

Sexual orientation code N[N]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Value Domain

METEOR identifier: 755744

Registration status:

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

Definition: A code set representing a person's [sexual orientation](#).

Representational attributes

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N[N]

Maximum character length: 2

Permissible values:

Value	Meaning
1	Straight (heterosexual)
2	Gay or lesbian
3	Bisexual
4	I use a different term
5	Don't know
6	Prefer not to say

Supplementary values:

97	Not applicable
99	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

This Value Domain is based on the ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) *Standard for sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation variables* (ABS 2021). The values are defined as:

CODE 1 Straight (heterosexual)

A person whose sexual orientation is towards persons of a different sex.

CODE 2 Gay or lesbian

A person whose sexual orientation is towards persons of the same sex.

CODE 3 Bisexual

A person whose sexual orientation is towards persons of the same sex and persons of a different sex.

CODE 4 I use a different term

A person who uses a different term to describe their sexual orientation other than those provided. (Other terms such as queer, asexual and pansexual may be covered by this code.)

CODE 5 Don't know

A person who does not know their sexual orientation.

CODE 6 Prefer not to say

A person who does not want to disclose their sexual orientation.

CODE 97 Not applicable

This supplementary value is for use in cases where the data is not self-reported. (Note the ABS uses the Code 0 for this value.)

CODE 99 Not stated/inadequately described

This supplementary value is used to code inadequately described responses and non-responses for sexual orientation. It is not to be used on primary collection forms. It is primarily for use in administrative collections when transferring data from data sets where the item is not collected.

Alternative codes

The ABS Standard also allows for the following alternative codes, which can be mapped to the codes specified above:

CODE S Straight

CODE G Gay or lesbian

CODE B Bisexual

CODE T Different term *

CODE U Don't know

CODE Z Prefer not to say

*Where there is a response for 'Different term', a descriptive, more detailed answer can be captured with a write-in facility.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Origin:

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2021. Standard for sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation variables. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 24 February 2022, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/standard-sex-gender-variations-sex-characteristics-and-sexual-orientation-variables/latest-release#sexual-orientation>

Relational attributes

**Data elements
implementing this value
domain:**

[Person—sexual orientation, code N\[N\]](#)

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