

Gender

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Gender

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Glossary Item

METEOR identifier: 750032

Registration status: [Health!, Standard 15/02/2022](#)
[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 themselves 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](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 15/02/2022
[Youth Justice](#), Standard 15/02/2022

Metadata items which use this glossary item:

[Admitted patient care NBEDS 2022–23](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 17/12/2021

[Admitted subacute and non-acute hospital care NBEDS 2022–23](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 20/10/2021

[Emergency service care NBEDS 2022–23](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 20/10/2021

[Gender](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[Gender code X](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2022–23](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 20/10/2021

[Non-admitted patient NBEDS 2022–23](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 20/10/2021

[Person—gender](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 15/02/2022

[Person—gender, code X](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 15/02/2022

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

[Person—sex, code X](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 15/02/2022
[Youth Justice](#), Superseded 27/03/2023

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

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