

**Celebrate SoTL Interactive Panel:
Perspectives on Student Demographic
Data and SoTL
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Context: Investigating equity and inclusion in first-
year science classrooms"



My Context:

- First-year Science students.
- Equity and Inclusion Program Project
- Investigating equity and inclusion in first-year science classrooms
- Questions:
 - Who are our students?
 - What social identities are present in the classroom?
 - What are the barriers to learning based on demographic/social identities?

Challenges to Using Surveys

- Little data available without surveying students.
- Meeting data standards/governance
- Lack of validated surveys that apply to post-secondary education, Canadian context
- Lack of baseline information across the institution/faculties
- Reluctance of students to participate
- Students need to self-identify

Considerations

- Priorities for data collection – course level, faculty level, institution level
- Using aggregate data – lack of representation in some identities.
- Complexity of race – multi-racial/ethnicities.
- Capturing student experience.
- Mapping data to other responses in your surveys.
- Questioning strategy – “choose a category” vs. define an identify.