Data Dictionary

NSW Mortality data

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Death Registrations

Australian Coordinating Registry Cause of Death Unit Record File

May 2025

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# Background

All deaths for which a coronial inquiry is not required must be certified as to cause and date by a registered medical practitioner and the certificate registered by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM) in each State and Territory. Deaths referred to a coroner are registered by the coroner at the conclusion of an inquiry into the circumstances of the death. The vast majority of non-coronial deaths are registered with the relevant RBDM within four weeks of the date of death; however coronial inquiries can take months or even years to conclude.

Details of all registered deaths are forwarded to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS then check and code the information. A single code for an underlying cause of death was applied in the years to 1997. From 1997 multiple cause of death codes (ICD-10) were applied to each death record where more than one cause contributed to the death.

# Australian Coordinating Registry Cause of Death Unit Record File

For deaths registered from 2007 onwards, the Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health receives coded cause of death data from the Australian Coordinating Registry (ACR) for the Cause of Death Unit Record File (COD URF). Access to the COD URF is in accordance with the ACR terms and conditions of use and disclosure by the NSW Ministry of Health.

The legacy ABS mortality data prior to 2006 have been mapped and combined with the COD URF.

# Record linkage of RBDM and ABS / ACR data

Death registrations held by the RBDM contain full personal identifiers and the death registration number. The ABS removes personal identifiers from the ABS mortality data each year once their annual mortality report is published but retains the death registration number. Thus, RBDM death registration data constitute personally identified but uncoded raw data, while the ABS mortality data have coded cause of death but with personal information removed.

The Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL) is able to link ABS death registration data with RBDM death registration data using the death registration number. The death registration number is usually reliable for linkage of these two datasets, however additional passes on other common identifiers, such as the date of birth, sex, and the date of death, are also included to help improve matching on unlinked records. The CHeReL routinely carries out checks of these linkages.

# Tips for using mortality data in linkage studies

* Two datasets contain mortality information: RBDM death registration data and the ABS/ACR COD URF.
* The ABS / ACR COD URF is based on year of registration of the death, rather than the year of the death. RBDM Death Registrations and ACR CODURF data from 1985 onwards are available for linkage projects
* RBDM death registration data are provided in raw, uncoded format. For this reason, only date of birth, age at death, date of death, year of death registration and some geographic variables are available for analysis. While the free text cause of text was previously provided to researchers on an interim basis, new requests for free text cause of text will require a strong justification.
* ABS / ACR COD URF data are available later than the RBDM death registration data due to the time needed for coding and cleaning of the data.
* Death data is coded according to the ICD-10 International Version rather than the Australian Modification ICD-10-AM used in Australian hospitals.
* Death records available for linkage include deaths occurring in NSW and do not include deaths of NSW residents who die interstate. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare holds the National Death Index, which can be used for research studies that require linkage of death records for NSW residents who die interstate.
* The date of birth is sometimes incorrect as it is reported by relatives to the funeral director at the time when the funeral is being arranged. The funeral director reports the personal details of the deceased to the RBDM. Particularly for older family members who have died, relatives generally report the birth day (day and month) correctly but may inadvertently give an incorrect year of birth. For this reason, age at death may be preferable for analysis purposes.

# Coded cause of death

The ACR CODURF dataset includes coded cause of death information produced by the ABS.

The underlying cause is defined as the 'disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury'. The medical certificate of cause of death recommended by World Health Organisation (WHO) for international use, was designed to facilitate the selection of the underlying cause. When more than one condition is entered on the death certificate the underlying cause is selected using the coding rules of the relevant version of the International Classification of Diseases and Health Related Problems (ICD).

Prior to 1997, the ABS had a manual process to code underlying cause of death information according to ICD-9. Since 1997, the ABS have coded multiple causes of death according to ICD-10 using automated processes.

Additional information on underlying and multiple cause of death information and automated coding process are available in the data element information sections for Underlying Cause of Death Diagnosis Code and Contributing causes of death (ICD-10) below.

## COVID-19 Deaths

Coded cause of death information on deaths where COVID-19 was certified on the death certificate are now included in the ACR CODURF. COVID-19 is coded to U07.1 (virus confirmed by laboratory), U07.2 (suspected COVID-19), U08.9 (personal history of COVID-19) and U09.9 (long term effects of COVID-19). Deaths where a negative COVID-19 result was noted have Z03.8 listed in the entities and record axes

# Geography variables in ACR COD URF

Usual residence is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the form of an address. This address is then coded by the ABS in accordance with the geographic classification current at the time of coding. A break in series for geographic classification occurred between 2010 and 2011.

* 1988 to 2010 data was coded using the [Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/1216.0) . For a given reference year, the previous year’s version of the ASGC was used (e.g., for 2008 reference year, the ASGC 2007 was used). Researchers may request Statistical Local Area (SLA), Statistical Subdivision (SD) or Statistical Subdivision (SSD) information.
* 2011 to 2015 data is coded using the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/1270.0.55.001main%2Bfeatures1July%202011). Researchers may request Statistical Area levels 2 (SA2), 3 (SA3) or 4 (SA3)
* 2016 data onwards is coded to [ASGS 2016](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/1270.0.55.001Main%2BFeatures10018July%202016). Researchers may request SA2, SA3 or SA4 level information.
* State of residence is available from 1985 onwards
* From 2006 onwards, ASGS 2021 Local Government Area 2021 code is available.

Further details are available in the Data element details below.

# Access to information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

An application to the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) ethics committee should be made for research projects for which one or more of the following apply:

* The experience of Aboriginal people is an explicit focus of all or part of the research
* Data collection is explicitly directed at Aboriginal peoples
* Aboriginal peoples, as a group, are to be examined in the results
* The information has an impact on one or more Aboriginal communities
* Aboriginal health funds are a source of funding

Research that is not specifically directed at Aboriginal people or communities, such as for the total population or a sub-population (e.g., rural NSW, people over 50 years old) can still potentially impact on Aboriginal people.

However, an application for such research need only be made to the Committee if any one of the following applies:

* Any of the five factors listed above are present: or
* Aboriginal people are known, or are likely, to be significantly over-represented in the group being studied (e.g., compared to the 2.1% of the total NSW population as shown in the 2006 Census); or
* The Aboriginal experience of the medical condition being studied is known, or is likely, to be different from the overall population; or
* There are Aboriginal people who use the services being studied in distinctive ways, or who have distinctive barriers that limit their access to the services; or
* It is proposed to separately identify data relating to Aboriginal people in the results.

The AH&MRC ethics committee have some specific requirements, including evidence of community engagement in the research. Relevant documents can be found on the AH&MRC website at: <http://www.ahmrc.org.au>. If you are unsure whether an application to the AH&MRC Ethics Committee is required, please seek the advice of the Ethics Committee secretariat (T: 02 9212 4777)

# Data Custodian

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages is the data custodian of death registration data. The CHeReL organises data custodian sign-off for RBDM and COD URF data on behalf of the researcher. To arrange sign-off, please contact:

Research Project Manager

Centre for Health Record Linkage

NSW Ministry of Health

1 Reserve Road

ST LEONARDS NSW 2065

Post: Locked Mail Bag 961

 North Sydney NSW 2059

Phone: 02 9391 9924

Fax: 02 9391 9686

Email: MOH-CHeReL@health.nsw.gov.au

# Data Elements

## RBDM Death registrations

### Data element summary

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Data Element | Name[s] in dataset | Page |
| Date of birth | birth\_date  | 5 |
| Date of death | death\_date | 5 |
| Age at death in years | age\_recode | 5 |
| Year of Registration | registration\_year | 6 |
| State of residence | state\_of\_residence\_recode | 6 |

### Data element details

#### Date of birth

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Data element | Date of birth |
| **Name[s] in dataset** | birth\_date |
| **Description** | The date of birth of the individual. Full date of birth is rarely released for data linkage projects; please ensure that you include detailed justification if you require full date of birth. |

#### Date of death

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Data element | Date of death |
| **Name[s] in dataset** | death\_date |
| **Description** | The date of death of the individual. Full date of death is rarely released for data linkage projects; please ensure that you include detailed justification if you require full date of death. |

#### Age at death in years

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Data element | Age at death in years |
| **Name[s] in dataset** | age\_recode |
| **Description** | Age at death of the individual in years |

#### Year of Registration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Data element | Year of Registration |
| **Name[s] in dataset** | registration\_year |
| **Description** | The year in which death was registered |

#### State of residence

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Data element | State of residence |
| **Name[s] in dataset** | state\_of\_residence\_recode |
| **Description** | Indicates the Australian state of residence |

## ACR CODURF

The information below is derived from the Australian Coordinating Registry and Australian Bureau of Statistics Cause of Death Unit Record File User Guide 2025.

### Data element summary

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Data Element | Name[s] in dataset | Page |
| ABS revision status  | revision\_status | 8 |
| Date of birth | birth\_date | 8 |
| Date of death | death\_date | 9 |
| Year of registration | reg\_year | 11 |
| Indigenous status | indigenous\_status | 11 |
| Age at death in years | age\_years | 13 |
| Fractional Age | dth\_age | 14 |
| Place of birth | birth\_place | 15 |
| Period of residence in Australia | period\_residence  | 16 |
| Sex | sex | 17 |
| Place of Occurrence of External Cause of Death | place\_occurrence | 18 |
| ICD version | ucod\_codeset | 18 |
| Underlying Cause of Death Diagnosis Code | ucod\_recode | 19 |
| Contributing causes of death (ICD-10)  | RACS1-RACS20 | 21 |
| State /Territory of usual residence | URES\_state | 22 |
| Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) Statistical Local Area | URES\_9DIGIT | 23 |
| Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Statistical Area level 2  | URES9\_SA2 | 24 |

### Data element details

#### ABS revision status

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | ABS revision status |
| **Context** | All cause of death data from 2006 onwards are subject to a [revisions process](https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/causes-death-australia-methodology/2021). Variable included in all data releases |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | revision\_status |
| **Data Domain** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Code | Description |
| Final |  |
| Revised |  |
| Preliminary |  |

 |
| **Guide for Use** |  |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Australian Bureau Statistics |
| **Source Organisation** | Australian Bureau Statistics |
| **Notes** | For coroner certified deaths, the specificity of cause of death coding can be affected by the length of time for the coronial process to be finalised and the coroner case closed. To improve the quality of ICD coding, all coroner certified deaths registered after 1 January 2006 are subject to a revisions process.Up to and including deaths registered in 2005, ABS Causes of Death processing was finalised at a point in time. At this point, not all coroners' cases had been investigated, the case closed, and relevant information loaded into the National Coronial Information System (NCIS). The coronial process can take several years if an inquest is being held or complex investigations are being undertaken. In these instances, the cases remain open on the NCIS, and relevant reports may be unavailable. Coroners' cases that have not been closed or had all information made available can impact on data quality as less specific ICD codes often need to be applied.The revisions process to date has focused on cases that remain open on the NCIS database. ABS coders investigate and use additional information from police reports, toxicology reports, autopsy reports and coroners' findings to assign more specific causes of death. The use of this additional information occurs at either 12 or 24 months after initial processing and the specificity of the assigned ICD-10 codes increase over time. As 12 or 24 months pass after initial processing, many coronial cases are closed, with the coroner having dispensed a cause of death and relevant reports have been made available. This allows ABS coders to assign a more specific cause of death. |
|  |

#### Date of birth

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | Day of birth of the deceased person. |
| **Context** | May be used to derive age at death and for demographic analysis and analysis by age. |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | birth\_date |
| **Data Domain** |  |
| **Guide for Use** | If Birth date is not known or cannot be obtained, it is imputed from age if available.If age is also unknown up to and including reference year 2009, Birth Year is assigned as 9999 Not stated, Birth Month is assigned as 99 Not stated Birth Day is assigned as 99 Not stated.From 2010 reference year and onwards, not stated may be shown as 9999 or as 2099. From 2012 reference year, if age is also unknown, birth year is assigned only as 2099 Not stated.For 2010 and 2011 reference years, Birth Month can be assigned to either 00 Not Stated/Unknown or 9 in cases where the value of the birth year is 2099. From 2012 reference year, if age is also unknown, only a value of 9 is used to represent Not Stated/Unknown for cases where the value of the birth year is 2099For 2009, 2010 and 2011 reference years, Birth Day can be assigned to either 00 Not Stated/Unknown or 9 in cases where the value of the birth year is 2099. From 2012 reference year, if age is also unknown, only a value of 9 is used for those cases where the value of the birth year is 2099. |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death Notification Form |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages |
| **Notes** | Full date of birth is rarely released for data linkage projects; please ensure that you include detailed justification if you require full date of birth. |

#### Date of death

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | Date in which a death occurred |
| **Context** | Provides a time reference to allow analysis of change over time |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | death\_date |
| **Data Domain** |  |
| **Guide for Use** | For some records, a date of death may be unknown (e.g., skeletal remains). Up to and including reference year 2009 these records are assigned a Year of Death of 9999 Not stated, a Month of Death of 99 Not stated and a Day of Death of 99 Not stated. If Death Day is not known or cannot be obtained, up to and including reference year 2009, Death Day is assigned as 99 Not stated.From 2010 reference year and onwards, not stated may be shown as 9999 or as 2099. From 2012 reference year, Year of Death is assigned only as 2099 to represent Not stated.For 2010 and 2011 reference years, Death Month can be assigned to either 00 Not Stated/Unknown or 9 in cases where the value of the Death Year is 2099. From 2012 reference year, only a value of 9 is used to represent Not Stated for those cases where the value of the Death Year is 2099.For 2010 and 2011 reference years, Death Day can be assigned to either 00 Not Stated/Unknown or 09 in cases where the value of the birth year is 2099. From 2012 reference year, if age is also unknown, only a value of 09 is used for those cases where the value of the Death Year is 2099. |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death Notification Form |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages |
| **Notes** | Full date of death is rarely released for data linkage projects; please ensure that you include detailed justification if you require full date of death. |

#### Year of registration

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | Year in which a death is registered by Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages |
| **Context** | Provides a measure of when a death was registered with the relevant Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. May be used in conjunction with date of death to measure registration lag. |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | REG\_YEAR |
| **Data Domain** | Valid year |
| **Guide for Use** | In general, deaths in Australia are not registered until a burial or cremation has occurred. This means there is some time between the death occurring and the death being registered. For some deaths, this time between occurrence and registration may be considerable. Due to the legislative requirements regarding registration and burial/cremation, deaths occurring at the end of the year may often be registered in the year after they occurred (especially those occurring in December). |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Derived during Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages processes. |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages |
| **Notes** | Year of Registration is assigned by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages during processing. If Year of Registration is missing from the data received by the ABS, Year of Registration is imputed as the year in which the record is received by the ABS. All records are assigned a Year of Registration. |

#### Indigenous status

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | Indigenous Status is a measure of whether the deceased person has been identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. |
| **Context** |  |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | indigenous\_status |
| **Data Domain** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Code | Description |
| 1  | Aboriginal |
| 2  | Torres Strait Islander  |
| 3  | Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin |
| 4  | Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander |
| 9  | Not stated |

 |
| **Guide for Use** |  |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death Registration Form, Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, Medical Cause of Perinatal death, and for coroner-certified deaths the National Coronial Information System (NCIS).Changes have occurred in which sources have been used to derive Indigenous Status. The table below outlines when these changes occurred for the jurisdictions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reference Year | Source of derivation of Indigenous Status |
| Prior to 2007 | Death Registration Form only |
| From 2007 | SA, WA, Tas., NT, ACT – included Medical Certificate Cause of Death |
| From 2015 | QLD – included Medical Certificate Cause of Death  |
| From 2022 | NSW – included Medical Certificate Cause of Death and National Coronial Information System for deaths certified by a coroner. |
| From 2023 | Vic. – included Medical Certificate Cause of Death.All jurisdictions – included National Coronial Information System for deaths certified by a coroner. |

 |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and National Coronial Information System (NCIS) |
| **Notes** | Information on a deceased person’s Indigenous Status is of varying quality and completeness. Presently, due to quality issues, the ABS only produces statistical analysis such as age-standardised death rates on deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for selected states/territories, namely New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory.With the addition of the MCCD and NCIS Indigenous status information from 2023, the ABS now recommends that deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people due to suicide in Victoria now be included in official statistics from 2018. See technical [note](https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/technical-note-impact-using-multiple-sources-deriving-indigenous-status-deaths-2023-changes-victoria-and-coroner-referred-deaths). Rates for other states/territories are not published due to a combination of comparatively small numbers and relatively low coverage of reported Indigenous deaths.For some records, there may be inconsistency in Indigenous status as recorded on the Death Registration Form and the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death or National Coronial Information System. The ABS considers both sources and works with data providers to understand these differences. In most situations, the final derived Indigenous Status generally considers identification as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander on any source as being more accurate than identification of non-Indigenous or an unknown status. |

#### Age at death in years

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | Age of the deceased person in years |
| **Context** | Used for demographic analysis and analysis of cause of death by age |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | age\_years |
| **Data Domain** | Age in complete years (integer) |
| **Guide for Use** |  |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death Notification Form |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages |
| **Notes** | If age at death is not provided, ABS will impute from date of birth and date of death where possible. |

#### Fractional Age

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | Age of the deceased person |
| **Context** | Used for demographic analysis and analysis of cause of death by age |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | dth\_age |
| **Data Domain** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Value | Description |
| 1-120 | Age in years |
| 201-211 | Age in months with prefix of 2 |
| 299 | Unknown months |
| 301-327 | Age in days with a prefix of 3 |
| 398 | Unknown days |
| 401-423 | Age in hours with a prefix of 4 |
| 499 | Unknown hours |
| 500-559 | Age in minutes with a prefix of 5 |
| 599 | Unknown minutes |
| 601-659 | Age in seconds with a prefix of 6 |
| 699 | Unknown seconds |
| 999 | Not stated |

 |
| **Guide for Use** | Age at death during the first year of life (0 years) is recorded in completed months, days, hours or minutes. If aged between 1 and 11 months, Age at Death is recorded in months. If aged between 1 and 28 days, Age at Death is recorded in days. If aged between 1 and 23 hours, Age at Death is recorded in hours. If aged less than an hour, Age at Death is recorded in minutes. If age is less than one minute, Age at Death is recorded in seconds. |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death Notification Form |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages |
| **Notes** | If age at death is not provided, ABS will impute from date of birth and date of death where possible. |

#### Place of birth

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | The country or state/territory (if born in Australia) in which the deceased person was born. |
| **Context** | Place of birth is important in studying the access to services and health outcomes by different population sub-groups. Place of birth is the most easily collected and consistently reported of possible data items. The item provides a link between the ABS Census of Population and Housing, and other statistical collections. Place of birth may be used in conjunction with other data elements such as Period of residence in Australia to derive more sophisticated measures of access to services by different population sub-groups and may help in identifying population sub-group(s) that may be at increased risk of particular causes of death. |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | birth\_place |
| **Data Domain** | The country or state/territory (if born in Australia) in which the deceased person was born. In 2009 the classification changed from Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) 1998 (Revision 2.03) to the 2008 version of the SACC. From 2012-2016 the 2011 version of SACC has been used, from 2017 onwards the [Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016 (cat. no. 1269.0)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/5D2485E6F15281E6CA2570B5007ACA80?opendocument) has been used  |
| **Guide for Use** | Coding has changed many times and is inconsistent. Use with care. |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death Notification Form |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, standard classification codes are added by the ABS |
| **Notes** | In 2009 the classification changed from Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) 1998 (Revision 2.03) to the 2008 version of the SACC. In 2012 the 2011 version of the SACC was implemented. In the 2008 version of the SACC, supplementary codes used to identify the state or territory of birth for persons born in Australia were included in the classification. These codes ranged from 0901-0909. These codes were not retained in the 2011 version of SACC. To capture this level of detail, the ABS retained these codes with the move to SACC 2011. The correspondence for these codes can be found below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Code | Value |
| 0901 | New South Wales |
| 0902 | Victoria |
| 0903 | Queensland |
| 0904 | South Australia |
| 0905 | Western Australia |
| 0906 | Tasmania |
| 0907 | Northern Territory |
| 0908 | Australian Capital Territory |
| 0909 | Other territories of Australia |

SACC was revised in 2016, but the only changes were to country names. Codes remain unchanged from the 2011 version.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SACC 2011, Version 2.3 | SACC 2016 |
| 3206 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) | 3206 North Macedonia |
| 3302 Czech Republic | 3302 Czechia |
| 5101 Myanmar, The Republic of the Union of | 5101 Myanmar |
| 8202 Bolivia, Plurinational State of | 8202 Bolivia |
| 8216 Venezuela, Bolivaran Republic of | 8216 Venezuela |
| 9226 Swaziland | 9226 Eswatini |

 |

#### Period of residence in Australia

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | Period of residence in Australia, in years |
| **Context** | Used in conjunction with data element Place of birth, this data item may be used for analysis relating to changes in mortality patterns of sub-populations over time. |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | period\_residence |
| **Data Domain** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Code | Value |
| 00-96 | Years of residence in Australia |
| 97 | 97 or more years of residence in Australia |
| 98 | Born in Australia (not applicable) |
| 99 | Not stated |

 |
| **Guide for Use** |  |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death notification form |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages |
| **Notes** | Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages provide the ABS with Year of Arrival rather than Period of Residence. The ABS derives Period of Residence from Year of Arrival and Year of Death. |

#### Sex

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | The sex of a deceased person. |
| **Context** | Used for demographic analysis and analysis of cause of death by sex. |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | sex |
| **Data Domain** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Code | Value |
| 1 | Male |
| 2 | Female |

 |
| **Guide for Use** |  |

##### Administrative Attributes

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| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death Notification Form |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages |
| **Notes** | Where sex is not stated, efforts are made to find other information provided by the Registry, which offers a strong indication of sex, such as the cause of death of the deceased. Failing this, sex is assigned during processing based on the last digit of the death registration number for that death. |

#### Place of Occurrence of External Cause of Death

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 2007 |
| **Definition** | The place where the external mechanism leading to death occurred. |
| **Context** | Enables categorisation of injury and poisoning according to factors important for injury control. Necessary for defining and monitoring injury control targets, injury costs and identifying cases for in-depth research.Potential data quality and consistency issues may exist. |

##### Representational attributes

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| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | place\_occurence |
| **Data Domain** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Code | Value |
| 0 | Home |
| 1 | Residential Institution |
| 2 | School |
| 3 | Sports and athletics area |
| 4 | Street and highway |
| 5 | Trade and services |
| 6 | Industrial and construction area |
| 7 | Farm |
| 8 | Other specified places |
| 9 | Unspecified place |
| # | Place of occurrence not applicable |

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##### Administrative Attributes

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| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Doctor Certified Deaths – Medical Certificate of Cause of DeathCoroner Certified Deaths – Reports relating to the coroners’ investigation |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Doctor Certified Deaths and Unmatched Coroner Certified Deaths) National Coronial Information System (NCIS) (Matched Coroner Certified Deaths)  |
| **Notes** | For data from 2007 to 2012, Place of Occurrence of External Cause of Death is derived from the 4th digit of the ICD-10 code assigned to deaths due to external causes, for matched coroner records. For 2013 data onwards, Place of Occurrence of External Cause of Death is coded directly from comments in the reports relating to the coroners’ investigation. |

#### ICD version

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | Codeset used to classify Cause of death information |
| **Context** | This variable should be used in conjunction with the underlying and contributing cause of death data elements |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | UCOD\_CODESET |
| **Data Domain** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Code | Value |
| ICD9 | International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 9th Revision  |
| ICD10 | International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision |

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##### Administrative Attributes

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| **Source document** | Derived by NSW Ministry of Health |
| **Source Organisation** | Derived by NSW Ministry of Health |
| **Notes** | Derived based on ABS reference year. |

#### Underlying Cause of Death Diagnosis Code

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | The disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death. Accidental and violent deaths are classified according to the external cause, that is, to the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury rather than to the nature of the injury. |
| **Context** | Enables categorisation and classification of deaths according to cause. This information is necessary for epidemiological research and monitoring public health |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | ucod\_recode |
| **Data Domain** | 1985-1996 International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 9th Revision (ICD-9)1997- International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD-10). |
| **Guide for Use** | Use the ICD Version code to determine the codeset in use for a given record. |

##### Administrative Attributes

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| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Doctor Certified Deaths – Medical Certificate of Cause of DeathCoroner Certified Deaths – Medical certificate of cause of death, information available on the National Coronial Information System including police, toxicology, forensic pathology and coronial finding reports. |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory (Doctor Certified Deaths and Unmatched Coroner Certified Deaths) National Coronial Information System (NCIS) (Matched Coroner Certified Deaths)  |
| **Notes** | From 1998, the ABS codes and classifies the underlying cause of death according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD-10) rules and guidelines for mortality coding.From the 2013 reference year the ABS used Iris automated coding software managed by the German Institute of Medical Documentation and Information (DIMDI). The coding software directly interprets text and classifies all conditions reported on the death certificate to the corresponding ICD-10 code. The software also selects the underlying cause of death by application of the ICD rules and guidelines for mortality coding. Should a record fail automatic coding due to incorrect spelling, use of unfamiliar terms, illogical sequence of conditions or other reasons, it is coded clerically using the ICD rules and guidelines for mortality coding.Up until the 2012 reference year the ABS used automated coding software, developed by the United States’ National Centre for Health Statistics (NCCH) to process and code mortality data.**Updates to ICD-10 codes**The Update and Revision Committee (URC), a WHO advisory group on updates to ICD-10, maintains the cumulative and annual lists of approved updates to the ICD-10 classification. The updates to ICD-10 are of numerous types including the addition and deletion of codes, changes to coding instructions and modification and clarification of terms. From the 2013 reference year, the ABS implemented a new automated coding system called Iris. The 2013-2019 data coded in the Iris system applied an updated version of the ICD-10 (2013 version for 2013 data, 2015 version for 2014-2017 data, 2016 version for 2018 data and 2019 version for 2019 and 2020 data) when coding multiple causes of death, and when selecting the underlying cause of death.Prior to the 2013 reference year, the 2006 version of the ICD-10 was the most recent version used for coding deaths, except for two updates that were applied after the 2006 reference year. The first update was implemented in 2007 and related to the use of mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use, acute intoxication (F10.0, F11.0, F19.0) as an underlying cause of death. If the acute intoxication initiated the train of morbid events, it is now assigned an external accidental poisoning code (X40-X49) corresponding to the type of drug used. For example, if the death had been due to alcohol intoxication, the underlying cause before the update was F10.0, and after the update the underlying cause is X45, with poisoning code T51.9. The second update implemented from the 2009 reference year was the addition of Influenza due to certain identified virus (J09) to the Influenza and Pneumonia block. This addition was implemented to capture deaths due to Swine flu and Avian flu, which were reaching health epidemic status worldwide. Deaths where COVID-19 was certified on the death certificate are now included in the dataset. COVID-19 is coded to U07.1 (virus confirmed by laboratory), U07.2 (suspected COVID-19), U08.9 (personal history of COVID-19) and U09.9 (long term effects of COVID-19). Deaths where a negative COVID-19 result was noted have Z03.8 listed in the entities and record axes.The cumulative list of ICD-10 updates can be found [online.](https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/classification-of-diseases/list-of-official-icd-10-updates) |

#### Contributing causes of death (ICD-10)

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1997 |
| **Definition** | The ICD-10 coded data representing all morbid conditions, diseases and injuries associated with the death as they are recorded after application of the ICD-10 coding rules and procedures for the selection of underlying and associated causes of death for mortality tabulation. Part of the process applies modification rules, improbable sequence rules and in addition duplicate codes and noise codes are removed. |
| **Context** | Inclusion of all causes associated with a death enables more detailed analysis of mortality and public health than analysis of underlying cause alone. |

##### Representational attributes

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| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | RACS1 – RACS20 |
| **Data Domain** | International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD-10). |
| **Guide for Use** | Each condition is listed in the form of the ICD-10 code. ICD Code format without ‘`.’ Between third and fourth digit. If a particular cause does not have a four-digit code, the fourth character is filled as # |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Doctor Certified Deaths – Medical Certificate of Cause of DeathCoroner Certified Deaths– Medical certificate of cause of death, information available on the National Coronial Information System including police, toxicology, forensic pathology and coronial finding reports  |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory (Doctor Certified Deaths and Unmatched Coroner Certified Deaths) National Coronial Information System (NCIS) (Matched Coroner Certified Deaths)  |
| **Notes** | Users should be aware that there is a quality issue with record axis codes for reference year 2009 and some record axis codes for 2011 where the number of codes is one less than the record axis count for that record. This occurs where the record axis count is 10 or greater.In 2017, the ABS undertook a pilot study to extend the range of information captured using the ICD. The main focus of this study was to incorporate codes relating to psychosocial risk factors in the coding of coroner-referred deaths. This work has since been extended through a collaboration between the ABS, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Department of Health as part of the Suicide and Self-Harm Monitoring Project. Data is now available for 2017-2019 reference years in the form of ICD-10 codes beginning with Z. Interpretation of psychosocial data should be considered carefully in context with framework developed by the ABS based on ICD-10, available [here](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/1351.0.55.062Explanatory%20Notes12017?OpenDocument). |

#### State /Territory of usual residence

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1985 |
| **Definition** | Australian state/territory in which the deceased usually resided. Usual residence within Australia refers to that address at which the deceased has lived or intended to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year. |
| **Context** | Analyses facilitated by the inclusion of geographical information include comparison of patterns of mortality and health outcomes of persons residing in different geographical areas. |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | URES\_STATE |
| **Data Domain** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Code | Description |
| 1  | New South Wales |
| 2  | Victoria |
| 3  | Queensland |
| 4  | South Australia |
| 5  | Western Australia |
| 6  | Tasmania |
| 7  | Northern Territory |
| 8  | Australian Capital Territory |
| 9  | Other Territories (Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island, Jervis Bay Territory) |

 |
| **Guide for Use** | Deaths registered in Australia of persons usually resident overseas have been classified according to the state or territory in which the death was registered. |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death notification form |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, coded by ABS |
| **Notes** | Usual residence is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the form of an address. This address is then coded by the ABS in accordance with the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) (cat no 1216.0) up to and including 2010 and with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) from 2009 onwards. From 2011 to 2015, ASGS 2011 was used. From 2016 onwards, ASGS 2016 is used.For a given reference year, the previous year’s version of the ASGC was used. E.g., For 2008 reference year, the 2007 version of the ASGC was used. If usual residence is not provided, state/territory of usual residence is imputed as the state/territory in which the death is registered |

#### Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) Statistical Local Area

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 1988 |
| **End Date** | 2010 |
| **Definition** | 9-digit ASGC code denoting where the deceased usually resided. Usual residence refers to that address at which the deceased has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year. |
| **Context** | Analyses facilitated by the inclusion of geographical information include comparison of patterns of mortality and health outcomes of persons residing in different geographical areas. |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | URES\_9DIGIT |
| **Data Domain** | [Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC, 2011 (Cat. no. 1216.0))](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/allprimarymainfeatures/8B8ABC8EC62D8F46CA2570AE000DD3B5?opendocument)For a given reference year, the previous year’s version of the ASGC was used (e.g., for 2008 reference year, the 2007 version of the ASGC was used). |
| **Guide for Use** | The geographic location is reported using a nine-digit numeric code. This code is hierarchical and comprises a series of sub-codes indicating various levels of geography. The first digit of this code indicates the state or territory (S/T) of usual residence. Digits 2-3 show the Statistical Division (SD), digits 4-5 the Statistical Subdivision (SSD), and digits 6-9 show the Statistical Local Area (SLA) |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death Notification Form |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, coded by ABS |
| **Notes** | Usual residence is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the form of an address. This address is then coded by the ABS in accordance with the geographic classification current at the time of coding A break in series for geographic classification occurred between 2010 and 2011. 2001 to 2010 data was coded using the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) (cat no 1216.0). 2011 data onwards is coded using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001) to Statistical Area 2 (SA2) level.To assist users better understand the impact of this change in geography data for 2009 and 2010 has also been provided with a corresponding ASGS 9-digit numeric code. If usual residence is not provided, state/territory of usual residence is imputed as the state/territory in which the death is registered, with no further detail.Special purpose SLAs exist for certain circumstances: when a person has a usual address overseas (SA2s 188889299 – 888889299), when a person does not have a usual address, such as in the cases of long-term travellers or homeless people (SA2s 188889499 – 888889499), and when a person’s usual address is unknown (SA2s 188889899 – 888889899). A further migratory – offshore – shipping SLA (185019799 – 985019799) is used when the person died whilst in transit to Australia or whilst on board vessels, oil rigs or other structures in Australian waters |

#### Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Statistical Area level 2

##### Identifying and definitional attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | 2011 |
| **Definition** | 9-digit ASGS code denoting where the deceased usually resided. Usual residence refers to that address at which the deceased has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year. |
| **Context** | Analyses facilitated by the inclusion of geographical information include comparison of patterns of mortality and health outcomes of persons residing in different geographical areas. |

##### Representational attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field Name** | URES9\_SA2 |
| **Data Domain** | [Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Australian%2BStatistical%2BGeography%2BStandard%2B%28ASGS%29) |
| **Guide for Use** | The geographic location is reported using a nine-digit numeric code (SA2). This code is hierarchical and comprises a series of sub-codes indicating various levels of geography. The first digit of this code indicates the state or territory (S/T) of usual residence. Digits 2-3 show the SA4, digits 4-5 show the SA3, and digits 6-9 show the SA2. The SA2 identifier is a 4-digit code, assigned in alphabetical order within an SA3 and numerically within an SA4. An SA2 code is only unique within an S/T if it is preceded by the S/T identifier. |

##### Administrative Attributes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source document** | Death Notification Form |
| **Source Organisation** | Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, coded by ABS |
| **Notes** | Usual residence is provided to the ABS by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the form of an address. This address is then coded by the ABS in accordance with the geographic classification current at the time of coding. A break in series for geographic classification occurred between 2010 and 2011. 2001 to 2010 data was coded using the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) (cat no 1216.0). 2011 data onwards is coded using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) to Statistical Area 2 (SA2) level. Updates to the ASGS occur every five years.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reference years | ASGS version |
| 2011-2015 | 2011 |
| 2016-2020 | 2016 |
| 2021-2023 | 2021 |

To assist users better understand the impact of this change in geography data for 2009 and 2010 has also been provided with a corresponding ASGS 9-digit numeric code. If usual residence is not provided, state/territory of usual residence is imputed as the state/territory in which the death is registered, with no further detail.Special purpose SA2s exist for certain circumstances: when a person has a usual address overseas (SA2s 199999299 – 999999299), when a person does not have a usual address, such as in the cases of long-term travellers or homeless people (SA2s 199999499 – 999999499), and when a person’s usual address is unknown (SA2s 199999899 – 899999899). A further migratory – offshore – shipping SA2 (197979799 – 997979799) is used when the person died whilst in transit to Australia or whilst on board vessels, oil rigs or other structures in Australian waters. |