



FFY2024 Demographics: Gender and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The national SNAP-Ed reporting system was updated for FFY 2023. One of the updates was to include additional and more inclusive gender response options – see screen shot of PEARS gender demographics reporting table for direct education participants. An updated demographic form was developed for CFHL Local Implementing Agencies (LIA) to collect new gender and age response categories.

While gender is not a focus of our education or training, we always want to respect all of our clientele. To assist LIAs with this new reporting, this FAQ provides responses to possible questions educators, partners or participants might ask about the new gender question.

Gender *

Female	<input type="text"/>
Male	<input type="text"/>
Non-Binary	<input type="text"/>
Prefer not to respond	<input type="text"/>
Unknown	<input type="text"/>

Q: Why was the demographic form updated?

To align with the new USDA SNAP-Ed demographic reporting requirements. Additionally, the updated gender response options better align with California law and University of California policy.

Q: Why is non-binary a gender option?

This gender response category aligns with SNAP-Ed federal reporting requirements.

Additionally, since 2019 California has legally recognized non-binary as a third gender option for residents who do not identify as male or female [California Senate Bill 179 \(Gender Recognition Act\)](#). Also, for CFHL, UC which is a University of California program [The University of California's Gender Recognition and Lived Name Policy](#) requires gender questions must provide at minimum the "three equally recognized gender options on university-issued documents," female, male and non-binary.

Q: What does nonbinary mean?

In California, there are three legal genders. Non-binary is the third legal gender on birth certificates, driver's license, and state-issued identification documents.

Notes:

- Not all program participants may agree with the gender options. Educators are not responsible for providing education on gender identity to program participants.
- If participants want more information, you can share the [UCOP policy](#).

Q: How do I respond if someone says they don't identify with the gender options?

The California demographic card provides 5 response options – *female, male, nonbinary, gender not listed, prefer not to state*. Participants who say they don't identify with either female, male or nonbinary could consider selecting either the "*gender not listed*" or "*prefer not to respond*" options.

Q: How do I respond if someone is unhappy with the gender question and wants to file a complaint?

For any complaints received about possible program discrimination, these can be sent to the national contact found on the [And Justice for All](#) posters. Once completed, the USDA will investigate the complaint and follow-up as needed.

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