

TIP SHEET

Secondary data sources

This tip sheet describes where to go for existing secondary data and other sources to consider.



Secondary data is evidence or information that has already been collected by others. It is usually widely available and easy to gather.

When identifying existing community data, it is useful to look at a national, state and local level to ensure that appropriate data is collected.

Existing secondary data sources

Data source and link	Area	Data provided
ABS census data www.abs.gov.au	National	A range of census data and SEIFA index of relative disadvantage at local government area (LGA) level.
Longitudinal Study of Australian Children www.aifs.gov.au/growingup	National	A range of data and publications on the development and wellbeing of young people and their families.
Dropping off the Edge www.dote.org.au	National	State and LGA-level data on the distribution of advantage and disadvantage across Australia.
AEDC www.aedc.gov.au	National	National, state and LGA-level data presented in maps and tables on children's developmental outcomes and a range of health data and social data about families.
NAPLAN www.nap.edu.au	National	National and state-level results from years 3, 5, 7 and 9 reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy assessments.
Children's Headline Indicators (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) www.aihw.gov.au	National	State-level data on a broad range of health and welfare issues in Australia including birth weight, child abuse and neglect, dental health, transition to primary school and infant mortality.
Productivity Commission	National	Reports, research and inquires on government services.
Department of Social Services www.dss.gov.au	National	Settlement data.

Data source and link	Area	Data provided
Playgroups See relevant state/territory playgroup association websites	National	Data on the number and location of playgroups in communities.
Public transport networks See relevant state/territory websites	National	Data on the proximity of public transport to local amenities and services.
State government departments See relevant state/territory websites	State	State-level data on public housing properties and waiting lists, domestic violence rates, crime rates and birth rates.
Councils See relevant local government websites	Local	Community-level data including available early years services, location of park and recreational facilities and birth notices.

Additional secondary data sources

Additional secondary data may be sourced from:

- Media mentions
- Early years groups and networks
- Partnership brokers
- Australian Institute of Family Studies (e.g. Building Blocks report)
- Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing
- Mission Australia (e.g. Youth Survey report, Rental Affordability Snapshot)
- Anglicare (e.g. State of the Family report)
- Health and wellbeing reports (e.g. Victorian public health and wellbeing progress report)
- Relevant state/territory departments of child protection
- National Health Services Directory
- Early Childhood Resource Hub (e.g. National Quality Framework)
- Evidence-based practice frameworks
- Libraries, recreational services and clubs
- My School
- NAPLAN
- Local area information from .id
- Real estate websites.

We gratefully acknowledge the WA Platforms Training Participants (2013) for their help developing the Additional secondary data sources list.

For more Platforms information, resources and support visit: www.rch.org.au/ccch/platforms

This resource is designed for use in conjunction with the Platforms Guide. © Centre for Community Child Health.