

Inclusive Demographic Data Collection

Vote Yes for SB 2133 (Sen. Simmons)

In order to effectively address health and social service disparities in Illinois and to target state resources, Illinois state agencies and the healthcare system need to securely and consistently collect demographic data on individuals who access healthcare services and government programs, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SB 2133 would expand demographic data collection by hospitals and state agencies:

- State agencies would be required to collect demographic data on the age, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity of individuals who utilize major services administered by state government. These demographic groups are in addition to the requirement in the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus educational equity pillar that state agencies collect racial and ethnic demographic data.



THE ISSUE FOR LGBTQ ILLINOISANS

The LGBTQ community is diverse with unique and significant health disparities and barriers to healthcare that often lead to poor outcomes across behavioral and physical health. Likewise, **anecdotal stories show that the LGBTQ community faces significant disparities in the social determinants of health and barriers in accessing government-funded services and supports that would address those challenges.**

Currently, the State of Illinois does not require routine data collection on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) that would address the health disparities and other disparities found within the LGBTQ community and among its subpopulations.

Amid the COVID-19 global pandemic, this lack of routine data collection prevents an accurate outlook of the coronavirus' impact on the LGBTQ community in Illinois. Research studies have shown that LGBTQ people are more likely to have chronic conditions and other risk factors that can increase vulnerability to COVID-19. LGBT older people for example, face higher rates of social isolation. Although this evidence suggests that LGBTQ people may be disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, without systematic SOGI data collection, we don't know what disparities may exist in COVID-19 diagnosis, health outcomes, and vaccination for LGBTQ people. This is especially alarming for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous LGBTQ people given that we know that COVID-19 is having a disproportionate impact on these communities. **Unfortunately, without routine demographic data collection, we don't fully know the impacts on Black, Latinx, and Indigenous LGBTQ Illinoisans. Illinois must do better.**

THE BENEFITS OF SB 2133

SOGI data collection has multiple benefits, including:

- the ability to measure and report disparities in healthcare access and outcomes,
- support the development of culturally appropriate interventions with LGBTQ individuals,
- justify the allocation of funds towards LGBTQ-specific services, and
- track improvements in community health for the achievement of health equity.

APPLICABILITY OF SB 2133

SB 2133 would require expanded demographic data collection by hospital systems and the following state agencies:

- State Board of Education
- Department on Aging
- Department of Central Management Services
- Department of Children and Family Services
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of Healthcare and Family Services
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Transportation

CONTACTS

Mike Ziri – Equality Illinois – mziri@egil.org – (217) 899-7459

Timothy Jackson – AIDS Foundation Chicago – tjackson@aidschicago.org – (256) 200-8878

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

(in alphabetical order)



**CENTER
ON 3656 N.
HALSTED**



Northwestern |  Institute for Sexual and Gender-Minority Health and Wellbeing
Evaluation, Data Integration, and Technical Assistance Program (EDIT)



sage | Advocacy & Services for LGBTQ Elders
We refuse to be invisible®