ACT Cause Of Death Unit Record File (CODURF)

# Dataset Information

| **Aspect** |  | **Comment** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dataset Description |  | Two datasets contain mortality information: RBDM death registration data and the COD URF. The COD URF is based on year of reference of the death, rather than the year of the death. The reference year is the year in which the record was coded. RBDM death registration data are provided in raw, uncoded format. For this reason only date of birth, age at death, date of death and year of death are available for analysis.    Death registrations held by the RBDM contain full personal identifiers and the death registration number. The COD URF does not contain personal identifiers, but it does contain the death registration number which can be linked to the death registration number in the RBDM file. As such, the RBDM death registration dataset holds personally identifiable information, but in an uncoded raw format, while the COD URF dataset contains coded cause of death information but without any personal information. ACT COD URF data is supplied by ACT Health in the same manner as other ACT Health administrative data sets.    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 that are 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 checks, codes and returns the information to the Australian Coordinating Registry. |
| Data Quality Statement | Lag in deaths data | COD URF data are available later by year of death because of the longer the time needed to clean and assign a cause of death code to CODURF records.  Death records available for linkage include deaths occurring in the ACT and do not include deaths of ACT 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 ACT residents who die interstate. |
| Coding | Death data is coded according to the ICD-10 International Version rather than the Australian Modification ICD-10-AM used in Australian hospitals. When there is an external cause of injury or poisoning, the external cause is provided as the underlying cause of death, not the injury. |
| Date of birth accuracy | The date of birth on the death registration 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. |
| Links & Resources | AIHW | https://www.aihw.gov.au/about-our-data/our-data-collections/national-mortality-database/deaths-data |

# Variable Information

## Category: Demography

|  | **Column** | **Column Description** | **Datatype** | **Code** | **Code Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ◆ | ATSIStatus | Aboriginal & Torres Starit Islander Status | INT | 1 | Aboriginal origin |
| 2 | Torres Strait Islander (TSI) origin |
| 3 | Both Aboriginal and TSI origin |
| 4 | Neither Aboriginal no TSI origin |
| 9 | Not stated/inadequately described |
|  | AgeDays | Age at death (in days) | INT |  |  |
|  | AgeMins |  | INT |  |  |
|  | AgeMths | Age at death (in months) | INT |  |  |
|  | AgeYrs | Age at death (in years) | INT |  |  |
|  | BirthPlace | Place of birth (supplied codes) | INT |  |  |
|  | SACC | Country of birth SACC code | INT |  |  |
|  | Sex | Sex of deceased | INT | 1 | Male |
| 2 | Female |
| 3 | Indeterminate |
| 8 | Persons |
| 9 | Not stated |
| ◆ | Availability may be subject to AHMRC approval | | | | |

## Category: Death details

|  | **Column** | **Column Description** | **Datatype** | **Code** | **Code Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | CaseStatus | Status of case | INT | 0 | Open |
| 1 | Closed |
| 2 | Dr Certified |
| 9 | Coroner Certified (unmatched) |
|  | DataSetStatus | Dataset status | INT | 1 | Final |
| 2 | Projected |
| 3 | Preliminary |
| 4 | Revised |
|  | PeriodResidence | Period of residence in Australia | INT |  |  |
|  | PlaceOccurrence | Place of Occurrence | INT | 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 |
|  | RACS01-20 | Contributing causes of death | VARCHAR |  |  |
|  | UCOD | Underlying cause of death | VARCHAR |  |  |

## Category: Dates & times (events)

|  | **Column** | **Column Description** | **Datatype** | **Code** | **Code Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ▲ | DeathDate | Date of death event | DATE |  |  |
|  | RegYear | Year of death registration | INT |  |  |
| ▲ | Degree of granularity subject to disclosure risk assessment | | | | |

## Category: Geography

|  | **Column** | **Column Description** | **Datatype** | **Code** | **Code Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ▲ | SA2Code2016 | SA2 Code (2016 ASGS) of residence | VARCHAR |  |  |
| ▲ | URes9DigitSLA | SLA of residence | INT |  |  |
| ▲ | URes9SA2 |  | INT |  |  |
|  | UResState | State/Territory of residence code | INT | 1 | NSW |
| 2 | VIC |
| 3 | QLD |
| 4 | SA |
| 5 | WA |
| 6 | TAS |
| 7 | NT |
| 8 | ACT |
| ▲ | Degree of granularity subject to disclosure risk assessment | | | | |

# General Enquiries

**Population Health Informatics**

Epidemiology Section

Data Analytics Branch

ACT Health Directorate

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Email:** | [healthinfo@act.gov.au](mailto:healthinfo@act.gov.au) |
| **Linkage request submission portal:** | <https://act-health.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/20> |

# Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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