Gender

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Gender

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Glossary Item

METEOR identifier: 750032

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 27/08/2023
Tasmanian Health, Standard 22/03/2023
Youth Justice, Standard 15/02/2022

Definition: Gender is about social and cultural differences in identity, expression and experience as a man, boy, woman, girl, or non-binary person. Non-binary is an umbrella term describing gender identities that are not exclusively male or female.

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

Collection and usage attributes

Comments:

"Gender is a social and cultural concept. It is about social and cultural differences in identity, expression and experience as a man, woman or non-binary person. Non-binary is an umbrella term describing gender identities that are not exclusively male or female.

"Gender includes the following concepts:

- Gender identity is about who a person feels themself to be
- Gender expression is the way a person expresses their gender. A person's gender expression may also vary depending on the context, for instance expressing different genders at work and home
- Gender experience describes a person's alignment with the sex recorded for them at birth i.e. a cis experience or a trans experience" (ABS 2021.)

"Gender is part of a person’s personal and social identity. It refers to the way a person feels, presents and is recognised within the community. A person’s gender may be reflected in outward social markers, including their name, outward appearance, mannerisms and dress" (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.

Fluidity

A person's gender may differ from their sex and may also differ from what is indicated on their legal documents. A person's gender may stay the same or can change over the course of their lifetime. Where gender is recorded, response options chosen will reflect a person's gender at that point in time. Some people may not identify with a specific gender or with the concept of gender at all.

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 Sex
- 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

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

Gender code X
Aged Care, Standard 30/06/2023
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Qualified 17/01/2024
Health, 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
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

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, 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, 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