Family

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCSDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000517   Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT

Admin status: SUPERSEDED   Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: Two or more people related by blood, marriage (including step-relations), adoption or fostering and who may or may not live together. They may form the central core of support networks for individuals.

Context: The 'household family' has been traditionally viewed as a building block of society and it is the predominant unit reported statistically and historically. However, the 'household family', since it is tied to the idea of co-residence, forms only a snapshot in time and refers only to related people who live in the same household at a point in time. Related persons who leave the central household live in other households may still participate in the lives of other family members they do not live with in a variety of ways, including financial, material, physical, emotional, legal and spiritual. For instance, frail older people may receive help from their adult children even though they do not live in the same household.

Data on families are essential elements for the study of the well being of family groups and in this way for the study of the well being of individuals. They are a tool for assessing the type of and level of support to which a person has access. By defining the extended family as the central support network for individual, support which would not have been defined as accessible to the individual using the 'Household family' definition becomes apparent. It is important to recognise the 'family beyond the household' when examining types and levels of support available to individuals.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:

Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Agency version 1
supersedes previous data element Family version 1

relates to the data element Referral source version 2
relates to the data element concept Informal carer version 2
relates to the data element concept Target group version 1
relates to the data element Household family type version 3
relates to the data element Household type version 3
relates to the data element Relationship in household version 3
relates to the data element Status in employment version 2
relates to the data element Informal carer availability version 4
relates to the data element Family name version 2
relates to the data element Given name(s) version 2
relates to the data element Labour force status version 3
relates to the data element Living arrangement version 3
relates to the data element Mother's original family name version 2
relates to the data element concept Household family version 1
relates to the data element Environmental factors version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: McDonald, P. 1995. Families in Australia: A Socio-Demographic Perspective. Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Family Studies

Comments: This definition differs from the ABS standard. This is necessary because the ABS standard is based on household collection, which is not suitable, in many community services' areas. The community service definition needs to be broader to incorporate families that exist outside of households.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM   Family

Data Agreements which include this Data Element