

# A new demographic taxonomy for Healthwatch

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## About this guide

This guide outlines a new demographic taxonomy we intend to apply to our data collection systems, such as the CRM, to collect data in line with best practice. We would also encourage all Healthwatch to adopt this taxonomy for surveys.

## The new fields

We have revised the demographic categories in the CRM and the National Reports Library which relate to the nine protected characteristics to be more comprehensive and respectful.

We have incorporated free-text options so that people can self-define if they wish/where needed.

### Key

*SS = Single selection - can only choose one option*

*MS = Multiple selection - can choose more than one option*

### Age

Is the person's age category

- 0 to 12 years [SS]
- 13 to 15 years [SS]
- 16 to 17 years [SS]
- 18 to 24 years [SS]
- 25 to 49 years [SS]
- 50 to 64 years [SS]
- 65 to 79 years [SS]
- 80+ years [SS]
- Prefer not to say [SS]
- Not known [SS]

Please note that young people over the age of 13 can give informed consent without a parent or guardian. For more information about obtaining consent, refer to this [guidance](#).

### Gender identity

Is the person's gender identity

- Woman [SS]
- Man [SS]
- Non-binary [SS]
- Intersex [SS]
- Prefer to self-describe [SS]
  - Free text option
- Not known [SS]

Is the person's gender identity the same as the sex they were assigned at birth?

- Yes [SS]
- No [SS]
- Prefer not to say [SS]
- Not known [SS]

## Sexual orientation

Is the person's sexual orientation

- Asexual [SS]
- Bisexual [SS]
- Gay man [SS]
- Heterosexual / Straight [SS]
- Lesbian / Gay woman [SS]
- Pansexual [SS]
- Prefer to self-describe [SS]
  - Free text option
- Prefer not to say [SS]
- Not known [SS]

## Ethnicity

Is the person's ethnicity

- Arab [SS]
- Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi [SS]
- Asian / Asian British: Chinese [SS]
- Asian / Asian British: Indian [SS]
- Asian / Asian British: Pakistani [SS]
- Asian / Asian British: Any other Asian / Asian British background (please specify) [SS]
  - Free text option
- Black / Black British: African (please specify) [SS]
  - Free text option
- Black / Black British: Caribbean [SS]
- Black / Black British: Any other Black / Black British background (please specify) [SS]
  - Free text option
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: Asian and White [SS]
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: Black African and White [SS]
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: Black Caribbean and White [SS]
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups background (please specify) [SS]
  - Free text option
- White: British / English / Northern Irish / Scottish / Welsh [SS]
- White: Irish [SS]
- White: Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller [SS]
- White: Roma [SS]
- White: Any other White background (please specify) [SS]
  - Free text option
- Any other ethnic group (please specify) [SS]

- Free text option
- Prefer not to say [SS]
- Not known [SS]

For more information about changes to the ethnic group options for the Office of National Statistics 2021 census, see [here](#).

## Religion or belief

Is the person's religion or belief

- Buddhist [SS]
- Christian [SS]
- Hindu [SS]
- Jewish [SS]
- Muslim [SS]
- No religion [SS]
- Sikh [SS]
- Other religion (please specify) [SS]
  - Free text option
- Prefer not to say [SS]
- Not known [SS]

## Marital and civil partnership status

Is the person's marital and civil partnership status

- Single [SS]
- Cohabiting [SS]
- In a civil partnership [SS]
- Married [SS]
- Separated [SS]
- Divorced / Dissolved civil partnership [SS]
- Widowed [SS]
- Prefer not to say [SS]
- Not known [SS]

## Pregnancy and maternity

Is the person's pregnancy and maternity status

- Currently pregnant [MS]
- Currently breastfeeding [MS]
- Given birth in the last 26 weeks [MS]
- Prefer not to say [SS]
- Not known [SS]
- Not applicable [SS]

## Disability

Does the person have a disability?

- Yes [SS]
  - Physical or mobility impairment [MS]
  - Sensory impairment [MS]
  - Learning disability or difficulties [MS]
  - Mental health condition [MS]
  - Long term condition [MS]
  - Other [MS]
    - Free text option
- No [SS]
- Prefer not to say [SS]
- Not known [SS]

## Long Term condition

Does the person have a long term condition?

- Yes [SS]
  - Asthma, COPD or respiratory condition [MS]
  - Blindness or severe visual impairment [MS]
  - Cancer [MS]
  - Cardiovascular condition (including stroke) [MS]
  - Chronic kidney disease [MS]
  - Deafness or severe hearing impairment [MS]
  - Dementia [MS]
  - Diabetes [MS]
  - Epilepsy [MS]
  - Hypertension [MS]
  - Learning disability [MS]
  - Mental health condition [MS]
  - Musculoskeletal condition [MS]
  - Other [MS]
    - Free text option
- No [SS]
- Prefer not to say [SS]
- Not known [SS]

## Carer

Is the person a carer?

- Yes [SS]
- No [SS]
- Prefer not to say [SS]
- Not known [SS]