Birth—head circumference, total centimetres NN[N].N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

Birth—head circumference, total centimetres NN[N].N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Baby head circumference
METEOR identifier:	568380
Registration status:	Health, Superseded 12/12/2018 Tasmanian Health, Superseded 03/07/2020
Definition:	The head circumference of a baby at birth, measured in centimetres.
Context:	Perinatal
Data Element Concept:	Birth—head circumference
Value Domain:	Total centimetres NN[N].N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Total	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	NN[N].N	
Maximum character length:	4	
	Value	**Meaning**
Supplementary values:	999.9	Not measured
Unit of measure:	Centimetre (cm)	

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

This metadata item applies to newborn babies. It enables the calculation of growth centiles which requires the measurement of head circumference and birth weight and/or length. Baby head circumference together with other anthropometric measurements assist with determining whether a baby is small for gestational age or has experienced intrauterine growth restriction. In addition, head circumference measurement enables identification of newborns with microcephaly, either primary or as an association with other pathology, for example, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Head circumference should preferably be measured in the first hour of life at the same time as the birthweight is measured, to maximise comparability of these two measures in percentile calculations. A narrow, flexible, inelastic tape measure with clearly legible intervals and labels should be used.

Ideally the circumference should be plotted on a percentile chart to ensure it is within the 10th–90th percentile curves and consistent with the length and weight percentile.

Collection methods: The maximum head circumference should be recorded. Often after birth, the newborn's head has some moulding so care needs to be taken to find the maximum circumference. Generally this is found with the tape passing just above the eyebrows anteriorly, above the top of the ears and around the maximum point of the occiput posteriorly—the Occipito-Frontal Circumference (OFC).

The measurement should be repeated at least twice, and until two measurements are found within 0.5 cm of each other. Record the greater measurement.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Perinatal Data Development Committee

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by Product of birth—head circumference, total centimetres NN[N].N
Health, Superseded 03/12/2020
Tasmanian Health, Superseded 24/03/2023

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: Perinatal NBEDS 2016-17
Health, Superseded 05/10/2016
Implementation start date: 01/07/2016
Implementation end date: 30/06/2017
DSS specific information:

Baby head circumference can be recorded as measured e.g. 35.1 cm or can be rounded to the nearest 0.5 cm, e.g. 35.0 cm, but in any case measurement should be recorded at least to the nearest 0.5 cm.

If rounding, round up or down to the nearest 0.5 cm, e.g. 35.2 cm would be rounded down to 35.0 cm; 35.3 cm would be rounded up to 35.5 cm.

Example

A baby has two head circumference measurements taken at birth of 34.2 cm and 34.6 cm. These are within 0.5 cm of each other so the higher measurement of 34.6 cm is the correct one to record. It can be recorded as 34.6 cm or rounded to the nearest 0.5 cm, that is, 34.5 cm.

Perinatal NBEDS 2017-18
Health, Superseded 02/08/2017
Implementation start date: 01/07/2017
Implementation end date: 30/06/2018
DSS specific information:

Baby head circumference can be recorded as measured e.g. 35.1 cm or can be rounded to the nearest 0.5 cm, e.g. 35.0 cm, but in any case measurement should be recorded at least to the nearest 0.5 cm.

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Perinatal NBEDS 2018-19
Health, Superseded 12/12/2018
Implementation start date: 01/07/2018
Implementation end date: 30/06/2019
DSS specific information:

Baby head circumference can be recorded as measured e.g. 35.1 cm or can be rounded to the nearest 0.5 cm, e.g. 35.0 cm, but in any case measurement should be recorded at least to the nearest 0.5 cm.

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Tasmanian Perinatal Data Set - 2016
Tasmanian Health, Standard 30/01/2017
Implementation start date: 01/07/2016
Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

Tasmanian Perinatal Data Set - 2019
Tasmanian Health, Superseded 23/06/2020
Implementation start date: 01/07/2019
Implementation end date: 30/06/2020