Sex

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCSDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000535   Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NCSIMG

Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 01-SEP-03

Definition: The sex of the person.

Context: Demographic detail and service planning:
Required for analysis of service utilisation and need for services.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: CODE

Representation layout: N

Minimum Size: 1

Maximum Size: 1

Data Domain:
1   Male
2   Female
3   Indeterminate
9   Not stated/ inadeqately described

Guide For Use: In the NHDD V 9, an indeterminate sex category may be necessary for situations such as the classification of perinatal statistics when it is not possible for the sex to be determined. The indeterminate category has been retained in NCSDD V2 for consistency with the NHDD.

Collection Methods: It is suggested that the following format be used for data collection:
What is your (the person's) sex?
___ Male
___ Female
The term 'sex' refers to the biological differences between males and females, while the term 'gender' refers to the socially expected/perceived dimensions of behaviour associated with males and females - masculinity and femininity. The ABS advises

that the correct terminology for this data element is sex. Where uncertainty exists about the sex of the person (eg for transvestites or transsexuals) the sex to be recorded is to be based on the sex nominated by the person themselves on the observations or judgement of the interviewer. Although this may lead to some error, it is considered preferable to any offence that may be caused by a question that suggests that there is some doubt about the person's sex or sexuality. Arguably, the majority of community services data collections collect `gender' rather than `sex' (although the term `sex' is often used) because the person is asked to simply state his/her sex without any accompanying instructions.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Sex version 1
has been superseded by Int. NCSDD & NHDD Sex version 4

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: ABS: 1995 (as amended). Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables. Catalogue No. 1361.30.001 (Statisitical Concepts Library) Canberra: AGPS.

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM   Demographic characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element