
Family name/surname

Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHADD
Knowledgebase ID: 000746 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHDAMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-MAR-05
Definition: The name a person has in common with other members of her/his family, as distinguished from her/his first name.
Context: Data linkage, administrative purposes and individual identification. Selected letters of the Family name/surname in combination with selected letters of the First given name, Date of birth and Sex, may be used for record linkage for statistical purposes only (see data element Statistical linkage key).

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Alphabetic
Representational form: TEXT
Representation layout: n.a.
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size:
Data Domain: NOVAL Name
Guide For Use: The agency should record the client's full Family name/surname on their information systems. The field length for this data element is at the discretion of information system designers.
Collection Methods: This data element should be recorded for all clients. Often people use a variety of names, including legal names, married/maiden names, nicknames, assumed names, traditional names, etc. Even small differences in recording - such as the difference between MacIntosh and McIntosh- can make record linkage impossible. To minimise discrepancies in the recording and reporting of name information, agencies should ask the person for their full (formal) First given name and Family name/surname. These may be different from the name that the person may prefer

the agency workers to use in personal dealings. Agencies may choose to separately record the preferred names that the person wishes to be used by agency workers.

In some cultures it is traditional to state the family name first. To overcome discrepancies in recording/reporting that may arise as a result of this practice, agencies should always ask the person to specify their First given name and their family name or surname separately. These should then be recorded as First given name and Family name/surname as appropriate, regardless of the order in which they may be traditionally given.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Date of birth version 1
relates to the data element First given name version 1
relates to the data element Record linkage version 1
relates to the data element Sex version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Developed from the HACC Data Dictionary Version 1, 1998.

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
