

# Sex

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# Sex

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Glossary Item

**METEOR identifier:** 750030

**Registration status:** [Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023  
[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Qualified 17/01/2024  
[Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board](#), Standard 30/08/2022  
[Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 18/12/2023  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 22/03/2023  
[Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

**Definition:** Sex is understood in relation to sex characteristics, such as chromosomes, hormones and reproductive organs.

Sex is often used interchangeably with **gender**, however they are distinct concepts and it is important to differentiate between them.

## Collection and usage attributes

**Comments:** "A person's sex is based upon their sex characteristics, such as their chromosomes, hormones and reproductive organs. While typically based upon the sex characteristics observed and recorded at birth or infancy, a person's reported sex can change over the course of their lifetime and may differ from their sex recorded at birth" (ABS 2021.)

"Sex refers to ... chromosomal, gonadal and anatomical characteristics" (AGD 2015.)

When comparing the concepts of sex and gender:

- 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.

While they are related concepts, caution should be exercised when comparing counts for sex with those for gender.

## 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 [Gender](#)  
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023  
[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Qualified 17/01/2024  
[Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board](#), Standard 30/08/2022  
[Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 27/08/2023  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 22/03/2023  
[Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

See also [Sexual orientation](#)  
[Health](#), Qualified 03/06/2022

See also [Variations of sex characteristics](#)  
[Health](#), Qualified 03/06/2022

**Metadata items which use this glossary item:**

[Admitted patient care NBEDS 2022–23](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 20/12/2022

[Admitted patient care NBEDS 2023–24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Admitted patient care NBEDS 2024–25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2023–24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2024–25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Admitted subacute and non-acute hospital care NBEDS 2022–23](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 20/12/2022

[Admitted subacute and non-acute hospital care NBEDS 2023–24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Admitted subacute and non-acute hospital care NBEDS 2024–25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NBEDS 2023–24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NBEDS 2024–25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2023–24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2024–25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Australian Teacher Workforce Data \(ATWD\) Collection DSS 2018–](#)  
[Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board](#), Standard 30/08/2022

[Community mental health care NMDS 2023–24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Community mental health care NMDS 2024–25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Dementia NBPDS](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 05/10/2022

[Emergency service care NBEDS 2022–23](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 07/02/2023

[Emergency service care NBEDS 2023–24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Emergency service care NBEDS 2024–25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Gender](#)  
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023  
[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Qualified 17/01/2024  
[Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board](#), Standard 30/08/2022  
[Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 27/08/2023

[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 22/03/2023  
[Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[National Outcomes and Casemix Collection NBEDS 2023-24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[National Outcomes and Casemix Collection NBEDS 2024-25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[National Outcomes and Casemix Collection NMDS 2023-24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[National Outcomes and Casemix Collection NMDS 2024-25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2022-23](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 07/02/2023

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2023-24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2024-25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Non-admitted patient NBEDS 2022-23](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 20/12/2022

[Non-admitted patient NBEDS 2023-24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Non-admitted patient NBEDS 2024-25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Perinatal NBEDS 2023-24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Perinatal NBEDS 2024-25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Person—gender, code X](#)  
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023  
[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Qualified 17/01/2024  
[Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[Person—gender, Tertiary Collection of Student Information code X](#)  
[Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board](#), Standard 30/08/2022

[Person—gender, text X\[X\(99\)\]](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[Person—sex](#)  
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023  
[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Recorded 09/08/2023  
[Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 27/08/2023  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 21/03/2023  
[Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[Person—sex, code X](#)  
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023  
[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Recorded 09/08/2023  
[Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 27/08/2023  
[Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[Person—sex, text X\[X\(99\)\]](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[Public dental waiting times NMDS 2022-](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 08/02/2023

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2023-24](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2024-25](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

[Sex](#)  
[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023

[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Recorded 09/08/2023  
[Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 27/08/2023  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 21/03/2023  
[Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[Sex code X](#)

[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023  
[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#), Recorded 09/08/2023  
[Health](#), Standard 15/02/2022  
[Indigenous](#), Standard 27/08/2023  
[Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[Sexual orientation](#)

[Health](#), Qualified 03/06/2022

[Tasmanian sex code X](#)

[Tasmanian Health](#), Qualified 22/03/2023