

If self-reported body mass (weight) is not responded to, code 999

Collection Methods: The method of data collection, e.g. face to face interview, telephone interview or self-completion questionnaire, can affect survey estimates and should be reported.

The data collection form should include a question asking the respondent what their weight is. For example, the ABS National Health Survey 1989-90 included the question 'How much do you weigh without clothes and shoes?'. The data collection form should allow for both metric (to the nearest 1 kg) and imperial (to the nearest 1 lb) units to be recorded.

If practical, it is preferable to enter the raw data into the data base before conversion of measures in imperial units to metric.

However, if this is not possible, weight reported in imperial units can be converted to metric prior to data entry using a conversion factor of 0.454 kg to the lb.

Rounding to the nearest 1 kg will be required for measures converted to metric prior to data entry, and may be required for data reported in metric units to a greater level of precision than the nearest 1 kg. The following rounding conventions are desirable to reduce systematic over reporting (Armitage and Berry 1994):

nnn.x where $x < 5$ - round down, e.g. 72.2 kg would be rounded to 72 kg.

nnn.x where $x > 5$ - round up, e.g. 72.7 kg would be rounded to 73 kg.

nnn.x where $x = 5$ - round to the nearest even number, e.g. 72.5 kg would be rounded to 72 kg, while 73.5 kg would be rounded to 74 kg.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Adult weight - self-reported version 1
is used in the calculation of Body mass index version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee
National Centre for Monitoring Cardiovascular Disease
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments: This data element is recommended for persons aged 18 years or older. It is recommended for use in population surveys when it is not possible to measure weight.

It is recommended that in population surveys, sociodemographic data including ethnicity should be collected, as well as other risk factors including physiological status (e.g. pregnancy), physical

