
Disability

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: NCSDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000561

Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT

Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: Disability is the umbrella term for any or all of: an impairment of body structure or function, a limitation in activities, or a restriction in participation. Disability is a multi-dimensional and complex concept and is conceived as a dynamic interaction between health conditions and environmental and personal factors (WHO 2001:6).

Context: Many different definitions of disability are used in Australia, both in administrative data collections and in Acts of Parliament. The consistent identification of disability in national data collections has been recommended in a number of reports, for instance to enable:

- the monitoring of access to generic services by people with a disability;
- the collection of more consistent data on disability support and related services, including data on service use by different groups;
- population data and service data to be related, thereby improving the nation's analytical capacity in relation to the need for and supply of services; and
- improved understanding of the relationship between disability, health conditions and other health outcomes.

Defining disability will make it possible to determine the number of people who are accessing services, both disability specific and generic, and also those with a disability in the general population with unmet need. Better definition of disability will aid better targeting of resources to those in need.

Disability arises from the interaction between health conditions and environmental and personal factors. A health condition may be a disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury or trauma.

Environmental factors make up the physical, social and attitudinal environment in which people live and conduct their lives. Personal factors relate to the individual, such as age, sex

and Indigenous status.

The concept 'Disability' can be described using a combination of related data elements as building blocks.

The data elements selected may vary depending on the definition of disability used. For example in hospital rehabilitation the focus may be on the impairment and activity dimensions and in community-based care the focus may be primarily on participation. Some applications may require a broad scope for inclusion (eg. discrimination legislation). Data collections relating to services will select combinations of the data elements, which best reflect the eligibility criteria for the service.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:

Collection Methods: .

Related metadata:

- relates to the data element Body structures version 1
- supersedes previous data element Disability version 1
- relates to the data element concept Functioning version 1
- relates to the data element concept Activity - functioning, disability and health version 1
- relates to the data element concept Participation - functioning, disability and health version 1
- relates to the data element concept Assistance with activities and participation version 1
- relates to the data element Body functions version 2
- relates to the data element Impairment extent version 2
- relates to the data element Activities and participation domains version 2
- relates to the data element Activity - level of difficulty version 2
- relates to the data element Participation extent version 2
- relates to the data element Participation satisfaction level version 2
- relates to the data element Environmental factors version 2
- relates to the data element Environmental factors - extent of influence version 2
- relates to the data element Disability grouping version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: World Health Organization (WHO) 2001. ICF: International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Geneva: WHO.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2003. ICF Australian User Guide Version 1.0. Canberra: AIHW.

Source Organisation: World Health Organization

Comments: This metadata item is based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). The ICF was endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2001 and is a core member of the WHO family of health related classifications. Further information on the ICF can be found in the ICF itself and the ICF Australian User Guide (AIHW 2003) and the following websites:

- Australian Collaborating Centre ICF website

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/disability/icf/index.html>

- WHO ICF website:

<http://www3.who.int/icf/icftemplate.cfm>

The ICF provides a framework for the description of human functioning and disability. The components of the ICF are defined in relation to a health condition. A health condition is an 'umbrella term for disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury or trauma' (WHO 2001). A health condition may be recorded, for example, as 'Principal diagnosis' and 'Additional diagnosis' (see National Health Data Dictionary, Version 12 (National Health Data Committee 2003)).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM

Disability characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
