
Sex

Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000149 Version number: 3
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-SEP-03
Definition: The sex of the person.
Context: Required for analyses of service utilisation, needs for services and epidemiological studies.

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/inadequately described

Guide For Use: 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.

Verification Rules: Code 3 Indeterminate should be queried for people aged 90 days (3 months) or greater.

For the provision of State and Territory hospital data to Commonwealth agencies this field must be consistent with diagnosis and procedure codes, for records grouped in Major diagnostic categories 12, 13 and 14, for valid grouping. For other Major diagnostic categories, sex conflicts should be queried.

Collection Methods: Code 9 is not to be an allowable option when data is being

collected ie it is not to be a tick box on any collection forms or computer screens. Systems are to take account of any null values that may occur on the primary collection form.

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 Australian Bureau of Statistics advises that the correct terminology for this data element is sex.

Information collection for transsexuals and people with transgender issues should be treated in the same manner. To avoid problems with edits, transsexuals undergoing a sex change operation should have their sex at time of hospital admission recorded.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Sex version 2
is used in the derivation of Diagnosis related group version 1
has been superseded by Int. NCSDD & NHDD Sex version 4

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

Comments: This item enables standardisation of the collection of information relating to sex (to include indeterminate), gender, people with transgender issues and transsexuals.

In collection systems (ie on forms and computer screens) Male and Female may be mapped to M and F respectively for collection purposes; however, they should be stored within information systems as the codes 1 and 2 respectively.

DSS Diabetes (clinical):

Referring to the National Diabetes Register Statistical profile (December 2000), the sex ratio varied with age. For ages less than 25 years, numbers of males and females were similar. At ages 25-44 years, females strongly outnumbered males, reflecting the effect of

