

# HEALTH CENTER PATIENT SURVEY (HCPS)

## Years Survey Included Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM)- Related Questions

2014–Present

### Survey Description

The Health Center Patient Survey (HCPS) is administered by the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) at the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA), and collects data every five years on patients who use health centers that receive federal funds under the Health Center Program authorized by section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b). The four types of federal funding programs under section 330 are the Community Health Center (CHC) (330(e)) program, the Migrant Health Center (MHC) (section 330(g)) program, the Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) (section 330(h)) program, and the Public Housing Primary Care (PHP) (section 330(i)) program.

The HCPS captures comprehensive and nationally representative patient-level data. Data guide and support the BPHC in its mission to improve the health of the nation's underserved communities and vulnerable populations by ensuring access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services. The core sections of the survey are introduction, access to care, routine care, conditions, follow-up conditions, cancer screening, health center services, health insurance, prescription medication, dental, mental health, substance use, prenatal care/family planning (females aged 15–49), HIV testing (all respondents aged 18+), living arrangements, income and assets, and demographics.

### Survey Sample Population

The HCPS target population is patients of all ages who are served by Health Center Program sites (under section 330) operating in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The HCPS excludes patients of Health Center Program sites in United States territories and possessions (Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Basin).

The HCPS sample population is selected in three stages:

1. Awardee-Level Selection and Recruitment: BPHC selects and recruits Health Center Program awardees in the most current Uniform Data System (UDS) data. The UDS contains site-level

information about each health center’s federal funding type(s) (CHC, MHC, HCH, PHPC), service utilization, and patient volume. Health Center Program awardees with more than a 20% concentration of patients who self-identify as Asian, American Indian, or Alaska Native (AIAN), or as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (NHPI), are selected with higher rates. Selection also varies by type of federal funding received by an awardee. Find more information on stage 1 selection in the 2014 Health Center Patient Survey Data File User’s Manual (see “General Information” in the “Survey Links” section).

2. **Site-Level Selection:** BPHC selects health center sites within the Health Center Program awardees included in stage 1. If a Health Center Program awardee receives funding from multiple programs, then Health Center Program sites are selected independently for each funding program. Sites with high concentrations of patients in at least one of the three racial or ethnic categories (Asian, AIAN, NHPI) are selected with higher probabilities than sites with low concentrations.
3. **Patient-Level Selection:** BPHC selects patients who had at least one visit to a selected Health Center Program site from stage 2 in the past 12 months. Receptionists in selected sites randomly select, screen, and recruit patients for the survey as patients enter the site and register for services. All eligible patients are directed to HRSA’s field interviewers, who are hired to be on site during the data collection period.

From October 2014–April 2015, 169 Health Center Program awardees (representing 303 programs [163 for CHC, 49 for MHC, 54 for HCH, 37 for PHPC]) out of 251 were recruited, 520 health care center sites operating in the participating awardees were selected, and 7,002 patients were interviewed, reaching the HCPS target goal of 6,600 interviews.

**Survey Mode**

The HCPS is conducted as an in-person interview using computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) software. The survey is conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean. Receptionists of selected Health Center Program sites ask screener questions prior to each interview, to determine the eligibility of sampled patients who enter the site and register for services. HRSA’s hired field interviewers then ask the core questionnaire at the site or at a location chosen by a respondent either before or after the medical appointment. If a sampled patient is 12 years of age or younger, a parent or guardian completes a proxy interview. All respondents who participate in the survey receive incentives in the form of cash or a cash equivalent (e.g., food voucher, gift card).

**SGM-Related Survey Questions**

*Screener*

The questions below are asked of all HCPS respondents and proxy respondents.

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Identity	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Sexual Attraction	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Sexual Behavior	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.

Category	Question	Question History
Gender Identity	<p>(S_INT3) IF SELF-RESPONDENT: RECORD; IF NOT OBVIOUS, ASK: What is your gender?</p> <p>[SHOW ONLY FOR RESPONDENTS AGE 13 YEARS OLD, NON PROXY INTERVIEWS:] IF R ANSWERS THAT THEY ARE TRANSGENDER AND WHICH KIND IS NOT OBVIOUS—PROBE IF THEY ALTERED GENDER FROM MALE TO FEMALE OR FROM FEMALE TO MALE</p> <p>IF PROXY-RESPONDENT, ASK: What is {name's}gender? 1=MALE 2=FEMALE 3=OTHER</p>	<p>This is the current version of the question, and it has been used since 2014.</p> <p>The interviewer is instructed to probe further to determine the specific transgender type for respondents ages 13 or older only.</p> <p>The gender identity of respondents who meet screening requirements (those who had at least 1 visit to a selected Health Center Program site in the past 12 months) are verified in the core survey to distinguish biological sex and gender identity. See INT3, INT3_OTH, and INT3_SPEC for more information.</p>
Household Relationships	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.

### Survey

The questions below are asked of all HCPS respondents and proxy respondents who meet screening requirements.

Category	Question	Question History
Sexual Identity	<p>(DMO8a) [IF INTAGE GE15 CONTINUE, ELSE GO TO DMO12] Do you think of yourself as straight or heterosexual, as gay, lesbian or homosexual, or as bisexual? 1=STRAIGHT OR HETEROSEXUAL 2=GAY, LESBIAN, OR HOMOSEXUAL 3=BISEXUAL 4=NOT SEXUAL/CELIBATE/NONE 5=OTHER (DMO8a_OTH) [IF DMO8a=5 CONTINUE, ELSE GO TO DMO9] Please specify your sexual orientation. _____ [ALLOW 40]</p>	<p>This is the current version of the questions, and they have been used since 2014.</p> <p>These questions are asked to respondents ages 15 or older only.</p>
Sexual Attraction	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.
Sexual Behavior	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.

Category	Question	Question History
Gender Identity	<p>(INT3) What is {your/NAME's} gender?            [IF INTAGE GE13]: NOTE: IF R ANSWERS THAT THEY ARE TRANSGENDER AND WHICH KIND IS NOT OBVIOUS— PROBE IF THEY ALTERED GENDER FROM MALE TO FEMALE OR FROM FEMALE TO MALE</p> <p>1=MALE            2=FEMALE            [IF INTAGE GE13: 3=FEMALE TO MALE TRANSGENDER/ TRANSMAN]            [IF INTAGE GE 13: 4=MALE TO FEMALE TRANSGENDER/ TRANSWOMAN]            [IF INTAGE GE 13: 5=GENDERQUEER]            [IF INTAGE GE 13: 6=OTHER]            (INT3_OTH) [IF INT3=6 CONTINUE, ELSE GO TO INT3_SPEC]            Please specify {your/Name's} gender.            _____ [ALLOW 40]</p> <p>(INT3_SPEC) [IF INT3=5 OR 6 CONTINUE, ELSE GO TO INT4]            We have entered your gender as {INT3 RESPONSE: Genderqueer OR INT3_OTH RESPONSE: FILL}. In this interview, questions will appear based on gender. For example, we only ask questions about mammograms to females of a specific age. Since this is a research study collecting medical-related data, could you tell us about your biological gender at birth?</p> <p>NOTE: IF RESPONDENT SAYS THEY WERE BORN WITH BOTH GENITALIA, PROBE TO DETERMINE WHICH SEX WAS LISTED ON THEIR BIRTH CERTIFICATE.            1=MALE            2=FEMALE</p>	<p>This is the current version of the questions, and it has been used since 2014.</p> <p>The interviewer is instructed to probe further to determine the specific transgender type for respondents ages 13 or older only.</p>
Household Relationships	Currently no questions are asked in this category.	Not applicable.

## Response Rates

Table 1 shows an interviewing response rate of 91.4%; Table 2 shows final cooperation rates by funding type from October 2014–April 2015. Of respondents who agreed to complete the screener and who were determined to be eligible, cooperation rates ranged from a low of 87% for MHC patients to a high of 96% for HCH patients.

**Table 1: Completed Interviews for Patient Survey**

Funding Type	Target Interview Goal	Interviews Completed	Percentage of Interview Goal Completed
CHC	3,630	3,965	109.2%
PHPC	550	590	107.3%
HCH	1,210	1,230	101.7%
MHC	1,210	1,217	100.6%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>7,002</b>	<b>106.1%</b>

**Table 2: Final Cooperation Rate for Patient Survey**

Sample Category		Number	Percentage of Confirmed Eligibles
<b>By Funding Type</b>			
CHC	Confirmed eligible	4,470	N/A
	Refusals, breakoffs, and other nonresponses	505	11.3%
	Total completed interviews	3,965	88.7%
PHPC	Confirmed eligible	629	N/A
	Refusals, breakoffs, and other nonresponses	39	6.2%
	Total completed interviews	590	93.8%
HCH	Confirmed eligible	1,283	N/A
	Refusals, breakoffs, and other nonresponses	53	4.1%
	Total completed interviews	1,230	95.9%
MHC	Confirmed eligible	1,399	N/A
	Refusals, breakoffs, and other nonresponses	182	13.0%
	Total completed interviews	1,217	87.0%

## ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

The HCPS is a separate survey conducted by HRSA that collects person-level data to complement awardee- and site-level information from the UDS. The UDS is an annual mandatory reporting system that is completed by health centers and provides awardee- and site-level information about health centers that have Health Center Program characteristics (also known as Health Center Program look-alikes) and/or receive federal funding (under section 330).

For more information about UDS, a summary of this reporting system is available in the CMS SGM Clearinghouse at: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/resource-center/hcps-and-researchers/data-tools/sgm-clearinghouse/index.html>.

## Organizations Involved

The BPHC in HRSA is responsible for conducting this survey.

## Survey Links

### *Questionnaires*

The 2014 HCPS data File Codebook can be accessed from the link below, under “2014 Survey Data Information.” <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/datareporting/research/hcpsurvey/index.html>

The 2014 version of the HCPS questionnaire is available at the Reginfo.gov site below. <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/Forward?SearchTarget=PRA&textfield=0915-0368>

### *Data*

2014 was the first year that HCPS data were available to the public. Data files, in SAS, SPSS, and Stat formats, can be accessed by following the instructions under “2014 Data Files” at the link below. <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/datareporting/research/hcpsurvey/index.html>

An interactive data tool called the “Health Center Patient Survey Dashboard” can be accessed at the link below. <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/datareporting/research/hcpsurvey/dashboard.html>

### *General Information*

All information on the HCPS can be found on HRSA’s Health Center Patient Survey website, including an overview of the survey, contact information, and links to the dashboard, 2014 data files, related articles, codebook, user manual, and SAS formats catalog. <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/datareporting/research/hcpsurvey/index.html>

## References

Bureau of Primary Health Care. Health Resources and Services Administration. Uniform Data System (UDS). <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/datareporting/reporting/index.html>

Federal Interagency Working Group on Improving Measurement of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Federal Surveys. Current Measures of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Federal Surveys. Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology. (2016). [https://nces.ed.gov/FCSM/interagency\\_reports.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/FCSM/interagency_reports.asp)

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. U.S. General Services Administration. OMB Control Number 0915-0368. <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/Forward?SearchTarget=PRA&textfield=0915-0368>