

Person—marital status, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Element

Short name: Marital status

METEOR identifier: 291045

Registration status:

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

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, as represented by a code.

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:

Value	Meaning
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1	Never married
2	Widowed
3	Divorced
4	Separated
5	Married (registered and de facto)

Supplementary values:

Value	Meaning
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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 de facto 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 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

Origin:

National Health Data Standards Committee

National Community Services Data Committee

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Person—marital status, code N](#)

- [Community Services \(retired\)](#), Superseded 25/08/2005
- [Health](#), Superseded 04/05/2005

Supersedes [Person—marital status, housing assistance code N](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/02/2006

Has been superseded by [Person—marital status, social code NN](#)

- [Health](#), Qualified 03/06/2022

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Activity based funding: Mental health care DSS 2016-17Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Superseded 28/02/2017

Implementation start date: 01/07/2016

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2017-18Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2017

Implementation end date: 30/06/2018

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2018-19Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2018

Implementation end date: 30/06/2019

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2019-20Health](#), Superseded
17/01/2020

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

Implementation end date: 30/06/2020

DSS specific information:

As marital status can change over time, episodes from the ambulatory setting should include the latest/most recently reported marital status.

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2020-21Health](#), Superseded
23/12/2020

Implementation start date: 01/07/2020

Implementation end date: 30/06/2021

DSS specific information:

As marital status can change over time, episodes from the ambulatory setting should include the latest/most recently reported marital status.

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2021-22Health](#), Superseded
17/12/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2021

Implementation end date: 30/06/2022

DSS specific information:

As marital status can change over time, episodes from the ambulatory setting should include the latest/most recently reported marital status.

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2022-23Health](#), Standard
17/12/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2022

Implementation end date: 30/06/2023

DSS specific information:

As marital status can change over time, episodes from the ambulatory setting should include the latest/most recently reported marital status.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2016-17Health](#), Superseded 05/10/2016

Implementation start date: 01/07/2016

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

Conditional obligation:

Only supplied for specialised mental health care patients.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2017-18Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2017

Implementation end date: 30/06/2018

Conditional obligation:

Only supplied for specialised mental health care patients.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate
09/08/2018
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2018

Implementation end date: 30/06/2019

Conditional obligation:

Only supplied for specialised mental health care patients.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2019-20Health](#), Superseded 18/12/2019

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

Implementation end date: 30/06/2020

Conditional obligation:

Only supplied for specialised mental health care patients.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2020-21Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2020

Implementation end date: 30/06/2021

Conditional obligation:

Only supplied for specialised mental health care patients.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2021-22Health](#), Superseded 20/10/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2021

Implementation end date: 30/06/2022

Conditional obligation:

Only supplied for specialised mental health care patients.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2022–23Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2022

Implementation end date: 30/06/2023

Conditional obligation:

Only required to be reported for episodes of admitted patient care with [Hospital service—care type, code N\[N\]](#) recorded as: Code 11: Mental health care.

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDSHealth](#), Superseded 23/10/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2007-08Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2008-09Health](#), Superseded 04/02/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2009

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2009-10Health](#), Superseded 05/01/2010

Implementation start date: 01/07/2009

Implementation end date: 30/06/2010

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2010-11Health](#), Superseded
18/01/2011

Implementation start date: 01/07/2010

Implementation end date: 30/06/2011

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2011-12Health](#), Superseded
07/12/2011

Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

Implementation end date: 30/06/2012

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2012-13Health](#), Superseded
02/05/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012

Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2013-14Health](#), Superseded
15/10/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2014-15Health](#), Superseded
04/02/2015

Implementation start date: 01/07/2014

Implementation end date: 30/06/2015

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2015-16Health](#), Superseded
19/11/2015

Implementation start date: 01/07/2015

Implementation end date: 30/06/2016

[Community mental health care NMDS 2004-05Health](#), Superseded 08/12/2004

Implementation start date: 01/07/2004

Implementation end date: 30/06/2005

[Community mental health care NMDS 2005-06Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Community mental health care NMDS 2006-07Health](#), Superseded 23/10/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Community mental health care NMDS 2007-08Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Community mental health care NMDS 2008-09Health](#), Superseded 04/02/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2009

[Community mental health care NMDS 2009-10Health](#), Superseded 05/01/2010

Implementation start date: 01/07/2009

Implementation end date: 30/06/2010

[Community mental health care NMDS 2010-11Health](#), Superseded 01/12/2010

Implementation start date: 01/07/2010

Implementation end date: 30/06/2011

[Community mental health care NMDS 2011-12Health](#), Superseded 07/03/2012

Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

Implementation end date: 30/06/2012

[Community mental health care NMDS 2012-13Health](#), Superseded 07/02/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012

Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

[Community mental health care NMDS 2013-14Health](#), Superseded 07/03/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014

[Community mental health care NMDS 2014-15Health](#), Superseded 13/11/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2014

Implementation end date: 30/06/2015

[Community mental health care NMDS 2015-16Health](#), Superseded 04/09/2015

Implementation start date: 01/07/2015

Implementation end date: 30/06/2016

[Community mental health care NMDS 2016-17Health](#), Superseded 17/08/2017

Implementation start date: 01/07/2016

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

[Community mental health care NMDS 2017-18Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2017

Implementation end date: 30/06/2018

[Community mental health care NMDS 2018-19ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate
09/08/2018
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2018

Implementation end date: 30/06/2019

[Community mental health care NMDS 2019–20Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

Implementation end date: 30/06/2020

[Community mental health care NMDS 2020–21Health](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2020

Implementation end date: 30/06/2021

[Community mental health care NMDS 2021–22Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2021

Implementation end date: 30/06/2022

[Community mental health care NMDS 2022–23Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2022

Implementation end date: 30/06/2023

[Computer Assisted Telephone Interview demographic module DSSHealth](#),
Superseded 03/12/2008

DSS specific information:

For data collection using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) the recommended question is:

Which of the following best describes your current marital status?

(Read options. Single response. Interviewer note: 'De facto' equals 'Living with partner')

Married

Living with partner

Widowed

Divorced

Separated

Never married

Not stated/inadequately described (this category is not read out by interviewer)

[Computer Assisted Telephone Interview demographic module NBPDSHealth](#),
Standard 03/12/2008

DSS specific information:

For data collection using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) the recommended question is:

Which of the following best describes your current marital status?

(Read options. Single response. Interviewer note: 'De facto' equals 'Living with partner')

Married

Living with partner

Widowed

Divorced

Separated

Never married

Not stated/inadequately described (this category is not read out by interviewer)

[Disability services client details clusterCommunity Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 10/04/2013

[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

[Person details data dictionaryCommunity Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 06/02/2012

[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2005-06Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

Implementation start date: 01/07/2005

Implementation end date: 30/06/2006

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2006-07Health](#), Superseded 23/10/2006

Implementation start date: 01/07/2006

Implementation end date: 30/06/2007

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2007-08Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008

Implementation start date: 01/07/2007

Implementation end date: 30/06/2008

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2008-09Health](#), Superseded 04/02/2009

Implementation start date: 01/07/2008

Implementation end date: 30/06/2009

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2009-10Health](#), Superseded 05/01/2010

Implementation start date: 01/07/2009

Implementation end date: 30/06/2010

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2010-11Health](#), Superseded 21/12/2010

Implementation start date: 01/07/2010

Implementation end date: 30/06/2011

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2011-12Health](#), Superseded 07/03/2012

Implementation start date: 01/07/2011

Implementation end date: 30/06/2012

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2012-13Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012

Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2013-14Health](#), Superseded 07/03/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2014-15Health](#), Superseded 13/11/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2014

Implementation end date: 30/06/2015

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2015-16Health](#), Superseded 04/09/2015

Implementation start date: 01/07/2015

Implementation end date: 30/06/2016

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2016-17Health](#), Superseded 17/08/2017

Implementation start date: 01/07/2016

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2017-18Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2017

Implementation end date: 30/06/2018

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2018-19ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate
09/08/2018
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2018

Implementation end date: 30/06/2019

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2019-20Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

Implementation end date: 30/06/2020

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2020-21Health](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2020

Implementation end date: 30/06/2021

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2021-22Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2021

Implementation end date: 30/06/2022

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2022–23Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2022

Implementation end date: 30/06/2023