

# KPIs for Australian Public Mental Health Services: PI 04 – Average length of acute inpatient stay, 2015–

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Indicator type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Short name:</b>	MHS PI 04: Average length of acute inpatient stay, 2015–
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	584068
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Standard 19/11/2015</li></ul>

**Description:** Average length of stay of in-scope overnight separations from acute psychiatric inpatient units managed by the mental health service organisation.

**NOTE:** This indicator is related to MHS PI 04J: Average length of acute inpatient stay (Jurisdictional level version). **There are technical differences in the calculation methodologies between the Service level version and the Jurisdictional level version of this indicator due to different available data sources to construct this indicator. Caution should be taken to ensure the correct methodology is followed.**

**Rationale:** Length of stay is a key driver of variation in admitted patient day costs and reflects differences between mental health service organisations in practice and casemix, or both. The aim of this indicator is to better understand the factors underlying variation (such as costs) as well as providing a basis for utilisation review. For example, it allows for the assessment of services provided to particular consumer groups against clinical protocols developed for those groups.

**Indicator set:** [Key Performance Indicators for Australian Public Mental Health Services \(Service level version\) \(2015–\)](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 16/02/2021

## Collection and usage attributes

**Computation description:** Coverage/Scope:  
All public mental health service organisations acute psychiatric inpatient units.

The following separation and associated patient days are excluded:

- Same day separations.

For jurisdictional level reporting the following separation and associated patient days are excluded:

- Forensic services.

Methodology:

- Length of stay is measured in patient days.
- Length of an overnight patient stay is calculated by subtracting the admission date from the date of separation and deducting total leave days.
- For the purpose of this indicator, when a mental health service organisation has more than one unit of a particular admitted patient care program, those units should be combined.
- The categorisation of the admitted patient unit is based on the principal purpose(s) of the admitted patient care program rather than the classification of individual consumers.

**Computation:** Numerator ÷ Denominator

<b>Numerator:</b>	Number of patient days in the mental health service organisation's acute psychiatric inpatient unit(s) accounted for by in-scope overnight separations during the reference period.
<b>Denominator:</b>	Number of in-scope overnight separations from the mental health service organisation's acute psychiatric inpatient unit(s) occurring within the reference period.
<b>Disaggregation:</b>	Service variables: Target population, disorder specific services.  Consumer attributes: Diagnosis, age, SEIFA, remoteness, Indigenous status, involuntary status.
<b>Comments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Casemix adjustment is needed to interpret variation between organisations – to distinguish consumer and provider factors.</li> <li>• Leave presents special complexities in the mental health area and further work is required to ensure that it does not distort this indicator.</li> </ul>

## Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Mean (average)
<b>Data type:</b>	Real
<b>Unit of measure:</b>	Time (e.g. days, hours)

## Indicator conceptual framework

<b>Framework and dimensions:</b>	<a href="#">Efficient</a>
	<a href="#">Appropriate</a>

## Accountability attributes

<b>Benchmark:</b>	Levels at which indicator can be useful for benchmarking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• service unit</li> <li>• mental health service organisation</li> <li>• regional group services</li> <li>• state/territory.</li> </ul>
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## Source and reference attributes

<b>Reference documents:</b>	Key Performance Indicators for Australian Public Mental Health Services, Third edition (2014)
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## Relational attributes

<b>Related metadata references:</b>	Has been superseded by <a href="#">KPIs for Australian Public Mental Health Services: PI 04 – Average length of acute mental health inpatient stay, 2018 (Service level)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Superseded 16/02/2021</li> </ul>
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