Statistics Canada Initiatives on Gender Statistics

17th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics
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Delivering insight through data for a better Canada
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:
  o Based on the Canadian government’s policy direction, gender should be asked by default.
  o Sex at birth is needed to measure certain health or demographic indicators.
  o Both questions are needed to measure the transgender population
  o 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What was this person’s sex at birth:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Sex refers to sex assigned at birth.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is this person’s gender:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>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.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Or please specify: ___________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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


• **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).

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.

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(s): Census of Population, 2021 (3901).

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
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.
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.
Contact information

Thank you!

If you have questions, please contact Statistics Canada’s Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics:

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