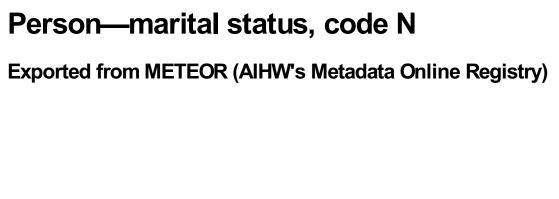
# Person—marital status, code N



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# Person—marital status, code N

# Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:Data ElementShort name:Marital statusSynonymous names:Marital status

METEOR identifier: 270060

Registration status: Community Services (retired), Superseded 25/08/2005

Health, Superseded 04/05/2005

Data Element Concept:Person—marital statusValue Domain:Marital status code N

### Value domain attributes

# Representational attributes

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N

Maximum character length: 1

Value Meaning Permissible values: 1 Never married Widowed 2 3 Divorced 4 Separated 5 Married (registered and de facto) Supplementary values: 6 Not stated/inadequately described

# 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

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**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:

Has been superseded by Person—marital status, code N

Community Services (retired), Standard 25/08/2005

Disability, Standard 13/08/2015 Health, Superseded 09/12/2022

Housing assistance, Standard 10/02/2006

Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Qualified 23/11/2015

ls re-engineered from Marital status, version 4, DE, Int. NCSDD & NHDD, NCSIMG & NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (19.8 KB)

No registration status