Variations of sex characteristics

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# Variations of sex characteristics

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| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Metadata item type: | Glossary Item |
| Synonymous names: | Intersex or differences/disorders of sex development (DSD) |
| METEOR identifier: | 757670 |
| Registration status: | [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 03/06/2022 |
| Definition: | Variations of sex characteristics refers to people with innate genetic, hormonal or physical sex characteristics that do not conform to medical norms for female or male bodies. It refers to a wide spectrum of variations to genitals, hormones, chromosomes and/or reproductive organs. |

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| Collection and usage attributes | |
| Comments: | Many variations of sex characteristics are not evident at birth, and people may not be aware they were born with a variation of sex characteristics until puberty or later in life. It is also possible that a person may never know that they were born with a variation of sex characteristics. There is no singular experience or identity for people born with variations of sex characteristics.  Other umbrella terms used to describe being born with variations of sex characteristics are intersex or Differences/Disorders of Sex Development (DSD). |
| 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 6 October 2021 <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/standard-sex-gender-variations-sex-characteristics-and-sexual-orientation-variables/latest-release> |
| Reference documents: | APSC (Australian Public Service Commission) 2021.  Australian Government Style Manual 2021. Gender and Sexual Diversity. Canberra: APSC. Viewed 23 Feb 2022, <https://www.stylemanual.gov.au/accessible-and-inclusive-content/inclusive-language/gender-and-sexual-diversity> |
| Relational attributes | |
| Related metadata references: | See also [Gender](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/750032)  [Aged Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/19), Standard 30/06/2023  [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/24), Qualified 17/01/2024  [Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/23), Standard 30/08/2022  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 15/02/2022  [Indigenous](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/6), Standard 27/08/2023  [Tasmanian Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/15), Standard 22/03/2023  [Youth Justice](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/4), Standard 15/02/2022  See also [Sex](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/750030)  [Aged Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/19), Standard 30/06/2023  [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/24), Qualified 17/01/2024  [Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/23), Standard 30/08/2022  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 15/02/2022  [Indigenous](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/6), Standard 18/12/2023  [Tasmanian Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/15), Standard 22/03/2023  [Youth Justice](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/4), Standard 15/02/2022  See also [Sexual orientation](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/755634)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 03/06/2022 |
| Metadata items which use this glossary item: | [Person—variations of sex characteristics indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/757688)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 03/06/2022  [Person—variations of sex characteristics indicator, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/757702)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 03/06/2022  [Variations of sex characteristics code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/757694)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 03/06/2022  [Variations of sex characteristics indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/757679)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 03/06/2022 |