

Sex and Gender Bias/Introduction

Sex and gender bias refer to the existence of systematic errors due to inadequate consideration of aspects related to sex and gender. In terms of health research and practice, two main causes of sex and gender bias are relevant:

1. Equality or similarity between women and men is assumed in certain areas, although relevant sex and gender differences exist. Sex and gender bias can consist of the fact that these differences are either not taken into account as confounding variables or are not investigated and discussed as possible explanatory variables.
2. Differences between women and men are assumed to exist, although (potentially) none exist, or there is an overemphasis on the variable sex compared to other factors (e.g. ethnicity or socio-economic status) that is not justified. ^[1]

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Literature

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1. Jahn, I. Methodische Probleme einer geschlechtergerechten Gesundheitsforschung. In: Kolip P, Hurrelmann K, editors. Handbuch Geschlecht und Gesundheit: Männer und Frauen im Vergleich. 2nd, completely edited und expanded edition Bern: Hogrefe; 2016 (Health program).

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