

Identification of Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in national healthdata collections

Author/s: Blignault, Ilse Haghshenas, Abbas | **Year:** 2005 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** Researching CALD

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Key Words:

Longitudinal studies including cultural and linguistic diversity variables, future research, secondary data

Research aim:

This study explored the extent to which indicators of cultural and linguistic diversity are currently included in national health and welfare service data collections, and the data standards employed.

Results/Conclusion:

We identified and reviewed 44 relevant bodies of work: 7 national data dictionaries, 15 national data sets, 10 national health data collections and 12 national surveys. Each of the large data dictionaries (health, community services and housing assistance) contained several ethnicity-related variables. Immigrant Australians were identified (usually by country of birth, sometimes by language, and occasionally by period of residence or year of arrival) in all the major national health and community data sets, health data collections and surveys. Australian Bureau of Statistics standards and classifications relating to cultural and linguistic diversity were widely used.

Implications:

Researchers, health policy makers and planners should fully exploit these secondary data sources, as well as undertaking or commissioning primary research.

Cultural Group(s):

Location of study:

Australia (national)

Age group:

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Review

Type of data:

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:

Provides information about the inclusion of cultural and ethnicity variables (and which variables are included) for national data dictionaries, national minimum datasets and national censuses and surveys.