Gender

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# Gender

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| Identifying and definitional attributes |
| Metadata item type: | Glossary Item |
| METEOR identifier: | 750032 |
| Registration status: | [Aged Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/19), Standard 30/06/2023[Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/24), Qualified 17/01/2024[Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/23), Standard 30/08/2022[Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 15/02/2022[Indigenous](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/6), Standard 27/08/2023[Tasmanian Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/15), Standard 22/03/2023[Youth Justice](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/4), 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**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/750030), however they are distinct concepts and it is important to differentiate between them. |

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| 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](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/750030)       [Aged Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/19), Standard 30/06/2023       [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/24), Qualified 17/01/2024       [Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/23), Standard 30/08/2022       [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 15/02/2022       [Indigenous](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/6), Standard 18/12/2023       [Tasmanian Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/15), Standard 22/03/2023       [Youth Justice](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/4), Standard 15/02/2022See also [Sexual orientation](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/755634)       [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 03/06/2022See also [Variations of sex characteristics](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/757670)       [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 03/06/2022 |
| Metadata items which use this glossary item: | [Admitted patient care NBEDS 2022–23](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/742171)       [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Superseded 20/12/2022[Admitted patient care NBEDS 2023–24](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/756113)       [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Superseded 06/12/2023[Admitted patient care NBEDS 2024–25](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/775632)       [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 06/12/2023[Admitted patient care NMDS 2023–24](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/756111)       [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Superseded 06/12/2023[Admitted patient care NMDS 2024–25](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/775630)       [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 06/12/2023[Admitted subacute and non-acute hospital care NBEDS 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