KPIs for Australian Public Mental Health Services: PI 08 – Population access to specialised clinical mental health care, 2019 (Service level)

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	MHS PI 08: Population access to specialised clinical mental health care, 2019 (Service level)
METEOR identifier:	712098
Registration status:	[Health](#), Superseded 13/01/2021
Description:	The percentage of consumers who reside in the mental health service organisation's defined catchment area who received care from a public sector mental health service (including inpatient, ambulatory and residential).

NOTE: This indicator is related to *Population access to specialised clinical mental health care (Jurisdictional level)*. There are no technical differences in the calculation methodologies between the Service level version and the Jurisdictional level version of this indicator. |
| **Rationale:** | The issue of unmet need has become prominent since the *National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing* (ABS 2008) indicated that a majority of people affected by a mental disorder do not receive treatment.

The implication for performance indicators is that a measure is required to monitor population treatment rates and assess these against what is known about the distribution of mental disorders in the community.

Access issues figure prominently in concerns expressed by consumers and carers about the mental health care they receive. More recently, these concerns have been echoed in the wider community.

Most jurisdictions have organised their mental health services to serve defined catchment populations, allowing comparisons of relative population coverage to be made between organisations. |
| **Indicator set:** | [Key Performance Indicators for Australian Public Mental Health Services (Service level version) (2019)](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 13/01/2021 |

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description:	Coverage/Scope:

All public mental health service organisations.

Mental health consumers for which a unique person identifier was not recorded, that is non-uniquely identifiable consumers are excluded.

Methodology:

- Requires a non-duplicated consumer count across all settings.
- Statistical local area codes or postcodes recorded at the time of community contact need to be mapped to mental health service organisation catchment population boundaries. |
| **Computation:** | (Numerator ÷ Denominator) x 100 |

Numerator:	Number of consumers who reside in the defined catchment area who received services from the mental health service organisation's specialised mental health services within the reference period.
Denominator:	Number of mental health consumers who reside in the mental health service organisation's defined catchment area within the reference period.
Disaggregation:	Service variables: nil.
	Consumer attributes: age, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), remoteness, Indigenous status.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Percentage
Data type:	Real
Unit of measure:	Person
Format:	N[NN].N

Indicator conceptual framework

Framework and dimensions:	Accessible

Accountability attributes

Benchmark:	Levels at which the indicator can be useful for benchmarking:

- mental health service organisation
- regional group of services
- state/territory.

Further data development / collection required:	This indicator cannot be accurately constructed using the mental health National Minimum Data Sets (NMDSs) because the data sets do not include unique patient identifiers that allow linkage across data sets.
	A proxy solution is to use only the Community Mental Health Care NMDS, which is estimated to include more than 90% of all persons by public mental health services. The accuracy of this solution is limited by the fact that states and territories vary in the extent to which unique patient identifiers are available on a state-wide basis.
	Accurate construction of this indicator at a national level requires separate indicator data to be provided individually by states and territories.
	Development of state-wide unique patient identifiers within all mental health-related NMDSs is needed to improve this capacity.

Other issues caveats:
- As defined populations may receive services from organisations other than their catchment provider, this measure is not a 'pure' indicator of mental health service organisation performance but more about service utilisation by the population they serve. However, it is regarded as an important indicator to understand the overall relationship of the mental health service organisation in relation to its catchment population needs.
- Resource allocation based on psychiatric epidemiology, associated morbidity and disability, mortality and socio-demographic factors is generally regarded as resulting in a more equitable distribution of resources in relation to local need than funding strategies based on service-utilisation and population size alone. This indicator advances these concepts by creating scope in the future to compare expected treatment rates to actuals.
- This measure does not consider the roles of primary mental health care or the specialist private mental health sector. While people who received care from specialist non-government organisations are not counted, it is expected that the majority of these people will be captured by the activities of clinical services.
- This measure may under-report levels of service access in areas where persons are able to access public sector mental health services across jurisdictional boundaries.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on behalf of the National Mental Health Performance Subcommittee

Reference documents: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2008. National survey of mental health and wellbeing: summary of results, Australia, 2007. ABS cat. no. 4326.0. Canberra: ABS.

National Mental Health Performance Subcommittee (NMHPSC) 2013. Key Performance Indicators for Australian Public Mental Health Services, 3rd edn. Canberra: NMHPSC.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [KPIs for Australian Public Mental Health Services: PI 08 – Population access to specialised clinical mental health care, 2018 (Service level)](#) [Health,](#) Superseded 13/01/2021

Has been superseded by [KPIs for Australian Public Mental Health Services: PI 08 – Population access to specialised clinical mental health care, 2020 (Service level)](#) [Health,](#) Superseded 17/12/2021