

# Statistics Canada Initiatives on Gender Statistics

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Delivering insight through data for a better Canada



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# Outline

- Measuring sex at birth and gender
- Data on gender diversity in Canada
- Recent publications and current work related to women and gender
- Sex, Gender and Sexual Orientation Hub
- Gender Results Framework
- National statistical standards



# Measuring sex at birth and gender

## Context

- Prior to the 2021 Census, some individuals expressed that they were not able to see themselves in the two existing responses of male and female on the sex question in the census.
- Following [extensive consultation and country-wide engagement](#) with the Canadian population, as well as [testing of new content](#), the census evolved—as it has for more than a century—to reflect societal changes.
- For the 2021 Census, the precision of ‘at birth’ [was added to the sex question](#) on the census, and a new question on gender was included.
- **On April 27, 2022, Canada became the first country to publish census data on transgender and non-binary people.**



# Measuring sex at birth and gender

## Considerations and challenges for surveys

- Since 2018, social statistics programs have implemented the two-step approach.
- Collecting sex at birth and gender is not necessary in all surveys:
  - Based on the [Canadian government's policy direction](#), gender should be asked by default.
  - Sex at birth is needed to measure certain health or demographic indicators.
  - Both questions are needed to measure the **transgender population**
  - When data on sex at birth, gender and sexual orientation are available in the same survey, it is possible to measure the **2SLGBTQI+ population**.
- The transgender and non-binary population is relatively small causing potential data quality and confidentiality issues.



# Measuring sex at birth and gender

## 2021 Census of Population questionnaire

### Sex at birth

**What was this person's sex at birth:**  
*Sex refers to sex assigned at birth.*

1. Male
2. Female

### Gender

**What is this person's gender:**  
*Gender refers to current gender which may be different from sex assigned at birth and may be different from what is indicated on legal documents.*

1. Male
2. Female
3. Or please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

# Measuring sex at birth and gender

## Classifications and definitions

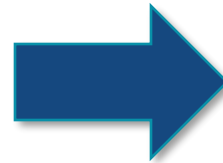
### Sex at birth

- Male
- Female



### Gender

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary person



### Classification of cisgender, transgender and non-binary (Gender diversity status)

- Cisgender man
- Transgender man
- Cisgender woman
- Transgender woman
- Non-binary person

Source: [Gender and sex at birth variables](#)



# Measuring gender

## Statistics Canada: International leadership

- **2019:** Statistics Canada and the Office of National Statistics of the United Kingdom co-wrote the report *In-depth review of measuring gender identity* for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
- **2020-2021:** Statistics Canada participated in the UNECE task force on gender identity.
- **2023-2025:** Statistics Canada is part of the UNECE task force 9 on sex and gender for the 2030 round of census.

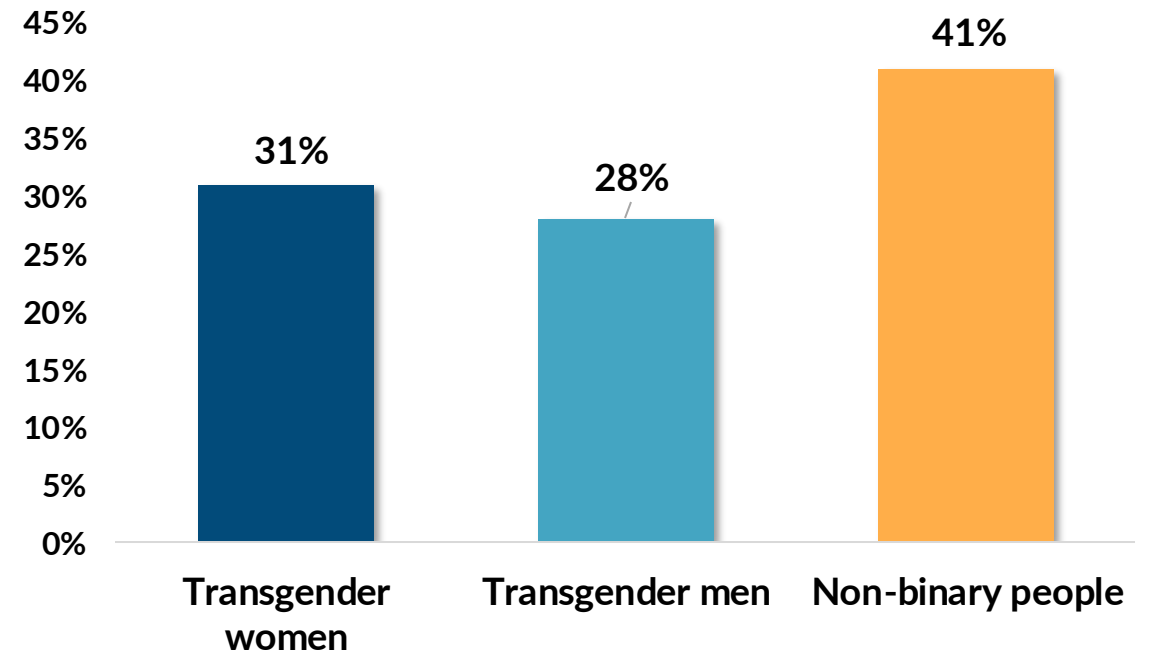


# Some data on gender diversity in Canada

## 2021 Census

- One in 300 people in Canada aged 15 and older are transgender or non-binary.
- Among transgender and non-binary people, 31% were transgender women (31,555), 28% were transgender men (27,905) and 41% were non-binary people (41,355).

Transgender and non-binary population in Canada, people aged 15 years old and over, 2021



Source: [2021 Census of population, Statistics Canada](#)

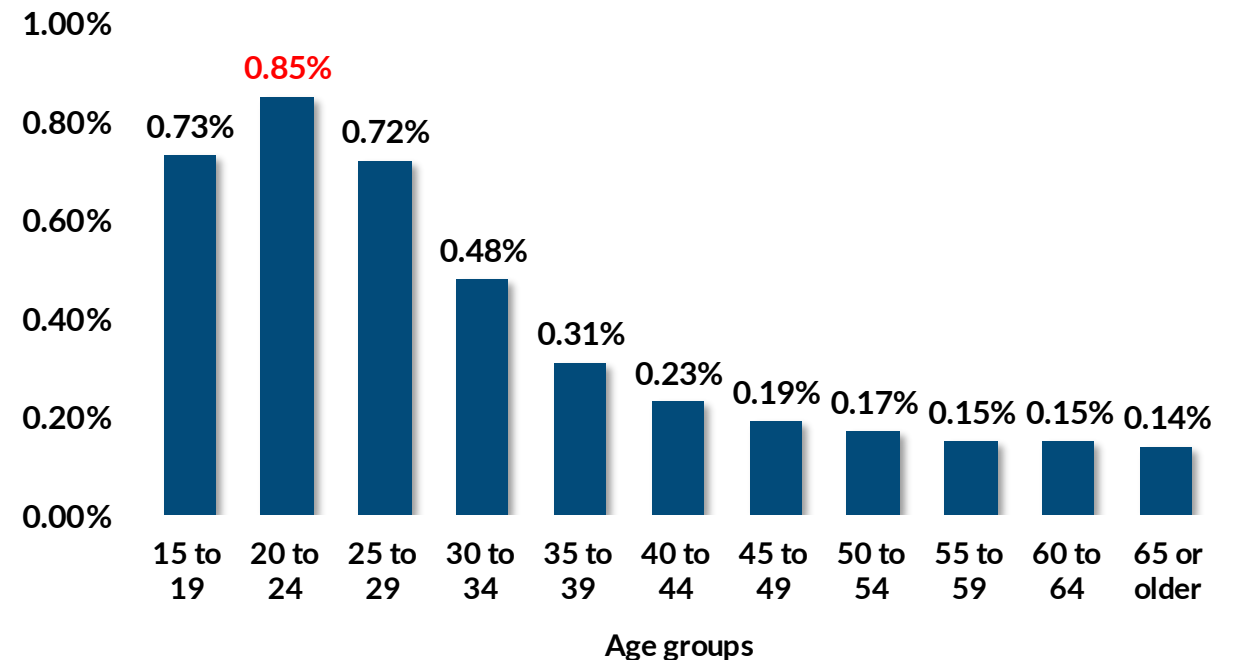


# Some data on gender diversity in Canada

## 2021 Census

- In 2021, a higher proportion of younger than older Canadians were transgender or non-binary.
- Gender diversity was highest among those aged 20 to 24, almost 1 in 100 of whom were transgender and non-binary.

Transgender and non-binary population in Canada by age groups, people aged 15 years old and over, 2021

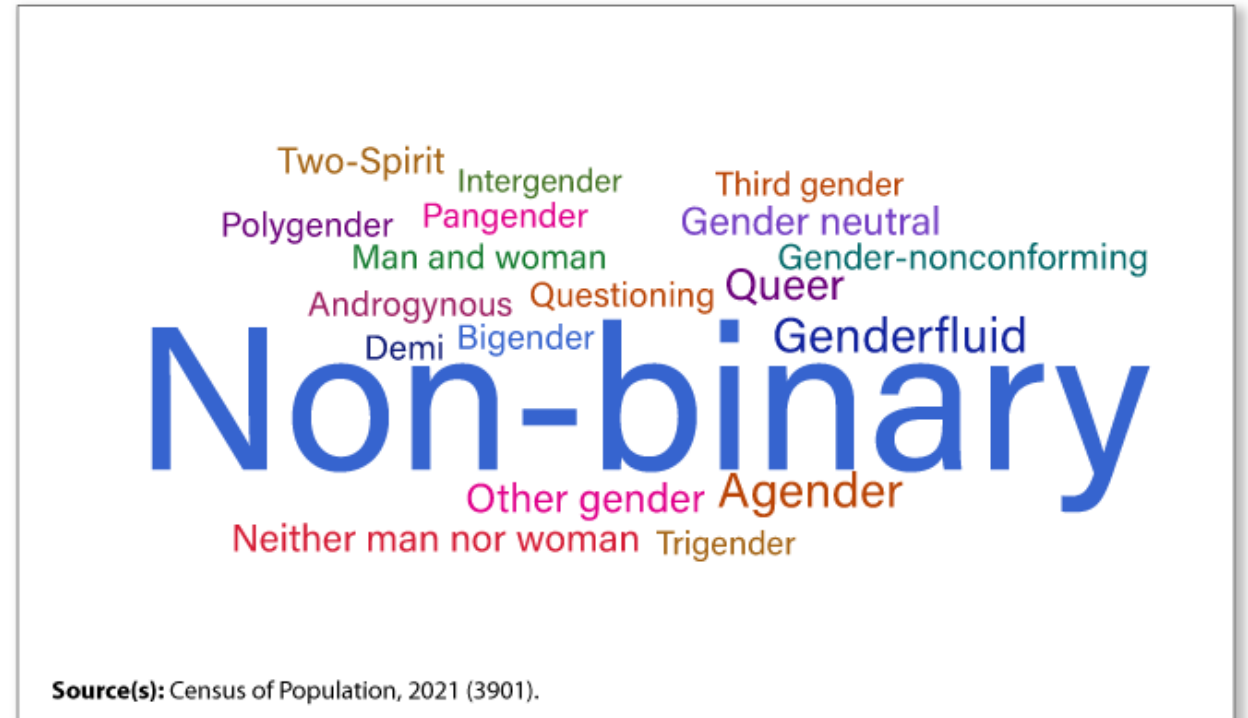


Source: [2021 Census of population, Statistics Canada](#)

# Some data on gender diversity in Canada

## 2021 Census

- Almost 30% of non-binary people described their gender using terms other than 'non-binary', including 'fluid' (7.3%), 'agender' (5.1%) and 'queer' (4.1%).



Source: [2021 Census of population, Statistics Canada](#)

# Recent publications on gender diversity

## 2021 Census

### *Daily article:*

- [Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people](#)

### Reference products:

- [Age, Sex at Birth and Gender Reference Guide](#)
- [2021 Census: Sex at birth and gender – the whole picture \(video\)](#)
- [Balancing the Protection of Confidentiality with the Needs for Disaggregated Census Data](#)
- [Filling the gaps: Information on gender in the 2021 Census](#)

### Data tables:

- [Broad age groups and gender: Canada, provinces and territories](#)
- [Broad age groups and gender: Canada and census metropolitan areas](#)

# Recent publications on gender diversity

## 2021 Census

### Other publications

- [Pride Season 2022... by the numbers](#)
- [Understanding who we are: Sex at birth and gender of people in Canada](#)
- [Canada's Transgender and Non-Binary Population: Data Visualization Tool](#)
- [Welcome, Pride Season! - Statistics Canada](#)
- [Video - Seeing Everyone: Gender Diversity Data](#)

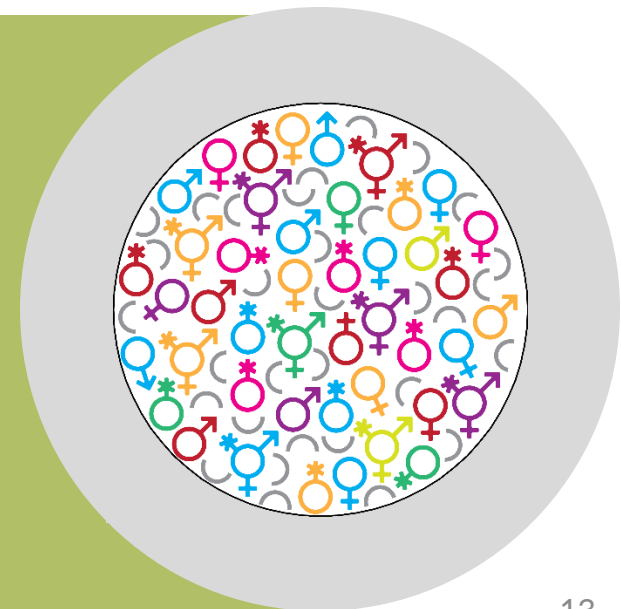


# Sex, Gender and Sexual Orientation Hub

- The Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics (GDIS) Hub now includes, and connects to, a new **Sex, Gender and Sexual Orientation Hub**.

The **Sex, Gender and Sexual Orientation Hub** was developed to

- monitor and report on indicators included in the Gender Results Framework
- provide data and analyses on gender and LGBTQ2+ communities.



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# Gender Results Framework

- In Budget 2018, the Government of Canada introduced **The Gender Results Framework (GRF)** which identifies priority areas of action for advancing gender equality.
- The **GRF** is designed to:
  - track how Canada is currently performing
  - define what is needed to achieve greater equality
  - determine how progress will be measured going forward.



# Current work related to women and gender

- Intersectional analysis of the gender wage gap
- Playing catch-up: Re-assessing the labour market outcomes of lone mothers in Canada
- Low-income status of persons in one-parent families headed by immigrants: An intersectional analysis



# National statistical standards


## Tested and trusted

- For Statistics Canada to provide more disaggregated information for population groups, the data must be collected in a standardized way to allow for meaningful comparisons and a sufficient volume of data must also be collected to enable these comparisons.
- Statistics Canada plays a leading role in ensuring that strong standards are developed and adopted as part of the national statistical system. This includes making available statistical standards for collecting disaggregated data.
- “[Tested and trusted statistical standards](#)” explores how statistical standards are used to provide data insights on a particular topic to help individuals understand and interpret those data.

**National statistical standards:**  
Tested and trusted

**What are statistical standards?**  
Statistical standards are a set of rules that set out how data are collected and how statistics are produced and published. They provide information about the data collected on a particular topic to help individuals understand and interpret those data.

**Statistics Canada: Tested and trusted statistical standards for Canadians**




- Ensure quality statistical information
- Create a meaningful statistical portrait of people, society, economy and the environment
- Reduce costs through harmonization
- Improve transparency
- Advance innovation
- Improve comparability over time
- Facilitate data sharing

**Statistical standards in action**  
Statistical standards are used to provide data insights on specific topics.

- Depict diversity within Canada's Black population using the **immigrant, ethnic origin, language and population group (groups designated as visible minorities) standards**
- Determine the proportion of transgender individuals in the Canadian population using the **sex assigned at birth and gender standards**

**How are statistical standards used?**



- At Statistics Canada to ensure that the quality of the data we produce is consistent over time and across collections
- By public, private and academic sectors that produce and manage data to help them integrate data from various sources
- By partners and to comply with international reporting obligations and encourage data comparability between countries

**Some of our statistical standards**  
Statistics Canada has many national statistical standards used for collecting and publishing more detailed data. Here are just some examples:

- Ethnic origin of person
- Gender of person
- Indigenous identity of person
- National Occupational Classification (NOC)
- North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)
- Population group (groups designated as visible minorities)
- Sex of person assigned at birth

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# Contact information

Thank you!

If you have questions, please contact Statistics Canada's  
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