



**CENSUS • RECENSEMENT**

## **2021 Census Fact Sheets**

### **Gender diversity status of couples: New information in the 2021 Census**

**2021 Census of Population**

Release date: June 14, 2022

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Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

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Release date: June 14, 2022

Catalogue number 98-20-0001, issue 2021002

ISBN 978-0-660-43652-4

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## Gender diversity status of couples: New information in the 2021 Census

### Definitions

**Gender diversity status of couple** refers to whether both members of a couple are [cisgender](#), or whether at least one member is [transgender](#) or [non-binary](#). Among cisgender couples, a distinction can be made between those composed of two persons of different genders (a different-gender couple) or those composed of two persons of the same gender (a same-gender couple).

**Different-gender couple (cisgender)** refers to couple families in which members are [cisgender](#) and of different genders (one man and one woman).

**Same-gender couple (cisgender)** refers to couple families in which members are [cisgender](#) and of the same gender (two men or two women).

**Transgender couple** refers to couple families in which at least one member is [transgender](#) and neither member is [non-binary](#).

**Non-binary couple** refers to couple families in which at least one member is [non-binary](#).

Couples may not necessarily self-identify using these terms.

On July 13, 2022, Statistics Canada will disseminate census information on the gender diversity status of couples for the first time.

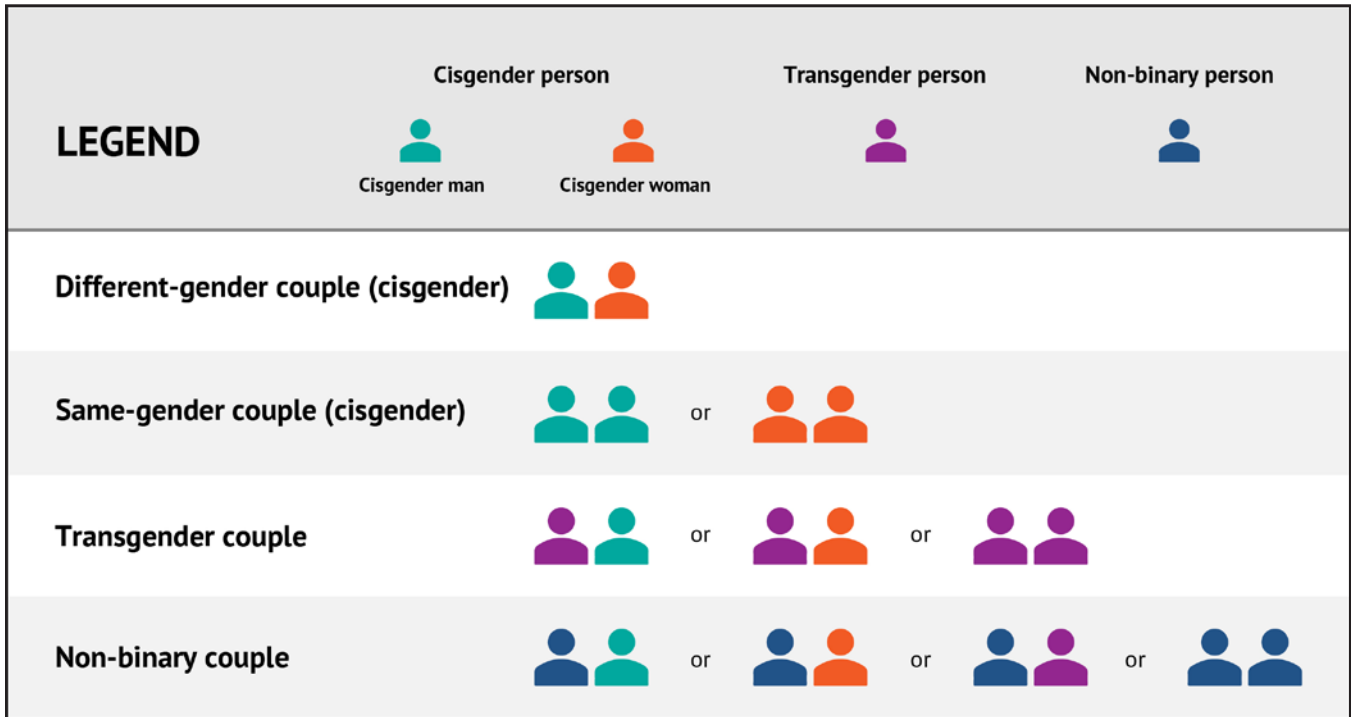
For the 2021 Census, the precision of 'at birth' [was added to the sex question](#) on the census, and a new question on gender was included.

These changes allow all persons living in Canada—including transgender and non-binary individuals—to self-identify through the census. This represents another step in Statistics Canada's continuing efforts to better [reflect societal changes](#) and [produce statistical information on diverse population groups](#).

The terminology used to describe families and couples continues to evolve. New concepts for the 2021 Census related to the gender diversity status of couples were developed following consultations with experts (Figure 1).



Figure 1  
Gender diversity status of couples: A visual guide



Data aggregation of couples will sometimes be necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses provided. Please see [2021 Census population thresholds for detailed gender](#) for more information.

### For more information

- [Families, Households and Marital Status Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021](#)
- [Gender diversity status of couple family variable](#)
- [Gender diversity status of marriage or common-law union variable](#)
- [Filling the gaps: Information on gender in the 2021 Census](#)
- [Canada is the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people](#)
- [Age, Sex at Birth and Gender Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021](#)
- [2021 Census: Sex at birth and gender – the whole picture \(video\)](#)
- [Balancing the Protection of Confidentiality with the Needs for Disaggregated Census Data](#)
- [Gender and sex at birth variables](#)