Date of birth

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: Int. NCSDD & NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 002005   Version number: 5

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NCSIMG & NHIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: The date of birth of the person.

Context: Required for a range of clinical and administrative purposes. Date of birth enables derivation of age for use in demographic analyses, assists in the unique identification of clients if other identifying information is missing or in question, and may be required for the derivation of other data elements (e.g. Diagnosis related group for admitted patients).

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: DATE

Representation layout: DDMMYYYY

Minimum Size: 8

Maximum Size: 8

Data Domain: NOVAL   Valid date.

Guide For Use: If date of birth is not known or cannot be obtained, provision should be made to collect or estimate age. Collected or estimated age would usually be in years for adults, and to the nearest three months (or less) for children aged less than two years. Additionally, an estimated date flag should be reported in conjunction with all estimated dates of birth.
For data collections concerned with children's services, it is suggested that the estimated Date of birth of children aged under 2 years should be reported to the nearest 3 month period, i.e. 0101, 0104, 0107, 0110 of the estimated year of birth. For example, a child who is thought to be aged 18 months in October of one year would have his/her estimated Date of birth reported as 0104

of the previous year. Again, an estimated date flag should be reported in conjunction with all estimated dates of birth.

Collection Methods: Information on Date of birth can be collected using the one question:
What is your/(the person's) date of birth?
In self-reported data collections, it is recommended that the following response format is used:
Date of birth: _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _
This enables easy conversion to the preferred representational layout (DDMMYYYY).
Estimated dates of birth should be identified by an appropriate estimated date flag to prevent inappropriate use of Date of birth data for record identification and/or the derivation of other data elements that require accurate date of birth information.

NHDD specific:
NMDS - Perinatal:
Data collection systems must be able to differentiate between the date of birth of the mother and the baby(s). This is important in the Perinatal data collection as the date of birth of the baby is used to determine the antenatal length of stay and the postnatal length of stay.

Related metadata: is used in the derivation of NHDD Diagnosis related group version 1
is qualified by NHDD Estimated date flag version 1
is used in the derivation of NHDD Length of stay (antenatal) version 1
is used in the derivation of NHDD Length of stay (postnatal) version 1
supersedes the NCSDD data element Date of birth version 1
supersedes the NHDD data element Date of birth version 4

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: NHDC 2003. National Health Data Dictionary, Version 12. Cat. no. HWI 43. Canberra: AIHW

Source Organisation: National Health Data 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.
Privacy issues need to be taken account in asking persons their date of birth.
Wherever possible and wherever appropriate, Date of birth should be used rather than Age because the actual date of birth allows

more precise calculation of age.

When Date of birth is estimated or default value, national health and community services collections typically use 0101 or 0107 or 3006 as the estimate or default for DDMM.

It is suggested that different rules for reporting data may apply when estimating the Date of birth of children aged under 2 years because of the rapid growth and development of children within this age group which means that a child's development can vary considerably over the course of a year. Thus, more specific reporting of estimated age is suggested.

NHDD specific:

DSS - Health care client identification:

Any new information collection systems should allow for 0000YYYY. (Refer to Standards Australia AS5017-2002 Health Care Client Identification).

DSS - Cardiovascular disease (clinical):

Age is an important non-modifiable risk factor for cardiovascular conditions.

The prevalence of cardiovascular conditions increases dramatically with age. For example, more than 60% of people aged 75 and over had a cardiovascular condition in 1995 compared with less than 9% of those aged under 35.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are more likely to have cardiovascular conditions than other Australians across almost all age groups. For example, in the 25 - 44 age group, 23% of Indigenous Australians reported cardiovascular conditions compared with 16% among other Australians (Heart, Stroke and Vascular Diseases: Australian Facts 2001. AIHW).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM   Demographic characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Admitted patient care	From 01-Jul-04 to
NMDS - Health labour force	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 - Diabetes (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
DSS - Cancer (clinical)	From 04-Jun-04 to