform our content recommendations for the 2018 Census
- Final content decisions and report released July 2017

6 March 2018 **Let's find out**

Overall testing programme

The background image is a photograph of a group of people, possibly students, gathered outdoors. They are standing in front of a building with a gabled roof. The image is heavily tinted with a purple color. The text 'Overall testing programme' is overlaid in the center in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Cognitive testing in 2015-2016

- Cognitive testing to assess whether new and changed content is suitable for a self-completed questionnaire
- A number of other new topics did not progress past cognitive testing (stepfamilies, volunteering, licence to occupy)

22 Mark as many spaces as you need to show which, if any, step-family live with you at your usual address.

- I **don't** have any step-family
- I have step-family, but not at my usual address
- I live with my step-parent
- I live with my step-child or step-children
- I live with my step-brother or step-sister
- other, for example step-grandparent

55 In the last 4 weeks have you done any voluntary work?

Examples of voluntary work may be:

- helping at community and cultural groups, sports clubs or schools.
- providing transport or assistance for neighbours.

- yes
- no → **go to 58**

56 Who did you do voluntary work for? Mark all that apply.

- for an organisation, group or marae
- for other people or households (not including people who live at your usual address)
- other

57 In the last 4 weeks, what is the total number of hours you spent doing the voluntary work you indicated in question **56**?

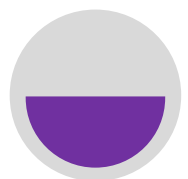
- total hours participating in voluntary work

6 Do you, or anyone else who lives here, have a licence to occupy this dwelling?

A 'licence to occupy' lets you live in a dwelling that you don't own, rent or lease. Common examples are retirement village dwellings, company share apartments, and dwellings on Māori land.

- yes → **go to 14**
- no → **go to 7**
- don't know → **go to 7**

Public content tests



July 2016

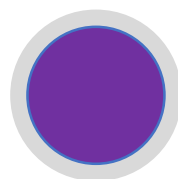
Content focused test

Wide scope of content tested: 7 page individual form

Two sample groups: paper and internet

8,000 households (paper forms)

External reference group – 23,000 people tested online forms



April 2017

Content further refined

Using intended paper size for 2018: 4 pages

While earthquake rescoped the test to not include test outputs, more focus put onto output and detail of data quality

6 March 2018 **Let's find out**

Sex – third category

A group of people, including men and women, are gathered in a workshop or classroom setting. They appear to be engaged in a collaborative activity, possibly a design or construction project. The background shows a building with a gabled roof and some trees. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple gradient.

Sex question - concept and context

- Required to be included by the Statistics Act 1975
- Existing statistical standard defines as biological sex
- Third category of 'indeterminate' currently in standard, recommended to be used only in administrative settings
- Acknowledge that it is an issue for respondents who are not distinctly male or female to accurately respond to this mandatory question – human rights complainant
- **Testing focus: to assess overall impact of and likely quality of including a third category for sex question**

6 March 2018 **Let's find out**

Sex question – cognitive testing

3 What sex are you?

male

female

intersex

Mark your answer like this:

What sex are you?

male

female

indeterminate

Mark your answer like this:

What sex are you?

male

female

other. Please state:

Mark your answer like this:

- Initial testing with targeted LGBTQI respondents (including one intersex)
- Tested intersex, indeterminate, and other: write in
- While there was no overall consensus over preferred term, 'intersex' was most acceptable
- Wider cognitive testing of three category 'intersex' question indicated some confusion but overall working successfully for general population

Sex question – public testing

- July 2016 Census Test – ‘indeterminate’ tested: 0.2%
- April 2017 Census Test – ‘intersex’ tested: 0.1%
- Both tests indicated little impact on overall male/female data quality but low data quality from third category responses
- Test data indicated a high number of facetious responses from those who had indicated third sex category
- Phone contact made with six respondents who indicated third category through follow up surveys - none indicated that they were intersex

Sex question – final recommendation

- Public testing indicated we could reasonably include a third category with little impact on male/female outputs
- However we would not be able to produce a quality population estimate of the intersex population
- **Decision made to use two category sex question for 2018 Census**
- Recommendation to advise intersex respondents to request paper form and mark both boxes
- Continue engagement with Human Rights Commission and complainant

Gender identity

A group of young people, including several boys and one girl, are gathered in a school hallway. They appear to be engaged in a conversation or activity. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The background shows a brick building and trees.

Gender identity - concept and context

- 2013 Census – ‘two ticks for gender diversity’ campaign
- Gender identity statistical standard released 2015:
definition - an individual's internal sense of being wholly female, wholly male, or having aspects of female and/or male
- Some public expectation that 2018 Census would collect gender identity
- **Primary information need: identifying transgender population**

Gender identity – cognitive testing

- Initial testing with targeted LGBTQI respondents, also tested in general cognitive testing
- Question separate from sex question
- Successfully gathered responses from transgender respondents, however variable response behavior was observed within question and in conjunction with sex question (cases of multiple response within gender identity, aligned or different responses in combination with sex question)
- Some confusion from general respondents in relation to multiple questions on sex/gender
- **Testing indicated we would not be able to produce population estimate of transgender population – was not included in public testing**

11 What gender do you identify as?

- male
- female
- gender diverse

Sexual orientation

A purple-tinted photograph of a group of people outdoors, possibly at a community event or market. The text 'Sexual orientation' is overlaid in white. The background shows several individuals, including a man in a red shirt and a woman in a blue jacket, and a building with a gabled roof in the distance.

Sexual orientation – concept and context

- Long standing desire for information on this topic
- No statistical standard on this concept within NZ
- Collection in New Zealand Health Survey since 2015, but no output data to date
- **Testing focus: to assess suitability for collection and output from self-completed questionnaire**
- Sexual identity concept tested – in line with ONS and NZHS

6 March 2018 **Let's find out**

Sexual orientation – cognitive testing

- Initial testing with targeted LGBTQI respondents, also tested in general cognitive testing
- Question separate from sex question
- Write-in box included to gather full information on responses
- No major issues for respondents, some second-hand reservation
- Progressed to July 2016 Census Test

28 Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?

heterosexual or straight

gay or lesbian

bisexual

other. Please state:

or prefer not to say

Sexual orientation – public testing

- July 2016 Census Test
- High variation across two samples
- Some negative feedback from respondents

| | Online | | Paper | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Heterosexual or straight | 4366 | 91.3 | 4433 | 92.0 |
| Gay or lesbian | 161 | 3.4 | 48 | 1.0 |
| Bisexual | 70 | 1.5 | 36 | 0.8 |
| Other | 33 | 0.7 | 14 | 0.3 |
| Prefer not to say | 126 | 2.6 | 113 | 2.3 |
| Not stated | 25 | 0.5 | 169 | 3.5 |
| Response unidentifiable | | | 6 | 0.1 |
| Total | 4781 | 100.0 | 4819 | 100.0 |

- Relatively high residual categories compared to non-heterosexual population
- Constraints on total amount of content to include for April 2017 Test
- **Was not recommended for further testing**

Final content decisions



Final content recommendations

- Final content sign off in June 2017
- Recommendation of binary sex question, with alternative response option for intersex respondents
- Gender identity and sexual orientation not recommended for inclusion
- Concern over lack of overall progress in delivering information for users in this broad topic area - sexual orientation to be collected in General Social Survey
- Final content report focuses on our concerns over likely output data quality across these topics

6 March 2018 **Let's find out**

Next steps

Biological sex:

- alternative option for people to take part in 2018 Census
- stakeholder work underway to let people know

Next steps

Gender identity:

- 2015 standard, but work remains to create a question that captures all of these aspects in a simple format suitable for self-complete survey like the census
- Testing showed that we wouldn't be able to produce a population estimate

Next steps

Sexual orientation:

- General Social Survey will ask a question on sexual orientation this April.
- Results will be used to inform the wider planning for inclusion in all social surveys.
- Consultation on a standard planned for 2018.