

2025 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) Gender Identity Tables

DATA CATEGORIZATIONS

Gender identity in the 2025 MSS

The gender identity question

In the 2025 Minnesota Student Survey, 8th, 9th, and 11th grade students were asked to provide their gender identity. As with all questions on the survey, response to this question was voluntary and could be skipped.

The question read as follows:

What is your gender identity? (Mark ALL that apply)

- a. Agender
- b. Boy/man (**cisgender**, which means your gender identity matches your sex assigned at birth)
- c. Boy/man (**transgender**, which means your gender identity does **not** match your sex assigned at birth)
- d. Genderfluid, gender non-conforming, or genderqueer
- e. Girl/woman (**cisgender**, which means your gender identity matches your sex assigned at birth)
- f. Girl/woman (**transgender**, which means your gender identity does **not** match your sex assigned at birth)
- g. Nonbinary
- h. Two spirit
- i. Questioning/unsure
- j. Identity not listed

As the question allowed for students to mark all that applied to them, there were 1,024 unique combinations that students could choose. Therefore, to simplify, a categorization framework

was developed by a team of researchers at the University of Minnesota.^{1, 2} This framework was developed in consultation with community and academic experts.

The 9-category classification

The framework developed by the University of Minnesota has options for classification into 15, 9, 4, or 2 mutually exclusive categories, dependent on research needs. For these reports, the nine-category option was used. The nine categories are:

- Agender+
- Cisgender Boy
- Cisgender Girl
- Nonbinary or Genderfluid+
- Questioning
- Transgender Boy
- Transgender Girl
- Two-Spirit
- Identity Not Listed

Category definitions

To begin with, a variable was created that counted the number of gender options a student selected. Where a student had a gender count of greater than one, a hierarchy was applied.

- **Two Spirit:** Students who selected Two Spirit and identified as American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander were categorized as Two Spirit, regardless of what other identities they selected. Students who selected Two Spirit but did not identify with those racial groups were categorized by their other gender identity selections or, if they selected only Two Spirit, as Identity Not Listed, as recommended by an Indigenous community board.³

¹ Brown, C., Gower, A. L., Simon, K. A., McMorris, B. J., Eisenberg, M. E., O'Donnell, J., Rider, G. N. "Categorizing with culturally-responsive methods: Three options for a select-all-that-apply gender identity survey item," National LGBTQ Health Conference Emory University and Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing at Northwestern, Atlanta, Georgia, United States. (July 2024).

² Rider, G. N., Brown, C., Simon, K. A., Eisenberg, M. E., O'Donnell, J., McMorris, B. J., & Gower, A. L. (2025). Unpacking the +: An inclusive framework for a complex, select-all-that-apply gender identity survey item on a large public health survey. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000886>

³ Hayes, L., LaFrinier-Ritchie, A., Matthews, N., O'Keefe, B., Perrote, N., Rider, G. N., Brown, C., Filoteo, M., Johnston-Goodstar, K., McMorris, B. J., Martin, L. (2023). Two-Spirit identity and adolescent survey measures: Considerations of appropriation, transparency and inclusion. *American Journal of Public Health*, 113, 1153-1156. doi: [10.2105/AJPH.2023.307387](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2023.307387)

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- **Questioning:** Students who selected just Questioning were categorized as Questioning. Students who selected Questioning in addition to any identity other than Two-Spirit were categorized as Questioning.
- **Agender+:** Students who selected just Agender were categorized as Agender+. Students who selected Agender in addition to any identity other than Two-Spirit or Questioning were categorized as Agender+.
- **Nonbinary or Genderfluid+:** Students who selected just Nonbinary or just Genderfluid were categorized as Nonbinary or Genderfluid+. Students who selected either of these categories in addition to any identity other than Two-Spirit, Questioning, or Agender were categorized as Nonbinary or Genderfluid +.
- **Cisgender Boy:** Students who selected just Cisgender Boy were categorized as Cisgender Boy.
- **Cisgender Girl:** Students who selected just Cisgender Girl were categorized as Cisgender Girl.
- **Transgender Boy:** Students who selected just Transgender Boy were categorized as Transgender Boy. Students who selected Transgender Boy and Cisgender Girl and/or Identity Not Listed were categorized as Transgender Boy. Students who selected a combination of Transgender Boy, Cisgender Boy and Cisgender Girl were categorized as Transgender Boy.
- **Transgender Girl:** Students who selected just Transgender Girl were categorized as Transgender Girl. Students who selected Transgender Girl and Cisgender Boy and/or Identity Not Listed were categorized as Transgender Girl. Students who selected a combination of Transgender Girl, Cisgender Boy and Cisgender Girl were categorized as Transgender Girl.
- **Identity Not Listed:** Students who selected just Identity Not Listed were categorized as Identity Not Listed. Students who selected any other combination of identities not listed above were categorized as Identity Not Listed.

Gender Identity Demographics for 2025

2025 MSS Gender Identity

	Count	Percent
Total Survey Respondents, grades 8, 9, 11	87,888	
Total Gender Identity Respondents, grades 8, 9, 11 (96.2% of respondents)	84,582	
Two Spirit (and Native)	84	0.1%
Questioning	1257	1.5%
Agender+	1289	1.5%
Nonbinary or Genderfluid+	1642	1.9%
Cisgender Boy	40274	47.6%
Cisgender Girl	37575	44.4%
Transgender Boy	804	1.0%
Transgender Girl	333	0.4%
Identity Not Listed	1324	1.6%

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