Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Data Collection

Office of Transgender Initiatives

Board of Supervisors – Government Audit and Oversight Committee October 21, 2021



Why Collect SOGI Data?



- Document inequities in access to City/City-funded services
- Identify areas for improvement in existing services
- Allocate resources to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ residents
- Identify and address policy and service gaps
- Lack of data on unique experiences and needs of LGBTQ+ people

Timeline of SOGI Legislation in San Francisco



Future Possibilities:

- City vendors
- Add'l City Services

SOGI Data Successes

- Significant improvements in data collection over time
- Useful for action to address inequities and gaps
- SOGI data collection is becoming more widespread

• Learned key lessons:

- LGBTQ+ people are best served by programs that explicitly include and reflect our communities
- Continued inequities in access to services between trans participants and cisgender LGBQ+ individuals

Implementation Barriers

Meaning-making of SOGI data is challenging:

- State and/or Federal reporting requirements
- Departments have different data systems (and multiple databases within each Department)
- SOGI data is de-centralized

Issues with SOGI data standard:

- After 5 years, current SOGI data standard may be outdated
- Additional sections of City & County collecting SOGI data
- Potential for SOGI data to become increasingly fractured

Implementation Barriers (Cont'd)

• Capacity limitations:

- Training on SOGI data collection
- Convening and sharing best practices across Departments
- Comparing/contrasting SOGI data across Departments

• Community input:

- Limited opportunities for LGBTQ+ organizations to participate
- SOGI data not currently accessible to general public

The Path to Cohesive & Meaningful SOGI Data

- Coordinated approach across multiple stakeholders
- Develop up-to-date SOGI data standard to meet current needs
- Identify additional capacity for implementation
- Publish meaningful SOGI data for transparency with public

