

Trends of Sexual Orientation Item Nonresponse in The Canadian Community Health Survey*

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Summary The aim of this poster is directly linked to the topics of Gender Summit 11 since assessing the nonresponse pattern of the sexual orientation items facilitates the understanding of the role of variables such as language preference, interview language and immigration status when analysing health surveys. Moreover, the findings contribute to propose more inclusive sexual orientation queries for English speaking minorities and other linguistic minorities living in Quebec in order to address the health inequalities of linguistic and sexual minorities.

1. Relevance

In order to facilitate LGB members' health surveillance, the Canadian Community Health Survey introduced a question on sexual orientation for the first time in 2003. However, the results of sexual-minority research are questionable if the respondents cannot or will not answer this question. Building on the findings that linguistic minorities tend to answer differentially to sexual orientation questions, it is relevant to examine the relationship among sexual orientation item nonresponse and language preference in English speaking people and other linguistic minorities in Quebec.

2. Aims & Objectives

The aim of this presentation is to determine how the sexual orientation item nonresponse rate has changed in Quebec compared to the other provinces using the Canadian Community Health Survey since 2003 until 2015. Since social stigma of being LGB has declined, we hypothesize that the sexual orientation item nonresponse has also declined. However, this effect is different in the case of Anglophone minorities and other linguistic minorities living in Quebec.

3. Methods

Cross-sectional sexual orientation item nonresponse trends (waves from 2003 until 2015) using the CCHS by applying variables such as language preference, interview language and immigration status (born in Canada-born elsewhere).

4. Results

The results are segregated by provinces, language preference, interview language and immigration status.

5. Conclusions

It is important to have more inclusive sexual orientation queries for English speaking minorities and other linguistic minorities living in Quebec in order to address the health inequalities of linguistic and sexual minorities.

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