

Person—marital status, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Marital status
Synonymous names:	Marital status
METEOR identifier:	270060
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Services (retired), Superseded 25/08/2005• Health, Superseded 04/05/2005
Data Element Concept:	Person—marital status

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code												
Data type:	Number												
Format:	N												
Maximum character length:	1												
Permissible values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Never married</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Widowed</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Divorced</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Separated</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Married (registered and de facto)</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	1	Never married	2	Widowed	3	Divorced	4	Separated	5	Married (registered and de facto)
Value	Meaning												
1	Never married												
2	Widowed												
3	Divorced												
4	Separated												
5	Married (registered and de facto)												
Supplementary values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>6</td><td>Not stated/inadequately described</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	6	Not stated/inadequately described								
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Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

Refers to the current marital status of a person.

CODE 2 Widowed

This code usually refers to registered marriages but when self-reported may also refer to de facto marriages.

CODE 4 Separated

This code refers to registered marriages but when self-reported may also refer to de facto marriages.

CODE 5 Married (registered and de facto)

Includes people who have been divorced or widowed but have since re-married, and should be generally accepted as applicable to all de facto couples, including of the same sex.

CODE 6 Not stated/inadequately described

This code is not for use on primary collection forms. It is primarily for use in administrative collections when transferring data from data sets where the item has not been collected.

Source and reference attributes

Origin:

The ABS standards for the collection of Social and Registered marital status appear on the ABS Website. Australian Bureau of Statistics. [Family, household and income unit variables. Cat. no. 1286.0.](#) Canberra: ABS.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Collection methods:

This metadata item collects information on social marital status. The recommended question module is:

Do you/Does the person usually live with a partner in a registered or de facto marriage?

Yes, in a registered marriage

Yes, in a defacto marriage

No, never married

No, separated

No, divorced

No, widowed

It should be noted that information on marital status is collected differently by the ABS, using a set of questions. However, the question outlined above is suitable and mostly sufficient for use within the health and community services fields. See below (Source document) for information on how to access the ABS standards.

While agencies are encouraged to use the recommended question described above, it is acknowledged that this is not always possible in practice. For example, where the data collection is a by-product of the provision of a health or community service, the information may be ascertained using different means. However, the recommended question should be used wherever practically possible.

Comments:

The ABS standards identify two concepts of marital status:

- Registered marital status - defined as whether a person has, or has had, a registered marriage;
- Social marital status - based on a person's living arrangement (including de facto marriages), as reported by the person.

It is recommended that the social marital status concept be collected when information on social support/home arrangements is sought, whereas the registered marital status concept need only be collected where it is specifically required for the purposes of the collection.

While marital status is an important factor in assessing the type and extent of support needs, such as for the elderly living in the home environment, marital status does not adequately address the need for information about social support and living arrangement and other data elements need to be formulated to capture this information.


Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Health Data Standards Committee

National Community Services Data Committee

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes  [Marital status, version 4, DE, Int. NCSDD & NHDD, NCSIMG & NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (19.8 KB) *No registration status*
Has been superseded by [Person—marital status, code N](#)

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 09/08/2018
- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 25/08/2005
- [Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
- [Health](#), Standard 04/05/2005
- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006
- [Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Qualified 23/11/2015

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