

Status Update on Task Force 9: Sex and Gender

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What you will hear about today..

- Concepts of sex and gender
- Focus of the Task Force
- 2020 Recommendations on sex
- Work on sex *and* gender after the 2020 Recommendations
- Task Force 9 progress and country specific experiences
- Future work

Concepts: *sex and gender*

- Historically we've used the term "sex" to measure gendered differences and concepts
- Contributed to the conflation of sex and gender
- In some collection systems it's important to maintain binary options
 - Weighting controls to calibrate surveys
 - Population denominators for rates that reflect health outcomes

Focus of the Task Force

- Outlining concepts and definitions related to sex, gender and gender identity
- The rationale for sex as a core topic in addition to collecting information on gender
- The collection experiences in countries that have introduced a gender or gender identity question including question wording, response options, open ended categories, classifications and standards
- Where possible, issues to consider before making changes to a census like policy implications, public opinion, legal context
- Disclosure control and quality assurance

2020 Recommendations on sex

- Concise recommendation on sex
 - Fundamental core variable collected by 100% of countries
 - With age and marital status understand socio-economic and demographic issues
- Acknowledges that some countries have started to see the need to expand to allow persons of cross-gender or indeterminate sex to self-identify
- For countries that do want to record gender or gender identity
 - Rigorous testing is needed
 - Errors that can exponentially impact small and unique populations
 - Perhaps better not to collect the data at all if there are data quality concerns and disclosure risks

Work after the 2020 Recommendations

- 2019 in-depth review of measuring gender identity by Canada and UK
- UNCEC 2019 Neuchatel session on measuring gender identity
- Gender Identity Task Team
 - Charged with monitoring related gender and gender identity research and testing, developing and maintaining an online repository of documentation and research

Task Force 9 progress and country experiences

- Meeting since Fall of 2022; 10 countries plus UNSD and UNFPA
- The 2021 Canadian Census collected information on gender by default asking “What is this person’s sex at birth?” followed by “What is this person’s gender?”
- 2021 Censuses in England and Wales asked “What is your sex?” followed by “Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?”
- The U.S. Census Bureau is testing the feasibility of adding sexual orientation and gender identity questions to the American Community Survey
- Italy is doing qualitative and quantitative research on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

Future work – proposed survey content

- Types of information collected - binary sex (M/F) or gender
- Question wording, response categories, open ended questions, testing
- Statistical standards or harmonized data
- Does language include different words for sex and gender
- Public understanding of terms and questions
- Publication strategies
- Disclosure and quality assurance methods

Questions and Discussion

Thank you for your attention!

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