

# Person—height (self-reported), total centimetres NN[N]

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).

# Person—height (self-reported), total centimetres NN[N]

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Height (self-reported)
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	270365
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 01/03/2005 <a href="#">Tasmanian Health</a> , Standard 20/12/2016
<b>Definition:</b>	A person's self-reported height, measured in centimetres.
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Person—height</a>
<b>Value Domain:</b>	<a href="#">Total centimetres NN[N]</a>

## Value domain attributes

## Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Total	
<b>Data type:</b>	Number	
<b>Format:</b>	NN[N]	
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	3	
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
	888	Unknown
	999	Not stated/inadequately described
<b>Unit of measure:</b>	Centimetre (cm)	

## Data element attributes

## Collection and usage attributes

**Collection methods:**

The method of data collection, e.g. face to face interview, telephone interview or self-completion questionnaire, can affect survey estimates and should be reported.

The data collection form should include a question asking the respondent what their height is. For example, the Australian Bureau of Statistics National Health Survey 1995 included the question 'How tall are you without shoes?'. The data collection form should allow for both metric (to the nearest 1 cm) and imperial (to the nearest 0.5 inch) units to be recorded.

If practical, it is preferable to enter the raw data into the database before conversion of measures in imperial units to metric. However if this is not possible, height reported in imperial units can be converted to metric prior to data entry using a conversion factor of 2.54 cm to the inch.

Rounding to the nearest 1 cm will be required for measures converted to metric prior to data entry, and may be required for data reported in metric units to a greater level of precision than the nearest 1 cm. The following rounding conventions are desirable to reduce systematic over-reporting (Armitage & Berry 1994):

NNN.x where  $x < 5$  - round down, e.g. 172.2 cm would be rounded to 172 cm.

NNN.x where  $x > 5$  - round up, e.g. 172.7 cm would be rounded to 173 cm.

NNN.x where  $x = 5$  - round to the nearest even number, e.g. 172.5 cm would be rounded to 172 cm, while 173.5 cm would be rounded to 174 cm.

**Comments:**

This metadata item is recommended for persons aged 18 years or older. It is recommended for use in population surveys when it is not possible to measure height.

It is recommended that in population surveys, sociodemographic data including ethnicity should be collected, as well as other risk factors including physiological status (e.g. pregnancy), physical activity, smoking and alcohol consumption. Summary statistics may need to be adjusted for these variables.

Metadata items currently exist for sex, date of birth, country of birth, Indigenous status and smoking. Metadata items are being developed for physical activity.

**Presentation of data:**

Means, 95% confidence intervals, medians and centiles should be reported to one decimal place. Where the sample permits, population estimates should be presented by sex and 5-year age groups. Estimates based on sample surveys may need to take into account sampling weights.

For consistency with conventional practice, and for current comparability with international data sets, recommended centiles are 5, 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, 85, 90 and 95. To estimate the 5th and 95th centiles, a sample size of at least 200 is recommended for each group for which the centiles are being specified.

For some reporting purposes, it may be desirable to present height data in categories. It is recommended that 5 cm groupings are used for this purpose. Height data should not be rounded before categorisation. The following categories may be appropriate for describing the heights of Australian men and women, although the range will depend on the population. The World Health Organization's range for height is 140-190 cm.

Height <140 cm

140 cm = Height < 145 cm

145 cm = Height < 150 cm

... in 5 cm categories

185 cm = Height < 190 cm

Height => 190 cm

On average, height tends to be overestimated when self-reported by respondents. Data for Australian men and women aged 20-69 years in 1989 indicated that men overestimated by an average of 1.1 cm (SEM\* of 0.04 cm) and women by an average of 0.5 cm (SEM of 0.05 cm) (Waters 1993). The extent of overestimation varied with age.

\*Note: SEM is the standard error of measurement.

**Relational attributes****Related metadata references:**

Is used in the formation of [Adult—body mass index \(self-reported\), ratio NN\[N\].N\[N\] Health!](#), Standard 01/03/2005  
[National Health Performance Authority \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2016

Is used in the formation of [Child—body mass index \(self-reported\), ratio NN\[N\].N\[N\] Health!](#), Standard 01/03/2005

Is re-engineered from  [Height - self-reported, version 2, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (21.0 KB)  
*No registration status*

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:**

[Acute coronary syndrome \(clinical\) DSS Health!](#), Superseded 01/10/2008

[Acute coronary syndrome \(clinical\) DSS Health!](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

### [Perinatal DSS 2014-15](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 13/11/2014

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2014

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2015

**Conditional obligation:**

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant woman's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the measured height data item to indicate this. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-report height item.

**DSS specific information:**

It is acceptable for a self-reported height to be rounded to the nearest whole centimetre.

### [Perinatal DSS 2015-16](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 04/09/2015

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2015

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2016

**Conditional obligation:**

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant woman's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the measured height data item to indicate this. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-reported height item.

**DSS specific information:**

It is acceptable for a self-reported height to be rounded to the nearest whole centimetre.

### [Perinatal NBEDS 2016-17](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 05/10/2016

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2016

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2017

**Conditional obligation:**

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant woman's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the measured height data item to indicate this. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-reported height item.

**DSS specific information:**

It is acceptable for a self-reported height to be rounded to the nearest whole centimetre.

### [Perinatal NBEDS 2017-18](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 02/08/2017

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2017

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2018

**Conditional obligation:**

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant woman's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the measured height data item to indicate this. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-reported height item.

**DSS specific information:**

It is acceptable for a self-reported height to be rounded to the nearest whole centimetre.

### [Perinatal NBEDS 2018-19](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 12/12/2018  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019  
**Conditional obligation:**

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant woman's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the measured height data item to indicate this. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-reported height item.

**DSS specific information:**

It is acceptable for a self-reported height to be rounded to the nearest whole centimetre.

[Perinatal NBEDS 2019–20](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 20/11/2019  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020  
**Conditional obligation:**

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant female's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the [Person—height \(measured\), total centimetres NN\[N\].N](#) data element. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-reported height data element.

**DSS specific information:**

It is acceptable for a self-reported height to be rounded to the nearest whole centimetre.

[Perinatal NBEDS 2020–21](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 03/12/2020  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2021  
**Conditional obligation:**

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant female's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the [Person—height \(measured\), total centimetres NN\[N\].N](#) data element. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-reported height data element.

**DSS specific information:**

It is acceptable for a self-reported height to be rounded to the nearest whole centimetre.

[Perinatal NBEDS 2021–22](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 17/12/2021  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2021  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2022  
**Conditional obligation:**

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant female's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the [Person—height \(measured\), total centimetres NN\[N\].N](#) data element. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-reported height data element.

**DSS specific information:**

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

It is acceptable for a self-reported height to be rounded to the nearest whole centimetre.

[Perinatal NBEDS 2022–23](#)

[Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2022

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2023

**Conditional obligation:**

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant female's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the [Person—height \(measured\), total centimetres NN\[N\].N](#) data element. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-reported height data element.

**DSS specific information:**

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

It is acceptable for a self-reported height to be rounded to the nearest whole centimetre.

[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