

8 TC LHIN questions- definitions and concepts (Adapted from “Measuring Health Equity in TC LHIN” data collection training module).

More information at: <http://torontohealthequity.ca>

Item	Purpose	Important to consider	Sample definitions*
What language would you feel most comfortable speaking in with your health-care provider?	Assess need for interpreter	Distinct from the Canadian census question that captures how many language(s) a person speaks, which doesn’t get at the need for interpretation	
Were you born in Canada? • If no, what year did you arrive?	Assess how long a newcomer has lived in Canada	Intentionally avoids asking about immigrant status, which has been shown to make patients/clients feel anxious	
Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic group?	Capture race/ethnicity on a granular level	Adapted from Toronto District School Board question on race/ethnicity and consistently validated past 10 years Intended to provide a level of granularity that would facilitate targeted planning and use in clinical care	
Do you have any of the following? (List of disability categories)	Capture whether patient self-identifies with having a disability. It is not a medical diagnosis tool.	Categories of ‘disability’ adapted from the Ontario Human Rights Code Focus on ‘self-identification’ is in line with advocacy work that calls for moving beyond labels/medical diagnoses The use of ‘self-identification’ instead of ‘diagnosis’ means that a patient diagnosed with autism, diabetes, etc., may not identify as having a disability. This is partially based on the fact that patients will have different experiences of a diagnosis based on severity, available social supports, etc. (e.g. 2 patients	

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		<p>may be on opposite ends of the autism spectrum and lead very different lives)</p>	
<p>What is your gender?</p>	<p>Capture gender identity</p>	<p>Sex and gender are two independent constructs that are not interchangeable or comparable (please click here to review genderbread person tool)</p> <p>OHIP sex relies on the gender binary (M/F) but may reflect either birth-assigned sex or gender identity (based on legislation allowing changes following gender-affirming surgery). I.e. not all OHIP holders have birth-assigned sex on their card.</p>	<p>Gender identity is your sense of self, specifically your sense of being male, female, both, or neither. It may be different from your biological sex (i.e. anatomy, physical body) and includes:</p> <p>Intersex describes people whose bodies, reproductive systems, chromosomes and/or hormones are not easily grouped as male or female.</p> <p>Trans Female to Male is a person who identifies as male but was born as a biological female.</p> <p>Trans Male to Female is a person who identifies as female but was but was born as a biological male.</p>
<p>What is your sexual orientation?</p>	<p>Capture sexual orientation</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Sexual orientation is who you are attracted to romantically. People define their sexual orientation in various ways including:</p> <p>Bisexual is a person who is attracted to both men and women.</p> <p>Gay is a person who is attracted to people of the same gender; for example, a man who is attracted to men or a woman who is attracted to women. This term is used by both men and women although many women prefer to be referred to as 'lesbian'.</p> <p>Heterosexual ("straight") is a person who is attracted to the opposite gender; for example, a man who is attracted to women or a woman who is attracted to men.</p> <p>Lesbian is a woman who is attracted to other women.</p> <p>Queer An umbrella term used proudly by some people to defy sexual restrictions. This is also one way some people identify themselves as members of the lesbian,</p>

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			gay, bi, and/or trans communities or cultures. Two-Spirit refers to Aboriginal lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people. It means having both female and male spirits within one person.
What was your total family income before taxes last year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many people does this income support? 	Capture income	Responses to 'how many people does this income support' is used to ensure that income can be weighted and considered in light of how many people use it.	

*See glossary below for full list of definition

GLOSSARY in Plain Language

Disability

Disability is a physical (your body), mental (your mind) or intellectual (the way you process information) condition that limits your movements, senses or activities. Disability includes:

Chronic illness is a disease or health condition that lasts for a long time (e.g. asthma, cancer, diabetes and HIV/AIDS).

Developmental disability (also known as intellectual disability) affects your ability to reason, plan, think, communicate, and do everyday social and practical activities/tasks.

Drug or alcohol dependence is the feeling that you need drugs or alcohol or are not able to control when you drink alcohol or take a drug.

Learning disability affects the way your brain understands, remembers, organizes or uses information. It can create difficulty in the way you listen, speak, read, write and/or do math.

Mental illness is a condition that affects the way you feel, behave or think (e.g. depression, bipolar disorder).

Physical disability is a condition that affects physical movement.

Sensory disability is a condition that affects what you can hear or see (e.g. hearing or vision loss).

Gender and Gender Identity

Gender identity is your sense of self, specifically your sense of being male, female, both, or neither. It may be different from your biological sex (i.e. anatomy, physical body) and includes:

Intersex describes people whose bodies, reproductive systems, chromosomes and/or hormones are not easily grouped as male or female.

Trans Female to Male is a person who identifies as male but was born as a biological female.

Trans Male to Female is a person who identifies as female but was but was born as a biological male.

Two-Spirit refers to Aboriginal lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people. It means having both female and male spirits within one person.

Racial/Ethnic Group

Race is a term used to separate people into groups based on skin colour and other physical traits. 'Race' is not based on biology but on differences that society has decided are important. These differences can be used to treat people differently.

Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation is who you are attracted to romantically. People define their sexual orientation in various ways including:

Bisexual is a person who is attracted to both men and women.

Gay is a person who is attracted to people of the same gender; for example, a man who is attracted to men or a woman who is attracted to women. This term is used by both men and women although many women prefer to be referred to as 'lesbian'.

Heterosexual ("straight") is a person who is attracted to the opposite gender; for example, a man who is attracted to women or a woman who is attracted to men.

Lesbian is a woman who is attracted to other women.

Queer is a term used by people who reject traditional sexual orientations.

Two-Spirit refers to Aboriginal lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people. It means having both female and male spirits within one person.