

National Healthcare Agreement: P68-Proportion of health expenditure spent on health research and development, 2010 QS

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Quality Statement
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Relational attributes

Indicators linked to this Quality statement:	National Healthcare Agreement: P68-Proportion of health expenditure spent on health research and development, 2010 Health , Superseded 08/06/2011
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Data quality

Quality statement summary:

- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) health expenditure database is a comprehensive collection of expenditure data across all jurisdictions, and the private sector, and encompasses all areas of health expenditure from hospitals to medical services to public health activities.
- The estimation of expenditure on health research for 2007–08 is based on an extrapolation of results from the 2004–05 and 2006–07 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Research and Experimental Development Surveys. State and territory expenditure data are not collected directly, but are estimated by the AIHW; estimates should be treated with caution.
- Research in higher education organisations is reported on a calendar year basis, and the expenditure for calendar year 2006 is included by the ABS and AIHW in reporting for overall research expenditure for fiscal year 2006-07.
- Expenditure on research, and total health expenditure, reported for each state and territory refers to expenditure occurring within that state or territory, regardless of the source of the funds. Hence, research undertaken in one state could be partly funded by the government of another state.

Institutional environment: The AIHW has calculated this indicator.

The data that are incorporated into the AIHW health expenditure database were supplied by a variety of data providers, including the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and Department of Health Ageing (DoHA), state and territory health authorities, Private Health Insurance Administration Council (PHIAC), ABS and injury compensation insurers. In the case of medical services and benefit-paid pharmaceuticals, they are sourced from the Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme statistics, respectively. Many of the ultimate sources of these data are the financial reporting systems of the various organisations.

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 reference period for this data set is 2007–08.

Timeliness:

Accessibility:

The data that are used in the development of this indicator are sourced from the AIHW's health expenditure database. The AIHW publishes a number of products that draw upon its health expenditure database. Published products available on the AIHW website are:

- *Health expenditure Australia* and associated Excel tables.
- Interactive data cubes

Interpretability: Supporting information on the quality and use of data from the Institute's health expenditure database are published annually in *Health expenditure Australia* (Chapter 6 and technical appendixes in the edition covering 2007–08).

Relevance: The AIHW health expenditure database is a comprehensive collection of expenditure data across all jurisdictions, and the private sector, and encompasses all areas of health expenditure from hospitals to medical services to public health activities.

This indicator is regarded as a long-term indicator of research effort and sustainability in Australia.

Research that is funded by commercial business enterprises is not included in the estimates of expenditure on research, because that expenditure is an input to the production of health goods and services and is therefore implicitly included in the expenditure on health goods and services, such as pharmaceuticals, to which the research relates.

When making comparisons between jurisdictions, it should be borne in mind that the state or territory identified in the numerator is the state or territory in which the research activity, to which the expenditure relates, was undertaken. It is not necessarily the state or territory that provided the funding for that research.

Accuracy: National and state/territory estimates of expenditure on health research for 2007-08 have been derived by the AIHW by extrapolating national results from the ABS *Research and Experimental Development Surveys*, 2004-05 and 2006-07 and estimating state and territory expenditures. While the ABS makes every effort to ensure correct and consistent reporting the data collected has been self-classified by respondents and may be affected by non-sampling errors. In particular, many smaller institutions do not maintain records of health research effort by specific field of research or socio-economic objective.

Where possible data for use in constructing the denominator are sought and received using standard data collection instruments with guidelines.

The AIHW develops, with advice from major data providers, comprehensive guidelines to accompany the annual questionnaires that are sent to state and territory health departments. These guidelines assist in ensuring that the data provided are consistent and comprehensive across jurisdictions. The AIHW undertakes checking of the data including comparisons of jurisdictions and over time.

Coherence: The data here are consistent with what is published in *Health expenditure Australia*.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 68-Proportion of health expenditure spent on health research and development, 2011 QS](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 04/12/2012