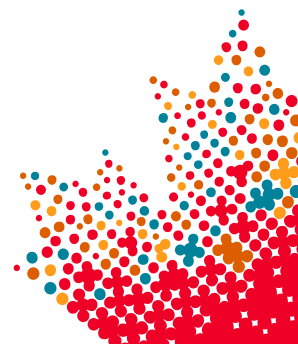


FILLING THE GAPS

INFORMATION ON GENDER IN THE 2021 CENSUS



For the first time on April 27, 2022, Statistics Canada will disseminate census information on gender.

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.

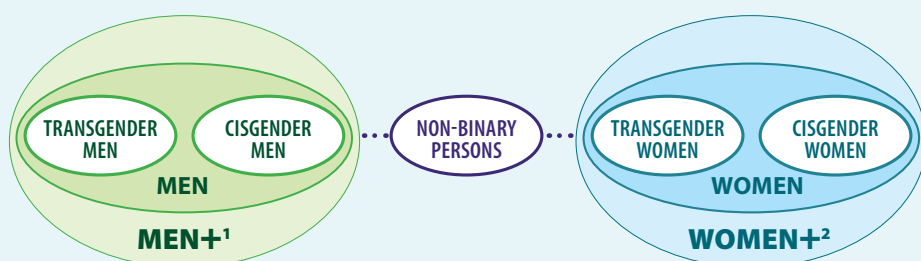
For the 2021 Census, the precision of ‘at birth’ [was added to the sex question](#) on the census, and a new question on gender was included.

These changes allow all persons living in Canada to identify through the census. Also, the historical continuity of information on sex is maintained, while allowing all men, women, and non-binary persons to be counted, addressing an important knowledge and information gap.

These modifications related to sex at birth and gender reflect a growing social and legislative recognition of transgender and non-binary people. In 2017, the Canadian government amended the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Criminal Code* to protect individuals from discrimination and hate crime based on gender identity and expression. These changes are consistent with the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat’s [Policy Direction to Modernize the Government of Canada’s Sex and Gender Information Practices](#) (2018).

Statistics Canada protects the privacy and confidentiality of all individuals while providing relevant data for decision-making. As of April 27, 2022, Statistics Canada will begin disseminating information on gender diversity status (cisgender men and women, transgender men and women, and non-binary persons), or on men, women and non-binary persons, at higher levels of [geography](#).

Data aggregation to a two-category gender variable will sometimes be necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses provided.



1. This category includes men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons.

2. This category includes women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons.

DEFINITIONS

Gender: an individual’s personal and social identity as a man, woman or non-binary person

Sex at birth: typically assigned at birth based on a person’s reproductive system and other physical characteristics

Cisgender person: a man or woman whose gender corresponds with sex assigned at birth

Transgender person: a man or woman whose gender does not correspond with sex assigned at birth

Non-binary person: an individual who is not exclusively a man or a woman, for example, agender, fluid, queer, or Two-Spirit

Canada is a world leader in producing statistical information on gender, providing data on gender diversity from the Census. These data can be used by public decision-makers to inform policies and programs, employers, and providers of healthcare, education, justice, and other services to better meet the needs of all persons living in Canada.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Gender and sex at birth variables](#)
- [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](#)