



What's Next for Measuring Sex and Gender on the National Health Interview Survey

**Grace Medley, Jim Dahlhamer, Catherine Simile
National Center for Health Statistics**

2024 FCSM Research and Policy Conference
October 24, 2024

Measuring Gender Identity on NHIS

Improve health, safety, and wellbeing of LGBT+ individuals

Measure developed in conjunction with Collaborative Center for Questionnaire Design and Evaluation Research (CCQDER) at National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

Measuring Gender Identity on NHIS

Nationally representative, multipurpose household health survey

Interviewer administered

Household roster, adult and child interview (if applicable)

NHIS Gender Identity Items

2022 Gender Identity Item

Sex assigned at birth:

What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?

Two different versions of gender identity:

Do you currently describe yourself as a man, woman, or in some other way? [How would you describe yourself]

Do you currently describe yourself as male, female, or transgender? [How would you describe yourself]

2023 Gender Identity Item

Gender Identity:

For this next question you may select more than one answer. Do you currently describe yourself as male, female, transgender, nonbinary, or another gender? [What term do you use to describe your gender?]

Sex assigned at birth:

What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?

2024 Gender Identity Item

Gender Identity

For this next question you may select more than one answer. Do you currently describe yourself as male, female, transgender, nonbinary, or another gender?

Male

Female

Transgender

Nonbinary

Another gender [What term do you use to describe your gender?]

NHIS Household Roster Sex Item

NHIS Household Roster

Name

Sex

Age

Hispanic origin

Race

Member of the Armed Forces

Level of School Completed



2022 Household Roster Sex Item

Are you/ Is [NAME] male or female?

2023 Household Roster Sex Item

Are you/ Is [NAME] male or female?

Read if Necessary: What sex were you/ was [NAME] assigned on your/ their original birth certificate?

2024 Household Roster Sex Item

New Introduction

- Purpose of NHIS sex item
- Based on Core NHIS item
- Not all inclusive
- Only adult conditions

NHIS Items based on Sex

Female: Gestational Diabetes and Pregnancy

NHIS includes **rotating** or **sponsor items** on cervical cancer screening, hysterectomy, mammograms/ Breast MRI, flu or Tdap vaccination during pregnancy and PSA tests for male

Two options: Medical Screenings or Cancer Diagnosis

NHIS Items based on Sex

Medical Screenings are familiar to females, not males and are not Core

Cancer Diagnosis is Core and includes breast, ovarian, uterine, prostate, and testicular and aren't limited based on sex

2024 Household Roster Sex Item

Some of the questions in this survey are about topics like breast and prostate cancer, so it is important to know which questions apply. Are you male or female?

Male

Female



2025 NHIS Items

2025 Household Sex Item:

Some of the questions in this survey are about topics like breast and prostate cancer, so it is important to know which questions apply. Are you male or female?

2025 Gender Identity Item:

For this next question you may select more than one answer. Do you currently describe yourself as male, female, transgender, nonbinary, or another gender?

So, what's next...

Two years of data starting in 2026

Explore health disparities, not prevalence

More exploratory work outside of the NHIS

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)
Follow us on X (Twitter) @CDCgov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.