

# National Healthcare Agreement: P28-Public sector community mental health services, 2010 QS

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## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Quality Statement
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	392725
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Superseded 08/06/2011

## Data quality

### Data quality statement summary:

- The National Community Mental Health Care Database (NCMHCD) is a near-comprehensive collection of data on service contacts provided by specialised mental health services for patients/clients of all public sector community mental health services in Australia.
- There is some variation in the types of service contacts included across jurisdictions.
- The Indigenous status data should be interpreted with caution due to the varying and, in some instances, unknown quality of Indigenous identification across jurisdictions. The Other Australians category includes contacts where Indigenous status was missing or not reported (around 7% of all contacts).
- Data are reported by the state or territory that delivered the service and will include people receiving services in one jurisdiction who reside in another. These cross border flows are particularly relevant in interpreting ACT data.

### Institutional environment:

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has calculated this indicator. The AIHW is an independent statutory authority within the Health and Ageing portfolio, which is accountable to the Parliament of Australia through the Minister. For further information see the AIHW website.

The data were supplied to the AIHW by state and territory health authorities. The state and territory health authorities receive these data from public sector community mental health services. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting.

Community mental health services may be required to provide data to states and territories through a variety of administrative arrangements, contractual requirements or legislation.

States and territories supplied these data under the terms of the National Health Information Agreement (see link).

[http://www.aihw.gov.au/committees/simc/final\\_nhia\\_signed.doc](http://www.aihw.gov.au/committees/simc/final_nhia_signed.doc)

### Timeliness:

The reference period for the Community Mental Health Care National Minimum Data Set (CMHC NMDS) data is 2007–08.

### Accessibility:

The AIHW produces the following products that report CMHC NMDS data:

- The annual series *Mental health services in Australia* (available in hard copy or electronically on the AIHW website.)
- Internet only Excel tables and data cubes.

### Interpretability:

Supporting information on the quality and use of the NCMHCD are published annually in *Mental health services in Australia* (Chapter 4 and technical appendix refers), which is available in hard copy or electronically on the AIHW website. Supporting information includes discussion of the quality of Indigenous data, the quality of principal diagnosis data, and estimates of the number of patients. Metadata information for the CMHC NMDS is published in the AIHW's online metadata repository, METeOR, and the *National health data dictionary*.

**Relevance:** The CMHC NMDS specification defines a mental health service contact as the provision of a clinically significant service by a specialised mental health service provider. The scope of the CMHC NMDS is service contacts provided by specialised mental health services in the community for patients/clients, other than those admitted to psychiatric hospitals or designated psychiatric units in acute care hospitals, and those resident in 24 hour staffed specialised residential mental health services, that is, non-admitted, non residential care.

There is some variation in the types of service contacts included across jurisdictions. For example, some jurisdictions include written correspondence as service contacts while others do not.

The Northern Territory estimates that there could be a deficit of between 25–35% of service contact records. Coverage for most other jurisdictions is estimated to be between 95–100%.

The numerator includes people who receive a service in one jurisdiction but normally reside in another. There will be some mismatch between numerator and denominator in areas with cross-border flows.

**Accuracy:** Inaccurate responses may occur in all data provided to the AIHW, and the AIHW does not have direct access to jurisdictional community mental health service records to determine the accuracy of the data provided. However, the AIHW undertakes extensive validations on receipt of data. Data are checked for valid values, logical consistency and historical consistency. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions may be made in response to these edit queries. The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors.

The Indigenous status data should be interpreted with caution due to the varying and, in some instances, unknown quality of Indigenous identification across jurisdictions. The Other Australians category includes contacts where Indigenous status was missing or not reported (around 7% of all contacts).

Cells have been suppressed to protect confidentiality (where the presentation could identify a patient or a single service provider), where rates are likely to be highly volatile (for example, the denominator is very small), or data quality is known to be of insufficient quality (for example, where Indigenous identification rates are low).

**Coherence:** The data used in this indicator are routinely published in *Mental health services in Australia*. However, in that publication, rates may be calculated using different Estimated Resident Populations (ERPs), rather than the June 2007 ERPs that are used for this indicator. Consequently, there may be some differences in the calculated rates.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 28: Public sector community mental health services, 2011 QS](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 04/12/2012

**Indicators linked to this Data Quality statement:** [National Healthcare Agreement: P28-Public sector community mental health services, 2010](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011