

Person—marital status, code N

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Person—marital status, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Marital status
METEOR identifier:	766507
Registration status:	Health, Standard 09/12/2022 Aged Care, Standard 30/06/2023
Definition:	A person's current relationship status in terms of a couple relationship or, for those not in a couple relationship, the existence of a current or previous registered marriage, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Person—marital status
Value Domain:	Marital status code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Never married
	2	Widowed
	3	Divorced
	4	Separated
	5	Married (registered and de facto)
Supplementary values:	6	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

The following codes refer to the current marital status of a person.

CODE 1 Never married

Use this code when a person has never been married. People who have never been in a registered marriage but are currently in a de facto marriage should use CODE 5 'Married (registered and de facto)'.

CODE 2 Widowed

Use this code when a person's marriage partner is deceased, and they have not re-married. For persons whose previous marriage partner is not living, but who have re-married, use CODE 5 'Married (registered and de facto)'.

CODE 3 Divorced

Use this code when a person is no longer legally married to their most recent marriage partner.

CODE 4 Separated

Use this code when a person considers themselves to be no longer in a relationship with most recent registered marriage partner, but has not legally divorced.

CODE 5 Married (registered and de facto)

Use this code when a person is in a current registered or de facto marriage. Includes people who have been divorced or widowed but have since re-married.

CODE 6 Not stated/inadequately described

This code is not for use on primary collection forms. It is primarily for use in administrative collections when transferring data from data sets where the item has not been collected.

Collection methods:

While some codes (such as CODE 2 'Widowed' or CODE 3 'Divorced') imply a registered marital status, when self-reported they may also refer to de facto marriage relationships.

Comments:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics identifies two concepts of marital status:

- Registered marital status - defined as whether a person has, or has had, a registered marriage;
- Social marital status - based on a person's living arrangement (including de facto marriages), as reported by the person (ABS 2019).

Please note, however, that this Value Domain is not compatible with the code sets described in the ABS standard.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Reference documents:

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2019. Family, Household and Income Unit Variables, 2014. Canberra: ABS, viewed 21 September 2022
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/family-household-and-income-unit-variables/2014>

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Comments:

The [Marriage Act 1961 \(Cth\)](#) (as amended) defines marriage as 'the union of 2 people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life'.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

**Related metadata
references:**

Supersedes [Person—marital status, code N](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 25/08/2005
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
[Health](#), Superseded 09/12/2022
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Qualified 23/11/2015

See also [Person—marital status end date, DDMMYYYY](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Recorded 11/07/2011

See also [Person—marital status start date, DDMMYYYY](#)
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Recorded 11/07/2011

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2023–24](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

DSS specific information:

As marital status can change over time, episodes from the ambulatory setting should include the latest/most recently reported marital status.

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2024–25](#)

[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2024

Implementation end date: 30/06/2025

DSS specific information:

As marital status can change over time, episodes from the ambulatory setting should include the latest/most recently reported marital status.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2023–24](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

Conditional obligation:

Only required to be reported for episodes of admitted patient care with [Hospital service—care type, code N\[N\]](#) recorded as: Code 11: Mental health care.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2024–25](#)

[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2024

Implementation end date: 30/06/2025

Conditional obligation:

Only required to be reported for episodes of admitted patient care with [Hospital service—care type, code N\[N\]](#) recorded as: Code 11: Mental health care.

[Aged care person cluster](#)

[Aged Care](#), Standard 30/06/2023

[Community mental health care NMDS 2023–24](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

[Community mental health care NMDS 2024–25](#)

[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2024

Implementation end date: 30/06/2025

[Dementia NBPDS](#)

[Health](#), Standard 05/10/2022

[Person related data elements \(TDLU\) cluster \(Private Hospitals\)](#)

[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 20/11/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2025

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2023–24](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2024–25](#)

[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2024

Implementation end date: 30/06/2025

