

Household—greatest need status

Metadata item type: Data Element Concept

METEOR identifier: 269613

Registration status:

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/02/2006

Definition: Low income households that at the time of allocation were subject to one or more of the following circumstances:

1. They were [homeless](#); or
2. their life or safety was at risk in their accommodation; or
3. their health condition was aggravated by their housing; or
4. their housing was inappropriate to their needs; or
5. they had very high rental housing costs.

Context: This metadata item is used to measure the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement 'Priority access to those in greatest need' (P6) national standard. The purpose of this indicator is to measure the effectiveness of housing authorities allocation of housing to households in greatest need ahead of households with less housing needs.

Object Class attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Object class: [Household](#)

Definition: A group of two or more related or unrelated people who usually reside in the same dwelling, and who make common provision for food or other essentials for living; or a single person living in a dwelling who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person.

Context: Together with family, household is considered one of the basic groups of social aggregation. Information on household numbers and composition aids in identifying groups within the population such as Indigenous households or the number of people living alone.

Specialisation of: [Person/group of persons](#)

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: For housing data collections, the number of tenancy agreements is a practical proxy for calculating the number of households receiving housing assistance.

The persons in the group may pool their incomes and have a common budget to a greater or lesser extent: they may be related or unrelated persons, or a combination of both.

Only usual residents of the household are included as members of the household. Visitors to a household are, by definition, excluded from the household.

Source and reference attributes

Origin: CSHA Public rental housing data manual 2001-02

Property attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Property:	Greatest need status
Definition:	An indicator of whether the criteria for greatest need are met.
Property group:	Service/care urgency

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data element concept attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: A low income household for the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement (CSHA) greatest need definition is a household who satisfies an eligibility test to receive CSHA funded program assistance.

1. Homeless:

Note - the definition of 'homeless' used in this item is the same as that which appears at [Homeless status - CSHA](#).

2. People whose life or safety was at risk in their accommodation:

This includes situations where people were:

- Subject to domestic violence; or
- subject to sexual/emotional abuse; or
- subject to child abuse; or
- at risk of violence or who feared for their safety in the home environment.

Violence is defined as any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of either physical or sexual assault. Physical assault involves the use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten a person. The threat to harm should only be included if it is believed the harm is likely to be carried out. Sexual assault includes acts of a sexual nature against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, or any attempts to do this.

3. People whose health condition was aggravated by their accommodation:

It includes people who lived in the following situations:

- Medical condition or [disability](#) which rendered their housing unsuitable (e.g. disabled person who required modified accommodation, elderly persons who were housebound due to mobility problems in highset dwellings);
- appropriate housing stock was either not available, or not available at an affordable cost, in the private rental market (e.g. dwellings with appropriate modifications for a person with a disability);
- a health condition or disability which was caused or exacerbated by the living situation.

4. People whose housing was inappropriate to their needs:

This category captures housing situations that indicate a person did not have access to safe and secure housing at the time of allocation and these situations are not included in categories 1 to 3 above (people with housing affordability issues are captured in category 5). Inappropriate housing includes persons who:

- lived in poor housing locations that resulted in isolation from community services, social networks and support systems, and these services and supports were necessary to maintain independent living. This category includes families that were divided due to their housing situation; or
- lived in overcrowded situations where an additional two bedrooms was required for adequate housing according to the [proxy occupancy standard](#); or
- were unable to access accommodation in the private rental market due to

discrimination. Discrimination refers to a person who was treated unfairly because they belonged to a particular group of people. Types of discrimination include: sex; race; age; marital status; sexual orientation; or disability (Anti-discrimination Board); or

- lived in situations where their tenure was insecure and they had received an eviction notice (either written or verbal) and they had no access to adequate legislative protection; or
- lived in housing that had severe structural or other maintenance problems (e.g. property had been declared unfit for human habitation, severe dampness, lacked essential facilities such as cooking or bathroom).

5. People with very high rental costs:

This category identifies households that paid 41% or more of their income in rent at the time of housing allocation. This definition is not intended to suggest that households paying between 30-41% of income on rent live in affordable housing situations. The definition aims to capture the group of the population who experience the more severe end of housing affordability problems and the group for which literature suggests are least able to decrease their housing costs (Department of Family and Community Services 2001:63).

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Has been superseded by [Household—greatest need reason](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006

Has been superseded by [Household—greatest need reason](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017

Data Elements implementing this Data Element Concept:

[Household—greatest need status, code N](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/02/2006

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