Joint Office of Homeless Services
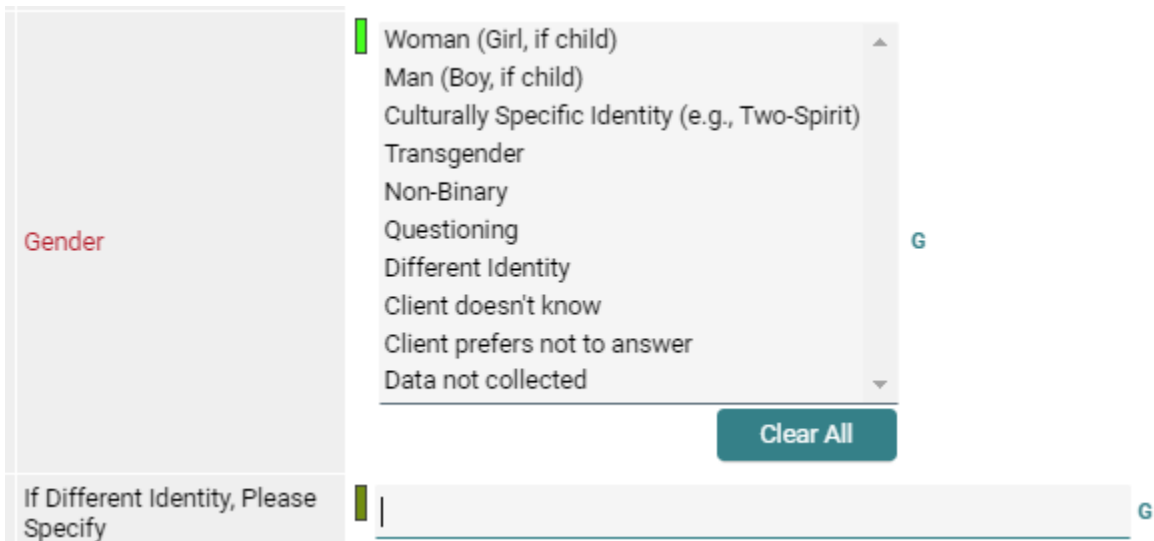
Gender Write-In Option in HMIS

Updated 06/10/24. See Revision History for details.

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What is the gender write-in field in HMIS?

The gender write-in field follows the multiselectable menu of gender identities. It is a space to write-in a gender not captured by the options presented.

When should the write-in field be used?

- Very rarely
- If participant has a gender identity not captured in umbrella category

It is recommended providers guide participants to locate their Gender within the categories offered and limit use of the write-in field in order to capture and report accurate Gender identity data per the HUD categories.

JOHS data staff are not able to accurately locate a participant within the given categories based on write-in information and because of this the gender of those using the write-in field will not be captured. As an example, a person stating "Queen" may be any gender and JOHS data staff can't extrapolate from that write-in.

There may be circumstances where a participant's identity is not captured under an umbrella category and a write-in may be the appropriate field. The write-in response will be evaluated by the JOHS data team and equity team.

HUD umbrella terms and examples of gender identities included

HUD Umbrella Term	Examples of Genders Included
Culturally Specific Identity	- Two Spirit - Brotherboy - Sistergirl - Androgynos - Tumtum - Ay'lonit

	- Saris - Muxe - Sekrata - Calalai - Calabai - Bissu - Faʻafafine - Faʻafatama - Hijra - Machi - Māhū - Sworn Virgin - Travesti - Waria - X-gender - Yinyang Ren
Non-Binary	- Genderfluid - Genderqueer - Androgynous - Demigirl - Demiboy - Genderflux - Bigender - Agender - X-gender - Queer - Multigender - Polygender - Xenogender - Transmasculine - Transfeminine - Pangender - Demigender - Intergender - Ambigender - Genderfae - Boyflux - Girlflux

	May also include any of the identities present in the culturally specific category.
Transgender	- Trans Man/Boy - Trans Woman/Girl Transgender is an umbrella term that may also include any of the gender identities in Non-Binary or Culturally Specific Identities.

When to Use Questioning, Client Doesn't Know, and Client Prefers Not to Respond

If a participant truly does not know what their gender identity is (that is, for example, if they are unsure if they are a man or a woman), please use the Questioning option rather than Client Doesn't Know. If a participant does not respond to the question, please use the Client Prefers not to Answer option.

How does the Joint Office use the gender write-in field?

The data team runs a report on an biannual basis to determine how often the gender write-in field is used and the types of responses received. The data team then sends this list off to the equity team. The equity team then reviews the list of write-in responses to see if an additional gender umbrella category is needed.

Until an additional umbrella category is added, the specific gender write-in inputs are NOT used for demographic reporting. They are instead grouped under "Different Identity".

Alternatives for the gender write-in field

Specific providers or programs may wish to collect additional information regarding a participant's identity. The gender write-in field should NOT be used to capture things like pronouns or sexual orientation. If further detail is required, please reach out to the JOHS data team to discuss the addition of a specific assessment question to capture these data.

Source Materials

- [HUD HMIS Data Standards - Gender](#)

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Revision History

06/10/24: Created by Siniva Bennett and Zoë Johnson