

Female—number of antenatal care visits, total N[N]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Antenatal care visits
Synonymous names:	Number of antenatal care visits
METEOR identifier:	717735
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Standard 20/11/2019• Tasmanian Health, Standard 03/07/2020
Definition:	The total number of antenatal care visits attended by a pregnant female.
Context:	Perinatal
Data Element Concept:	Female—number of antenatal care visits

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Total				
Data type:	Number				
Format:	N[N]				
Maximum character length:	2				
Supplementary values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>99</td><td>Not stated/inadequately described</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	99	Not stated/inadequately described
Value	Meaning				
99	Not stated/inadequately described				

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: [Antenatal care visits](#) are attributed to the pregnant female.

In rural and remote locations where a clinician or midwife is not employed, registered Aboriginal health workers and [registered nurses](#) may perform this role within the scope of their training and skill licence.

Include all pregnancy-related visits with medical officers where the medical officer has entered documentation related to that visit on the antenatal record of pregnancy and/or birth.

An antenatal care visit does not include:

- a visit where the sole purpose of contact is to confirm the pregnancy
- contacts that occurred during the pregnancy that related solely to non-pregnancy related issues
- a visit where the sole purpose of contact is to perform image screening, diagnostic testing or the collection of blood or tissue for pathology testing. An exception to this rule is made when the health professional performing the procedure or test is a clinician or midwife and the visit directly relates to this pregnancy and the health and wellbeing of the fetus.

Collection methods: Collect the total number of antenatal care visits for which there is documentation included in the antenatal record. To be collected once, after the onset of labour. Include all medical specialist appointments or medical specialist clinic appointments where the provider of the service event has documented the visit on the antenatal record.

Multiple visits on the same day should be recorded as one visit.

Comments: The scope and definition of antenatal care visits was developed through consultation with stakeholders from midwifery, obstetrics, perinatal data managers and other interested parties in 2010.

Antenatal care visits for females with an uncomplicated pregnancy should include advice, education, reassurance, support and treatment for minor problems of pregnancy, as well as effective screening throughout the pregnancy, to identify problems as they arise, with referral as appropriate (Breeze & Kean 2009).

The number of antenatal care visits is an indicator of access and use of health care during pregnancy. The antenatal period presents opportunities for reaching pregnant females with interventions that may be vital to their health and wellbeing and that of their infants. Receiving antenatal care at least eight times is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) to reduce perinatal mortality and improve women's experience of care (WHO 2016).

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Reference documents: Breeze A & Kean L 2009. Routine antenatal management at the booking clinic. *Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine* 20(1):1–6.

Mercy Hospital for Women, Southern Health and Women's & Children's Health 2006. 3 Centres consensus guidelines on antenatal care. Melbourne: 3 Centres Collaboration.

WHO (World Health Organization) 2016. WHO recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience. Geneva: WHO. Viewed 9 July 2019, https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/maternal_perinatal_health/anc-positive-pregnancy-experience/en/.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Female—number of antenatal care visits, total N\[N\]](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 20/11/2019

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Perinatal NMDS 2020–21Health](#), Superseded 03/12/2020

Implementation start date: 01/07/2020

Implementation end date: 30/06/2021

[Perinatal NMDS 2021–22Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2021

Implementation end date: 30/06/2022

DSS specific information:

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

[Perinatal NMDS 2022–23Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2022

Implementation end date: 30/06/2023

DSS specific information:

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

[Perinatal NMDS 2023–24Health](#), Recorded 26/07/2022

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

DSS specific information:

This data element is recorded for the mother only.