



Information Paper

Improving Statistics on Children and Youth

An Information Development Plan

Australia

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Information Paper

Improving Statistics on Children and Youth

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Australia

2006

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Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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PREFACE

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the demand for statistical information covering the many and varied domains of the lives of children and young people. The availability and accessibility of good quality statistical information is an integral part of the policy design and evaluation process; the development of research agendas; and the decision making processes of governments, organisations and communities. As policy and research agendas change, so too does the demand for statistical information.

This information paper, *Improving Statistics on Children and Youth: An Information Development Plan*, has been developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) National Children and Youth Statistics Unit (NCYSU). It is based on a shared understanding of the key policy issue imperatives and agreement on the areas of priority for statistical data development. It outlines data development actions aimed at improving the statistical information base relevant to these priority areas.

This project has been guided by the ABS' Children and Youth Statistics Advisory Group (CYSAG) (refer to Appendix 1 for a list of member organisations). This group has been instrumental in setting the direction of the project, as well as in the identification and articulation of the key policy and research issues, data development needs and related actions.

Development of the Information Development Plan (IDP) has involved extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including: federal, state and territory government agencies; research organisations; and non-government organisations. Staff in these organisations have given generously of their time and their contribution to this work is gratefully acknowledged.

This Plan has the endorsement of the following organisations: the Australian Council for Educational Research; the Australian Institute of Criminology; the Australian Institute of Family Studies; the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth; the Department of Education, Science and Training; the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations; the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; the Department of Health and Ageing; the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research; and the Productivity Commission.

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

CHAPTER 1

THE PLAN AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

This Plan is aimed at addressing the changing information requirements of users of children and youth statistics, focussing on the agreed areas of priority for statistical data development. The Plan should also serve as a guide to producers of statistical information as to how they may generate improvements to their own data holdings and thereby ensure their outputs have relevance and increased usability to the wider user group in the field of children and youth statistics. Information provided by key stakeholders in the children and youth field has been used to identify the priority areas for data development. This development work is necessary to ensure that statistical information supply is updated and improved and therefore better placed to inform the policy and research issues facing governments and practitioners in the field.

The Plan takes into account the priority data development needs and associated development actions relevant to children and youth that are already included in other IDPs. These include the most recent updates of the *National Community Services Information Strategic Plan* and the *National Public Health Information Development Plan*, as well as several ABS IDPs (Education and Training, Crime and Justice, and Rural and Regional Statistics).

The Plan presents: a picture of the field of children and youth statistics, in terms of the stakeholders and relevant government policies and initiatives; a discussion of the agreed priorities and directions for data development; a description of the data development actions either proposed or underway to address the agreed priorities; and an overview of the current data supply available to inform research and policy development.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

Development of this Plan has involved a number of steps. The first step was to define the key concepts and identify key policy concerns for the field, along with the existing data sources available to inform these concerns. This was achieved through consultation and discussion with members of the CYSAG. The key policy concerns and related research questions were presented in an information paper titled *Key Issues Relating to Children and Youth* (cat. no. 4908.0), released by the ABS in April 2005. This paper also includes information about the existing data supply. An additional paper, *The Field of Children and Youth Statistics, Australia 2005* (cat. no. 4910.0), was also released at this time. This paper discusses the field of statistics relevant to children and youth and presents the various frameworks, policy contexts and statistical standards relevant to the field. These papers provide background information relevant to this Plan and are available from the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au).

The second step was to consult with key stakeholders to identify their information needs. Consultation was conducted in two rounds. The first round involved relevant federal government departments and agencies, as well as national research organisations. The second round involved a wider group, including relevant state and territory government departments and agencies, non-government organisations and relevant

DEVELOPMENT OF THE
PLAN *continued*

cross-jurisdictional information management groups. A list of all stakeholders involved in the development of this Plan is provided in Appendix 1.

During the first round of consultation, the ABS held a series of bilateral meetings with senior staff, researchers and policy advisers. These meetings resulted in agreement on the key issues and the identification of the deficiencies and gaps in the existing data supply (referred to as *data development needs*). In addition, information was also collected on data sources for which each agency was responsible, along with any initiatives planned or underway to improve agency data collections. In this Plan, these latter initiatives are referred to as *data development actions*. These are actions which will lead to a new source of data or improvements to an existing source (e.g. improved comparability, additional topics, implementation of standards).

The information gathered during the first round of consultation was used to prepare a draft of this Plan. The draft Plan was used as the basis for discussion during the second round of consultation, with the primary aim of confirming and gaining agreement on the key issues and priority areas for data development (including associated data development needs). This consultation round also focussed on ensuring that the Plan reflected the interests and concerns of the states and territories. Comments on the draft Plan were also sought from selected multi-jurisdictional data committees, including the National Public Health Information Working Group and the National Community Services Information Management Group.

Finally, data development needs for each of the agreed priority areas were prioritised, as it is not feasible for this Plan to address the complete range of needs identified for each area. This assessment was undertaken with the assistance of key stakeholders in the field. Chapter 4 outlines the assessment process.

MONITORING PROGRESS
AGAINST THE PLAN

It is envisaged that the Plan will have a life span of around three years. The ABS will take responsibility for convening an annual meeting of the CYSAG for the purpose of monitoring the progress of the data development actions. In addition, this CYSAG meeting will consider the continuing relevance of the priority areas and data development needs.

CONTENT OUTLINE

Chapter 2 discusses the field of children and youth statistics, including the key stakeholders and policies. Chapter 3 presents the agreed priorities areas and directions for data development. Chapter 4 presents the data development needs and their related data development actions, organised by the priority areas. Appendix 1 lists the stakeholders involved in the development of the Plan. Appendix 2 presents the data development needs, as identified during the consultation. Appendix 3 presents the available information for the field.

CHAPTER 2

CHILDREN AND YOUTH STATISTICS—STAKEHOLDERS AND POLICY BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

The field of children and youth statistics is complex, involving a wide range of stakeholders with diverse statistical information requirements. These stakeholders include governments, at the national, state/territory and local level, and research organisations, as well as numerous non-government organisations concerned with addressing specific needs of particular groups of children or young people.

The statistical information requirements of stakeholders are diverse. Data are required for a number of reasons including: the development of appropriate policies, programs and services; the monitoring and evaluation of such policies, programs and services; and for research or education purposes. However, individual user requirements are usually quite specific and it would be difficult to cover all of these in this Plan. Hence development of the Plan has primarily been confined to coverage of the information needs and priorities of the major stakeholders in the field, particularly those in the government and research sectors, and specifically those agencies with policy and service delivery responsibilities for children and/or young people.

This chapter presents an overview of the major stakeholders and an outline of some of the key policies and/or initiatives of relevance at the national, state and cross-jurisdictional levels.

MAJOR NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH FIELD

It would be difficult to present the full range of stakeholders operating in the field of children and youth, given the large numbers that exist at the national, state and regional level. The following list presents the major national stakeholders in the field with policy or research interests.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

The ABS is Australia's official statistical organisation. The ABS is an independent statutory authority which assists and encourages informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community. The ABS obtains a wealth of data from survey, administrative and census collections.

In 2003, the ABS established the NCYSU to provide statistical leadership and coordination across the field of children and youth statistics, with the aim of guiding and influencing statistical activity, both ABS and non-ABS, in this field. The Unit also periodically undertakes analysis and reporting relevant to key children and youth issues.

Australian Council for Educational Research

Established in 1930, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) has a long history as a provider of educational research, data and support to education policy makers and professional practitioners. It is committed to creating and distributing research-based knowledge, products and services to improve learning across the life span in both formal and informal settings.

Australian Institute of Criminology

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) is Australia's national agency for crime and criminal justice research. The functions of the AIC include conducting criminological research, communicating the results of research, conducting or arranging conferences and seminars, and publishing material arising out of the AIC's work. The Institute draws on information supplied to it by a wide variety of sources and is a data custodian for a wide variety of data, including juvenile crime and justice.

Australian Institute of Family Studies

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) was established in 1980 to promote the identification and understanding of factors affecting marital and family stability in Australia. The Institute has a role in informing and influencing policy development, public understanding and informed debate about factors affecting family functioning and wellbeing. AIFS has research programs on children and parenting, family and marriage, and family and society. It manages Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC); the National Child Protection Clearinghouse; and the Stronger Families Learning Exchange.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), established in 1987, is a key Australian national agency for health and welfare statistics and information. The AIHW has a key role in national health and welfare information management and data development through the National Health Information Management Principal Committee, the Statistical Information Management Committee, the National Community Services Information Management Group and the National Housing Data Development Committee. The AIHW produces compendium publications in the children and youth field. The AIHW are also custodians of key administrative data sets relating to children, youth and families; coordinating and managing their development, as well as reporting on their findings.

Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) is a national collaboration of researchers, policy makers and practitioners from a broad range of disciplines who are working together with the aim of building a better future for Australia's children and young people. The ARACY is involved with a number of projects relevant to data development and enhancement in the children and youth field, for example the establishment of a clearinghouse and evidence request service of effective interventions for children and youth.

Department of Education, Science and Training

The Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) develops and implements policies to ensure the continuing relevance of education, science and training to contemporary needs and the growing requirement for lifelong learning. The Department is responsible for the Higher Education Statistics Collection, data for non-government schools and the pre-school census. It funds the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth.

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) develops and implements policies and programs that support an effectively functioning labour market and workplaces, with higher productivity and higher pay. The Department also provides services to job seekers, employers, employees and researchers.

*Department of Families,
Community Services and
Indigenous Affairs*

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) is responsible for social policies and support affecting Australian society and the living standards of Australian families. The Department has five key policy outcomes: An integrated social support system; Greater self reliance and engagement for those in need through shared responsibility, practical support and help with housing; Seniors, people with disabilities, carers, youth and women are supported, recognised and encouraged to participate in the community; Families and children have choices and opportunities; and Strong and resilient communities. The Department provides funding for four significant data collection projects— the LSAC, the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI), Footprints in Time: the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) and the Household Income Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey.

*Department of Health and
Ageing*

The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) has eleven portfolio outcomes: Population Health; Medicines and Medical Services; Aged Care and Population Ageing; Primary Care; Rural Health; Hearing Services; Indigenous Health; Private Health Insurance Rebate; Health System Capacity and Quality; Acute Care; and Health and Medical Research. As well as being the main department responsible for government policy relating to health outcomes for children and youth it is also closely involved in several important data holdings, such as the AIHW's National Drug Strategy Household Surveys and the Illicit Drugs Reporting System.

*National Centre for
Vocational Education
Research*

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) is Australia's principal provider of vocational and technical education (VTE) research and statistics. The NCVER is responsible for collecting and managing national VTE and Australian Apprenticeship statistics, as well as managing national surveys of VTE graduates and students, and employers' views of training. It undertakes a strategic program of research, and collects and provides VTE research findings from Australian and international sources. The NCVER is a not-for-profit organisation responsible to the state, territory and federal ministers responsible for vocational and technical education.

Productivity Commission

The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's principal advisory body on all aspects of micro-economic reform. The Commission's work covers all sectors of the economy. It extends to the public and private sectors and focuses on areas of Commonwealth as well as state and territory responsibility. The statutory functions of the Commission include: holding public inquiries and reporting on matters related to industry and productivity; providing secretariat services and research services to government bodies such as the Council of Australian Governments; initiating research on industry and productivity issues; and promoting public understanding of matters related to industry and productivity. The Productivity Commission supports the work of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision and publishes the *Report on Government Services* and the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report.

*Telethon Institute for
Child Health Research*

The mission of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (ICHR) is to improve and to promote the health and wellbeing of all children through the unique application of multidisciplinary research. The Institute does this through: conducting high quality research; applying research findings to improve the health of children, adolescents and

families; teaching the next generation of health researchers; and advocating for research and for children. Priorities of the Institute include: aboriginal child health; asthma, allergies and respiratory diseases; birth defects; cancer and leukaemia; developmental disorders; infectious diseases; mental health; and perinatal epidemiology.

POLICY BACKGROUND

It is recognised that children and youth develop in the context of families and communities. They are influenced by their participation in a variety of settings, including education and work, and through their interactions with the immediate environment. The life outcomes children and youth experience are shaped by the environments in which they live and the social and economic factors to which they are exposed.

Governments have a responsibility to positively influence the environments of children and young people. Their policies and programs aim to provide the support and services necessary to address the health and development needs of children and young people. They also encourage and facilitate children's and young people's positive participation in education, work, family and community life so as to improve their current and future wellbeing.

In the policy field, age is the key means used to identify and target the population groups of children and youth. In this context, the age groups used to define children and youth may be based on the developmental stages (physical, cognitive and social) that occur in the transition to adulthood. Age based definitions may also be related to levels of dependency (physical, emotional, social and financial) that are experienced at different stages of development. For youth, age is also associated with varying levels of social responsibility and legal rights. In addition, children and youth may be defined for a specific purpose at hand, for example the development of a program to target a specific group. Accordingly, the target age group(s) can be different.

Cross-government initiatives

In recognising the collaborative roles governments have in developing appropriate and effective policies and programs, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has embarked upon the *National Reform Agenda: Human Capital, Competition and Regulatory Reform*. This agenda is aimed at further raising living standards and improving services by lifting the nation's productivity and workforce participation over the next decade. Aspects of the Agenda relevant to the children and youth field include actions to: improve early childhood development outcomes; improve literacy and numeracy attainment; support young people in the transition from education to work; promote healthier and more active lifestyles; and address mental health issues, including the impact of substance abuse on mental health.

Other cross-government initiatives include the on-going work of the multi-jurisdictional councils. Some of these councils include: the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, responsible for the coordination of strategic policy relevant to children and young people across the education, employment and youth sectors; the Health, Community and Disability Services Ministerial Council whose role is to support a consistent and coordinated national approach to health, community and disability services policy and service development and implementation; and the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy, the peak policy and decision-making body in relation to licit and illicit drugs in Australia, responsible for the National Drug Strategy.

The *Report on Government Services*, published by the Productivity Commission, supports the work of the COAG and the ministerial councils through providing relevant and high quality data, at both national and jurisdictional level, to support the development and assessment of policy, programs and services.

Australian Government initiatives

Early intervention to prevent adverse outcomes is a key theme of current policies, across a number of government sectors (e.g. health and education), and is considered a cost effective approach to improving health and wellbeing. It is also clear that a coordinated and holistic approach to issues facing children and youth is required. Certainly areas such as child development, health and education are closely linked and wellbeing outcomes have common determinants.

While each government agency is responsible for policy and program development within a specific area (e.g. health, education, employment) the cross-cutting nature of the field means that specific areas can not be looked at in isolation. Policies are strongly interdependent and the departments responsible for the policies often have to act in a coordinated way through collaborative working groups and initiatives.

Australian Government initiatives include—

- The *Stronger Families and Communities Strategy*, which provides the framework for the development and implementation of the federal government's commitment to help support and strengthen families as a fundamental unit of society. This policy aims to combine delivery of services and policies for families in transition or need. Specific objectives include reducing family breakdowns, better integration of government services, development of youth policy and improved monitoring of program performance and improved service delivery. Since its inception, the Strategy has been renewed providing a greater focus on early childhood initiatives and resources that can be used to achieve better outcomes for children, their families and communities. The renewed Strategy has four streams: Communities for Children; Early Childhood—Invest to Grow; Local Answers; and Choice and Flexibility in Child Care.
- The *National Agenda for Early Childhood*, developed by the Australian Government, in close consultation with the states and territories, is a framework to better coordinate and guide future initiatives in the provision of services for families and children across all levels of government. There are four identified key action areas: healthy families with young children; early learning and care; supporting families and parents; and creating child-friendly communities. The Australian Government endorsed the National Agenda in December 2005 and it is now the framework for all early childhood policy and program development.
- The Australian Government's policy framework on young people, which covers their health, wellbeing and development, is articulated in the *Living Choices* statement. This emphasises the importance of reaching adult independence and supports social and economic participation. Other recent initiatives such as *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future*, *Skilling Australia's Workforce* and *Youth Pathways* (part of the Career Advice Australia initiative) also contribute to improving the opportunities and wellbeing of young people.

- The *WorkChoices* initiative, which includes providing specific help for youth with work experience, learning new skills, education and training and looking for work. The *Welfare to Work* initiative is another government policy for assisting young people, in particular young single parents and youth with a disability.

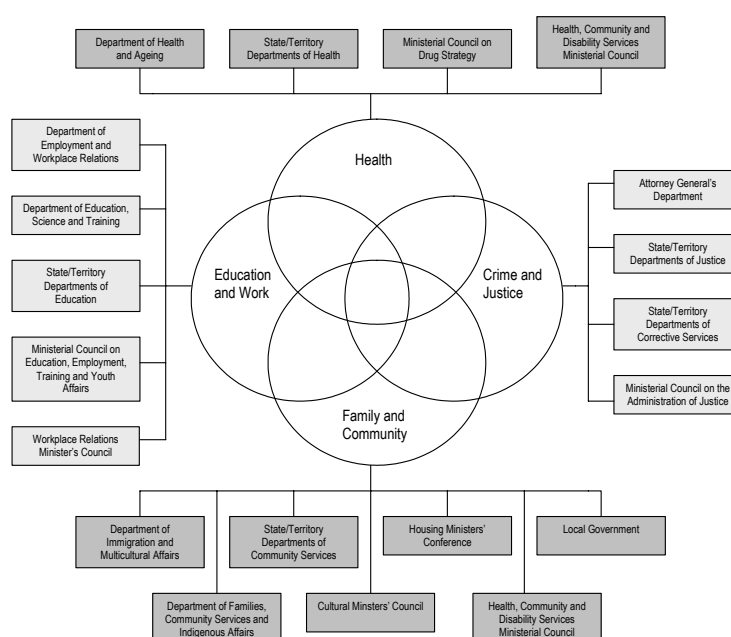
State and territory governments' initiatives

In addition to the federal government, state and territory governments, along with local governments, are also responsible for developing policies and programs targeted at the children and youth population. State and territory initiatives include: the New South Wales Government's *Families First Strategy*, a framework to measure the outcomes of services and strategies that have demonstrated significant positive impacts on children and parents; *Best Start Indicators Project* by the Victorian Government which measures the improvements in the health, development, learning and wellbeing of children; the Tasmanian Government's *Our Kids Strategic Policy Framework* which provides direction for the planning, monitoring, management, evaluation and enhancement of services and interventions targeted at children; the Western Australian Government's *Children First Strategy*, which includes the reporting on the wellbeing of children and young people; the Queensland Government's *Putting Families First* which includes a number of indicators to assess policy success; *South Australia's Strategic Plan*, a collaborative plan across government and non-government sectors aimed at improving and monitoring the wellbeing and prosperity of South Australians; and the Australian Capital Territory's *Building Our Community - the Canberra Social Plan*, which identifies and assesses progress over a number of areas.

Government responsibilities in the children and youth field

The following diagram shows the overlapping nature of the sectors relevant to the children and youth field and also identifies the main government bodies and related groups involved in developing policies and programs to support children and young people.

SECTORS IN THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH FIELD



*Overview of the national
policy and statistical field*

The table on the following pages provides an overview of the national policy and statistical field for children and youth. The national stakeholders identified in the table are involved in the field through having direct responsibility for one or more of the following roles: policy development; data development and provision; or research and analysis. In order to reduce complexity, in the instances where a number of related groups are involved, only the highest level group is included. In addition, only selected policies and data collections are presented. Appendix 3 presents a more comprehensive listing of data collections relevant to the children and youth field.

OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL POLICY AND STATISTICAL FIELD: CHILDREN AND YOUTH

| Australian Government Departments and Agencies | Major Data Collections and Outputs | Main Policies, Programs and Strategies |
|---|--|---|
| Attorney-General's Department | Young People and Domestic Violence Survey, 1999 | Early Intervention, Youth, Crime and Families Strategy National Community Crime Prevention Program |
| Australian Sports Commission | | Backing Australia's Sporting Ability – A More Active Australia |
| Australian Transport Safety Bureau | Road Fatalities, Australia | National Road Safety Strategy |
| Education, Science and Training | Higher Education Student Data Collection National Pre-school Census— Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and All Students | Career Advice Australia Australian Schools Agenda National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy National Literacy and Numeracy Plan Shaping our future: Australia's Strategy for Vocational Education and Training 2004–2010 Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future Backing Australia's Ability National Report to Parliament on Indigenous Education and Training |
| Employment and Workplace Relations | Labour Market Assistance Outcomes Labour Market and Related Payments | Green Corps Indigenous Employment Policy Job Network Job Placement, Employment and Training Program Workplace Relations Provisions Workchoices |
| Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs | Australian Early Development Index Australian Government Census of Child Care Services FaCSIA's Longitudinal Data Set Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey Longitudinal Study of Australian Children | Mentor Marketplace National Agenda for Early Childhood Responding Early Assisting Children (REACH) Program Indigenous Children's Program National Homelessness Strategy National Youth Roundtable Newly Arrived Youth Support Services Reconnect Strengthening Families Component of the National Illicit Drugs Strategy Stronger Families and Communities Strategy Tomorrow's Children: Australia's National Plan of Action Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Transition to Independent Living Allowance YouthLinx Youth Protocol |
| Health and Ageing | Child and Adolescent Component of the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, 1998 Australian Childhood Immunisation Register Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health | Eat Well Australia: An agenda for action for public health nutrition: 2000–2010 Healthy Weight 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutritional Strategy and Action Plan National Action Plan for the Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention for Mental Health National Co-morbidity Initiative National Drug Strategy National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2005–2008 National Immunisation Program National Injury Prevention Plan National Psychostimulants Initiative National Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2005–2008 National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Voluntary Folate Fortification Strategy |

| Statistical and Research Organisations | Major Data Collections and Outputs |
|---|---|
| Australian Bureau of Statistics | Census of Population and Housing Crime and Justice Statistics Culture and Recreation Statistics (e.g. Survey of Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities) Demographic statistics (e.g. Births and Deaths Collections) Education and Training Collections (e.g. Survey of Education and Work) Family and Community Collections (e.g. Child Care Survey and Family Characteristics Survey) Health Collections (e.g. National Health Survey and Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers) Labour Statistics (e.g. Labour Force Survey) |
| Australian Council for Educational Research | Longitudinal Literacy and Numeracy Study Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth Programme for International Student Assessment Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study |
| Australian Institute of Criminology | Australian Crime: Facts and Figures Drug Use Monitoring in Australia Juveniles in Detention data set Drug Use Careers of Offenders Survey National Deaths in Custody Program National Homicide Monitoring Program |
| Australian Institute of Family Studies | Australian Temperament Project Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (under contract to FaCSIA) |
| Australian Institute of Health and Welfare | Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set Child Protection Data Collection Children's Services National Minimum Data Set Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set National Cancer Statistics Clearinghouse National Drug Strategy Household Survey National Hospital Morbidity Database National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System National Physical Activity Survey A Picture of Australia's Children SAAP National Data Collection Illicit Drug Reporting System |
| Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer | Australian Secondary School Students Alcohol and Drug Survey |
| Centre for Community Child Health | Australian Early Development Index (under contract to FaCSIA and in partnership with ICHR) |
| Centre on Sex, Health and Society | National Survey of Australian Secondary School Students and Sexual Health |
| Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research | Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (under contract to FaCSIA) |

| Statistical and Research Organisations <i>cont ...</i> | Major Data Collections and Outputs | Main Policy, Programs and Strategies |
|--|---|---|
| National Alcohol and Drug Research Centre | | |
| National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect | | |
| National Centre for Vocational and Education Research | New Apprenticeship Collection Student Outcomes Survey Survey of Employer Use and Views of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) System Survey of Indigenous VET Students Survey of Medium Term Outcomes of VET Students (Down the Track) VET Finance Collection VET Provider Collection | |
| Productivity Commission | Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report Report on Government Services | |
| Telethon Institute for Child Health Research | Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey Australian Early Development Index (under contract to FaCSIA and in partnership with CCCH) | |
| Collaborative Groups | | |
| Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth | | |
| Child and Youth Health Intergovernmental Partnership | | National Public Health Strategic Framework for Children 2005-2008 |
| Cultural Ministers' Council | | |
| Graduate Careers Australia | Graduate Destination Survey Course Experience Questionnaire | |
| Health, Community and Disability Services Ministerial Council | | |
| Housing Ministers' Conference | | |
| Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy | | |
| Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs | National Schools Statistics Collection National Report on Schooling | Framework for Vocational Education in Schools National Goals for Schooling in the 21st Century Stepping Forward—improving pathways for all young people |
| Ministerial Council on the Administration of Justice | | |
| National Investment for the Early Years | | |

INTRODUCTION

As noted in Chapter 1, development of this Plan commenced with a series of consultations with a wide range of stakeholder agencies in the policy and research fields relevant to children and youth. Initial consultation focussed on identifying the key policy issues for the stakeholders. These issues were articulated and discussed in the information paper *Key Issues Relating to Children and Youth, Australia 2005* (cat. no. 4908.0), available on the ABS website. Using these key issues as a basis for discussion, subsequent consultations with major national stakeholders (as described in Chapter 2) resulted in the identification of and agreement on the priority areas for statistical data development. In total, ten areas of priority were agreed to. Seven of these areas relate to the key issues [three are relevant to children (0 to 14 years) and four to youth (15 to 24 years)]. These are:

- improve data on childhood and maternal health;
- expand and update data on the abuse and neglect of children;
- improve data on children's learning and development;
- improve data on youth educational attainment and participation;
- improve data about transitions to independent living;
- improve data on the social participation of youth; and
- improve data about risk behaviours for youth.

The remaining three areas of priority that were identified and agreed upon were cross-cutting issues. These are:

- develop and promulgate the use of standards and concepts relating to children and youth;
- improve the range and quality of data on specific target populations of children and youth (e.g. Indigenous; culturally and linguistically diverse; those with a disability; and those from disadvantaged backgrounds); and
- improve the range and quality of small area data available on children and youth.

During the consultations, stakeholders also identified specific data development needs within each priority area and these are presented in full in Appendix 2.

Consultations also identified three further priority directions for statistical development work in the field. These are:

- increase collaboration and coordination in statistical data development work;
- improve the use of existing datasets on children and youth; and
- improve data collections that allow pathways to be identified.

Together, these priority areas (i.e. including key and cross-cutting issues and priority directions) form the framework of 13 priority areas for statistical data development in the field.

INTRODUCTION

continued

This chapter presents a summary of each of the 13 agreed priority areas for data development action. The order in which the priority areas are presented does not imply any ranking by importance.

 AGREED PRIORITY AREAS
FOR STATISTICAL DATA
DEVELOPMENT

For each priority area, the section *User perspective* provides an overview of the priority area from a user perspective, identifying the statistical issues and/or priority data development needs (refer to Appendix 2 for more detailed information on the data development needs). The section following discusses selected data sources or activities relevant to the priority area.

The following priority areas are organised according to the key issues framework.

KEY ISSUE PRIORITIES

IMPROVE DATA ON CHILDHOOD AND MATERNAL HEALTH [1]

User perspective

There is a wide body of research supporting the view that the health of the mother (especially during pregnancy and the post natal period) and the health of the child, particularly in the early years of life, influence health and wellbeing patterns throughout the life cycle. Therefore, interventions in relation to maternal and early childhood health are an important way of improving the health of the population overall.

Childhood health is an important issue with numerous health and welfare policies aimed at improving both the health of children and mothers. Through consultation data users have identified a range of data needs that are not currently being met through existing sources (see below). These include: improving childhood injury data; developing data on a broader range of maternal health risk factors; updating and expanding data on children's nutrition; improving data on children's dental health; updating and expanding data on children's mental health and social/emotional development; and developing better measures of children's physical activity.

Selected data sources

A wide range of data sources relating to childhood and maternal health are available. Some of these include:

- the ABS' ongoing National Health Surveys which provide data on maternal health status, risk factors and health related actions taken, as well as data on breast-feeding and childhood immunisation;
- the AIHW's National Perinatal Data Collection, which provides national information on the pregnancy and childbirth experiences of mothers, as well as the characteristics and outcomes of their babies;
- regular state and territory health departments' telephone surveys which collect data on a range of issues including nutrition, physical activity, emotional development and health related actions;
- jurisdictional administrative data collections on births, deaths and hospital separations; and
- the LSAC, currently in its early years, which will provide an analysis of the health and wellbeing of Australian children from birth.

KEY ISSUE PRIORITIES

continued

EXPAND AND UPDATE DATA ON THE ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN [2]

User perspective

This issue focuses on those children who are in need of protection. This includes children who have been abused (physically, sexually or emotionally), neglected or otherwise harmed, and children who are at risk of such harm due to their parents not being able to provide adequate care and protection for them. Child abuse and neglect may be associated with multiple risk factors such as low socio-economic status, family disruption, domestic violence and substance abuse. Children in need of protection are of concern because of the profound negative effect abuse and neglect can have on their health and wellbeing, both in the short- and long-term.

Selected data sources

There are many stakeholders across the field with policy and program responsibilities for this sub-population of children. From a statistical data perspective, a large gap in the available information base has been identified by data users. Currently, data are only available on those incidents brought to the attention of authorities, be that abuse, neglect, homelessness or experience of crime. Data are needed on both reported and unreported cases of abuse and neglect. Data are also needed on the outcomes (e.g. education, health and employment) for children and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect. Improved data are also needed on children's and young people's experience of violence, both within and external to the family home.

Due to the difficulties in collecting data on abuse and neglect, the majority of data on the abuse and neglect of children are sourced from administrative collections. Reports on the incidence of different forms of abuse and neglect can be obtained from the annual AIHW collections: Child Protection Notifications, Investigations and Substantiations; Children under Care and Protection Orders; and Children in Out-of-Home Care. The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection includes information about people seeking and receiving accommodation support. The data provide information on children and young people experiencing homelessness as a result of various reasons including family conflict and/or domestic violence. The ABS' annual collections of crime and justice data show the level and nature of recorded crime (including assault and sexual assault) and records details regarding victims of recorded crime.

IMPROVE DATA ON CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT [3]

User perspective

Children's learning relates to all learning settings that occur up to and including primary school years. This covers early learning experiences, both formal (preschool, child care centres, school) and informal learning settings (homes, play groups). Research suggests that experiences in the early years can have major impacts on life chances. Further, quality early learning and care experiences in the years before school lay the foundation for a smooth transition to primary school and support improved educational outcomes.

KEY ISSUE PRIORITIES*continued**User perspective continued*

Primary school years are also very important to a child's learning and the successful transition from primary to secondary school is an important influence on a person's later learning experience and educational success. Involvement in learning and development activities is an important aspect of children's social participation. This issue is of major importance to governments, both commonwealth and state/territory. While statistical data needs have been well catered for through a wide range of sources and initiatives, recent changes in policy focus and direction have led to the need for new data. These needs include:

- improved data on early childhood learning (including participation in early childhood education programs) and links to children's development and outcomes;
- data on the supply of early childhood services;
- data on the parent's role in children's early learning and development;
- data on children's attendance and participation in different types of learning activities, including pre-primary and primary school; and
- data on the transition from primary to secondary school.

Selected data sources

Data available to inform issues on children's learning and development are sourced from a range of administrative, survey and census collections. Information on children enrolled in school, both government and non-government, is available from state and territory administrative collections. Data on child care are collected by the ABS Child Care Survey and the FaCSIA's Child Care Census. The ABS Census of Population and Housing provides data on pre-school students, as does the DEST's National Indigenous Pre-school Census. Data on reading, writing and numeracy outcomes are collected annually for Year 3, 5 and 7 students throughout Australia and published as part of the National Report on Schooling. The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) collects data on mathematics and science assessments for students in Year 4 and Year 8. Administrative data on early childhood services are fragmented reflecting different roles and responsibilities across levels of government.

IMPROVE DATA ON YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND PARTICIPATION [4]

User perspective

Individuals can benefit from the opportunity early in life to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and understanding necessary for lifelong learning, employment and full participation in society. Education is essential to providing young people with skills and knowledge for future employment, as well as providing an environment for the development of social and life skills. In addition, higher levels of education, in particular literacy, have been associated with improved health and wellbeing.

As for children, governments have responsibilities for providing formal and informal education to young people and assist them in developing the skills and/or qualifications necessary to enter the labour market and make the transition to independent adulthood. Data users in this sector have highlighted the need for improvements to existing data

KEY ISSUE PRIORITIES*continued**User perspective continued*

sources to assist them in providing better and more targeted education services. These needs include:

- improved data on the participation in vocational and technical education (VTE) and the links between VTE and employment outcomes;
- data on the links between young people's education participation, education outcomes, career choices and sources of career advice used; and
- improved measures of participation in education across all sectors (e.g. government, non-government, VTE and university).

Selected data sources

Relevant data sources for this key issue include:

- the ABS' annual Survey of Education and Work which collects data on participation in education, patterns of study and levels of educational attainment;
- the ABS' annual National School Statistics Collection, which presents state and territory administrative data on young people in secondary school;
- literacy, numeracy and science outcomes for secondary school students (15 year-olds) from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA);
- the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY), managed by the DEST and the ACER, which provides data for understanding youth pathways through education, training and into the labour market;
- numerous administrative data collections on participation in further education including the DEST's Higher Education Student Data Collection and the NCVER's Vocational Education and Training Statistics collections; and
 - the Census of Population and Housing collects data on the educational participation and attainment of young people which can be cross-classified with a wide range of socio-demographic variables including occupation, labour force status and income, as well as providing data for specific population groups and small geographic areas.

IMPROVE DATA ABOUT TRANSITIONS TO INDEPENDENT LIVING [5]*User perspective*

Young people are in a transition phase from being dependent children to independent adults. This transition phase varies in duration and can involve numerous steps after leaving school (e.g. undertaking further education prior to entering full-time paid employment). Young people who have been unable to make this transition successfully can face significant barriers to gaining full-time employment and financial security in the longer-term. In addition, particular groups of young people have been identified as being at greatest risk of making unsuccessful transitions to independent living. For young people failure to make an effective transition can have a detrimental impact on the quality of their lives in both the short- and long-term, across a number of areas.

A range of agencies across both the government and non-government sectors have responsibilities in this area. Statistical information needs are currently served through a range of sources but users have identified deficiencies and gaps. The main areas of need which are not currently being met through these sources are:

KEY ISSUE PRIORITIES

*continued**User perspective continued*

- improved data on the pathways between education and employment;
- improved data on transition experiences after leaving school, particularly for disadvantaged groups (including Indigenous youth, young people with a disability and illness (including mental illness), young people with caring responsibilities and homeless youth);
- improved collection of administrative data on youth transitions to independent living (e.g. data to identify young people's access, and use of, welfare);
- improved data on young people who are not engaged in either work, study or social activity for extended periods; and
- data on the social aspects of the transition to adulthood (e.g. formation of social, sexual and family relationships).

Selected data sources

A number of data sources are available to inform this priority area. The ABS collections include the annual Survey of Education and Work, the monthly Labour Force Survey and the annual Job Search Experience Survey. The LSAY provide data on young people's experiences of leaving education, gaining employment and the transition to adulthood. The annual Graduate Destination Survey and the Graduate Outcomes Survey collect information on higher education and VTE graduates' experiences of entry into the labour force. The FaCSIA's Longitudinal Data Set is based on administrative data on income support from Centrelink and provides key demographic characteristics and a detailed income support history for a selected cohort of young persons.

IMPROVE DATA ON THE SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH [6]

User perspective

Social participation is the active engagement and interaction of people within the community. Positive social participation provides opportunities for personal development, education and building of social networks, all of which are important for individual health and wellbeing. In addition, communities benefit from such participation through the provision of services and activities that might not otherwise occur, and the building of social networks between community members. Negative social participation has consequences for young people and it is important to understand the factors leading to it.

Data users require information to assist them to understand the social participation of youth, including the barriers to this participation, so as to develop appropriate services for those most in need. While current sources of data provide some information, more is required. In particular, data development is needed to improve measures of youth social participation and social cohesion, for both older and younger youth. Also data are needed to identify youth networks, including informal settings and connections to the community. Data are also sought on the barriers to social participation and negative social relationships and participation. In addition to specific data needs, further work needs to be undertaken to define many of the concepts used in this area before work on collecting appropriate data can begin.

KEY ISSUE PRIORITIES

*continued**Selected data sources*

Although the concept of social participation is relatively new and as such methods of measurement are in their infancy and evolving, there are a number of relevant data sources available. The ABS General Social Survey collects data for those aged 18 years and over on social networks, cultural and recreational activities, social participation, personal safety and aspects of wellbeing. Other relevant ABS collections include the Survey of Voluntary Work (only 18 years and over), Time Use Survey, Crime and Safety Survey, and the Personal Safety Survey. The latter two providing data on barriers to social participation, such as fear of crime and personal safety issues. The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth include data on young people's participation in volunteer, leisure and non-formal learning activities. The HILDA Survey collects longitudinal information of a wide range of areas of social concern relevant to youth and social participation.

IMPROVE DATA ABOUT RISK BEHAVIOURS FOR YOUTH [7]

User perspective

Youth is an important time for developing attitudes that will influence behaviours throughout life. As young people gain greater independence, they are exposed to new experiences, some of which may result in behaviours that lead to poor health or poor living conditions, in both the short and long-term. These behaviours can include: tobacco use; excessive alcohol use; illicit drug use; poor nutrition and diet; inadequate physical exercise; unprotected sex; dangerous driving; self-harm; and involvement in criminal activity.

Government departments and agencies with portfolio or service delivery responsibilities, as well as many non-government organisations in the areas of health, community services and crime and justice, are major users of statistical data with relevance to this issue. Their information requirements are many and diverse. While existing data sources are plentiful, a number of data development needs have been identified by users as important to address. These are:

- improved data on youth contact with the justice system, including data on the outcomes (education, employment and social) for young people who have been in contact with the juvenile justice system;
- improved data on young person's injury, in particular related to violence;
- updated and expanded data on youth mental health, including data on long-term outcomes, pathways and risk and protective factors;
- improved data on multiple risk factors;
- improved data on youth reproduction and sexual health;
- current data on youth nutrition, including rates of overweight and obesity; and
- improved measures of physical activity.

Selected data sources

There are a large number of data sources to inform policy across this broad area of activity. The ABS ongoing National Health Survey provides data on injury, accidents, alcohol consumption, smoking, height and weight, as well as a number of other health related issues. Data on morbidity and mortality are available from jurisdictional administrative collections, in particular notifiable diseases, hospital separations and

KEY ISSUE PRIORITIES

*continued**Selected data sources continued*

causes of death. Other important sources include the AIHW's Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set, the AIC's Juveniles in Detention collection, the ABS Prisoners in Australia collection (which presents administrative data from the annual prison census) and AIHW's National Drug Strategy Household Survey. The ongoing Australian Secondary Students Alcohol and Drug Survey provides national and state estimates for those aged 12–17 years for alcohol and drug use. Data on mental health are available from the 1998 Child and Adolescent Component of the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (conducted by the then Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care) and the ABS National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults (only 18 years and over). Both these surveys provide data on the prevalence of a range of major mental disorders.

CROSS-CUTTING
PRIORITIES

There were three cross-cutting priority areas identified. Each of these areas span the statistical field in terms of relevance across all areas of social concern relating to children and youth and hence overlap the key issues.

DEVELOP AND PROMULGATE THE USE OF STANDARDS AND CONCEPTS
RELATING TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH [8]*User perspective*

Across the field, users identified the need for improved comparability of data across collections and jurisdictions. In particular, better comparability of administrative collections across jurisdictions would significantly improve data usability (e.g. abuse and neglect data, homeless data). The wider application of such data is hampered by a lack of comparability in terms of both data holdings (frequency, reference period, population) and meta-data (scope, definitions and standards). Data comparability could also be improved through the better coordination of survey methodologies, facilitating greater comparability between survey collections (e.g. comparability between the ABS General Social Survey and the ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, relating to Indigenous and remoteness data).

Selected data activities

The development of statistical standards is an ongoing activity that many agencies in the field are involved in. For example, developing statistical standards and ensuring they are complied with is a function of the ABS, as noted in the ABS' legislation. The ABS' website contains information on classifications, concepts and standards many of which pertain to children and youth including: *Information Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Dictionary of Standards for Education and Training Statistics* (cat. no. 4232.0.55.001); *Education Variables, 2002* (cat. no. 1246.0); *Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001* (cat. no. 1271.0); *Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern, 2000* (cat. no. 1248); and *Family, Household and Income Unit Variables, 1995* (cat. no. 1286).

CROSS-CUTTING

PRIORITIES *continued**Selected data activities continued*

Other agencies in the field also undertake work to identify and promote standards. The AIHW produces a number of data dictionaries including the *National Health Data Dictionary* (cat. no. HWI 88) and the *National Community Services Data Dictionary* (cat. no. HWI 65).

In addition to the development of statistical standards, a number of projects are underway to promulgate the use of statistical standards. National minimum datasets (NMDS), developed for a particular collection area, are undertaken to incorporate agreed standards for the collection, processing and dissemination of data across different jurisdictions. A recent example is the NMDS relating to juvenile justice data. The Juvenile Justice NMDS is a collaborative effort between the AIHW and the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators to collect and report, from all states and territories, nationally consistent data on juvenile justice supervision.

IMPROVE THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF DATA ON SPECIFIC TARGET POPULATIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH [9]

User perspective

Data users have highlighted the need for statistical information to better understand particular target groups. The main target groups identified during the consultation were Indigenous; Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD); children and youth with disabilities; and socio-economically disadvantaged children and youth. Children and young people in these populations are often the most in need of support and at whom policy is often directed. The specific data needs identified by stakeholders for these target populations are presented in Appendix 2.

Smaller populations and issues with identification present a number of difficulties in enumerating these groups, in particular through household surveys. Over-sampling or special methodologies are often required to produce accurate and reliable estimates, as well as the use of complex question modules to identify the specific groups (e.g. those with a disability or those from a CALD background). These enumeration issues often make collecting data on such groups time consuming and expensive.

For Indigenous populations, in particular, there is the issue of self-identification (or identification by a parent or guardian) across all collection types (census, surveys and administrative collections). In addition to issues of not identifying, there can also be incidences of individuals identifying differently in different collections. Both time and circumstances can affect responses to Indigenous identification. This presents issues of quality and comparability.

The identification of socio-economically disadvantaged children and youth is also problematic. There is no standard definition of this group, particularly in terms of the range of characteristics that need to be measured to identify them. Part of the reason for this is that the more characteristics used to identify them, the more questions are required adding to respondent burden and cost.

CROSS-CUTTING

PRIORITIES *continued**Selected data activities*

Statistical standards, classifications and specially designed question modules have been used for some time to aid in the accurate identification of target populations. The ABS has adopted a standard Indigenous identification question and promulgates the use of this question in the census, surveys and administrative collections. Indigenous administrative data are being improved through the Indigenous Administrative Data Project. This project has supported and promoted the implementation of standard question wording in relevant collections, both ABS and non-ABS, in particular collections relating to births, deaths and hospital separations.

The ABS has also adopted standard question modules for the identification of persons with a disability across several collections. Data on those with a need for assistance, including those with a disability, will be improved through a new question module in the 2006 Census. This, combined with the introduction of mesh blocks, will provide for better identification of those with a need for assistance at small area levels. Mesh blocks are discussed in more detail under Priority Area 10.

The ABS has produced standards relating to CALD populations which are available from the ABS' website in *Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity, 1999* (cat. no. 1289.0). The standards, which were endorsed by Council of Ministers of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs in April 1999, include recommended questions, classifications, coding structures and output categories for use in both interview-based and self-enumerated data collections.

The use of mesh blocks in the 2006 Census will facilitate dissemination and analysis of data on those children and youth from CALD backgrounds for a greater range of small areas.

Data on socio-economically disadvantaged populations have been of interest for some time. The ABS uses an index, called Socioeconomic Index for Areas (SEIFA), for identifying geographic areas of socio-economically advantaged/disadvantaged populations. Further information on SEIFA is available from the ABS' website in an information paper entitled *Census of Population and Housing- Socioeconomic Index For Areas, Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 2039.0). The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth collect extensive longitudinal data on young people's social and economic backgrounds and experiences.

Data on socio-economically disadvantaged children, young people and families will be improved through a project currently being undertaken by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM). The project, to develop a child-centred socio-economic index at Statistical Local Area level, will provide the basis for a number of research projects looking at social exclusion and the impacts of socio-economic status on life outcomes.

CROSS-CUTTING
PRIORITIES *continued*

IMPROVE THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF SMALL AREA DATA AVAILABLE
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH [10]

User perspective

Most programs and support services for families, children and young people are delivered at the regional and/or community level. Consequently, data at these geographic levels are crucial to assess the need for such services (e.g. health, education, transport). Stakeholders identified a range of data needs at various geographic levels, in particular for the target populations discussed above. Data at the smaller geographic levels are required from both administrative and survey collections.

Collecting data for the smaller geographic levels (e.g. neighbourhood, catchment area) is difficult for a number of reasons. Household surveys do not often have sample sizes big enough to provide accurate and reliable estimates. Small area output from census, survey and administrative data collections may also be restricted due to confidentiality concerns.

Many of the issues surrounding production of small geographic area data are covered in the ABS *Information Development Plan for Rural and Regional Statistics* (cat. no. 1362.0). The ABS has also recently established a National Centre for Rural and Regional Statistics to further work in this important area.

Selected data activities

The main source of small area data on children and youth is the ABS' Census of Population and Housing. From the 2006 Census, improvements in small area data will be achieved through the introduction of mesh blocks. Mesh blocks are micro-level spatial units (around 30–60 households) which can be aggregated to generate customised regions, enabling dissemination of Census data for non-standard geographic areas (e.g. school catchment areas).

Methods exist to create small area estimates based on survey estimates for larger regions using modelling techniques. These have been applied most recently to the results of the ABS' 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. The methodology allows production of estimates of the proportion of persons in private dwellings with disabilities, classified by some degree of severity, at the Local Government Area level. Such techniques might be feasible for producing certain indicators relating to children and youth.

OTHER DATA
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

In addition to identifying the specific data development needs for each priority area, users also noted a number of drivers for statistical data development across the field of children and youth statistics. These drivers or strategic directions have the capacity to facilitate wide-ranging improvements within the field, if adopted or implemented in appropriate statistical development activities.

INCREASE COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION IN STATISTICAL DATA
DEVELOPMENT WORK

There is increasing recognition amongst stakeholders of the need to work collaboratively and in more coordinated ways when undertaking statistical data development work.

OTHER DATA
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
continued

INCREASE COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION IN STATISTICAL DATA
DEVELOPMENT WORK *continued*

With so many government agencies, research organisations and collaborative groups involved in data collection (both survey and administrative), improved coordination was identified as crucial to support better relevancy, timeliness, dissemination and use of data. Improved coordination is also critical to reduce data duplication and support more efficient use of resources. Collaborative approaches are acknowledged as very important when seeking to improve the data available to the field. Collaborative approaches not only allow for improvements at the input stage of a data collection (e.g. the pooling of financial resources and data needs), but also provide a means for the sharing of data, knowledge and related analyses benefiting the field as a whole.

Better coordination of data collection activities will also support improvements in the comparability of collections. Many collections, in particular administrative, are produced for an agency's own purpose with little regard to possible wider application of the data. This approach has led to many data sources being incompatible with other collections, limiting their use in the field and also the information that can be gleaned from them. A much wider use of data can be achieved through the use of standards across a number of areas including survey methodology; collection scope; definitions and concepts used; question modules; and data edits.

In recent years, technological advances coupled with the increased recognition of the benefits of working collaboratively have led to greater coordination and collaboration in data collection and development activities. The increasing whole-of-government approaches to policy and program development have also given impetus to this change.

Following are examples of activities underway to improve coordination and collaboration in data development, collection and dissemination.

- The National Data Network (NDN) is a collaborative trial endeavour led by the ABS. The NDN aims to provide a library of data holdings relevant to policy analysis and research. When fully functional, it is hoped the NDN will facilitate the discovery, sharing and integration of data, and provide support for collaborative initiatives in data analysis. Currently, the NDN is in a demonstration phase and a number of agencies are participating, including the ABS, the AIHW and the ICHR.
- Activities undertaken by the ARACY create opportunities for people to work together and find practical solutions to issues of significance to the health, development and wellbeing of Australia's children and youth. The ARACY is working to create the conditions to support knowledge development and dissemination through creating common electronic environments; establishing a clearinghouse; resolving issues to do with Intellectual Property rights; and facilitating interaction, for example through networked seminars and discussion events.

OTHER DATA
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
continued

INCREASE COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION IN STATISTICAL DATA
DEVELOPMENT WORK *continued*

- The Headline Child Health, Development and Wellbeing Indicators project was commissioned under the Child Health and Well-being Reform Initiative arising from the Australian Health Ministers' Reform Agenda. This project will provide a set of indicators to monitor the health, development and wellbeing of Australia's children (0–12 years), for use across the field. Underpinning processes to facilitate data collection, improved data comparability, analysis and reporting will also be explored. To date priority areas and related indicators (where available) have been identified and work is now underway to progress the project.

IMPROVE THE USE OF EXISTING DATASETS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

There is widespread acknowledgement among the user community that there are a large number of relevant datasets, from both administrative and survey collections, that are under-utilised and almost certainly have the potential to meet many of the identified data development needs. Under-utilisation is occurring for a number of reasons: users may be unaware of the existence of these data or their potential value to them; access to the data may be restricted for confidentiality, privacy or ethical reasons; or access might be limited by a lack of appropriate technology to access the data. Given the potential of these collections, there is a need to promote and facilitate greater access, where applicable, to such collections and encourage better analysis of their data and promote research findings.

IDPs, such as this one, are one tool to support the identification and exposure of existing, but under-utilised data sets. These Plans, through extensive consultation with data providers, identify and document data collections and sources available for a particular subject matter area. There are a number of IDPs in existence including the *National Community Services Information Plan* (cat. no. AUS 14) and *National Public Health Information Development Plan* (cat. no. HWI 22), both available from the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). The ABS has also produced a number of IDPs, including the *National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice* (cat. no. 4520.0) and the *Information Paper: Regional Research in Australia - the Statistical Dimension: an Information Development Plan for Rural and Regional Statistics* (cat. no. 1362.0).

Two national initiatives which will, in time, improve the use of existing data collections are the National Statistical Service and the NDN.

The National Statistical Service (NSS) is a cross-government initiative, led by the ABS, which seeks to improve statistical information produced by all levels of government, in terms of its quality, relevance and availability. This includes statistics generated as a by-product of the administrative processes of government, as well as the outputs of statistical collections conducted to support government activities (surveys and census collections). The key benefit of the NSS will be the availability of a larger range of relevant and high quality statistics to inform decision making. In addition, the NSS will support forums and networks, at national and jurisdictional levels, providing members the opportunity to discuss statistical issues and emerging requirements, as well as progress developments.

OTHER DATA
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
continued

IMPROVE THE USE OF EXISTING DATASETS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
continued

The NDN, as previously mentioned, will provide an on-line library of data holdings. The NDN will be a search facility allowing users to identify and access meta-data and/or data from a large number of data collections not previously available. Data holdings are held and controlled by their custodians allowing for data confidentiality to be retained. The NDN was developed in response to the concern that a wealth of data exists but is not identifiable or accessible by users.

IMPROVE DATA COLLECTIONS THAT ALLOW PATHWAYS TO BE
IDENTIFIED

Across all the agreed priority areas, users have indicated a strong demand for longitudinal data on children and youth. Such data not only allow causal pathways and outcomes to be identified, but also enable the identification of at-risk populations. Alongside the need for an increase in the collection of longitudinal data is the need to promote the results of this research to support better policy and program development.

There are a number of well-established collections currently in the field that are providing valuable sources of longitudinal data. These include: the LSAC; the LSAY; the HILDA Survey; and the DoHA's Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health. Other longitudinal data collections, either planned or recently underway, include the LSIC and the FaCSIA's Youth in Focus survey.

Also planned is the establishment of the Statistical Longitudinal Census of Population and Housing Data Set starting with the 2006 Census. Using a five per cent sample, there will be the capacity to build a longitudinal dataset with samples matched from successive census collections, as well as the potential for other approved projects to statistically match this sample with ABS survey datasets.

There is also considerable interest, particularly from users in state and territory agencies, in linking data between administrative collections with a view to identifying causal pathways and outcomes. Following are two examples of data linkage initiatives.

The Data Linkage Unit, a collaborative unit between Western Australia's Department of Health, the University of Western Australia and the ICHR, was the first state based unit to achieve success in this area. The Data Linkage Unit has developed a core Data Linkage System which consists of links within, and between, the State's seven core population health datasets. Data spanning 35 years have been linked, connecting data about health events for individuals in Western Australia (including children and young people).

The AIHW has established a Community Services Integration and Linkage Unit to facilitate linkage of community services data collections. A number of data collections in the community services field now contain a common statistical linkage key consisting of a certain combination of letters from the person's name, their date of birth and sex. This allows records belonging to the same individual to be matched anonymously and combined where appropriate. The key is not a unique identifier so there is a small probability of error, which means that it can be used only for statistical purposes and not for the identification of particular individuals. It has been well-tested and used successfully for statistical analysis in an increasing number of data sets. Linked data sets

OTHER DATA

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

continued

IMPROVE DATA COLLECTIONS THAT ALLOW PATHWAYS TO BE

IDENTIFIED *continued*

can be very valuable for statistical analysis and policy development work. For example, linking child protection data, juvenile justice data and data from the SAAP could be very valuable in relation to identifying the outcomes of the abused and neglected children.

CHAPTER 4

DATA DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS FOR AGREED PRIORITY AREAS

INTRODUCTION

Ten priority areas for data development relating to key and cross-cutting issues were outlined in Chapter 3. Each of these areas has a range of specific data development needs that users identified during consultation. The full list of needs for each priority area can be found in Appendix 2. It is not, however, feasible in this Plan to address all the data development needs identified for each priority area so an assessment of priorities within each area was required.

DEVELOPING PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Assessment of the relative priority of data development needs was undertaken having regard to the views of key stakeholders, primarily expressed at a workshop conducted as part of the development of this Plan, and by giving consideration to the following criteria:

- recognition of data development action/s already underway or planned which would address the need, either partially or completely;
- a link between the need and policy;
- high level of cross-agency interest in addressing the need; and
- potential support and agency collaboration likely for any new data development action(s).

The following table presents, for each of the 10 priority areas, those needs assessed as having priority for development action, together with the relevant data development action/s addressing each need. The table is divided into three columns. The first column lists the data development needs relevant to the priority area. The second column identifies the agency, or agencies, which are taking a lead in progressing data development actions to address the need. The third column presents the data development action/s, either underway or planned, that will contribute to meeting some aspect of, or all of, the need.

PRIORITY AREA 1: IMPROVE DATA ON CHILDHOOD AND MATERNAL HEALTH

| Data development need | Lead agencies | Data development actions |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Develop data on maternal risk factors | FaCSIA and AIFS | The LSAC will provide data on how child outcomes are affected by the family's socio-economic environment. Data on parent's labour force participation, educational attainment, psychological capital, stress and mental health will be collected along with data on the quality of the couple's relationship. |
| | ABS | The ABS proposes to explore the capacity of recent and upcoming surveys to support analysis of the characteristics of mothers of young children, including their current health status and risk factor behaviours. Potential data sources include the 2003 Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers, the 2004/05 National Health Survey, the planned 2007 Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing. The results of this analysis may inform the development of future surveys, including the 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. |
| | ABS | The ABS will explore the suitability of ABS collections to support the understanding of maternal health risk factors, particularly during pregnancy, and the relationship to health outcomes for babies born. |
| Update and expand data on children's nutrition | DoHA | The National Children's Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey will collect detailed information about food and nutrient intakes, as well as physical measurements of height and weight for children aged 2 to 16 years. It is also intended that the survey will provide data comparable with earlier nutrition surveys conducted in 1985 and 1995. The proposed enumeration for the survey is early 2007. Preliminary results will be available in late 2007. |
| | FaCSIA and AIFS | The LSAC will provide longitudinal data on children's eating habits, as well as measuring height, weight and girth. |
| Update and expand data on children's mental health and social/emotional development | FaCSIA and AIFS | The LSAC will provide longitudinal data on children's cognitive, social and emotional development. Data on the family and social environment will also be collected which has the potential to identify risk and protective factors related to social and emotional development, as well as mental health. |
| | FaCSIA, CCCH and ICHR | The AEDI collects data on young children's development including: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills; and communication skills and general knowledge. Data are collected during the first year of formal schooling. Over three years (2004-2007), 61 communities from around Australia are expected to implement the AEDI. Results are available from the AEDI website (www.australianedi.org.au). |
| | ABS | The ABS will draw to the attention of relevant policy and jurisdictional forums the need for improved information in an effort to gain support for appropriate data development action. |
| | ABS | The ABS will undertake ongoing work in collaboration with relevant information development committees to determine the appropriate strategies for collection of data on children's mental health. |

Develop data on measures of children's physical activity

DoHA

The National Children's Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey will collect detailed information about physical activity levels for children aged 2 to 16 years. The proposed enumeration for the survey is early 2007. Preliminary results will be available in late 2007.

FaCSIA and AIFS

The LSAC will provide data detailing children's time-use patterns, including the use of their time for activities such as outdoor activities, unstructured play, watching television and reading. Such data will allow for the identification of time spent undertaking both physical and passive activities.

PRIORITY AREA 2: EXPAND AND UPDATE DATA ON THE ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN

| Data Development Need | Lead agencies | Data development actions |
|--|--|---|
| Improve and expand data on the incidence and prevalence of abuse and neglect of children | AIHW and NCPaSS | The Child Protection and Support Services National Minimum Data Set will contain a statistical linkage key to the unit record collection. This will enable a child's movement in the child protection system to be analysed across jurisdictions and over time. It would also enable more comprehensive research into outcomes for young people through linkage with other data collections (such as the Juvenile Justice NMDS and the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Data Collection). |
| | NAPCAN | The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect is proposing a study to measure the incidence and prevalence (both reported and unreported) of child abuse and neglect in Australia. The study would begin in 2008. A source of funding is being sought and partnerships will be considered. |
| | ABS | The 2005 Personal Safety Survey collected limited data (from those aged 18 years and over) on experience of physical and sexual abuse as a child. This survey updated and extended the Women's Safety Survey (1996), which only surveyed women. Data were released in August 2006 and are available on the ABS website. Options for future surveys in this field are being considered as part of the ABS current review of its household survey program. Also refer to <i>Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005</i> (cat. no. 4520.0) p.38 action 7.1c. |
| | ABS | The ABS will establish a group to explore how data might be generated on abuse and neglect and determine what indicators are amenable to collection via various vehicles (including surveys). |
| Develop data on outcomes for children who have experienced abuse and neglect | AIHW and NCPaSS | The Child Protection and Support Services National Minimum Data Set will contain a statistical linkage key to the unit record collection which will enable a child's movements in the child protection system to be analysed across jurisdictions and over time. |
| Expand domestic/family violence data to include children | ABS and the Police Statisticians Group | Improvements to the quality of the Relationship of Offender to Victim indicator are proposed to enable better reporting of domestic/family violence events and support improved identification of parent/child violence. Also refer to <i>Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005</i> (cat. no. 4520.0) p.38 action 7.1b. |
| | ABS | A feasibility study is being conducted to identify what indicators of domestic/family violence are currently collected by police and how these could be integrated into collection systems throughout the crime and justice sectors. Also refer to <i>Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005</i> (cat. no. 4520.0) p.38 action 7.1a. |
| | ABS | <p>A domestic violence data working group has been formed to consider issues and develop proposals concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a framework for domestic/family violence • definitions relating to family and domestic violence • scope of family violence statistical requirements • measurement issues • data sources. <p>Also refer to <i>Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005</i> (cat. no. 4520.0) p.38 action 7.2a.</p> |

PRIORITY AREA 3: IMPROVE DATA ON CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

| Data Development Need | Lead agencies | Data development actions |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Improve data on early childhood learning, development and outcomes | FaCSIA and AIFS | The LSAC will provide data on children's participation in early childhood education, including educational activities in the home. Also refer to <i>Information paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Plan to Improve the Quality, Coverage and Use of Education and Training Statistics, 2004</i> (cat. no. 4231.0) p.29. |
| | FaCSIA, CCCH and ICHR | The AEDI collects data on young children's development including: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills; and communication skills and general knowledge. Data are collected during the first year of formal schooling. Over three years (2004-2007), 61 communities from around Australia are expected to implement the AEDI. Results are available from the AEDI website (www.australianedi.org.au). |
| | ABS | The ABS' National Centre for Education and Training Statistics (NCETS) is undertaking a project to improve the collection, sourcing and reporting of childhood learning data. The NCETS will seek to consolidate and improve the quality and coverage of information on early childhood learning, along with assessing the capacity of survey and administrative collections to address data gaps, information needs and data linkage opportunities. Other development activities in the area will be considered in this project. |
| | ABS | An Early Years Learning Survey is planned for 2008. The survey will measure formal, non-formal and informal learning and development issues in the early years. The age scope and data content for this collection are yet to be clarified. Data content will draw from research into other survey findings. |
| Develop data on the supply of early childhood services | AIHW | An assessment of the implementation options for the Children's Services National Minimum Data Set is currently underway. This dataset will provide nationally comparable data on children who access child care and preschool services, and the child care workforce in these services. The service based administrative collection includes all child care and preschool services that are funded and/or licensed by the Australian or state/territory governments and excludes services that are funded entirely by the private sector and/or local government, as well as child care services which require the attendance of the parent/guardian with the child (e.g. playgroups). Also refer to <i>Information paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Plan to Improve the Quality, Coverage and Use of Education and Training Statistics, 2004</i> (cat. no. 4231.0) p.29. |
| Develop data on parent's involvement in child learning and development | FaCSIA and AIFS | The LSAC will provide longitudinal data on parents' involvement in child learning and development. |
| | ABS | The 2006 Time Use Survey will provide data on the time parents spend with their children (including time spent on specific activities such as playing with, reading to, teaching and reprimanding their children). Results from the 2006 survey are expected to be released in August 2007. |

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| Develop measures of children's education attendance and non-attendance | MCEETYA | The Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs' Performance Measurement and Reporting Taskforce (MCEETYA PMRT) has reviewed current student attendance data and further development of nationally consistent attendance measures is now being considered. |
| Develop data on children's transition from primary to secondary school | ABS | The NCETS will initiate discussions with relevant interested agencies to investigate what and how data might be collected for this need. |

PRIORITY AREA 4: IMPROVE DATA ON YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND PARTICIPATION

| Data Development Need | Lead agencies | Data development actions |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Improve vocational and technical education participation and outcomes data | DEST and NCVER | <i>Mapping the Future: A Forward Plan for Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics 2004–2010</i> is a report outlining three areas of change for the National VTE statistics program, along with 23 proposals for collections and surveys managed by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research. These three areas aim to bring about an extended scope of the information base to include nationally recognised training; linkage between data sets; and widened access and use of VTE statistics. The Plan will be reviewed in early 2007. |
| | MCEETYA and NCVER | The MCEETYA has agreed to a series of recommendations that will bring about improved systems to manage the data collection process and a new collection from 2005, which will align with the Australian VET Management Information Statistical Standard. It is expected that, from 2005, the National Report on Schooling in Australia will report against agreed key performance measures for VET in schools. |
| | ABS | With the release of data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, progressively scheduled from July 2007, the ABS will undertake relevant analytic studies aimed at updating and expanding the range of analysis available to inform this information need. |
| Develop data on young people's education, education outcomes and career choices | DEST and ABS | The 2006 Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey will collect data on literacy and its relationship to education attainment, participation in formal, non-formal and in-formal learning, reasons for participation, non-completion of qualifications, labour force participation and barriers to education and training. The survey will cover persons aged 15–74 in all states and territories. Results from the survey are expected to be released in October 2007. |
| | DEST and ACER | The LSAY track the progress of several groups of young Australians as they move from school into post-secondary education and the labour market. Data are available on school achievement, school completion and participation in further education, including vocational and university education. Also refer to <i>Information paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Plan to Improve the Quality, Coverage and Use of Education and Training Statistics, 2004</i> (cat. no. 4231.0) p.25. |
| | DEST | The DEST is preparing to collect a range of new data related to Structured Workplace Learning, provision of careers advice to students and general provision of careers advice from industry to students from 2006, as part of the monitoring of the Career Advice Australia initiative. |
| | MCEETYA and ABS | Attainment Indicators have been introduced to the <i>National Report on Schooling in Australia</i> , as well as the <i>Report on Government Services</i> . These measures are to be reported at the national level each year compared to the previous year and at the state/territory level for each year compared to the five years previous. |
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| Develop data on young people's education, education outcomes and career choices <i>continued</i> | MCEETYA and ABS | The Data Collection and Reporting Sub-group of the MCEETYA's PMRT is currently developing a common data set (including data items and definitions) for post-school destination surveys. Currently three States (Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria) conduct post-school destination surveys and the Northern Territory is aiming to introduce one in 2007. |
| Improve measures of education participation of young people | DEST | A pilot collection of enrolment data from non-government funded higher education institutions was undertaken in 2004, with a view to full introduction of the collection in the future. The DEST is considering options for the future collection of this data. This will improve data on participation in higher education, through the inclusion of those studying at non-government higher education institutions. Also refer to <i>Information paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Plan to Improve the Quality, Coverage and Use of Education and Training Statistics, 2004</i> (cat. no. 4231.0) p.27. |
| | MCEETYA and ABS | Currently, only school participation rates for full-time students are produced in the National Schools Statistics Collection. Initiatives are underway to obtain ages for part-time students which would enable participation rates for all students to be derived. It is expected that rates for part-time students and all students will be available in 2007. |
| | ABS | The Adult Learning Survey, 2006–07 will measure data on participation in all types of learning. It will be designed to provide data in line with the international requirements of the Adult Education Survey, and will focus on those who have completed their initial education. Also refer to <i>Information paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Plan to Improve the Quality, Coverage and Use of Education and Training Statistics, 2004</i> (cat. no. 4231.0) p.26. |
| | ABS | The NCETS has undertaken research to compile indicators on participation, pathways and outcomes in education and training for Australians. Extensive consultation, research and assessment of appropriate measures and indicators were undertaken to arrive at the final lists of measures. The main output from these projects are suites of policy relevant measures that can be used for comparable reporting between states and territories and over time. It is envisaged that the indicators will be updated and revised on a regular basis as key tools to assist research, analysis and discussion among education and training researchers and policy makers. An ABS information paper presenting the findings of the research is planned for late 2006. |
| | ABS | With the release of data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, progressively scheduled from July 2007, the ABS will undertake relevant analytic studies aimed at updating and expanding the range of analysis available to inform this information need. |

PRIORITY AREA 5: IMPROVE DATA ON THE TRANSITIONS TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

| Data Development Need | Lead agencies | Data development actions |
|--|---|--|
| Improve data on educational and employment pathways | NCVER | Data on the education and employment outcomes of VTE students has been collected through the 2004 <i>Down the Track Survey</i> . The scope of the survey includes 15–24 year old TAFE graduates and module completers who completed the 2002 Student Outcomes Survey. Results are published in <i>Down the Track: TAFE outcomes for people two years on</i> . |
| | NCVER | Analytical and data collection project entitled <i>Stepping Stones? Learning pathways within and beyond VTE for young people</i> will examine patterns of pathways between and within VTE and Higher Education. The project was conducted in 2004 and results are expected to be released in 2006. |
| | MCEETYA | The Data Collection and Reporting Sub-group, which reports to the MCEETYA's PMRT, is currently progressing work towards developing a common data set (including data items and definitions) for post-school destination surveys. Currently three States (Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria) conduct post-school destination surveys and the Northern Territory is aiming to introduce one in 2007. |
| | ABS | With the release of data from the 2006 Census, progressively scheduled from July 2007, the ABS will undertake relevant analytic studies, including cohort analysis, aimed at improving the range of analysis available to inform this information need. |
| Improve the use of administrative data to understand youth transitions to independent living | FaCSIA | The Trans-generational Dataset, based on Centrelink income support data, will be used to improve the understanding of youth transitions to independence. The dataset contains key demographic characteristics and income support history of a selected cohort of young persons and their parents/carers. This administrative dataset will be linked to the information collected in the Youth in Focus panel survey (refer below). |
| Data on social aspects of the transition to adulthood | FaCSIA and Australian National University | The Youth in Focus panel survey will track a cohort of young persons aged 18 years (in 2006) identified in Centrelink administrative data. The cohort will be surveyed in three waves (beginning 2006) on a wide range of topics including family environment, education and work experiences, as well as values and attitudes. The survey data will be linked to Centrelink administrative data on income support of both the young person and their parent/carer (known as the Trans-generational Dataset) to identify patterns and causal mechanisms of inter-generational transmission of disadvantage |
| | ABS | Data on young people living in the parental home will be collected in the Family Transitions and History Survey. Data items for people aged 18-34 years include: whether has left home; number of times left home; age when first left home; age when first returned home; living arrangements when first left home; main reason left home the first time; main reason returned home the last time; main reason has not left home. The survey is being conducted in 2006-07 with data expected to be released in mid-2008. |

PRIORITY AREA 6: IMPROVE DATA ON THE SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH

| Data Development Need | Lead agencies | Data development actions |
|--|---------------|---|
| Develop measures of youth social participation and measures of social cohesion | ABS | The 2006 General Social Survey will collect data on family relationships, friendships, support networks, engagement with the community, personal safety and security, cultural and recreational activities for those aged 18 and over. Data on socio-demographic status will also be collected, allowing the relationship between socio-economic status and social participation to be explored. Results from the 2006 survey are expected to be released in February 2007. |
| | ABS | The 2006 Survey of Voluntary Work will collect data on rates of participation in voluntary work, characteristics of people who volunteer, the types of organisations they work for, and the activities they undertake for those aged 18 and over. Results are expected to be released in February 2007. |

PRIORITY AREA 7: IMPROVE DATA ABOUT THE RISK BEHAVIOURS OF YOUTH

| Data Development Need | Lead agencies | Data development actions |
|---|--|---|
| Improve data on youth contact with the justice system | AIHW | The Juvenile Justice National Minimum Dataset is a new data collection that provides information about young people who are being supervised by juvenile justice departments in Australia. The scope of the data set covers pre-sentence and sentenced supervision both within the community and in detention. The first report published in February 2006 covers the years 2000–01 to 2003–04. The next publication with 2004–05 data is currently scheduled for release in 2007. Also refer to <i>Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005</i> (cat. no. 4520.0) p.37 action 6.1a. |
| | ABS | The ABS' National Criminal Courts Statistics Unit has developed a framework to expand the national criminal courts collection to include Children's Courts (ages 10–19 years). Experimental data for six states and territories was published in the 2004–05 issue of <i>Criminal Courts, Australia</i> . Further significant development is planned and will supply more detailed data items. In addition the National Criminal Courts Data Dictionary (first released in October 2005) will be expanded to include meta data relating to Children's Criminal Courts. Also refer to <i>Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005</i> (cat. no. 4520.0) p.37 action 6.1c. |
| | ABS | The ABS' National Crime Statistics Unit is developing offender based statistics that will include data on juveniles who come to the attention of police. The collection is based on all alleged person offenders initially proceeded against where an alleged offender is aged 10 years and over. Also refer to <i>Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005</i> (cat. no. 4520.0) p.37 action 6.1b. |
| Improve data on young persons injury | AIHW and the Strategic Injury Prevention Partnership | The Strategic Injury Prevention Partnership is interested in using the state and territory computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) health surveys to collect injury data. The AIHW's National Injury Surveillance Unit has proposed a set of about 20 questions for a CATI injury module. Both groups are working with the CATI Technical Reference Group, through the Injury Prevention Population Surveys Interest Group, to develop an agreed set of standards for use with CATI health surveys. |
| | Australian Population Health Development Principal Committee | The National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Plan 2004–2014 describes existing data sources for monitoring injury. It discusses actions to develop and improve data sources and surveillance techniques to support more effective injury control. A priority action of the Plan relevant to data on young people is to advocate for longitudinal research to examine the interplay of risk factors that place young people, particularly young males, at elevated risk of serious injury. |
| Update and expand data on youth mental health | ABS | The 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing will provide data on mental health including the prevalence of selected mental disorders, the level of disability associated with each, the use of health services, and level of help needed as a result of a mental health problem. The scope of this survey has been expanded to include young people aged 16–17 years. Results will be available in late 2008. |
| | ABS | Ongoing work will occur in collaboration with relevant information development committees to determine the appropriate strategies for collection of data on young people's mental health. |

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| Improve data on multiple risk factors | DoHA | The National Co-morbidity Initiative aims to improve data systems and collection methods within the mental health, alcohol and other drug sectors to manage co-morbidity more effectively. The AIHW has prepared a commissioned report on the current state of data collections relating to people with co-existing substance use and mental health disorders. This report makes recommendations on improving the availability and usefulness of data for this population group. DoHA will identify opportunities to implement the report's recommendations in consultation with other jurisdictions, through the implementation of the National Co-morbidity Initiative. |
| | DoHA | A National Data Analysis project will be developed as part of the National Drug Strategy 2004–09 to ensure that information is collected, reported and used appropriately to inform strategic policy development. A monitoring and evaluation framework for the Strategy will also be developed. |
| Improve data on youth nutrition | DoHA | The 2007 National Children's Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey will collect detailed information about food and nutrient intakes, as well as physical measurements of height and weight among adolescents (up to 16 years old). It is also intended that the survey will provide data comparable with earlier nutrition surveys conducted in 1985 and 1995. The proposed enumeration for the survey is early 2007. Preliminary results will be available in late 2007. |
| Improve measures of physical activity for youth | DoHA | The 2007 National Children's Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey will collect detailed information about physical activity levels among adolescents (up to age 17 years). The proposed enumeration for the survey is early 2007. Preliminary results will be available in late 2007. |
| | ABS | The 2005–06 ABS Multi-Purpose Household Survey is collecting data on sport and recreational physical activities. The scope of the survey has been extended to cover those 15 and over, allowing data to be collected on 15–17 year olds for the first time. Results are expected to be available in February 2007. |

PRIORITY AREA 8: DEVELOP AND PROMULGATE THE USE OF STANDARDS AND CONCEPTS RELATING TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

| Data Development Need | Lead agencies | Data development actions |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Develop and promulgate the use of standards and concepts relating to children and young people | AIHW | An assessment of the implementation options for the Children's Services National Minimum Dataset is currently underway. This dataset will provide nationally comparable data on children who access child care and preschool services, and the child care workforce in these services. The service based administrative collection includes all child care and preschool services that are funded and/or licensed by the Australian or state and territory governments and excludes services that are funded entirely by the private sector and/or local government, as well as child care services which require the attendance of the parent/ guardian with the child (e.g. playgroups). Also refer to <i>Information paper: Measuring Learning in Australia: Plan to Improve the Quality, Coverage and Use of Education and Training Statistics, 2004</i> (cat. no. 4231.0) p.29. |
| | AIHW | The Juvenile Justice National Minimum Dataset is a new data collection that provides information about young people who are being supervised by juvenile justice departments in Australia. The scope of the data set covers pre-sentence and sentenced supervision both within the community and in detention. The first report published in February 2006 covers the years 2000–01 to 2003–04. The next publication with 2004–05 data is currently scheduled for release in 2007. Also refer to <i>Information paper: National Information Development Plan for Crime and Justice Statistics, 2005</i> (cat. no. 4520.0) p.38 action 6.1a. |
| | AIHW and NCPaSS | The AIHW and the National Child Protection and Support Services data group is undertaking work to develop a Child Protection and Support Services National Minimum Dataset. This dataset will broaden the scope of the national data collection on child protection and improve comparability across jurisdictions. This work includes the development of data dictionaries and a move towards the provision of data in unit record format. These actions will support improvements to data on the incidence of child abuse and neglect. |
| | ABS | The ABS has commenced work on the development of an agreed framework to support the further development of family statistics. This framework will draw attention to the importance of measuring aspects of family structures, family transitions and family functioning, as key elements of family wellbeing. |
| | ABS | The first version of the National Criminal Courts Data Dictionary was released in October 2005. It is a reference document which defines national data items and outlines methods for the use of 27 data elements and concepts that underpin the ABS' and Council of Australian Governments (COAG) criminal courts collections. It is intended that through website dissemination the data dictionary will be available as a resource to agencies who are seeking to align their statistical output with the ABS and COAG criminal court collections. Future versions are expected to include meta data relating to Children's Criminal Courts. The Dictionary is available on the NSS website (www.nss.gov.au). |

PRIORITY AREA 9: IMPROVE THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF DATA ON SPECIFIC TARGET POPULATIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

| Data development need | Lead agencies | Data development actions |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Indigenous children and youth | FaCSIA | The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous children (Footprints in Time) is under development. The study would collect data from the families of babies and four year olds about their child's health, education, family functioning, childcare and culture with the aim of understanding the pathways children take as they grow. Strategies to collect quantitative data and qualitative data are currently being pilot tested. These results will be used to inform a proposal for how to implement the study for consideration by the Australian Government. |
| | ICHR | The Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey is a survey of Indigenous children under the age of 18 years in Western Australia. To date, data and analysis have been released on family, community and education, as well as social, emotional and physical wellbeing. Forthcoming are data and analysis on justice. For many of these areas data are cross-classified by levels of geographical isolation, also adding to the range of small area data on Indigenous children in WA. |
| | AIHW | Through an annual systemic review of Indigenous identification in AIHW held administrative data collections, the AIHW is continuously working with relevant data custodians and working groups (in the different jurisdictions) to improve the quality of Indigenous data, including child protection data and juvenile justice data. As part of reporting, the data custodians are required to report on efforts to improve the quality of Indigenous identification in their data sets including an assessment of the quality of their data. |
| | ABS and AIHW | The ABS and AIHW have taken steps to improve the quality of Indigenous data in administrative collections. This work has supported and promoted the implementation of standard question wording in relevant collections, both ABS and non-ABS. Improvements to data sources are occurring as this work progresses. |
| | ABS | Through improvements to enumeration strategies and the introduction of mesh blocks as the new spatial unit, the 2006 Census of Population and Housing will allow for improved estimates of Indigenous children and youth. Results are expected to be released from the second half of 2007. |
| | ABS | As part of its survey evaluation and development process for the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, the ABS is assessing future data requirements. The possible inclusion of information on children under 15 years of age will be considered as part of that process. |
| Children and youth with a disability | ABS | The next Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers is planned for 2009. This survey will collect data on children and young people with a disability. There is potential to collect new data on children and young people with a disability, through a review of the survey, involving stakeholder consultation, to be conducted in 2007–08. |

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| Children and youth with a disability <i>continued</i> | ABS | The 2006 Census of Population and Housing incorporates a new disability related question module on 'core activity need for assistance'. Estimates of children with a core activity need for assistance, based upon this new question set, will be available for smaller areas than those from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers and will be relatable to those children with a core activity limitation in the survey. In addition, data on need for assistance can be analysed alongside socio-economic data. Results from the 2006 Census will be available from the second half of 2007. |
| | ABS | The 2007/08 National Health Survey will include a short question module on disability. This will provide data on youth aged 16 and above to better understand the relationship between disability and health. |
| Socio-economically disadvantaged children and youth | NATSEM | The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling has developed a child-centred form of a socio-economic index for areas, applicable at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) level. The index shows areas where disadvantaged children are living in Australia, and provides information about the family characteristics of children living within each SLA (e.g. percentage living in a family where no parent has a job or a post-school qualification). In 2007 the work will be extended to calculate an index for 1986, 1991, and 1996, subject to Census data availability extended to include previous years. |
| | ABS | Through a regular review of its Household Survey Program, the ABS will consider this priority need and options for future survey programs, including the General Social Survey, the Multi-purpose Household Surveys and the proposed Families Survey. |
| | ABS | Through the introduction of mesh blocks as the new spatial unit, the 2006 Census of Population and Housing will have the capacity to provide improved estimates of socio-economically disadvantaged children and youth. Results are expected to be released from the second half of 2007. |
| Culturally and Linguistically Diverse children and youth | Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and ABS | The ABS and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs are undertaking a joint project to investigate the settlement outcomes of migrants (including children and young people) in the Humanitarian Settlement stream. |
| | ABS | The ABS' National Migrant Statistics Unit is investigating the development of a new survey on migrants which could have the potential to provide new data on the characteristics of migrants, including their children. |
| | ABS | Through the introduction of mesh blocks as the new spatial unit, the 2006 Census of Population and Housing will have the capacity to provide improved estimates of culturally and linguistically diverse children and youth. Results are expected to be released from the second half of 2007. |

PRIORITY AREA 10: IMPROVE THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF SMALL AREA DATA AVAILABLE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

| Data Development Need | Lead agencies | Data development actions |
|--|---|--|
| Improved data on children and youth living at a range of spatial levels, from state/territory to community level | ABS | Mesh blocks are a new spatial unit for releasing census, survey and administrative data. They contain around 30–60 dwellings and can be aggregated to many different levels of geographic boundaries. From the 2006 Census of Population and Housing onwards, this will allow for greater flexibility in the output of small area census data relating to children and youth, including output compiled according to various administrative boundaries and, potentially, community level data. |
| | ABS | In 2006 the ABS released a <i>Small Area Estimation Practice Manual</i> . This is a guide to the production, use, quality and validation of small area estimates derived from sample surveys. Small area estimation methodology might be applied to surveys relating to children and youth. The ABS can advise on the feasibility of producing sufficiently reliable estimates (for user's requirements). |
| | ABS | A geocoding project is being undertaken in 2006–07 for Statistical Information Management Committee. This project will assess the state of readiness of jurisdictions to undertake geocoding to provide a foundation for statistical information on the geographical pattern of health service usage and related matters. The data sources covered by this project would generally contain details of the age of the service recipient. |
| | DEWR, Centrelink and Medicare Australia | A range of government agencies are intending to implement mesh block coding to their administrative datasets. When complete, this will facilitate dissemination of statistical outputs from these datasets at sub-state levels and for customised regions, such as service delivery areas and school communities. |

ABBREVIATIONS

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| ABS | Australian Bureau of Statistics |
| ACER | Australian Council for Educational Research |
| AEDI | Australian Early Development Index |
| AIC | Australian Institute of Criminology |
| AIFS | Australian Institute of Family Studies |
| AIHW | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| ARACY | Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth |
| ATP | Australian Temperament Project |
| ATSI | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander |
| CALD | culturally and linguistically diverse |
| CATI | computer assisted telephone interviewing |
| CCCH | Centre for Community Child Health |
| COAG | Council of Australian Governments |
| CYSAG | Children and Youth Statistics Advisory Group |
| DEST | Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training |
| DEWR | Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations |
| DoHA | Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing |
| FaCSIA | Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs |
| IDP | Information Development Plan |
| LLANS | Longitudinal Literacy and Numeracy Study |
| LSAC | Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children |
| LSAY | Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth |
| LSIC | Footprints in Time - The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children |
| MCEETYA | Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs |
| NAPCAN | National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect |
| NATSEM | National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling, University of Canberra |
| NATSIHS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey |
| NATSISS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey |
| NCETS | National Centre for Education and Training Statistics |
| NCPASS | National Child Protection and Support Services data group |
| NCVER | National Centre for Vocational Education Research |
| NCYSU | National Children and Youth Statistics Unit |
| NDN | National Data Network |
| NMDS | National Minimum Data Set |
| NSS | National Statistical Service |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| PISA | Programme for International Student Assessment |
| PMRT | Performance Measurement and Reporting Taskforce |
| SAAP | Supported Accommodation Assistance Program |
| TIMSS | Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study |

VET vocational education and training
VTE vocational and technical education

APPENDIX 1

AGENCIES CONSULTED

FIRST ROUND CONSULTATION

The first round of consultation was conducted throughout May and June 2005 with 12 national agencies involved. For each agency, policy and research data requirements were documented, along with agency data sources and data development actions. This information was used to identify the data sources, data development needs and data development actions across the children and youth field.

Agencies included in the first round consultation

Australian Council for Educational Research
 Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training*
 Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations*
 Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs*
 Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing*
 Australian Government Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs*
 Australian Institute of Family Studies*
 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*
 Centre for Community Child Health*
 National Centre for Vocational Education Research
 Productivity Commission*
 Telethon Institute for Child Health Research*

* Organisation is represented on the Children and Youth Statistics Advisory Group

SECOND ROUND CONSULTATION

The data sources, data development needs and data development actions identified during the first round of consultation were documented in a Draft Information Development Plan. Feedback on this document was sought from all state and territory governments and a range of non-government organisations. The objective of this consultation round was to confirm the data development needs and actions already identified and also highlight any additional needs/actions to be included in the Plan. The second round of consultation was conducted in February 2006.

List of agencies involved in the second round of consultation

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
 Chief Ministers Department (Social Policy Branch)
 Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (Tuggeranong Child and Family Centre)
 Australian Capital Territory Health (Child, Youth and Women's Health Program)
 Anglicare Catholic University (Institute of Child Protection and Studies)
 Youth Coalition of the Australian Capital Territory

 NEW SOUTH WALES
 Commission for Children and Young People
 Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care
 Department of Community Services
 Department of Education and Training

*List of agencies involved in
the second round of
consultation continued*

New South Wales Police

Office of the Children's Guardian

Catholic Education Commission

National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

New South Wales Centre of Advancement of Adolescent Health

The Smith Family

University of New South Wales (School of Public Health and Community Medicine)

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Department of Employment, Education and Training

Department of Justice

Department of Health and Community Services (Office of Aboriginal Health, Family and Social Policy)

Office of Youth Affairs

Treasury

Mission Australia

QUEENSLAND

Department of Child Safety

Department of Communities

Department of Education

Department of Health

Department of Housing

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian

Legal Aid Queensland

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Department of Education and Children's Services

Department of Family and Community

Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Training

Department of Health

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Australian Association Teachers of English Carers

South Australia's Children, Youth and Women's Health Service

Save the Children

Youth Affairs Council of South Australia

TASMANIA

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Education

Department of Treasury and Finance

Commissioner for Children

*List of agencies involved in
the second round of
consultation continued*

VICTORIA

Department of Education and Training
Department of Human Services
Department of Infrastructure
Department of Justice
Department of Treasury and Finance
Brotherhood of St Laurence
Local Government Community Services Association of Australia
City of Moreland Council

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department for Community Development
Department of Corrective Services
Department of Health
Department of Indigenous Affairs
Department of Sport and Recreation
Family Violence Unit
WA Police Service
Office of Crime Prevention
Disability Services Commission

NEEDS ASSESSMENT
WORKSHOP

The previous rounds of consultation identified over 30 data development needs (refer Appendix 2). A workshop was held in March 2006 to assess these data development needs against the current data sources and data development actions to identify the areas for priority action.

*Agencies involved in the
Needs Assessment Workshop*

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training
Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Australian Government Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
Australian Institute of Family Studies
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
Productivity Commission

INTRODUCTION

This Appendix presents the full list of data development needs for each agreed priority area as identified by stakeholders during consultation.

Priority Area 1: Childhood and maternal health

IMPROVE CHILDHOOD INJURY DATA

Includes data on injury circumstances and causes. Associated data on family circumstances, mental health and substance abuse of parents.

DEVELOP DATA ON MATERNAL HEALTH RISK FACTORS

Data on the family and social environment including maternal support and networks. Data on maternal health including mental health, substance abuse, age, body mass index and nutrition, both during and after pregnancy.

UPDATE AND EXPAND DATA ON CHILDREN'S NUTRITION

Data on the prevalence and duration of breast-feeding. Current data on children's nutrition and measurements of height and weight.

IMPROVE DATA ON CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH

Current data on children's dental health. Regular reporting of dental health outcomes.

UPDATE AND EXPAND DATA ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Need for current data relating to the social and emotional development of children. Data on an expanded range of mental health and behavioural problems, including risk and protective factors for children's mental health.

DEVELOP DATA ON MEASURES OF CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Data required on type, frequency, duration and intensity of exercise. Data on barriers and motivators for physical activity, including socio-economic data.

Priority Area 2: The abuse and neglect of children

IMPROVE AND EXPAND DATA ON THE PREVALENCE OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN

Data on the incidence and prevalence of abuse and neglect required, including data on unreported abuse and neglect. Data on children's exposure to violence, including either as a witness or a victim.

DEVELOP DATA ON OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Longitudinal data on a broad range of outcomes for children who have experienced abuse and neglect, including health, education, employment and wellbeing. Service provision and its impact on the outcomes of those experiencing abuse and neglect. Linked data to trace victims through welfare system.

EXPAND DOMESTIC/FAMILY VIOLENCE DATA TO INCLUDE CHILDREN

Improved domestic violence data required for all persons in households/families, especially those families which experience abuse and neglect. Data on the impacts and longer term outcomes for children from families who have experienced domestic/family violence.

Priority Area 3: Children's learning and development

IMPROVE DATA ON EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT AND OUTCOMES

Children's participation in formal learning (including participation in early childhood education programs, age at which this occurred and duration of program). Data on family and other characteristics of those accessing and not accessing early learning opportunities. Longitudinal data on early learning and social/emotional development outcomes with a focus on early learning activities rather than child care. Data on the transition to primary school, including the identification of risk and protective factors.

DEVELOP DATA ON THE SUPPLY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Data on the type and location of early childhood providers (including pre-schools and community long day care centres). Data on the types of learning programmes offered in early childhood settings, including their duration. Improved data on the qualifications of, supply of and demand for workers in early childhood education and child care.

DEVELOP DATA ON PARENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Parental involvement in child's early learning and development, along with parenting style and parent's education. Time spent with children by each parent (where parents are separated).

DEVELOP MEASURES OF CHILDREN'S EDUCATION ATTENDANCE/NON-ATTENDANCE

Rates of attendance/non-attendance (not just enrolment) in education (pre-primary, primary and secondary), collecting the characteristics of those not attending. Related factors including truancy, bullying (including non reported bullying) and school violence (including for ethnic groups).

DEVELOP DATA ON THE TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOLING

Data on both successful and unsuccessful transitions between primary and secondary school. Characteristics that support successful transitions and the risk factors/barriers to successful transitions. The impact of mobility on the transition between primary to secondary school.

Priority Area 4: Youth educational attainment and participation

IMPROVE VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PARTICIPATION AND OUTCOMES DATA

Improved data on student pathways between school and VTE. Characteristics and outcomes for those participating in VTE and those who are not.

DEVELOP DATA ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S EDUCATION, EDUCATION OUTCOMES AND CAREER CHOICES

Characteristics of early school leavers and their reasons for leaving. Career choices and factors affecting choice. Further study intentions. Barriers to education. Achievement in education and pathways to achievement.

IMPROVE MEASURES OF EDUCATION PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Participation and movement across and between sectors. Movement of young people in and out of education.

Priority Area 5: Transitions to independent living

IMPROVE DATA ON EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

Intergenerational transmission of employment patterns. Outcomes of long-term unemployment for youth. Identification of at-risk youth (that is those not likely to make the transition) and data on early intervention strategies and their impacts.

Priority Area 5: Transitions to independent living continued

IMPROVED DATA ON TRANSITION EXPERIENCES AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL, PARTICULARLY FOR DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

Data on the transition experiences of Indigenous youth, young people with a disability and illness (including mental illness), young people with caring responsibilities and homeless youth are needed.

DEVELOP ADMINISTRATIVE DATA ON YOUTH TRANSITIONS TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

Linked data allowing the tracking of youth across various administrative collections. Data on how well educational opportunities for youth meet the skill needs of the economy. Access to services (eg, transport, welfare, housing, health), payments received, coordination of services and referrals between systems.

IMPROVED DATA ON YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT ENGAGED IN EITHER WORK, STUDY OR SOCIAL ACTIVITY FOR EXTENDED PERIODS

Characteristics of those not engaged in work, education and community, as well as those with poor social networking. Factors associated with non-participation in education and employment.

DATA ON SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

Formation of social relationships, both friendships and sexual relationships. Quality of relationships with parental family. Family formation and dissolution of young people. Socio-economic data on young people living in the parental home. Data on the financial situation of young people, including financial literacy and security. Risk and protective factors that impact on the transition to adulthood for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Priority Area 6: Social participation of youth

DEVELOP MEASURES OF YOUTH SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND MEASURES OF SOCIAL COHESION

Youth social activities. Access to support groups, including mentors. Definitions of, and data on, informal social networks, including connections in the community. Data on negative relationships, including peer relationships and risk taking behaviour. Barriers to social, sport and political participation e.g. perception of safety/fear of crime, financial barriers.

Priority Area 7: Risk behaviours

IMPROVE DATA ON YOUTH CONTACT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Youth re-offenders, including the influence of mental illness, substance abuse, socio-economic background and exposure to family violence. Linked data between corrections and community organisations. Better compatibility between juvenile justice and adult offenders administration systems to enable the tracking of young offenders across the justice system. Youth offenders, types of crime, contact with police and whether cautioned or action taken.

IMPROVE DATA ON OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Long term outcomes (e.g. education and employment) for those who have been in the juvenile justice system, especially Indigenous youth. Data on interventions provided to offenders in the system and their effectiveness. Outcomes for youth coming out of prisons.

IMPROVE DATA ON YOUNG PERSONS INJURY

Substance abuse and mental health, as it relates to injury. Youth exposure to violence and injury. Domestic violence data with young people as victims and perpetrators. Youth driving style and injury.

Priority Area 7: Risk behaviours continued

UPDATE AND EXPAND DATA ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Current data on mental health and wellbeing required, including a fuller range of mental health disorders than that available in previous surveys. Data on associated risk and protective factors, including substance abuse. Longitudinal data on those with mental health problems, particularly focussing on long-term outcomes and pathways.

IMPROVE DATA ON MULTIPLE RISK FACTORS

Data on youth exhibiting multiple risk factors including alcohol consumption, diet, exercise, drug use, mental health problems and smoking. Related socio-demographic data.

IMPROVE DATA ON YOUTH REPRODUCTION AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Teenage pregnancy, fertility and abortion. Data on sexually transmitted infections, sexual health and links to other risk behaviours.

IMPROVE DATA ON YOUTH NUTRITION

Current data on diet for youth, including over eating, under eating, associated risk factors and health status. Current prevalence of overweight and obesity among youth. Outcomes of dietary habits on health and wellbeing.

IMPROVE MEASURES OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR YOUTH

Current data on type, duration, intensity and frequency of physical activity. Data on barriers and motivators for physical activity, including socio-economic data.

Priority Area 8: Develop and promulgate the use of standards and concepts relating to children and youth

Improved comparability of data across jurisdiction based collections, in particular better comparability of administrative collections. In relation to age groups, concepts and standard definitions.

Greater comparability between survey collections is required through the better coordination of survey methodologies, frequency and age scope.

Priority Area 9: Improve the range and quality of data on specific target populations of children and youth

For the children and youth population there are a number of groups for whom data are considered seriously deficient and in need of significant improvement. These include—

INDIGENOUS

For the Indigenous population, data needs include—

- Small area data, at both the regional (sub-state) and community level.
- Longitudinal data to identify pathways and at-risk groups.
- Data that allow the identification of multiple disadvantage facing many Indigenous children and youth.
- Prevalence of abuse and neglect among children and young people.
- Participation in early childhood learning, including attendance at child care or pre-school.
- Social and emotional development of children.
- School attendance and absenteeism.
- All aspects of mental health for both children and youth.
- Risk and protective factors including nutrition, physical activity, body mass index and smoking.
- Youth substance abuse.
- More frequent data on Indigenous youth in the labour market as well as data on the pathways between education and employment.
- Social participation of youth.
- Incidence of victimisation and racism.

Also improved identification in specific collections, such as—

- Birth and death registrations.
- Hospital separations.

Priority Area 9: Improve the range and quality of data on specific target populations of children and youth continued

- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

- There is a lack of data on children and youth with disabilities. In particular there is a need for data on—
- Children and youth with compounded disability.
- Children with a disability and their families who live in regional and remote areas.
- Children with a disability and their families who are socio-economically disadvantaged.
- Children and young people with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as refugees.
- Data on the transitions from education to work and more broadly to independent living.

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

Data are lacking on the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) population. In particular, data are required on—

- Regional data for children from CALD backgrounds and their families.
- Longitudinal data on children and their families.
- Improved administrative data systems to allow the tracking of migrants and their children through support systems.
- Life outcomes for refugees from CALD backgrounds, in particular education and health outcomes.
- Health risk and protective factors for babies and mothers.
- Participation in early childhood learning.
- Social and educational participation, including school attendance and absenteeism.
- Data to assess the impact of multicultural background on education participation and transition to work.
- Incidence of victimisation and racism.

SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND YOUTH

There is a lack of data on children and youth facing socioeconomic disadvantage. The following data needs were identified—

- Long term outcomes for children and young people from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, including education, employment and social participation.
- Service use along with met and unmet demand, particularly for the above mentioned target groups.
- Children and young people living in families with low income and high financial stress.
- Take up rates for specific payments, along with the impact of child support payments on the child's wellbeing.
- Families with children in inadequate housing (e.g. overcrowding, unsafe neighbourhoods, structurally substandard housing etc).
- Those experiencing homelessness and those at risk of it.
- Data on the relationships between family structures, economic circumstances, family support and family social network patterns (e.g. children living outside the parental home with grandparents, children and youth whose parents are in prison).
- Children and youth with parent/s with a mental illness.
- Children and young people with caring responsibilities, in particular the impact of their caring responsibilities on their social, education and workforce participation.
- Welfare services working together.

Priority Area 10: Improve the range and quality of small area data available on children and youth

Improved data on children and youth living in regional and remote Australia was identified across the field. Stakeholders identified a need for data at all different levels of spatial disaggregation including state and territory level, regional level and community level. Needs identified included—

- Improved survey data at the state and territory level, in particular for the smaller populated states and territories.
- Data at the local community level, in particular within metropolitan areas.
- Improved estimates, on a broader range of variables, of children living in regional and remote areas.
- Data on the access to, and use of, services for children and their families living in regional and remote areas.
- Youth in rural and regional areas by risk factors such as mental health, substance abuse and juvenile crime.
- Youth social networks and relationships (e.g. as a measure of social isolation).
- Better estimates of regional youth employment and data on the transition to adulthood.
- Data on contributing factors for deaths, in particular suicide and transport accidents, in regional and remote areas.

This appendix presents a list of national statistical information relevant to children and youth. The list is comprehensive, though not exhaustive, and is presented using the key issues framework (as described in Chapter 3). Each entry relates to a specific source (e.g. sample survey, administrative collection, research study or analysis) and provides the name and description of the source (including information about the latest available outputs and where to find them), the custodian agency and the age coverage.

For many of the sources listed in this appendix, microdatasets are a critical product made available for research. For example, for most ABS household surveys, at least one Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) is released. A CURF is a file of responses to an ABS survey that has had specific identifying information about a person or organisation confidentialised. ABS CURFs are released in basic form on CD-ROM and in expanded detail through the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory. For more information on ABS CURF availability and access arrangements see the CURF Microdata Entry Page on the ABS website. For many of the non-ABS sources listed in this appendix, microdata releases are also key outputs available for research (e.g. longitudinal microdatasets are released from both the LSAC and the HILDA Survey). See the references under each non-ABS source for details of microdata availability and access arrangements.

Childhood and Maternal Health

| Agency | Source Name | Description | Age Coverage (years) |
|--------|--|--|---|
| ABS | Births (administrative) | The collection brings together information on all registered births in Australia provided from the Registrar of Birth, Deaths and Marriages in each state/territory. It covers sex, month of occurrence, nuptiality, plurality, birth weight, mothers and fathers details (including age, usual residence, country of birth and duration of marriage) and Indigenous status. Collections conducted annually, latest available data are 2004. Results are published in <i>Births, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 3301.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | Causes of Death (administrative) | The collection brings together information on all deaths registered in Australia, including perinatal deaths, provided from the Registrar of Birth, Deaths and Marriages in each state/territory. The collection covers causes of death, age, sex and Indigenous status. Collections conducted annually, latest available data are 2004. Results are published in <i>Causes of Death, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 3303.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | Child Immunisation and Health Screening Survey | The survey collected information about the immunisation of children from birth to six years, as well as sight, hearing and dental screening of children from birth to 14 years. Demographics such as sex, age and family characteristics as well as where vaccinations were received and reasons for non-vaccination were included. One-off survey conducted in 1995. Results are published in <i>Children's Immunisation, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4352.0). | Birth–6 years for immunisation and birth–14 years for other health topics |
| ABS | Deaths (administrative) | The collection brings together information for all deaths registered in Australia, provided from the Registrar of Birth, Deaths and Marriages in each state/territory. It covers age at death, sex, month of occurrence, country of birth and Indigenous status. Collections conducted annually, latest available data are 2004. Results are published in <i>Deaths, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 3302.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) | This survey collects a range of information from Indigenous Australians about health-related issues and socioeconomic circumstances. The 2004–05 NATSIHS provides information on long-term health conditions, injuries and health-related actions for Indigenous people of all ages. Other relevant data include: breast-feeding status for children aged 0–3 years; reported immunisation for children 0–6 years; and dietary behaviours (fruit and vegetable intake, type of milk consumed, and added salt) for people aged 12 years and over. In addition, there are a number of household level measures which may indicate whether resident children are at increased risk of abuse and/or neglect. These include: financial stress, overcrowding and number of smokers in household. The survey will be conducted six-yearly. Results are published in <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 4715.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | National Health Survey | This survey collects a range of information about health-related issues. The survey covers indicators of health status (e.g. self-assessed health status, long-term conditions including asthma and diabetes), health-related actions taken (e.g. visits to hospitals, consultations with health professionals and use of medications), health risk factors for adults (e.g. smoking, alcohol consumption, diet, exercise, height, weight, breastfeeding and immunisation) and demographic and socioeconomic characteristics (e.g. Indigenous status, income and housing). Regular surveys conducted three-yearly, latest available data are 2004–05. Results are published in <i>National Health Survey: Summary of Results</i> (ABS cat. no. 4364.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | National Nutrition Survey, 1995 | The survey collected a range of food and nutrition information. The survey covered food and beverage intake, physical measurements (height, weight, waist and hip circumferences) and eating habits and patterns (usual type of diet, addition of salt to food and desired dietary changes). One-off survey conducted in 1995 in conjunction with the then Department of Health and Aged Care. Results are published in <i>National Nutrition Survey: Selected Highlights</i> (ABS cat. no. 4802.0). | 2 years and over |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ABS | National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults | The survey provides information on the prevalence of a range of major mental disorders for Australian adults. The survey covers chronic physical conditions and disability, health service use as a consequence of a mental health problems and perceived need for health services. The survey also includes questions on number of children and age when children were born, which provides information on maternal mental health. First conducted in 1997 in conjunction with the then Department of Health and Aged Care. The next survey is in 2007. Results are published in <i>Mental Health and Wellbeing: Profile of Adults, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4326.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| ABS | Survey of Children's Participation in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities | The survey provides details on participation in selected organised cultural activities, organised sports and selected leisure activities undertaken outside of school hours. Leisure activities include bike riding, reading, watching television or videos and computer usage. Information is available on the hours spent on each activity in the most recent two school weeks and for the sport and cultural activities, the number of times participated in the previous 12-months. The survey was conducted in 2000, 2003 and 2006. Results are published in <i>Children's Participation in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4901.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 5–14 years |
| ABS | Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers | The survey provides a wide range of information about people with a disability, older people and people who assist older people and people with disabilities. Extensive information is available for children under 15 and with a disability. The survey also provides information on mothers. Regular survey conducted five-yearly, latest available data are 2003. Results are published in the <i>Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings</i> (ABS cat. no. 4430.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| AIFS | Australian Temperament Project (ATP) | The ATP is a longitudinal study of the psychosocial development of children born in Victoria, between September 1982 and January 1983. The survey collects information on children's temperament, emotional and behavioural adjustment as well as family and environmental characteristics. Thirteen waves of data have been collected by mail surveys from 4–8 months of age to 19–20 years of age. Publications are produced regularly and are available on the AIFS' website (http://www.aifs.gov.au/atp/pubs.html). | Children born between September 1982–January 1983 |
| AIHW and General Practice Statistics and Classification Unit (University of Sydney) | Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) | The BEACH program continuously collects a range of practice related information from general practitioners. The survey covers patients seen, reasons people seek medical care, problems managed and treatments provided in general practice in Australia. The collection is conducted annually, the latest available data are 2004–05. Results are published in <i>General Practice Activity in Australia</i> available on the following website www.fmrc.org.au/beach.htm | All ages |
| AIHW | Child Dental Health Survey | The survey provides epidemiological and service provision data concerning children's dental health in Australia. The survey covers the number of deciduous and permanent teeth that are decayed, missing or filled, immediate treatment needs and number of teeth which have a fissure sealant. The survey is conducted annually. Children not enrolled with the school dental service are not represented in the sample. The latest report available is 2006, based on 2001 data. Results are published in <i>Socioeconomic differences in Children's Dental Health: The Child Dental Health Survey Australia 2001</i> available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | Ages 4–12 |
| AIHW | National Cancer Statistics Clearing House (administrative) | This Clearing House provides information on the incidence of cancer in the Australian population, including the number of new cases and age-specific rates for all registrable cancers, excluding non-melanocytic skin cancer, by year of diagnosis, sex and age. Ongoing administrative collection with analyses of specific cancer sites, cancer histology, differentials in cancer rates by country of birth, geographical variation, trends over time and survival are produced regularly. Available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | All ages |

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|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| AIHW | National Dental Telephone Interview Survey | The survey collected a wide range of information on dental health. The survey covers oral health status, dental treatment (such as time, place of and reason for last dental visit, services received in the previous year and waiting time), perceived needs, social impact of dental health, hardship and affordability, difficulties associated with dental care and socio-demographic and economic details. Irregular survey, latest available data are 2002. Results are published in <i>National Dental Telephone Interview Survey 2002</i> available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | Five years and over |
| AIHW | National Hospital Morbidity Database (administrative) | This collection compiles electronic confidentialised summary records for admitted patients separated in public and private hospitals in Australia since 1993-94. The database includes information on principal diagnosis, age, sex and Indigenous status. Diagnoses, procedures length of stay and external causes of injury and poisoning are recorded using ICD-10-AM (ICD-9-AM was used until 1997-98). Data is reported annually, latest available data are 2003-04. Results are published in <i>Australian Hospital Statistics</i> available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | All ages |
| AIHW | National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (administrative) | This system coordinates the surveillance of more than 40 communicable diseases. The system covers unique record reference number, state or territory code, disease code, date of onset, date of notification to the relevant health authority, sex, age and Indigenous status. Ongoing surveillance system producing regular reports on specific diseases available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | All ages |
| AIHW | National Perinatal Minimum Data Set (administrative) | The Perinatal Database contains national data on all births and perinatal deaths in hospitals, birth centres and the community. Data are collection from perinatal administrative and clinical record systems and forwarded regularly to the relevant State or Territory health authority. Data for each year ending 31 December are then provided annually to the National Perinatal Statistical Unit for the national collection. The information collected includes characteristics of the mother; including their pregnancy, labour, childbirth and puerperium, and maternal characteristics; and the characteristics and outcomes of their babies. The perinatal statistics are published regularly with latest being 2005 available from the following website www.npsu.unsw.edu.au/Publications.htm#PS | Children at least 400g or 20 weeks gestation and their mothers. |
| DoHA | The Child and Adolescent Component of the National Survey Of Mental Health and Wellbeing, 1998 | The survey collects information on mental health problems among children and adolescents in Australia. It also provides information about the degree of disability associated with mental health problems and the extent to which children and adolescents are receiving help for their problems. The survey used behaviour checklists to identify mental health problems and the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children to identify mental disorders. Mental health problems, health related quality of life and degree of disability information was obtained from parents of children aged four to 12. One-off survey conducted in 1998. Results are published in <i>Child and Adolescent Component of the National Survey Of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Mental Health of Young People in Australia</i> available on the DoHA's website (www.health.gov.au). | Birth-17 years |
| FaCSIA, CCCH and ICHR | Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) | This index is managed jointly by the CCCH and the ICHR, and funded by FaCSIA. The AEDI is a community level index of young children's development, based on the scores from a teacher-completed checklist. The AEDI covers child physical health and wellbeing including gross and fine motor skills, motor coordination and daily living skills. An initial three year project which commenced in 2004. The latest available report is 2004-05. Results are available from the AEDI website (www.australianedi.org.au). | Children in their first year of formal schooling |
| FaCSIA and AIFS | Growing Up in Australia: the longitudinal study of Australian children | Growing Up in Australia is a longitudinal study that explores family and social issues and addresses a range of research questions about children's development and wellbeing. The study collects information on the importance of family and child connections to later life. It also collects information on the impact over time of early health experiences, including conditions effecting the child's physical development (e.g. low birth weight, immunisation, in-utero exposure to stress and drugs, nutrition, chronic illness or injury, parental disorders including maternal depression) and infant mental health including early conduct disorder. The study is funded for four waves and began in 2004. The following three waves are planned every two years thereafter. The latest available report is 2004. Results are published in the <i>Annual Report</i> available on the AIFS' website (www.aifs.gov.au). | Two cohorts aged birth-1 year and 4-5 years in 2003/04 |

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| Health Insurance Commission | Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) (administrative) | The ACIR is a national database containing information on the immunisation status of children registered with Medicare who are under seven years of age. The register collects information on the number vaccinated, immunisation provider, number of valid vaccinations and number of children fully immunised for various age cohorts. Ongoing register, latest data available are March 2006. Data are available from the Health Care Providers section of Medicare Australia's website (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au). | Birth–6 years |
| Mater Hospital and The University of Queensland | Mater-University of Queensland Study of Pregnancy | This longitudinal study has been running for over 20 years, providing health and wellbeing information of both mother and child from pregnancy up to when these children turned 21. The study covers maternal lifestyle, maternal mental health, maternal child rearing practices, maternal health, pregnancy outcomes, child health, child behaviour and maternal demographics. Data has been collected in five waves. The most recent collection was when the children were aged 21. Previous waves were collected at birth, six months, four and 14. Latest reports available are 2006. A range of publications are available on the University of Queensland's website (www.ansoc.uq.edu.au). | Mothers and their children (born in 1981–83) when the child was born, six months, four, 14 and 21. |
| University of Newcastle | Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health | This longitudinal study was designed to explore factors that influence health among Australian women over a 20 year period. The study collects data on physical and emotional health, the use of health services, health behaviours and risk factors, time use, socio-demographic factors and life stages and key events (of particular interest childbirth). Data collected every three years from 1996, latest annual report is 2004. A range of publications are available on the Women's Health Australia website (www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/wha). | Three cohorts aged 18–23 years, 45–50 years and 70–75 years in 1996 |

The Abuse and Neglect of Children

| Agency | Source Name | Description | Age Coverage (years) |
|--------|---|---|---|
| ABS | Recorded Crime–Victims (administrative) | Includes administrative data on crime collected from police agencies in each state/territory in Australia. <i>Recorded crime–Victims</i> covers the level and nature of recorded crime, including assault and sexual assault. Details such as age of victim, sex of victim and relationship to offender are collected. Recorded Crime is an annual collection, last publication (2005 reference period) was released in May 2006. Results are published in <i>Recorded Crime–Victims, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4510.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | Personal Safety Survey | The survey collects a range of information on both men and women's safety at home and in the community. The survey covers general safety, harassment and stalking, in addition to experiences of physical and sexual violence, the nature of the violence, the actions taken after experiencing violence and the effect on their life. It also covers experience of physical and sexual abuse as a child and since the age of 15. This 2005 survey replaces the Women's Safety Survey (1996), which only surveyed women. Results are published in <i>Personal Safety, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4906.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| AIFS | National Child Protection Clearinghouse (administrative) | The National Child Protection Clearinghouse collects, produces and distributes information and resources, conducts research and offers specialist advice on the latest developments in child abuse prevention, child protection and associated violence. Reports and discussion papers are published regularly, available on the AIFS' website (www.aifs.gov.au/nch/). | |
| AIHW | Child Protection Notifications, Investigations and Substantiations (administrative) | Collects information on notifications, investigations and findings (i.e. substantiation or not) of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment or harm to a child. It covers information including the type of abuse, family type, and source of notification. Indigenous status is also collected. Collection conducted annually, latest report available in <i>Child Protection, Australia 2004–05</i> available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | Birth–17 years |
| AIHW | Children in Out-of-Home Care (administrative) | Collects information on children in out-of-home overnight care, in both legal and voluntary placements, where the state makes a financial payment. Excludes children who are living with their parents and placements made in disability services, psychiatric services, SAAP services, juvenile justice facilities, and overnight child care services. It covers placement type, length of time in continuous out-of-home care, whether on an order and information on exits. Indigenous status is also collected. Collection conducted annually, latest report available in <i>Child Protection 2004–05</i> available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | Birth–17 years |
| AIHW | Children on Care and Protection Orders (administrative) | Collects information on guardianship or custody orders; supervision and other finalised orders; and interim and temporary orders. Data for children on juvenile justice orders are not included in this collection. Collects information regarding living arrangements (foster care, out-of-home care, family care) duration of an order and number of primary caseworkers. Indigenous status is also collected. Collection conducted annually, latest report available in <i>Child Protection 2004–05</i> available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | Birth–17 years on care and protection orders, children aged 18 years who were discharged from care and protection |
| AIHW | Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection (administrative) | Collects information on the services provided to clients of the SAAP and of the Agencies funded to deliver those services. Includes information about the clients receiving support (including women and children escaping domestic violence), information about each SAAP agency, the level of unmet demand for SAAP services, and short term or one off assistance provided to homeless people. SAAP data are reported annually, latest available data are 2004–05. Results are published in <i>SAAP National Data Collection Annual Report</i> available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | All ages |

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| FaCSIA | Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse | The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse is a national resource on issues of domestic violence and family violence. It provides a central point for the collection and dissemination of Australian domestic and family violence policy, practice and research. The Clearinghouse produces quarterly newsletters and issue papers, and, from time to time, comprehensive literature reviews and occasional research reports. |
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Children's Learning and Development

| Agency | Source Name | Description | Age Coverage (years) |
|--------|---|---|---|
| ABS | Census of Population and Housing | The Census collects a wide range of information on the social, economic and housing characteristics of Australians. It provides data on children's attendance at an educational institution. The Census is conducted five-yearly. Results from the 2006 Census will be available from mid-2007. Data are available at the state/territory level as well as sub-state level. Results are published in <i>Census of Population and Housing: Basic Community Profiles</i> (ABS cat. no. 2001.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | Child Care Survey | This survey, focussing on children aged 0–12 years and their families, collects information about the use of formal and informal child care; requirements for additional child care; patterns of attendance; child care costs; parental income; and working arrangements used by parents to help care for their children. It also provides information about pre-school attendance. The survey is conducted three-yearly with the most recent in June 2005 and the next will be conducted in June 2008. Results are published in <i>Child Care, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4402.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | Birth–12 years in 2005, birth–11 years previously |
| ABS | National School Statistics Collection (administrative) | The National Schools Statistics Collection is an aggregation of selected data from annual state/territory and federal government school censuses. It provides information regarding government and non-government schools both primary and secondary, students and staffing data. The data collected enable derivation of apparent retention rates, age participation rates and student/teaching staff ratios. Information is available at the state/territory level and includes equivalent data on Indigenous students. Collection conducted annually, latest available data are 2005. Results are published in <i>Schools, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4221.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | School aged children |
| ABS | Survey of Children's Participation in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities | The survey collects details on participation in selected organised cultural activities, organised sports and selected leisure activities undertaken outside of school hours. Leisure activities include bike riding, reading, watching television or videos and computer usage. Information is available on the hours spent on each activity in the most recent two school weeks and for the sport and cultural activities, the number of times participated in the previous 12-months. The survey was conducted in 2000, 2003 and 2006. Results are published in <i>Children's Participation in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4901.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 5–14 years |
| ABS | Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers | The survey collects a wide range of information about people with a disability, older people and people who assist older people and people with disabilities. Information is available for children under 15 with a disability including education restrictions, need for assistance and standard demographics. Regular survey conducted five-yearly, latest available data are 2003. Results are published in the <i>Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings</i> (ABS cat. no. 4430.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | Time Use | This survey collects information about how people aged 15 years and over spend their time. It includes data about the relationship of the people with whom, and for whom, various activities were undertaken by survey respondents. As well as data about the time people spend in education-related activities the survey also provides data about the time parents spend with their children in education-related activities at home. Regular survey, latest available 1997 and was conducted again in 2006. The 2006 data will be released in August 2007. Results are published in <i>How Australians Use Their Time</i> (ABS cat. no. 4153.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |

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| ACER | Longitudinal Literacy and Numeracy Study (LLANS) | Data on literacy and numeracy have been collected each year from a national sample of 1000 children who commenced school in 1999. Assessment tasks in literacy and numeracy were developed at ACER specifically for LLANS. Seven surveys have now been carried out: two in the first and second years of schooling, and one in the third, fourth and fifth years. Major outcomes of the study have been the development of the LLANS literacy and numeracy scales, showing how the literacy and numeracy skills of children typically developed over their first three years at school; and a published report. This report, Meiers M. et al (2006), <i>Growth in Literacy and Numeracy in the First Three Years of School</i> , ACER Research Monograph No 61, is available on the ACER's website (www.acer.edu.au). | Primary school aged children |
| ACER | Project Good Start | This longitudinal study examines the practices and early learning experiences of children in the year before school and in their first year of schooling. Data was collected from pre-schools, early childhood centres and primary schools, to investigate the practice and learning experiences that best support children's early numeracy development. The study was conducted in 2002 and 2003 and data were reported in 2005. Results are published in <i>Numeracy in the Early Years: Project Good Start</i> available on the ACER's website (www.acer.edu.au). | Children in the year before school |
| ACER and the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement | Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) | The TIMSS is a project of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement. It is the world's longest running mathematics and science study, designed to help countries all over the world improve student learning. It collects educational achievement data at Year 4 and Year 8 to provide information about trends in performance on mathematics and science over time. This world-wide assessment and research project, involving 60 countries, also routinely collects extensive background information about teacher preparation, resource availability and the use of technology. ACER is responsible for undertaking the data collection in Australian schools. TIMSS is conducted on a four-year cycle (1994/95, 1998/99, 2002/03 and 2006/07). | Students in Year 4 and Year 8 |
| AIFS | Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia | The Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia provides an information and support role for the FaCSIA's 2004-2009 Stronger Families and Communities Strategy. The Clearinghouse aims to improve access to current information and resources to inform policy, practice and research in the fields of early intervention and childhood development. There is an emphasis on young families, early learning and care, support for families and parents, child friendly communities and family and children's services working effectively. The Clearinghouse also brings together national and international research, as well as policy and practice initiatives. The Clearinghouse is accessible from the AIFS' website (www.aifs.gov.au). | |
| AIFS | Australian Temperament Project (ATP) | The ATP is a longitudinal study of the psychosocial development of children born in Victoria, between September 1982 and January 1983. The survey collects information on school adjustment as well as family and environmental characteristics. Thirteen waves of data have been collected by mail surveys from 4–8 months of age to 19–20 years of age. Publications are produced regularly and are available on the AIFS' website (http://www.aifs.gov.au/atp/pubs.html). | Children born between September 1982–January 1983 |
| FaCSIA, CCCH and ICHR | Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) | This index is managed jointly by the CCCH and the ICHR, and funded by FaCSIA. The AEDI is a community level index of young children's development, based on the scores from a teacher-completed checklist. The AEDI covers child physical health and wellbeing including gross and fine motor skills, motor coordination and daily living skills. An initial three year project which commenced in 2004. The latest available report is 2004-05. Results are available from the AEDI website (www.australianedi.org.au). | Children in their first year of formal schooling |
| DEST | Clearinghouse for National Literacy and Numeracy Research | The Clearinghouse provides public access to the products of research funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs Program. Reports are published regularly. Interim Clearinghouse arrangements are on the DEST's website (www.dest.gov.au). | |

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| DEST | National Pre-school Census—Indigenous and All Students | The National Pre-school Census—Indigenous and All Students is a national collection of pre-school student enrolments. The census covers location of school, number of Indigenous and all children currently on the waiting list, whether provisions are made for priority access of Indigenous children, number of Indigenous and all students enrolled in preschool education programs. The census is conducted annually, data available from 2001 onward on the DEST's website (www.dest.gov.au). | Pre-school aged children |
| FaCSIA | Australian Government Census of Child Care Services (administrative) | The census collects a range of information about the users of child care as well as child care services and their staff. It also provides information at the child level including age, school attendance, disabilities, hours attended and fees paid. Regular collection conducted two-yearly, latest available data are 2004. Results are published in <i>Australian Government Census of Child Care Services</i> available on the FaCSIA's website (www.facs.gov.au). | Children in child care |
| FaCSIA and AIFS | Growing Up in Australia: the longitudinal study of Australian children | Growing Up in Australia is a longitudinal study that explores family and social issues and addresses a range of research questions about children's development and wellbeing. The study collects information on belief and expectations of school success and child's outcomes; connection of family to school and child outcomes; impact of child's exposure to books; the effect of story telling to child outcomes; and what factors influence early learning. The study is funded for four waves beginning in 2004. The following three waves are planned every two years thereafter. The latest available report is 2004. Results are published in the <i>Annual Report</i> available on the AIFS' website (www.aifs.gov.au). | Two cohorts aged birth–1 year and 4–5 years in 2003–04 |
| MCEETYA | National Performance Measurement of Schools (administrative) | Compiles reading, writing and numeracy benchmarks, using a range of administrative data sources. It also collects information on student outcomes disaggregated by sex, Indigenous status, language background, geographic location and socio-economic background. Reports compiled annually, latest available report is 2005. Results are published in <i>National Report on Schooling in Australia</i> available on the MCEETYA's website (www.mceetya.edu.au). | School aged children |

Youth Educational Attainment and Participation

| Agency | Source Name | Description | Age Coverage (years) |
|--------|--|---|--|
| ABS | Aspects of Literacy | The survey was designed to provide objective assessments of aspects of the population's literacy levels, dealing only with material printed in English. The survey covers prose literacy (the ability to understand and use information from prose text), document literacy (the ability to use information contained in materials such as tables and charts) and quantitative literacy (the ability to perform arithmetic operations using numbers printed in text). The survey also collected demographic information including education, disability status, language spoken and reading and writing usage. The latest literacy survey, called the Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey, was conducted in the second half of 2006. The 1996 results are published in <i>Aspect of Literacy: Profiles and Perceptions, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4226.0) and <i>Aspects of Literacy: Assessed Skill levels, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4228.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15–74 years |
| ABS | Census of Population and Housing | The Census collects a wide range of information on attendance at an educational institution, highest year of schooling completed and non-school qualifications. Some concepts relate to persons aged 15 or older only. Information on Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse students is also available. The Census is conducted five-yearly. Results from the 2006 Census will be available from mid-2007. Data are available at the state/territory level as well as sub-state level. Results are published in <i>Census of Population and Housing: Basic Community Profiles</i> (ABS cat. no. 2001.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) | This survey collects a range of information from Indigenous Australians about health-related issues and socioeconomic circumstances. The first NATSIHS was conducted in 2004–05 and collected data on educational participation and attainment for people aged 15 years and over. The survey will be conducted six-yearly. Results are published in <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 4715.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) | This survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern. Data on educational participation and attainment is collected, along with socio-demographic data. The most recent NATSISS was conducted in 2002 and the next is planned for 2008. Results are published in <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 4714.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| ABS | National School Statistics Collection (administrative) | The National Schools Statistics Collection is an aggregation of selected data from annual state/territory and federal government school censuses. It provides information regarding government and non-government schools both primary and secondary, students and staffing data. The data collected enable derivation of apparent retention rates, age participation rates and student/teaching staff ratios. Information is available at the state/territory level and includes equivalent data on Indigenous students. Collection conducted annually, latest available data are 2005. Results are published in <i>Schools, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4221.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | School aged children |
| ABS | Survey of Education and Training | The survey collects a range of information on the level of participation, educational pathways, skills acquisition, economic outcomes and individual experiences of education and training activities. Information includes educational qualifications obtained, recent study for educational qualifications, educational history, access to education and training, details of training courses completed and use of information technology. Regular survey conducted four-yearly, latest available data are 2005. Results are published in <i>Education and Training Experience, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6278.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15–69 years, with limited information collected from those 70 years and over (from 2005) |

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| ABS | Survey of Education and Work | The survey collects a range of information on participation in education; labour force characteristics; type of educational institution; level of education of current and previous study; level of highest non-school qualification or educational attainment; unmet demand for education characteristics of apprentices; and transition from education to work. If respondents were not in full-time study at the time of interview they were asked the year or time of year (if left during the previous year) they finished full-time study. Persons who were not studying were asked whether they had applied to enrol for study in the current year. Regular survey conducted annually, latest available data are 2005. Results are published in <i>Education and Work, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6227.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15–64 years |
| ACER and DEST | Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth | These longitudinal surveys collect information annually on the progress of several years cohorts of young Australians as they move from school into post-secondary education and work. The surveys cover participation in school and post-school education, by level and field of study; educational attainment and factors influencing outcomes. Research reports based on the data from the longitudinal surveys are published frequently and are available on the ACER's website (www.acer.edu.au). | 14–25 years |
| ACER and OECD | Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) | PISA measures how well young adults, at age 15 (and therefore approaching the end of compulsory schooling), are prepared to meet the challenges of today's knowledge societies. PISA allows comparison between countries and over time of the reading literacy, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy of 15 year-olds. Regular survey conducted three-yearly, the latest available data are 2003. Results are published in <i>Facing the Future: A Focus on Mathematical Literacy among Australian 15-year-old Students in PISA 2003</i> available on the ACER's website (www.acer.edu.au). | 15 year olds |
| AVCC | Unmet Demand Survey | The survey provides a range of information on those students judged eligible, but who fail to obtain an undergraduate higher education place. Information includes field of education, the number of eligible applications, offers received and offers accepted, tertiary entrance rank distribution of year 12 applicants and applicants receiving offers by first and other than first preference. Annual collection, latest report available is 2006. Results are published in <i>Report on Applications for Undergraduate University Courses</i> available on the following website (www.avcc.edu.au). | School leavers and mature age students |
| DEST | Clearinghouse for National Literacy and Numeracy Research | The Clearinghouse provides public access to the products of research funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs Program. Reports are published regularly. Interim Clearinghouse arrangements are on the DEST's website (www.dest.gov.au). | |
| DEST | Higher Education Student Data Collection (administrative) | This administrative data provides annual information on students enrolled in higher education courses with Australian public higher education providers. From 2005 the collection includes students covered by FEE HELP in relevant courses with private providers. Information includes numbers (including Equivalent Full Time Student Load) and characteristics of students undertaking courses. Latest results are for 2005 and are available on the DEST's website (www.dest.gov.au) under Higher Education Statistics. | 16 years and over |
| NCVER | VET Provider Collection | An administrative collection of information on students, the courses they undertake and their achievement. An annual National Collection which dates back to 1994. Results are published in <i>Australian vocational education and training statistics: Students and courses 2005</i> available on the NCVER's website (www.ncver.edu.au). | All ages |
| NCVER | Apprenticeships and Traineeships Collection | An administrative collection on apprentices and trainees and their employers. A quarterly collection which dates back to 1994 as a national collection. Results are published in <i>Australian vocational education and training statistics: Apprentices and trainees - March quarter 2006, Summary</i> available on the NCVER's website (www.ncver.edu.au). | All ages |

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| NCVER | Student Outcomes Survey | A survey of students who completed or part-completed a qualification in the preceding year, covering their views on the training they received and their current activity. Completed annually, dates back to 1997. Previously known as TAFE Graduate Destination Survey. Renamed in 1999 as Student Outcomes Survey. Results are published in <i>Australian vocational education and training statistics: Student outcomes survey 2005</i> available on the NCVER's website (www.ncver.edu.au). | All ages |
| NCVER | VET in schools collection | Administrative collection of courses undertaken by school students in recognised VET qualifications, as part of a senior secondary certificate. An annual collection of training activity in a calendar year, collected for the first time in 2005. | Range of ages |
| NCVER | Survey of Indigenous VET Students | A face-to-face survey of Indigenous students that extends some of the information sought in the Student Outcomes Survey, with a specific focus on Indigenous people and the benefits experienced as a result of training. Conducted in 2004. Results are published in <i>Australian vocational education and training statistics: Indigenous Australians' training experiences 2004 - First findings</i> available on the NCVER's website (www.ncver.edu.au). | Range of ages |
| NCVER | Down the Track Survey | A survey of 1500 15 to 24 year old students who completed or part-completed training in 2001 and participated in 2002 Student Outcomes Survey. Conducted in 2004. Results are published in <i>Down the track: TAFE outcomes for young people two years on</i> available on the NCVER's website (www.ncver.edu.au). | 15–24 years |

Transition to Independent Living

| Agency | Source Name | Description | Age Coverage (years) |
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| ABS | Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation | The survey focuses on people who are either not employed or work very few hours (0-15 hours). Information collected includes factors that influence people to join or leave the labour force as well as socio-demographic information (including non-school qualifications). The survey was first conducted in 2004–05 and is planned to be conducted two-yearly. Results are published in <i>Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6239.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| ABS | Census of Population and Housing | The Census collects a wide range of information on the social, economic and housing characteristics of Australians. The census covers labour force information including occupation and industry, educational attainment, Indigenous status and country of birth. Some concepts relate to persons aged 15 years and older only. The Census is conducted five-yearly. Results from the 2006 Census will be available from mid-2007. Data are available at the state/territory level as well as sub-state level. Results are published in <i>Census of Population and Housing: Basic Community Profiles</i> (ABS cat. no. 2001.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership | Information collected includes the weekly earnings of employees, their entitlement to paid leave (holiday, sick, long service and maternity/paternity), superannuation and trade union membership. This information can be cross-classified by characteristics such as age, sex, family type, full-time or part-time work status, industry and occupation. Regular survey conducted annually, latest available data are 2005. Results are published in <i>Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6310.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | Employed persons aged 15 years and over |
| ABS | Forms of Employment | The survey collects information on people employed in a range of situations, such as contractors, employees of labour hire firms and casuals. The different types of employment are cross-classified by selected employment characteristics (such as hours worked, industry and occupation) and demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and country of birth). Regular survey conducted three-yearly, latest available data are from 2004. Results are published in <i>Forms of Employment, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6359.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| ABS | Gross flows statistics | Gross flows statistics are a source of data on movements within the labour force. This data set contains estimates of persons who were in the LFS in consecutive months and records whether they changed labour force status in that time. Gross flow estimates are available monthly in a datacube (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 GM1) that can be accessed on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| ABS | Job Search Experience Survey | Collects information about unemployed persons' experiences in seeking work, in terms of the steps they have taken to find work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. Information collected includes time spent looking for work, number of jobs started in previous 12 months and whether they are looking for full-time or part-time work. Information regarding birthplace and educational attainment is also collected. Regular survey conducted annually, latest available data are 2005. Results are published in <i>Job Search Experience, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6222.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| <p><i>Note</i> This survey is a combination of two previous surveys: <i>Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons</i> (last run in July 2001) and <i>Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience</i> (last run in July 2000).</p> | | | |

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| ABS | Labour Force Experience Survey | The survey collects a range of information about labour force experiences over the 12-month period prior to the survey. Information collected includes whether in the labour force during the previous 12-months, time not in the labour force, number of spells of looking for work, time worked and number of employers/businesses. Regular survey conducted two-yearly, latest available data are 2005. Results are published in <i>Labour Force Experience, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6206.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15–69 years |
| ABS | Labour Force Survey | This survey collects extensive information about the civilian labour force. The survey covers labour force status, age, attendance at school or tertiary education institution (people aged 15–24), country of birth, year of arrival in Australia, participation rates, whether looking for full-time or part-time work (if unemployed), duration of unemployment and relationship in household. Regular survey conducted monthly, data are available the following month. Results are published in <i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6202.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| ABS | Labour Mobility Survey | The survey collects information on job mobility and job tenure over a 12-month period. Information collected includes whether a job holder changed employer or locality and reasons for change; full-time or part-time status; occupation; industry; and duration of job over the previous 12-months. Regular survey conducted two-yearly, latest available data are 2004. The 2006 data will be released in late 2006. Results are published in <i>Labour Mobility, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6209.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| ABS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) | The NATSIHS collects information on labour force status, industry sector, shift work, weekly hours worked, CDEP status and duration of unemployment, for people aged 15 years and over. The NATSIHS will be conducted six-yearly. Results are published in <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 4715.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) | This survey collects information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern. The 2002 NATSISS includes data on labour force status, industry sector, weekly hours worked, CDEP status, whether work allows for cultural responsibilities, expected future duration in current job, barriers to employment, use of employment support services and duration of unemployment. The most recent NATSISS was conducted in 2002 and the next is planned for 2008. Results are published in <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 4714.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | Survey of Education and Work | The survey collects a range of information on participation in education in the previous year, labour force characteristics, type of educational institution, level of education of current and previous study, level of highest non-school qualification, level of highest educational attainment, unmet demand for education in current year and characteristics of apprentices and transition from education to work. Regular survey conducted annually, latest available data are 2005. Results are published in <i>Education and Work, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6227.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15–64 years |
| ABS | Working Time Arrangements | The survey collects information about the working arrangements of employees, including shift work, overtime, rostered days off and start and finish times. Information collected includes hours worked, whether a person has paid leave entitlements (used as a proxy for whether the person is a 'casual' or not), hours worked in most recent shift and whether hours vary. Regular survey conducted three-yearly, latest available data are 2003. Results are published in <i>Working Arrangements, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6342.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| ACER and DEST | Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth | The longitudinal surveys collect information annually on the progress of several cohorts of young Australians as they move from school into post-secondary education and work. The surveys cover school achievement, school completion, participation in vocational and university education, labour force experience of youth including gaining and maintaining employment, and household and family formation. These surveys commenced in the late 1970s and latest data are May 2006. Research reports based on the data from the longitudinal surveys are published frequently and are available on the ACER's website (www.acer.edu.au). | 14–25 years |

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|------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| FaCSIA and the Melbourne Institute | Household, Income and Labour Dynamics Australia (HILDA) Survey | The survey collects longitudinal data on a wide range of areas of social concern relating to economic and subjective wellbeing, labour market dynamics and family dynamics. Wave Four of this national longitudinal survey contains a module on youth issues. Questions cover aspirations and life satisfaction, as well as employment and housing intentions. Data are reported annually, latest available are Wave Four reported in 2006 available on the following website www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda | |
| Graduate Careers Australia | Course Experience Questionnaire | Collects information from university graduates regarding the course they have just completed. Information collected includes whether there were clear goals and standards; the appropriateness of workloads and assessments; the motivational impact of the course; services and facilities provided; qualities that universities expect graduates to develop; sources of information and course materials; and perceptions of the social learning experience of learning at university. Conducted annually, latest available data are 2004. Results are published in <i>The Course Experience Questionnaire Report</i> available through the Media Centre on the Graduate Careers Australia's website (www.graduatecareers.com.au). Summarised results are available from the GradsOnline website (www.gradsonline.edu.au). | Graduates |
| Graduate Careers Australia | Graduate Destination Survey | The survey collects a range of information about the graduate labour market conditions and employment options for graduates. If in employment, the survey collects data on the name and location of the employer; the sector and area of industry in which the employer operates; the type of work the respondent is doing; the number of hours worked; the expected length of employment (permanent, short-term or 'other'); annual salary and whether the position is the respondent's first full-time job. Collection conducted annually, latest available data are 2004. Results are published in <i>The Graduate Destination Survey Report</i> available through the Media Centre on the Graduate Careers Australia's website (www.graduatecareers.com.au). Summarised results are available from the GradsOnline website (www.gradsonline.edu.au). | Graduates |
| NCVER | Apprentices and Trainees (administrative) | The collection collects information on persons undertaking vocational and technical education through Australian Apprenticeships (apprenticeships and traineeships). Collects information regarding the number of commencements, completions, withdrawals/cancellations, apprentice and trainee characteristics and training contract characteristics. Data are collected cumulatively and reported quarterly. Latest available data are December 2005. Results are published in <i>Apprentices and Trainees</i> available on the NCVER's website (www.ncver.edu.au). | 15 years and over |
| NCVER | Student Outcomes Survey | The survey collects information from VTE students regarding their satisfaction and outcomes from vocational and technical education. Information includes general characteristics, employment outcomes, satisfaction with their training, whether they undertook further study and reasons for not undertaking more training. It also collects employment information including occupation, industry and average weekly earnings. The survey is conducted annually, latest available data are 2005. Results are published in <i>Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics: Student Outcomes</i> available on the NCVER's website (www.ncver.edu.au). | 15 years and over |

Social Participation of Youth

| Agency | Source Name | Description | Age Coverage (years) |
|--------|--|--|--|
| ABS | Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events | The data collects details on the basic demographic characteristics of those who attended the selected venues and events and their frequency of attendance during a 12-month period. Demographic information collected includes state, age, sex, country of birth and labour force status. Regular survey, latest available data are 2002. However, the survey was conducted again in 2005–06 and results are expected to be released in Jan 2007. Results are published in <i>Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4114.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | Previous surveys 18 years and over. 15 years and over in 2005–06 |
| ABS | Census of Population and Housing | The Census collects a wide range of information on the social, economic and housing characteristics of Australians. The Census provides information on labour force participation and education participation, religious affiliation and Indigenous status. The Census is conducted five-yearly. Results from the 2006 Census will be available from mid-2007. Data are available at the state/territory level as well as at sub-state level. Results are published in <i>Census of Population and Housing: Basic Community Profiles</i> (ABS cat. no. 2001.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | Crime and Safety Survey | Collects information on the extent of crime in our community, including the number of persons and households victimised and the number of crimes reported to police. The survey covers information relating to household and personal crime including perceptions of problems, fear of crime, feelings of safety and behaviour as a result of crime. Regular survey, latest available data are 2005. Results are published in <i>Crime and Safety, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4509.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| ABS | General Social Survey | This survey collects information on various topics of concern to provide multidimensional views of peoples' wellbeing. Along with details of family and household composition and demographic details core topics include: health and disability; labour force participation; income, wealth and financial stress; experience of crime and feelings of safety; sports participation; and various other community contact items. The survey also includes a flexible content component which, in 2006, focussed on social capital and voluntary work. The survey was first conducted in 2002 and will be conducted four-yearly. Results from the 2006 survey are due for release in February 2007. Results are published in <i>General Social Survey: Summary of Results, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4159.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| ABS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) | This survey collects information on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern. The 2002 NATSISS includes data on: self-assessed health status; disability status; educational opportunities and outcomes; employment and voluntary work; use of information technology; family relationships and engagement with wider social networks; personal safety and security; cultural and recreational activities; and Indigenous culture and language. The most recent survey was conducted in 2002 and the next is planned for 2008. Results are published in <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 4714.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| ABS | Participation in Sports and Physical Activities | This survey collects details on the number and characteristics of people who participate in a range of sport and physical activities. The survey covers persons who participated in sporting events or who participated in other physical activities in the twelve months prior to interview; the frequency of participation; and whether participation was in organised or non-organised events and activities. Regular survey, the latest survey was conducted during 2005–06 and expected to be released in Jan 2007. Data are available at a national and state/territory level. Results are published in <i>Participation in Sports and Physical Activities, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4177.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | Previous surveys 18 years and over. 15 years and over in 2005–06 |

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| ABS | Personal Safety Survey | The survey collects a range of information on both men and women's safety at home and in the community. The survey covers experiences of physical and sexual violence, the nature of the violence, the actions taken after experiencing violence and the effect on their life. It also covers experience of physical and sexual abuse as a child and since the age of 15. The survey replaces the Women's Safety Survey (1996), which only surveyed women. Data were released in August 2006. Results are published in <i>Personal Safety, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4906.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| ABS | Sports Attendance | The survey collects data about the characteristics of persons who attended sporting events as spectators (excluding junior and school sport). The survey covers persons who attended sporting matches or competitions in the 12 months prior to interview; their socio-demographic characteristics; types of events attended; and frequency of attendance. Regular survey, latest available data are from 2002. However, the survey was conducted again in 2005–06 and expected to be released in Jan 2007. Results are published in <i>Sports Attendance, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4174.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | Previous surveys 18 years and over. 15 years and over in 2005–06 |
| ABS | Survey of Voluntary Work | The survey collects a range of information on volunteers, including the types of organisations they volunteer for and the amount of time spent volunteering. The survey covers people engaged in formal voluntary activities; the hours worked; the organisational settings in which they voluntary; the type of voluntary activities; expenses incurred; perceived benefits of volunteering; reasons for becoming a volunteer; and socio-demographic characteristics. Irregular survey conducted in 1995 and 2000. The survey was conducted again in 2006, results are expected to be released in February 2007. Results are published in <i>Voluntary Work, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4441.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| ABS | Time Use Survey | This survey collects information about how people aged 15 years and over spend their time. All types of activities are recorded including education, work (both paid and unpaid) and recreation and leisure. It includes data about the relationship of the people with whom, and for whom, various activities were undertaken and provides insights into the time people spend in caring for others and socialising. Regular survey, latest available is 1997 and was conducted again in 2006. The 2006 data will be released in August 2007. Results are published in <i>How Australians Use Their Time</i> (ABS cat. no. 4153.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| ABS | Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities | The survey collects information on persons involved in paid or unpaid work in selected culture and leisure activities over a 12-month period. The survey collected information on the types of activities undertaken; the time spent on activities; whether any payment was received; the amount of payment received; and whether those activities were part of the person's main job as well as demographic information. Regular survey conducted three-yearly, the latest available data are 2004. It is planned again for 2007. Results are published in <i>Work in Selected Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 6281.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| ACER and DEST | Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth | The longitudinal surveys collect information annually on the progress of several cohorts of young Australians as they move from school into post-secondary education and work. The surveys cover participation in education, training and the labour market, as well as collecting data on life satisfaction, relationships and household and family formation. These surveys commenced in the late 1970s and latest data are May 2006. Research reports based on the data from the longitudinal surveys are published frequently and are available on the ACER's website (www.acer.edu.au). | 14–25 years |
| AIFS | Australian Temperament Project (ATP) | The ATP is a longitudinal study of the psychosocial development of children born in Victoria, between September 1982 and January 1983. The survey collects information on social competence, peer relationships, civic mindedness and family functioning. Thirteen waves of data have been collected by mail surveys from 4–8 months of age to 19–20 years of age. Publications are produced regularly and are available on the AIFS' website (http://www.aifs.gov.au/atp/pubs.html). | Children born between September 1982–January 1983 |

Risk Behaviours

| Agency | Source Name | Description | Age Coverage (years) |
|--------|--|---|----------------------|
| ABS | Causes of Death (administrative) | The collection brings together information for causes of deaths, for all deaths registered in Australia. Provides information on deaths occurring due to risk behaviours, drowning, suicides and external causes (such as motor vehicle accidents and drug overdoses). Collections conducted annually, latest available data are 2004. Results are published in <i>Causes of Death, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 3303.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | General Social Survey | This survey collects information on various topics of concern to provide multidimensional views of peoples' wellbeing. Included are some information about experience of crime in the previous 12 months and feelings of safety and there is also some data on the health status of individuals (eg self-assessed health and disability status). The survey was first conducted in 2002 and is intended to be conducted four-yearly. Results from the 2006 survey are due for release in February 2007. Results are published in <i>General Social Survey: Summary of Results, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4159.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| ABS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) | This survey collects a range of information from Indigenous Australians about health related issues and socioeconomic circumstances. The survey collects information on long-term health conditions, injuries and health-related actions for Indigenous people. Other relevant data include dietary behaviours (fruit and vegetable intake, type of milk consumed, and added salt) for people aged 12 years and over; Body Mass Index, exercise, and substance use for people aged 15 years and over; alcohol consumption and smoker status for people aged 18 years and over; and mammograms, pap smears and contraception for females aged 18 years and over. In addition, there are a number of other measures which may indicate increased risk including: social and emotional wellbeing; removal from natural family; and life stressors. The NATSIHS was first conducted in 2004–05 and will be conducted six-yearly. Results are published in <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 4715.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) | This survey collects information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern. The 2002 NATSISS includes data on: disability status, smoker status, alcohol consumption and substance use. In addition, there are a number of other measures which may indicate increased risk including: removal from natural family; life stressors; support in times of crisis; non-participation in social and/or sporting activities; and neighbourhood/community problems. The most recent survey was conducted in 2002 and the next is planned for 2008. Results are published in <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey</i> (ABS cat. no. 4714.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 15 years and over |
| ABS | National Health Survey | This survey collects a range of information about health related issues. The survey covers demographic and socio-economic characteristics, health status, health related actions taken and health risk factors. In particular, it includes questions for adults only regarding health related aspects of lifestyle such as smoking, diet, exercise and alcohol consumption. The survey also provides information on injury/accidents and contraceptive practices. Regular survey conducted three-yearly, latest available data are 2004–05. Results are published in <i>National Health Survey: Summary of Results</i> (ABS cat. no. 4364.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | National Nutrition Survey | The survey collected a range of food and nutrition information. The survey covered food and beverage intake, physical measurements (height, weight, waist and hip circumferences) and eating habits and patterns (usual type of diet, addition of salt to food and desired dietary changes). In addition, a food frequency questionnaire was used to assess usual intake of those aged 12 years or more. One-off survey conducted in 1995 in conjunction with the then Department of Health and Aged Care. Results are published in <i>National Nutrition Survey: Selected Highlights</i> (ABS cat. no. 4802.0). | Two years and over |

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| ABS | National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults | The survey collects information on the prevalence of a range of major mental disorders for Australian adults. The survey covers chronic physical conditions and disability; health service use as a consequence of a mental health problem; perceived need for health services; and demographics. Instruments used to measure mental health and wellbeing included the Kessler 10, General Health Questionnaire 12 and Short Form-12. First conducted in 1997 in conjunction with the then Department of Health and Aged Care. The next survey is in 2007. Results are published in <i>Mental Health and Wellbeing: Profile of Adults, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4326.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| AIC | Drug Use Careers of Offenders | Project that seeks to measure drug use, including illicit drug use, amongst sentenced offenders through self-report data from adult male and female prisoners, and juvenile inmates in their final year. Examines offending patterns and illicit drug use, information on illicit drug markets and costs associated with drug-related criminal behaviour, and may be used to assess the role of treatment both within and outside the correctional system. Further information is available on the Institute's website (www.aic.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| AIC | Drug Use Monitoring in Australia | Quarterly data published annually; data available from 1999-2004. Project to measure drug use among those recently apprehended by police. Data used to examine issues such as the relationship between drugs and property and violent crime, monitor patterns of drug use across time, and help assess the need for drug treatment amongst the offender population. Detainee characteristics include sex and age of detainee, previous history. Further information is available on the Institute's website (www.aic.gov.au). | 18 years and over |
| AIC | International Violence Against Women Survey | This survey was conducted across Australia between December 2002 and June 2003. More than 6,500 women aged 18-69 years provided information on their experiences of physical, sexual and psychological violence. Describes the type of violence (including threats of violence) by current and former intimate male partners, other known males such as relatives, friends and acquaintances, and strangers. It also examines women's reported experiences of childhood violence, as well as their perceptions and reactions to the violence they experienced. A report, <i>Women's Experiences of Male Violence: Findings from the Australian Component of the International Violence Against Women Survey</i> was released in 2004. Further information is available on the Institute's website (www.aic.gov.au). | Women aged 18-69 years |
| AIC | Juveniles in Detention in Australia | Data collected from 1981; published periodically pre-2004 and expected to be published annually from 2004. Monitors long-term trends and changes in the number and rate of juveniles in detention in each state/territory (via quarterly census). Data available include age, gender, Indigenous Status and remanded/sentenced status. Further information is available on the Institute's website (www.aic.gov.au). | Juveniles in detention |
| AIC | National Homicide Monitoring Program | National Homicide Monitoring Program. Annual data from 1989. Monitors trends and patterns in the incidence of homicide across Australia. Data on victims and offenders of homicide including location, time and date of offence, whether incident was drug related, and various characteristics of offender and victim: age, gender, racial appearance, country of birth, marital status, employment status, prior domestic violence history, relationship between victim and offender. Lowest level of geographic classification is by suburb. Further information is available on the Institute's website (www.aic.gov.au). | All ages |
| AIC | National Deaths in Custody Program | Annual data from 1992. Statistical database relating to deaths in custody of Indigenous (distinguishing Aboriginal from Torres Strait Islander peoples) and non-Indigenous persons, including deaths in police or prison custody, deaths of juveniles in detention, deaths caused directly or indirectly by traumatic injuries sustained, and deaths occurring in attempted escapes from custody. Data collected include age, Indigenous status, custodial authority in which death occurred, date and place of death, most serious offence, length of time in custody, cause of death, drug and substance abuse, mental health. Lowest level of geographic classification is by state and territory. Reports available on the Institute's website (www.aic.gov.au); further aggregate data available by request. | All ages |

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| AIFS | Australian Temperament Project (ATP) | The ATP is a longitudinal study of the psychosocial development of children born in Victoria, between September 1982 and January 1983. The survey collects information on antisocial behaviour and substance use. Thirteen waves of data have been collected by mail surveys from 4–8 months of age to 19–20 years of age. Publications are produced regularly and are available on the AIFS' website (http://www.aifs.gov.au/atp/pubs.html). | Children born between September 1982–January 1983 |
| AIFS | Fertility Decision Making Project | The Fertility Decision Making Project seeks to explain how a range of factors contributing to decisions about having children interact to help shape fertility trajectories. The survey covered a wide range of aspects of the respondents' lives, including their relationship and childbearing history, their employment, income and education, aspirations and expectations of having children in the future, and the importance they attach to various factors that might be considered in the decision to have or not have a child. The study was conducted in December 2003. A research report is available on the AIFS' website (http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/resreport11/main.html). | 20–39 years |
| AIHW | Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (administrative) | The collection provides ongoing information on a wide range of drug and alcohol community-based intervention programs. The collection covers national and state/territory information on alcohol and other drug treatment services; the clients who use these services; and the type of drug services for which treatment is being sought. An ongoing collection reported annually, latest data are 2003–2004 available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | 10 years and over |
| AIHW | Illicit Drug Reporting System (administrative) | This reporting system monitors emerging drug trends at a state/territory level. It covers the price, purity, availability and patterns of use of the main illicit drugs, as well as acting as an early warning system for emerging drug trends. Data are obtained through a triangulation of three sources: a quantitative survey of injecting drug users; a qualitative survey of key informants and existing data sources (such as customs data, seizure purity data and arrest data). Conducted annually, latest report is 2005. Results are published in <i>Australian Drug Trends Report</i> available on the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre's website (www.ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au). | |
| AIHW | Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (administrative) | The collection provides a source of nationally comparable information on the flow of young offenders through the justice system over time. The collection includes date of birth, sex, Indigenous status, for each offence the type, transfer details, last known home suburb and postcode, and reason for exiting the juvenile justice system. Ongoing collection, 2000–2001 to 2003–2004 data were reported in February 2006 available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). The next publication with 2004–05 data is currently scheduled for release in 2007. | 10–17 or 10–18 years depending on jurisdiction |
| AIHW | National Drug Strategy Household Survey | The survey collects information about the degree of concern regarding various drugs and their usage of each drug. The drugs included are tobacco, alcohol, pain killers, tranquillisers, steroids, barbiturates, marijuana, heroin, amphetamines, cocaine, hallucinogens, LSD, ecstasy and inhalants. This survey also includes questions on state/territory regulations on cannabis use; alcohol and drug related incidents; friends drug use; methadone and the SF-36 survey instrument to enable a health 'score' to be calculated. Regular survey conducted three-yearly, latest available data are 2004. Results are published in <i>National Drug Strategy Household Survey: Detailed Findings</i> available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | 12 years and over |
| AIHW | National Physical Activity Survey | The survey collects information on the physical activity patterns of Australians. The survey covers awareness of the moderate intensity physical activity messages; intentions to become more active in the future; participation in predominantly leisure-time physical activities (including walking for transport) during the previous week and their usual physical activity patterns over the last six months. Irregular survey conducted in 1997, 1999 and 2000. Results are published in <i>Physical Activity Patterns of Australian Adults</i> available on the AIHW's website (www.aihw.gov.au). | 18–75 years |
| Attorney Generals Department and DEST | Young People and Domestic Violence | The survey collects information on the extent of young people's exposure to, and attitudes toward, domestic violence. The survey covers reactions and responses of young people witnessing parental domestic violence; experiences of violence; and incidence of violence in their own intimate relationships. One-off survey conducted in 1999. Contact the Attorney General's Department on (02) 6250 6666 for further information on this survey. | 12–20 years |

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| Australian Drug Foundation | DrugInfo Clearinghouse | The DrugInfo Clearinghouse functions as a drug prevention network providing easy access to information on drugs (including alcohol) and drug prevention strategies. As a clearinghouse, <i>DrugInfo</i> collects, interprets and disseminates information on drug prevention. Every three months a range of new resources are published focusing on a particular drug prevention strategy or issue. More information is available on the Foundation's website (www.druginfo.adf.org.au). | |
| Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, LaTrobe University | National Survey of Australian Secondary School Students | The survey collects a range of information on sexual health and blood borne viruses. The survey covers the knowledge, and sources of knowledge, of the transmission of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases; attitudes to HIV, sexual practices and contraception; alcohol consumption; and demographics including sex, age, year at school, country of birth, years in Australia, language spoken at home and location. Regular survey conducted five-yearly, latest available data are 2002. Results are published in <i>Secondary Students and Sexual Health</i> available on the Centre's website (http://www.latrobe.edu.au/arcshs/downloads/Reports/SSASHSummary.pdf). | Secondary school aged students |
| Australian Transport Safety Bureau | Road Fatalities, Australia (administrative) | The collection provides a range of information regarding road fatalities at the national, state and territory level. The collection provides data on the number of fatalities (by age and sex) and type of road user (pedestrian, motorcyclist, driver, cyclist or passenger). Data summaries are reported monthly, with comprehensive reports (including age and sex analysis) produced annually. Publications are available on the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's website (www.astb.gov.au). | All ages |
| DoHA | The Child and Adolescent Component of the National Survey Of Mental Health and Wellbeing, 1998 | The survey collects information on mental health problems among children and adolescents in Australia. It also provides information about the degree of disability associated with mental health problems and the extent to which children and adolescents are receiving help for their problems. The survey used behaviour checklists to identify mental health problems and the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children to identify mental disorders. Mental health problems, health related quality of life and degree of disability information was obtained from parents of children aged four to 12. One-off survey conducted in 1998. Results are published in <i>Child and Adolescent Component of the National Survey Of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Mental Health of Young People in Australia</i> available on the DoHA's website (www.health.gov.au). | Birth–17 years |

Other Relevant Children and Youth Data Sources

| Agency | Source Name | Description | Age Coverage (years) |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| ABS | Estimated Resident Population | The estimates by age of the population of Australia and the states and territories at the date of the census are derived from the census counts by place of usual residence, by adjusting for under-enumeration and adding the number of Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the census. Post-censal population estimates are obtained by advancing the previous year's estimates to the next year by subtracting deaths and adding births and net estimated interstate and overseas migration. After each census, estimates for the preceding inter-censal period are revised by incorporating an additional adjustment (inter-censal discrepancy) to ensure that the total inter-censal increase at each age agrees with the difference between the estimated resident populations at the two respective census dates. The estimates are published quarterly in <i>Australian Demographic Statistics</i> (ABS cat. no. 3101.0) and annually in <i>Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories</i> (ABS cat. no. 3201.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages |
| ABS | Family Characteristics Survey | The survey collects information about the composition of households and families and the characteristics and circumstances of people within them. The survey covers family information (such as whether the child has a natural parent living elsewhere and family blending), visiting arrangements with natural parents (frequency of visit, frequency of overnight stays, procedures, contact with parents living elsewhere). The survey was conducted in 1997 and 2003 and will be conducted again in 2006/07. Results are published in <i>Family Characteristics, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 4442.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | Birth–17 years |
| ABS | Population Projections | The collection provides projections (based on different assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration) of the resident population of Australia, the states and territories, capital cities and balance of states, by 5-year age groups and sex. Every two to three years the ABS publishes a new set of population projections. The new projections are produced in order to take advantage of the most recent information on components of population change and to take account of the latest estimates of the resident population. The latest available data provides projections from 2004–2101. Results are published in <i>Population Projections, Australia</i> (ABS cat. no. 3222.0) available on the ABS' website (www.abs.gov.au). | All ages (in five-year age groups) |
| NATSEM | Child social exclusion indexes | The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling has developed a child-centred form of a socio-economic index for areas, applicable at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) level. The index shows areas where disadvantaged children are living in Australia, and provides information about the family characteristics of children living within each SLA (e.g. percentage living in a family where no parent has a job or a post-school qualification). The first of a series of research papers have been released: <i>Poverty and disadvantage among Australian children— a spatial perspective</i> ; <i>Indicators of social exclusion for Australia's children— analysis by state and age group</i> ; and <i>Children at risk of social exclusion— methodology and overview</i> . These papers are available from the Centre's website (www.natsem.canberra.edu.au). | Children aged 0-15 years |
| University of Tasmania | Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies | The Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies provides information on a wide-range of issues that affect young people today. The information provided is multidisciplinary, acknowledging the overlapping nature, and inter-connectedness, of youth issues. The Clearinghouse also publishes <i>Youth Studies, Australia</i> , a peer-reviewed journal released quarterly. More information is available on the Clearinghouse's website (www.acys.utas.edu.au/). | Early adolescence to early adult years |

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

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| <i>INTERNET</i> | www.abs.gov.au the ABS web site is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS. |
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| <i>PHONE</i> | 1300 135 070 |
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| <i>FAX</i> | 1300 135 211 |
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