

The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health

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Australian Government

**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**

Australian Cancer Database Metadata

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ACD Content Data

The following is a list of the ACD content variables found in the dataset `eo202031115_acd_content_sep2021.sas7bdat`. It consists of 7,472 records.

AIHW_PPN

Type: Character, length 12.

Meaning: An alphanumeric code derived by AIHW which uniquely identifies the person in the project.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Registry_State

Type: Character, length 3.

Meaning: Cancer registry to which the record belongs.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Note 1: As shown in the table below, some registries cover more than one jurisdiction. In such cases the `local_person_id` numbers are shared between the jurisdictions. For example, local person id 123 in state 'ACT' is the same person as local person id 123 in state 'NSW'.

Note 2: Norfolk Island cases can be registered in NSW or QLD. If a person has tumours registered in both, their local person ids will not be the same.

Value	Meaning
NSW	New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory or Norfolk Island
NT	Northern Territory
QLD	Queensland or Norfolk Island
SA	South Australia
TAS	Tasmania
VIC	Victoria
WA	Western Australia, Christmas Island or Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Birth_Date

Type: Date.

Meaning: Date on which the person was born.

Meaning of null value: Person's date of birth is unknown. However, `Birth_Date` has not been provided for people in Tasmania or those in South Australia with 'waived' consent.

Note: Provided that `birth_year` is known, `birth_date` will be a full date even if `birth_day` and/or `birth_month` are unknown (null). If any parts are imputed this is recorded in the

field `birth_date_accuracy`. In the case of day imputation, the SAS code `day(birth_date)` will give the imputed day whereas `birth_day` will be null, and similarly for month.

Birth_Date_Accuracy

Type: Character, length 3.

Meaning: An indicator of the accuracy of `birth_date`.

Meaning of null value: Impossible. However, `Birth_Date_Accuracy` has not been provided for people in Tasmania or those in South Australia with 'waived' consent.

Each accuracy indicator consists of three letters. Although the first letter generally relates only to the accuracy of the day, the second to the month and the third to the year, there are some cases (FFF and UU_) in which the indicator means something about more than just one component. The following table explains the possibilities.

Value	Meaning
A (can occur in any position)	The component has been specifically recorded by the registry as accurate.
B (can occur in any position)	The registry does not (or did not at that time) have an accuracy indicator. Nevertheless, this component is likely to be accurate.
E (can occur in any position)	The true value of the component is unknown and has been estimated by the registry. Note that if one or both of the other components also have the value E, these components may have been estimated jointly rather than independently.
FFF	One or more components were estimated by the registry but it is not recorded which one(s).
U__ (U in 1st position: other positions can be A, B or E)	The true value of 'day' is unknown and was supplied by the registry as a missing value. AIHW has set it to the middle day (rounded down) of the month of birth, i.e. 14 (for 28-day months), 15 (for 29- and 30-day months) or 16 (for 31-day months).
UU_ (UU in 1st and 2nd positions; 3rd position can be A, B or E)	The true values of 'day' and 'month' are unknown and were supplied by the registry as missing values. AIHW has set the birth date to the middle day (rounded down) of the year, i.e. 1st of July (leap years) or 2nd of July (common years).
UUU	The true values of 'day', 'month' and 'year' are unknown and were supplied by the registry as missing values. AIHW has left the birth date missing.

Sex

Type: Numeric, integer.

Meaning: Sex of the person

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Value	Meaning
1	Male
2	Female

SA2_2011

Type: Numeric, integer.

Meaning: 9-digit Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2), in the 2011 ASGS, of the usual residence of the person at the time of their diagnosis.

Meaning of null value: SA2_2011 has not been provided for people in Tasmania or those in South Australia with 'waived' consent.

Note: If the SA2 is unknown SA2_2011 is set to the ABS state code followed by eight 9s.

Note: This geographical variable replaces the Statistical Local Area (SLA), which was previously provided.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/factsheetscga?opendocument&navpos=450>

Residence_State

Type: Character, length 3.

Meaning: State or territory of the usual residence of the person at the time of their diagnosis.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Value	Meaning
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OT	Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Jervis Bay Territory or Norfolk Island
QLD	Queensland
SA	South Australia
TAS	Tasmania
VIC	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

Diagnosis_Year_Month

Type: Character, length 7.

Meaning: The year and month on which the tumour was diagnosed.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Diagnosis_Date

Type: Date.

Meaning: Date on which the tumour was diagnosed.

Meaning of null value: The ACT has not approved the release of full diagnosis date information and so this field will be null for this jurisdiction. However, it has allowed the release of diagnosis_year_month.

Diagnosis_Date_Accuracy

Type: Character, length 3.

Meaning: An indicator of the accuracy of diagnosis_date.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Values: Same as those used for the field birth_date_accuracy.

Diagnosis_Age

Type: Numeric, integer.

Meaning: The age, in completed whole years, of the person on the day of their diagnosis.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Special value	Meaning
999	Unknown age at diagnosis

Diagnosis_Age_Group

Type: Numeric, integer.

Meaning: The age group of the person on the day of their diagnosis.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Note 1: The age groups, numbered 1 to 19, are the 5-year age groups 0-4, 5-9, ..., 85-89 and 90+.

Note 2: In the 2015 ACD there were only 18 age groups. The 18th one was 85+.

Special value	Meaning
99	Unknown age at diagnosis

Project_Tumour_Number

Type: Character, length 15.

Meaning: An alphanumeric code derived by AIHW which uniquely identifies the tumour in the project. This consists of the Project Person Number followed by the sequential number of the tumour for that PPN.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Topography

Type: Character, length 4.

Meaning: ICD-O-3 topography code of the tumour.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Morphology

Type: Character, length 6.

Meaning: The tumour histology concatenated with the tumour behaviour.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Note: The tumour behaviour is always '3' in this dataset – i.e. malignant tumours (cancers).

ICD10

Type: Character, length 4.

Meaning: The ICD-10 (2016 version) disease code of the tumour.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Best_Basis_of_Diagnosis

Type: Numeric, integer.

Meaning: The most valid basis of diagnosis of the tumour.

Meaning of null value: Impossible.

Note: A tumour can be diagnosed by a number of different methods, each of which has a degree of reliability associated with it. The value contained in this field represents the method of the most reliable method used, using the hierarchy 7 > 6 > ... > 1 > 0 (see table below).

Value	Meaning
0	Death certificate only (DCO): information provided is from a death certificate. No other information has been found regarding the neoplasm
1	Clinical only: diagnosis made before death, but without any of the following (codes 2–8)
2	Clinical investigation: any diagnostic technique, including x-ray, endoscopy, imaging, ultrasound, exploratory surgery (e.g. laparotomy) and autopsy, without a tissue diagnosis
4	Specific tumour markers: including biochemical and/or immunological markers that are specific for a tumour site
5	Cytology: examination of cells from a primary or secondary site, including fluids aspirated by endoscopy or needle; also includes the microscopic examination of peripheral blood and bone marrow aspirates
6	Histology of metastasis: histological examination of tissue from a metastasis, including autopsy specimens
7	Histology of a primary tumour: histological examination of tissue from primary tumour, however obtained, including all cutting techniques and bone marrow biopsies; also includes autopsy specimens of primary tumour
8	Histology: either unknown whether of primary or metastatic site, or not specified
9	Unknown

Melanoma_Thickness

Type: Numeric, real.

Meaning: The Breslow thickness of a malignant melanoma of the skin, measured in millimetres.

Meaning of null value: The tumour is not a malignant melanoma of the skin.

Special value	Meaning
Null	Tumour is not a malignant melanoma of the skin
9.89 (SA records only)	≥ 9.89
9.99 (VIC and NT records only)	≥ 9.99
990	Microinvasive
999	Unknown

Breast_Tumour_Size

Type: Numeric, real.

Meaning: The size of an invasive breast cancer, in millimetres.

Meaning of null value: The tumour is not an invasive breast cancer.

Special value	Meaning
Null	Tumour is not an invasive breast cancer
3 (SA records only)	≤ 3
990	Stated to be microinvasive but no size given
995	Occult primary (cancer cells were not found in the breast tissue excised but were found in at least one lymph node excised)
999	Unknown or not applicable (e.g. phyllodes tumour)

Death_Year

Type: Numeric.

Meaning: Year in which the person died.

Meaning of null value: Person is still alive, or not known to be dead.

Death_Date

Type: Date.

Meaning: Date on which the person died.

Meaning of null value: Person is still alive, or not known to be dead. However, the ACT has not agreed to release the full death_date, only death_year.

Death_Age

Type: Numeric, integer.

Meaning: The age, in completed whole years, of the person at the time of their death.

Meaning of null value: Person is still alive, or not known to be dead.

Note: Death_age is defined to be the value of death_age_exact rounded down to the nearest integer.

Special value	Meaning
Null	Person is still alive, or not known to be dead
999	Unknown age at death

Death_Age_Group

Type: Numeric, integer.

Meaning: The age group of the person on the day of their death.

Meaning of null value: Person is still alive, or not known to be dead.

Note 1: The age groups, numbered 1 to 19, are the 5-year age groups 0-4, 5-9, ..., 85-89 and 90+.

Note 2: In the 2015 ACD there were only 18 age groups. The 18th one was 85+.

Special Value	Meaning
99	Unknown age at death

Underlying_Cause_of_Death

Type: Character, length 4.

Meaning: The consolidated cause of death variable to use for reporting from the ACD.

Meaning of null value: Person is still alive, or not known to be dead.

Note: A person might have two different sources of cause of death: the one supplied by the cancer registry (std_state_cod_icd10) and the one on the NDI (abs_cod). The former is of higher quality and should be used when available. Otherwise the latter is used. Specifically, cause_of_death is set to std_state_cod_icd10 unless the latter is ZUNK or blank, in which case it is set to abs_cod.