

A guide to find and use Australian Early Development Census community data

This guide will help you know more about:

- what [Australian Early Development Census](#) (AEDC) data is
- using community AEDC data
- finding community AEDC data.

The AEDC is a nationwide census of early childhood development.

Data is collected about reception students. Children's development is measured in 5 developmental areas known as domains. The domains are physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills (school based), and communication skills and general knowledge.

Data is published at local community, community, state/territory and national levels, providing insight into how children are developing in their first five years of life. Looking at the data can help:

- identify what is working well and where improvements are needed to support children and their families
- highlight where early support can make the greatest impact for communities.

To learn more about the AEDC

- Read the [AEDC fact sheets](#) for a useful summary or watch this [Introduction to the AEDC video](#).
- Learn more [about the domains](#), what is measured and what it means to be developmentally vulnerable, at risk or on track.
- Watch the [Understanding the data](#) video about how the data is collected, results measured and reported, and how to consider the results.
- Watch the [Informing your planning](#) video about using AEDC data to improve the provision of services and supports for children and families.

To learn more about using AEDC community data

- Read the [AEDC fact sheet – Choosing effective interventions](#) which focuses on planning responses to AEDC data
- Read the [AEDC user guide for community service organisations](#) to help consider bringing together people in the community and develop coordinated local responses
- Read the [AEDC fact sheet – Identifying and Planning for Children's Development](#) about how you can use AEDC population level data with individual level data in ECEC planning and practice to best meet needs of cohorts of children and families.
- Read the [AEDC user guide for local government](#).
- Visit [AEDC for schools and early childhood services](#) to find out more about using AEDC data from an early childhood service perspective.



Where can I find community AEDC data?

You can find community AEDC data on the national AEDC website in the [AEDC Data Explorer](#).

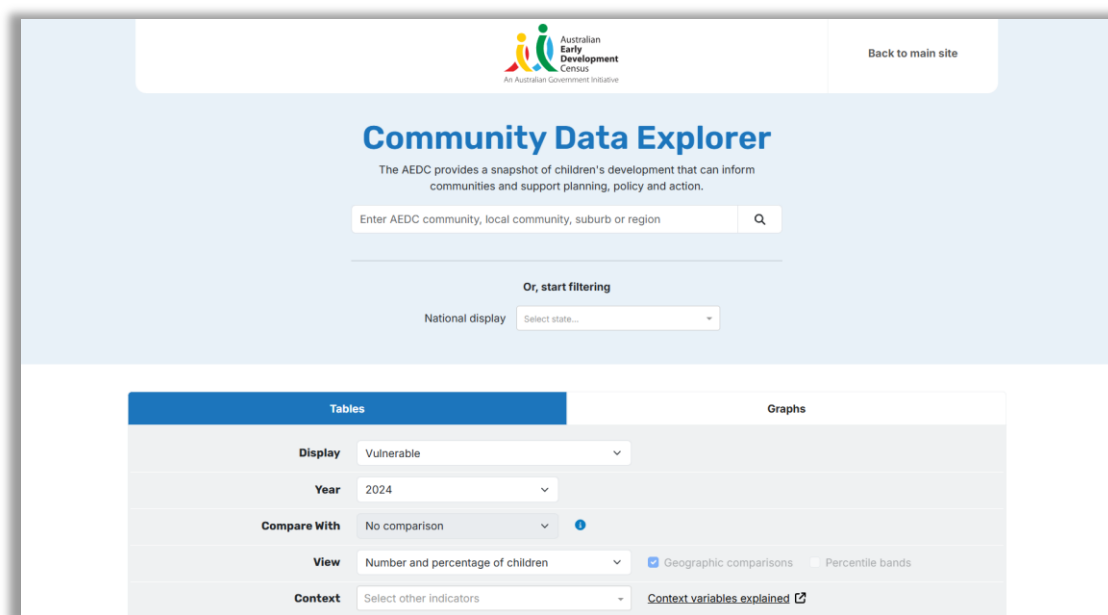
Community results are available as tables, maps, graphs and downloadable products including a community profile.

An AEDC community is a geographic area made up of AEDC local communities (eg suburbs) and usually aligns with local government areas.

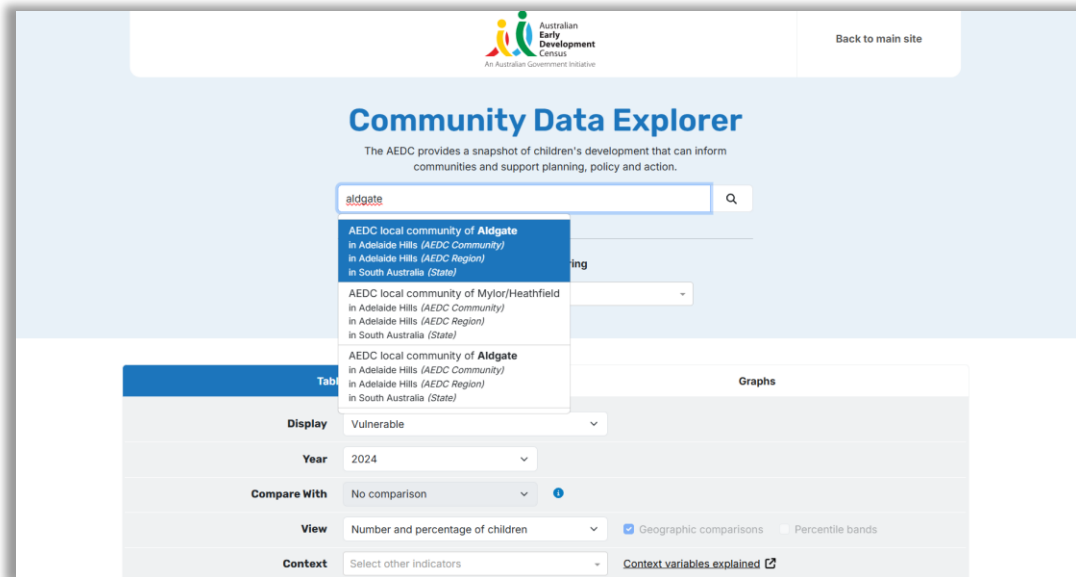
[AEDC Data Guidelines](#) apply to publishing the data. In some cases, community data may not be published.

Navigating data explorer

1. In your web-browser search for the [AEDC Data Explorer](#):
<https://www.aedc.gov.au/data-explorer/>
2. The home page will appear.



3. In the **Search** field, type in the suburb/local community name you want data about. **Click** on the search result that matches the correct AEDC Community and State. Aldgate local community is used in this example.



Or

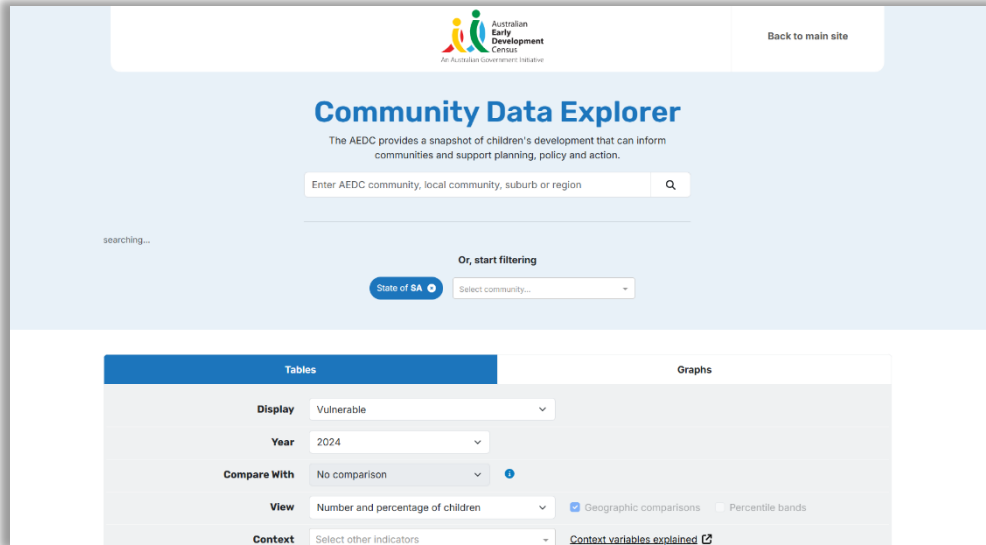
4. Go to the **Filtering by row-** **select state** field and choose SA from the drop down menu.

A **Select community** field will appear. Click your community in the drop down menu.

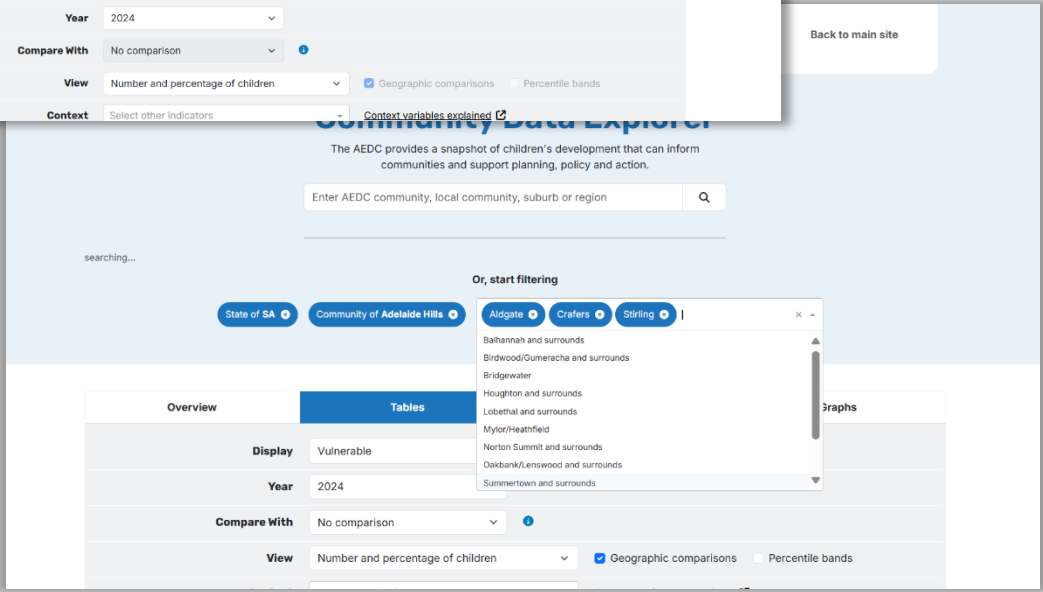
A **Select local communities** field will appear. Click 1 or more of the local communities listed.

Community organisations or early childhood education and care services might choose suburbs/local communities where the majority of the children or families who access the service live. If 1 or more of the identified local communities is located in different AEDC communities do a separate search.



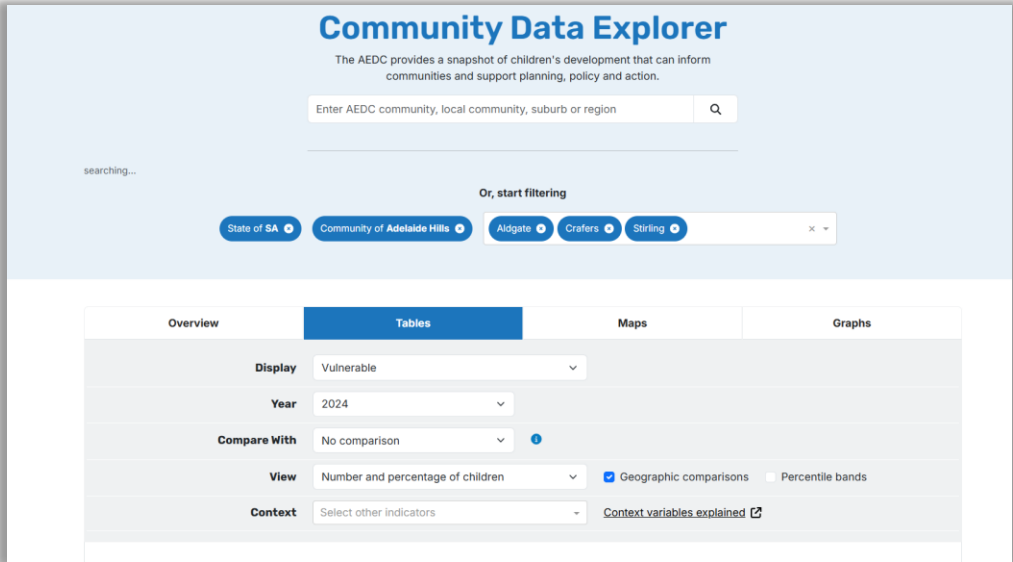


In this example Adelaide Hills AEDC community and Aldgate, Crafrers and Stirling local communities were selected from the drop down menu.



Once communities and local communities are selected you will see 4 TABS: Overview, Tables, Maps, and Graphs.

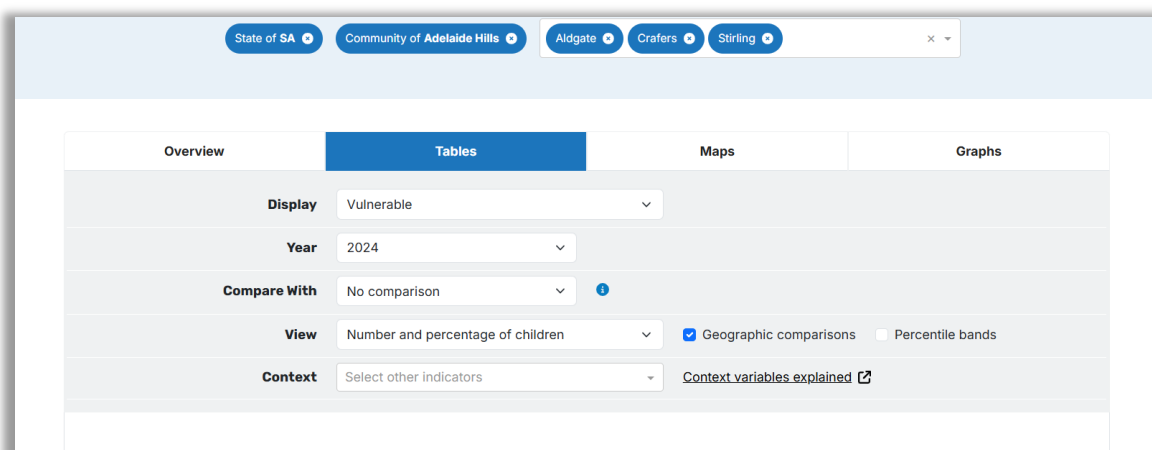
Select the most relevant TAB.



To look at data in table format and Community profile report format

To look at data in table format

Click the **Tables** TAB. You will see the following:



The fields you can select from are:

- **Display** field– choose either on track, at risk or vulnerable results
- **Year** field – choose the AEDC collection year eg 2024
- **Compare with** field – you can choose another AEDC collection year to compare results
- **View** field – choose either percentage of children, number of children or both. Both is the most common option.
- If no comparison year chosen you can
 - Select the **Geographic comparisons** to see data for each of the local communities chosen (available if a comparison year is not selected)
 - Select **Percentile bands** to display results using shading to indicate comparison to other Australian communities
- **Context** field – leave blank or choose from the list for other indicator data. The indicators are factors shown to impact children’s developmental outcomes.

Example selections

To see the proportion of children developmentally vulnerable for your chosen community select the following options:

Display	Vulnerable
Year	Most recent AEDC collection year
Compare with	No comparison
View	Number and Percentage of children
Context	Blank



A table will then appear showing the number and percentage of children developmentally vulnerable across each AEDC domain for your selected local communities. These results are listed below the National, State and Community AEDC results for easy comparison, as shown below.

Example table

The screenshot shows the 'Community Data Explorer' interface. At the top, there's a search bar with 'Aldgate', 'Crafrers', and 'Stirling' selected. Below the search bar, there are filters for 'State of SA', 'Community of Adelaide Hills', and 'Aldgate', 'Crafrers', 'Stirling'. The main content area has tabs for 'Overview', 'Tables', 'Maps', and 'Graphs'. Under 'Tables', there are filters for 'Display' (Vulnerable), 'Year' (2024), 'Compare With' (No comparison), 'View' (Number and percentage of children), and 'Context' (Select other indicators). The main table is titled 'Number and percentage of children developmentally vulnerable in 2024' and has columns for Physical, Social, Emotional, Language, Communication, DV1, and DV2. The table is split into two sections: one for Adelaide Hills and one for Crafrers, Stirling, and Aldgate.

	Physical	Social	Emotional	Language	Communication	DV1	DV2
Australia	26,890 (10.0)	28,704 (10.7)	26,563 (10.0)	20,698 (7.7)	23,743 (8.9)	62,787 (23.5)	33,322 (12.5)
South Australia	1,921 (10.9)	1,978 (11.2)	1,998 (11.4)	1,299 (7.4)	1,548 (8.8)	4,299 (24.5)	2,321 (13.2)
Adelaide Hills	21 (7.9)	38 (9.6)	36 (9.2)	16 (4.3)	19 (4.8)	69 (17.6)	40 (10.2)
Crafrers	1 (3.4)	3 (10.3)	3 (10.3)	0 (0.0)	2 (6.9)	6 (20.7)	2 (6.9)
Stirling	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Aldgate	4 (11.1)	2 (5.6)	3 (8.3)	1 (2.8)	1 (2.8)	5 (13.9)	3 (8.3)

Table showing data about the proportion of children developmentally vulnerable in the Adelaide Hills AEDC Community, comparing Aldgate, Crafrers and Stirling local communities.

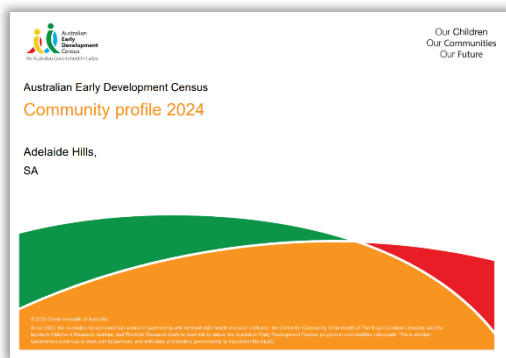
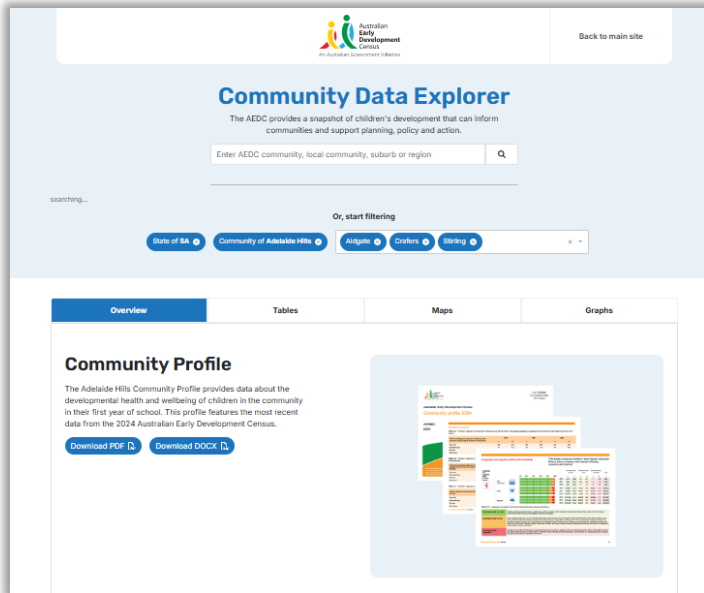


To look at a results in a Community profile report format

Select the **Overview** TAB

Select the **Community profile** PDF

You can view the report online or download.



The profile will look like this

A Community profile contains:

- important information about early childhood development outcomes
- AEDC results and contextual information for the whole community and at the local community level
- List of all local communities reflected in the profile
- considerations for interpreting the results
- demographic characteristics of children captured in the census
- results for each domain and summary indicator results.



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Example display of community and local community domain results



Physical health and wellbeing domain results

This domain measures children's physical readiness for the school day, physical independence, and gross and fine motor skills.

Table 3.1 – Communities in context: Physical health and wellbeing domain results at the national, state/territory, community and local community levels.

Region (including local communities)	Developmentally on track						Developmentally at risk						Developmentally vulnerable					
	2018		2021		2024		2018		2021		2024		2018		2021		2024	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Australia	229,542	78.1	226,006	78.5	209,467	78.2	36,105	12.3	33,677	11.7	31,505	11.8	28,247	9.6	28,341	9.8	26,890	10.0
SA	14,924	77.8	14,725	77.7	13,849	78.5	2,188	11.4	2,200	11.6	1,869	10.6	2,072	10.8	2,023	10.7	1,921	10.9
Adelaide Hills	343	82.1	354	82.1	318	80.7	34	8.1	49	11.4	45	11.4	41	9.8	28	6.5	31	7.9
Alogate	29	80.6	32	82.1	29	80.6	2	5.6	2	5.1	3	8.3	5	13.9	5	12.8	4	11.1
Balhannah and surrounds	16	84.2	11	73.3	21	87.5	2	10.5	4	26.7	3	12.5	1	5.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Birdwood/Gumeracha and surrounds	27	75.0	26	89.7	24	66.7	3	8.3	2	6.9	4	11.1	6	16.7	1	3.4	8	22.2
Bridgewater	37	90.2	37	80.4	34	89.5	1	2.4	6	13.0	3	7.9	3	7.3	3	6.5	1	2.6
Crafers	26	81.3	32	84.2	23	79.3	6	18.8	4	10.5	5	17.2	0	0.0	2	5.3	1	3.4
Crang and surrounds	24	92.3	23	92.0	18	69.2	0	0.0	1	4.0	5	19.2	2	7.7	1	4.0	3	11.5
Lobethal and surrounds	27	77.1	31	72.1	27	84.4	3	8.6	11	25.6	3	9.4	5	14.3	1	2.3	2	6.3
Mylor/Heathfield	27	84.4	28	75.7	25	92.6	2	6.3	4	10.8	1	3.7	3	9.4	5	13.5	1	3.7
Norton Summit and surrounds	16	80.0	23	85.2	29	96.7	4	20.0	3	11.1	1	3.3	0	0.0	1	3.7	0	0.0
Oakbank/Lenswood and surrounds	13	86.7	22	95.7	16	94.1	1	6.7	1	4.3	0	0.0	1	6.7	0	0.0	1	5.9
Stirling	40	87.0	21	77.8	23	88.5	3	6.5	4	14.8	3	11.5	3	6.5	2	7.4	0	0.0
Summertown and surrounds	24	85.7	25	75.8	24	80.0	1	3.6	3	9.1	5	16.7	3	10.7	5	15.2	1	3.3
Upper Sturt/Ironbank/Scotts Creek	21	84.0	18	81.8	-	-	2	8.0	3	13.6	-	-	2	8.0	1	4.5	-	-
Woodside and surrounds	16	59.3	25	92.6	19	65.5	4	14.8	1	3.7	4	13.8	7	25.9	1	3.7	6	20.7