Reaching Home | Everyone Counts 2021

**Questions and Answers from the Everyone Counts 2021 Webinar: Implementing an LGBTQ2S Inclusive and Affirming PiT Count presented by Dr. Alex Abramovich**

**February 17, 2021**

The following is a summary of the questions and answers we received during the Implementing an LGBTQ2S Inclusive and Affirming PiT Count webinar

Here are links to relevant resources:

PiT Count slack page: [Slack](https://app.slack.com/client/TTLKY1VT9/CT8KDKMKK/details/actions)

Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming, and Safe Homeless Counts : [Video: Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming, and Safe Homeless Counts | Homelessness Learning Hub](https://www.homelessnesslearninghub.ca/library/resources/video-creating-lgbtq2s-inclusive-affirming-and-safe-homeless-counts)

Creating LGBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming, and Safe PiT Counts Toolkit : [LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf (homelesshub.ca)](https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/LGBTQ2S-PiT-Count.pdf)

Glossary of Important Terms on Gender and Sexual Diversity : [Glossary of Important Terms on Gender and Sexual Diversity | Homelessness Learning Hub](https://www.homelessnesslearninghub.ca/library/resources/glossary-important-terms-gender-and-sexual-diversity)

For PiT Count Questions: hpsr@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

**Q: Is it okay to read out the responses for questions such as the gender identity and sexual orientations questions? Has there been any consultation with Dr. Abramovich around this to see if it is okay to read the list out loud for these questions?**

**A:** Depending on the settings, yes, it would be advisable to read out the response options for those questions. It is also encouraged to do this with other questions, so as not to single out those two questions in particular. Normalization of the terms is promoted by saying them more. This also demonstrates to those being surveyed that the surveyors and service providers are comfortable with the subject and related terms.

**Q: Is there a reason the gender identity and sexual orientation questions are treated so differently from other questions? It seems very stigmatizing.**

**A:** The response options for the gender identity and sexual orientation questions are terms that are relatively new and training deepens understanding of the topic for surveyors. It also helps to normalize the terms and create a higher level of comfort for everyone. We hope to move toward a society where these don’t require additional training because the terms are well known and understood.

**Q: Any suggestions on how to show the list to people in a covid-19 context?**

**A:** For the questions that prompt ‘show list to participant’, You could print the full survey, laminate it, hand it to participants before you begin the survey, and sanitize it between participants. Alternatively, you could print copies to distribute to clients to keep (while surveyors still collect the data electronically or on their own paper copies). Another option would be to print the answers out in a large font and have them ready to show participants from 2 metres away.

**Q: What do you think about asking about transgender/cisgender as a separate question? We received advice that someone with trans experience who has become a woman/man would prefer to answer woman/man rather than trans woman/man.**

**A:** This was considered, but decided against. It was felt to discount the participants’ answers to the gender identity question to immediately follow up with a second question on the same subject. We acknowledge that some trans individuals will choose man or woman for their response to the gender identity question (rather than trans) and we respect their choice to identify as such.

**Q: Are the sexual orientation and gender identity questions on the PiT count recommended survey form multiple response or "check all that apply"? If not, do you recommend we capture responses where people identify more than one identity under the "not listed" option?**

**A:** They are single-select questions in HIFIS, but surveyors are welcome to specify multiple identities/orientations within the “Not listed” option. If using paper surveys, multiple options can be selected. However, when digitizing the data, the approach described for HIFIS may need to be employed.

**Q: How should results be reported when there are few responses within the LGBTQ2S categories?**

**A:** Guidance on this issue is provided in the [Creating LBTQ2S Inclusive, Affirming, and Safe PiT Counts guide](https://www.homelessnesslearninghub.ca/library/resources/creating-lbtq2sinclusive-affirming-and-safe-pit-counts). Direction is included on how to roll up responses into larger categories.