

Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale for Children and Adolescents score code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Level of psychiatric symptom severity (HoNOSCA score)
METEOR identifier:	748288
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Qualified 20/09/2022
Definition:	An assessment of the severity of a person's psychiatric symptoms, as represented by a Health of the Nation Outcome Scale for Children and Adolescents (HoNOSCA) score-based code.
Context:	Psychiatric symptom severity, persons aged 17 years and under.
Data Element Concept:	Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code												
Data type:	Number												
Format:	N												
Maximum character length:	1												
Permissible values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>0</td><td>No problems within the period stated</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Minor problem requiring no action</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Mild problem but definitely present</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Moderately severe problem</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Severe to very severe problem</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	0	No problems within the period stated	1	Minor problem requiring no action	2	Mild problem but definitely present	3	Moderately severe problem	4	Severe to very severe problem
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0	No problems within the period stated												
1	Minor problem requiring no action												
2	Mild problem but definitely present												
3	Moderately severe problem												
4	Severe to very severe problem												

Supplementary values:

Value	Meaning
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7	Not stated/Missing
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9	Unable to rate because not known or not applicable to the consumer
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Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

The Health of the Nation Outcome Scale for Children and Adolescents (HoNOSCA) is used to rate child and adolescent mental health service users. Together, the scales rate various aspects of mental and social health.

The HoNOSCA is answered on an item-specific anchored 5 point scoring scale which is used to score and thereby determine the scale of the individual psychiatric symptoms outlined in the HoNOSCA. Higher scores indicate problems of greater severity. The psychiatric symptom scales are assigned a value between 0 and 4, with supplementary values of 7 and 9 where a value cannot be assigned due to it being not stated, missing or unable to be rated for other reasons. The fifteen scales are as follows:

1. Disruptive, antisocial or aggressive behaviour
2. Over-activity, attention and/or concentration
3. Non-accidental self-injury
4. Alcohol, substance/solvent misuse
5. Scholastic or language skills
6. Physical illness or disability problems
7. Hallucinations, delusions or abnormal perceptions
8. Non-organic somatic symptoms
9. Emotional and related symptoms
10. Peer relationships
11. Self-care and independence
12. Family life and relationships
13. Poor school attendance
14. Lack of knowledge - nature of difficulties
15. Lack of information - services/management.

The sum of the individual scores of each of the scales (excluding supplementary values 7 Not stated/Missing and 9 Unable to rate because not known or not applicable to the consumer) from 1 to 13 represents the total HoNOSCA score. The total HoNOSCA score represents the overall severity of an individual's psychiatric symptoms.

Data element attributes

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Reference documents: Royal College of Psychiatrists 2022. Health of the Nation Outcome Scales (HoNOS). Viewed 26 July 2022, <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/events/in-house-training/health-of-nation-outcome-scales>

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale for Children and Adolescents score code N](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 19/02/2021

See also [Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale 65+ score code N](#)

- [Health](#), Qualified 20/09/2022

See also [Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale score code N](#)

- [Health](#), Qualified 30/11/2022

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2023–24](#)
[Health](#), Qualified 20/09/2022

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

Conditional obligation:

Reporting of the HoNOSCA at the commencement of mental health phase of care is mandatory for patients in all settings.

Reporting of the HoNOSCA is not mandatory if the response to [Episode of care—clinical assessment only indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described, code N](#) is CODE 1 'Yes'.

The HoNOSCA should only be reported for patients aged 17 years and younger.

[National Outcomes and Casemix Collection NBEDS 2023-24](#)
[Health](#), Qualified 30/11/2022

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

Conditional obligation:

In the National Outcomes and Casemix Collection (NOCC) NBEDS, this data element should be collected where:

Setting: inpatient, residential or ambulatory

Occasion: admission, review, and discharge*

Age group: child and adolescent

* Discharge ratings for the Health of the Nation Outcome Scale Child and Adolescent (HoNOSCA) are not required by the ambulatory service or the consumer respectively, when the reason for the closure of the ambulatory episode is transfer to a bed-based treatment service setting of that organisation (i.e., psychiatric inpatient or community residential service). Where possible, the HoNOSCA ratings for admission in the inpatient unit or the community residential care setting are reported as the consumer's discharge ratings from the ambulatory episode.

Discharge ratings for the HoNOSCA are not required for [brief ambulatory episode of mental health care](#) where the number of days between admission to and discharge from the episode of care is 14 days or less duration.

Discharge ratings for the HoNOSCA are not required for inpatient episodes of 3 days or less duration.

For more information on setting, occasion, or age groups, see the [NOCC collection protocol](#) (Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classifications Network, 2022).

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