

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 32-Proportion of people with a mental illness with GP treatment plans, 2012 QS

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Quality Statement
METEOR identifier: 500222
Registration status: [Health](#), Retired 14/01/2015

Data quality

Data quality statement summary:

- The numerator data used to calculate this indicator are from an administrative data collection designed for payment of subsidies to patients and has accurate data on the number of services provided.
- There are issues with the consistency of the numerator and denominator for this indicator, as they are drawn from differently defined populations and different data sources.

Institutional environment:

Medicare Australia (now Department of Human Services – Medicare) processes claims made through the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) data under the *Medicare Australia Act 1973*. These data are then regularly provided to DoHA. Medicare Australia also processes claims for Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Treatment Card holders made through the MBS under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*; *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* and *Medicare Australia Act 1973*. All claiming data is regularly provided to DVA as per the Memorandum of Understanding between Medicare Australia and DVA.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is Australia's official national statistical agency. The ABS operates within a framework that includes the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* and the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. For more information see the ABS Institutional Environment.

The numerator for this indicator was prepared by DoHA and DVA, the denominator was prepared by the ABS—both were quality-assessed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The AIHW calculated the indicator based on the numerator and denominator supplied by DoHA/DVA and ABS, respectively. DoHA drafted the initial data quality statement (including providing input about the methodology used to extract the data and any data anomalies) and then further comments were added by the AIHW, DVA and ABS, in consultation with the Department. The AIHW did not have the relevant datasets required to independently verify the data tables for this indicator. For further information see the AIHW website.

Timeliness:

[DoHA MBS Statistics and DVA TAS data](#)

The indicator relates to all claims processed in the 2010–11 financial year.

[National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing \(SMHWB\) 2007](#)

The SMHWB was conducted from August to December 2007, and adjusted to generate 2010 prevalence estimates.

Accessibility:

MBS statistics are available at:

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Medicare+Statistics-1

www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/statistics/mbs_item.shtml

Disaggregations of MBS data by Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) and remoteness area are not publicly available elsewhere.

National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing 2007 information is available at:

www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/4327.0?OpenDocument

www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/PrimaryMainFeatures/4326.0?OpenDocument

Interpretability:

Information about services subsidised through Medicare is available from MBS online:

www.health.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/content/medicare-benefits-schedule-mbs-1

Information is available for the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing from *National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Summary of Results* (Cat. no. 4326.0). It contains a Summary of Findings and tables with footnoted data to aid the interpretation of the survey results. The supporting documentation released with the survey data can assist in understanding the relationships between data variables within the dataset and in comparisons with data from other sources.

Relevance:

There are issues with the consistency of the numerator and denominator for this indicator, as they are drawn from differently defined populations and different data sources.

DoHA MBS Statistics and DVA TAS data

Data relates to mental health-specific MBS services for which Medicare Australia has processed a claim.

Analyses by State/Territory, remoteness and socioeconomic status are based on postcode of residence of the client as recorded by Medicare Australia at the date of last service processed in the reference period. As clients may receive services in locations other than where they live, this data does not necessarily reflect the location in which services were received.

National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing 2007

The National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (SMHWB) was conducted with a representative sample of people aged 16–85 years who lived in private dwellings across Australia.

The survey provides information on diagnostic prevalence of mental disorders in the Australian population as assessed for the last 12 months using the World Health Organization's (WHO) Composite International Diagnostic Interview.

This survey only captures common/high prevalence mental disorders by three major disorder groups — Anxiety disorders (e.g. Social Phobia), Affective disorders (e.g. Depression) and Substance Use disorders (e.g. Alcohol Harmful Use). It does not capture low-prevalence disorders, such as psychosis.

Accuracy:DoHA MBS Statistics and DVA TAS data

As with any administrative system a small degree of error may be present in the data captured.

Data used for statistical purposes are based on enrolment postcode of the patient. This postcode may not reflect the current postcode of the patient if an address change has not been notified to Medicare Australia.

The data provided are based on the date on which the MBS claim was processed by Medicare Australia, not when the service was rendered. The use of data based on when the claim was processed rather than when the service was rendered produces little difference in the total number of persons included in the numerator for the reference period.

People who received more than one GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (MBS items 2702 and 2710) are counted once only in the calculations for this indicator.

National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing 2007

Data measuring the size of the population with mental illness for the denominator were not available for the specified time point. Synthetic estimates of the population with a mental illness were derived by applying national level age- and sex-specific rates of persons with any 12 month mental disorder from the 2007 Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing to the 30 June 2010 estimated resident populations (ERPs) in various strata (SEIFA quintiles, remoteness, etc). This methodology assumes that age- and sex-specific rates of persons with a mental disorder are consistent across geography and over time.

Estimated Resident Population

ERPs were not available for the 16–85 age range specified for this indicator. Therefore, the ERPs for the 16–84 age range were used and the numerator adjusted accordingly.

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.

Coherence:DoHA MBS Statistics and DVA TAS data

As of 1 January 2010, a new item (2702) has been introduced for patients of GPs who have not undertaken mental health skills training. Changes have been made to the existing item 2710 to allow patients of GPs who have undertaken mental health skills training to access a higher rebate. As both of these items relate to the preparation of a GP mental health treatment plan they are both included in 2010–11 data.

National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing 2007

The data are not comparable with data previously published using the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing 2007, as the data have been adjusted to reflect the population in 2010.

Relational attributes**Related metadata references:**

Supersedes [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 32: Proportion of people with a mental illness with GP treatment plans, 2011 QS](#)
Health, Superseded 04/12/2012

Indicators linked to this Data Quality statement:

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 32-Proportion of people with mental illness with GP treatment plans, 2012](#)
Health, Retired 25/06/2013