



# Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

## Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Sex Characteristics (SOGISC) Interest Group Charter (Final Draft 1/24/2024)

### 1. Objective

The purpose of this interest group is to provide ongoing opportunities for individuals interested in statistical methods or data quality related to measuring sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics (SOGISC) to interact, exchange information, and explore issues related to this topic.

It is open to experts and non-expert federal employees alike. The interest group provides opportunities to identify areas of common research, practice, and challenges, to coordinate collaborative research projects in those areas, and to disseminate relevant information. The group can organize events such as information-sharing sessions, workshops, and conferences. This interest group does not produce Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) or other official government products.

### 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 focus of this group will be to serve as an information-sharing forum for topics relating to the measurement of SOGISC on federal data collections, such as surveys, administrative, and work force collections. This interest group will work with the support of, and in collaboration with, the FCSM Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Sex Characteristics (SOGISC) Subcommittee.

The interest group shall meet on a bi-monthly basis. Additional meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the interest group chairs. Individual meetings may be canceled at the discretion of the interest group chairs, but the interest group shall strive to hold at least four meetings per calendar year.

At these meetings, the format will generally include a presentation of federal or non-federal research or work relevant to the field of SOGISC measurement followed by an opportunity for interest group members to share information (e.g., announcements, requests for information, lessons learned, etc.).

### **5. Sponsor**

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM).

### **6. Communication**

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

### **7. Group members**

The interest group shall be directed by two Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs shall be selected by the FCSM SOGISC Subcommittee Co-Chairs, subject to approval by the FCSM co-chairs. The interest group Co-Chairs' terms shall be at the discretion of the FCSM SOGISC Subcommittee and FCSM co-chairs.

The members of this group must be federal civil servants. However, contractors can provide briefings and participate in specific meetings and workshops.

Members will be familiar or interested in learning about SOGIS measurement. The group will facilitate conversation among experts in SOGIS measurement.

Agencies can have more than one member in the group. Members do not represent their agency.

**FCSM CHAIR SIGNATURES**

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Bob Sivinski		
Mark Prell		