
Household composition

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: NHADD
Knowledgebase ID: 000751 Version number: 2
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHDAMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: The composition of the household based on the relationship between household members.
Households can contain dependent and non-dependent children as well as non-family members. The differentiation of households is based on the presence or absence of couple relationships, parent/child relationships, child dependency relationships or other blood relationships.

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.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: NN
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 2

Data Domain: 1 Family
 1.1 Sole parent with child/ren under 16 only
 1.2 Couple only
 1.3 Couple with child/ren under 16 only
 1.4 Family (with other family member/s present)
 1.5 Family (with other non-related member/s present)
 2 Non family
 2.1 Single (person living alone)
 2.2 Group (unrelated adults)

Guide For Use: A household must contain a member that is 15 years of age or more. If a household does not contain at least one member 15 years of age or over, it should be classified as 'Not stated/inadequately described'.

Not stated/inadequately described includes not available, not collected, not classifiable, not stated, and inadequately described.

It should be noted that only usual residents of a household are considered when describing and categorising households by Household type. Visitors to a household are, by definition, excluded from the household. Usual residence of members of a household is defined as '...that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of 6 months or more' (Census Dictionary 1996).

Other households, including multiple family households may be broken down further to show households with only family members present and those with non-family members present. A family household with only family members present is a household where every individual forms a familial relationship to one of the families belonging to the household. This relates to the ABS Household type definition.

Household composition is not used for the CSHA proxy occupancy standard. Refer instead to 'Household groups'.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Age version 1
relates to the data element Sex version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: National Housing Assistance Data Dictionary Version 1
Standards for statistics on families. ABS Cat. No. 1286.0
ABS: Directory of concepts and standards for social, labour and demographic statistics, 1995
AIHW: Data Standardisation Project for the development of a national unit record public housing data set, 1998

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments: For the ABS the household is analysed on the basis of the existence or non-existence of family structure and the presence of unrelated household members, rather than on the basis of sex or age, for example.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
