
Subject: SOGIE variables in DHS surveys

Posted by [sfarid](#) on Mon, 17 Jun 2024 20:29:08 GMT

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Our team read the recently published DHS report on SOGIE data--Collecting Diverse Data on Gender and Sexuality in Demographic Health Surveys: An Overview. It was an excellent read and we are working on developing a data brief reviewing some of the data you can access in the surveys mentioned in Table 7. Specifically, we were interested in reviewing crosstabs of FP data with SOGIE topics for (1) 2015 Colombia DHS, (2) 2021 Cambodia DHS, (3) 2019-21 India DHS, (4) 2015-16 Myanmar DHS, and (5) 2015-16 South Africa DHS. I had specific questions about two surveys below.

•2015-16 South Africa DHS:

I was able to find the variables for sex of regular girlfriends/partners in the male file (sm401b), but do you know in which file I can find information on same-sex marriages?

I cannot find the file or variables for the following questions: "Are you currently married or living together with someone as if married?" If the respondent said yes, then "Is this person a woman or a man?"

•2019-2021 India DHS:

Just to confirm, the transgender category is only available in the HR file? I was not able to find it in the IR or MR files. Would you be able to share which file and variable allows me to review data on transgender populations?

Subject: Re: SOGIE variables in DHS surveys

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Tue, 18 Jun 2024 15:13:22 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS Staff Member, Kerry MacQuarrie:

Question on 2015-16 South Africa DHS: I was able to find the variables for sex of regular girlfriends/partners in the male file (sm401b), but do you know in which file I can find information on same-sex marriages? I cannot find the file or variables for the following questions: "Are you currently married or living together with someone as if married?" If the respondent said yes, then "Is this person a woman or a man?"

Answer: In the MR file, this variable is sm401b and in the IR file it's s701b (see below)

A tip on finding survey-specific variables in DHS surveys: These variables are always preceded with an s, and are usually numbered with the question number in the questionnaire.

Question on 2019-2021 India DHS: Just to confirm, the transgender category is only available in

the HR file? I was not able to find it in the IR or MR files. Would you be able to share which file and variable allows me to review data on transgender populations?

Answer: The transgender category is found only in the HR and PR files. Persons who were gendered as transgender were not tagged as eligible for either the woman's or man's questionnaire. (A note on interpretation: We did not ask about all transgender or all identities that would be considered a third category beyond the male/female binary. We specifically asked about the hijra gender identity which is one very specific identity.)

File Attachments

- 1) [sm401b.png](#), downloaded 501 times
- 2) [s701b.png](#), downloaded 512 times
