Date of birth

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary:	NCHSDD		
Knowledgebase ID:	000902	Version number:	2
Metadata type:	DATA ELEMENT		
Registration Authority:	NCSIMG	Admin status:	DRAFT
		Effective date:	01-APR-02

Definition: The date of birth of the child.

Context: This data element can be used to derive age for use both in comparisons with population data and in analysis of child care and preschool service use by age group.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: DATE

Representation layout: DDMMYYYY

Minimum Size: 8

Maximum Size: 8

Data Domain: NOVAL   Valid date

Guide For Use: This data element should always be recorded as an 8 digit valid date comprising day, month, and year. Year should always be recorded in its full 4-digit format. For days and months with a numeric value of less than 10, zeros should be used to ensure that the date contains the required 8 digits. For example, for a child born on the 1st of July, 1998, their Date of birth would be reported as 01071998.

If the actual date of birth of the child is not known or cannot be obtained, an estimated date of birth can be calculated in the following way. If the age of the child is known, the age of the child should be used to derive the child's year of birth. If the child's age is not known, an estimate of the child's age should be used to calculate an estimated year of birth. An actual or estimated year of birth should then be converted to an estimated

date of birth according to the following convention: 0101 estimated year of birth.

It is important that child care and preschool services do not record estimated dates of birth by using '00' for the day, month or year as this may not be considered a valid date by the system processing the data.

Collection Methods: It is recommended that in cases where all components of the date of birth are not known or where an estimate is arrived at from age, a valid date be used using the method described above.

The above information should be reported in this form for outlets reporting disaggregated data.

In some jurisdictions this information may be required to be reported in an aggregate form. This acknowledges that some jurisdictions may be unable to collect at a disaggregated level in the early stages of the CS NMDS collection. In these instances outlets should report the number of children in each of the age groups specified below who attended the outlet during the reference week.

Children aged less than 1 year
Children aged 1 year
Children aged 2 years
Children aged 3 years
Children aged 4 years
Children aged 5 years
Children aged 6 years
Children aged 7 years
Children aged 8 years
Children aged 9 years
Children aged 10 years
Children aged 11 years
Children aged 12 years
Children aged 13 years and over

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: National Community Services Data Dictionary Version 2, 2000.
Source Organisation: National Community Services Data Committee,
NCSIMG Children's Services Data Working Group,
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comment: Wherever possible and wherever appropriate in a community services context, date of birth should be collected rather than age because the actual date of birth usually allows more precise

calculation of age.

Data Element Links