

***interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth joins 190 organizations in a call for LGBTQI+ data collection as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) releases a historic report on measuring sex, sexual orientation, & gender identity.***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 9, 2022

CONTACT: Alesdair Ittelson, Law and Policy Director, interACT  
ittelson@interactadvocates.org

Washington, DC, March 9, 2022 — Today an ad hoc panel of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine issued a groundbreaking consensus report focused on advancing data collection on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) as well as sex, including variations in sex characteristics. The report synthesizes existing research, outlines key principles for advancing inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTQI+) people, provides detailed recommendations about how to ask these questions and articulates areas for further research. The report emphasizes that improved and standardized data collection is vital for understanding the challenges LGBTQI+ people face.

In response to this groundbreaking report, 190 LGBTQI+ and allied organizations today released an [open letter calling](#) for renewed efforts to advance SOGI and intersex data inclusion on surveys, in administrative data, and in clinical settings. The letter can be accessed [here](#).

Data collected by private research firms suggest that there are over [13 million](#) LGBTQI+ people in the United States, and the population is growing notably. Scientific estimates suggest as many as 2-5 million Americans were born with intersex traits.

Far too few surveys allow people to identify themselves as LGBTQI+ simply because they do not include sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics questions. The lack of these questions stands in the way of addressing key disparities that LGBTQI+ people experience. We know that data inclusion is a cornerstone of equity, especially for LGBTQI+ people of color, low-income LGBTQI+ people, and transgender and intersex people.

To speak with LGBTQI+ experts about data equity and this report, please contact:

- Cathy Renna, National LGBTQ Task Force, [crenna@thetaskforce.org](mailto:crenna@thetaskforce.org)
- Sharita Gruberg, Center for American Progress, [sgruberg@americanprogress.org](mailto:sgruberg@americanprogress.org)
- Naomi Goldberg, Movement Advancement Project, [naomi@lgbtmap.org](mailto:naomi@lgbtmap.org)
- Alesdair Ittelson, interACT, [ittelson@interactadvocates.org](mailto:ittelson@interactadvocates.org)
- Aaron Ridings, GLSEN, [aaron.ridings@glsen.org](mailto:aaron.ridings@glsen.org)
- Scout, National LGBT Cancer Network, [scout@cancer-network.org](mailto:scout@cancer-network.org)

**interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth** is an intersex-led nonprofit dedicated to advancing the legal and human rights of children born with intersex traits. Founded in 2006, interACT oversees the largest youth-led intersex advocacy group in the United States, is at the forefront of intersex litigation, and regularly advises public and private entities on how best to support the needs of intersex people, while working to bring an end to unnecessary and unwanted childhood surgeries. For more information, please visit [www.interactadvocates.org](http://www.interactadvocates.org)