

Legal Sex

Within the Student Information System (SIS), legal sex is the only sex information available. Gender data is not available in the SIS.

DATA COLLECTION

- Prior to 2023, students are identified within the SIS as **Male** (M), **Female** (F), or **Undeclared** (U). Beginning in 2023, students can now also identify with **another legal sex** (X).
- While this information is initially collected on the admissions application, **students have the ability to change their legal sex**. Therefore, it would be important to note term for purposes of data comparison.

REPORTING CATEGORIES

- While institutions can collect legal sex data beyond M and F, IPEDS guidance empowers institutions to decide how to aggregate these data into required binary reporting categories. OHIO STATE reports all students who self-report U or X as M for official reporting.

REPORTING GUIDELINES & CAUTIONS

- To avoid conflating sex and gender, please use the terms “Male” and “Female” for reporting rather than “Men” and “Women.” Similarly, please refer to these data as markers of “legal sex” rather than “gender.”
- If the information is being reported publicly, report only where $n \geq 5$ to protect student identity.
- For federal reporting purposes, X and U are converted to M in **CUMCENSUS**.

KEY FIELDS

OCC.BIODEMO_S.SEX	as of yesterday (snapshots also available); M/F/U/X
S_OS_RPT_ATTR.SEX	as of yesterday (snapshots also available); M/F/U/X
PUBLIC_OUR_OS_CUMCENSUS.SEX	census snapshot (M/F with U/X rolled into M)

For additional information about data definitions, please visit the Data Governance [website](#).



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This is a collaboration between Institutional Research and Planning (IRP), Office of Strategic Enrollment Management (OSEM), College of Education and Human Ecology (EHE), College of Arts and Sciences (ASC), and Student Success Research Lab (SSRL).