

National Hand Hygiene Data Collection, 2012-

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	762962
Registration status:	AIHW Data Quality Statements , Standard 01/02/2023

Data quality

Data quality statement summary:

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) established the National Hand Hygiene Initiative (NHHI) in 2008 as part of a suite of initiatives to prevent and reduce healthcare-associated infections in Australian healthcare settings. The [National Safety and Quality Health Services \(NSQHS\) Standards](#) require health service organisations to have a hand hygiene program consistent with the NHHI and jurisdictional requirements. The NHHI uses a multimodal approach to improving hand hygiene, which includes:

- The use of alcohol-based hand rub at the point-of-care
- Ensuring uniform hand hygiene and infection prevention and control education
- Monitoring hand hygiene compliance and performance feedback
- Using hand hygiene programs that ensure culture change.

Implementation of the NHHI is led by states, territories and health service organisations (public and private).

Institutional environment:

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is an independent corporate Commonwealth entity under the [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987 \(AIHW Act\)](#), governed by a [management board](#) and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health portfolio.

The AIHW is a nationally recognised information management agency. Its purpose is to create authoritative and accessible information and statistics that inform decisions and improve the health and welfare of all Australians.

Compliance with the confidentiality requirements in the AIHW Act, the Privacy Principles in the [Privacy Act 1988 \(Cth\)](#) and the AIHW's data governance arrangements ensures that the AIHW is well positioned to release information for public benefit while protecting the identity of individuals and organisations.

For further information see the AIHW website www.aihw.gov.au/about-us, which includes details about the AIHW's governance (www.aihw.gov.au/about-us/our-governance) and our role and strategic goals (www.aihw.gov.au/about-us/our-vision-and-strategic-goals).

Timeliness:

Audit data are provided three times a year by health service organisations to the ACSQHC. After its analysis and reporting of the national dataset, the ACSQHC provides the data to AIHW. Transfer of data from ACSQHC to AIHW normally occurs two months after the close of the audit period. The audit periods are from:

- 1 November to 30 March
- 1 April to 30 June, and
- 1 July to 31 October each year.

The reference period for this data set is from November 2012 onwards.

Accessibility:

The AIHW publishes data from the NHHI annually in the 'Hospital safety and quality' series and can be accessed on the:

- [AIHW website](#)
- or individual hospitals on the MyHospitals website. These data may be accessed on the [MyHospitals website](#).

Interpretability:

Information on the definitions used for the NHHI, including observed moments, total moments and health worker types are available on the AIHW's online metadata repository (METEOR). METEOR can be accessed on the [AIHW website](#).

Relevance: Hand hygiene is considered to be a robust measure of the quality of a health service organisation's infection prevention and control program. Data from this collection is used by the AIHW as an indicator about the safety and quality of care in Australian hospitals.

Hand hygiene compliance is reported as a national rate, as well for individual public health service organisations, healthcare worker group, and by each moment for hand hygiene. Compliance rates are compared against the current national benchmark of 80%, which was endorsed by the former the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) in October 2015.

Accuracy: The ACSQHC is primarily responsible for the quality of the data they provide. However, the AIHW undertakes validations on receipt of data. Data are checked for valid values, logical consistency and historical consistency. Potential errors are queried, and corrections and resubmissions may be made by the ACSQHC in response to these edit queries. The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors or missing or incorrect values, except as stated above.

Coherence: The exclusion of standalone long term care facilities from national data set came into effect from Audit 1 2021. This action was undertaken to ensure that the national hand hygiene compliance rate reflects hand hygiene performance at the health service level, in line with purpose of the national hand hygiene. This change would have caused little impact as it involved less than 15 organisations in total.

Data products

Implementation start date: 01/11/2012

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Origin: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Reference documents: [National Hand Hygiene Initiative | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care \(ACSQHC\) 2019. National Hand Hygiene Initiative Manual. Sydney: ACSQHC.](#)

[Hospital safety and quality - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(aihw.gov.au\)](#)

Relational attributes

Indicators linked to this Data Quality statement: [National Hand Hygiene Initiative compliance rate, 2012–Health, Standard 06/09/2023](#)