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# Disability-activity limitation

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**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: NCSDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000516                      Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT  
Admin status: RETIRED                      Effective date: 01-JUL-98  
Definition: In the context of the health experience, any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. (ICIDH 1980) Disability is characterised by excesses or deficiencies of customarily expected activity performance and behaviour, and these may be temporary or permanent, reversible or irreversible, and progressive or regressive. Disabilities may arise as a direct consequence of impairment or as a response by the individual, particularly psychologically, to a physical, sensory, or other impairment.  
Context: The current 1980 ICIDH provides a conceptual framework for disability, which is described in three dimensions-Impairment, Disability and Handicap. Impairment is considered to occur at the level of organ or system function, Disability is concerned with functional performance or activity, and limitations therein affecting the whole person, and Handicap focuses on the person as a social being and reflects the interaction with and adaptation to the persons surroundings.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype:

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## *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document: ICIDH 1980, ICIDH-2 Beta 1 draft  
Source Organisation: World Health Organization

Comments: Physical health and autonomy (including opportunities for worthwhile social participation) have been argued to be the two primary universal prerequisites for human well-being (in the 1997 version of Australia's Welfare). The evolving ICIDH-2 concepts (impairment, activity/limitation and participation/restriction) can

thus be situated in a broader framework for universal needs and well-being. The new (ICIDH-2) draft version seeks to embrace developments in the disability field since 1980. The World Health Organization, in its revision of the ICIDH, proposes to replace the Disability dimension with the notion of Activity and Activity Limitation. The ICIDH-2 definition of the second dimension (Activity) is the nature and extent of functioning at the level of the person. Activities may be limited in nature, duration and quality. Activity replaces Disability as the second dimension and is qualified in terms of Activity limitation. The new names from the revised classification are appended in this data element to reflect the likelihood of the impending change. Users and developers of data sets should be aware of this possibility. The NCSDD definition of disability will be reviewed in 1998 given the pending new classification. The ICIDH-2 also addresses the need for further developments of the handicap dimension of the classification in terms of its definition, classification and rating; because it is by definition a social construct, there is difficulty in establishing an international standard enabling comparison among different societies and cultures. (See also data element concept Handicap-participation restriction).

Was ID. 000016 (500 added to avoid NHDD DE with same ID.).

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### *Data Element Links*

*Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

*Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

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