

Marital status

Age Cohorts	Younger, Mid-age and Older
Surveys	All
Derived Variable	Marital
Definition	Marital status
Source Items (Index Numbers)	Mid-age 1 and 2: DEMO-012 Older 1: DEMO-019 Younger 1 and Mid-age 4: DEMO-023 Younger 3: DEMO-030 Older 2-4: DEMO-036 Younger 2 and Mid-age 3: DEMO-047 & DEMO-048 Younger 4: DEMO-023
Statistical Form	Categorical variable
Index Number	DEMO-072
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Endorsed	August 2005

Source Items – Surveys 1 to 4

	Cohort:			Mid-age		Older		
	Survey:	1	3	4	1-2	4	1	2-4
<i>Response</i>					<i>Code</i>			
Married	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	
Defacto		3				2	2	
Defacto (opposite sex)	2		3	2	2			
Defacto (same sex)	3		4	3	3			
Separated	4	4	5	4	4	3	4	
Divorced	5	5	6	5	5	4	5	
Widowed	6	6	7	6	6	5	3	
Single				7				
Never married	7	1	1		7	6	6	

Younger 2 and Mid-age 3

This question is about your relationship status based on living arrangements.

Are you: (Mark one only)

Code	Response
1	Living in a registered married
2	Living in a de facto relationship
3	Not married

What is your FORMAL registered marital status?

Code	Response
1	Never married
2	Married
3	Separated
4	Divorced
5	Widowed

Derived Variable

Early ALSWH data sets included a variety of coding schemes for marital status. Some of these specified the sex of the partner if women were in a de facto relationship while others did not; and women who were not married were variously describe as 'never married' or 'single'. In August 2005 a uniformly coded variable (*marital*) was added to all survey data sets for each age cohort.

Code	Category
1	Married
2	Defacto
3	Separated
4	Divorced
5	Widowed
6	Single

The coding of *marital* was straight forward for most surveys, with a direct mapping from the response categories. For surveys where the sex of a partner in a defacto relationship was specified these 2 responses were categorized as Defacto (code 2). All women who were not married were uniformly classified as Single (code 6) thus including the response option of 'never married'.

For Surveys 2 of the Younger cohort and 3 of the Mid-age cohort a more detailed method was required to combine information about both living arrangements and marital status. The assignment of marital status codes for various combinations of responses to these items is shown below.

Relationship status based on living arrangements			
Registered marital status	Living in a registered married	Living in a defacto relationship	Not married
	Category for <i>Marital</i>		
Never married	Single	Defacto	Single
Married	Married	Defacto	Married
Separated	Separated	Defacto	Separated
Divorced	Divorced	Defacto	Divorced
Widowed	Widowed	Defacto	Widowed

The SAS code to create marital status in this circumstance is:

```
if DEMO-047 = 2 then marital = 2 ;  
else if DEMO-048 = . then marital = . ;  
else if DEMO-048 = 1 then marital = 6 ;  
else if DEMO-048 = 2 then marital = 1 ;  
else if DEMO-048 in (3,4,5) then marital = DEMO-048 ;
```