

# Variations of sex characteristics

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Glossary Item
<b>Synonymous names:</b>	Intersex or differences/disorders of sex development (DSD)
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	757670
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Qualified 03/06/2022</li></ul>
<b>Definition:</b>	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

<b>Comments:</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Other umbrella terms used to describe being born with variations of sex characteristics are intersex or Differences/Disorders of Sex Development (DSD).</p>
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## Source and reference attributes

<b>Submitting organisation:</b>	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
<b>Origin:</b>	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2021. Standard for sex, gender, variations of sex characteristics and sexual orientation variables. Canberra: ABS, viewed 6 October 2021 <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/standard-sex-gender-variations-sex-characteristics-and-sexual-orientation-variables/latest-release">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/standard-sex-gender-variations-sex-characteristics-and-sexual-orientation-variables/latest-release</a>
<b>Reference documents:</b>	APSC (Australian Public Service Commission) 2021. Australian Government Style Manual 2021. Gender and Sexual Diversity. Canberra: APSC. Viewed 23 Feb 2022, <a href="https://www.stylemanual.gov.au/accessible-and-inclusive-content/inclusive-language/gender-and-sexual-diversity">https://www.stylemanual.gov.au/accessible-and-inclusive-content/inclusive-language/gender-and-sexual-diversity</a>

## Relational attributes

<b>Related metadata references:</b>	<p>See also <a href="#">Gender</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Standard 15/02/2022</li><li>• <a href="#">Youth Justice</a>, Standard 15/02/2022</li></ul> <p>See also <a href="#">Sex</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Standard 15/02/2022</li><li>• <a href="#">Youth Justice</a>, Standard 15/02/2022</li></ul> <p>See also <a href="#">Sexual orientation</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Qualified 03/06/2022</li></ul>
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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