
Dwelling

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCSDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000564 Version number: 1

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT

Admin status: SUPERSEDED Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: A structure or a discrete space within a structure intended for people to live in or where a person or group of people lives. Thus a structure that people actually live in is a dwelling regardless of its intended purpose, but a vacant structure is only a dwelling if intended for human residence. A dwelling may include one or more rooms used as an office or workshop provided the dwelling is in residential use.

Context: Dwellings are the main counting unit in the housing sector. Dwellings are reported for a variety of purposes including number of untenable or tenable, and occupied or vacant dwellings. Dwellings may be owned and /or, managed, and/or available for a use by a specific program, including head leased stock from private and government sources. Certain operational rules are required to provide a consistent basis on which to determine whether accommodation within a particular structure, such as a granny flat, forms a separate dwelling. Discrete spaces within a single structure intended for people to live in are only identified as separate dwellings if they are self-contained. A self-contained unit has its own cooking, bathing and toilet facilities and can be accessed without passing through another dwelling (excluding communal entry halls, passages and lobbies).

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:

Related metadata: relates to the data element Homelessness version 1
relates to the data element Income unit version 2
relates to the data element concept Household version 2
relates to the data element Landlord type version 1
relates to the data element Tenure type version 1
relates to the data element Living arrangement version 3

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Australian Bureau of Statistics 1995. Directory of Concepts and Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Variables. Catalogue No. 1361.30.001 (Statistical Concepts Library) Canberra: ABS.

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: The concept of a dwelling is essential for determining related concepts such as 'adequate' and 'tenantable' dwellings. However, there can be multiple tenancies in a number of dwelling types, (e.g. boarding houses), which may be ignored when counting these dwellings. Therefore it can be more useful in many instances to count stock in terms of 'tenancy units'

Dwellings are currently reported on separately under the various housing assistance programs. These dwellings are defined as being used, for the purposes of the program regardless of the original source of the dwelling. For example, dwellings may be leased to the Crisis Accommodation Program from the Public Housing stock. These dwellings are counted in the Crisis Accommodation data collection as well as the Public housing data collection.

There are potentially many gaps and overlaps in the reporting of the number of dwellings under each program.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM Accommodation/living characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
