

# Household—household composition

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

# Household—household composition

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Element Concept

**METEOR identifier:** 269608

**Registration status:** [Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/02/2006

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

### Source and reference attributes

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

## Data element concept attributes

### Source and reference attributes

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

**Origin:** ABS: Standards for statistics on families. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)  
Cat. No. 1286.0

ABS: Directory of concepts and standards for social, labour and demographic statistics, 1995

AIHW: Data Standardisation Project for the development of a national unit record public housing data set, 1998

### Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Has been superseded by [Household—household composition Housing assistance](#), Superseded 30/08/2017

**Data Elements implementing this Data Element Concept:** [Household—household composition, code N{.N}](#)  
[Housing assistance](#), Superseded 10/02/2006