

# Household—household composition

**Metadata item type:** Data Element Concept  
**METEOR identifier:** 608016  
**Registration status:**

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

**Definition:** The **composition** of the **household** based on the relationship between household members. Households can contain dependent and non-dependent family members as well as non-family members. The differentiation of households is based on the presence or absence of couple relationships, parent-dependant relationships or other blood relationships.

**Context:** Together with 'family', household is considered one of the basic groups of social aggregation. Information on household numbers and composition aids in identifying groups within the population such as Indigenous households or the number of people living alone.

## Object Class attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

**Object class:** [Household](#)

**Definition:** A group of two or more related or unrelated people who usually reside in the same dwelling, and who make common provision for food or other essentials for living; or a single person living in a dwelling who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials for living, without combining with any other person.

**Context:** Together with family, household is considered one of the basic groups of social aggregation. Information on household numbers and composition aids in identifying groups within the population such as Indigenous households or the number of people living alone.

**Specialisation of:** [Person/group of persons](#)

### Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** For housing data collections, the number of tenancy agreements is a practical proxy for calculating the number of households receiving housing assistance.

The persons in the group may pool their incomes and have a common budget to a greater or lesser extent: they may be related or unrelated persons, or a combination of both.

Only usual residents of the household are included as members of the household. Visitors to a household are, by definition, excluded from the household.

### Source and reference attributes

**Origin:** CSHA Public rental housing data manual 2001-02

## Property attributes

### Identifying and definitional attributes

**Property:** [Household composition](#)

**Definition:** The relationship between people who reside together.

Property group: [Accommodation/living characteristics](#)

## Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Data element concept attributes

### Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Household—household composition](#)

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

Data Elements implementing this Data Element Concept:

[Household—household composition, housing assistance code N](#)

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