

UDS Changes: Inclusion of sexual orientation/gender identity (SOGI) in UDS 2016

- As set forth in [PAL 2016-02](#), beginning calendar year 2016, Health Center Program grantees and look-alikes will be asked in Uniform Data System (UDS) to report on SOGI data elements.
- Rationale: Improving the health of the Nation's underserved communities and vulnerable populations by assuring access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services is a priority of the Health Center Program. Sexual orientation and gender identity can play a significant role in determining health outcomes. Gaining a better understanding of populations served by health centers, including sexual orientation and gender identity, promotes culturally competent care delivery and contributes to reducing health disparities overall. In addition, adopting sexual orientation and gender identity (SO/GI) data collection in the UDS aligns with the 2015 Edition Health Information Technology (Health IT) Certification Criteria, 2015 Edition Base Electronic Health Record (EHR) Definition, and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) Health IT Certification Program. Alignment of UDS SOGI data elements with ONC certification criteria also reduces overall health center reporting burden.
- We understand that EHR vendors are currently working to meet the new certification standards. As a result, HRSA will not take punitive action against any grantee who reports a hardship in reporting sexual orientation and gender identity data. While it is routine practice to collect a sexual health history as a part of primary care, we also understand additional training and technical assistance may be necessary to support the appropriate and culturally sensitive collection of sexual orientation and gender identity information. HRSA has developed a robust set of technical assistance resources to support grantees with SOGI data collection and is committed to working with grantees who may have challenges in collecting this information.
- HRSA funds the National LGBT Health Education Center based out of Fenway Health in Boston, MA as a National Training and Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement to provide training and technical assistance on LGBT health care needs and services to health centers across the nation. They offer a range of training topics that respond to the needs expressed by health centers and that reflect current research findings and national initiatives.
- To support health centers to collect sexual orientation/gender identity (SOGI) data elements, the National LGBT Health Education Center has developed training and technical assistance resources around collecting SOGI data elements, which are available here: <http://www.lgbthealtheducation.org/topic/sogi/>. In addition to the materials already on their website, they will be rolling out additional materials in the coming months to support this effort.
- Their first activity was hosting a national webinar "Do Ask, Do Tell! Collecting Data on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Health Care Settings" which was held on April 5 has been archived and is available for on-demand viewing on their SOGI webpage. Additionally, beginning May 4, they will be launching monthly SOGI focused office hours to allow health centers to ask questions and engage with national experts.
- Additional activities to be developed in the coming months include:
 - Updating a print publication

- Developing online learning modules
- Live presentations at national/regional conferences
- Meeting with the top five vendors for health centers to support the health IT components of collecting SOGI
- Providing one on one phone consultations to interested health centers