

Person—sex, text X[X(99)]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Sex of a person, as text
Synonymous names:	Sex characteristics of a person, as text
METEOR identifier:	741731
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Standard 15/02/2022
Definition:	The sex of a person, as represented by text.
Data Element Concept:	Person—sex

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Text
Data type:	String
Format:	X[X(99)]
Maximum character length:	100

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	<p>The terms sex and gender are interrelated, and are often used interchangeably, however they are distinct concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sex is understood in relation to sex characteristics. Sex recorded at birth refers to what was determined by sex characteristics observed at birth or in infancy• Gender is about social and cultural differences in identity, expression and experience.
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While they are related concepts, caution should be exercised when comparing counts for sex with those for gender.

This data element may be used where "Another term" has been selected in the data element: [Person—sex, code X](#)

This data element may be used to capture any further (optional) specification of sex descriptors. The inclusion of this write-in facility where the "Another term" code has been selected for [Person—sex, code X](#) recognises that there are a range of terms used to describe sex which is neither male nor female, and enhances data quality. For example, respondents could report terms such as "indeterminate", "intersex", "non-binary", and "unspecified" for sex.

Data element sets implementing this data element should include a Conditional obligation with the following text: "Conditional on a CODE 3: 'Another term' response in the data element: [Person—sex, code X](#)".

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Origin: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2021. Standard for sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation variables. Canberra: ABS, viewed 6 October 2021 <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/standard-sex-gender-variations-sex-characteristics-and-sexual-orientation-variables/latest-release>

AGD (Attorney-General's Department) 2015. Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender, viewed 6 October 2021 <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/publications/australian-government-guidelines-recognition-sex-and-gender>

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

See also [Person—sex, code X](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022
- [Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

Supersedes [Person—sex, text X\[X\(99\)\]](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 15/02/2022