
Area of usual residence

Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000016 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 30-JUN-95
Definition: Geographic location of usual residence as stated by the person at time of admission.
Context: To define:
- catchments and geographical patterns of patient flows, bed planning;
- geographical differences in service utilisation;
- geographical patterns in treated prevalence of health and related problems.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Alphanumeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: NNNN
Minimum Size: 4
Maximum Size: 4
Data Domain: NOVAL Statistical local area to be coded where place of usual residence is in same State or Territory as the establishment in which episode takes place. 4-digit statistical local area to be coded from the residential address using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ABS 1986b). Where complete residential address is not collected, the statistical local area should be derived from postcode using a postcode-to-statistical local area key. State or Territory to be coded where place of residence is in different State or Territory to the establishment in which episode takes place.

Related metadata: has been superseded by Area of usual residence version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation:

Comments: The statistical local area code replaces the local government area code recommended by the National Committee on Health and Vital Statistics (1979). Local government area codes have several limitations:

- They cover only part of Australia. The major areas not covered are northern South Australia and the two Territories.
- They are not compatible with ABS statistical subdivisions. Certain local government areas fall across two or more statistical subdivisions.
- They are not consistent in terms of population size. For example, the city of Brisbane consists of one local government area.

Statistical local areas correspond, in the majority of cases, to legal local government areas. The main exceptions are:

- where the boundaries of one or more statistical subdivision cuts across a legal local government area, the legal local government area must be split into two or more parts, each of which falls into the relevant statistical subdivision and forms a statistical local area;
- where a particular legal local government area is substantially different from the general run of legal local government areas in terms of size and economic significance, the legal local government areas can be split into subareas; a case in point is the city of Brisbane, which covers a large area and is split into 173 statistical local areas.

The Psychiatric Working Party noted that derivation of the statistical local area from suburb or postcode was not a simple matter. Western Australia coded centrally from the residential address while South Australia had individual hospitals allocating the statistical local area using a mapping from postcode based on the statistical local area in which the centre of the postcode region fell.

Members of that working party accepted that problems associated with statistical local area misallocation became less significant as statistical local areas are aggregated into regions of interest, and that for national purposes, the errors resulting from postcode-to-statistical local area mapping were not significant. They accepted

