Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for opioid medicines per 100,000 people, all ages 2016-17 to 2020-21

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# Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for opioid medicines per 100,000 people, all ages 2016-17 to 2020-21

|  |
| --- |
| Identifying and definitional attributes |
| Metadata item type: | Indicator |
| Indicator type: | Indicator |
| Short name: | Opioid medicines dispensing, 2016-17 to 2020-21 |
| METEOR identifier: | 754809 |
| Registration status: | [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 15/09/2022 |
| Description: | Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for opioid medicines per 100,000 people, age-sex standardised. |
| Indicator set: | [Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation: Time Series](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/756164)        [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 15/09/2022 |

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| --- |
| Collection and usage attributes |
| Population group age from: | All ages |
| Computation description: | **Inclusion codes, description and additional requirements**PBS medicine items for this indicator were extracted according to the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) codes listed in column 1 and based on the indicator developed for the *First Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation.* Column 3 lists all the PBS item codes that were listed over all or part of the reporting period (2016-17 to 2020-21), which map to the ATC codes. Column 4 provides details of new or deleted PBS codes over the reporting period and identifies those codes that are listed in the palliative care, dental or RPBS only schedules. Doctor's bag codes do not have patient details recorded and hence are excluded from the analysis. PBS items captured under the same ATC codes may change over time as drugs are added or removed. Therefore, PBS item codes listed are indicative of the complete set of PBS/RPBS items captured in the data extract at the time of analysis. **New table:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Code** | **Description (Drug Name)** | **PBS code (Item Code)** | **Comments** |
| N02A | ASPIRIN + CODEINE | 04286N | Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme |
| BUPRENORPHINE | 08865N |   |
| 08866P |   |
| 08867Q |   |
| 10746N |   |
| 10755C |   |
| 10756D |   |
| 10770W |   |
| 10948F | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Dec 2016  |
| 10949G | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Dec 2016  |
| 10953L | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Dec 2016  |
| 10957Q | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Dec 2016  |
| 10959T | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Dec 2016  |
| 10964C | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Dec 2016  |
| 10970J | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Dec 2016  |
| CODEINE | 01214X |   |
| 05063L | Dental code |
| 12054K | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12065B | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| FENTANYL | 05265D |   |
| 05277R |   |
| 05278T |   |
| 05279W |   |
| 05280X |   |
| 05401G |   |
| 05402H |   |
| 05403J |   |
| 05404K |   |
| 05405L |   |
| 05406M |   |
| 05407N |   |
| 05408P |   |
| 05409Q |   |
| 05410R |   |
| 05411T |   |
| 05412W |   |
| 05437E |   |
| 05438F |   |
| 05439G |   |
| 05440H |   |
| 05441J |   |
| 08878G |   |
| 08891Y |   |
| 08892B |   |
| 08893C |   |
| 08894D |   |
| 10600X | Palliative care item |
| 10601Y | Palliative care item |
| 10602B | Palliative care item |
| 10603C | Palliative care item |
| 10604D | Palliative care item |
| 10606F | Palliative care item |
| 10607G | Palliative care item |
| 10608H | Palliative care item |
| 10610K | Palliative care item |
| 10611L | Palliative care item |
| 10612M | Palliative care item |
| 10613N | Palliative care item |
| 10684H | Palliative care item |
| 10697B | Palliative care item |
| 10698C | Palliative care item |
| 10713W | Palliative care item |
| 10722H | Palliative care item |
| 10723J | Palliative care item |
| 10729Q | Palliative care item |
| 10737D | Palliative care item |
| 10738E | Palliative care item |
| 10739F | Palliative care item |
| 12474M | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12477Q | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12480W | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12491K | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12504D | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12509J | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12513N | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12516R | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12517T | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12521B | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12526G | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12530L | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12533P | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12541C | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12546H | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| HYDROMORPHONE | 05115F |   |
| 05116G |   |
| 05117H |   |
| 05132D | Delisted 1 Jun 2019 |
| 08420E |   |
| 08421F |   |
| 08422G | Delisted 01 Sep  2017 |
| 08423H | Delisted 01 Sep 2016 |
| 08424J | Delisted 1 Jun 2019 |
| 08541M |   |
| 08542N |   |
| 08543P |   |
| 09299K |   |
| 09406C |   |
| 09407D |   |
| 09408E |   |
| 09409F |   |
| 11467M | Listed 01 Nov 2018 |
| 11479E | Listed 01 Nov 2018 |
| 12010D | Listed 01 June 2020 |
| 12016K | Listed 01 Jun 2020 |
| 12032G | Listed 01 Jun 2020 |
| 12045Y | Listed 01 Jun 2020 |
| 12046B | Listed 01 Jun 2020 |
| 12047C | Listed 01 Jun 2020 |
| 12473L | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12482Y | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12484C | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12485D | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12493M | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12496Q | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12497R | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12515Q | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12531M | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12535R | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12543E | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12559B | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12565H | Palliative care item.  Listed 01 Jun 2021 |
| 12582F |   |
| METHADONE | 01606M |   |
| 01609Q |   |
| 05399E | Palliative care item |
| 05400F | Palliative care item |
| 12481X | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12520Y | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| MORPHINE | 01607N |   |
| 01644M |   |
| 01645N |   |
| 01646P |   |
| 01647Q |   |
| 01653B |   |
| 01654C |   |
| 01655D |   |
| 01656E |   |
| 02122Q |   |
| 02123R |   |
| 02124T |   |
| 02839K |   |
| 02840L |   |
| 02841M |   |
| 04349X | RPBS |
| 05163R | Dental item |
| 05168B | Dental item |
| 05169C | Dental item |
| 05170D | Dental item |
| 05237P | Dental item |
| 05238Q | Dental item |
| 05239R | Dental item |
| 05391R | Palliative care item |
| 05393W | Palliative care item |
| 05394X | Palliative care item |
| 08035X |   |
| 08146R |   |
| 08305D |   |
| 08306E |   |
| 08349K |   |
| 08453X |   |
| 08454Y |   |
| 08489T |   |
| 08490W |   |
| 08491X |   |
| 08492Y |   |
| 08493B |   |
| 08494C |   |
| 08669G |   |
| 08670H |   |
| 10858L | Dental item,Listed 1 Aug 2016 |
| 10863R | Dental item,Listed 1 Aug 2016 |
| 10864T | Listed 1 Aug 2016 |
| 10869C | Listed 1 Aug 2016 |
| 10874H | Listed 1 Aug 2016 |
| 10878M | Listed 1 Aug 2016 |
| 11760Y | Listed 1 Sep 2019 |
| 11761B | Listed 1 Sep 2019 |
| 12009C | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12053J | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12055L | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12067D | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12470H | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12472K | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12476P | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12483B | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12487F | Palliative care item,Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12488G | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12489H | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12490J | Palliative care item,Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12492L | Palliative care item,Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12494N | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12495P | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12499W | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12500X | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12501Y | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12502B | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12503C | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12505E | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12512M | Palliative care item.        Listed 1 Jun 2021    |
| 12514P | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12528J | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12529K | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12536T | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12537W | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12539Y | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12544F | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12547J | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12548K | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12549L | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| OXYCODONE | 02481N |   |
| 02622B |   |
| 05190E |   |
| 05191F |   |
| 05194J |   |
| 05195K |   |
| 05197M |   |
| 08385H |   |
| 08386J |   |
| 08387K |   |
| 08388L |   |
| 08464L |   |
| 08501K |   |
| 08502L |   |
| 08644Y |   |
| 09399Q |   |
| 09400R |   |
| 12023T | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12025X | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12031F | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12044X | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12048D | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12074L | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12311Y | Listed 1 Apr 2021 |
| 12314D | Listed 1 Apr 2021 |
| 12510K | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12518W | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12525F | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12527H | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12538X | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12545G | Palliative care item.Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| OXYCODONE + NALOXONE | 08000C |   |
| 08934F |   |
| 08935G |   |
| 08936H |   |
| 10757E |   |
| 10758F |   |
| 10776E |   |
| 11102H | Listed 1 May 2017 |
| 11111T | Listed 1 May 2017 |
| 12471J | Palliative care Item.  Listed 1 Jun 2021   |
| 12475N | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12486E | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12498T | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12511L | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12522C | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12523D | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12532N | Palliative care item. Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| 12540B | Listed 1 Jun 2021 |
| PARACETAMOL + CODEINE | 01215Y |   |
| 03316M |   |
| 04170L | RPBS, Delisted 1 Oct 2017 |
| 04171M | RPBS,Delisted 1 Nov 2017 |
| 04275B | RPBS |
| 08785J | Delisted 1 Jun 2020 |
| 10186D | RPBS,Delisted 1 Feb 2018 |
| 12022R | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12066C | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| TAPENTADOL | 10091D |   |
| 10092E |   |
| 10094G |   |
| 10096J |   |
| 10100N |   |
| TRAMADOL | 02527B |   |
| 05150C |   |
| 05231H |   |
| 05232J |   |
| 08455B |   |
| 08523N |   |
| 08524P |   |
| 08525Q |   |
| 08582Q |   |
| 08611F | Delisted 1 Jun 2020 |
| 08843K |   |
| 12008B | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| 12024W | Listed 1 Jun 2020 |
| R05DA04 | CODEINE | 07530H |   |
| 12081W | Listed 1 Jul 2020Delisted 1 May 2021 |

*Drugs used in opioid dependence* (N07BC) are not included because these drugs are not considered consistent with the intent of the indicator. PBS/RPBS records consistent with the intent of this indicator are identified as opioid medicines based on the listed Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) codes, not PBS item codes. PBS items captured under the same ATC codes may change over time as drugs are added or removed. Therefore PBS item codes listed are indicative of the complete set of PBS/RPBS items captured in the data extract at the time of analysis.Data extraction for opioid medicines dispensing was performed on 11 October 2021.Presented as the following rates:(a)    number of prescriptions per 100,000 people(b)    number of patients per 100,000 people(c)     number of defined daily doses (DDD) per 1,000 people per dayRates are directly age-sex standardised, to the 2001 Australian population, using 5-year age groups: 0-4, 5-9, … , 80-84, 85 and over.For more information about age-standardisation in general see [Age-standardised rate](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/327276)A patient’s age is calculated in years as the difference between the patient’s date of birth and date of supply for the prescription. Date of birth and sex are as reported on a patient’s last prescription for any drug, extracted on 11 October 2021.Prescriptions are allocated to a financial year based on the date the medicine was supplied to the patient. For example, for 2016-17, the date of supply is between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017. Analysis by Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3) 2016 is based on the patient's enrolment postcode as last reported by the patient to Medicare, valid at date of supply.Suppress data (number and rate) if at least one of the following conditions are met:* the total denominator is less than 1,000
* the total numerator is less than 20.

Age-sex standardised rates are also suppressed where the denominator for at least one of the age-sex groups used to calculate the rate is below 30 and results of sensitivity analysis indicate that the rates are volatile. However, for SA3 data, if the volatility of the rate is not found to have a material impact on its decile, the rate is published with caution. For more information about the sensitivity analysis, see the [Technical Supplement of the Third Atlas.](https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/sites/default/files/migrated/Text-Technical-supplement.pdf)  |
| Computation: | (a), (b)  [Numerator ÷ Denominator] x 100,000(c) ([Numerator x 1,000] ÷ [Denominator x 365]) |
| Numerator: | For 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21:(a)    Number of opioid prescriptions dispensed, all ages(b)    Number of patients dispensed at least one opioid prescription, all ages(c)    Number of DDD of opioid medicines dispensed [mass amount x quantity dispensed ÷ DDD amount], all ages  |
| Numerator data elements: | **Data Element / Data Set****Data Element** Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription - Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) code, ANN(AANN)PBS and RPBS data 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 extracted on 11 October 2021. **Data Source**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724386)**Guide for use** Data source type: Administrative by-product data **Data Element / Data Set****Data Element** Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription - mass amount, N(14.5)PBS and RPBS data 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21 extracted on 11 October 2021. **Data Source**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724386)**Guide for use** Data source type: Administrative by-product data  **Data Element / Data Set****Data Element** Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription - Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) code, ANN(AANN)PBS and RPBS data 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 extracted on 11 October 2021. **Data Source**[Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724388)**Guide for use** Data source type: Administrative by-product data  **Data Element / Data Set**[Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/287007)**Data Source**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724386)**Guide for use** Data source type: Administrative by-product data **Data Element / Data Set**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—PBS item prescribed, code NN[NNN]A](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/600778)**Data Source**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724386)**Guide for use** Data source type: Administrative by-product data  **Data Element / Data Set**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—patient identifier, identifier N(9)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/601236)**Data Source**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724386)**Guide for use** Data source type: Administrative by-product data **Data Element / Data Set**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—quantity of PBS item supplied, total number N[NNN]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/601876)**Data Source**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724386)**Guide for use** Data source type: Administrative by-product data   **Data Element / Data Set**[Person—sex, code A](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/602450)**Data Source**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724386)**Guide for use** Data source type: Administrative by-product data **Data Element / Data Set**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—date of supply, DDMMYYYY](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/602767)**Data Source**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724386)**Guide for use** Data source type: Administrative by-product data  |
| Denominator: | As at 30 June 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020:(a), (b), (c)  Total population, all ages |
| Denominator data elements: | **Data Element / Data Set**[Person—estimated resident population of Australia, total people N[N(7)]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/388656)**Data Source**[ABS Estimated resident population (2016 Census-based)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/704699)**Guide for use** Data source type: Census based plus administrative by-product data  |
| Disaggregation: | Data are disaggregated by individual year.(a) SA3 2016 by:* remoteness (ASGS Remoteness structure 2016) and Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA 2016) Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage (IRSD 2016)
* Primary Health Network (PHN) 2017
* State and territory

(b) State and territory(c) State and territory |
| Disaggregation data elements: | **Data Element / Data Set**[Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/287007)**Data Source**[ABS Estimated resident population (2016 Census-based)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/704699)**Data Element / Data Set**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—specialty of prescriber, subspecialty code NNNNNN](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/607133)**Data Source**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724386)**Guide for use** GPO postcodes 2001, 2124, 3001, 4001, 5001, 6843, 7001 excluded from the SA3 and PHN level analysis but included in state/territory and national level analysis.Data source type: Administrative by-product dataUsed for disaggregation by Statistical Area Level 3. **Data Element / Data Set**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription—specialty of prescriber, subspecialty code NNNNNN](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/607133)**Data Source**[Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724388)**Guide for use** GPO postcodes 2001, 2124, 3001, 4001, 5001, 6843, 7001 excluded from the SA3 and PHN level analysis but included in state/territory and national level analysis.Data source type: Administrative by-product dataUsed for disaggregation by Statistical Area Level 3. **Data Element / Data Set**[Address—Australian postcode, code (Postcode datafile) NNNN](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/611398)**Data Source**[ABS Estimated resident population (2016 Census-based)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/704699)**Data Element / Data Set**[Address—statistical area, level 3 (SA3) code (ASGS 2016) NNNNN](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/723561)**Data Source**[ABS Estimated resident population (2016 Census-based)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/704699) |
| Comments: | In previous versions of the Atlas of Healthcare Variation, postcode 7001 Hobart PO Boxes has been mapped by the ABS to SA3 of either Hobart Inner or Central Highlands. Consistent with the treatment of other capital city PO Boxes, postcode 7001 has now been excluded from the SA3 and PHN level analysis but included in state/territory and national level analysis. This will result in a decrease in script volume for either Hobart Inner or Central Highlands from numbers reported in earlier versions.  |
| Representational attributes |
| Representation class: | Rate |
| Data type: | Integer |
| Unit of measure: | Service event |
| Format: | (a) Prescription event (b) Person (c) Defined Daily DoseNN[NNNN] |
| Data source attributes |
| Data sources: | **Data Source**[ABS Estimated resident population (2016 Census-based)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/704699)**Frequency**Quarterly**Data custodian** Australian Bureau of Statistics **Data Source**[Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724386)**Frequency**Daily**Data custodian** Australian Government Department of Health **Data Source**[Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) data](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/724388)**Frequency**Daily**Data custodian** Australian Government Department of Health  |
| Accountability attributes |
| Methodology: | Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3s) are geographic areas defined in the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The aim of SA3s is to create a standard framework for the analysis of ABS data at the regional level through clustering groups of SA2s that have similar regional characteristics. There are 340 spatial SA3s covering the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They are designed to provide a regional breakdown of Australia. SA3s generally have a population of between 30,000 and 130,000 people. There are approximately 78 with fewer than 30,000 people and 46 with more than 130,000 as at 30 June 2016. The Other Territories of Jervis Bay, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Norfolk Island are each represented by a SA3 in the 2016 ASGS. For further information see the ABS publication, [1270.0.55.001 - Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2016.](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/1270.0.55.001Main%2BFeatures10018July%202016?OpenDocument)Estimates of the resident population (ERP) by SA3 reflect figures released with [Regional population by age and sex, 2020 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/regional-population-age-and-sex/2020). The status of annual sub-state ERPs changes over time, from preliminary to revised to final, as new component data becomes available at the state level. ERPs by SA3 are final for 30 June 2016, revised for 30 June 2017 to 30 June 2019 and preliminary for 30 June 2020. Further information about the methodology used to produce ERPs by SA3 is available at [Regional population by age and sex methodology, 2020 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/regional-population-age-and-sex-methodology/2020)The Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) code is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an internationally accepted classification for presenting and comparing drug usage data. Since 1982, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology (WHOCC), located in Norway, has been the central body responsible for coordinating ATC use. Note that the ATC codes used in this specification are from the Australian Department of Health’s version of the WHO ATC classifications, which have some minor differences from the WHO version, based upon a particular drug’s usage in Australia. The Department of Health’s ATC version is available at <http://www.pbs.gov.au/browse/body-system>.Further information on DDD/1,000/day is available at <https://www.whocc.no/use_of_atc_ddd/>DDD amounts are available at <https://www.whocc.no/atc_ddd_index/>\*The previous extraction for opioid medicines dispensed in 2016-17 reported in the Third *Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation,*omitted prescriptions corresponding to PBS item 7530H (ATC R05DA) in error. This resulted in a 1% difference in the overall number of prescriptions dispensed during the reporting period, including 2016-17, compared with later extractions for this year.  |
| Reporting requirements: | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care*The Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation Time Series: Opioid medicines dispensing, all ages, 2016–17 to 2020–21* |
| Organisation responsible for providing data: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| Accountability: | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care |
| Release date: | 21/09/2022 |
| Source and reference attributes |
| Submitting organisation: | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care |
| Steward: | [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/662910) |
| Relational attributes  |
| Related metadata references: | See also [Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018: Number of PBS/RPBS prescriptions dispensed for opioid medicines per 100,000 people, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/709514)       [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Standard 13/12/2018 |