

Understanding the AEDI Results

Fact Sheet



Australian Early Development Index

What is the AEDI?

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a population measure of how young children are developing in Australian communities.

The AEDI measures five areas, or domains, of early childhood development:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills (school-based)
- communication skills and general knowledge.

These are important areas of child development and also good predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes.

How are the AEDI results reported?

AEDI results are reported as average (middle or median) scores (0 is the lowest score; 10 is the highest score) on each of the five domains.

AEDI results are also reported as proportions of children who are considered to be 'on track', 'developmentally at risk' and 'developmentally vulnerable' on each domain.*

Children developmentally 'on track'

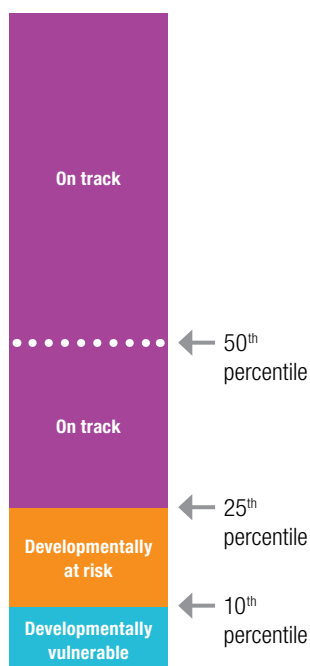
Children who score above the 25th percentile (in the top 75 per cent) of the national AEDI population are classified as 'on track'.

Children 'developmentally at risk'

Children who score between the 10th and 25th percentile of the national AEDI population are classified as 'developmentally at risk'.

Children 'developmentally vulnerable'

Children who score below the 10th percentile (in the lowest 10 per cent) of the national AEDI population are classified as 'developmentally vulnerable'. These children demonstrate a much lower than average ability in the developmental competencies measured in that domain.



How are the AEDI results presented?

National Report

A Snapshot of Early Childhood Development in Australia – AEDI National Report 2009, presents a summary of the initial AEDI results. It shows the average scores and proportions of children on track, developmentally at risk and developmentally vulnerable for Australia and each state and territory. The report is available at www.aedi.org.au.

Online maps

Geographic maps show the proportions of children in the local community developmentally vulnerable on the AEDI domains. The initial mapped results are available at www.aedi.org.au.

Community Profiles

Community Profiles provide contextual information about the community and its initial AEDI results. It presents the average scores and proportions of children on track, developmentally at risk and developmentally vulnerable – and supports the online maps. Community Profiles will be available from March 2010.

AEDI results help communities understand how well children are developing



*To determine which children fall into these groupings, AEDI cut-offs have been set for each domain based on all children who have participated in the AEDI nationally in 2009 – the national AEDI population.

What are AEDI communities?

Although AEDI information is collected by teachers, results are reported for the communities where children live, not where they go to school. AEDI results are analysed at the community and local community level.



AEDI community

A geographic area made up of AEDI local communities, usually a region's local government area.

AEDI local community

A small area locality within an AEDI community, usually a suburb.

AEDI results tables

The AEDI results tables show the local communities' AEDI results and are displayed as:

- the proportion and number of children developmentally vulnerable on the AEDI domains
- the total number of children surveyed from each local community.

It is important to consider both the proportion of children developmentally vulnerable and the number of children this represents. A higher proportion does not necessarily mean a large number of children. Similarly, a low proportion in a large community may still equate to a large number of children.

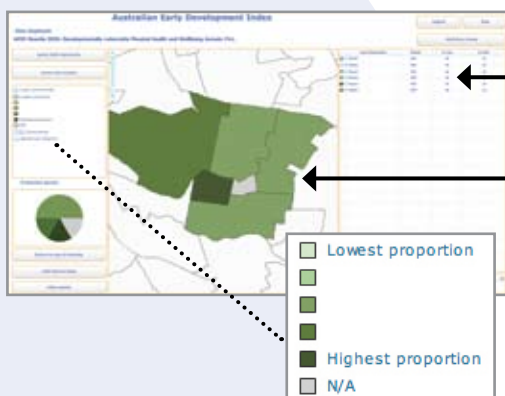
How are community and national results best compared?

The AEDI is a relative measure; the results show how local children are doing relative to, or compared to, other children surveyed both in their community and across Australia.

Nationally, around 10 per cent of children for the AEDI are classified as developmentally vulnerable on each domain. Therefore, an AEDI community that has fewer than 10 per cent of children developmentally vulnerable on a domain is doing better than the national AEDI population, while an AEDI community that has more than 10 per cent of children developmentally vulnerable is not doing as well.

What do the AEDI maps show?

Initial community AEDI results are presented online as geographic maps along with results tables.



AEDI results table

AEDI results map

AEDI results maps

The maps are coloured in five shades of green, representing the ranges of developmental vulnerability.

The green shading shows how a community is doing relative to the rest of Australia. Areas shaded in lighter greens have lower proportions of developmentally vulnerable children and areas shaded in darker greens have higher proportions of developmentally vulnerable children.

There are also maps of selected socio-demographic information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This information can be used along with the AEDI results to help provide the community's local context.

Where can you get more information?

A comprehensive AEDI Results Guide has been developed to help communities understand the AEDI results. The AEDI results and guide, as well as a number of other resources are available at www.aedi.org.au.



An Australian Government Initiative

