

Key considerations for the appropriate integration of gender as a social determinant of health

It is recommended that applicants consider accounting for gender as a sociocultural determinant of health in clinical, health system and population health studies where appropriate.

Situations in which gender is applicable:

The following key considerations apply for reviewers to rate the quality of integration of gender as a sociocultural determinant of health in the proposal as a strength or a weakness:

Strength:

- ✓ Literature review: reports what is known about gender, gender theories, and/or intersectionality in the field of study, where relevant
- ✓ Methods: describes how gender will be measured or investigated in the population under study
- ✓ Recruitment method: addresses and mitigates bias
- ✓ Analysis: describes how gendered sub-groups will be compared and that the findings will be reported separately in the results section
- ✓ Implementation and knowledge translation plan: considers aspects affected by gender

Weakness:

- ✗ Reports that gender is irrelevant without adequate justification
- ✗ Does not measure gender within the population under study when it is possible and relevant to do so
- ✗ Does not describe how gender will be accounted for and considered in the analysis plan
- ✗ Does not demonstrate a commitment to disaggregate the data by gender and/or present suitable subgroup analyses
- ✗ Conflates and/or confuses the terms sex and gender

Situations when gender may not be applicable:

The integration of gender as a sociocultural determinant of health **may not be applicable** in research describing:

- Biomedical research studies that exclusively use cells, tissues and animals
- Certain single-sex studies using existing datasets
- Secondary data analyses where it is impossible to create a new gender variable

A reasonable explanation should inform the decision why it is not possible or relevant to report on gender as a social determinant of health.

RESOURCES

- [CIHR Sex and Gender Online Training Modules](#)
- [CIHR YouTube Video: Assessing Sex and Gender Integration in Peer Review](#)
- CIHR Resources for Applicants and Peer Reviewers: [How to Integrate Sex and Gender in Research](#)
- [Sex and Gender Equity in Research \(SAGER\) Guidelines](#)