

Child—operationally unavailable time within a reference period, total hours N[NN]

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Child—operationally unavailable time within a reference period, total hours N[NN]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Operationally unavailable hours in a reference period
METEOR identifier:	792798
Registration status:	Early Childhood , Recorded 16/05/2024
Definition:	The total number of hours during a reference period when a service is not available to a child.
Data Element Concept:	Child—operationally unavailable time within a reference period
Value Domain:	Total hours N[NN]{.N}

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Total	
Data type:	String	
Format:	N[NN]{.N}	
Maximum character length:	3	
	Value	Meaning
Supplementary values:	999	Not stated/inadequately described
Unit of measure:	Hour (h)	

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	Total hours expressed as 0, 1, 1.5 etc.
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Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
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Data element attributes

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Department of Education
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Relational attributes

DSS specific information:

In the National Preschool Attendance Collection (NPAC), record the total number of whole hours that were operationally unavailable to the child during the attendance reference period, i.e., minutes should be rounded to the nearest whole hour. In the NPAC, the minimum number of hours allowed to be reported is '1', and the maximum is '720'. Where the number of hours is not stated, '999' should be submitted.

Operationally unavailable hours are defined by the three following categories:

1. Safety – where there is a safety risk to attendees at the service provider location or in relation to access to the location, whether declared as an emergency or not (e.g. fire or flood)
2. Planning and pupil-free days – where early childhood education program staff, including teachers, are required to undertake forward planning activities for the ongoing provision of service
3. Public holidays – jurisdictional accepted public holidays.

Operationally unavailable hours should only be recorded for children who are enrolled for the hours or day that the program was unavailable (e.g. if a child is enrolled on a Monday and there was a public holiday on that day, include the child's enrolled hours for that day as operationally unavailable hours).

If operationally unavailable hours are reported, they will be reported as actual where possible or may be estimated where this data is not collected. Where estimates are provided, jurisdictions will provide an explanation of the estimation method.