
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 <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: Int. NCSDD & NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 002024 Version number: 4
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NCSIMG & NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-MAR-05
Definition: Sex is the biological distinction between male and female. Where there is an inconsistency between anatomical and chromosomal characteristics, sex is based on anatomical characteristics.
Context: Sex is a core data element in a wide range of social, labour and demographic statistics.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: N
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 1
Data Domain: 1 Male
 2 Female
 3 Intersex or indeterminate
 9 Not stated/inadequately described
Guide For Use: Code 3 Intersex or indeterminate, refers to a person, who because of a genetic condition, was born with reproductive organs or sex chromosomes that are not exclusively male or female or whose sex has not yet been determined for whatever reason.
Verification Rules: Code 3 Intersex or indeterminate, should be confirmed if reported for people aged 90 days or greater.
Diagnosis and procedure codes should be checked against the national ICD-10-AM sex edits, unless the person is undergoing, or has undergone a sex change as detailed in Collection methods or has a genetic condition resulting in a conflict between sex and

ICD-10-AM code.

Collection Methods: Operationally, sex is the distinction between male and female, as reported by a person or as determined by an interviewer. When collecting data on sex by personal interview, asking the sex of the respondent is usually unnecessary and may be inappropriate, or even offensive. It is usually a simple matter to infer the sex of the respondent through observation, or from other cues such as the relationship of the person(s) accompanying the respondent, or first name. The interviewer may ask whether persons not present at the interview are male or female. A person's sex may change during their lifetime as a result of procedures known alternatively as Sex change, Gender reassignment, Transsexual surgery, Transgender reassignment or Sexual reassignment. Throughout this process, which may be over a considerable period of time, Sex could be recorded as either Male or Female. In data collections that use the ICD-10-AM classification, where sex change is the reason for admission, diagnoses should include the appropriate ICD-10-AM code(s) that clearly identify that the person is undergoing such a process. This code(s) would also be applicable after the person has completed such a process, if they have a procedure involving an organ(s) specific to their previous sex (e.g. where the patient has prostate or ovarian cancer).

Code 3 Intersex or indeterminate, is normally used for babies for whom sex has not been determined for whatever reason; should not generally be used on data collection forms completed by the respondent; and should only be used if the person or respondent volunteers that the person is intersex or where it otherwise becomes clear during the collection process that the individual is neither male nor female.

Code 9 Not stated/inadequately described, is not to be used on primary collection forms. It is primarily for use in administrative collections when transferring data from data sets where the item has not been collected.

Related metadata: is used in the derivation of NHDD Diagnosis related group version 1
supersedes the NCSDD data element Sex version 2
supersedes the NHDD data element Sex version 3

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: The ABS standards for the collection of Sex appear on the ABS Website.
<<http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/StatsLibrary>>,
select: Other ABS Statistical Standards/Standards for Social,
Labour and Demographic Variables/Demographic Variables/Sex.

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Comments: This metadata item is common to both the National Community Services Data Dictionary and the National Health Data Dictionary. The definition for Intersex in Guide for use is sourced from the ACT Legislation (Gay, Lesbian and Transgender) Amendment Act 2003.

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

NCSIM Demographic characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| NMDS - Admitted patient care | From 01-Jul-04 to |
| NMDS - Admitted patient mental health care | From 01-Jul-04 to |
| NMDS - Perinatal | From 01-Jul-04 to |
| NMDS - Community mental health care | From 01-Jul-04 to |
| NMDS - Admitted patient palliative care | From 01-Jul-04 to |
| NMDS - Alcohol and other drug treatment services | From 01-Jul-04 to |
| NMDS - Non-admitted patient emergency department care | From 01-Jul-04 to |
| DSS - Cardiovascular disease (clinical) | From 02-Sep-03 to |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| DSS - Diabetes (clinical) | From 02-Sep-03 to |
| DSS - Health care client identification | From 02-Sep-03 to |
| NMDS - Residential mental health care | From 01-Jul-04 to |
| DSS - Acute coronary syndrome (clinical) | From 04-Jun-04 to |
| DSS - Cancer (clinical) | From 04-Jun-04 to |
