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| **Domain:** | Demographics |
| **Measure:** | Gender |
| **Definition:** | Question asking the respondent for his/her self-conception of being male or female. |
| **Purpose:** | Gender refers to a person's self-representation as male or female. Gender and sex are often misunderstood, and although they are related there are distinct differences between the two characteristics. Biological sex is a characteristic of living things and a classification of male or female is given based on the individual's reproductive organs and functions assigned by chromosomal complement. Gender is captured for sociological and epidemiological reasons. Sex is one of the most basic variables captured in any biomedical or health-related research study. Differences in the prevalence and severity of a broad range of diseases, disorders, and conditions exist between the sexes.  |
| **Essential PhenX Measures:** |  |
| **Related PhenX Measures:** |  |
| **Collections:** |  |
| **Keywords:** | Demographics, sex/gender, sex, gender, male, female, transsexual, transgender, California Health Interview Survey, CHIS, Demographics |

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| **Protocol Release Date:** | February 6, 2009 |
| **PhenX Protocol Name:** | Gender |
| **Protocol Name from Source:** | The Expert Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet. |
| **Description:** | The interviewer asks the respondent (or proxy) to indicate his/her gender. |
| **Specific Instructions:** | The question "Are you male or female?" needs to be asked because an interviewer may assume the respondent self-identifies as a female but she really associates with being male. Depending on the context of the study, the investigator may want to include other response options such as transsexual and transgender. The question from the Los Angeles HIV Countywide Risk Assessment Survey is a good resource and could be considered. This question is available with the other Supplemental Information for Demographics. |
| **Protocol:** | Are you male or female? [] 1 MALE[] 2 FEMALE [] 7 REFUSED [] 8 DON'T KNOW |
| **Selection Rationale:** | The question is easily understood and straightforward. Some interviewer instructions include "ask if not obvious", and although the referenced protocol is a telephone interview it requires the question to be asked; thus gender is confirmed by respondent. |
| **Source:** | California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) Adult Questionnaire, 2005. Question number: AA3University of California. California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) Adult Questionnaires |
| **Life Stage:** | Any age |
| **Language of source:** | English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean |
| **Participant:** | Any age. |
| **Personnel and Training Required:** | The interviewer must be trained to conduct personal interviews with individuals from the general population. The interviewer must be trained and found to be competent (i.e., tested by an expert) at the completion of personal interviews.\* The interviewer should be trained to prompt respondents further if a "don't know" response is provided. \* There are multiple modes to administer this question (e.g., paper-and-pencil and computer-assisted interviews). |
| **Equipment Needs:** | While the source protocol was developed to be administered by a computer-assisted telephone instrument, the PhenX Working Group acknowledges these questions can be administered in a noncomputerized format (i.e., paper-and-pencil instrument). Computer software is necessary to develop computer-assisted instruments. The interviewer will require a laptop computer/handheld computer to administer a computer-assisted questionnaire. |
| **Standards:** |

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| **Standard** | **Name** | **ID** | **Source** |
| Common Data Element (CDE) | Gender Code | 2179640 | [CDE Browser](https://cdebrowser.nci.nih.gov/CDEBrowser/search?elementDetails=9&FirstTimer=0&PageId=ElementDetailsGroup&publicId=2179640&version=1.0) |
| Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) | Gender | 46098-0 | [LOINC](http://s.details.loinc.org/LOINC/46098-0.html?sections=Web) |

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| **General references:** | Institute of Medicine. (2001). *Exploring the biological contributions to human health: Does sex matter?* Washington, DC: National Academy Press. Public Population Project in Genomics (P3G) Data Shaper. |
| **Mode of Administration:** | Interviewer-administered question (see Supplemental Information for self-administered alternatives) |
| **Derived Variables:** | None |
| **Requirements:** |

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| **Requirement Category** | **Required** |
| Major equipment | No |
| Specialized training | No |
| Specialized requirements for biospecimen collection | No |
| Average time of greater than 15 minutes in an unaffected individual | No |

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| **Process and Review:** | The Expert Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet. |