

Re: FW: Available Data on Autism
SSG Health and Disability WDB

Peter Walkear 23/11/2007 02:01 PM

Basics

Peter Walkear/Staff/ABS

23/11/2007 03:23 PM

Send	To: "Beck, Vanessa" <Vanessa.Beck@facsia.gov.au>@ABS_GOV_AU cc: catriona.bate@abs.gov.au, PSG Health and Disability WDB@ABS, Greg Francis/Staff/ABS@ABS bcc:
Subject	Re: FW: Available Data on Autism
Protective Mark	UNCLASSIFIED
Categories	03 Collections\02 SDAC 2003\Dissemination\04 Data Items, 03 Collections\02 SDAC 2003\00 Known Errors/Tips

Hi Vanessa

As discussed on the telephone our total data on Autism for age 0 to 6 has an Relative Standard Error of 36.1 and is of limited value with the Australian Bureau of Statistics recommending that estimates with an RSE of 25% or greater should be used with caution.

Administrative data is data collected by organisations about their clients in there day to day business. These organisations include government departments such as Centrelink, hospitals, welfare service providers (aged care, disability services, family services), and schools. The following ABS Indigenous website provides a more detailed description of administrative data and (if you follow the links) information on the advantages and disadvantages of this type of data compared to sample survey data.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310116.nsf/cd7fca67e05fa605ca256e6a00171f24/cec771525caee6f3ca256ef50023e3c1!OpenDocument>

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) provide access to administrative data in the form of interactive data cubes that can be manipulated over the web for the purposes of obtaining specific data. Data on Autism can be found in the disability dataset at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/disability/datacubes/index.cfm>

and with hospital data from the AIHW National Hospital Morbidity Database at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/datacubes/index.cfm>

Let me know if you require further assistance.

Regards
Peter Walkear

Health & Disability Section
02 6252 6415

"Beck, Vanessa"



"Beck, Vanessa"
Vanessa.Beck@facsia.gov.au
23/11/2007 11:34 AM

To <peter.walkear@abs.gov.au>
cc <catriona.bate@abs.gov.au>

Subject FW: Available Data on Autism [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Protective
Mark

Hi Peter,

Following on from Catriona's email, I just want to clarify that it is possible to source some data on autism from the SDAC (as per the email below). Is that correct and, if so, what steps do we need to take to actually get the information?

Also, what is meant by 'administrative data' and is there any available on autism specifically or would it only be available under the heading of 'disability'?

Many thanks for your help with this!

Cheers,
Vanessa.

Vanessa Beck
A/g Section Manager
Autism Playgroups
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Taskforce

p 6131 0030 (x 11 0030)
f 6131 0099
m 0447 635 093

From: catriona.bate@abs.gov.au [mailto:catriona.bate@abs.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 22 November 2007 11:46 AM

To: Beck, Vanessa

Cc: Thompson, Graeme; PSG_Health_and_Disability_WDB@abs.gov.au; greg.francis@abs.gov.au; peter.walkear@abs.gov.au

Subject: Fw: Available Data on Autism [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Vanessa, Graeme Thompson forwarded your query about data on autism to me.

Some self-report data on autism is collected in our National Health Survey (NHS) and Survey of Disability, Ageing & Carers (SDAC). However, administrative data are a better source of information about such conditions than sample surveys.

Autism cannot be identified separately within the NHS output categories, and the number of respondents in the group of conditions where autism is classified is very small (with an associated

high level of sampling error making the data not suitable for use in any case).

The SDAC collects whether persons identified as having a disability have specific health conditions. The long term health conditions include 'Autism and related disorders' (including Rett's syndrome and Aspergers syndrome). The sample size for this category is very small, but it does appear that an estimate of the number of children aged 0-14 years with a disability and this condition is likely to be useable. However, it would be unlikely to be possible to cross classify this information any further to explore the characteristics of these children.

I am not aware of any data mapping done which specifically relates to this condition.

I hope that this answers your queries. For further information, please contact Peter Walkear on 6252 6415.

regards

Catriona Bate
Director
Health and Disability Section
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Phone: 02 6252 7647
Fax: 02 6252 5172
Email: catriona.bate@abs.gov.au

----- Forwarded by Catriona Bate/Staff/ABS on 21/11/2007 02:55 PM -----

"Thompson, Graeme"
Graeme.Thompson@facsia.gov.au

20/11/2007 03:10 PM

To: [<catriona.bate@abs.gov.au>](mailto:catriona.bate@abs.gov.au)
cc

Subject: FW: Available Data on Autism [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Protective Mark

Catriona,

Is there something available from SDAC or the Mental Health survey?

Would you be able to follow up with Vanessa? Let me know if you need any help.

Cheers

Graeme.

Vanessa's details:

Job Title: A/g Section Manager
Group: Housing and Disability
Branch: Mental Health
Work e-mail: Vanessa.Beck@facsia.gov.au
Work phone: 02 6131 0030

From: Beck, Vanessa
Sent: Monday, 12 November 2007 9:54 AM
To: Thompson, Graeme
Cc: Walters, Cathy; Masani, Deb; Tkalcevic, Deborah
Subject: Available Data on Autism [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Graeme,

I'm working on the implementation of the *Helping Children with Autism Package* announced by the PM in early October. Data around autism is apparently a bit sketchy and so I was just wondering what, if anything, was available through the ABS? I imagine there's data available around disabilities but I'm not sure it goes to a level whereby we could identify autism or autism spectrum disorders. What we are also interested in would be any mapping done of this data to assist us in implementing the measures in the areas of most need. Appreciate any help you might be able to provide...

Cheers,
Vanessa.

Vanessa Beck
A/g Section Manager
Autism Playgroups
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Taskforce

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Free publications and statistics available on www.abs.gov.au