Country of birth

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: Int. NCSDD & NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 002004   Version number: 4

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NCSIMG & NHIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: The country in which the person was born.

Context: Country of birth is important in the study of access to services by different population sub-groups. Country of birth is the most easily collected and consistently reported of a range of possible data items that may indicate cultural or language diversity. Country of birth may be used in conjunction with other data elements such as Period of residence in Australia, etc., to derive more sophisticated measures of access to (or need for) services by different population sub-groups.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: CODE

Representation layout: NNNN

Minimum Size: 4

Maximum Size: 4

Data Domain: NOVAL   Standard Australian Classification of Countries 1998 (SACC). Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. no. 1269.0
Reference through http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/StatsLibrary
Select ABS classifications

Guide For Use: The Standard Australian Classification of Countries 1998 (SACC) is a 4-digit, three-level hierarchical structure specifying major group, minor group and country.
A country, even if it comprises other discrete political entities

such as states, is treated as a single unit for all data domain purposes. Parts of a political entity are not included in different groups. Thus, Hawaii is included in Northern America (as part of the identified country United States of America), despite being geographically close to and having similar social and cultural characteristics as the units classified to Polynesia.

Verification Rules: NHDD specific:
DSS - Health Care client identification:
County of birth for newborn babies should be 'Australia'.

Collection Methods: Note that the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) is mappable to but not identical to Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS)
Some data collections ask respondents to specify their country of birth. In others, a pre-determined set of countries is specified as part of the question, usually accompanied by an 'other (please specify)' category.

Recommended questions are:
In which country were you/was the person/was (name) born?
Australia
Other (please specify)

Alternatively, a list of countries may be used based on, for example common Census responses.

In which country were you/was the person/was (name) born?
Australia
England
New Zealand
Italy
Viet Nam
Scotland
Greece
Germany
Philippines
India
Netherlands
Other (please specify)

In either case coding of data should conform to the SACC. Sometimes respondents are simply asked to specify whether they were born in either 'English speaking' or 'non-English speaking' countries but this question is of limited use and this method of collection is not recommended.

Related metadata: supersedes the NHDD data element Country of birth version 3
supersedes the NCSDD data element Country of birth version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Australian Bureau of Statistics 1998. Standard Australian Classification of Countries 1998 (SACC). Cat. no. 1269.0. Canberra: ABS.
Reference through:
<http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/StatsLibrary>.

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
Health Data Standards Committee.
National Community Services Data Committee.

Comments: This metadata item is common to both the National Community Services Data Dictionary and the National Health Data Dictionary. This data element is consistent with that used in the Australian Census of Population and Housing and is recommended for use whenever there is a requirement for comparison with Census data. The Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) supersedes the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM   Social-cultural characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Admitted patient care	From 01-Jul-04 to
NMDS - Admitted patient mental health care	From 01-Jul-04 to
NMDS - Perinatal	From 01-Jul-04 to
NMDS - Community mental health care	From 01-Jul-04 to
NMDS - Admitted patient palliative care	From 01-Jul-04 to
NMDS - Alcohol and other drug treatment services	From 01-Jul-04 to
NMDS - Non-admitted patient emergency department care	From 01-Jul-04 to
DSS - Cardiovascular disease (clinical)	From 02-Sep-03 to
DSS - Health care client identification	From 02-Sep-03 to
NMDS - Residential mental health care	From 01-Jul-04 to
DSS - Acute coronary syndrome (clinical)	From 04-Jun-04 to