

# Household—greatest need reason, code N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

# Household—greatest need reason, code N

## Identifying and definitional attributes

|                      |                                                                                                              |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Metadata item type:  | Data Element                                                                                                 |
| Short name:          | Greatest need reason                                                                                         |
| METEOR identifier:   | 301720                                                                                                       |
| Registration status: | <a href="#">Housing assistance</a> , Superseded 01/05/2013                                                   |
| Definition:          | The nature of need identified for low income households at the time of allocation, as represented by a code. |

## Data element concept attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Data element concept: | <a href="#">Household—greatest need reason</a>                                                                                                                                         |
| METEOR identifier:    | 301704                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Registration status:  | <a href="#">Housing assistance</a> , Standard 10/02/2006                                                                                                                               |
| Definition:           | The nature of need identified for low income households at the time of allocation.                                                                                                     |
| Context:              | The purpose of this indicator is to measure the effectiveness of housing authorities allocation of housing to households in greatest need ahead of households with less housing needs. |
| Object class:         | <a href="#">Household</a>                                                                                                                                                              |
| Property:             | <a href="#">Greatest need reason</a>                                                                                                                                                   |

### Source and reference attributes

|                          |                                             |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Submitting organisation: | National Housing Data Development Committee |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|

## Value domain attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

|                      |                                                                     |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Value domain:        | <a href="#">Household in greatest need code N</a>                   |
| METEOR identifier:   | 301717                                                              |
| Registration status: | <a href="#">Housing assistance</a> , Standard 10/02/2006            |
| Definition:          | A code set representing the reason a household has a greatest need. |

### Representational attributes

|                                  |              |                                         |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Representation class:</b>     | Code         |                                         |
| <b>Data type:</b>                | Number       |                                         |
| <b>Format:</b>                   | N            |                                         |
| <b>Maximum character length:</b> | 1            |                                         |
|                                  | <b>Value</b> | <b>Meaning</b>                          |
| <b>Permissible values:</b>       | 1            | Homeless                                |
|                                  | 2            | Life or safety at risk in accommodation |
|                                  | 3            | Health condition aggravated by housing  |

|                       |   |                                   |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
|                       | 4 | Housing inappropriate to needs    |
|                       | 5 | Very high housing costs           |
| Supplementary values: | 9 | Not stated/inadequately described |

## Collection and usage attributes

### Guide for use:

**Code 1. Homeless:** Homeless, for the purpose of the priority access national standard, is defined as a household with no housing or a household residing in temporary or emergency accommodation at the time of housing allocation. It includes households who:

- lived in accommodation provided by a Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) agency or some other form of emergency accommodation;
- were totally without permanent shelter (e.g. wandered from place to place, slept out on the street or on park benches);
- lived in shelter that was unlawful such as those who were forced to squat in derelict buildings; or
- stayed temporarily with friends or relatives in the short term (e.g. up to a maximum of 6 weeks duration).

**Code 2. Life or safety was at risk in their accommodation:** This includes situations where people were:

- subject to domestic violence; or
- subject to sexual/emotional abuse; or
- subject to child abuse; or
- at risk of violence or who feared for their safety in the home environment.

Violence is defined as any incident involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of either physical or sexual assault. Physical assault involves the use of physical force with the intent to harm or frighten a person. The threat to harm should only be included if it is believed the harm is likely to be carried out. Sexual assault includes acts of a sexual nature against a person's will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, or any attempts to do this.

**Code 3. Health condition aggravated by housing:** It includes people who lived in the following situations:

- Medical condition or [disability](#) which rendered their housing unsuitable (e.g. disabled person who required modified accommodation, elderly persons who were housebound due to mobility problems in highset dwellings);
- appropriate housing stock was either not available, or not available at an affordable cost, in the private rental market (e.g. dwellings with appropriate modifications for a person with a disability);
- a health condition or disability which was caused or exacerbated by the living situation.

**Code 4. Housing inappropriate to needs:** This category captures housing situations that indicate a person did not have access to safe and secure housing at the time of allocation and these situations are not included in categories 1 to 3 above (people with housing affordability issues are captured in category 5). Inappropriate housing includes persons who:

- lived in poor housing locations that resulted in isolation from community services, social networks and support systems, and these services and supports were necessary to maintain independent living. This category includes families that were divided due to their housing situation; or
- lived in overcrowded situations where an additional two bedrooms was required for adequate housing according to the [proxy occupancy standard](#); or
- were unable to access accommodation in the private rental market due to discrimination. Discrimination refers to a person who was treated unfairly because they belonged to a particular group of people. Types of discrimination include: sex; race; age; marital status; sexual orientation; or disability (Anti-discrimination Board); or

- lived in situations where their tenure was insecure and they had received an eviction notice (either written or verbal) and they had no access to adequate legislative protection; or
- lived in housing that had severe structural or other maintenance problems (e.g. property had been declared unfit for human habitation, severe dampness, lacked essential facilities such as cooking or bathroom).

**Code 5. Very high housing costs:** This category identifies households that paid 41% or more of their income in rent at the time of housing allocation. This definition is not intended to suggest that households paying between 30-41% of income on rent live in affordable housing situations. The definition aims to capture the group of the population who experience the more severe end of housing affordability problems and the group for which literature suggests are least able to decrease their housing costs.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** National Housing Data Development Committee

## Data element attributes

### Collection and usage attributes

**Collection methods:** More than one greatest need reason can be recorded for a household.

In counting the total number of greatest need households, each household should only be counted once.

**Comments:** The definition of 'homeless' used here for the priority access national standard is different to the SAAP [Homeless](#) definition.

It should be noted that as housing assistance allocation practices vary across:

- states and territories within a collection
- across data collections within states and territories

caution should be used when interpreting information and/or making comparisons in relation to this metadata item.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** National Housing Data Development Committee

### Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Household—greatest need status, code N Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/02/2006

Has been superseded by [Household—greatest need reason, code N Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017

See also [Household—greatest need date, DDMMYYYY Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017