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]

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| 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](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), 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](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/792794) |
| Value Domain: | [Total hours N[NN]{.N}](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/792796) |

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| 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) |

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| 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 |
| Relational attributes |
| Implementation in Data Set Specifications: | [National Preschool Attendance Collection DSS 2024](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/792074)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Recorded 16/05/2024***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. |