

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DATA COLLECTION OF SEX, GENDER, VARIATIONS OF SEX CHARACTERISTICS AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Standard for Sex, Gender, Variation of Sex Characteristics and Sexual Orientation Variables, 2020 (“2020 Standard”) has been developed to standardise the collection and dissemination of data relating to sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation.

The four variables presented in the 2020 standard, when cross-classified with other variables, will provide comprehensive data on a particular topic, issue or population group. The resulting information can be used for a range of purposes, including:

- Informed decision making and planning.
- Policy formulation and monitoring.
- Social, population and economic research and analysis.
- Program provision and evaluation (e.g. health services).

WHO SHOULD USE THE STANDARDS FOR DATA COLLECTION?

Meridian recommends that these standards are used (as a minimum) by community organisations, government, academic and private sector organisations in their own statistical collections to improve the comparability and quality of data.



THE STANDARD SEX QUESTION STRUCTURE IS COMPRISED OF:

What was [your/Person's name/their] sex recorded at birth?

Please select one box:

- Male
- Female
- Another term (please specify)

The standard gender question structure is comprised of:

How [do/does] [you/Person's name/they] describe [your/their] gender? Gender refers to current gender, which may be different to sex recorded at birth and may be different to what is indicated on legal documents. Please select one box:

- Man or male
- Woman or female
- Non-binary
- [I/They] use a different term (please specify)

The standard variations of sex characteristics question structure is comprised of:

Were you born with a variation of sex characteristics (sometimes called 'intersex' or 'DSD')? Please select one box:

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer

The standard sexual orientation question structure is comprised of:

How do you describe your sexual orientation?

Please select one box:

- Straight (heterosexual)
- Gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- I use a different term (please specify)
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer

WHY INCLUDING GENDER AND SEXUALITY MATTERS

Simply and perhaps most importantly, including questions in your data collection that adequately capture gender and sexual diversity is an important act of recognition of LGBTIQ people and their lives. Those who do not identify as male or female or heterosexual often feel invisible to the wider community.

For further information, training and education on data collection methodology to comprehensively acknowledge and identify people of diverse sex, sexuality and gender please contact Meridian.

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