

Person—marital status, housing assistance code N

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Person—marital status, housing assistance code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Marital status
Synonymous names:	Marital status
METEOR identifier:	270357
Registration status:	Housing assistance , Superseded 10/02/2006
Data Element Concept:	Person—marital status
Value Domain:	Housing assistance 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 defacto)
Supplementary values:	9	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: Refers to the current marital status of a person. Therefore if a person has been divorced but has since re-married, then they should be recorded as 5. Married.

The category Married (registered and de facto) should be generally accepted as applicable to all de facto couples, including of the same sex.

Comments: ABS standards (see ABS: Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic statistics) identify two concepts of marital status:

- *registered* marital status - defined as whether a person has, or has had, a legally registered marriage;
- *social* marital status - based on a person's living arrangements (including de-facto marriages), as reported by the person.

ABS recommends that the social marital status concept be collected when information on marital status is sought, whereas the registered marital status concept need only be collected where it is specifically required for the purposes of the collection and only in areas of consent if necessary. Most community services data collections ask clients to self-report their marital status. Hence, the operative concept is one of *social* marital status.

Source and reference attributes

Reference documents: ABS: Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic statistics

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes


Collection methods: Although marital status is an important factor in assessing the type and extent of support needs, such as for the elderly living at home, marital status alone does not adequately address the need for information about social support and living arrangements. Other metadata items need to be collected to capture this information.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Health Data Committee

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [Person—marital status, code N Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 25/08/2005
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
[Health!](#), Standard 04/05/2005
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Qualified 23/11/2015

Is re-engineered from  [Marital status, version 1, DE, NHADD, NHDAMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (16.4 KB)
No registration status