

SINGAPORE STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF MARITAL STATUS

Introduction

The Singapore Standard Classification of Marital Status is designed for use in the collection of data (e.g. censuses, surveys, administrative records) that requires classifying information on marital status. It could also be used in the compilation, presentation and analysis of a wide range of statistics, including demographic and social statistics. The classification provides a common statistical framework that will facilitate data-sharing among producers of statistics on marriages and divorces, while providing consistent and comparable data to users for analysis.

2 The structure of the standard classification follows the recommendations from the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Revision 2)* by the United Nations to ensure international comparability of data.

Definition

3 Marital status refers to a person's conjugal status in relation to marriage laws in Singapore.

Scope of the Classification

4 The classification provides for all conjugal statuses that are recognised under the marriage laws in Singapore. Overseas marriages, separations and divorces which are recognised under Singapore's marriage laws are also included.

Customary Marriages

5 Customary marriages deemed valid under the marriage laws in Singapore are classified as 'Married' in the context of the classification.

Remarriages

6 Remarriages refer to widows and divorcees who marry again. For such cases, the marital status of the individual is classified as 'Married'.

Annulments

7 An annulment is a legal procedure that invalidates a marriage, and parties whose marriages have been annulled are conferred the status of never having been married to each other from the time when the judgment of nullity is granted. As such, their marital status is reverted to the status before the annulled marriage took place (which could be 'Single', 'Divorced' or 'Widowed', depending on the previous legal marital status).

Structure of the Classification and Definition of Codes

8 There are six categories in the standard classification, each denoted by a digit, except the 'Not Reported' category, which is denoted by the letter 'X'. An overview of the structure as well as the definition of the codes is shown below:

Code	Description	Definition
1	SINGLE	This refers to a person who has never been married ¹ .
2	MARRIED	This refers to a person who is recognised as married under the marriage laws in Singapore. It includes a person who has remarried.
3	WIDOWED	This refers to a person whose spouse(s) is/are deceased and who has not remarried.
4	SEPARATED	This refers to a person who has been legally separated or estranged from his/her spouse(s) and who has not remarried.
5	DIVORCED	This refers to a person whose marriage(s) has/have been legally dissolved and who has not remarried.
X	NOT REPORTED	This includes instances where the marital status is unknown, not reported or where there is no/insufficient information available on the marital status.

¹ Common terms like 'Never-married'/'Never been married' and 'Unmarried' relating to marital status refers to the following categories in the classification:

'Never-married'/'Never been married': Refers to persons who are 'Single'.

'Unmarried': Refers to persons who are currently not married and include those who are 'Single', 'Widowed', 'Separated' or 'Divorced'.