



Modern Households and Marital Status

Given the changes in the social structure of modern households, how can I ask about marital status?

To document such changes in your county and plan programs accurately, give people the opportunity to report that they live with another adult besides a legal spouse. The following question, used in a health study at the Stanford Center on Research for Disease Prevention (SCRDP), is recommended for needs assessments and evaluations:

What is your marital status? (circle number)

- 1 SINGLE
- 2 LIVING W/SIGNIFICANT OTHER OR PARTNER
- 3 CURRENTLY MARRIED
- 4 DIVORCED OR SEPARATED
- 5 WIDOWED

Other important trends in the population can be found in Statistical Abstracts, which is on the Web at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-us.html> (current as of January, 2005)

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Available: <http://www.extension.psu.edu/evaluation/pdf/TS46.pdf>

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