

Recommended Practices:

1. In order to uphold the Belmont Report ethical principles of respect for persons (treating humans with respect), beneficence (do no harm), and justice (representative sample), researchers should give careful thought to the options provided to participants when collecting demographic data.
2. Researchers must balance the protection of human subjects when including underrepresented populations - namely, minimizing risks to subjects vs. exploitation of vulnerable populations.
3. Researchers should assess whether or not this information about participants is needed to accomplish the goals/aims of the study. If not, the researcher should consider not collecting it at all. If this data is needed, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, and ethnicity are four categories where inclusive options should be provided. See below for suggestions.
4. Regardless of the specific options, consider the following when designing a survey/study:
 - a. Give the participant the option to skip, omit, and/or not respond to any question they do not wish to answer.
 - b. Do not force a response/choice on any demographic question.
 - c. Provide the option to select multiple responses, rather than one single choice, on demographic questions (e.g. “select all that apply” vs. “select one”).
 - d. All human subjects research is required to include a consent process where participants are reminded participation is voluntary.

Suggested Demographic Data Collection Language:

1. Gender Identity Demographic Data Collection Options:

- Female
- Transgender
- Cisgender
- Agender
- Genderqueer
- Prefer not to say
- A gender not listed

2. Sexual Orientation Demographic Data Collection Options:

- Straight/Heterosexual
- Gay or Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Queer
- Asexual
- Prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

3. Race Demographic Data Collection Options:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

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