

Data sources

AIHW Mortality Database

The AIHW Mortality Database is held at the AIHW for the purpose of data analysis in health research. The database is primarily used for cause of death analysis, and contains demographic information for analysis according to population groups (e.g. age, sex, Indigenous status, country of birth, geographic location).

Data availability: Annual from 1964 onwards

Further information:

www.aihw.gov.au/mortality/index.cfm

AIHW National Hospital Morbidity Database

The National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD) is compiled by the Institute from data supplied by the state and territory health authorities. It is a collection of electronic confidentialised summary records for admitted patients separated in public and private hospitals in Australia. All records are based on separation dates.

Hospital records are for 'separations' and not individuals, and as there can be multiple admissions for the same individuals, hospitalisation rates do not usually reflect the incidence or prevalence of the disease or condition in question.

Data availability: Annual from 1993–94 onwards

Further information:

www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/index.cfm

National Diabetes Register

The National Diabetes Register (NDR) is a database that collects information about people who use insulin as part of their treatment for diabetes.

It includes persons who began using insulin for management of diabetes on and since 1 January 1999, and who have consented to be included in the NDR. These include persons using insulin to manage Type 1, gestational and Type 2 diabetes.

Data availability: All new cases of insulin-treated diabetes mellitus from 1 January 1999 onwards

Further information:

www.aihw.gov.au/diabetes/ndr.cfm

National Health Survey

The National Health Survey is conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Surveys in this series collect information about the health status of Australians, their use of health services and facilities, and health-related aspects of their lifestyle. The aims of the survey are to: obtain national benchmark information on a range of health issues, enable trends in health to be monitored over time, and provide information on health indicators for national health priority areas and for important subgroups of the population.

Data availability: 1989–90, 1995 and 2001

Further information: ABS 2002c.

Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

The Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey is conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It provides information on people with disabilities, older people and people who provide assistance to others because of their disabilities. Households with a member (such as parent or child) with a disability were identified, together with families in which a member is a primary carer. The survey sample includes private dwellings and selected non-private dwellings (such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and other establishments providing care accommodation, but excluding corrective institutions). The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but since 1997 excludes persons living in some remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia.

Data availability: 1981, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003

Further information: ABS 2004c.

National Cancer Statistics Clearing House (NCSCH)

The AIHW maintains the National Cancer Statistics Clearing House (NCSCH). Information on the incidence of cancer in the Australian population is provided to the NCSCH by the state and territory cancer registries. The NCSCH is the only national database of cancer incidence in Australia.

Data availability: The earliest cases recorded in the database are those diagnosed in 1982.

Further information:

www.aihw.gov.au/cancer/ncsch/index.cfm

Household and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (or HILDA) Survey is a household-based panel survey, funded by the Australian Government, which aims to track all members of an initial sample of households over an indefinite life. The first wave of the survey was conducted in the second half of 2001.

Data are collected on a wide range of issues, including: household structure, family background, marital history, family formation, education, employment history, current employment, job search, income, health and wellbeing, child care and housing. In addition, in every wave there is scope for additional questions on special topics.

Data availability: 2001 (wave 1), 2002 (wave 2), 2003 (wave 3)

Further information:

www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/

The Child and Adolescent Component of the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Child and Adolescent Component of the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing was commissioned by the Mental Health Branch of the then Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care and undertaken by the University of Adelaide.

Households were randomly selected in proportion to the population of each state and territory, and spread proportionally across metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas (except in the Northern Territory, where only children in metropolitan areas were included). A representative sample of 4,500 children was recruited, and the response rate for the survey was 70%. Information was gathered from parents of children and from adolescents aged 13–17 years. Parents were interviewed, and both parents and adolescents completed a self-report questionnaire.

Data availability: 1998

Further information: Sawyer et al. 2000.

Abbreviations

AACR	Australasian Association of Cancer Registries	HILDA	Household and Income Labour Dynamics in Australia survey
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	HREOC	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
ACAM	Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring	LSAC	Longitudinal Study of Australian Children
ACCAP	Australian Council for Children and Parenting	MCEETYA	Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs
ACIR	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register	NATSIS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey
ADGP	Australian Divisions of General Practice	NCIRS	Australian National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases
ADHD	Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	NCP	National Crime Prevention
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology	NCSC	National Cancer Statistics Clearing House
AICAFMHA	Australian Infant, Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Association	NDARC	National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	NDSHS	National Drug Strategy Household Survey
AMA	Australian Medical Association	NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification	NHPA	National Health Priority Area
ASSAD	Australian Secondary Students Alcohol and Drug survey	NHPC	National Health Performance Committee
BMI	Body Mass Index	NHS	National Health Survey
CDCP	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US)	NISU	National Injury Surveillance Unit
DHAC	Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care	NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
dmft	Number of decayed, missing and filled deciduous teeth	NNS	National Nutrition Survey
DMFT	Number of decayed, missing and filled permanent teeth	NPSU	National Perinatal Statistics Unit
DSM-IV	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition	NSWCCYP	New South Wales Commission for Children and Young People
DSRU	Dental Statistics Research Unit	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
FaCS	Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services	ROGS	Report on Government Services
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	SAAP	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program
GSS	General Social Survey	SF-36	Short Form 36
Hib	Haemophilus influenzae type b	SIDS	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
		TFR	Total Fertility Rate

TIMSS	Third International Mathematics and Science Study
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USDHHS	United States Department of Health and Human Services
WHO	World Health Organization

States/territories

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
Tas	Tasmania

Glossary

Aboriginal: A person who identifies himself or herself to be of Aboriginal origin. See also **Indigenous**.

Acute: Coming on sharply to a crisis and often brief, intense and severe.

Age-specific rate: A rate for a specific age group. The numerator and denominator relate to the same age group.

Age standardisation: A method of removing the influence of age when comparing populations with different age structures.

ASGC Remoteness Index: Refers to the categoric classification. This classification consists of six ASGC Remoteness Area classes (Major Cities, Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote, Very Remote and Migratory). Each ASGC Remoteness Area class (excluding Migratory) consists of a range of ARIA+ index values (AIHW 2004g).

Birth cohort: People who are born in the same year.

Birthweight: The first weight of the baby (stillborn or liveborn) obtained after birth (usually measured to the nearest 5 grams and obtained within 1 hour of birth).

Blended families: A couple family containing two or more children, of whom at least one is the natural child of both members of the couple, and at least one is the step-child of either member of the couple.

Cause of death: From information reported on the medical certificate of cause of death, each death is assigned an underlying cause of death according to rules and conventions of the 9th or 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases.

Child protection investigation: The process whereby the community services department obtains more detailed information about a child who is the subject of a notification and makes an assessment about the harm or degree of harm to the child and the child's protective needs.

Child protection notifications: A report is made to an authorised department by persons or other bodies making allegations of child abuse or neglect, child maltreatment or harm to a child. Where it is claimed that two children have been abused or neglected, this is counted as two notifications, even if the children are from one family.

Child protection substantiation: A child protection notification made to relevant authorities which was investigated, the investigation was finalised, and it was concluded that there was reasonable cause to believe that the child had been, was being or was likely to be abused or neglected or otherwise harmed.

Chronic condition: An illness that lasts, or is expected to last, for 6 months or more. These include asthma, cancer, diabetes, rheumatic heart disease, heart attack and stroke.

Conditions originating in the perinatal period: Conditions that have their origin in the perinatal period even though death or morbidity occurs later. These include pregnancy and birth complications, birth trauma, respiratory and cardiovascular disorders, infections, and disorders related to the length of gestation and foetal growth.

Confinement: Pregnancy resulting in at least one birth.

Congenital: A condition that is recognised at birth, or that is believed to have been present since birth, including conditions which are inherited or caused by environmental factors.

Core activity restrictions: The extent of a person's disability. Core activities are defined as self-care (bathing, dressing, eating, using toilet), mobility (moving around at home and away from home, getting into or out of bed or chair, using public transport), and communication (understanding and being understood by others). A person with a profound restriction is unable to perform a core activity, or always needs assistance with that activity, while a person with a severe restriction sometimes needs assistance to perform the activity.

Deciduous teeth: Also called baby or milk teeth. The teeth that are replaced by permanent (adult) teeth during childhood.

Dental caries: The disease process leading to tooth decay.

Diagnosis: A decision based on the recognition of clinically relevant symptomatology, the consideration of causes that may exclude a diagnosis of another condition, and the application of clinical judgment.

Disability: The presence of one or more of 17 restrictions, limitations or impairments.

Diseases: The underlying cause is defined as the disease which initiated the train of events leading directly to death. Deaths from injury or poisoning are classified according to the circumstances of the violence which produced the fatal injury, rather than to the nature of the injury.

dmft: The number of deciduous teeth currently decayed, extracted due to decay or with filling.

DMFT: The number of permanent (adult) teeth currently decayed, extracted due to decay or with filling.

Exclusive breastfeeding: Breastfeeding only—no other liquids or solids.

External cause: Environmental event, circumstance and/or condition as the cause of injury, poisoning and/or other adverse effect.

Externalising problems: Anti-social or under-controlled behaviour such as delinquency and aggression.

Full breastfeeding: Breastfeeding which may also include use of other milk and milk substitutes.

Gestation: The carrying of young in the uterus from conception to delivery.

Hospitalisation: This is the term used in this report to refer to the episode of care, which can be a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death), or a portion of a hospital stay beginning and ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute to rehabilitation).

Immunisation: Inducing immunity against infection by the use of antigen (vaccine) to stimulate the body to produce its own antibodies. See also **Vaccination**.

Incidence: The number of new cases (of an illness or event, etc.) occurring during a given period. See also **Prevalence**.

Income units: Individuals or related groups of people living in the same household that share income.

Indicator: A key statistic that indicates an aspect of population health status, health determinants, interventions, services or outcomes. Indicators are designed to help assess progress and performance, as a guide to decision making. They may have an indirect

meaning as well as a direct one. For example, Australia's overall death rate is a direct measure of mortality but is often used as a major indicator of population health.

Indigenous: A person who identifies himself or herself to be of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. See also **Aboriginal**, or **Torres Strait Islander**.

Infants: Children aged less than 1 year.

Internalising problems: Inhibited or over-controlled behaviour such as anxiety and depression.

Intervention (for health): Any action taken by society or an individual which steps in (intervenes) to improve health, such as medical treatment and preventive campaigns.

Live birth: Live birth is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered live born (WHO).

Medicare: A national, government-funded scheme that subsidises the cost of personal medical services and which covers all Australians to help them afford medical care.

Morbidity: Refers to ill-health in an individual and to levels of ill-health in a population or group.

National Health Priority Areas (NHPA): The NHPA initiative is a collaborative effort involving the Australian Government and state and territory governments that seeks to focus public attention and health policy on those areas that are considered to contribute significantly to the burden of illness in the community, and for which there is potential for health gain.

National Minimum Data Set (NMDS): A National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) is a minimum set of data elements agreed for mandatory collection and reporting at a national level.

Neonatal: The period of 28 days (4 weeks) after birth.

Neoplasms: Abnormal growth of tissue which may be benign or malignant; includes cancers and leukaemias.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): An organisation of 24 developed countries, including Australia.

Perinatal period: The period between 20 weeks (140 days) of gestation and 28 days after birth.

Postnatal: The period of time after birth.

Prevalence: The number or proportion (of cases, instances, etc.) present in a population at a given time. See also **Incidence**.

Quintile: A group derived by ranking the population according to specified criteria and dividing it into five equal parts.

Socioeconomic status: A relative position in the community as determined by occupation, income and level of education.

Statistical Local Area: Based on the administrative areas of local government where these exist. Where there is no incorporated body of local government, SLAs are defined to cover the unincorporated areas. The SLA 'is the base spatial unit used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to collect and disseminate statistics other than those collected in Population Censuses' (ABS 2002d).

Step-families: A couple family containing one or more children, at least one of whom is the stepchild of either member of the couple and none of whom is the natural or foster child of both members of the couple.

Survival rates: The proportion of individuals diagnosed with a specific condition that have survived after a specified period of time.

Torres Strait Islander: A person who identifies himself or herself to be of Torres Strait Islander origin. See also **Indigenous**.

Vaccination: The process of administering a vaccine to a person to produce immunity against infection. See also **Immunisation**.

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