Disability

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCSDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000561   Version number: 1

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT

Admin status: SUPERSEDED   Effective date: 01-SEP-03

Definition: Disability is a multi-dimensional and complex concept. Disability is defined in terms of three dimensions (WHO, 1999): Body structures and functions/impairments, Activity/activity limitation and Participation/participation restriction. Disability is the presence and nature of one, some or all of these dimensions associated with current or previous related health conditions, disease or injury. The three dimensions focus in turn on aspects of functioning and disability relevant to: the body, the individual person, and the person in society. The experience of disability is variable over time and affected by external environmental factors as well as internal personal factors.

Context: Many different definitions of disability are used in Australia, both in administrative data collections and in Acts of Parliament. The consistent identification of disability in national data collections has been recommended in a number of reports, so as to enable:
- the monitoring of access to generic services by people with a disability;
- the collection of more consistent data on disability support and related services, including data on service use by different groups; and
- population data and service data to be related, thereby improving the nation's analytical capacity in relation to the need for and supply of services.
People with a disability often have a need for a variety of support services including day activity, employment, education, home care and accommodation. Defining disability will make it possible to determine the number of people who are accessing services, both disability specific and generic, and also those with a disability in the general population with unmet need. Better definition of disability will aid better targeting of resources to those in need.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:

Collection Methods: The concept 'disability' can be made operational as a derived data element by using a combination of related data elements as building blocks.
The data elements selected may vary depending on the definition of disability used. For example in hospital based rehabilitation the focus may be on the impairment and activity dimensions and in community-based care the focus may be Participation primarily. Some applications may require a broad scope for inclusion (eg. discrimination legislation). Data collections relating to services will select combinations of the data elements, which best reflect the eligibility criteria for the service.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Assistance with activity version 1
relates to the data element Body functions version 1
relates to the data element Body structures version 1
relates to the data element Activity - level of difficulty version 1
relates to the data element Disability grouping - Australian national version 1
relates to the data element Disability grouping - International version 1
relates to the data element Environmental factors version 1
relates to the data element Impairment extent version 1
relates to the data element Environmental factors - extent of influence version 1
relates to the data element Participation extent version 1
relates to the data element Activity areas version 1
relates to the data element Participation areas version 1
relates to the data element Participation satisfaction level version 1
has been superseded by Disability version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: ICIDH-2, Beta-2, 1999
Source Organisation: World Health Organisation

Comments: The data elements relating to disability are based on the draft ICIDH-2, Beta-2, 1999, as the best available conceptualisation suitable to the purpose. The Beta-2 draft is subject to systematic field trials and further consultation until 2001. Use of the ICIDH-2

has not been endorsed by WHO Member States. Endorsement by the World Health Assembly is scheduled to be sought in 2001. Further information on the ICIDH-2 can be found on the WHO website: http://www.who.ch/icidh

The dimensions of the ICIDH-2 are defined in relation to a health condition. 'A health condition is an alteration or attribute of the health state of an individual that may lead to distress, interference with daily activities, or contact with health services. It may be a disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury or trauma, or reflect other health-related states such as pregnancy, ageing, stress, congenital anomaly or genetic predisposition' (WHO, 1999). There are a number of ways to record a health condition. An ICD-10 code may have been recorded (See National Health Data Dictionary Version 8, 1999 data elements, 'Principal diagnosis' and 'Additional diagnosis'). A diagnosis may have been reached, after assessment, of the nature and identity of the disease or condition of the person. For further information on disability see the Information Annexe - Disability.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM   Disability characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element