# 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 <a href="http://meteor.aihw.gov.au">http://meteor.aihw.gov.au</a>

# Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000149 Version number: 3

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Authority: 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 CODE

form:

Representation N

layout:

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

gestational diabetes in women from this group. For older age groups (45-74 years), males strongly outnumber females and in the group of 75 and over, the ratio of males to females was reversed, with a substantially lower proportion of males in the population in this age group due to the higher female life expectancy. (AIHW National Mortality Database 1997/98; National Diabetes Register; Statistical Profile, December 2000)

## Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Demographic characteristic

## Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Admitted patient care	From 01-Jul-03 to 30-Jun-04
NMDS - Admitted patient mental health	From 01-Jul-04 to 30-Jun-04
care	
NMDS - Perinatal	From 01-Jul-03 to 30-Jun-04
NMDS - Community mental health care	From 01-Jul-03 to 30-Jun-04
NMDS - Admitted patient palliative care	From 01-Jul-03 to 30-Jun-04
NMDS - Alcohol and other drug treatment services	From 01-Jul-03 to 30-Jun-04
NMDS - Non-admitted patient emergency department care	From 01-Jul-03 to 30-Jun-04
DSS - Cardiovascular disease (clinical)	From 01-Jan-03 to 01-Sep-03
DSS - Diabetes (clinical)	From 01-Jan-03 to 01-Sep-03
DSS - Health care client identification	From 01-Jan-03 to 01-Sep-03