 

Australian Early Development Census

Researchers Sector Messages

## About the AEDC

* The AEDC is a reliable and valid measure of child development across five domains.
* Over 30 studies internationally have investigated aspects of the Instrument’s reliability and validity and been published in the peer-reviewed literature.
* Access key papers on the reliability and validity of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) via the AEDC website.

## What does the AEDC measure and what data is available for research?

* De-identified AEDC data is available to researchers at an individual child level.
* Five figures represent the domains of the AEDC:
* The first domain, illustrated by a figure representing a child kicking a ball, is Physical health and wellbeing.
* The second domain, illustrated by two figures representing children interacting with each other, is Social competence.
* The third domain, illustrated by two figures representing one child comforting another child, is Emotional maturity.
* The fourth domain, illustrated by a figure representing a child looking at a book, is Language and cognitive skills (school based).
* The fifth domain, illustrated by a figure representing a child speaking, is Communication skills and general knowledge.
* Consider how you can use: Microdata/unit record files, Macro data tables or Data linkage.

## Comparing the AEDC over time

* Cut points used to determine developmental vulnerability were set in 2009 and will remain constant over time to allow monitoring of child development over time.
* The figure is a rectangle made up of 3 sections. The bottom section represents children in the bottom 10% who are considered to be developmentally vulnerable. The next section represents children between the 10th and 25th percentile who are considered to be developmental at risk. The rest of the rectangle represents the remaining 75% of children who are considered to be developmentally on track. There is a dotted line representing the 50th percentile.
* Benchmarks set in 2009 provide a reference point for which later AEDC results can be compared.
* Use the AEDC data to compare cohorts over time.

## Children with special needs in the AEDC

* Data from children with special needs children are not included in published AEDC population summaries but data are available to researchers
* Of the 308,953 children for who data was collected in 2018: 14,059 were identified as having diagnosed additional needs, 39,861 were identified as having undiagnosed additional needs, 255,033 were identified as having no additional needs.
* Use the AEDC data as a valuable tool to inform your research.

## Additional data available

* AEDC also collects data on early childhood services prior to school and some demographics.
* Demographic data available includes: preschool attendance, Aboriginality, date of birth, gender, disorders, country of birth, disabilities, impairments, illnesses, English as a second language, socio-economic status.
* Use demographic data in the AEDC data as a valuable tool to inform your research.

To explore how you can use the AEDC visit the [AEDC website](http://www.aedc.gov.au)[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. www.aedc.gov.au [↑](#footnote-ref-1)