

Birth mother—marital status, at child's birth code N

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Birth mother—marital status, at child's birth code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Birth mother marital status
METEOR identifier:	653196
Registration status:	Children and Families , Standard 22/11/2016
Definition:	The marital status of the birth (biological) mother of a child at the time of the child's birth, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Birth mother—marital status
Value Domain:	Marital status at child's birth code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Married
	2	Not married
Supplementary values:	9	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	Refers to the current marital status of a person. CODE 1 Married Refers to the status of a person in a legally registered marriage, provided they are not separated from their spouse, even if the spouse is not a usual resident of the same household. CODE 2 Not married A person who has never been married, widowed or divorced. It also includes those who are living with a defacto partner.
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Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Steward:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Reference documents:	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2015. Family, household and income unit variables, 2014. Cat. no. 1286.0. Canberra: ABS.

Data element attributes

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Steward: [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#)

Relational attributes

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Adoptions DSS 2013-16](#)
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/03/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2016

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' adoption.

DSS specific information:

The marital status is measured at the time of the child's birth (rather than at the time of placement).

The birth mother is classified as married if she was legally married (regardless of whether she is married to the birth father) at the time of the child's birth. In situations where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth (i.e. during the pregnancy), the birth mother is still classified as 'married'.

The birth mother is classified as not married if she was not legally married at the time of the child's birth (except in circumstances where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth). This includes situations where the birth mother was living in a de facto relationship.

[Adoptions DSS 2016-17](#)
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 12/11/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2016

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' adoption.

DSS specific information:

The marital status is measured at the time of the child's birth (rather than at the time of placement).

The birth mother is classified as married if she was legally married (regardless of whether she is married to the birth father) at the time of the child's birth. In situations where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth (i.e. during the pregnancy), the birth mother is still classified as 'married'.

The birth mother is classified as not married if she was not legally married at the time of the child's birth (except in circumstances where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth). This includes situations where the birth mother was living in a de facto relationship.

[Adoptions DSS 2017-18](#)
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 02/12/2019

Implementation start date: 01/07/2017

Implementation end date: 30/06/2018

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' adoption.

DSS specific information:

The marital status is measured at the time of the child's birth (rather than at the time of placement).

The birth mother is classified as married if she was legally married (regardless of

whether she is married to the birth father) at the time of the child's birth. In situations where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth (i.e. during the pregnancy), the birth mother is still classified as 'married'.

The birth mother is classified as not married if she was not legally married at the time of the child's birth (except in circumstances where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth). This includes situations where the birth mother was living in a de facto relationship.

[Adoptions DSS 2018-19](#)

[Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2018

Implementation end date: 30/06/2019

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' adoption.

DSS specific information:

The marital status is measured at the time of the child's birth (rather than at the time of placement).

The birth mother is classified as married if she was legally married (regardless of whether she is married to the birth father) at the time of the child's birth. In situations where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth (i.e. during the pregnancy), the birth mother is still classified as 'married'.

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[Adoptions DSS 2019-20](#)

[Children and Families](#), Superseded 03/11/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

Implementation end date: 30/06/2020

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' adoption.

DSS specific information:

The marital status is measured at the time of the child's birth (rather than at the time of placement).

The birth mother is classified as married if she was legally married (regardless of whether she is married to the birth father) at the time of the child's birth. In situations where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth (i.e. during the pregnancy), the birth mother is still classified as 'married'.

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[Adoptions DSS 2020-21](#)

[Children and Families](#), Superseded 05/06/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2020

Implementation end date: 30/06/2021

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on adoption type being a [local adoption](#).

DSS specific information:

The marital status is measured at the time of the child's birth (rather than at the time of [placement](#)).

The birth mother is classified as married if she was legally married (regardless of whether she is married to the birth father) at the time of the child's birth. In situations

where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth (i.e., during the pregnancy), the birth mother is still classified as 'married'.

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[Adoptions DSS 2021-22](#)

[Children and Families](#), Superseded 04/04/2024

Implementation start date: 01/07/2021

Implementation end date: 30/06/2022

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on adoption type being a [local adoption](#).

DSS specific information:

The marital status is measured at the time of the child's birth (rather than at the time of [placement](#)).

The birth mother is classified as married if she was legally married (regardless of whether she is married to the birth father) at the time of the child's birth. In situations where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth (i.e., during the pregnancy), the birth mother is still classified as 'married'.

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[Adoptions DSS 2022-23](#)

[Children and Families](#), Standard 04/04/2024

Implementation start date: 01/07/2022

Implementation end date: 30/06/2023

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on adoption type being a [local adoption](#).

DSS specific information:

The marital status is measured at the time of the child's birth (rather than at the time of [placement](#)).

The birth mother is classified as married if she was legally married (regardless of whether she is married to the birth father) at the time of the child's birth. In situations where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth (i.e., during the pregnancy), the birth mother is still classified as 'married'.

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