

KPIs for Australian Public Mental Health Services: PI 04 – Average length of acute mental health inpatient stay, 2021– (Service level)

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	MHS PI 04: Average length of acute mental health inpatient stay, 2021– (Service level)
METEOR identifier:	742471
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Standard 17/12/2021
Description:	<p>The average length of stay of in-scope overnight separations from acute psychiatric inpatient units managed by the mental health service organisation.</p> <p>NOTE: This indicator is related to <i>Average length of acute mental health inpatient stay (Jurisdictional level)</i>. There are technical differences in the calculation methodologies between the Service level version and the Jurisdictional level version of this indicator due to different available data sources to construct this indicator. Caution should be taken to ensure the correct methodology is followed.</p>
Rationale:	<p>Length of stay is a key driver of variation in admitted patient day costs and reflects differences between mental health service organisations in practice and casemix, or both. The aim of this indicator is to better understand the factors underlying variation (such as costs) as well as providing a basis for utilisation review. For example, it allows for the assessment of services provided to particular consumer groups against clinical protocols developed for those groups.</p>
Indicator set:	<p>Key Performance Indicators for Australian Public Mental Health Services (Service level version) (2021–) Health, Standard 17/12/2021</p>

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description:	<p>Coverage/Scope:</p> <p>All public mental health service organisations acute psychiatric inpatient units.</p> <p>The following separation and associated patient days are excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• same day separations. <p>For jurisdictional level reporting the following separation and associated patient days are excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• forensic services. <p>Methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Length of stay is measured in patient days.• Length of an overnight patient stay is calculated by subtracting the admission date from the date of separation and deducting total leave days.• For the purpose of this indicator, when a mental health service organisation has more than one unit of a particular admitted patient care program, those units should be combined.• The categorisation of the admitted patient unit is based on the principal purpose(s) of the admitted patient care program rather than the classification of individual consumers.
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Computation:	Numerator ÷ Denominator
Numerator:	Number of patient days in the mental health service organisation's acute psychiatric inpatient unit(s) accounted for by in-scope overnight separations during the reference period.
Denominator:	Number of in-scope overnight separations from the mental health service organisation's acute psychiatric inpatient unit(s) occurring within the reference period.
Disaggregation:	Service variables: target population, disorder specific services. Consumer attributes: diagnosis, age, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), remoteness, Indigenous status, involuntary status.
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casemix adjustment is needed to interpret variation between organisations – to distinguish consumer and provider factors. • Leave presents special complexities in the mental health area and further work is required to ensure that it does not distort this indicator.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Mean (average)
Data type:	Real
Unit of measure:	Time (e.g. days, hours)
Format:	N[NN].N

Indicator conceptual framework

Framework and dimensions:	Efficiency and sustainability
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Accountability attributes

Benchmark:	Levels at which the indicator can be useful for benchmarking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • service unit • mental health service organisation • regional group services • state/territory.
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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 04 – Average length of acute mental health inpatient stay, 2020– (Service level) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, Standard 13/01/2021
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