



# Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

## Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Sex Characteristics (SOGISC) Subcommittee

### A Standing Subcommittee of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

Charter (Final Draft, 1/24/2024)

#### 1. Objective

The purpose of this Subcommittee, a standing subcommittee of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM), is to promote coordination between federal agencies on issues relating to measuring sexual orientation and gender identity in federal data collections.

#### 2. Background

Federal statistics on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics (SOGISC) are used to inform policy affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and additional non-straight, non-cisgender identity (LGBTQIA+) populations in the United States. Accordingly, there is interest in improving the measurement of SOGISC.

Although some Federal surveys have collected information describing LGBTQIA+ populations for well over a decade, some aspects of SOGISC have been more routinely measured, collected, and extensively studied than others. SOGISC measures are one specific instance in which Federal statistical programs strive to produce relevant, accurate, and objective statistics while protecting participant confidentiality.

The collection of accurate SOGISC survey data, however, does present several measurement and methodological challenges. The comparatively small, but growing, population of LGBTQIA+ persons in the United States suggests that relatively small sampling or reporting errors can lead to significant errors in description and estimation, requiring an emphasis on precision and accuracy in the measurement of SOGISC. Furthermore, the constructs of gender identity and sexual orientation are becoming more fluid in the United States and some of the terms used by individuals to describe themselves are changing at a rapid rate. Finally, gender and sexuality can be sensitive and politicized topics. The privacy and confidentiality of respondents and respondent data must be handled with care.

### **3. Scope and Approach**

The Subcommittee shall meet on a bi-monthly basis. Individual meetings may be canceled at the discretion of the Subcommittee's Co-Chairs, but the Subcommittee shall have a minimum of four meetings per calendar year.

At these meetings, Subcommittee members shall provide regular updates on:

- any anticipated changes to their agencies' collection or dissemination of SOGISC data;
- research relating to SOGISC measurement; and
- emerging problems and challenges relating to SOGISC measurement.

The Subcommittee shall be responsible for advising the FCSM and the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) on SOGISC measurement issues.

The Subcommittee shall provide technical assistance as needed across Federal agencies on SOGISC measurement issues.

The Subcommittee shall also coordinate and manage meetings of the FCSM Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Sex Characteristics (SOGISC) Interest Group.

### **5. Proposed Deliverables and Dates**

The Co-Chairs shall provide FCSM with regular updates on issues of relevance for the Subcommittee, and shall submit an annual report summarizing the Subcommittee's activities and deliberations as well as the status of SOGISC measurement in federal surveys.

### **5. Sponsor**

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM).

### **6. Communication**

1. The Subcommittee Co-Chairs will provide regular, informal status reports to the sponsor.
2. The Subcommittee will use MAX or other means (e.g., collaboration site through FCSM).
3. As needed, the Subcommittee will plan presentations to other FCSM or federal groups.

### **7. Membership**

The Subcommittee shall be directed by two Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs shall be selected by the FCSM co-chairs. One Co-Chair will be a current member of the FCSM. The Co-Chairs' terms shall be at the discretion of the FCSM co-chairs.

Subcommittee members will be appointed by the Co-Chairs, in consultation with the FCSM co-chairs. Members must be federal civil servants and have demonstrated technical or other expertise in SOGISC measurement. There is no predefined size for the group, but the number of members will be kept to a manageable number. Multiple members are permitted from a single agency.

Members do not have set terms, they serve at the discretion of the Subcommittee and FCSM Co-Chairs.

Members represent themselves.

**FCSM CHAIR SIGNATURES**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Bob Sivinski</b>		
<b>Mark Prell</b>		