
Environmental factors

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: NCSDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000565 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NCSIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-SEP-03

Definition: The type of environmental factor, external to individuals, which can have a positive or negative influence on a person's participation as a member of society, on performance of activities, or on a person's body function or structure. Environmental factors make up the physical, social and attitudinal environment in which people live and conduct their lives.

Context: This data element, in conjunction with 'Environmental factors - extent of influence', may be used in health and community services data collections to record the environmental factors that act as facilitators or barriers to optimum functioning at the body, person and societal levels. Identification of environmental factors may assist in determining appropriate interventions to support the person to achieve optimum functioning.
The 'Environmental factors' data element is critical to understanding the concept Disability.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: NNNNNN
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 6
Data Domain: 1 Products and technology (includes, for example, products for personal consumption, such as food, assets, products for personal use in daily life, communication, personal mobility transportation, education and products for culture and religion).

- 2 Natural Environment (includes, for example, physical geography, flora and fauna, climate, natural events, light, time-related changes, sound, vibration and air quality).
- 3 Support and relationships (includes, for example, immediate family, extended family, family care giver, friends, acquaintances, people in positions of authority, people in subordinate positions, personal care providers and personal assistants, strangers and domesticated animals).
- 4 Attitudes, values and beliefs (includes, for example, individual and societal attitudes, values and beliefs, social norms and conventions such as moral, aesthetic, cultural, political, and attitudes to religious practice and human rights)
- 5 Services (includes, for example, services for the production of consumer goods, architecture, building and construction services, open space planning services, housing, utilities and communication, transportation, civil protection, legal, media, and services aimed at delivering interventions to individuals for their physical, psychological and social well-being, such as food services).
- 6 Systems and policies (includes, for example, media, legal, social security, health, education and training, labour and employment and political systems and policies).

Guide For Use: Environmental factors are classified in the ICIDH-2 Beta-2 draft, 1999. Refer to the Information Annexe - Disability for further details.

Where multiple environmental factors are recorded, the following priority system may be useful.

- The first recorded type of environmental factor is the one having the greatest impact on the individual.
- Second and subsequent recorded environmental factors are also of relevance to the individual.
- Up to six responses may be recorded.

Collection Methods: The environmental factors classification is a neutral list of environmental factors. It can be used to denote environmental facilitators or barriers by also recording 'Environmental factors- extent of influence'.

There are numerous possible methods for collecting environmental factors. A decision could be made to collect information about every environmental factor and select only those factors of

particular relevance (eg. media systems and policies in relation to hearing services). Or limit to a number of factors and prioritise the areas according to specified criteria; or even limit to one factor per person.

Where multiple environmental factors are recorded, the priority system in the Guide for use may be useful.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Assistance with activity version 1
relates to the data element Body functions version 1
relates to the data element Body structures version 1
relates to the data element Activity - level of difficulty version 1
relates to the data element concept Disability version 1
relates to the data element Disability grouping - Australian national version 1
relates to the data element Disability grouping - International version 1
relates to the data element Impairment extent version 1
is used in conjunction with Environmental factors - extent of influence version 1
relates to the data element Participation extent version 1
relates to the data element Activity areas version 1
relates to the data element Participation areas version 1
relates to the data element Participation satisfaction level version 1
has been superseded by Environmental factors version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: ICIDH-2 Beta-2 draft, 1999

Source Organisation: World Health Organisation

Comments: Disability is a multi-dimensional and complex concept, which has been described in three dimensions (WHO, 1999): Body structures and functions/impairments, Activity/activity limitation and Participation/participation restriction. Environmental factors interact with all dimensions of functioning and disability. All disability is associated with a health condition, disease or injury. The data elements relating to disability are based on the draft ICIDH-2, Beta-2, 1999, as the best available conceptualisation suitable to the purpose. The Beta-2 draft is subject to systematic field trials and further consultation until 2001. Use of the ICIDH-2 has not been endorsed by WHO Member States. Endorsement by the World Health Assembly is scheduled to be sought in 2001. Further information on the ICIDH-2 can be found on the WHO website: <http://www.who.ch/icidh>
For further information on disability see the Information Annexe - Disability

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM

Environment

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
