

Appendix C: Data element changes

Presented below is specific information on the changes made to the data elements year by year.

2007–08 changes

The following changes were incorporated into version 13 of the *National health data dictionary* (HWI 88) and are a consequence of re-engineering the data elements for inclusion in AIHWs metadata repository METeOR. It is important to note that these changes do not alter the way data are collected for the AODTS–NMDS.

- *Australian state/territory identifier*
 - change of name from State/territory identifier to Australian state/territory identifier

Supporting items

- *Cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs*
 - change from data element concept to glossary item
- *Commencement of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs*
 - change from data element concept to glossary item
- *Episode of treatment for alcohol and other drugs*
 - change of name from Treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs to Episode of treatment for alcohol and other drugs
 - change from data element concept to object class
- *Service delivery outlet*
 - change from data element concept to object class

2006–07 changes

- *Preferred language*
 - change from using the ABS 2-digit ASCL codes to the 4-digit version 2 ASCL codes.

2005–06 changes

No changes have been made.

2004–05 changes

The following changes were incorporated into the version 12 supplement of the *National health data dictionary* (HWI 72).

- *Establishment sector*
 - additions to Guide for use to clarify distinctions between definitions of Public and Private.

- *Main treatment type for alcohol and other drugs*
 - additions to Guide for use to assist clinicians coding to these Data domains.
- *Number of service contacts within a treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs*
 - this data element no longer used in AODTS NMDS.
- *Other drugs of concern*
 - additions to Data domain and Guide for use describing two new supplementary ASCDC codes.
- *Other treatment type for alcohol and other drugs*
 - additions to Guide for use to assist clinicians coding to these Data domains.
- *Principal drug of concern*
 - additions to Data domain and Guide for use describing two new supplementary ASCDC codes.
- *Reason for cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs*
 - changes to Guide for use to clarify the correct use of the existing Data domains.
- *Source of referral to alcohol and other drug treatment service*
 - changes to Guide for use and refinement of Data domains to add clarity.
- *Treatment delivery setting for alcohol and other drugs*
 - rewording of Definition to clarify purpose of this Data element.
- *Treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs*
 - minor change to Definition and further clarification added to Guide for use.
- *Service contact*
 - this data element concept no longer used in AODTS NMDS.

2003–04 changes

The following changes were incorporated into version 12 of the *National health data dictionary* (HWI 43).

- *State/territory identifier*
 - change of name from State identifier to State/territory identifier
- *Sex*
 - change to Data domain
- *Indigenous status*
 - change to Definition and Context to more accurately reflect what is being collected
 - change to Data domain and Guide for use to bring more clarity to the codes used
 - change to Collection methods, Source document and Comments for clarification purposes
- *Client type – alcohol and other drug treatment services:*
 - change to Definition and Context to reflect treatment episode
 - removal of code three in Data domain

- modification to Guide for use and Collection methods to ensure consistency
- *Injecting drug use:*
 - revision of Data domain
 - additional information included in Collection methods and Related data
- *Principal drug of concern:*
 - revised Data definition, Data domain, and Guide for use
 - additional information added to Collection methods and Related data
- *Other drugs of concern*
 - slight change to title and revised Data definition, Data domain, and Guide for use
 - additional information added to Collection methods and Related data.
- *Source of referral to alcohol and other drug treatment service*
 - the Data domain and the Guide for use revised to more accurately capture the most common sources of referral and to make the categories more mutually exclusive
 - the separation of codes into Agency and Non-agency categories reflects the approach taken in the NCSDD data element 'Referral source'
 - see further important information under The data elements – in brief p. 10.
- *Service delivery outlet*
 - a new data element concept has been developed and it is designed to be generic so that it can apply to other community health areas, while still adequately covering AODTS outlets.
- *Geographic location of service delivery outlet*
 - a new derived data element has been developed to provide the geographic location of each AODTS outlet
 - this data element has also been designed to be generic so that it can apply to other community health areas
 - it is intended to function as a replacement for *Geographical location of establishment* in the AODTS NMDS

2002–03 changes

The following changes were incorporated into version 11 of the *National Health Data Dictionary* (HWI 36).

- *Client type – alcohol and other drug treatment services*
 - change of title to include term – alcohol and other drug treatment services
 - minor change made to context
 - change to Data domain with the removal of code 9
 - change to Collection methods
 - inclusion of Related data
- *Number of service contacts within a treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs*
 - change to Definition
 - change to Guide for use

- change to Collection methods

2001–02 changes

The following changes were incorporated into version 10 of the *National Health Data Dictionary* (HWI 30).

- *Establishment identifier*
- *Establishment number*
- *Establishment sector*
- *Country of birth (now uses latest ABS classification)*
- *Date of commencement of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs.*