

# KPIs for Australian Public Mental Health Services: PI 05J – Average cost per acute mental health admitted patient day, 2021

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Indicator type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Short name:</b>	MHS PI 05J: Average cost per acute mental health admitted patient day, 2021
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	739880
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Standard 17/12/2021</li></ul>

**Description:** Average cost of a patient day provided by state/territory acute [admitted patient mental health care service](#) units.

**NOTE:** This specification has been adapted from the indicator *Average cost per acute mental health admitted patient day, 2020– (Service level)* using terminology consistent with the National Health Data Dictionary. There are no technical differences in the calculation methodologies between the Service level version and the Jurisdictional level version of this indicator.

**Rationale:**

- Efficient functioning of public acute psychiatric inpatient units is critical to ensuring finite funds are used effectively to deliver maximum community benefit.
- Unit costs are a core feature of management level indicators in all industries. They are required to measure how well an organisation uses its resources in producing services and are fundamental to value for money judgements.
- Acute admitted patient mental health care service units account for around three-quarters of the total costs of specialised mental health admitted patient care and around one-third of overall specialised mental health service costs.
- 'Admitted patient day' is the 'intermediate product' for acute inpatient episodes and can be the focus activity aimed at improvements in technical efficiency.

**Indicator set:** [Key Performance Indicators for Australian Public Mental Health Services \(Jurisdictional level version\) \(2021\)](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

## Collection and usage attributes

**Computation description:** Coverage/Scope:

State/territory acute admitted patient mental health care service units.

Methodology:

- Reference period for the 2021 performance reporting: 2019–20.
- All acute admitted patient mental health care service units reporting to the Mental Health Establishments National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) are in scope for this indicator, including short-stay units and emergency acute mental health admitted units.
- Recurrent costs include costs directly attributable to the acute admitted patient mental health care service unit plus a proportional share of overhead costs (indirect expenditure). Cost data for this indicator are based on gross recurrent expenditure as compiled by state/territory data providers according to the specifications of the Mental Health Establishments NMDS. As such, it is subject to the concepts, definitions and costing methodology developed for the NMDS.
- Categorisation of the admitted patient mental health care service unit is based on the principal purpose(s) of the program rather than the classification of individual consumers.

**Computation:**

Numerator ÷ Denominator

**Numerator:**

Total recurrent expenditure on state/territory acute admitted patient mental health care service unit(s) within the reference period.

**Numerator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

**Data Element**

Specialised mental health service unit total apportioned expenditure

NMDS/DSS

(derived from) [Mental Health Establishments NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Specialised mental health service—admitted patient care program type, code N](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Mental health establishments NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Denominator:**

Number of patient days provided by state/territory acute admitted patient mental health care service unit(s) occurring within the reference period.

**Denominator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Establishment—accrued mental health care days, total N\[N\(7\)\]](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Mental health establishments NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Disaggregation:**

Service variables: target population.

Consumer attributes: nil.

**Disaggregation data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Specialised mental health service—target population group, code N](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Mental health establishments NMDS 2019–20](#)

## Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Mean (average)  
**Data type:** Monetary amount  
**Unit of measure:** Currency  
**Format:** N[NNN]

## Indicator conceptual framework

**Framework and dimensions:** [Efficiency and sustainability](#)

## Accountability attributes

**Benchmark:** State/territory level

## Source and reference attributes

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

**Reference documents:** 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 05J – Average cost per acute mental health admitted patient day, 2020](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 13/01/2021