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**Findings and Recommendations from Round 2 of
Cognitive Testing the New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (NYCHVS)**

Rodney L. Terry
Mikelyn Meyers
Shelley Feuer
Paul Beatty
Marcus Berger
Angela O'Brien
Patricia Goerman

Center for Behavioral Science Methods
Research and Methodology Directorate
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20233

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Abstract

In collaboration with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the U.S. Census Bureau's Center for Behavioral Science Methods (CBSM) conducted two rounds of cognitive testing for the New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (NYCHVS). Both rounds were conducted to test new and revised content across several pre-existing modules, including modules on housing quality, residential history, and utilities. Testing in both rounds also compared two versions of a module on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). In addition to testing content, goals for revision of the NYCHVS include adapting the instrument from an interviewer-administered paper survey to the CAPI mode. The purpose of this report is to document findings and recommendations from the second round of cognitive testing in English, which was conducted in October of 2019 and consisted of 18 cognitive interviews in English with New York City residents.

Keywords: cognitive interviewing, SOGI, housing survey

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Executive Summary

In collaboration with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the U.S. Census Bureau's Center for Behavioral Science Methods (CBSM) conducted two rounds of cognitive testing for the New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (NYCHVS). Both rounds were conducted to test new and revised content across several pre-existing modules, including modules on housing quality, residential history, and utilities. Testing in both rounds also compared two versions of a module on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). The purpose of this report is to document findings and recommendations from the second round of testing only. Findings from Round 1 can be found at

<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2020/adrm/rsm2020-04.pdf>.

Round 2 was conducted in October 2019. Staff from CBSM conducted 18 cognitive interviews with New York City residents. Recruitment heavily focused on home owners and the employed to help compensate for an overrepresentation of renters and the unemployed, respectively, in the first round. Regarding employment status, race/ethnicity, and sex, the most represented groups in the second round were the employed, Blacks/African Americans, and females, respectively. Blacks/Africans and females were overrepresented in both rounds, and this likely did not impact our ability to address the purposes of the cognitive test.

In addition for Round 2, respondents had similar income, debt, and public assistance types with little variation. For example, no respondents reported having legal debt or having Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) public benefits. In any future testing, we recommend recruiting more respondents with a variety of types of income, debt, and public assistance, as we think we did not have enough diversity to better draw conclusions on these topics.

Cognitive testing methodology consisted of concurrent and think-aloud probing. Due to time constraints, respondents were shown only a subset of the modules of the larger NYCHVS survey during each interview.

Findings overall showed that respondents had little to no difficulty with most questions. In situations where the respondent had difficulty interpreting or responding to a question, it was the case that the respondent did not understand terms in the question or response options, or experienced situations that appeared to be slightly out of scope for the question. In other instances, respondents were not confused by the question, but gave responses that although were irrelevant to the question, were believed to be relevant to their own situations and could provide meaningful information for the survey. To help resolve these issues, we recommend revising terms, clarifying the intent and scope of some of the questions, and training interviewers on how to handle the range of responses the question may elicit.

In particular, there were technical concepts and program names that were unfamiliar to many respondents, including concepts like rent stabilization, refinancing, second mortgages, etc. We recommend creating a glossary of technical terms that could potentially be incorporated into the instrument in order to assist interviewers in the field, and also devoting substantial interviewer training time to these concepts. We also recommend training interviewers on topics like accurately

collecting income, unique situations with payments for utilities, and mortgage and other home finance topics.

While testing questions relating to sexual orientation and gender identity provided important qualitative information about some respondents’ reactions to or interpretations of these questions (e.g., a lack of familiarity with the term “intersex”), we recommend a larger field test and behavior coding to evaluate differences in question performance.

Another theme that emerged, in addition to a lack of familiarity with technical terms and a need for specialized interviewer training, was the importance of speaking to a knowledgeable respondent, and also ambiguity regarding who to include as a household member. We recommend HPD consider including questions at the beginning of the survey to determine which household members are most knowledgeable about housing and income, and also that interviewers be trained on how to guide respondents when they are unsure who to count as a household member.

Methods

In October of 2019, CBSM staff conducted 18 cognitive interviews to pretest the redesigned New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (NCYHVS). These interviews were conducted in English, and comprised the second round of cognitive pretesting of the redesigned NYCHVS¹. Due to time constraints, respondents were shown a subset of the modules in the larger NYCHVS (see Table 1 below for more information on how many respondents were administered each module).

Table 1. Number of Respondents Who Were Administered Each Module in Round 2

Modules	
Housing Quality	18
Household Roster	18
Residential History (renters)	7
Residential History (owners?)	18
Housing Costs (owner)	9
Condo/Coop Costs	9
Utilities	17
Income	8
Housing Search	16
Housing Costs (Renter)	9
Public Benefits	18
Debt	5
Assets	16
Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity [Path A first, followed by Path B]	5
Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity [Path B first, followed by Path A]	7
Phones	18

¹ In Round 1, the Spanish translation of the redesigned NYCHVS was also cognitively pretested. Due to overlap with the review process for finalizing the translations, the Spanish translation was not cognitively pretested in Round 2.

In Round 1 of cognitive testing, the Housing Costs (owner), Condo/Coop Costs, and Utilities² modules were seen by fewer than five respondents, due to the demographic characteristics of respondents in that round, who were mostly renters. To address this issue, recruitment for Round 2 disproportionately focused on respondents who qualified for these modules in order to draw firmer conclusions regarding how the question wording in those modules is working. In Round 2 there was an improvement, as these modules were seen by nine or more respondents per module in Round 2.

A. Participants

The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) recruited respondents from a pool of New York City residents with a variety of demographic characteristics for cognitive testing (see Table 2 below). HPD recruited by advertising with community organizations and conducting intercept recruiting. Potential respondents were screened individuals for eligibility over the phone and in person. In Round 2, most respondents were employed and female. In addition, equal numbers of respondents were renters and owners.

Table 1. Round 2 Participant Characteristics

Age	
26-62	11
62+	6
Missing	1
Employment	
Employed	11
Not in Labor Force	5
Missing	2
Race	
White	6
Black	10
Asian	2
Sex	
Male	5
Female	12
Missing	1
Housing Tenure	
Renter	9
Owner	9

B. Cognitive Interview Protocol

As in Round 1, the protocols used in this study focused on respondents' reactions to new and revised questions in the New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey. The specific type of

² In the production NYCHVS instrument, owners are also eligible to receive the Utilities module, but in the Round 1 cognitive testing protocols, only renters were shown the Utilities module in order to keep interview length to 60 minutes or less.

cognitive interview consisted of two methods. The first is the concurrent think-aloud method, in which cognitive interviewers instructed respondents to describe aloud their thoughts, feelings, and interpretations while answering a question. The second method is the retrospective probing method, where interviewers ask the respondent follow-up questions after a question or groups of questions is completed (Willis, 2005). Retrospective probes were added to questions that were the target of testing. However, all questions in the protocol were asked for context, and if we observed problems or issues with those questions, we probed on them as well.

At the start of the interview, Census Bureau staff told respondents that the purpose of the study was to see how well the NYCHVS worked. Respondents were also told that information they provided would be confidential and their anonymity would be preserved. Interviewers instructed respondents to read and sign a consent form before the interview began. Respondents were also asked for permission to audio record the interview.

Interviewers then asked respondents to complete the interview as if an interviewer had come to their home. In addition to asking the NYCHVS questions, interviewers also asked respondents probing questions that according to the protocol were designed to address specific testing issues for that particular question. The interviewers made notes of any response difficulty, including question incomprehension and the inability to decide on a response.

Finally, interviewers asked respondents a set of debriefing questions at the end of the interview that gave respondents the opportunity to express their overall impressions, as well as make any other final comments. Interview times ranged from 30 minutes to 69 minutes, with an average time of 53 minutes per interview. See Appendix A for the complete protocol.

Results

Below are the results of Round 2 cognitive testing presented by module. Current question wording is shown first, followed by findings and analysis, along with any recommendations and recommended wording. Throughout this report, text highlighted in yellow denotes a recommended change to the current text.

A. Housing Quality

Question C4 and C7

Current Question Wording

C4. Does your [apartment/ house] have complete plumbing facilities? [IF NEEDED: That is, hot and cold piped water, a flush toilet and a bathtub or shower?] [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard C4]

1. Yes, has complete plumbing facilities
2. No, has some but not all facilities in this apartment (house)

3. No plumbing facilities in this apartment (house)

C7. Does your [apartment/house] have complete kitchen facilities? [IF NEEDED: Complete kitchen facilities include a sink with piped water, a range or cookstove, and a refrigerator.]

[INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard C7]

1. Yes has complete kitchen facilities
2. No, has some but not all facilities in this apartment (house)
3. No kitchen facilities in this apartment (house) but facilities available in building
4. No kitchen facilities in building

Findings

One respondent was confused about the use of the word “complete” in both of these questions, even after the interviewer read the “if needed” statements. She said that to her, “complete” meant that something was not broken, and said the definition of “complete” was subjective. This interpretation may be idiosyncratic.

Recommendation

We recommend no changes to these questions at this time. Consider asking interviewers how often they have to read the IF NEEDED text during interviewer debriefing focus groups. If interviewers are found to have to read this script often, make the examples a part of the question.

Question C8

Current Question Wording

C8. Are these facilities for the exclusive use of this household or are they also for use by another household?

5. For the exclusive use of this household
 6. Also for the use of another household
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent answered that the facilities were for the exclusive use of the household, because she considered two apartments connected by a door to be one household with shared facilities. However, the respondent did not show any difficulty when answering the question in this case because the people living in both apartments are part of one family.

Recommendation

We recommend no changes to this question.

Question C26

Current Question Wording

C26. During this winter when your regular heating system was working, did you, at any time, have to use additional sources of heat because your regular system did not provide enough heat? Additional sources may be the kitchen stove, a fireplace, or a portable heater.

1. Yes
 2. No
999. I did not live here during this winter
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Recommended Question Wording

C26. During this winter when your regular heating system was working, did you, at any time, have to use additional sources of heat, such as a kitchen stove, a fireplace, or a portable heater, because your regular system did not provide enough heat?

1. Yes
 2. No
999. I did not live here during this winter
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent interrupted the interviewer with an answer at the end of the main body of the question, prior to having heard the “additional sources” definition. Although in this case, the respondent likely would not have changed her answer had she heard the definition, embedding the additional text into the main body of the question may help prevent respondent break-ins to interrupt the interviewer.

Recommendation

We recommend adding the example text into the body of the question, rather than as a separate sentence. This change would increase the chance that examples that communicate the intent of the question be heard by every respondent.

Question C29

Current Question Wording

C29. At any time in the last 90 days have you seen any mice or rats, or signs of mice or rats in this building? [Interviewer note: Exclude pets. Read answer choices out loud]

1. Yes
 2. No
999. I did not live here during the past 90 days
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Recommended Question Wording

C29. At any time in the last 90 days have you seen any mice or rats, or signs of mice or rats inside this building? [Interviewer note: Exclude pets. Read answer choices out loud]

1. Yes
 2. No
999. I did not live here during the past 90 days
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

Similar to what we saw in Round 1 testing, multiple respondents answered that there were mice outside of the building. One respondent in particular asked for clarification about whether the question was asking about the mice being inside the apartment building or the apartment itself.

Recommendations

1. We recommend changing “in” to “inside” to emphasize the location that we are asking respondents about.
2. We recommend considering adding an interviewer note to advise interviewers in cases where the respondent asks whether this question refers to the whole building or an individual apartment, and how to help respondents understand that the question is asking about the whole building. Alternatively, this topic could be discussed during interviewer training.

Question C38

Current Question Wording	Recommended Question Wording
<p>C38. Has water leaked into your [apartment/house] in the last 12 months, excluding leaks resulting from your own plumbing fixtures backing up or overflowing? [IF NEEDED: Do you still have a leak?]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, I had a leak (go to C39) 2. Yes, I still have a leak (go to C39.1) 3. No (go to C6) <p>999. I did not live here during the last 12 months (go to C6) (VOL) DK (go to C19.5) (go to C6) (VOL) RF (go to C19.5) (go to C6)</p>	<p>C38. Has water leaked into your [apartment/house] in the last 12 months [IF NEEDED: Do you still have a leak?]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, I had a leak (go to C38a) 2. Yes, I still have a leak (go to C38a) 3. No (go to C6) <p>999. I did not live here during the last 12 months (go to C6) (VOL) DK (go to C19.5) (go to C6) (VOL) RF (go to C19.5) (go to C6)</p> <p>C38a. Did this leak come from your own plumbing fixtures backing up or overflowing, or did the leak come from plumbing fixtures from another apartment or source?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My own plumbing fixtures (go to C39 if past or C39.1 if current) 2. From another apartment/source <p>(VOL) DK (go to C19.5) (VOL) RF (go to C19.5)</p>

Findings

One respondent interrupted the question after the “last 12 months” phrase because the respondent’s situation was very severe and noteworthy, although the interviewer did finish reading the question. This respondent complained of knee-level flooding that was coming from the respondent’s water line, though it was not clear that this should not be counted because it may be counted as part of the respondent’s own “plumbing fixtures.” It seems that this respondent was answering the question as if it were about water problems, regardless of the qualifiers that were added to the question. It may be that she was not taking the qualifying statements into account, or it may be that she wanted to report this leak to HPD regardless of whether it was technically in scope.

Recommendations

This question is cognitively burdensome for respondents to understand due to the number of clauses they have to process before answering. It may also be subject to overreporting if respondents want to report leaks to HPD. We recommend breaking this question into two parts by asking first about whether a leak had happened, and then asking about the source of the leak (i.e., whether it was internal or external), to correct overreporting and reduce cognitive burden.

Question C41

Current Question Wording

We just talked about a lot of different housing issues. You told me that you have experienced [a breakdown in your heating equipment/a need to use additional sources of heat/seeing signs of mice or rats/broken plaster or peeling paint/cracks or holes in the interior walls or ceiling/holes in the floors/toilets not working/water leaking into your (apartment/house)].

I'm going to read a list of things people sometimes do in order to get a housing problem fixed. For each one, please tell me whether it is something you did to get any of those issues resolved.

Did you seek help by contacting the somebody in charge of building maintenance?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know
4. Refused

Recommended Question Wording

We just talked about a lot of different housing issues. You told me that you have experienced [a breakdown in your heating equipment/a need to use additional sources of heat/seeing signs of mice or rats/broken plaster or peeling paint/cracks or holes in the interior walls or ceiling/holes in the floors/toilets not working/water leaking into your (apartment/house)].

I'm going to read a list of things people sometimes do in order to get a housing problem fixed. For each one, please tell me whether it is something you did to get any of those issues resolved.

Did you seek help by contacting **the** somebody in charge of building maintenance?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know
4. Refused

Findings

1. There is a typo in the question. "...contacting the somebody" should be "...contacting somebody".
2. No respondents had any difficulty or confusion at this question.

Recommendations

1. We recommend correcting the typo "contacting the somebody."

Question C28

Current Question Wording

C28. Now we'd like to ask you about some additional problems you may have experienced.

At any time during October 2018 to May of 2019, was there a time when you did not have hot water for at least 6 hours?

1. Yes
 2. No
999. I did not live here during [reference period]

Findings

1. One respondent reported that their hot water was turned off for planned maintenance, but did not view this as a problem. The respondent replied "no" to the question.

- For Round 2, a reference period was added to help frame the question to a particular time period. Respondents reacted to this new feature with no difficulty.

Recommendations

- We recommend that the sponsor confirm whether maintenance work (scheduled or unscheduled) is out of scope for this question. Consider providing interviewer training on this topic or including a read if needed note.
- Keep the reference period in the question.

Question C27.1

Current Question Wording	Recommended Question Wording
C27.1 Does your [apartment/ house] have one or more functioning through wall or window air conditioner?	C27.1 Does your [apartment/ house] have one or more functioning through-the-wall or window air conditioner?
1. Yes	1. Yes
2. No	2. No

Findings

Multiple respondents discussed what was meant by “through wall” air conditioners. In one case, it seemed that the respondent considered ductwork a “through wall” system, while another respondent was not sure if her units below her windows would count, since they were not controlled by a thermostat, but rather each unit had its own setting.

Recommendations

- We recommend adding the word “the” for increased readability: “Do you have one or more functioning through-the-wall or window air conditioners?”
- Train interviewers on the differences between central, through-the-wall, and window air conditioning, and how to handle situations when the respondent is unsure.

Question C47

Current Question Wording	Recommended Question Wording
C47. How much of a problem are noisy neighbors in your building? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard C47,C48]	C47. How much of a problem are noisy neighbors in your building? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard C47,C48]
1 A big problem	1 A big problem
2. Somewhat of a problem	2. Somewhat of a problem
3. Not a problem	3. Not a problem
4. I do not see this in my building	4. I do not see this in my building
Don't know	Don't know
Refused	Refused

Findings

One respondent pointed out that the third and fourth response options are very similar. Another respondent pointed out that it was neighbors in the neighborhood streets that were noisy, and not those in the same building.

Recommendations

We recommend that HPD verify whether distinguishing between respondents who are not bothered by noisy neighbors versus respondents who do not have noisy neighbors is necessary analytically.

If not, we recommend deleting response option four (“I do not see this in my building,” as it may not be mutually exclusive with response option three for some respondents (“Not a problem”).

Question C15

Current Question Wording

C15. What would you say is the age of most of your kitchen appliances?

1. Less than a year
2. One year or more but less than 5 years
3. 5 or more years but less than 20 years
4. 20 or more years

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

Several respondents have talked about having appliances of different ages. Because of the variance in age of appliances reported, it may be difficult to get an accurate response that covers all appliances. Respondents mapped their response onto the response options via different procedures by giving the age of the majority of appliances.

Recommendations

We recommend determining the intent and scope of this question. It may be necessary to revise the question if greater accuracy is needed than what is spurred by the current wording.

Question C12

Current Question Wording

C12. In your building, do you have a washer, dryer or combination washer/dryer in working order?

1. Washer (Go to C16)
2. Dryer (Go to C16)
3. Comination Washer/Dryer (Go to C16)
4. None (Go to C13)

C13. [Ask only if C12=4] In your [house/apartment], do you have a washer, dryer or combination washer/dryer in working order?

1. Washer (Go to C16)
2. Dryer (Go to C16)
3. Comination Washer/Dryer (Go to C16)

Recommended Question Wording

C13. In your [house/apartment], do you have a washer, dryer or combination washer/dryer in working order?

1. Washer (Go to C16)
2. Dryer (Go to C16)
3. Both a washer and a dryer (Go to C16)
4. A combination Washer/Dryer (Go to C16)
5. None (Go to C12)

C12. In your building, do you have a washer, dryer or combination washer/dryer in working order [IF YES to X: besides what you have in your apartment unit]??

1. Washer
2. Dryer
3. Both a washer and a dryer
4. A combination Washer/Dryer
5. None

Findings

1. Multiple respondents pointed out that this question should allow multiple responses, since many respondents answered that they had both a washer and a dryer, but not a combination washer/dryer. One respondent pointed out that a “combination washer/dryer” is a single appliance. Other respondents did not say this outright, but listed their washer and dryer separately.
2. Two respondents were confused whether C12 included washers and dryers in the respondent’s unit or only those in common areas of the building.

Recommendations

1. We recommend switching the order of C12 and C13 to ask about the respondent’s unit first before asking about the building.
2. The question as it is currently written does not tell respondents that they can choose one or more options. Consider adding a response option for respondents who have both a washer and a dryer, so that if interviewers read the options aloud, the multiple response format is more obvious to respondents. Alternatively, if it is not important to collect information on combination washer/dryer units, we recommend replacing response option 3 with “A washer and a dryer”.
3. We recommend correcting the typo in response option 3 for the word “combination.”

Question N8

Current Question Wording

N8. Do you have a functioning buzzer that allows you to let guests into the building? [Interviewer Notes: A phone/intercom/virtual doorman counts as a buzzer. Interviewer codes reference person response.]

1. Yes, my buzzer allows me to let guests in the building
 2. No, my buzzer is not functioning and/or does not allow me to let guests in the building
 3. No, I do not have a buzzer
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

1. Some respondents had situations that did not fit neatly into the response options. One respondent had a buzzer that worked, but the buzzer did not directly let people into the building. Rather, the buzzer alerted a human concierge who would let the person in.
2. Other respondents let people in using their phones. In these cases, the outside person would buzz the person’s apartment, the buzz would call the respondent's phone, and the respondent would dial a number (e.g., 1) to let the outside person in. These respondents answered “yes” to the question.

Recommendations

- A. We recommend accounting for systems that might not technically be a “buzzer,” such as a concierge. This topic could be addressed in training, or by revising the interviewer note to include the word “concierge” if concierges are in scope at this question.

- B. This question is double-barreled. Consider splitting the question into two parts: one part about whether there is a buzzer or alert system, and a second part about whether that system allows the respondent to let someone into the building.

B. Household Roster

Question A42

Current Question Wording

A42. How many people live in this [apartment/house]?

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent mentioned that her living situation was fairly complicated, since she lived in a house with two other people in which all three people rented individual rooms, but shared some common spaces. The respondent answered “three” people for this question. It was unclear to the interviewer if she should have been listed as a single person household.

Recommendations

We believe that it is important to acknowledge ambiguity in situations where people live together but may not know each other and have separate arrangements with the landlord. Interviewers will need to be trained on how to determine if a case like this should be considered as one household or three separate households within one housing unit. If it is one household, interviewers may need to be trained to follow up with each resident individually on topics such as income and rental expenses.

Question A1

Current Question Wording

A1. What is the first name or initial of each person who lives here, starting with yourself? We don’t need full names. We just need to have some way to refer to them when we ask some follow-up questions.

[Interviewer instruction: After respondent stops listing people, ask “**Anyone else?**”]
[INTERVIEWER: .]

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Recommended Question Wording

A1. What is the first name or initial of each person who lives here, starting with yourself? [Read if needed: We don’t need full names. We just need to have some way to refer to them when we ask some follow-up questions.]

[Interviewer instruction: After respondent stops listing people, ask “**Anyone else?**”]
[INTERVIEWER: .]

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

The majority of respondents only used initials when proxy reporting, but this may have only been because of the instructions in the question. There did not seem to be any indication that respondents wanted to avoid using full names prior to them hearing the instruction “we don’t need full names.”

Recommendations

As in Round 1, we think that the instruction about providing initials is prompting respondents who were comfortable providing their name to provide initials instead. While this may not be problematic, it is possible that it causes some respondents to be concerned about confidentiality who were not concerned before hearing this instruction. Consider making the instruction about full names “read if necessary” text.

Question A3

Current Question Wording	Recommended Question Wording
A3. What is [person]’s relationship to you? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard A3]	A3. What is [person]’s relationship to you? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard A3]
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Husband/wife 2. Child 3. Brother/sister (stepbrother/sister) 4. Father/mother 5. Father-in-law/mother-in-law 6. Grandchild 7. Grandparent 8. Other relative (cousin, nephew, etc) 9. Roomer/boarder 10. Unmarried partner 11. Housemate/roommate 12. Other non-relative (VOL) DK (VOL) RF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Husband/wife 2. Unmarried partner 3. Child 4. Brother/sister (stepbrother/sister) 5. Father/mother 6. Father-in-law/mother-in-law 7. Grandchild 8. Grandparent 9. Other relative (cousin, nephew, etc) 10. Roomer/boarder 11. Housemate/roommate 12. Other non-relative (VOL) DK (VOL) RF

Findings

1. One respondent noted that the term “unmarried partner” was very far down the list away from “husband/wife,” and that “unmarried partner” should be closer to “husband/wife.” Respondents may perceive this list as containing an inherent ranking of closeness to the reference person, so having “unmarried partner” ranked below a “roomer/boarder” may be offensive to some respondents.
2. It was also noted that some of the terms in the response options are gender-specific and some of them are not. For example, “father/mother” is gender-specific (as opposed to “parent”), whereas “grandparent” is not gender-specific (as opposed to “grandfather/grandmother”). We think the current question wording is not problematic in English, and note that making “brother/sister” non-gender-specific (i.e., “sibling”) would probably make this response option harder to understand.

Recommendations

1. We recommend moving “unmarried partner” up the list of response options so that it follows “husband/wife.”

C. Residential History (Renter)

Question M44

Current Question Wording	Recommended Question Wording
M44. What year did your current lease start?_____ (VOL) DK (VOL) RF	M44a. What year did you move into your current residence?_____ (VOL) DK (VOL) RF
	M44. What year did your current lease start?_____ (VOL) DK (VOL) RF

Findings

The meaning of the question seems to be confusing to some respondents. Three respondents who were all on one-year leases responded with answers that exceeded a year in the past. It seems that these respondents are giving the year that they moved into their current units and signed their first lease there rather than when they most recently renewed their leases.

Recommendations

1. We recommend asking a separate question about when the respondent moved into their current residence. Question M44 would follow that.
2. We also recommend interviewer training on this question, so that interviewers might be able to identify situations when respondents' answers to this question do not seem to correspond with previous responses.

Question I23.5

Current Question Wording
I23.5 Is your [apartment/ house] under Rent Control, Rent Stabilization, or Neither? 1. Under Rent Control 2. Under Rent Stabilization 3. Neither 4. Don't Know

Findings

Respondents did not seem to understand the response options. Multiple respondents either did not know the difference between Rent Stabilization and Rent Control, or were not sure how to respond because they did not know what the terms meant.

Recommendations

We recommend adding definitions of Rent Stabilization and Rent Control as read if needed text, as well as training interviewers on the difference between the concepts.

D. Residential History (All)

Question M5

Current Question Wording

M5. Now, I'm going to ask about where you lived before. Before moving into your [house/apartment], were you homeless or in a temporary housing situation? [Interviewer Note: Code staying with family or friends, staying in a hotel or Airbnb, or sublet that wasn't a primary residence as a temporary housing situation. Temporary can be any length of time, as defined by the respondent.]

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Recommended Question Wording

M5. Now, I'm going to ask about ~~where you lived before the last place you lived.~~ Right before moving into your [house/apartment], were you homeless or in a temporary housing situation?

[Interviewer Note: Code staying with family or friends, staying in a hotel or Airbnb, or sublet that wasn't a primary residence as a temporary housing situation. Temporary can be any length of time, as defined by the respondent.]

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

1. Some answers given by respondents may be out of scope for this question. One respondent defined “temporary housing” as “not your forever home.”
2. Another respondent gave a response of a housing situation she had lived in, but it was not her housing situation immediately prior to her current situation. When probed, this respondent said that “before” to her meant “sometime before” (i.e., ever).

Recommendations

1. We recommend determining the types of situations that are in scope for this question, and discussing which situations are in scope during interviewer training.
2. We recommend changing “where you lived before” to “the last place you lived,” and adding “right” before the term “before.” to make it clear that the scope of this question is the housing situation immediately prior to the current situation, rather than asking whether the respondent was ever homeless or in temporary housing. We think these changes will help add clarity.

Question M7

Current Question Wording

M7. We are asking about the place you lived because it helps us know a little more about the neighborhood and the city services that were accessible there. What was the address of the last place you lived?

-
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Recommended Question Wording

M7. What was the address of the last place you lived? [Read if Necessary: We are asking about the place you lived because it helps us know a little more about the neighborhood and the city services that were accessible there.]

-
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

Respondents did not seem to have any difficulty answering this question. However, the project team discussed how the opening statement might cause alarm to respondents who did not otherwise express concerns.

Recommendations

We believe that the opening statement for this question could potentially be alarming to respondents, especially if the respondent has not expressed any concern about the question. We recommend moving the opening statement into a “read if necessary” section.

Question M9

Current Question Wording

M9. What was the zip code of the last place you lived?

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

Some respondents had a difficult time remembering the answer to this question. In one case, it was because the respondent had moved so long ago that the respondent did not remember. Another said that the zip code of the previous residence had changed, but the respondent provided a guess.

Recommendations

We have no recommendations for this question, but note that data quality at this item may be poor under some circumstances.

Question M15

Current Question Wording

M15. If you had not moved out of your last address, could you have lived there for another year?

1. Yes

2. No

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

Respondents seemed to understand the question in different ways. The question wording is ambiguous, since “could you have lived there” can be interpreted as “would you have been allowed to live there” or as “could you bring yourself to live there,” or “could you afford to still live there.” The intent is not defined in the question.

Recommendations

We recommend confirming with sponsor the intent of the question, and revising the wording of the question based on the intent.

Question M18

Current Question Wording

M18. In your last home, did the landlord ever start an eviction proceeding against the people that lived there?

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

It seems that at least two respondents who are currently owners rented their last places of residence. Based on skip patterns in CBSM protocols, these respondents would not have seen this question.

Recommendations

We recommend verifying the production instrument skip pattern to determine if this question would be asked based on whether the respondent's previous home was rented, rather than just their current place of residence.

E. Income

General Findings and Recommendation for this Module

This Income Module asks about income for all adult household members from a range of sources, including, wages, child support, retirement income, etc. One of the respondents who had housemates was not sufficiently knowledgeable about their income to provide responses to this module for other household members. Additionally, most respondents who were recruited for Round 2 had similar types of income (e.g., wages, unemployment, and disability), so questions that estimate yearly income for incomes rarely reported (e.g., survivor benefits and child support/alimony) were not sufficiently tested. We recommend that the next time the NYCHVS instrument undergoes pretesting, this module undergo further testing with respondents who receive more diverse types of income.

Question E17

Current Question Wording

E17. In the last 12 months, did [you/NAME] receive income from any of the following sources? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard E17.]

- 1 Wages, salary, tips, bonuses, or commissions
- 2 Income from self-employment such as a free-lancer or contractor, net real estate income including short-term rental of part or all of your apartment/home, or income from a business that is not incorporated
- 3 Disability benefits including SSI, SSDI, or a disability pension
- 8 Unemployment

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Retirement income including Social Security or | 9. Other |
| 5 Survivor benefits for [person] or [person] on behalf of others | None of the above |
| 6 Regular payments from dividends, annuities, stipends, estates, trusts, or royalties | (VOL) DK |
| 7 Child support, alimony, or similar | (VOL) RF |

Findings

There was some confusion among respondents about the difference between response options one (“wages...”) and two (“income from self-employment...”). Some respondents did not understand option one to mean that the pay came from a job, possibly because of the terms “bonuses, or commissions.” Option two was sometimes misunderstood to more broadly include any employment income rather than only self-employment income.

Recommendations

We recommend further testing, particularly of response options one and two. Consider testing a revised response option one that does not include the phrase “bonuses or commissions” with respondents who receive bonuses and commissions to see if they are still able to correctly select response option one. Consider testing this question with response option two presented before response option one to see if this makes the distinction between employment and self-employment more salient to respondents.

Question E20

Current Question Wording

E20. In the last 12 months, did [person] receive any one-time lump sum payments, such as inheritance, settlement of a lawsuit, or buyout from a landlord?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

Findings

The interviewer had to repeat the question for one respondent. This respondent wondered if this was something the respondent had to pay. This misunderstanding may have been idiosyncratic.

Recommendations

We recommend no changes to this question.

Question E21

Current English Question Wording

E21. In the last 12 months, how much did [person] earn from wages, salary, tips, bonuses, and commissions?

- \$ _____
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

Findings

Respondents often had a difficult time calculating the answer to this question, both for themselves and for other people in the household. A major reason was that some respondents tended to know their income on a monthly basis, or had incomes that were sporadic and not paid in equal amounts throughout the year. One respondent also noted that it was not clear whether the answer to this question should be before or after taxes and other deductions.

Recommendations

1. We recommend including training for interviewers, in which they practice helping respondents with these calculations so that the question flows seamlessly. Training would include translating monthly income to yearly income, and asking for estimates of income made during the course of the year when income is not made in equal amounts throughout the year.
2. We recommend adding an instruction and interviewer training regarding whether the answer should be calculated before taxes and other deductions, or after taxes and other deductions.

Question E37

Current Question Wording

E37. It seems like the combined income for the people who live here was [Calculate total household income] last year. Does that seem right?

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

Sometimes respondents had trouble recalling exact figures. As in E21, some respondents had a difficult time calculating the total for this question.

Recommendations

We recommend no changes to this question at this time, but note that data quality may vary based on respondents' particular circumstances and familiarity with household income.

Question F3

Current Question Wording

F3. Have you set aside emergency or rainy day funds that would cover your expenses for 3 months, in case of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or other emergencies?

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent interrupted the interviewer to say "yes," and the interviewer finished reading the question. Although the response was "yes," when the interviewer probed further about the amount

that the respondent saved, the amounts did not seem to match up with previous answers about income. It was unclear if this misunderstanding was idiosyncratic, due to social desirability concerns, or because the respondent did not listen carefully to the question.

Recommendations

We recommend no changes to this question at this time.

F. Housing Search

Question M34

Current Question Wording

M34. Are you planning to move in the next 2 years?

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent answered “no” to this question, but also said that she wanted to move to a higher floor within the same building. This respondent interpreted “move” as meaning “move to a different building.” Some other respondents said that they wanted to move, but did not have concrete plans to do so.

Recommendations

We recommend confirming that the way respondents are interpreting the question is the way the question is meant to be interpreted. That is, is “move” intended to refer to only moving to a different building? Also, does “planning” in this case refer to having a concrete plan in place?

Question M35

Current Question Wording

M35. [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard M35] Of the things on this list, which three are the most important to you when choosing your next home?

1. Cost of the apartment/house
2. What I am able to pay at this time
3. Ability to remain in the home safely and securely
4. Physical condition of the apartment [house]
5. Size of the apartment [house]
6. Apartment amenities (dishwasher, laundry, balcony, etc)
7. Physical condition of the building
8. Building amenities (elevator, laundry, gym, etc)
9. Neighborhood amenities (parks, museums, stores, etc)
10. Neighborhood safety

- 11. The time it takes to get to work
- 12. School quality
- 13. Proximity of family and friends
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

Findings

- 1. Some respondents had difficulty picking out three responses from such a long list of options.
- 2. One respondent noted that response options one (“cost...”) and two (“what I am able to pay...”) are very similar.

Recommendations

- 1. We recommend reviewing the intent of this question to determine if it could be made less cognitively burdensome for respondents. For example, is there any reason that the question is asking for the top three responses in particular? Could respondents list every reason that is important to them, and then select which one of those reasons is the most important to them? Could the list be shortened?
- 2. We also recommend considering whether response options one and two can be combined into a single response option.

Question M37

Current Question Wording

M37. When are you planning to move?

[INTERVIEWER CODED]

- 1. Within the next month
- 2. More than a month, but in the next six months
- 3. More than six months, but in the next year
- 4. More than a year, but in the next two years
- 5. More than two years

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

Some respondents had difficulty answering this question, because it assumes that the respondent has a definite plan in place for moving. Some respondents only had vague plans to move. One respondent seemed to guess when she thought she might move, but then gave a different answer during probing.

Recommendations

We recommend addressing this question in training with interviewers. In conjunction with training on question M35, interviewers can guide respondents by indicating the intent of these questions.

Question M38, Z, and M39

Current Question Wording

M38. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your [apartment/house] as a place to live?

Recommended Question Wording

Z. [Ask only if reference person moved in to the neighborhood in the last 5 years] On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best and 1

10 is best, 1 is worst _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Z. [Ask only if reference person moved in to the neighborhood in the last 5 years] **On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best and 1 being worst, how would you rate your neighborhood as place to live when you first moved there?** [Interviewer Note: As far back respondent remembers]
10 is best, 1 is worst _____

M39. **On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best and 1 being worst, how would you rate your current neighborhood as a place to live?**
10 is best, 1 is worst _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

being worst, how would you rate your neighborhood as place to live when you first moved there? [Interviewer Note: As far back respondent remembers]
10 is best, 1 is worst _____

M39. **On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best and 1 being worst, how would you rate your current neighborhood as a place to live?**
10 is best, 1 is worst _____
(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

M38. **On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your [apartment/house] as a place to live?**
10 is best, 1 is worst _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

1. Some respondents seemed to interpret the scope of this series of questions as broader or narrower than we think HPD intended. For example, in question M38, some respondents talked about the whole building in addition to their apartment. For question Z, one respondent seemed to change how she defined her neighborhood between questions. Initially for question Z, the respondent described the neighborhood as large section of New York City, and then for M39, described the neighborhood as a subsection of that larger section. In addition, while most respondents seemed to understand the difference between what Z and M39 were asking, one respondent answered Z as though it were M39 and vice versa. However, we consider these last two reactions to be idiosyncratic.
2. The range of reasons that respondents gave for their ratings was highly varied, ranging from how secure they felt, to whether there were nice bars and restaurants, to how much they liked their neighbors.

Recommendations

1. Reordering these questions may make their intended scope clearer to respondents. Consider going from general to specific by asking about the neighborhood first (questions Z and M39), and then the apartment (question M38).
2. As an alternative to Recommendation 1, train interviewers to be aware of and account for situations where respondents talk about their neighborhood as part of their response to questions about their apartment. In these cases, the interviewer could inform respondents that they will ask about their respondent's neighborhood after asking about their apartment. A "read if needed" instruction could be scripted as a resource for interviewers to read aloud if necessary.

G. Housing Costs

Question N3.1

Current Question Wording

N3.1 What is the MONTHLY rent for this [apartment/house], according to [the lease/the agreement with the landlord]?

Interviewer Note: Do not include fees, see next question

\$____.00

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

Some respondents were unsure whether they should report only the total amount that they pay out of pocket, or the total amount that the landlord receives from all sources, including roommates and the money the respondent received from public assistance.

Recommendations

We recommend adding a clarifying statement concerning what the answer should include, especially with regard to situations in which multiple people pay for shares of the rent and situations in which respondents might be receiving public assistance.

Question N3.2

Current Question Wording

N3.2 Some landlords charge fees in addition to rent such as for a dishwasher or a pet. Do you pay any regular fees apart from your rent?

Interviewer Note: If yes, make sure that contract rent does not include these fees.

1. Yes

2. No

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

Respondents generally seemed to understand this question. However, there was one respondent who mentioned paying a maintenance fee, but she did not think that counted for this question, and thus responded “no.”

Recommendations

Confirm whether maintenance fees should be included in the respondent’s answer. In interviewer training, provide examples of the different types of fees that are in scope at this question. Consider including some text on the screen for interviewers with these examples.

Question B52.1

Current Question Wording

B52.1 Was any part of last month's rent for your [apartment/house] paid by any of the following government programs, either to someone who lives here or directly to the landlord?

1. Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher
2. Shelter Allowance/City FEPS
3. SCRIE/DRIE
4. Other assistance that pays part of my rent
5. No (skip to B50)

Findings

1. One respondent knew that she received assistance, but she did not know which of the response options fit her situation. She eventually decided to answer with response option two (“shelter allowance/City FEPS”). CBSM did not test these questions with enough respondents to definitively know whether this confusion was idiosyncratic or indicative of a problem with the response options.
2. Another respondent would normally have had Section 8 payments made to the landlord, but those payments were being withheld because the maintenance fee was not paid, though there is a possibility that this withholding was temporary.

Recommendations

We recommend no changes to this question at this time. Consider whether interviewer training on the different housing programs might help interviewers guide respondents to the correct response options.

Question B50

Current Question Wording

B50. Was any part of last month's rent for your [apartment/house] paid by an employer or someone who doesn't live here?

1. An employer of someone in the household
 2. A family member or another person that doesn't live with you.
 3. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent uses public assistance to pay for all of her rent, which calls into question the intent of this question. Does the payment described in this question include money that the respondent receives via public assistance? Public assistance could be interpreted as “someone who doesn’t live here.”

Recommendations

1. Clarify whether money from public assistance is considered payment from the respondent or from the public assistance provider.
2. Cover this decision during training so that interviewers will know how to handle responses to this question.

Question B58.5

Current Question Wording

B58.5 Which of the people that live in the [apartment/house] are on the lease?

Select all household members that apply

Findings

One respondent included her baby grandson as a person on the lease. No other respondents seemed to have difficulty with this question. We think this may have been a misreport.

Recommendations

We recommend no changes to this question at this time.

Question B58.6

Current Question Wording

B58.6 During the past 12 months were [you/you and the people who live with you] ever late paying the rent because there wasn't enough money at the time?

1. Yes
2. No

Findings

One respondent received this question based on the skip patterns. It seemed that she should not have received this question, since her rent was paid by another program and she does not personally pay anything for rent out of pocket.

Recommendations

We recommend reviewing the skip pattern that leads to this question to ensure that this question is presented only to those it applies to.

Question B58.7

Current Question Wording

B58.7 During the past 12 months, did [you/you and the people who live with you] pay all or part of the rent using any of the following:

1. Used a credit card that wasn't paid off in the same month
2. Used savings
3. Sold or pawned something
4. Took out a loan
5. None of the above

Recommended Question Wording

B58.7 During the past 12 months, did [you/you and the people who live with you] pay all or part of the rent using any of the following:

1. Used A credit card that wasn't paid off in the same month
2. A credit card that was paid off in the same month
3. Used Savings
4. Sold or pawned something
5. Took out a loan
6. None of the above

Findings

Some respondents found the word “used” in response option two to be confusing, since it seemed ambiguous and could mean savings the respondent had at one point that have since been used to pay for something (i.e., already spent).

Recommendations

- A. We recommend eliminating the word “used” from the response options, since this word is not necessary and can lead to ambiguities in the response options.
- B. Response option one is a double-barreled response option. We recommend splitting the response option into two to avoid this issue.

H. Public Benefits and Coverage

General Recommendation for this Module

The Public Benefits and Coverage asks of household members information about financial assistance from the government, such as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). In this round, many questions in this module were not tested because the respondents did not have the appropriate characteristics. We recommend any future testing prioritize recruiting respondents with more types of public benefits in order to more thoroughly test this module.

Question P1

Current English Question Wording

P1. Last month, did you or anyone else who lives here receive assistance or payments from any of the following?

[INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard P1]

Check all that apply

Interviewer note: We will ask separately about any other help you get for housing costs.

1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 2. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 3. Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
 4. None
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Recommended English Question Wording

P1. Last month, did you or anyone else who lives in this [house/apartment] receive assistance or payments from any of the following? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard P1]

Check all that apply

Interviewer note: We will ask separately about any other help you get for housing costs.

1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 2. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 3. Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
 4. None
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent was confused by the “lives here” text in the question. She was confused about whether this meant in her apartment or unit, or in the building.

Recommendations

We recommend changing the word “here” in the question to “in this [house/apartment].”

Question P1.8

Current Question Wording

P1.8. Last month, did you or anyone else who lives with you receive assistance or payment from another public benefit or welfare program?

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent mentioned his spouse getting SSI benefits and a pension, but wasn't sure if this should be included. The respondent eventually settled on responding “yes.”

Recommendations

Confirm whether SII should be included as part of an answer to this question. If so, consider adding an interviewer instruction that indicates SSI should be included.

Question P14

Current Question Wording

P14. In the last 12 months, how many months did you and the other people who live here receive WIC benefits?

\$ _____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

Only one respondent answered this question. This respondent seemed to have trouble answering, since her first answer was “since he was a baby,” referencing her grandchild. The respondent then explained how benefits are added to the benefits card that is replenished as needed, and that benefits are available each month. However, the child’s mother does not consistently get the benefits replenished each time, and is unsure of the mother’s consistency in doing so. Ultimately, the respondent said “just put 3 months”, which the interviewer did not feel was accurate for her situation.

Recommendations

We recommend further testing of this question.

H. Debt

General Recommendation for this Module

The Debt Module includes questions about the types of debt adult household members have, including student loans and medical bills. In this round, many questions in this module were not tested because the respondents did not have the appropriate characteristics. We recommend that any future testing prioritize recruiting respondents with more types of public benefits in order to more thoroughly test this module.

Question F53

Current Question Wording	Recommended Question Wording
Altogether, is this more or less debt than you had five years ago?	Altogether, is this more, less or about the same debt you had five years ago?
1. More	1. More
2. Less	2. Less
3. About the same	3. About the same
(VOL) DK	(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF	(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent was confused by the question and another initially said “less debt,” and then “more,” and ultimately decided it was about the same. The respondent was confused because the respondent’s most accurate answer was “the same,” but that response option was not in the question wording.

Recommendations

We recommend adding, “the same,” i.e. “more, less or the about same debt...” to the question itself.

I. Assets

Question F54

Current Question Wording	Recommended Question Wording
Please tell me all of the types of assets that you have from Response Card F54:	Please tell me all of the types of assets that you have from Response Card F54:
1. Checking account	1. Checking account
2. Savings account	2. Savings account
3. Equity in a business	3. Equity in a business
4. Car	4. Car
5. Property other than your own home	5. Property other than your own home
6. Retirement plan	6. Retirement plan
7. Educational savings account	7. Educational savings account
8. Other Investments	8. Other Investments (e.g. X)
9. Anything else of value more than \$5,000	9. Any item of value more than \$5,000
10. None (skip to probes)	10. Cash
11. (VOL) DK	11. None (skip to probes)
12. (VOL) RF	12. (VOL) DK
	13. (VOL) RF

Findings

1. One respondent asked what “other investments” meant. He said that it meant “stocks” to him and because he has stocks in his retirement plan, he included “other investments” as an asset. However, because the respondent also reported having a retirement plan, his “other Investments” response was redundant and a misreport.
2. One respondent asked if “anything else of value more than \$5000” was referring to one item that is worth more than that amount, or a combination of items that is worth more than \$5000.
3. One respondent commented that “cash” was not included in the assets list and another commented that “inheritance” was not included.
4. As in round 1, several respondents mentioned “a pension” which is not explicitly mentioned in the response options, though it could be a kind of retirement asset.

Recommendations

1. We recommend adding examples of “other investments,” and train interviewers to avoid including retirement plan stocks as an “other investments.”
2. Confirm the meaning of the “anything else of value more than \$5000” response option. If this refers to a single item worth more than \$5000, then that should be clearer, e.g. “any item” instead of “anything else.”
3. We recommend adding “cash” as a response option.
4. As recommended in Round 1, consider testing a revised response option for “retirement plan:” “retirement plan or pension.” Alternatively, train interviewers to code any mentions of a pension as a retirement plan.

Question F55

Current Question Wording	Recommended Question Wording
--------------------------	------------------------------

Not including your home, would you say that the current value of all of those assets is \$10,000 or more?

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Option 1:

Not including your home, would you say that the current value of [list all assets given by R in F54] all of those assets is \$10,000 or more?

- Yes
No
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Option 2:

Not including your home, would you say that the current value of all those assets everything that you just mentioned is \$10,000 or more?

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Option 3:

Not including your home, would you say that the current value of all of those assets, that is, everything that you just mentioned, is \$10,000 or more?

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

Some respondents were confused by the phrase “current value of all those assets.”

Recommendations

We have three alternative recommendations to address this finding.

- a. Revise the question to reference only the assets that the respondent mentioned in F54 by adding a fill. OR
- b. Replace the phrase, “current value of all those assets” with “current value of everything that you just mentioned.” OR
- c. Add a clarifying phrase after “current value of all those assets.”

J. Housing Costs (Owners)

General Recommendation for this Module

The Housing Costs Module asks questions about the expenses related to owning a home, including mortgage. Several of the questions on purchases and mortgages were confusing to co-op owners. Specific recommendations for individual questions are documented below, but in general we recommend devoting a substantial amount of interviewer training time to co-op living situations,

and having interviewers practice administering this module to homeowners in co-op living situations.

Question B43

Current Question Wording

Who is/are the current owner(s) of this [apartment /house]?

Person # _____ (mark owner on roster)

Co-owned by someone outside of the household

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

Most respondents who were asked this question answered it without difficulty, and selected either themselves or themselves and their spouse or partner. However, one ambiguous situation involved a respondent with a co-op who had an HDFC proprietary lease and a share certificate. This respondent reported being the owner of the apartment, and it was unclear to the interviewer if that was the correct response.

Recommendations

We recommend devoting a substantial amount of interviewer training time to co-op living situations, and having interviewers practice administering this module to homeowners in co-op living situations.

Question B44

Current Question Wording

B44. In what year did [you/owner] buy this [apartment/ house]? _____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

Most respondents were able to provide an exact year without apparent difficulty, although one resident of a co-op selected “don’t know.” One respondent had some difficulty answering because she switched apartments with someone else living in the same building once the building “went private.” She wasn’t sure whether to answer with the original date or the date of the switch.

Recommendations

1. We recommend unusual circumstances like moving within the same building be covered during interviewer training.
2. Confirm whether moving within the same building is a common occurrence. If so, consider also including an optional interviewer instruction that can be read if needed. For example, “READ IF NEEDED: If the respondent moved to another apartment in the same building, record the most recent year of purchase.”

Question B2

Current Question Wording

B2. What was the purchase price of this [apartment/ house]?

1. \$ _____
2. Don't know

Findings

1. Respondents seemed to have more difficulty with this question than some of the previous questions, particularly those who live in co-ops. One respondent living in a co-op selected “don't know” and reported during think aloud while deciding how to answer the question, that the answer may have been \$5000. Another respondent who lived in a co-op reported paying “\$7,500” for his shares of the co-op.
2. One respondent was uncertain how to respond because she purchased the home as part of a lottery. As a result, the purchase price was far less than the retail value of the home. The respondent felt that reporting the actual purchase price gave an incorrect sense of its market value.

Recommendations

1. We recommend including the topic of housing lotteries in interviewer training.
2. If purchasing homes for far below market value via housing lotteries is a relatively common occurrence, consider adding an optional interviewer instruction that can be read if needed. For example, “IF NEEDED: Record actual purchase price and not current market value.”

Question B3

Current Question Wording

B3. What was the down payment for the [apartment/ house]?

1. \$ _____
2. Don't know

Findings

1. At least two co-op owners found this confusing, and were not sure there was a down payment per se. One respondent only reported the part of the down payment that she personally contributed; apparently there were other contributions as well. Another respondent was unsure of the exact amount because her partner handled the transaction.
2. One respondent was confused how to answer this question because she had paid a down payment at the initial purchase of the apartment within the building. She subsequently switched apartments with another resident in the building and did have to pay to make that transition, but was unclear if that was a “down payment.”

Recommendations

1. We recommend devoting a substantial amount of interviewer training time to co-op living situations, and having interviewers practice administering this module to homeowners in co-op living situations. This training could also cover respondents who move within the same building.
2. Consider adding an interviewer instruction that can be read if needed to address respondents who only contribute part of the down payment, or are unsure of the amount. For example,

“READ IF NEEDED: What was the *total* down payment from all sources? Your best guess is fine.”

Question B4

Current Question Wording	Recommended Question Wording
<p>B4. Did any of the following help with [your/owner's] down payment? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B4] Check all that apply</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. NYC program or grant2. Federal program or grant3. Federal homebuyer loan4. Non-Profit assistance5. Gift or other personal loan <p>(VOL) DK (VOL) RF</p>	<p>B4. Did any of the following help with [your/owner's] down payment? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B4] Check all that apply</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. NYC program or grant2. Federal program or grant3. Federal homebuyer loan4. Non-Profit assistance5. Gift or other personal loan6. None of the above <p>(VOL) DK (VOL) RF</p>

Findings

1. One respondent chose answer category one (“NYC program or grant”), but had limited knowledge. She explained that HPD, or some component of it, had a program that matched what the buyer put down. She seemed to be answering correctly, but did not recall many specific details.
2. During interviewing, we noticed that there is no option for “none of the above.”

Recommendations

1. Add a “none of the above” option.
2. Consider creating a glossary with definitions available to those who may need them regarding specific housing programs. Perhaps this glossary could be integrated into the CAPI instrument and pulled up as needed.

Question B8

Current Question Wording
<p>B8. Which of the following [do you /does OWNER] have? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B8] (Check all that apply)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First Mortgage2. Second Mortgage3. Home Equity Loan4. Home Equity Line or Credit5. Reverse Mortgage6. Something else7. None of these (skip to b46) <p>(VOL) DK (VOL) RF</p>

Findings

1. This question was problematic for some respondents. One respondent reported a home equity loan, but probing revealed that it was actually an equity line of credit, which was used to pay off the initial mortgage.
2. Another respondent was uncertain about the meaning of “second mortgage.” She seemed to think that refinancing might be a “second” mortgage. She reported both a first and second mortgage at this question.
3. One co-op owner commented that they did not have equity per se, so there was no possibility to get a reverse mortgage, for example. Another co-op owner selected “none of these” but noted while responding to the question that there is a mortgage on the building that shareholders pay a part of and they can deduct that from their taxes.

Recommendations

1. Consider creating a glossary with definitions available to those who may need them regarding terminology relating to home ownership. Perhaps this glossary could be integrated into the CAPI instrument and pulled up as needed.
2. We recommend spending substantial time on this question during interviewer training, particularly on the similarities and differences between each of these loan types.

Question B10

Current Question Wording

B10. If [you/owner] were to pay off the full amount of [LOAN] how much would [you/owner] have to pay?

Round to the nearest whole dollar

\$ _____ .00

Enter 9999998 for \$9,999,998 or more

For Home Equity Line of Credit where there is no balance enter a 1.

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

1. For one co-op owner, the only mortgage involved was on the building itself. He reported the payoff amount for the building (“one to two million dollars”) rather than the apartment.
2. One respondent reported a dollar amount, but noted that she was precluded from paying the balance early because there were stipulations against that in her mortgage.

Recommendations

1. Consider adding an interviewer instruction to address early pay-off penalties and co-op living situations.
2. Address the topic of early pay off of a mortgage as well as co-op ownership of buildings in interviewer training.

Question B17 and B18

Current Question Wording

B17. What year did [you/owner] refinance?

_____ Enter year from 1900 to 2017

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B18. [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B18] **Homeowners refinance for many reasons. I am now going to read you a list of reasons people give for refinancing. Please tell me if any of these reasons apply to [you/owner]. Did [you/owner] refinance to:**

Read all categories

Enter all that apply

- 1. Suspend or temporarily reduce mortgage payments**
- 2. Receive cash or increase the outstanding balance of the loan**
- 3. Increase the payment period**
- 4. Reduce the payment period**
- 5. Reduce the monthly payment**
- 6. Get a lower interest rate**
- 7. Any other reason**

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent was unsure if they refinanced or not. This respondent used a home equity loan to pay off the mortgage and have a reduced interest rate, and decided to consider this a type of refinancing. This respondent reported that the home equity loan was taken out four to five years ago when answering B17, and selected options four (“reduce the payment period”), five (“reduce the monthly payment”), and six (“get a lower interest rate”) at question B18.

Recommendations

1. Consider creating a glossary with definitions available to those who may need them regarding terminology relating to home ownership. Perhaps this glossary could be integrated into the CAPI instrument and pulled up as needed.
2. We recommend devoting training time to the topic of refinancing to help interviewers assist respondents through this module.

K. Condo/Coop (Owner)

Question B5

Current Question Wording

B5. What are the monthly condominium or co-op maintenance fees for this [apartment/ house]? Exclude payments for any mortgage (loans) on this unit.

\$_____ per month

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

1. During testing, the maintenance fee was found to potentially fluctuate across months because it can include the assessment or the electric bill. If prevalent, this would raise the difficulty of accurately responding to this question.
2. One respondent talked about reconciling fees if needed, as fees have been increased and the respondent did not pay the increase at first, and it is unclear how this issue should be addressed.

Recommendations

1. We recommend significant interviewer training time be devoted to co-op living situations. This training should cover fluctuating fees.
2. Consider adding an interviewer instruction that can be read aloud if needed with information on fluctuating fees (e.g., 'Your best guess is fine.')

Question B6

Current Question Wording

B6. In the last year, have you or anyone living here paid an assessment on this condo or co-op? [IF NEEDED: An assessment is a temporary charge that is in addition to your maintenance fees. For example, It can be used to cover a one-time expense or a major repair or improvement.]

1. Yes

2. No

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent initially did not understand the question, but hearing the definition helped.

Recommendation

We recommend no changes to this question at this time.

Question B33

Current Question Wording

B33. Is any household member receiving a Senior Citizen Carrying Charge Increase Exemption as part of the SCRIE program?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

Findings

Overall, two of the four participants asked this question seemed unsure about their answers. For example, one respondent reported not knowing whether he was part of the program yet, as he was close to meeting the age requirement.

Recommendations

1. Consider training interviewers on the details of this program and its requirements for participation.
2. Consider adding an optional definition of the SCRIE program for respondents who are unsure of what the program is.

L. Utilities

Question B36

Current Question Wording

B36. [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B36] **Using this Response Card (B36), which utilities do [you/you and the people who live with you] pay?** [Interviewer Note: Do not include cable, internet, or phone.]

1. Electricity
 2. Cooking Gas
 3. Heat
 4. Water/Sewer
 5. Something else
 6. None of these
 7. All utilities are included in the rent or condo/coop fees
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Recommended Question Wording

B36. [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B36] **Using this Response Card (B36), which utilities do [you/you and the people who live with you] pay?** [Interviewer Note: Do not include cable, internet, or phone. **If utilities are listed as a separate cost in the rent bill, code as option 7.**]

1. Electricity
 2. Cooking Gas
 3. Heat
 4. Water/Sewer
 5. Something else
 6. None of these
 7. All utilities are included in the rent or condo/coop fees
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

1. Two respondents reported that some of their utilities are listed as a separate line item, but still included in their main rent payment. One of these respondents selected option one

(“electricity”) while the other selected optioned seven (“all utilities are included in the rent or condo/coop fees”). It was unclear to the interviewers which of these two responses the survey sponsor would prefer in this situation.

2. Other respondents gave a variety of answers, but did not seem to have difficulty with this question. They reported different arrangements, such as having a flat fee, having utilities covered by a housing program, or having certain utilities paid for by a condo or the building. One respondent asked what response option five (“something else”) could refer to.

Recommendations

1. In order to address respondents who have utilities as a separate line item in their rent bill, we recommend one of two options.
 - a. Add an interviewer instruction to tell interviewers whether this should be coded as option seven (“all utilities are included in the rent or condo/coop fees”) or separately as the specific utility (e.g., “electricity”). For example, “If utilities are listed as a separate cost in the rent bill, code as option 7.”
 - b. After asking respondents how much their rent is, ask if any utilities are included in that cost, and if so, how much.

Questions B37-42

Current Question Wording

B37. In a typical summer month, how much do [you/you and the people who live with you] pay for [electricity and/or gas]?

_____ dollars

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B38. In a typical winter month, how much do [you/you and the people who live with you] pay for [electricity and/or gas]?

Interviewer Note: If is paid as part of electric bill, record costs under electric costs, not heat costs.

_____ dollars

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B40. What is the total yearly cost of heat?

Interviewer Note: If is paid as part of electric bill, record costs under electric costs, not heat costs.

\$_____ Annual amount

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B42. What is the total yearly cost of water and sewer?

\$_____ Annual amount

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

1. Most respondents did not have difficulty with this battery of questions, although only a few were asked questions B40 and B42 due to skip patterns. At B37 and B38, some reported seasonal variation in their utilities, while others had a level bill that averages costs throughout the year. Some reported that they were sharing information from their most current bill at B38, while others reported giving an average. One respondent had not lived through a winter in the housing unit yet, and correctly answered “don’t know.”
2. One respondent displayed a silent misunderstanding that was only identified during probing, and resulted in him misreporting answers at this series of questions. At his current apartment, he pays rent to his mother, and does not pay a separate cost for utilities, so he did not know the answers to this battery of questions. Rather than selecting, “don’t know,” he provided specific numerical answers at each question. During probing, he reported that he was answering for his last apartment since he did not know the answers for his current apartment. It is unclear why he reported for the wrong housing unit rather than selecting “don’t know.”

Recommendations

We recommend discussing respondent uncertainty at this series of questions during interviewer training. In particular, we recommend conveying to the interviewers that it is okay for respondents to estimate, but if they seem truly unsure, that they should select “don’t know” in order to protect data quality.

M. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI Version A and Version B)

This Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Module asks questions about sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex assignment at birth. These questions were added to collect additional demographic data about NYC residents. Two versions of this module were presented during testing (i.e., Version A and Version B). The versions differ in terms of the wording of the questions, as well as the order in which they are presented. See the Appendix for the wording and question order differences between Version A and Version B.

General Recommendation for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Questions

Findings

1. Most respondents were in relatively simple situations in which they identified as heterosexual (n = 15) and cisgender (i.e., the gender they were assigned at birth, n = 18). These respondents preferred whichever version they interpreted as the simplest.
2. A few respondents had noteworthy reactions to the questions, including laughing or thinking the questions were “stupid” or unnecessary.

Recommendations

Specific recommendations for these questions are presented below.

Question A10 (version A)

Current Question Wording

A10. Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? [IF PROXY] To the best of your knowledge, which of the following best represents how [NAME] thinks of themselves?

[INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard A10]

1. Gay or lesbian
2. Straight; that is, not gay, lesbian, or bisexual
3. Bisexual
4. Something else

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Recommended Question Wording

A10. Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? [IF PROXY] To the best of your knowledge, which of the following best represents how [NAME] thinks of themselves?

[INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard A10]

1. Gay or lesbian
2. Straight; that is, not gay, lesbian, or bisexual
3. Bisexual
4. Something else

Specify (optional)

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

Findings

1. One respondent started laughing when the interviewer read the question and asked why this question was being asked. The interviewer responded that this question is asked to obtain characteristics of respondents. When asked to describe their reaction, the respondent answered “That is funny, I’ll say bisexual.” The response appears to be a genuine response, and the laughter a reflection of being surprised at the question. To note, this respondent answered the remaining questions in this module without laughing.
2. Respondents did not seem to have difficulty answering the question. One respondent mentioned that it would be good to have a write-in section for the “something else” section.

Recommendations

Consider adding an optional write-in line for those who select “something else.”

Question A23 (version B)

Current Question Wording

A23. Now I'll read a list of terms people sometimes use to describe themselves:

[IF A13= MAN/TRANSGENDER MAN
READ: **Are you gay, straight - that is not gay, bisexual, or something else? PROXY: To the best of your knowledge, is [NAME] gay, straight - that is not gay, bisexual, or something else?]**

[IF A13 = WOMAN/TRANSGENDER
WOMAN/GENDER NOT
MENTIONED/NON-BINARY
PERSON/DK/RF READ: **Are you lesbian or gay, straight - that is not lesbian or gay, bisexual, or something else? PROXY: To the best of your knowledge, is [NAME]**

Recommended Question Wording

A23. Now I'll read a list of terms people sometimes use to describe themselves:

[IF A13= MAN/TRANSGENDER MAN
READ: **Are you gay, straight - that is not gay, bisexual, or something else? PROXY: To the best of your knowledge, is [NAME] gay, straight - that is not gay, bisexual, or something else?]**

[IF A13 = WOMAN/TRANSGENDER
WOMAN/GENDER NOT
MENTIONED/NON-BINARY
PERSON/DK/RF READ: **Are you lesbian or gay, straight - that is not lesbian or gay, bisexual, or something else? PROXY: To the best of your knowledge, is [NAME]**

lesbian or gay, straight - that is not lesbian or gay, bisexual, or something else?]

- 1 Gay [A13= WOMAN/TRANSGENDER WOMAN/GENDER NOT MENTIONED/NON-BINARY PERSON/DK/RF READ: or lesbian]
- 2 Straight, that is not gay
- 3 Bisexual, or
- 4 Something else
- 7 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

lesbian or gay, straight - that is not lesbian or gay, bisexual, or something else?]

- 1 Gay [A13= WOMAN/TRANSGENDER WOMAN/GENDER NOT MENTIONED/NON-BINARY PERSON/DK/RF READ: or lesbian]
- 2 Straight, that is not gay
- 3 Bisexual, or
- 4 Something else
- Specify (optional) _____
- 7 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

Findings

No respondents had difficulty with this question. One respondent thought that the response options in this question were too strict, and should be something like “mostly” or “usually.” The same respondent mentioned that it could be difficult to answer for other people’s sexual experiences if the respondent and the other person have not communicated with each other about it the topic.

Recommendations

We recommend considering an optional write-in line for those who select “something else”.

Comparing Version A and Version B

Findings

When asked their preference between Version A (Question A10) and Version B (Question A23) of the sexual orientation question, nearly half of respondents had no preference. However, of those who did have a preference, all respondents preferred Version A.

Table 2. Respondents' Preference Between Version A and Version B of Sexual Orientation Questions

Sexual Orientation (A10 & A23)	
Prefers Version A	8
Prefers Version B	0
No Preference	8
Not Asked	2

The respondents who had no preference thought that both versions of the question were easy to understand. The respondents who preferred Version A thought that it was easier or simpler, more straightforward, and had less rigid answers. No respondent indicated that they would answer differently based on the version of the question that they saw.

Recommendations

Although respondents seem to prefer SOGI Version A (A10), we recommend a larger field test and behavior coding to evaluate differences in question performance. For example, measuring how often respondents have difficulty providing a codable response, require repeats of question and probing, etc.

N. Sex Assigned at Birth (SOGI Versions A and B)

Question A11 (Version A)

Current Question Wording

A11. [IF RESPONDENT READ: Was your sex recorded as male, female, or intersex at birth? / IF PROXY READ: To the best of your knowledge, was [NAME]'s sex recorded as male, female, or intersex at birth?

1. Male
 2. Female
 3. Intersex
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

1. Three respondents were unfamiliar with the term “intersex.” One of those respondents seemingly mistakenly used the term “inadverse.” The two other respondents said there would be other respondents who would not know what the term “intersex” meant .
2. One respondent thought that “gender” would be a more appropriate term to use, rather than “sex.”

Recommendations

We recommend no changes to this question at this time.

Question A15 (Version B)

Current Question Wording

A15. What was your sex assigned at birth? Male or female? / Proxy: To the best of your knowledge, what was [NAME]'s sex assigned at birth? Male or female?

[IF NEEDED: If respondent says “Don’t Know,” probe: **When you were born, were you labeled as a boy or a girl? /IF PROXY, probe: When [NAME] was born, was [NAME] labeled as a boy or a girl?**]

[IF NEEDED: If the respondent says they were born with intersex traits, probe: **What was the sex listed on your original birth certificate? Male or female?]**[IF PROXY] **What was the sex listed on [NAME]’s original birth certificate? Male or female?]**

1. Male
 2. Female
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Findings

One respondent did not like the term “assigned” in this question, since the respondent thought that this made it sound like more of a choice. No respondents seemed to have any difficulty with this question, but one respondent volunteered that this question might be difficult for other people to answer.

Recommendations

We have no recommendations for this question.

Comparing Version A and Version B

Findings

When asked their preference between Version A (Question A11) and Version B (Question A15) of the sex assigned at birth question, the majority of respondents who had a preference preferred Version B.

Table 4. Respondents' Preference between Version A and Version B of Sexual at Birth Questions

Sex Assigned at Birth (A11 & A15)	
Prefers Version A	3
Prefers Version B	7
No Preference	3
Not Asked	5

1. Those respondents who preferred Version B of the question primarily chose this version because it did not include the term “intersex.” Many respondents either did not know themselves what the term meant, or thought that others would not know what it meant.
2. One respondent who preferred Version B thought that preference between the two might be generational, with younger people preferring Version A. Another respondent who preferred Version B did not mention the term “intersex,” but liked it because it was “straight to the point.” One last respondent thought that both versions were “stupid” questions, but thought that Version B was easier to understand.
3. The respondents who preferred Version A all did so because of the addition of “intersex” as a response option. These respondents did not seem to strongly feel this way, with one respondent saying that Version A was “adequate,” and another saying that it was “fine” and “probably better.”

Recommendations

1. We do not have a definitive recommendation for which version of this question to use because most preferences appeared to be driven by the inclusion of the word “intersex,” which was not well understood. We recommend a larger field test and behavior coding to evaluate differences in question performance. For example, measuring how often respondents have difficulty providing a codeable response, require repeats of question and probing, etc.
2. We also recommend considering how intersex respondents would be expected to respond, and training interviewers on how to advise such respondents.

Question A13 (Version B)

Current Question Wording

A13. I want to ask you about your gender identity and your sex assigned at birth. Gender identity refers to how you identify yourself, which may or may not be the same as the sex you were assigned at birth. How do you currently identify your gender? Do you identify as...

Proxy: I want to ask you about [NAME's]'s gender identity and [he/ she/ their/ name's] sex assigned at birth. Gender identity refers to how someone identifies themselves, which may or may not be the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. To the best of your knowledge, how does [NAME] currently identify [he/ she/ they/ name] gender? Does [he/ she/ they/ name] identify as...

Interviewer: Read and allow for multiple responses but do not probe

Interviewer: Please say the number before the text response. Respondent can answer with either the number or the text/word.

1. **a man**, SKIP TO A152. **a woman**, SKIP TO A15
3. **a transgender man** (TRANS MAN, TRANS MASCULINE, TRANS FEMALE-TO-MALE, MAN OF TRANSGENDER EXPERIENCE), SKIP TO A15
4. **a transgender woman** (TRANS WOMAN, TRANS FEMINIME, TRANS MALE-TO-FEMALE, WOMAN OF TRANSGENDER EXPERIENCE), SKIP TO A15
5. **a non-binary person** (GENDERQUEER PERSON, GENDER NONCONFORMING PERSON, TWO-SPIRIT, NEITHER WOMAN OR MAN), or SKIP TO A15
6. **or, a gender not mentioned?**
(VOL) DK SKIP TO A15
(VOL) RF SKIP TO A15

Findings

1. For the most part, respondents did not have difficulty with this question. One respondent did not know how to respond for one of her roommates, who she said dressed in a masculine way, but who she was fairly certain identified as female.
2. Some respondents interrupted to provide their answers in the middle of the response options, which may indicate that this question is too long.

Recommendations

We recommend no changes to this question at this time.

Comparing Version A and Version B

Findings

Respondents did not have a clear preference between the two versions. Nearly the same number of respondents preferred Version B as preferred Version A, and nearly half of respondents stated having no preference.

Table 5. Respondents' Preference between Version A and Version B of Gender Identity Questions

Gender Identity (A12 & A13)	
Prefers Version A	5
Prefers Version B	4
No Preference	8
Not Asked	1

1. Of those respondents who preferred Version A, one chose it because it was easier and she felt uncomfortable answering Version B because it seemed like a personal question. Another respondent liked Version A because “it is easy to understand what the question is.” Other respondents thought Version A was simpler and more straightforward.
2. The respondents who preferred Version B chose it because they believed it made sense, allowed for more options, was more to the point, clearer, and more accurate. One respondent said that he did not know what a “gender not mentioned” would be, but thought there should be an option to write in what that would be. This respondent added that “These are confusing times.”
3. Of those respondents who had no preference between the two versions, most did not provide any additional comments. One respondent seemed to be against asking a question about gender at all. Another respondent thought that the different versions could be useful in different situations. She thought that Version A was more straightforward and better for cis-gendered respondents, while Version B would make more sense and allow more options for transgender respondents.
4. No respondents mentioned that they would answer the two versions of the questions differently.

Recommendations

Because the findings showed that preferences were evenly split between the two versions, we recommend a larger field test and behavior coding to evaluate differences in question performance. For example, measuring how often respondents have difficulty providing a codeable response, require repeats of question and probing, etc.

SOGI Version B

Question A24

Current Question Wording	Recommended English Question Wording
<p>A24. Do you not understand the words, are you not sure yet, or do you mean something else? [IF PROXY] Do you not understand the words, is [NAME] not sure yet, or do you mean something else?</p> <p>1 Don't understand the words 2 Not sure yet, or 3 Something else 7 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE</p>	<p>A24. Do you not understand the words, Are you not sure yet, or do you mean something else, or are these words unfamiliar to you? [IF PROXY] Do you not understand the words, is [NAME] not sure yet, or do you mean something else?</p> <p>1 Don't understand the words 2 Not sure yet, or 3 Something else 7 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE</p>

Findings

This question was not asked of any respondents, but we are concerned that the phrasing of this question (“do you not understand the words”) may be sensitive or offensive to some respondents.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that further testing be done on this question.
2. We recommend removing the phrase “do you not understand the words,” replacing it with “are these words unfamiliar to you,” and moving it to the end of the question. We recommend these changes to make this question sound less abrasive.

O. Debriefing

At the end of the cognitive interview all respondents were asked “is there anything else you'd like to tell me that we haven't had a chance to discuss yet?”

In response to this question, one respondent commented that the people in the household should figure out who the best person would be to answer the questions, based on the survey topics. A few respondents also commented throughout the interview that their spouses would have better or more accurate answers to some of the questions, e.g. housing costs. As a recommendation, consider asking who would be the appropriate or best person to answer these questions, since housing knowledge may vary between people living in the household, and the respondent may not be the most knowledgeable person.

Summary

Findings overall showed that respondents had little to no difficulty with most questions. When interviewers and respondents encountered difficulties, it was usually in one of three areas:

1. Confusion over terms in the questions or the response options
2. Respondents experienced situations that were outside of the response options, and
3. Respondents wanted to talk about experiences outside of the scope of the question

To help resolve these issues, we recommend revising terms, clarifying the intent and scope of some of the questions, and training interviewers on how to handle the range of responses the question may elicit. Additionally, we recommend creating a glossary of technical terms that could potentially be incorporated into the instrument in order to assist interviewers in the field, along with devoting substantial interviewer training time to these concepts. We also recommend training interviewers on topics like accurately collecting income, unique situations with payments for utilities, and mortgage and other home finance topics. Although testing questions relating to sexual orientation and gender identity provided important qualitative information about some respondents' reactions to or interpretations of these questions (e.g., a lack of familiarity with the term "intersex"), we recommend a larger field test and behavior coding to evaluate differences in question performance.

Furthermore, we recommend HPD consider including questions at the beginning of the survey to determine which household members are most knowledgeable about housing and income, and also that interviewers be trained on how to guide respondents when they are unsure who to count as a household member.

APPENDIX: FULL NYCHVS TEST PROTOCOL

2021 NYCHVS Redesign Research Protocol (Renter/Owner Occupied) Cognitive Interview Protocol Guide

PARTICIPANT ID #: _____

DATE: ____ / ____ /2019

COGNITIVE INTERVIEWER NAME:

START TIME: _____ : _____ AM / PM

SECTION I. INTRODUCTION & INTERVIEW CONSENT

(COGNITIVE INTERVIEWER: READ/PARAPHRASE)

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your time today. My name is _____ and I work for [the US Census Bureau/_____]. Let me begin by telling you a little more about what we'll be doing today. The United States Census Bureau counts the population in the U.S. and also conducts various kinds of surveys.

Today, with your help, we will test some new questions that were developed for the New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey. I'm going to play the part of a Census interviewer who knocks on your door to ask you these survey questions. Then I'm going to ask you some follow up questions to find out how well the survey is working. We are going to use your comments and experiences as well as the comments and experiences of other people to help improve the survey. I did not create the survey, so please don't feel like you have to hold back on your thoughts to be polite to me. We appreciate your help so we can make the survey work well for everyone.

CONSENT

COGNITIVE INTERVIEWER: PLACE THE CONSENT FORM IN FRONT OF PARTICIPANT, THEN READ:

Before we start, I would like to tell you about this document [show them consent form]. Then I'm going to give you some time to read it and you can ask me any questions you may have. This document explains a little bit about this interview and provides information about your rights as a participant. It says that your participation is voluntary, which means that you can refuse to answer any question that you don't want to answer and you can end the interview at any time. It also says that your answers are confidential. That means that your name and identifying information like your address will not be associated with any answers that you give today. For example, if you tell me that a certain question is confusing, I won't ever write in a report that [NAME] said this question is confusing. I would write something like, "3 people said this question was confusing." Finally, this document asks for your permission to have this session audio recorded. This helps me out so I don't have to take so many notes while we are talking. Only myself and my colleagues who are working on this project will be able to listen to the tape

and it will only be used for research purposes. Please take a minute to read this over, and let me know if you have any questions. [LET THEM READ THE FORM.] Okay, do you have any questions for me? [ONCE ALL QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED] Okay, please print your name here [point], sign your name here [point], and put the date here [point]. I'll sign it as well, and I have another copy for you to keep.

PARTICIPANT READS AND SIGNS FORM. IF PARTICIPANT PROVIDES CONSENT TO HAVE THE SESSION AUDIO TAPED: I will now turn on the audio recorder. **IF PARTICIPANT DOES NOT PROVIDE CONSET TO HAVE THE SESSION AUDIO TAPED, DO YOUR BEST TO TAKE NOTES.**

THINK ALOUD

Thank you. I'd like you to answer the questions as you would if we were at your doorstep, with one big difference. What I would like you to do is tell me what you are thinking and feeling as you come up with your answers. Instead of thinking to yourself, I'd like you to think out loud, and I will remind you to do this from time to time. I will also ask you some questions about your answers. I am really interested in how these questions work for you, so there are no right or wrong answers.

[ENGLISH INTERVIEWS ASK R TO PRACTICE THINK ALOUD FIRST. SPANISH INTERVIEWS SKIP TO MODEL THINK ALOUD.]

Let's do a practice question before we start: Please think aloud as you answer the question, how many windows are in your home?

[GIVE FEEDBACK ON THE THINK ALOUD THEY DID. EITHER YOU HAD A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THEY CAME UP WITH THE WINDOWS OR PROBE SO YOU CAN GET A SENSE OF HOW THEY CAME UP WITH THE NUMBER THEY JUST TOLD YOU. YOU

CAN ALSO MODEL THE THINK ALOUD FOR THEM, I.E., "For example, if I were answering for my apartment and thinking out loud, I would say, "Well, there's a window in my bedroom, and a window in the living room, and there's a little window in my front door, but that door looks out into the hallway and not outside. Should I count that? I think that doesn't count. Okay, so I'm going to say two windows." An explanation like that helps me to understand how you came up with your answer, and it lets me know that maybe some people will count windows inside a building and some people will only count them if you can see outside the building through the window. With that information, we can come up with some suggestions for how to improve the question.]

Great, that's what I want you to do throughout our session. I will remind you to think aloud if you get quiet.

Do you have any questions before we begin? [INTERVIEWER: ANSWER QUESTIONS.]

Okay, let's get started.

SECTION II. COGNITIVE INTERVIEW

[INTERVIEWER: REMIND R TO THINK ALOUD THROUGHOUT. PROBE ON ANY UNCODEABLE RESPONSES, DIFFICULTY, HESITATIONS, LAUGHTER, ETC., THE RESPONDENT SHOWS, EVEN IF NO PROBES ARE WRITTEN AT THAT QUESTION. WE ARE PROBING SEMI-RETROSPECTIVELY, SO TAKE NOTE OF THESE

HESITATIONS AND HOLD FOLLOW-UP PROBES UNTIL YOU GET TO THE BOX WITH PROBES AT THE END OF EACH SECTION.]

[Half of owners get **housing quality /housing search** and half get **income/debt/assets.**]

FLASHCARD INSTRUCTION-:

For some questions, I will show you a card that has the answer options written down. When you give me your answer, you can tell me the answer or the number next to your answer.

HOUSING QUALITY

Next, I'm going to ask about the condition of your [FILL: apartment / house].

[INTERVIEWER: Use tally sheet for maintenance deficiencies if the question has a check mark.]

C4. Does your [apartment/ house] have complete plumbing facilities IF NEEDED: That is, hot and cold piped water, a flush toilet and a bathtub or shower? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard C4]

1. Yes, has complete plumbing facilities [Go to C7]
2. No, has some but not all facilities in this apartment (house) [Go to C5]
3. No plumbing facilities in this apartment (house) [Go to C7]

C5. [Ask only if C4=2. Skip for single family home] Are these facilities for the exclusive use of this household or are they also for use by another household?

1. For the exclusive use of this household
2. Also for use by another household

C7. Does your [apartment/house] have complete kitchen facilities? IF NEEDED: Complete kitchen facilities include a sink with piped water, a range or cookstove, and a refrigerator. [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard C7]

1. Yes has complete kitchen facilities [Go to C8]
2. No, has some but not all facilities in this apartment (house) [Go to C8]
3. No kitchen facilities in this apartment (house) but facilities available in building [Go to C24]
4. No kitchen facilities in building [Go to C24]

C8. [ASK IF C7 = 1 or 2] Are these facilities for the exclusive use of this household or are they also for use by another household?

5. For the exclusive use of this household
 6. Also for the use of another household
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

C9. Are the sink, range/cookstove, and refrigerator in your apartment functioning?

1. Yes, all are functioning
 2. No, one or more is not working at all
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **C24. At any time during this past winter, that is from December of 2018 to February of 2019, was there a breakdown in your heating equipment; that is, was it completely unusable for 6 consecutive hours or longer?**

1. Yes
 2. No [Go to C26]
999. I did not live here during this winter
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

C25. [Ask only if C24=1] How many times did this happen?

1. One
 2. Two
 3. Three
 4. Four or more times
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **C26. During this winter when your regular heating system was working, did you, at any time, have to use additional sources of heat because your regular system did not provide enough heat? Additional sources may be the kitchen stove, a fireplace, or a portable heater.**

1. Yes
 2. No
999. I did not live here during this winter
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **C29. At any time in the last 90 days have you seen any mice or rats, or signs of mice or rats in this building? [Interviewer note: Exclude pets. Read answer choices out loud]**

1. Yes
 2. No
999. I did not live here during the past 90 days
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **C32. Does your [apartment/house] have open cracks or holes in the interior walls or ceiling?**

1. Yes (go to C33)
 2. No (go to C34)
- (VOL) DK (go to C34)
(VOL) RF (go to C34)

✓ **C34. Does your [apartment/house] have holes in the floors?**

1. Yes (go to C35)
 2. No (go to C6)
- (VOL) DK (go to C6)
(VOL) RF (go to C6)

✓ **C36. Is there any broken plaster or peeling paint on the ceiling or inside walls?**

1. Yes (go to C37)
 2. No (go to C38)
- (VOL) DK (go to C38)
(VOL) RF (go to C38)

C37. Is the area of broken plaster or peeling paint larger than 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches?

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **C38. Has water leaked into your [apartment/house] in the last 12 months, excluding leaks resulting from your own plumbing fixtures backing up or overflowing? [IF NEEDED: Do you still have a leak?]**

1. Yes, I had a leak (go to C39)
 2. Yes, I still have a leak (go to C39.1)
 3. No (go to C6)
999. I did not live here during the last 12 months (go to C6)

(VOL) DK (go to C19.5) (go to C6)
(VOL) RF (go to C19.5) (go to C6)

[For C38]

In your own words, what is this question asking?

C39. [Ask only if C38=1] **How severe was the leak?** [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard C39]

1. Very Severe (go to C40)
 2. Serious (go to C40)
 3. Moderate (go to C40)
 4. Slight (go to C40)
- (VOL) DK (go to C40)
(VOL) RF (go to C40)

C39.1. [Ask only if C38=2] **How severe is the leak?**

1. Very Severe (go to C6)
 2. Serious (go to C6)
 3. Moderate (go to C6)
 4. Slight (go to C6)
- (VOL) DK (go to C6)
(VOL) RF (go to C6)

[for C39, C39.1]

Tell me more about your answer.

What does "severe" mean to you in this question?

C40. [Ask only if C38=1] **Was the leak properly repaired?**

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **C6.** **Was there any time in the last three months when the toilets in your apartment were not working for six consecutive hours?**

1. Yes
 2. No
 3. No toilet in this apartment (house)
999. I did not live here during the last 3 months
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

C41. [See Tally Sheet. If reported any maintenance deficiencies at C24, C26, C29, C36, C32, C34, C6, OR C38, ask C41 to C44. Else skip to C28.]

We just talked about a lot of different housing issues. You told me that you have experienced [a breakdown in your heating equipment/a need to use additional sources of heat/seeing signs of mice or rats/broken plaster or peeling paint/cracks or holes in the interior walls or ceiling/holes in the floors/toilets not working/water leaking into your (apartment/house)].

I'm going to read a list of things people sometimes do in order to get a housing problem fixed. For each one, please tell me whether it is something you did to get any of those issues resolved.

Did you seek help by contacting the somebody in charge of building maintenance?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know
4. Refused

C42. Did [you/you or anyone else who lives here] contact 311?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know
4. Refused

C43. Did you or someone you know make repairs or pay someone to fix the problem?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know
4. Refused

C28. Now we'd like to ask you about some additional problems you may have experienced.

At any time during this winter was there a time when you did not have hot water for at least 6 hours?

1. Yes
 2. No
999. I did not live here during [reference period]

C30. During the past month, about how many cockroaches did you see in your [apartment/ house] on a typical day? (Interviewer note: exclude pets)

1. None
 2. 1 to 5
 3. 6 to 19
 4. 20 or more
 5. Don't know/ Not sure
999. I did not live here during [reference period]

C31.1. [Ask only of renters] Does an exterminator come to your building regularly? [IF NECESSARY: Some buildings have a sign-up sheet or an exterminator can be requested.]

1. Yes
2. No

C31.2. [Ask only of renters] **In the last year, how often have you had an exterminator in your apartment?**

1. Every/Most months
2. A few time a year
3. Once a year or less

C19.5. Is there mold in your [apartment/house], excluding your [bathroom/bathrooms]?

1. Yes
 2. No (go to C45)
- (VOL) DK (go to C45)
(VOL) RF (go to C45)

[for C19.5]
Tell me more about your answer.

C45. Is your [apartment/house] now under renovation?

1. Yes (go to C45.1)
 2. No (go to C27)
- (VOL) DK (go to C27)
(VOL) RF (go to C27)

C45.1. [Ask only if C45=1. See Tally Sheet. Ask if “Yes” to C24, C26, C29, C36, C32, C34, C6, OR C38. Else skip to TO C27.] **Can any of the problems in your apartment/home be attributed to the renovation work?**

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

C27. Does your [apartment/house] have functioning central air conditioning?

1. Yes, central air conditioning
2. Yes, one or more window air conditioners (skip to B44)
3. No
4. Don't know/ not sure

C27.1 Does your [apartment/ house] have one or more functioning through wall or window air conditioner?

1. Yes
2. No

B44. [Ask if C27 = 1 or 2 OR C27.1 = 1] **If there is an A/C in the unit: Do you ever keep your A/C off due to cost when you otherwise would want to use it?**

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

C17. **Last winter, for any reason, was your [apartment/house] so cold for 24 hours or more that you and the other people who live here were uncomfortable?**

[INTERVIEWER: Do not count visitors, only household members]

1. Yes
 2. No
999. I did not live here during the last winter

C19. **Last winter, how often was it so hot in your [apartment/house] because of your heat that you had to open the windows?** [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard C19]

1. Most days
 2. Some days
 3. A few days
 4. Never
999. I did not live here during the last winter
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

C47. [Skip for single-family homes] **How much of a problem are noisy neighbors in your building?** [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard C47,C48]

- A. A big problem
 - B. Somewhat of a problem
 - C. Not a problem
 - D. I do not see this in my building
- Don't know
Refused

C48. **How much of a problem is street noise?** [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard C47, C48]

- A. A big problem
 - B. Somewhat of a problem
 - C. Not a problem
 - D. I do not see this in my building
- <777> Don't know
<888> Refused

C48.1 **In the last 30 days, have you or anyone, including guests, smoked any tobacco product or marijuana in the [apartment/house]?** [Interviewer Note: Do not include vaping or e-cigarettes.]

1. Yes
2. No

C49. How often do you smell cigarette smoke or marijuana in your home that comes from another [apartment/home] or from outside? [Interviewer Note: Do not include smoke from within the apartment.]

1. Every day (go to C50)
 2. A few times per week (go to C50)
 3. A few times per month (go to C50)
 4. A few times per year (go to C4)
 5. Not at all (go to C4)
- (VOL) DK (go to C4)
(VOL) RF (go to C4)

C50. [Ask only if C49<4] Was that cigarette smoke, marijuana, or both?

1. Cigarette
 2. Marijuana
 3. Both
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[for C50]
Tell me more about your answer.

C15. What would you say is the age of most of your kitchen appliances?

1. Less than a year
 2. One year or more but less than 5 years
 3. 5 or more years but less than 20 years
 4. 20 or more years
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[for C15]
How easy or difficulty was it to come up with your answer to this question?

C11. Do you have [in your house/apartment] a dishwasher in working order?

1. Yes
2. No

C12. In your building, do you have a washer, dryer or combination washer/dryer in working order?

1. Washer (Go to C16)
2. Dryer (Go to C16)
3. Comination Washer/Dryer (Go to C16)
4. None (Go to C13)

C13. [Ask only if C12=4] In your [house/apartment], do you have a washer, dryer or combination washer/dryer in working order?

1. Washer (Go to C16)
2. Dryer (Go to C16)
3. Comination Washer/Dryer (Go to C16)
4. None (Go to C13.1)

C13.1 [ASK ONLY IF C12 = 4 AND C13 = 4]. Does your [building or apartment/house] have a washer, dryer, or combination washer/dryer that is not in working order?

1. Yes
2. No

C16. Do you have a working carbon monoxide detector inside your house/apartment/manufactured/mobile home?

1. Yes
2. No

N8. [Skip for single-family conventional homes] Do you have a functioning buzzer that allows you to let guests into the building? [Interviewer Notes: A phone/intercom/virtual doorman counts as a buzzer. Interviewer codes reference person response.]

1. Yes, my buzzer allows me to let guests in the building
2. No, my buzzer is not functioning and/or does not allow me to let guests in the building
3. No, I do not have a buzzer

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF



Probe here before moving on the next module.

HOUSEHOLD ROSTER

In this next section, we're going to ask about the people who live here, including yourself. These first questions will help the computer know what questions I will ask you later on, how to phrase some of those questions, and what questions to skip.

A42. How many people live in this [apartment/house]?

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

A1. [Ask only if A42>1] What is the first name or initial of each person who lives here, starting with yourself? We don't need full names. We just need to have some way to refer to them when we ask some follow-up questions.

[Interviewer instruction: After respondent stops listing people, ask "Anyone else?"]

[INTERVIEWER: .]

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

A3. [Ask only if A42>1] What is [person]'s relationship to you? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard A3]

[INTERVIEWER: .]

1. Husband/wife
2. Child
3. Brother/sister (stepbrother/sister)
4. Father/mother
5. Father-in-law/mother-in-law
6. Grandchild
7. Grandparent
8. Other relative (cousin, nephew, etc)
9. Roomer/boarder
10. Unmarried partner
11. Housemate/roommate
12. Other non-relative

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF



[LOOP A3 to collect relationship for each person in the household to respondent]

[for A3]
[If not already clear] Are there people who are related to each other but not to
[you/reference person]?

A43. [Ask only if A42>1] [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard A43]

What pronoun would you like me to use when I ask about [person]? [If needed: Pronouns are words used to refer to people, like he, she, and they.]

1. He/His
2. She/Her
3. They/Them
4. Just use Person's name instead of pronoun

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF



[LOOP A43 for each person in the household]

[for A43]
Interviewer: Note if “pronoun” definition needs to be read.
[IF DEFINITION NOT READ] What does the word “pronoun” mean to you?



Probe here before moving on the next module.

RESIDENTIAL HISTORY (renters)

M43.1 [Ask only of renters] **Do [you/you or anyone who lives here] currently have a lease?**

1. Yes [Go to M43]
2. No [Go to M43.4]

M43. [Ask only of renters. Ask only if M43.1 = Yes] **What is the length of the current lease; that is, the total time from when this lease began until it will end?**

1. Less than 1 year (Go to M44)

- 2. 1 year (Go to M44)
- 3. More that 1 but less than 2 years (Go to M44)
- 4. 2 years (Go to M44)
- 5. Other (VOL)
- DK (Go to M44)
- (VOL) RF (Go to M44)

M43.4 [Ask only of renters. Ask only if M43.1=No] **Have [you/you or anyone who lives here] ever had a lease for this [apartment/house]?**

- 1. Yes (Go to I23.5)
- 2. No (Go to I23.5)
- (VOL) DK (Go to I23.5)
- (VOL) RF (Go to I23.5)

M44. [Ask only if M43.1=Yes] **What year did your current lease start?** _____

- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

M45. [Ask only if lease originated within the last 2 years] **What month did your current lease start?**

- _____
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

I23.5 Is your [apartment/ house] under Rent Control, Rent Stabilization, or Neither?

- 1. Under Rent Control
- 2. Under Rent Stabilization
- 3. Neither
- 4. Don't Know

X. In what year did you first move to the neighborhood where you currently live?

Interviewer Note: The first time the respondent ever lived in the curent neighborhood
Enter Year

RESIDENTIAL HISTORY

M5. Now, I'm going to ask about where you lived before. Before moving into your [house/apartment], were you homeless or in a temporary housing situation? [Interviewer

Note: Code staying with family or friends, staying in a hotel or Airbnb, or sublet that wasn't a primary residence as a temporary housing situation. Temporary can be any length of time, as defined by the respondent.]

- 1. Yes
- 2. No (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

[for M5]

Tell me more about your answer

[FOR RESPONDENTS REPORTING "TEMPORARY HOUSING SITUATION"] What does "temporary" mean to you in this question?

M4. How many times have you moved in the past five years?

Enter number of moves

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

M7. We are asking about the place you lived because it helps us know a little more about the neighborhood and the city services that were accessible there. What was the address of the last place you lived?

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

M8. [Ask only if respondent does not want to provide address] What was the intersection of the last place you lived?

Street 1: _____

Street 2: _____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

M9. [Ask of M5=2, regardless of whether respondent provided address or intersection] What was the zip code of the last place you lived?

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

M11. [IF ONE PERSON HOUSEHOLD, SKIP TO M13. Ask only if M5=2] Which of the people who live with you now lived with you in your last home?

[Person 1]

[Person 2]

[Person 3]

[Person 4]

[Person 5]

[Person 6]

None

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

M12. [Ask only if there was anyone not listed as living in the previous home] **Just to confirm, the following people did not live with you in your last home?**

[Person X]

[Person X]

[Person X] [Person X]

[Person X]

[Person X]

1. Yes

2. No

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

M13. We'd like you to think about all the people that lived with you in your last home. Other than the people who live with you now, who else lived at your last home at the time you left?

For each person, please give me their first name or initials so we can keep track of them as we go.

[Interviewer instruction: After respondent stops listing people, ask "Anyone else?"]

(VOL) RF

M14. [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard M14] **Now I'm going to ask a few questions about each person. What was [Person]'s relationship to you while you lived there?** [Interviewer note: The relationship just prior to moving out]

1. Husband/wife

2. Child

3. Brother/sister (stepbrother/sister)

4. Father/mother

5. Father-in-law/mother-in-law

6. Grandchild

7. Grandparent

8. Other relative (cousin, nephew, etc)

9. Roomer/boarder

10. Unmarried partner

11. Housemate/roommate

12. Other non-relative (VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[for M14]

Were there any categories missing from this list that you were looking for?

Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about the categories on this list?

[If not already clear], can you tell me a little bit more about the relationships between the people who live here?

Are there people who are related to each other but not to [you/reference person]?



[loop M14 for each other person that lived at previous home]

M15. If you had not moved out of your last address, could you have lived there for another year?

1. Yes

2. No

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[for M15]

In your own words, what is this question asking?

Tell me more about your answer.

M18. [Ask only of renters. Do not ask of renters who's last home was a temporary residence, shelter, or lived on the street. Do not ask of renters that have always lived in their current home]

In your last home, did the landlord ever start an eviction proceeding against the people that lived there?

1. Yes (go to M19)

2. No (skip to probes)

(VOL) DK (skip to probes)

(VOL) RF (skip to probes)

M19. [Ask only of respondents that answered "Yes" to having an eviction proceeding brought against them at their last home] **Did it result in you being evicted, settling the court case by leaving, or taking a payment for leaving?**

1. Evicted

2. Settled by leaving

- 3. Took payment for leaving
- 4. Other
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

[for M18, M19]
Tell me more about your answer.



Probe here before moving on the next module.

[Half of owners get housing quality/ /housing search and half get income/debt/assets.]

INCOME

E14. [INTERVIEWER: Start with the respondent.] **Does [person] own a business or [are/is he/ she/ they/ name] a partner in a business? Do not include (person)'s coop as a business.**

- 1 Yes (go to E15)
- 2 No (go to E17)
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

E15. **Is the business incorporated, such as an LLC or something similar?**

- 1 Yes (go to E16)
- 2 No (go to E17)
- (VOL) DK (go to E17)
- (VOL) RF (go to E17)

E16. **Is [person] also an employee of that business? [If needed because R DK or is confused: Do you receive a salary?]**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

E17. **In the last 12 months, did [you/NAME] receive income from any of the following sources? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard E17.]**

- 1 Wages, salary, tips, bonuses, or commissions
- 2 Income from self-employment such as a free-lancer or contractor, net real estate income including short-term rental of part or all of your apartment/home, or income from a business that is not incorporated

- 3 Disability benefits including SSI, SSDI, or a disability pension
- 4 Retirement income including Social Security or
- 5 Survivor benefits for [person] or [person] on behalf of others
- 6 Regular payments from dividends, annuities, stipends, estates, trusts, or royalties
- 7 Child support, alimony, or similar
- 8 Unemployment
- 9. Other
- None of the above
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

[IF R reported having an incorporated business at E15, probe on E17]
 You mentioned that [your/NAME's] business is incorporated or an LLC. Did you include distributions from [your/NAME's] business when I asked [you/NAME] if you had income from the following sources? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard E17.]
 If yes: Where did you report that type of income (the distributions)?

E18. In the last 12 months, did [person] have investments that earned any interest?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

E19. In the last 12 months, did [person] sell any assets at a profit of \$10,000 or more?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

E20. In the last 12 months, did [person] receive any one-time lump sum payments, such as inheritance, settlement of a lawsuit, or buyout from a landlord?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

[INTERVIEWER: Use tally sheet to record income for questions with a check mark.]

✓ E21. [Ask if E17 = 1] In the last 12 months, how much did [person] earn from wages, salary, tips, bonuses, and commissions?

\$ _____

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **E22.** [Ask if E17 = 2] **In the last 12 months, how much did [person] earn from income from self-employment such as a free-lance or contractor, net real estate income including short-term rental of part or all of your [apartment/house], and income from a business that is not incorporated?**

\$ _____

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **E25.** [Ask if E17 = 3] **In the last 12 months, how much did [person] receive from disability benefits including SSI, SSDI, or a disability pension?**

\$ _____

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **E23.** [Ask if E17 = 4] **In the last 12 months, how much did [person] receive from retirement income including Social Security, pensions, any other payments from retirement funds including a 401K, IRA, KEOGH accounts and similar?**

\$ _____

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **E24.** [Ask if E17 = 5] **In the last 12 months, how much did [person] receive or receive on behalf of anyone else who is living with your from survivor benefits such as Social Security, SSDI, a pension or similar? \$ _____**

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **E26.** [Ask if E17 = 6] **In the last 12 months, how much did [person] receive from regular payments from dividends, annuities, stipends, estates, trusts, and royalties? If [person] received multiple kinds or if we should calculate the last 12 months together, I can help!**

\$ _____

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

✓ **E27.** [Ask if E17 = 7] **In the last 12 months, how much did [person] receive from child support, alimony, and similar payments? (This is the amount [person] actually**

received, not the amount that was due.) If [person] received multiple kinds or if we should calculate the last 12 months together, I can help! \$ _____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

✓ E28. [Ask if E17 = 8] In the last 12 months, how much did [person] receive from unemployment insurance? \$ _____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

✓ E29. [Ask if E18=1] In the last 12 months, you indicated that [person] has investments that earned income. How much total interest did you earn? [This includes interest that was rolled over or reinvested in addition to what was paid out.]

\$ _____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

✓ E31. [Ask if E20=1] You indicated that [person] received a one-time lump sum payment. About how much did [person] receive in the last 12 months? [If more than one, please combine] \$ _____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

E36. [F ANSWERED 'DON'T KNOW' TO ANY INCOME QUESTIONS, SKIP E36.] It seems like [person] made [Calculate total income for person] in income last year. Does that seem right?

1. Yes

2. No

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF



[loop back to E14 for all adults in HH. You can use the tally sheet here. Then go to F3]

E37. [SKIP TO F3 IF 1 PERSON HOUSEHOLD OR IF R ANSWERED 'DON'T KNOW' TO ANY INCOME QUESTIONS.] It seems like the combined income for the people who live here was [Calculate total household income] last year. Does that seem right?

1. Yes

2. No

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[For E37]

Do people in your household typically combine any of their income together in order to pay common expenses? Could you tell me a bit about how that works in your household)?

F3. Have you set aside emergency or rainy day funds that would cover your expenses for 3 months, in case of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or other emergencies?

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

In this section we asked you about the income and payments that everyone in the household receive. Can you tell me more about how you know about the income that each person living with you receives?

IF NEEDED: What kind of things helped you provide your answers? How confident are you about these answers?

IF NEEDED IN MULTIPERSON HOUSEHOLD BECAUSE YOU DID NOT HAVE TIME TO COLLECT INCOME FOR EVERYONE: We asked about your income [and _____'s income]. What if we had asked about the income for the other people who live in your household? Would you have had trouble answering for any of your other household members? Can you tell me more about that?

[General Probes]

Do you receive any other types of income that you haven't had a chance to tell us about yet?

In the questions that I just asked you about income, was there any question that was particularly hard to answer?

Were there any questions you did not know the answer to?

Would you have been ok with us following up on these questions with [NAME OF OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER] directly?



Probe here before moving on the next module.

[Half of owners get housing quality/ /housing search and half get income/debt/assets.]

HOUSING SEARCH

M34. Are you planning to move in the next 2 years?

1. Yes (go to M35)
 2. No (go to M38)
- (VOL) DK (go to M38)
(VOL) RF (go to M38)

M35. [Ask only if M34=1] [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard M35] **Of the things on this list, which three are the most important to you when choosing your next home?**

1. Cost of the apartment/house]
 2. What I am able to pay at this time
 3. Ability to remain in the home safely and securely
 4. Physical condition of the apartment [house]
 5. Size of the apartment [house]
 6. Apartment amenities (dishwasher, laundry, balcony, etc)
 7. Physical condition of the building
 8. Building amenities (elevator, laundry, gym, etc)
 9. Neighborhood amenities (parks, museums, stores, etc)
 10. Neighborhood safety
 11. The time it takes to get to work
 12. School quality
 13. Proximity of family and friends
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[For M35]

[Interviewer: Show the list.] Tell me more about your answer.

M37. [Ask only if M34=1] **When are you planning to move?** [INTERVIEWER CODED]

1. Within the next month
2. More than a month, but in the next six months
3. More than six months, but in the next year
4. More than a year, but in the next two years
5. More than two years

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

M36. [Ask only if M34=1] **If you could, would you prefer to move within your current neighborhood or move to a different neighborhood?**

1. Stay in my neighborhood
2. Move to another neighborhood in New York City (go to M38)
3. Move out of New York City (go to M38)
4. No preference (VOL) DK (go to M38)
(VOL) RF (go to M38)

Y. [Ask only if M36=1] **How likely do you think it is that you will move to another home in your current neighborhood?**

1. Very likely
2. Likely
3. Unlikely
4. Very unlikely

M38. **On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your [apartment/house] as a place to live?**

10 is best, 1 is worst _____

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

Z. [Ask only if reference person moved in to the neighborhood in the last 5 years] **On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best and 1 being worst, how would you rate your neighborhood as place to live when you first moved there?** [Interviewer Note: As far back respondent remembers]

10 is best, 1 is worst _____

[For M38, Z]

What were you thinking about when you answered this question?

M39. **On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best and 1 being worst, how would you rate your current neighborhood as a place to live?**

10 is best, 1 is worst _____

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF



Probe here before moving on the next module.

HOUSING COSTS (renters)

N3.1 [Ask only if renter. If monthly rent is \$0, skip to next section] **What is the MONTHLY rent for this [apartment/house], according to [the lease/the agreement with the landlord]?**

Interviewer Note: Do not include fees, see next question

\$____.00

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

N3.2 **Some landlords charge fees In addition to rent such as for a dishwasher or a pet. Do you pay any regular fees apart from your rent?**

Interviewer Note: If yes, make sure that contract rent does not include these fees.

1. Yes (Go to N3.3)

2. No (Go to N3.4)

(VOL) DK (Go to N3.4)

(VOL) RF (Go to N3.4)

N3.3 [Ask only if N3.2=1] **How much are the monthly fees for the [apartment/house].** [Interviewer note: Do not include temporary fees, such as a late fee.]

Enter amount

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

N3.4 [Ask only if N3.1 does not = \$0] **In total, how much was paid to the landlord last month for this [apartment/house]?** Interviewer note: Include all sources of payment and additional amounts.

Enter amount

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

N3.5 **Was that the full amount due, less than amount due, or more than the amount due to the landlord last month?**

1. Full amount due [Go to B52.1]

2. Less than the amount due

3. More than the amount due

N3.6 [Ask only if N3.5 = 2 or 3] **How much was supposed to be paid to the landlord last month?**

Enter amount

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

N3.7 Which of the following best describes why the full amount was not paid last month?

Flashcard, check all that apply

1. There was not enough money
2. Payment was withheld because of poor conditions
3. The housing program that pays rent did not send some/all of the payment
4. Other reason

B52.1 Was any part of last month's rent for your [apartment/house] paid by any of the following government programs, either to someone who lives here or directly to the landlord?

1. Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher
2. Shelter Allowance/City FEPS
3. SCRIE/DRIE
4. Other assistance that pays part of my rent
5. No (skip to B50)

B49. (Ask if B52.1 = 1, 2, 3, or 4) What was the total contribution from rental assistance last month?

\$ _____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B50. Was any part of last month's rent for your [apartment/house] paid by an employer or someone who doesn't live here?

1. An employer of someone in the household
2. A family member or another person that doesn't live with you.
3. No (Skip to B53)

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[For B50]

Tell me more about your answer

B51. (Ask if B50 = 1 or 2) What was the total contribution from these outside sources last month?

\$ _____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B53. [INTERVIEWER: Fill with "you" first. Fill with "NAME" for other household members when you loop through this question again.] How much did [you personally/PERSON] pay toward the rent last month?

Interviewer Note: If people pay rent from a joint account, split the amount evenly among contributors.

1. _____ dollars
 2. (I/They) give different amount each month
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[If the rent contributions don't add up]
All of these contributions don't seem to add up to what was paid last month. Let's go back and make sure what we have is right. Can you tell me again about how your rent is paid?



[LOOP THROUGH B53 FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OVER 15]

B58.5 Which of the people that live in the [apartment/house] are on the lease?

Select all household members that apply

B58.6 During the past 12 months were [you/you and the people who live with you] ever late paying the rent because there wasn't enough money at the time?

1. Yes
2. No

B58.7 During the past 12 months, did [you/you and the people who live with you] pay all or part of the rent using any of the following:

1. Used a credit card that wasn't paid off in the same month
2. Used savings
3. Sold or pawned something
4. Took out a loan
5. None of the above

M16. Since moving to this address, has the landlord ever started an eviction proceeding against any of the people who live here? This includes giving you a warrant of eviction or having a notice of eviction delivered by a Court Marshal.

1. Yes (go to M17)
 2. No (skip to probes)
- (VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[IF YES TO M16]
Tell me more about your answer

M17. [IF M16 = Yes] **Did the eviction proceeding happen within the last two years?**

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF



Probe here before moving on the next module.

PUBLIC BENEFITS AND COVERAGE

P1. **Last month, did you or anyone else who lives here receive assistance or payments from any of the following?** [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard P1]

Check all that apply

Interviewer note: We will ask separately about any other help you get for housing costs.

1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
2. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
3. Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
4. None

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P1.5. **Last month, did you or anyone else who lives with you receive any assistance or payment from SNA (Safety Net Assistance)?**

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P1.8. **Last month, did you or anyone else who lives with you receive assistance or payment from another public benefit or welfare program?**

1. Yes (go to P2)
 2. No (go to skip before P3)
- (VOL) DK (go to skip before P3)
(VOL) RF (go to skip before P3)

P2. [Ask only if P1.8=1] **What was the other public benefit or welfare program?**
Specify _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P3. [Ask only if P1 = "SNAP"] **Last month, how much did you and the other people who live with you receive in SNAP benefits?**
\$ _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P4. [Ask only if P1 = "SNAP"] **In the last 12 months, how many months did you and the other people who live with you receive SNAP benefits?**
_____ months
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P5. [Ask only if P1 = "TANF"] **Last month, how much did you and the other people who live with you receive in TANF benefits?**
\$ _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P6. [Ask only if P1 = "TANF"] **In the last 12 months, how many months did you and the other people who live with you receive TANF benefits?**
_____ months
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P14. [Ask only if P1 = WIC] **In the last 12 months, how many months did you and the other people who live here receive WIC benefits?**
\$ _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P15. [Ask only if P1 =3] **In the last 12 months, how many months did you and the other people who live with you receive WIC benefits?**
_____ months
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P7. [Ask only if P1.5=1] **Last month, were these SNA benefits sent to you or someone else who lives with you, the landlord, or to the utility company?**

1. SNA benefits are sent to the people who live here
2. SNA benefits are sent to the landlord
3. SNA benefits are sent to the utility company

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P8. [Ask only if P1.5=1 and P7=1] **Last month, how much did you and the other people who live with you receive in SNA benefits?**

\$ _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P10. [Ask only If P1.5 =1] **In the last 12 months, how many months did you and the other people who live with you receive SNA benefits?**

_____ months
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P9. [Ask only if P1.5=1] **Last month, what is the total value of the SNA benefit sent to the landlord?**

\$ _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P13. [Ask only if P1.5=1] **For how many of the last 12 months were the SNA benefits a check or voucher that went to the landlord?**

_____ months
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P11. [if P1.8 = YES] **Last month, how much did you and the other people who live with you receive from [Other source fill]?**

\$ _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

P12. [Ask only if P1.8=Yes] **In the last 12 months, how many months did you and the other people who live with you receive [Other source fill]?**

_____ months
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[Half of owners get housing quality /housing search and half get income/debt/assets.]

DEBT

General Probe:
Do you have any major costs on a regular basis that we didn't capture?

F18. [If owner: **Other than [home debt]**], please tell me all of the types of debt you currently have from Response Card F18:

1. Student Loan
 2. Car Loans
 3. Loans from relatives and friends
 4. Credit Card
 5. Medical Bills
 6. Legal Bills
 7. Other
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

F46. [Ask only if F18=Other] **What were those other debts?**

Specify _____
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[INTERVIEWER: Use tally sheet to record debt for questions with a check mark.]

✓ **F26.** [Ask only if F18 = 1] **If you added up all student loans, about how much would they amount to right now?**

- INCLUDE unpaid balance(s), or student loans that are outstanding
- \$ _____ [between 1 – 9,999,997]
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[if no exact amount given to F26, go to F27. If exact amount given, go to F76]

[For F26]
How easy or difficult was it to come up with your answer?

F27. [Ask only if F18=1 and F26="Don't Know"] **Would they amount to \$25,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F28)

No (go to F29)

DK/RF (go to F76)

F28. [Ask only if F18=1, F26="Don't know" and F27=Yes] **(Would they amount to \$50,000 or more?)**

Yes (go to F30)

No (go to F76)

DK/RF (go to F76)

F29. [Ask only if F18=1, F26="Don't know" and F27=No] **(Would they amount to \$10,000 or more?)**

Yes (go to F76)

No (go to F76)

DK/RF (go to F76)

F30. [Ask only if F18=1, F26="Don't know" and F28=Yes] **(Would they amount to \$75,000 or more?)**

Yes (go to F76)

No (go to F76)

DK/RF (go to F76)

✓ **F76.** [Ask only if F18 = 2] **If you added up all the car loans, about how much would they amount to right now?**

\$ _____ [between 1 – 9,999,997]

[if no exact amount given to F76, go to F77. If exact amount given, go to F41]

[For F76]

How easy or difficult was it to come up with your answer?

F77. [Ask only if F18=2 and F76 = "Don't Know"] **Would they amount to \$4,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F78)

No (go to F79)

DK/RF (go to F41)

F78. [Ask only if F18=2, F76 = "Don't Know" and F77 = "Yes"] **(Would they amount to \$10,000 or more?)**

Yes (go to F80)

No (go to F41)

DK/RF (go to F41)

F79. [Ask only if F18=2, F76 = "Don't Know" and F77 = "No"] **(Would they amount to \$1,000 or more?)**

Yes (go to F41)

No (go to F41)

DK/RF (go to F41)

F80. [Ask only if F18=2, F76 = "Don't Know" and F78= "Yes"] (Would they amount to) \$20,000 or more?

- Yes
- No
- DK/RF

✓ **F41.** [Ask only if F18 = 3] If you added up all loans from relatives and friends, about how much would they amount to right now?

• INCLUDE unpaid balance(s), or loans from relatives that are outstanding
\$ _____ [between 1 – 9,999,997]

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[if no exact amount given to F41, go to F42. If exact amount given, go to F20]

[For F41]

How easy or difficult was it to come up with your answer?

F42. ["Ask only if F18=3 and F41= "Don't Know"] Would they amount to \$4,000 or more?

- Yes (go to F43)
- No (go to F45)
- DK/RF (go to F20)

F43. [Ask only if F18=3, F41= "Don't Know" and F42= "Yes"] (Would they amount to) \$10,000 or more?

- Yes (go to F44)
- No (go to F20)
- DK/RF (go to F20)

F44. [Ask only if F18=3, F41= "Don't Know" and F42 = "No"] (Would they amount to) \$1,000 or more?

- Yes (go to F20)
- No (go to F20)
- DK/RF (go to F20)

F45. [Ask only if F18=3, F41= "Don't Know" and F43= "Yes"] (Would they amount to) \$20,000 or more?

- Yes
- No
- DK/RF (go to F20)

✓ **F20.** [Ask only if F18=4] If you added up all credit card and store card debts, about how much would they amount to right now? IF NECESSARY: Please do not count any new debt that will be paid off this month.)

• INCLUDE unpaid balance(s) only, or credit card and store card debts that are outstanding

\$ _____ [between 1 – 9,999,997]
[if no exact amount given to F20, go to F21. If exact amount given, go to F31]

[For F20]

How easy or difficult was it to come up with your answer?

F21. [Ask only if F18=4 and F20= "Don't Know"] **Would they amount to \$5,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F22)

No (go to F24)

DK/RF (go to F31)

F22. [Ask only if F18=4, F20= "Don't Know" and F21 = "Yes"] **(Would they amount to) \$10,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F23)

No (go to F31)

DK/RF (go to F31)

F23. [[Ask only if F18=4 and F22 = 2] **(Would they amount to) \$1,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F31)

No (go to F31)

DK/RF (go to F31)

F24. [Ask only if F18=4, F20= "Don't Know" and F22= "Yes"] **(Would they amount to) \$15,000 or more?**

Yes

No

DK/RF

✓ **F31.** [Ask only if F18 = 5] **If you added up all medical bills, about how much would they amount to right now?**

• INCLUDE unpaid balance(s), or medical bills that are outstanding

\$ _____ [between 1 – 9,999,997]

[if no exact amount given to F31, go to F32. If exact amount given, go to F36]

[For F31]

How easy or difficult was it to come up with your answer?

F32. [Ask only if F18=5 and F31 = "Don't Know"] **Would they amount to \$3,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F33)

No (go to F35)

DK/RF (go to F36)

F33. [Ask only if F18=5, F31 = "Don't Know" and F32 = "Yes"] (Would they amount to) **\$10,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F34)

No (go to F36)

DK/RF (go to F36)

F34. [Ask only if F18=5, F31 = "Don't Know" and F32 = "No"] (Would they amount to) **\$1,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F36)

No (go to F36)

DK/RF (go to F36)

F35. [Ask only if F18=5, F31 = "Don't Know" and F33 = "Yes"] (Would they amount to) **\$25,000 or more?**

Yes

No

DK/RF

✓ **F36.** [Ask only if F18 = 6] **If you added up all legal bills, about how much would they amount to right now?**

• INCLUDE unpaid balance(s), or legal bills that are outstanding

\$ _____ [between 1 – 9,999,997]

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[if no exact amount given to F36, go to F37. If exact amount given, go to F47]

[For F36]

How easy or difficult was it to come up with your answer?

F37. [Ask only if F18=6, F36 = "Don't Know" and F37 = "Yes"] [Ask only if F18=6 and F36 = "Don't Know"] **Would they amount to \$3,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F38)

No (go to F39)

DK/RF (go to F47)

F38. [Ask only if F18=6, F36 = "Don't Know" and F37 = "Yes"] (Would they amount to) **\$8,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F40)

No (go to F47)

DK/RF (go to F47)

F39. [Ask only if F18=6, F36 = "Don't Know" and F37 = "No"] (Would they amount to) **\$1,000 or more?**

Yes (go to F47)

No (go to F47)

DK/RF (go to F47)

F40. [Ask only if F18=6, F36 = "Don't Know" and F38 = "Yes"] (Would they amount to) **\$20,000 or more?**

- Yes
- No
- DK/RF

✓ **F47.** [IF F18 = 7] **If you added up all [other debts], about how much would they amount to right now?**

• INCLUDE unpaid balance(s), or other debts that are outstanding
\$ _____ [between 1 – 9,999,997]

- (VOL) DK
- (VOL) RF

[if no exact amount given to F47, go to F48. If exact amount given, go to F51]

[For F47]

How easy or difficult was it to come up with your answer?

F48. [Ask only if F18=7 and F47 = "Don't Know"] **Would they amount to \$4,000 or more?**

- Yes (go to F49)
- No (go to F50)
- DK/RF (go to F51)

F49. [Ask only if F18=7, F47 = "Don't Know" and F48 = "Yes"] (Would they amount to) **\$10,000 or more?**

- Yes (go to F50.1)
- No (go to F51)
- DK/RF (go to F51)

F50. [Ask only if F18=7, F47 = "Don't Know" and F48 = "No"] (Would they amount to) **\$1,000 or more?**

- Yes (go to F51)
- No (go to F51)
- DK/RF (go to F51)

F50.1. [Ask only if F18=7, F47 = "Don't Know" and F49 = "Yes"] (Would they amount to) **\$20,000 or more?**

- Yes
- No
- DK/RF

F51. [Ask only if Answer to F51=Yes, go to F52. If Answer to F51 is No, go back up to F18] **It seems like you have [Calculate total debt for person using tally sheet] in debt, does that seem right?**

- Yes
- No, (Please specify) _____

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

F52. [Ask if F18=1-7] Altogether, is this more or less debt than you had a year ago?

1. More
2. Less
3. About the same

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

F53. [Ask if F18=1-7] Altogether, is this more or less debt than you had five years ago?

1. More
2. Less
3. About the same

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF



Probe here before moving on the next module.

[Half of owners get housing quality, housing search and half get income/debt/assets.]

ASSETS

F54. Please tell me all of the types of assets that you have from Response Card F54:

1. Checking account
2. Savings account
3. Equity in a business
4. Car
5. Property other than your own home
6. Retirement plan
7. Educational savings account
8. Other Investments
9. Anything else of value more than \$5,000
10. None (skip to probes)
11. (VOL) DK
12. (VOL) RF

[For F54]

Tell me more about your answer .

How easy or difficult was it to come up with your answer?

Is there anything missing from this list, like another kind of asset?

F55. [Ask only if F54 is not 10] **Not including your home, would you say that the current value of all of those assets is \$10,000 or more?**

1. Yes
2. No
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[IF F55 = "Yes" ASK F56. ELSE TO PROBES BEFORE ROSTER PART 1]

F56. [Ask only if F54 is not 10 and F55 = "Yes"] **Not including your home, would you say that the current value of all of those assets is \$25,000 or more?**

1. Yes
2. No (skip to probes)
3. (VOL) DK (skip to probes)
4. (VOL) RF (skip to probes)

F57. [IF RESPONDENT ESTIMATED DEBT INSTEAD OF GIVING EXACT ANSWER, SKIP TO F58. Ask only if F54 is not 10 and F56 = "Yes"] **Not including your home, would you say that the current value of all of those assets is [Total Debt] or more?**

1. Yes
2. No (skip to probes)
3. (VOL) DK (skip to probes)
4. (VOL) RF (skip to probes)

F58. [IF RESPONDENT ESTIMATED INCOME INSTEAD OF GIVING EXACT ANSWER, SKIP TO PROBES. IF RESPONDENT HAD NO INCOME, SKIP TO PROBES. Ask only if F54 is not 10 and F57 = "yes"] **Not including your home, would you say that the current value of all of those assets is [Annual Income] or more?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. (VOL) DK
4. (VOL) RF



Probe here before moving on the next module.

HOUSING COSTS (owners)

B43. **Who is/are the current owner(s) of this [apartment /house]?**

Person # _____ (mark owner on roster)

Co-owned by someone outside of the household

- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[INTERVIEWER: If respondent is an owner, fill questions below with “you.” If someone else is the owner, fill with name of the owner]

I15. Did [you/OWNER] inherit this [apartment/house] from a relative or someone you knew?

Yes [Go to B1]

No [Go to B34]

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[If I15=Yes, then go to B1. If No, go to B34.]

B1. In what year did [you/owner] inherit this [apartment/ house]?_____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B48.5 [Ask only if inherited or purchased from a relative] When did the person who [you/owner] inherited the [apartment/house] from first acquire it?

_____ (go to B8)

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[for B48]

Tell me more about your answer.

In your own words, what is this question asking?

B34. [Ask if I15 = No] Is this the first apartment or house that [you have/owner has] owned?

1. Yes

2. No

3. Don't know

B44. In what year did [you/owner] buy this [apartment/ house]?_____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B2. What was the purchase price of this [apartment/ house]?

1. \$ _____

2. Don't know

B3. What was the down payment for the [apartment/ house]?

1. \$ _____

2. Don't know

B4. [Ask if B34 = Yes] **Did any of the following help with [your/owner's] down payment?**
[INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B4]

Check all that apply

1. NYC program or grant
2. Federal program or grant
3. Federal homebuyer loan
4. Non-Profit assistance
5. Gift or other personal loan

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B8. **Which of the following [do you /does OWNER] have?** [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B8]

(Check all that apply)

- 1. First Mortgage**
- 2. Second Mortgage**
- 3. Home Equity Loan**
- 4. Home Equity Line or Credit**
- 5. Reverse Mortgage**
- 6. Something else**
- 7. None of these (skip to b46)**

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[for B4, B8, some program or loan besides a first mortgage]

Tell me more about your answer.

How easy or difficult was it for you to answer this question? Can you tell me more about that?

B23. [Ask if B8 = First Mortgage] **Which of the following are included in [your/OWNER'S] [LOAN] payment?** [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B23]

Read all categories

- 1. Principal?**
- 2. Interest?**
- 3. Property Taxes?**
- 4. Homeowners' Insurance (IF NEEDED: Insurance that protects homeowners in fire or other accidental damage to the home, robberies, and third party injuries on the premises)?**

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B28. [Ask if B8 = Home Equity Line of Credit] **What is [your/OWNER's] total credit limit on the line of credit?**

Round to the nearest whole dollar \$_____ .00

Enter 9999998 for \$9,999,998 or more

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B46. [Ask if B8 is not = 1st or 2nd Mortgage] **Just to confirm, there is no current mortgage for this [apartment/house]. Is that correct?**

Yes

No

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B9. [Ask if B8 is not = Reverse Mortgage] **How much is [your/OWNER's] current payment on the [LOAN]?**

Include as much Principal, Interest, Taxes, and Insurance (PITI) as they pay.

Round to the nearest whole dollar \$_____ .00

Enter 9999998 for \$9,999,998 or more

For Home Equity Line of Credit where there is no balance enter a 1.

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B12. How often [do you/does OWNER] make a payment on [LOAN]?

1. Once a month?

2. Twice a month?

3. Every two weeks?

4. Something else (specify)? (go to B13)

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B13. Specify how often [do you/does OWNER] make a payment on the [LOAN]?

Specify_____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B10. If [you/owner] were to pay off the full amount of [LOAN] how much would [you/owner] have to pay?

Round to the nearest whole dollar \$_____ .00

Enter 9999998 for \$9,999,998 or more

For Home Equity Line of Credit where there is no balance enter a 1.

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B11. What is the current interest rate on [LOAN]?

_____ %

For Home Equity Line of Credit where there is no balance enter a 1.

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B15. Is the interest rate currently fixed?

1. Yes
2. No

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

B16. [ASK IF THEY HAD A MORTGAGE OR LOAN AT B8 BESIDES A FIRST MORTGAGE] Did this [MORTGAGE FROM B8] refinance a previous mortgage?

1. Yes (go to B17)
2. No (go to B32)

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF



[LOOP B9-B16 FOR EVERY LOAN TYPE FROM B8 EXCEPT REVERSE MORTGAGE]

B17. [Ask only if B16=Yes] What year did [you/owner] refinance?

_____ Enter year from 1900 to 2017

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

B18. [Ask only if B16=YES] [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B18] Homeowners refinance for many reasons. I am now going to read you a list of reasons people give for refinancing. Please tell me if any of these reasons apply to [you/owner]. Did [you/owner] refinance to:

Read all categories
Enter all that apply

1. Suspend or temporarily reduce mortgage payments
2. Receive cash or increase the outstanding balance of the loan
3. Increase the payment period
4. Reduce the payment period
5. Reduce the monthly payment
6. Get a lower interest rate

7. Anything other reason (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

B19. [if B18 = 7] Please specify other reasons for refinancing.

(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

B20. [Ask only if B16=Yes] When [you/OWNER] refinanced for this mortgage or loan, how much cash did [you/OWNER] receive?

Round to the nearest whole dollar \$ _____ .00

Enter 999998 for \$999,998 or more

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B32. Last time that [you/owner] filed taxes, did [you/he/ she/ they/ name] claim a mortgage interest deduction?

Yes

No

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B47. [ASK IF B23=4] How much did [you/owner] pay for homeowner's insurance in the last calendar year?

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B25. Is the [apartment/ house] covered by flood insurance?

1. Yes (go to B27)

2. No (go to B29)

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B27. [IF B25 =1] How much was the flood insurance in the last calendar year?

1. \$ _____

2. Included in the homeowner's insurance

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B29. [if B8 = 1st or 2nd mortgage] [Have you/has [owner]] ever been unable to make the regular mortgage payment because there was not enough money at the time?

1. Yes

2. No

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF



Probe here before moving on the next module.

[if unit is a condo or coop, go to B5. Else, go to B36]

CONDO/COOP COSTS (owners)

B5. [Ask only if unit is condo or coop] **What are the monthly condominium or co-op maintenance fees for this [apartment/ house]? Exclude payments for any mortgage (loans) on this unit.**

\$_____ per month

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B6. [Ask only if unit is condo or coop. Ask only if respondent lived here in the last year] **In the last year, have you or anyone living here paid an assessment on this condo or co-op? IF NEEDED: An assessment is a temporary charge that is in addition to your maintenance fees. For example, It can be used to cover a one-time expense or a major repair or improvement.**

1. Yes [Go to B7]

2. No [Go to B33]

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B7. [ASK IF B6 = YES] **In the last year, how much did you and/or anyone else living here pay for an assessment. This could be either a lump sum or an amount paid regularly for a period of time.**

_____ dollars

1. per month

2. one or more one time payments

3. Other

[for B6, B7]

What does "assessment" mean to you in this question?

B33. **Is any household member receiving a Senior Citizen Carrying Charge Increase Exemption as part of the SCRIE program?**

1. Yes

2. No

3. Don't know



Probe here before moving on to the next module.

UTILITIES

B36. [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard B36] **Using this Response Card (B36), which utilities do [you/you and the people who live with you] pay?** [Interviewer Note: Do not include cable, internet, or phone.]

1. Electricity
2. Cooking Gas
3. Heat
4. Water/Sewer
5. Something else
6. None of these
7. All utilities are included in the rent or condo/coop fees

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B37. [Ask if B36 = 1 and/or 2] **In a typical summer month, how much do [you/you and the people who live with you] pay for [electricity and/or gas]?**

_____ dollars

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B38. [Ask if B36 = 1 and/or 2] **In a typical winter month, how much do [you/you and the people who live with you] pay for [electricity and/or gas]?**

Interviewer Note: If is paid as part of electric bill, record costs under electric costs, not heat costs.

_____ dollars

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B40. [Ask if B36 = 3] **What is the total yearly cost of heat?**

Interviewer Note: If is paid as part of electric bill, record costs under electric costs, not heat costs.

\$_____ Annual amount

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

B42. [Ask if B36 = 4] **What is the total Yearly cost of water and sewer?**

\$_____ Annual amount

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[for B37-B42

How certain or uncertain are you about your answer to this question?

Could you tell me more about how expenses are shared across different household members, if at all?

F5. [Ask if B36 is not = 6 or 7] [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard F5] **In the last 12 months, were any of the following services interrupted because you did not have enough money at the time?**

- A. One or more utility
 - B. Landline telephone
 - C. Cell phone
 - D. Cable / Internet
 - E. Other
- None
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF



Probe here before moving on to the next module.

SOGI PATH A

[Start with respondent. Ask only of household members who are at least 15. Note whether answer or number is given for A10-A12.]

A10. Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? [IF PROXY] To the best of your knowledge, which of the following best represents how [NAME] thinks of themselves? [INTERVIEWER: Show flashcard A10]

- 1. Gay or lesbian
 - 2. Straight; that is, not gay, lesbian, or bisexual
 - 3. Bisexual
 - 4. Something else
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[For A10]

Tell me more about your answer for yourself.

Are there other options not listed that better describe you? For what reason?

[IFA10= DK, PROBE] How easy or difficult was it to answer this question? Are there any words in this question that some people might find confusing?

[IF R GAVE PROXY RESPONSE FOR OTHER HH MEMBERS] How easy or difficult was it to answer for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that? How comfortable were you answering for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that?

I'm interested in trying out another way to ask about this topic. [INTERVIEWER SHOW A23 FROM SOGI PATH B.] How would you answer this question?

[IF ANSWER TO A10 DIFFERENT FROM A23, PROBE] I noticed you answered a little bit differently this time. Can you tell me more about how you came up with the answer to this question?

Which version was easier to understand? *If respondent says both are the same:* Do you prefer one of these versions over the other? [INTERVIEWER SHOW A10 AND A23 IF NEEDED?]

A11. [IF RESPONDENT READ: Was your sex recorded as male, female, or intersex at birth? / IF PROXY READ: To the best of your knowledge, was [NAME]'s sex recorded as male, female, or intersex at birth?

1. Male
 2. Female
 3. Intersex
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[For A11]

Tell me more about your answer for yourself.

What does “intersex” mean to you in this question?

IFA11= DK, PROBE] How easy or difficult was it to answer this question?

[IF R GAVE PROXY RESPONSE FOR OTHER HH MEMBERS] How easy or difficult was it to answer for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that? How comfortable were you answering for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that?

I’m interested in trying out another way to ask about this topic. [INTERVIEWER SHOW A15 FROM SOGI PATH B.] How would you answer this question?

[IF ANSWER TO A11 DIFFERENT FROM A15, PROBE] I noticed you answered a little bit differently this time. Can you tell me more about how you came up with the answer to this question?

Which version was easier to understand? *If respondent says both are the same:* Do you prefer one of these versions over the other? [INTERVIEWER SHOW A11 AND A15 IF NEEDED]

A12. [IF RESPONDENT READ: Do you describe yourself as male, female, or transgender?/ IF PROXY READ: To the best of your knowledge, does [NAME] describe themselves as male, female, or transgender?

1. Male
 2. Female
 3. Transgender
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF



[Loop A10-A12 for all person in HH 15+. .]

[For A12]

What does “transgender” mean to you in this question?

If appropriate: Are there other words you would use to describe yourself besides the ones I mentioned?

[IFA12= DK, PROBE] How easy or difficult was it to answer this question?

[IF R GAVE PROXY RESPONSE FOR OTHER HH MEMBERS] How easy or difficult was it to answer for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that?

How comfortable were you answering for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that?

I’m interested in trying out another way to ask about this topic. [INTERVIEWER SHOW A13 FROM SOGI PATH B.] How would you answer this question?

[IF ANSWER TO A12 DIFFERENT FROM A13, PROBE] I noticed you answered a little bit differently this time. Can you tell me more about how you came up with the answer to this question?

Which version was easier to understand? *If respondent says both are the same:* Do you prefer one of these versions over the other? [INTERVIEWER SHOW A12 AND A13 IF NEEDED]



Probe here before moving on the next module.

SOGI PATH B

[Interviewer: Ask only of household members who are at least 15. Note whether answer or number is given for A13, A15, A23.]

A13. I want to ask you about your gender identity and your sex assigned at birth. Gender identity refers to how you identify yourself, which may or may not be the same as the sex you were assigned at birth. How do you currently identify your gender? Do you identify as...

Proxy: I want to ask you about [NAME’s]’s gender identity and [he/ she/ their/ name’s] sex assigned at birth. Gender identity refers to how someone identifies themselves, which may or may not be the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. To the best of your knowledge, how does [NAME] currently identify [he/ she/ they/ name] gender? Does [he/ she/ they/ name] identify as...

Interviewer: Read and allow for multiple responses by do not probe

Interviewer: Please say the number before the text response. Respondent can answer with either the number or the text/word.

1. **a man**, SKIP TO A152. **a woman**, SKIP TO A15
3. **a transgender man** (TRANS MAN, TRANS MASCULINE, TRANS FEMALE-TO-MALE, MAN OF TRANSGENDER EXPERIENCE), SKIP TO A15
4. **a transgender woman** (TRANS WOMAN, TRANS FEMININE, TRANS MALE-TO-FEMALE, WOMAN OF TRANSGENDER EXPERIENCE), SKIP TO A15
5. **a non-binary person** (GENDERQUEER PERSON, GENDER NONCONFORMING PERSON, TWO-SPIRIT, NEITHER WOMAN OR MAN), or SKIP TO A15
6. **or, a gender not mentioned?**
(VOL) DK SKIP TO A15
(VOL) RF SKIP TO A15

[For A13]

Tell me more about your answer for yourself.

[IFA13= DK, PROBE] How easy or difficult was it to answer this question? Are there any words in this question that some people might find confusing?

[IF R GAVE PROXY RESPONSE FOR OTHER HH MEMBERS] How easy or difficult was it to answer for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that? How comfortable were you answering for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that?

I'm interested in trying out another way to ask about this topic. [INTERVIEWER SHOW A12 FROM SOGI PATH A.] How would you answer this question?

[IF ANSWER TO A12 DIFFERENT FROM A13, PROBE] I noticed you answered a little bit differently this time. Can you tell me more about how you came up with the answer to this question?

Which version was easier to understand? *If respondent says both are the same:* Do you prefer one of these versions over the other? [INTERVIEWER SHOW A12 AND A13 IF NEEDED?]

[ASK IF A13 = 6 a gender not mentioned. ELSE SKIP TO A15.]

A14. How do you identify your gender? [Proxy: How does [NAME] identify [he/ she/ their/ name] gender? (Specify)]

(Specify)

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

A15. What was your sex assigned at birth? Male or female? / Proxy: To the best of your knowledge, what was [NAME]'s sex assigned at birth? Male or female?

[IF NEEDED: If respondent says “Don’t Know,” probe: **When you were born, were you labeled as a boy or a girl?** /IF PROXY, probe: **When [NAME] was born, was [NAME] labeled as a boy or a girl?**]

[IF NEEDED: If the respondent says they were born with intersex traits, probe: **What was the sex listed on your original birth certificate? Male or female?**] [IF PROXY] **What was the sex listed on [NAME]’s original birth certificate? Male or female?**]

1. Male
 2. Female
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[For A15]

Tell me more about your answer for yourself.

IFA15= DK, PROBE] How easy or difficult was it to answer this question?

[IF R GAVE PROXY RESPONSE FOR OTHER HH MEMBERS] How easy or difficult was it to answer for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that? How comfortable were you answering for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that?

I’m interested in trying out another way to ask about this topic. [INTERVIEWER SHOW A11 FROM SOGI PATH A.] How would you answer this question?

[IF ANSWER TO A11 DIFFERENT FROM A15, PROBE] I noticed you answered a little bit differently this time. Can you tell me more about how you came up with the answer to this question?

Which version was easier to understand? *If respondent says both are the same:* Do you prefer one of these versions over the other? [INTERVIEWER SHOW A11 AND A15 IF NEEDED]

[SKIP IF RESPONDENT PROVIDED MULTIPLE RESPONSES TO A13. [IF A13 = MAN and A15 = WOMAN, OR IF A13 = WOMAN AND A15 = MAN, ASK A16. ELSE GO TO SKIP BEFORE A18.]

A16. To confirm, you identify as [A13 FILL] and your sex assigned at birth was [A15 FILL], correct? Proxy: To confirm, [NAME] identifies as [A13 FILL] and [his/ her/ their/ name] sex assigned at birth was [A15 FILL], correct? [IF PROXY] To confirm, [NAME] identifies as [A13 fill] and [PREFERRED PRONOUN] sex assigned at birth was [A15 FILL], correct?

1 YES; HAS A GENDER IDENTITY DIFFERENT THAN THEIR SEX AT BIRTH GO TO SKIP BEFORE A18.

2 NO

(VOL) DK SKIP TO A18.

(VOL) RF SKIP TO A18.

[IF A16 = "No" ASK A17. ELSE GO TO SKIP BEFORE A18.]

A17. We have your identity as [A13 FILL] and your sex assigned at birth as [A15 FILL]. Should we update your identity or your assigned sex at birth? [IF PROXY] We have [NAME's] identity as [A13 FILL] and [he/ she/ their/ name] sex assigned at birth as [A15 FILL]. Should we update [person]'s identity or [his/ her/ their/ name's] assigned sex at birth?

1 UPDATE IDENTITY [A13 UPDATE TO EQUAL A15] SKIP TO A23

2 UPDATE ASSIGNED SEX AT BIRTH [A15 UPDATE TO EQUAL A13] SKIP TO A23

(VOL) DK SKIP TO A23

(VOL) RF SKIP TO A23

[IF A13 = "Don't Know" ASK A18. ELSE GO TO SKIP BEFORE A19]

A18. Are you exploring your gender identity and are not sure how you identify yet, do you not understand the question, or do you identify as [A15 FILL]? [IF PROXY] Is [NAME] exploring [his/ her/ their/ name] gender identity and is not sure how [he/ she/ they/ name] identify yet, do you not understand the question, or does [NAME] identify as [A15 fill]?

1 You are exploring your gender identity and not sure how you identify yet,

2 You do not understand the question,

3 You identify as [A15 fill]

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF

[IF A18 ASKED]

Tell me more about your answer for yourself.

[IF A13 = TRANSGENDER MAN AND A15 = MALE ASK A19. ELSE GO TO SKIP BEFORE A21.]

A19. Transgender men are often persons who identify as men and were assigned female sex at birth. To confirm, you identify as a transgender man and were assigned male sex at birth? / [IF PROXY] Transgender men are often persons who identify as men and were assigned female sex at birth. To confirm, [NAME] identifies as a transgender man and was assigned male sex at birth?

1 YES: IDENTIFIES AS TRANSGENDER MAN AND WAS ASSIGNED MALE SEX AT BIRTH GO TO SKIP BEFORE A21.

2 NO
(VOL) DK GO TO SKIP BEFORE A21.
(VOL) RF GO TO SKIP BEFORE A21.

[IF A19 ASKED]
Tell me more about your answer for yourself.

[IF A19 = "No" ASK A20. ELSE GO TO SKIP BEFORE A21.]
A20. Do you identify as a transgender man and were assigned female sex at birth, do you identify as a woman or transgender woman and were assigned male sex at birth, or do you identify as a man and were assigned male sex at birth? [IF PROXY] Does [NAME] identify as a transgender man and was assigned female sex at birth, does [NAME] identify as a woman or transgender woman and was assigned male sex at birth, or does [NAME] identify as a man and was assigned male sex at birth?

1 Identify as a transgender man and were assigned female sex at birth
2 Identify as a woman or transgender woman and were assigned male sex at birth
3 Identify as a man and were assigned male sex at birth
(VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

[IF A20 ASKED]
Tell me more about your answer for yourself.

[IF A13 = TRANSGENDER WOMAN & A15 = FEMALE ASK A21.
ELSE GO TO A23.]
A21. Transgender women are often persons who identify as women and were assigned male sex at birth. To confirm, you identify as a transgender woman and were assigned female sex at birth? Proxy: Transgender women are often persons who identify as women and were assigned male sex at birth. To confirm, [NAME] identifies as a transgender woman and was assigned female sex at birth?
1 YES: IDENTIFIES AS A TRANSGENDER WOMAN AND WAS ASSIGNED FEMALE SEX AT BIRTH GO TO A23
2 NO
(VOL) DK GO TO A23

(VOL) RF □ GO TO A23

[IF A21 ASKED]

Tell me more about your answer for yourself.

[IF A21 = "No" ASK A22. ELSE SKIP TO A23.]

A22. Do you identify as a transgender woman and were assigned male sex at birth, do you identify as a man or transgender man and were assigned female sex at birth, or do you identify as a woman and were assigned female sex at birth? [IF PROXY] Does [NAME] identify as a transgender woman and was assigned male sex at birth, does [NAME] identify as a man or transgender man and was assigned female sex at birth, or does [NAME] identify as a woman and was assigned female sex at birth?

- 1 Identify as a transgender man and were assigned female sex at birth
 - 2 Identify as a woman or transgender woman and were assigned male sex at birth
 - 3 Identify as a man and were assigned male sex at birth
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF
-

[IF A22 ASKED]

Tell me more about your answer for yourself.

A23. Now I'll read a list of terms people sometimes use to describe themselves:

[IF A13= MAN/TRANSGENDER MAN READ: **Are you gay, straight - that is not gay, bisexual, or something else? PROXY: To the best of your knowledge, is [NAME] gay, straight - that is not gay, bisexual, or something else?**]

[IF A13 = WOMAN/TRANSGENDER WOMAN/GENDER NOT MENTIONED/NON-BINARY PERSON/DK/RF READ: **Are you lesbian or gay, straight - that is not lesbian or gay, bisexual, or something else? PROXY: To the best of your knowledge, is [NAME] lesbian or gay, straight - that is not lesbian or gay, bisexual, or something else?**]

- 1 Gay [A13= WOMAN/TRANSGENDER WOMAN/GENDER NOT MENTIONED/NON-BINARY PERSON/DK/RF READ: or lesbian]
- 2 Straight, that is not gay
- 3 Bisexual, or
- 4 Something else
- 7 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

[For A23]

Tell me more about your answer for yourself.

[IFA23= DK, PROBE] How easy or difficult was it to answer this question? Are there any words in this question that some people might find confusing?

Are there other options not listed that better describe you? For what reason?

[IF R GAVE PROXY RESPONSE FOR OTHER HH MEMBERS] How easy or difficult was it to answer for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that?

How comfortable were you answering for the other people living with you? Can you tell me more about that?

I'm interested in trying out another way to ask about this topic. [INTERVIEWER SHOW A10 FROM SOGI PATH A.] How would you answer this question?

[IF ANSWER TO A10 DIFFERENT FROM A23, PROBE] I noticed you answered a little bit differently this time. Can you tell me more about how you came up with the answer to this question?

Which version was easier to understand? *If respondent says both are the same: Do you prefer one of these versions over the other?* [INTERVIEWER SHOW A10 AND A23 IF NEEDED?]

[IF A23 = 7 ASK A24.]

A24. Do you not understand the words, are you not sure yet, or do you mean something else? [IF PROXY] Do you not understand the words, is [NAME] not sure yet, or do you mean something else?

1 Don't understand the words

2 Not sure yet, or

3 Something else

7 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

[IF A23 = SOMETHING ELSE OR A24 = SOMETHING ELSE ASK A25.].

A25. What do you mean by something else?

(SPECIFY) _____

(VOL) DK

(VOL) RF



[Loop A13-A25 for all person in HH 15+. .]



Probe here before moving on the next module.

CLOSETOUT AND PHONES

I21. Is there a landline telephone in your [apartment/ house]? Do not count cellular phones, or any phone line that is used only for a computer or fax machine.

1. Yes
 2. No
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

I22. How many adults (age 18 and over) in this household have a cell phone for personal use? (If an individual shares a cell phone, count the adult if he or she has it for at least one-third of the time.)

1. ___Persons
 2. None
- (VOL) DK
(VOL) RF

General Probe

Is there anything else you'd like to tell me that we haven't had a chance to discuss yet?



Probe here before moving on the next module.

SECTION III. CONCLUSION/PAYMENT

Those were all of my questions. I appreciate you taking the time to speak with me. Your answers were very helpful. Now I'm going to turn the tape recorder off. [TURN OFF TAPE RECORDER. HAND RESPONDENT INCENTIVE].

This is the payment to thank you for your time today. Please open the envelope and double check that the payment for \$40 is all there, and then please fill out this receipt. [HAVE RESPONDENT PUT THEIR NAME, ADDRESS, SIGNATURE, AND DATE ON VOUCHER FORM.]

Thank you!