

# Canadian National Occupancy Standard

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Glossary Item

**Synonymous names:** CNOS

**METEOR identifier:** 386254

**Registration status:**

- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 19/12/2017

**Definition:** The Canadian National Occupancy Standard (CNOS) assesses the bedroom requirements of a household based on the following criteria:

- There should be no more than 2 persons per bedroom;
- Children less than 5 years of age of different sexes may reasonably share a bedroom;
- Children 5 years of age or older of opposite sex should have separate bedrooms;
- Children less than 18 years of age and of the same sex may reasonably share a bedroom; and
- Single household members 18 years or older should have a separate bedroom, as should parents or couples.

**Context:** Using this measure, households that require at least one additional bedroom are considered to experience some degree of overcrowding.

## Collection and usage attributes

**Comments:** The CNOS is sensitive to both household size and composition. As households pass through different life-cycle stages, their minimum housing requirements and actual utilisation of housing changes.

While having spare bedrooms indicates a capacity to accommodate more people in reasonable comfort, it does not necessarily mean that dwellings are not being fully utilised. Households may put these 'spare' rooms to various uses (e.g. study, office, gymnasium, craft or hobby room, children's play room, guest bedroom or store room). Some may provide each child with a separate bedroom regardless of their age or sex.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Proxy occupancy standard](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 19/12/2017

**Metadata items which use this glossary item:**

[Community Housing DSS 2018-](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/05/2019

[Household in greatest need code N](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 30/08/2017

[Indigenous community housing DSS 2013-18](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 30/08/2017

[Indigenous Community Housing DSS 2018-](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/05/2019

[Mainstream community housing DSS 2013-18](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/05/2019

[Person \(housing assistance\) cluster](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017

[Person \(housing assistance\) cluster](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 19/12/2017

[Person \(housing assistance\) cluster](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 19/12/2017

[Person—household single/couple status, code N](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/05/2019

[Public Housing and State Owned and Managed Indigenous housing \(PH & SOMIH\) DSS 2018-](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/05/2019

[Public rental housing DSS 2013-14](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017

[Public rental housing DSS 2014-17](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 19/12/2017

[Public rental housing DSS 2017-18](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/05/2019

[Relationship in household cluster \(Indigenous community housing\)](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 30/08/2017

[Relationship in household cluster \(Indigenous community housing\)](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017
- [Indigenous](#), Standard 01/05/2013

[State owned and managed Indigenous housing \(SOMIH\) DSS 2013-14](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017

[State owned and managed Indigenous housing \(SOMIH\) DSS 2014-17](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Standard 30/08/2017

[State owned and managed Indigenous housing \(SOMIH\) DSS 2017-18](#)

- [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 05/05/2019

