

# National Healthcare Agreement: PI 11—Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress, 2020

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# National Healthcare Agreement: PI 11—Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress, 2020

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Indicator type:</b>	Progress measure
<b>Short name:</b>	PI 11—Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress, 2020
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	716392
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 13/03/2020
<b>Description:</b>	Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress.
<b>Indicator set:</b>	<a href="#">National Healthcare Agreement (2020)</a> <a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 13/03/2020
<b>Outcome area:</b>	<a href="#">Prevention</a> <a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 07/07/2010

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Computation description:</b>	<p>Derived from the <a href="#">Kessler Psychological Distress Scale</a>, with higher scores indicating a higher level of distress; lower scores indicate a low level of distress.</p> <p>A ten item scale is currently employed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in general population collections (i.e. K10), while a modified five item scale is included in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population collections (K5).</p> <p>Total scores from the K10 scale will be grouped as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10–15 Low</li><li>• 16–21 Moderate</li><li>• 22–29 High</li><li>• 30–50 Very high.</li></ul> <p>Total scores from the K5 scale will be grouped as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5–11 Low/moderate</li><li>• 12–25 High/very high.</li></ul> <p>Presented as a percentage. Rates are directly age-standardised to the 2001 Australian population. 95% confidence intervals and relative standard errors calculated for rates.</p>
<b>Computation:</b>	$100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$
<b>Numerator:</b>	Number of people aged 18 and over with a very high distress score as measured by the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale.

**Numerator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Person—age

**Data Source**

[ABS 2017–18 National Health Survey \(NHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Person—Kessler Psychological Distress Scale score

**Data Source**

[ABS 2017–18 National Health Survey \(NHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Person—age

**Data Source**

[ABS 2018-19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey \(NATSIHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Person—Kessler Psychological Distress Scale score

**Data Source**

[ABS 2018-19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey \(NATSIHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

**Denominator:**

Population aged 18 and over.

**Denominator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Person—age

**Data Source**

[ABS 2017–18 National Health Survey \(NHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Person—age

**Data Source**

[ABS 2018-19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey \(NATSIHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

**Disaggregation:**

2017–18—State and territory by sex.

2017–18—Nationally by:

- remoteness (Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS 2016) Remoteness Structure)
- 2016 Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintiles and deciles
- sex by 2016 SEIFA IRSD quintiles
- remoteness (Major cities, other) by 2016 SEIFA IRSD deciles.
- disability status

2017–18—Grouped high/very high levels of psychological distress—State and territory by:

- Indigenous status
- remoteness (ASGS 2016 Remoteness Structure)
- 2016 SEIFA IRSD quintiles
- disability status

2017–18—Grouped high/very high levels of psychological distress—Nationally by:

- sex by remoteness (ASGS 2016 Remoteness Structure)
- remoteness (ASGS 2016 Remoteness Structure) by 2016 SEIFA IRSD deciles

Some disaggregations may result in numbers too small for publication.

**Disaggregation data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Person—disability status

**Data Source**

[ABS 2017–18 National Health Survey \(NHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Person—Indigenous status

**Data Source**

[ABS 2017–18 National Health Survey \(NHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—sex, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[ABS 2017–18 National Health Survey \(NHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—area of usual residence, statistical area level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS 2016\) N\(9\)](#)

**Data Source**

[ABS 2017–18 National Health Survey \(NHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

Used for disaggregation by state/territory, remoteness and SEIFA

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Person—area of usual residence, statistical area level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS 2016\) N\(9\)](#)

**Data Source**

[ABS 2018-19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey \(NATSIHS\)](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Survey

Used for disaggregation by state/territory

**Comments:**

Most recent data available for the 2020 National Healthcare Agreement performance reporting: 2017–18 (total population, non-Indigenous: NHS); 2018–19 (Indigenous only: NATSIHS).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) or National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) data may be used for analysis, dependent upon which survey is most recent.

The modified K5 scale from the 2018–19 NATSIHS was used with the corresponding 5 questions from the 2017–18 NHS to compare the psychological distress levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous peoples.

## Representational attributes

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

## Data source attributes

**Data sources:**

### Data Source

[ABS 2017–18 National Health Survey \(NHS\)](#)

#### Frequency

Every 3 years

#### Data custodian

Australian Bureau of Statistics

### Data Source

[ABS 2018-19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey \(NATSIHS\)](#)

#### Data custodian

Australian Bureau of Statistics

## Accountability attributes

**Reporting requirements:** National Healthcare Agreement

**Organisation responsible for providing data:** Australian Bureau of Statistics

**Further data development / collection required:** Specification: Final, the measure meets the intention of the indicator.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Bureau of Statistics

**Reference documents:** ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2012. Information Paper: Use of the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale in ABS Health Surveys, Australia, 2007–08. ABS cat.no. 4817.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS. Viewed 27 September 2019, <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyCatalogue/B9ADE45ED60E0A1CCA256D2D0000A288?OpenDocument>.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 11–Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress, 2019](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 13/03/2020

Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 11–Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress, 2021](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 03/07/2020

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 3.3.1–Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress, 2019](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 13/10/2021

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 3.3.1–Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress, 2020](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 13/10/2021

