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Session 2 - Gender in International Standards

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28 JULY 2026

Contents

Intersectionality

Helps reveal how gender interacts with age, disability, migration status, ethnicity, income, location and other characteristics — showing inequalities that averages may hide.

Statistical Standards

Define the concepts, classifications, methods and quality requirements that shape what is measured, who is represented, and whether inequalities can be compared and revealed

Gender Mainstreaming – Statistical Commision

Shows how gender perspectives are being integrated across statistical domains — turning principles into standards, guidance and work programmes.

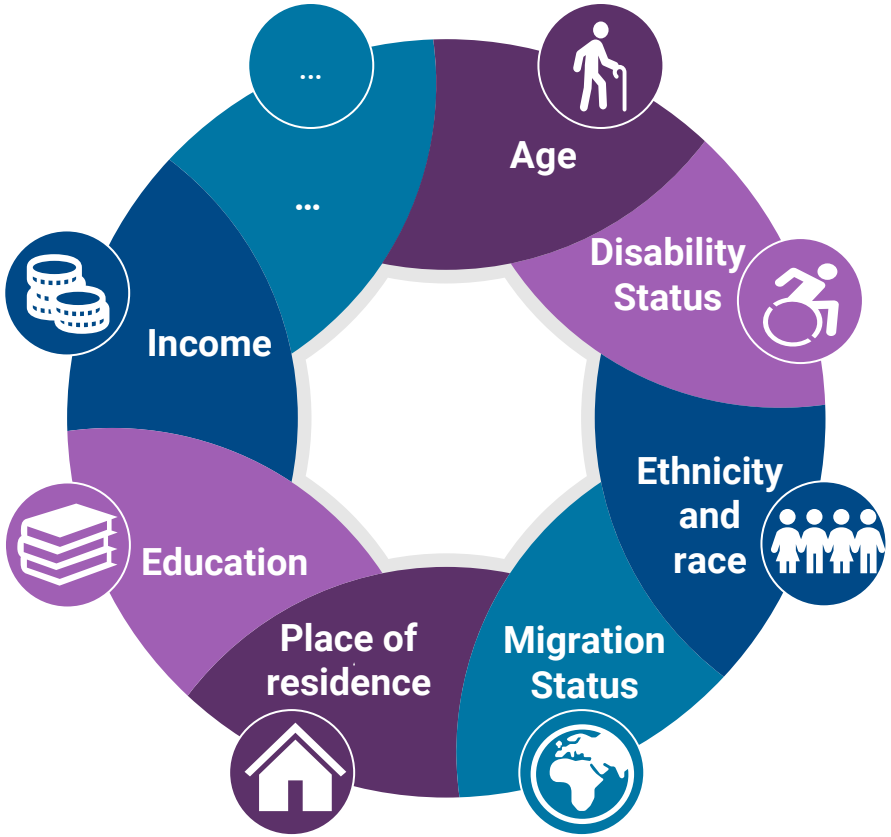
To leave no one behind, statistical systems must be designed to represent people fully — who they are, how they live, and how intersecting inequalities shape their opportunities and outcomes

Intersectionality

Beyond Sex-Disaggregation: Why an Intersectional Approach Matters

Gender inequalities are not experienced in the same way by all women and men.

An intersectional approach recognizes that multiple characteristics and power relations shape people's lived experiences, including:



What intersectionality adds to gender statistics:

- Identifies inequalities not only between women and men, but also **within each group**
- Captures how multiple forms of disadvantage interact and reinforce each other
- Improves the ability of statistics to reflect real population diversity
- Strengthens the evidence base for more targeted and equitable policies

Gender gaps are not uniform. Understanding which women and which men are most affected is essential for leaving no one behind.

Enabling Intersectional Analysis Through Data Disaggregation

Intersectional analysis requires data that capture population diversity and enable the examination of overlapping and interacting inequalities.

Identify and measure relevant population characteristics

Design data systems to support disaggregation

-Include relevant variables in censuses, surveys, and administrative records

-Ensure adequate coverage of population groups, including those that are small or hard to reach

-Apply appropriate methodologies to produce reliable estimates

Analyze intersections, not only individual characteristics

- Go beyond comparisons between women and men

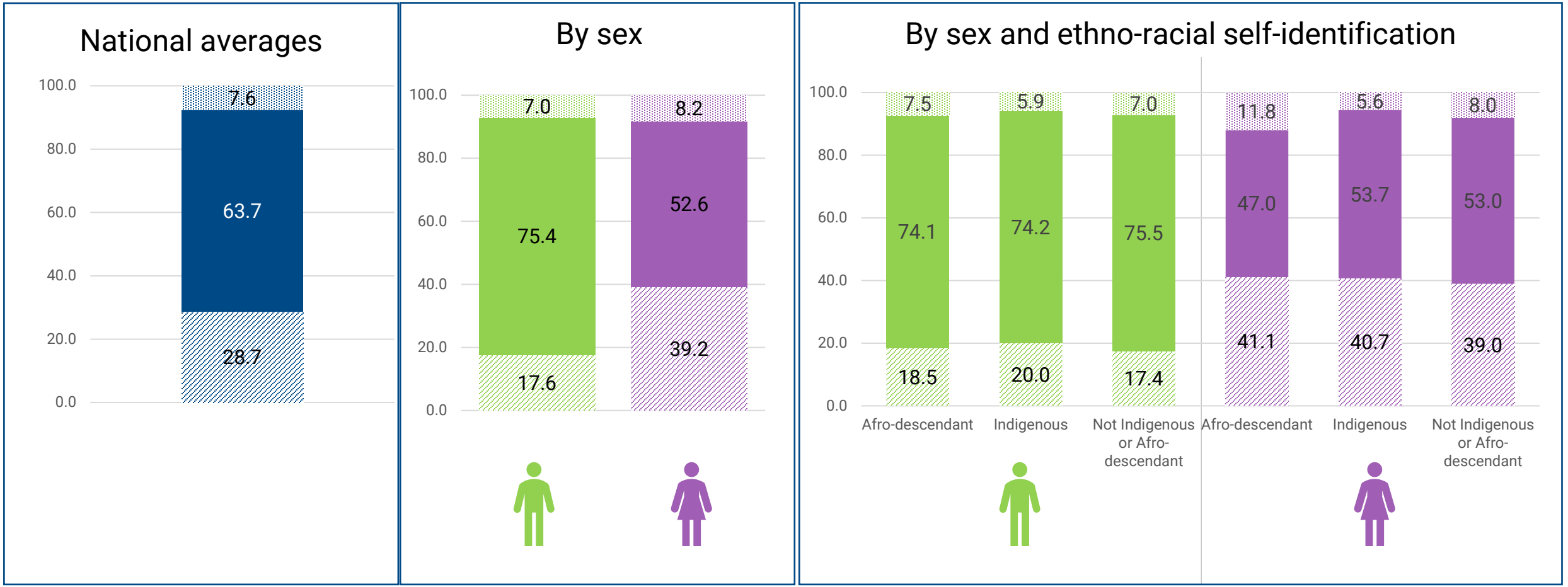
- Examine how characteristics combine to shape outcomes and opportunities

-Identify inequalities both between and within population groups

Better Evidence for Policy
(identify who is being left behind)

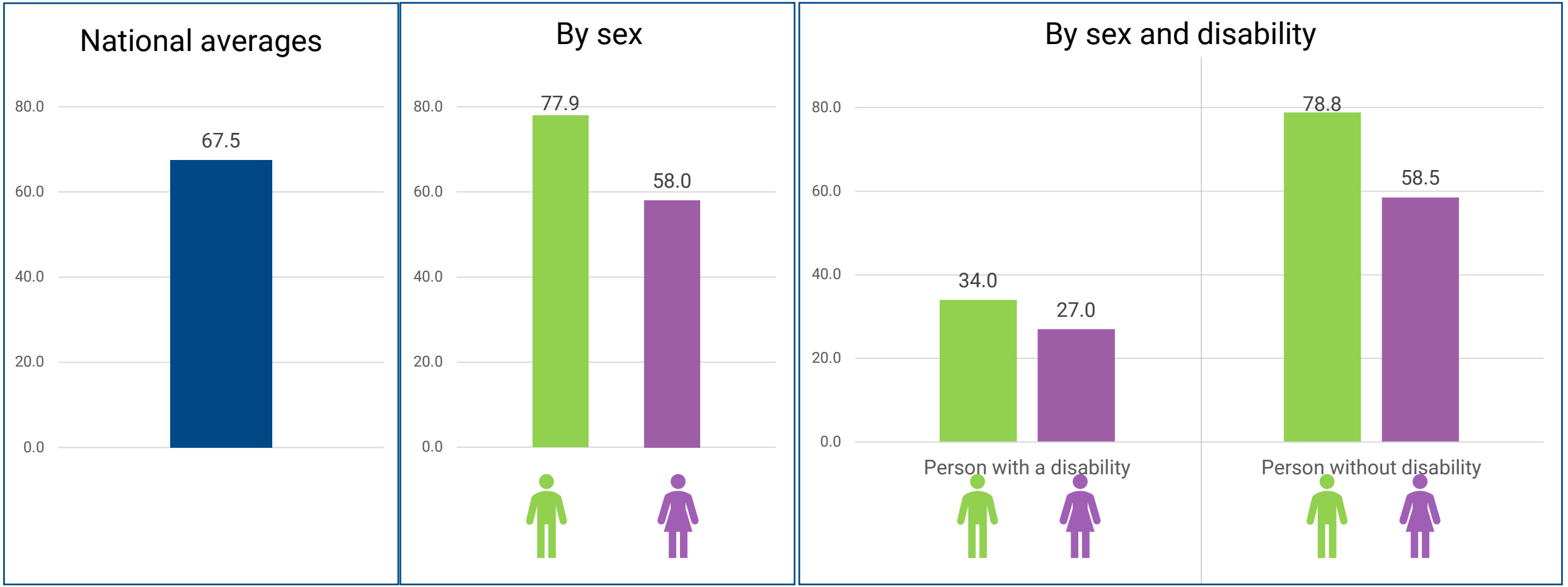
Disaggregation is necessary, but not sufficient. Intersectional analysis requires examining how multiple characteristics interact to reveal inequalities that may remain hidden in aggregate statistics.

Colombia (2024): Distribution of the population by economic activity status



Source: Own elaboration based on data from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG), based on national household surveys.

Bolivia (2023): Labor force participation rate among the population aged 15 and over

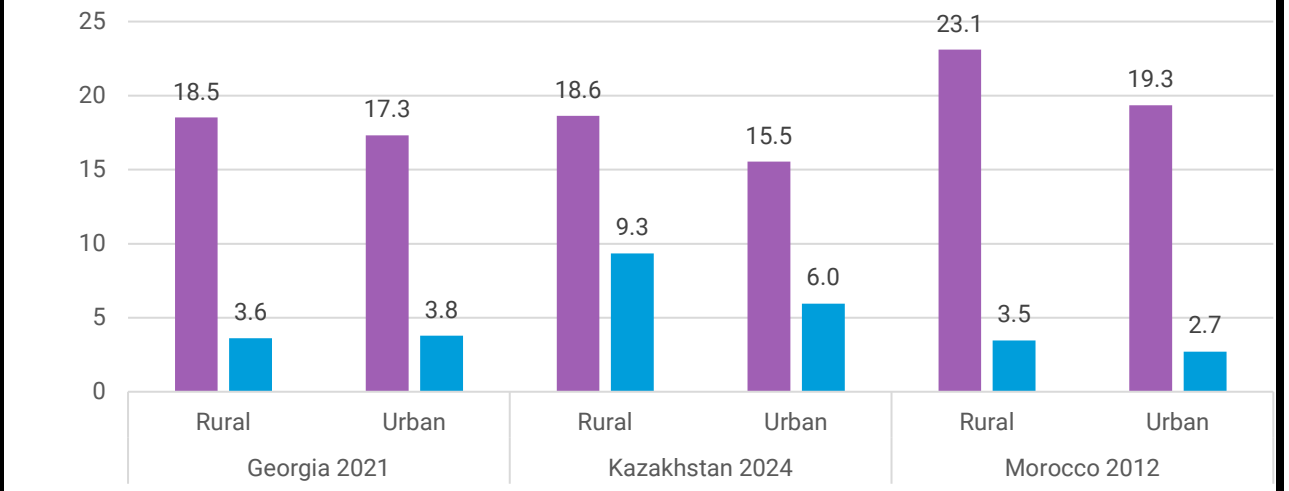


Source: Own elaboration based on data from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG), based on national household surveys.

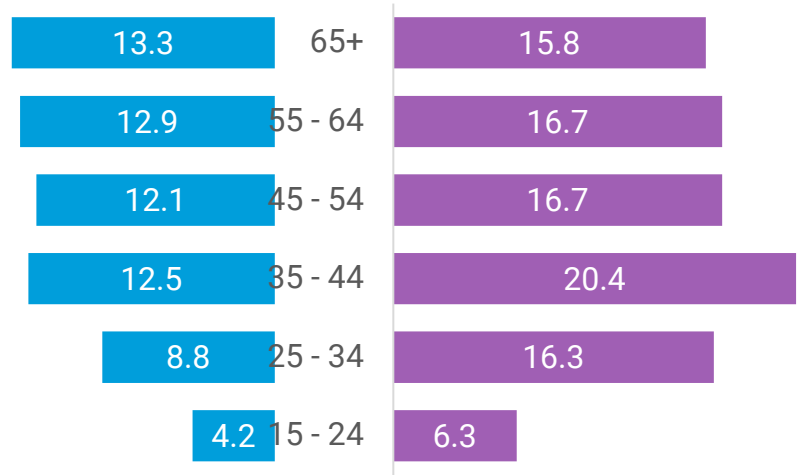
Leaving no one behind

SDG 5.4.1: Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work

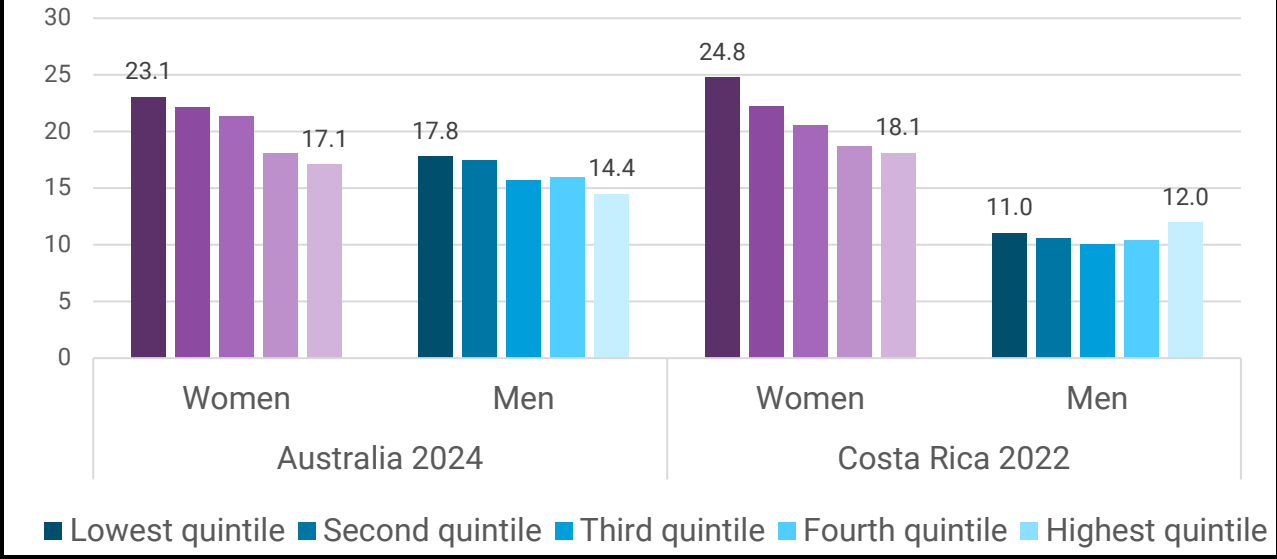
Georgia (2021), Kazakhstan (2024) and Morocco (2012): by location and sex



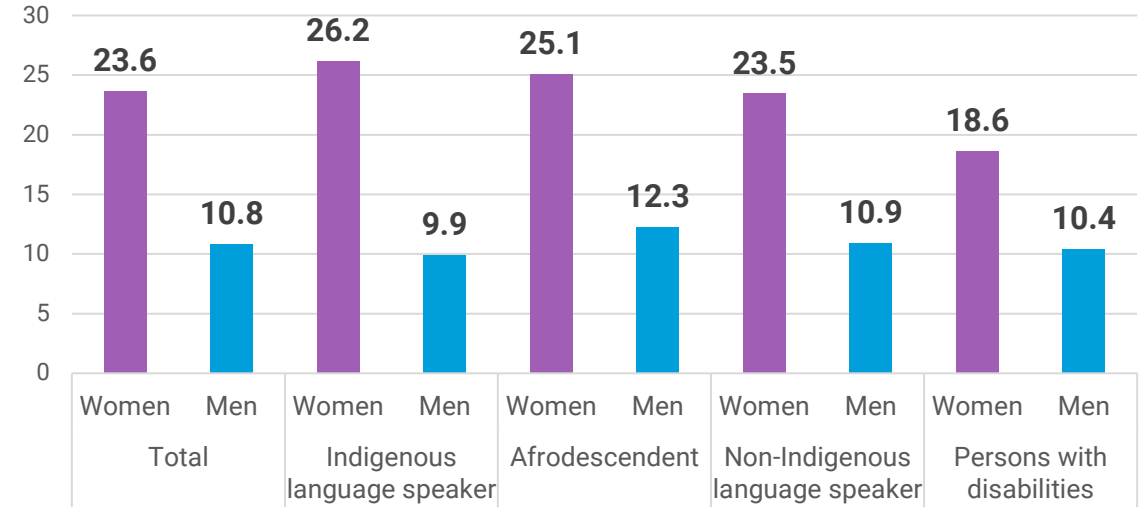
Canada(2023): by age and sex



Australia (2024) and Costa Rica(2022): by household income and sex



Mexico (2024): by population group and sex



Gender in International Statistical Standards

Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses – Revision 4

Provides the **normative framework** for census concepts, classifications, operations and outputs. The P&R supports **effective, inclusive and internationally comparable censuses**.

Why it matters

International comparability: Supports consistent and comparable census data across countries and over time.

Full population coverage: Makes women, men, girls and boys visible across the life cycle, including groups often underrepresented in sample surveys.

Small-area statistics: Enables analysis of gender inequalities at local and subnational levels, where national averages may hide exclusion.

Foundation for gender statistics: Provides benchmark population counts, denominators and sampling frames for surveys and other data sources.

Basis for intersectional analysis: Supports disaggregation by sex together with age, location, disability, migration status, household characteristics and other variables..

Gender approach in the P&R

- Cross-cutting gender perspective across the census process
- Inclusive planning, governance and user consultation
- Avoid gender bias in concepts, questions and operations
- Gender-responsive training, outreach and fieldwork protocols
- Improved visibility of groups at risk of exclusion

The P&R make censuses a foundation for gender statistics by ensuring that everyone is counted, while promoting a cross-cutting gender approach that reduces bias throughout the census process.

Uganda NPHC 2024: Integrating Gender in Census Operations and Outputs

Using the 2024 National Population and Housing Census to strengthen gender statistics

1. GENDER-RESPONSIVE SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

Strategic Objective: Institutionalize generation and use of **gender statistics**

Male and female interviewers, ensuring **no gender bias**

Local interviewers recruited from areas of operation ensuring **no language or cultural biases**

2. GENDER-RELEVANT INFORMATION COLLECTED

Access to resources
- Saving schemes
- Mobile phone
- Other ICT
- Land
- Government Programmes

Gender issues
- Fertility
- Mortality
- Life expectancy
- **GBV**

Socio-economic status
Sex, Age, Religion, Tribe, Marital status, Education status, Migration, Disability, Labour force status, Emigration status

Housing and household characteristics
Tenure, Rooms, Construction materials, Food security, Energy, Water, Household assets, Communication services, Main source of livelihood, Remittances, Agriculture

3. SDG INDICATORS PRODUCED

The census data supports production of gender-related SDG indicators.

Five indicators:
- 1.4.2: Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land with legally recognized documentation
- 3.1.1: Maternal mortality ratio
- 3.7.2: Adolescent birth rates per 1,000 women
- 5.b.1: Proportion of individuals (10 years and above) who own a mobile telephone
- 8.5.2 Unemployment rate

Produces gender statistics beyond male/female count

Enables analysis of inequalities in access to resources, education, work and land

Supports monitoring of gender-related SDG indicators

Handbook of Surveys on Households and Individuals Foundations and Emerging Approaches

UN-endorsed, modular and dynamic guidance for household and individual surveys covering the full survey lifecycle: needs, management, questionnaire design, sampling, data collection, processing, weighting, analysis and dissemination.

Why it matters

Foundational and practical guidance: Supports countries in strengthening survey design, implementation and use of survey data.

Inclusive and future-oriented: Combines methodological foundations with emerging approaches, innovation and interoperability.

Organized around the survey lifecycle: Aligns survey practice with the GSBPM, making gender integration operational across phases.

Supports policy-relevant data production: Designed to produce high-quality, inclusive and policy-relevant statistics on households and individuals.

Gender approach in the Handbook

Gender as a cross-cutting lens: Gender is embedded throughout the survey lifecycle, not treated only at the dissemination stage.

Standalone chapter on gender mainstreaming: Chapter 15 provides focused guidance on integrating a gender perspective across survey phases.

Intersectionality is central: Goes beyond sex-disaggregation to consider age, disability, ethnicity, migration status, income and geography.

Gender mainstreaming improves statistical quality: Helps reduce bias in coverage, measurement, interpretation and dissemination.

Ethics and safety are integral: Especially important for sensitive topics such as violence, sexual and reproductive health, care work and discrimination.

The Handbook treats gender both as a cross-cutting requirement across all survey phases and as a dedicated methodological area through a standalone chapter on mainstreaming a gender perspective.

Handbook of Surveys on Households and Individuals Foundations and Emerging Approaches

Specify Needs	Design	Build	Collect	Process	Analyse	Disseminate	Evaluate
✓Define gender-sensitive objectives and expected outputs. ✓Identify gender data gaps and plan for intersectional analysis. ✓Consult gender stakeholders and include gender-responsive budgeting.	✓Design gender-sensitive questionnaires: avoid stereotypes, assumptions and inappropriate terminology. ✓Plan sampling to reduce coverage bias and support sex-disaggregated / intersectional estimates. ✓Predefine gender indicators, tabulations and dissemination needs.	✓Translate gender requirements into tools, systems and training materials. ✓Test instruments for gender bias using cognitive testing and diverse respondents. ✓Build databases and outputs that support sex-disaggregated and intersectional results. .	✓Apply ethical and gender-sensitive data collection: privacy, consent and safety protocols. ✓Train field staff to avoid bias and to handle sensitive topics appropriately ✓Monitor gendered nonresponse, proxy reporting and participation barriers.	✓Use gender-aware coding, editing, validation and imputation practices. ✓Check that key sex and intersectional variables are preserved and documented. ✓Avoid processing rules that may unintentionally reinforce gender bias.	✓Apply ethical and gender-sensitive data collection: privacy, consent and safety protocols. ✓Train field staff to avoid bias and to handle sensitive topics appropriately ✓Monitor gendered nonresponse, proxy reporting and participation barriers.	✓Prepare gender-sensitive and targeted outputs for different audiences. ✓Highlight sex-disaggregated and intersectional findings clearly. ✓Use accessible formats and provide metadata on concepts, limitations and confidentiality. .	✓Review whether gender was effectively integrated across all phases. ✓Assess gaps in coverage, measurement, analysis and dissemination. ✓Document lessons learned and update protocols, training and tools.

Cross-cutting	
	✓**Quality management:** Gender mainstreaming should be treated as a quality dimension of survey design, implementation and outputs. ✓**Survey management:** Gender integration requires strong governance, budgeting, coordination, staffing and training across the survey lifecycle. ✓**Intersectionality:** A gender perspective must consider how sex interacts with age, disability, ethnicity, migration, income, geography and other characteristics. ✓**Human Rights-Based Approach:** Surveys should support rights-based data production by recognizing inclusion, participation, non-discrimination and accountability.

System of National Accounts 2025

Why it matters

- ❖ Global framework for measuring economic activity
- ❖ Foundation for macroeconomic analysis and policymaking
- ❖ Enhances integration across statistical domains
- ❖ Supports analysis of well-being and sustainability
- ❖ Improves the relevance of economic statistics for emerging policy needs

Example: The explicit inclusion of unpaid household service work as a thematic/extended account is especially relevant for gender analysis, given the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work.

Gender-relevant advances

Recognition of unpaid household service work: Opens important space for better visibility of activities disproportionately performed by women.

Household distribution data: Supports analysis of gendered inequalities through household income, consumption, saving and wealth profiles.

Expanded labour and well-being perspective: Introduces broader labour market tables and new chapters on measuring well-being and the sustainability of well-being.

Links to social policy analysis: The new framework strengthens the analytical connection between macroeconomic accounts and issues such as care, health, education and living standards.

Not a gender statistics standard per se: But it creates important opportunities to make economic statistics more relevant for gender analysis.

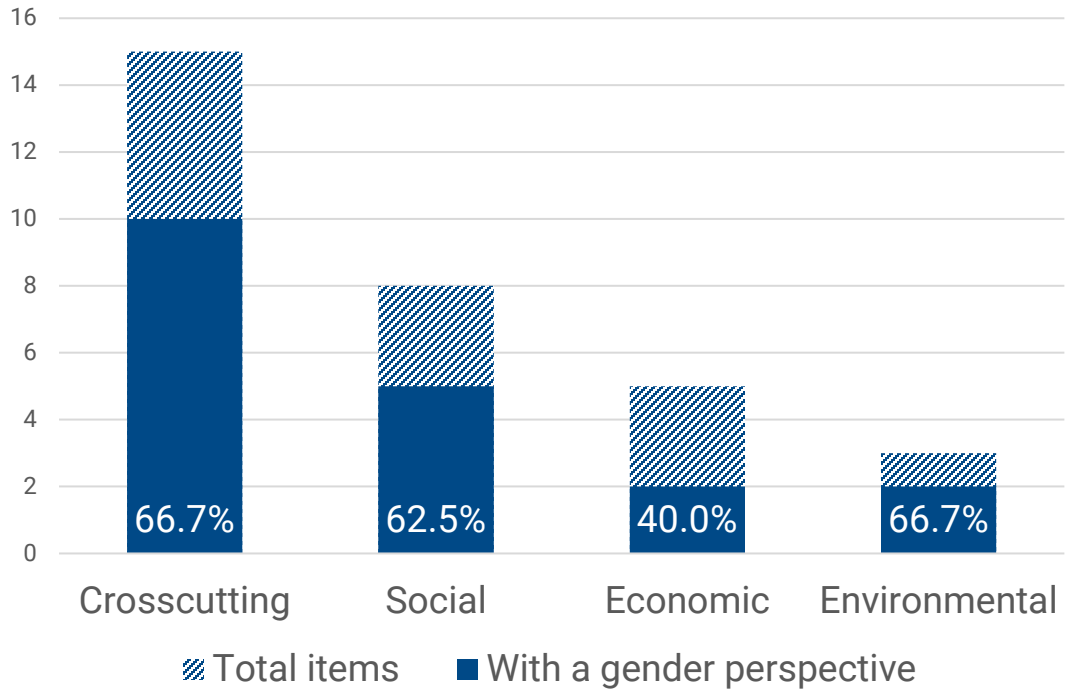
The 2025 SNA does not directly produce gender statistics, but it expands the national accounts framework in ways that make economic measurement more relevant for analysing unpaid work, household well-being and distributional inequalities.

Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into the work of the Statistical Commission

Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into the work of the Statistical Commission

In 2020, the UN Statistical Commission called for the integration of a gender perspective across all agenda items (decision 51/115).

The 57th session of the Statistical Commission shows the continuous effort to mainstream the gender perspective across social, economic, environmental and cross-cutting pillars.



61.3%
of documents included a gender perspective.

73.3%
among discussion and decision items.

66.7%
among decision items.

40%
among information items.

Gender mainstreaming is not limited to gender statistics. It is increasingly integrated across all areas of official statistics.

Advancing Gender Mainstreaming across statistical domains

SDG Monitoring

The **Gender Snapshot 2025** highlights progress where gender equality is prioritized but warns of unprecedented backlash against women's rights that can be reversed through investment and political will.

Household Surveys

Adopted the new **Handbook of Surveys on Households and Individuals Foundations and Emerging Approaches** which dedicates a full chapter to integrating gender perspectives across the entire survey lifecycle.

Social and Demographic Statistics

Endorsed a central framework for a system of population and social statistics that positions **sex** as a primary disaggregation variable and integrates **time-use** and **unpaid care work** across all building blocks.

Gender Statistics

Launched a four-year project (UNEP & UNSD) on **gender-sensitive climate indicators**, hosted the 10th Global Forum on Gender Statistics, and advanced work on measuring **technology-facilitated violence.**

Governance Statistics

Endorsed new tools on **political participation and discrimination**, including guidance for using administrative data, all embedding explicit gender dimensions and intersectional measurement.

Business and Trade Statistics

Adopted **IMTS 2026** and **MSITS 2026**, which explicitly integrate gender-disaggregated indicators. Implementation guidance and capacity development were welcomed.

Climate Change Statistics

Adopted guidance on **climate and gender statistics** recognizing that climate change affects people differently and that sex-disaggregation alone is insufficient.

Disaster-related Statistics

Adopted the **Global Disaster-Related Statistics Framework (G-DRSF)** which recognizes that disaster risk is not gender-neutral and embeds sex-disaggregated data requirements.

Complemented by side events | on measuring sexual harassment, women's leadership in official statistics, time-use data for economic decision-making, and progress towards a framework for measuring technology-facilitated violence against women.

United Nations

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