

### **Definition/Description:**

In analyzing this indicator, it is key to distinguish between 'sex' and 'gender'. Too often they are used interchangeably when their meanings are quite distinct.

'Sex refers to the biological differences between men and women, while gender refers to the social and cultural differences experienced by women and men.' (Canadian Institutes for Health Research 2000: Sex, Gender, and Women's Health, Lorraine Greaves, Principal Investigator).

These factors working together impact on the health status of both men and women. Life expectancy for women is approximately six years more than it is for men. As well, men and women may experience the same illness or condition differently in terms of symptom presentation, diagnosis, and treatment and rehabilitation needs. Additionally, we know that men and women have unique health service utilization patterns.

### **Source:**

Literature review.

### **Findings/Highlights:**

- Although a formalized gender analysis approach has not been taken with respect to the Comprehensive CHA, the issues associated with sex and gender are acknowledged. Data has been disaggregated into male and female values whenever possible. This is the first step in approaching the issue of gender analysis. As well, men and women are identified as sub-populations within the context of the document and their unique issues are discussed in separate sections.
- Women are identified as a 'priority or vulnerable' population and the impact of their status as such, is examined from a variety of perspectives within the context of population health.