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| **Domain:** | Demographics |
| **Measure:** | Current Marital Status |
| **Definition:** | Question asking the respondent for his/her current marital status. |
| **Purpose:** | Marital status has been linked to health and mortality. |
| **Essential PhenX Measures:** | Current Age |
| **Related PhenX Measures:** |  |
| **Collections:** |  |
| **Keywords:** | Demographics, marital status, marriage, spouse, partner, married, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, NHANES, Demographics |

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| **Protocol Release Date:** | February 6, 2009 |
| **PhenX Protocol Name:** | Current Marital Status |
| **Protocol Name from Source:** | The Expert Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet. |
| **Description:** | The interviewer asks the respondent about his/her current marital status by going through a list of categories. The respondent may select one category. |
| **Specific Instructions:** | None. |
| **Protocol:** | Are you now married, widowed, divorced, separated, never married, or living with a partner? [] 1 MARRIED; [] 2 WIDOWED; [] 3 DIVORCED; [] 4 SEPARATED; [] 5 NEVER MARRIED; [] 6 LIVING WITH PARTNER; [] 7 REFUSED; [] 9 DON'T KNOW |
| **Selection Rationale:** | Marital status relates to health and well-being. For example, when considering the relationship between exposures and stage of disease as the outcome for melanoma, we should consider marital status because married men are more likely than unmarried men to have their melanomas discovered at an early stage (by their spouses). Vetted against several other current marital status questions. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) question was selected because it captures the respondent's marital status at the present time and has the most appropriate response options.  |
| **Source:** | National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), Demographics Module, 2005-2006.Question number: DMQ.380National Center for Health Statistics. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. NHANES 2005-2006. |
| **Life Stage:** | Adult |
| **Language of source:** | English, Spanish |
| **Participant:** | Individuals aged 18 and older. |
| **Personnel and Training Required:** | The interviewer must be trained to conduct personal interviews with individuals from the general population. The interviewer must be trained and found to be competent (i.e., tested by an expert) at the completion of personal interviews.\* The interviewer should be trained to prompt respondents further if a "don't know" response is provided. \* There are multiple modes to administer this question (e.g., paper-and-pencil and computer-assisted interviews). |
| **Equipment Needs:** | While the source instrument was developed to be administered by computer, the PhenX Working Group acknowledges these questions can be administered in a noncomputerized format (i.e., paper-and-pencil instrument). Computer software is necessary to develop computer-assisted instruments. The interviewer will require a laptop computer/handheld computer to administer a computer-assisted questionnaire. |
| **Standards:** |

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| **Standard** | **Name** | **ID** | **Source** |
| Common Data Element (CDE) | Person Marital Status Category | 2188083 | [CDE Browser](https://cdebrowser.nci.nih.gov/CDEBrowser/search?elementDetails=9&FirstTimer=0&PageId=ElementDetailsGroup&publicId=2188083&version=1.0) |
| Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) | Current marital status proto | 63054-1 | [LOINC](http://s.details.loinc.org/LOINC/63054-1.html?sections=Web) |

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| **General references:** | Public Population Project in Genomics (P3G) Data Shaper.  |
| **Mode of Administration:** | Interviewer-administered questionnaire |
| **Derived Variables:** | None |
| **Requirements:** |

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| **Requirement Category** | **Required** |
| Major equipment | No |
| Specialized training | No |
| Specialized requirements for biospecimen collection | No |
| Average time of greater than 15 minutes in an unaffected individual | No |

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| **Process and Review:** | The Expert Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet. |