Person—marital status, housing assistance code N

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# Person—marital status, housing assistance code N

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| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Metadata item type: | Data Element |
| Short name: | Marital status |
| Synonymous names: | Marital status |
| METEOR identifier: | 270357 |
| Registration status: | [Housing assistance](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/11), Superseded 10/02/2006 |

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| Data element concept attributes | |
| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Data element concept: | [Person—marital status](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/269533) |
| METEOR identifier: | 269533 |
| Registration status: | [Aged Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/19), Standard 30/06/2023  [Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/7), Standard 20/06/2018  [Community Services (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/1), Standard 01/03/2005  [Disability](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/16), Standard 13/08/2015  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 01/03/2005  [Housing assistance](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/11), Standard 10/02/2006  [Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/3), Qualified 23/11/2015  [Tasmanian Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/15), Standard 01/09/2016  [WA Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/2), Standard 19/03/2015 |
| Definition: | A person's current relationship status in terms of a couple relationship or, for those not in a couple relationship, the existence of a current or previous registered marriage. |
| Context: | Marital status is a core metadata item in a wide range of social, labour and demographic statistics. Its main purpose is analysis of the association of marital status with the need for and use of services, and for epidemiological analysis.  Marital status also acts as an indicator for the level of support adult recipients of the welfare system have at home. The item is also used in comparisons of administrative data and population censuses and surveys. |
| Object class: | [Person](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/268955) |
| Property: | [Marital status](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/269101) |
| Source and reference attributes | |
| Submitting organisation: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |

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| Value domain attributes | |
| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Value domain: | [Housing assistance marital status code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/270865) |
| METEOR identifier: | 270865 |
| Registration status: | [Housing assistance](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/11), Retired 10/02/2006 |
| Definition: | A code set representing the marital status of a person. |

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| Representational attributes | | |
| Representation class: | Code | |
| Data type: | Number | |
| Format: | N | |
| Maximum character length: | 1 | |
|  | **Value** | **Meaning** |
| Permissible values: | 1 | Never married |
|  | 2 | Widowed |
|  | 3 | Divorced |
|  | 4 | Separated |
|  | 5 | Married (registered and defacto) |
| Supplementary values: | 9 | Not stated/inadequately described |

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| Collection and usage attributes | |
| Guide for use: | Refers to the current marital status of a person. Therefore if a person has been divorced but has since re-married, then they should be recorded as 5. Married.  The category Married (registered and de facto) should be generally accepted as applicable to all de facto couples, including of the same sex. |
| Comments: | ABS standards (see ABS: Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic statistics) identify two concepts of marital status:   * *registered* marital status - defined as whether a person has, or has had, a legally registered marriage; * *social* marital status - based on a person's living arrangements (including de-facto marriages), as reported by the person.   ABS recommends that the social marital status concept be collected when information on marital status is sought, whereas the registered marital status concept need only be collected where it is specifically required for the purposes of the collection and only in areas of consent if necessary. Most community services data collections ask clients to self-report their marital status. Hence, the operative concept is one of *social* marital status. |

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| Source and reference attributes | |
| Reference documents: | ABS: Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic statistics |

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| Data element attributes | |
| Collection and usage attributes | |
| Collection methods: | Although marital status is an important factor in assessing the type and extent of support needs, such as for the elderly living at home, marital status alone does not adequately address the need for information about social support and living arrangements. Other metadata items need to be collected to capture this information. |
| Source and reference attributes | |
| Submitting organisation: | National Health Data Committee |
| Relational attributes | |
| Related metadata references: | Has been superseded by [Person—marital status, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/291045)  [Community Services (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/1), Standard 25/08/2005  [Disability](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/16), Standard 13/08/2015  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Superseded 09/12/2022  [Housing assistance](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/11), Standard 10/02/2006  [Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/3), Qualified 23/11/2015  Is re-engineered from  [Marital status, version 1, DE, NHADD, NHDAMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/274074)  (16.4 KB)  *No registration status* |