

Guide to collecting gender, sex, and variations of sex characteristics data

Step 1

Consideration

Is sex or gender information needed?

Refer to guidance in the standard to aid in assessing your information needs. The 'Bringing Gender In' tool produced by the Ministry for Women may also be useful when assessing the need for gender information in a policy context <https://women.govt.nz/gender-tool>

No

Outcome

DO NOT collect gender or sex

Yes

Outcome

Collect gender and/or sex

Go to Step 2

Please refer to the standard for guidance on classification and output.

Step 2

Consideration

Does collection need to identify transgender respondents/populations?

Or are sex and gender information both required for distinct purposes (e.g., vital statistics production or certain health care contexts)?

No to both questions

Outcome

Collect gender only
(See section on Gender)

Yes to either question

Consideration

Do you need to know respondent's/ population's sex assigned at birth for a specific reason?

Do you have a large population sample size, strict data privacy provisions, and ability to analyse transgender data accurately?

No to both questions

Outcome

Collect gender and transgender status
(See sections on Gender and Cisgender and transgender classification)

Yes to either question

Outcome

Collect 'two-step' gender and sex
(See sections on Gender and Sex)

Go to Step 3

Question example:

If able to process text responses:

What is your gender?

☐ male
☐ female
☐ another gender
Please state: _____

If unable to process text responses:

What is your gender?

☐ male
☐ female
☐ another gender

Note:

- a single gender question will be limited in its ability to identify transgender/cisgender populations
- multiple response to these questions are valid

Go to Step 3

Question example:

Gender

Transgender status

What is your gender?

☐ male
☐ female
☐ another gender
Please state: _____

Do you consider yourself to be transgender?

☐ yes
☐ no
☐ don't know
☐ prefer not to say

Note:

- Transgender is an umbrella term that refers to people whose gender is different to the sex they were assigned at birth. Other identities considered to fall under this umbrella can include non-binary, transsexual, takatāpui, fa'afafine, genderqueer - and many more.

Go to Step 3

Question example:

Sex at birth

Gender

What was your sex at birth? (for example, what was recorded on your birth certificate)

☐ male
☐ female

What is your gender?

☐ male
☐ female
☐ another gender
Please state: _____

Step 3

Consideration

Is intersex population data needed?

No

Outcome

DO NOT collect variations of sex characteristics data

Yes

Outcome

Collect variations of sex characterisitcs data
(See section on Variations of sex characteristics)

Question example

Variations of sex characteristics

Were you born with a variation of sex characteristics (otherwise known as an intersex variation)?

☐ yes
☐ no
☐ don't know
☐ prefer not to say