

Variations of sex characteristics

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Variations of sex characteristics

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 , 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.

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).
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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 Aged Care , Standard 30/06/2023 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare , Qualified 17/01/2024 Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board , Standard 30/08/2022 Health , Standard 15/02/2022 Indigenous , Standard 27/08/2023 Tasmanian Health , Standard 22/03/2023 Youth Justice , Standard 15/02/2022 See also Sex Aged Care , Standard 30/06/2023 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare , Qualified 17/01/2024 Australian Teacher Workforce Data Oversight Board , Standard 30/08/2022 Health , Standard 15/02/2022 Indigenous , Standard 18/12/2023 Tasmanian Health , Standard 22/03/2023 Youth Justice , Standard 15/02/2022 See also Sexual orientation Health , Qualified 03/06/2022
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**Metadata items which use
this glossary item:**

[Person—variations of sex characteristics indicator](#)

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

[Person—variations of sex characteristics indicator, code N](#)

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

[Variations of sex characteristics code N](#)

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

[Variations of sex characteristics indicator](#)

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