
Place - child care and preschool services

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCHSDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000917 Version number: 2
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT
Admin status: DRAFT Effective date: 01-APR-02
Definition: A unit of service that can be used by a child at a given time.
Context: This data concept is used in order to gain a greater understanding of patterns of service delivery. Outlet capacity is usually measured in terms of places. The term 'place' can be defined as the unit of measurement for the capacity of an outlet to provide a type of children's service. Places are generally counted in terms of licensed places or funded places. Licensed places and funded places are not necessarily counted according to the same unit of measurement.

An outlet's number of licensed places is equivalent to the maximum number of children the outlet is licensed to have in care at a given time. Licensing includes education department regulations relating to the maximum number of children per preschool class in government schools. Licensing provisions exist for many, but not all types of child care and preschool services, and this is not uniform across the States and Territories. A funded place refers to a block of time of care per week, which is variable by type of service. For occasional care services and dedicated preschools, it can vary depending on other attributes.

For some types of services, a funded place can be occupied by more than one child (but not at the same time). For example in family day care the number of places approved for funding are known as 'equivalent full-time places' (EFT) where an EFT is usually 35 hours of care per week. EFT may be divided between a number of children who attend less than 35 hours per week or one child can occupy more than one EFT if the child uses family day care for more than 35 hours per week. In contrast, in some neighbourhood model occasional care centres, one funded place is equal to one session consisting of 3 hours only. Only one child can occupy one funded place, but any one child can occupy more

than one funded place (attend more than one session).

An outlet's number of licensed places is not necessarily the same as the number of places offered. The number of places offered is decided by the management body of the outlet. Factors influencing this decision may include total number of licensed places, amount of funding, physical size and space, staffing levels and workplace agreements and the mix of children by age.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:

Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Outlet - child care and preschool services version 2
relates to the data element Licensed places version 2
relates to the data element Places offered version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Developed for the CS NMDS Version 1.0.
Source Organisation: NCSIMG Children's Services Data Working Group,
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

Draft NMDS - Children's Services National From 01-Jan-03 to
Minimum Data Set