

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 11—Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress, 2022

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National Healthcare Agreement: PI 11–Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress, 2022

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Progress measure
Short name:	PI 11–Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress, 2022
METEOR identifier:	740874
Registration status:	Health , Standard 24/09/2021
Description:	Proportion of adults with very high levels of psychological distress.
Indicator set:	National Healthcare Agreement (2022) Health , Standard 24/09/2021
Outcome area:	Prevention Health , Standard 07/07/2010

Collection and usage attributes

Population group age from:	18 years
Computation description:	<p>Derived from the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale, with higher scores indicating a higher level of distress; lower scores indicating 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 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">• 10–15 Low• 16–21 Moderate• 22–29 High• 30–50 Very high. <p>Total scores from the K5 scale will be grouped as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5–11 Low/moderate• 12–25 High/very high. <p>Presented as a percentage. Rates are directly age-standardised to the 2001 Australian population. 95% confidence intervals and relative standard errors are calculated for rates.</p>
Computation:	Crude rate: $100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$
Numerator:	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:

State and territory by sex.

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

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

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 2022 National Healthcare Agreement performance reporting: 2017–18 (total population, non-Indigenous: NHS); 2018–19 (Indigenous only: NATSIHS).

NO NEW DATA FOR 2022 REPORTING.

The 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.

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.

Data for the Northern Territory should be interpreted with caution as the NHS excludes Very Remote areas and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. These exclusions are unlikely to affect national estimates, and will only have a minor effect on aggregate estimates produced for individual states and territories, excepting the Northern Territory where around 20% of the population lived in Very Remote areas in the 2017–18 reporting period.

For the 2017–18 NHS and the 2018–19 NATSIHS, age standardised 95% confidence intervals and RSEs are not available. Please refer to associated crude 95 per cent confidence intervals and RSEs.

Further details on psychological distress among Indigenous Australians are available from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework ([measure 1.18: Social and emotional wellbeing](#)).

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: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 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>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2020. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework*. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 19 February 2021, <https://indigenoushpf.gov.au/>

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [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, 2020](#)
[Health](#), Standard 13/10/2021