

Appendix 1: National Minimum Data Sets for Mental Health Care

Background

This section provides background information on the three component data sets that comprise the National Minimum Data Sets – Mental Health Care as defined under the National Health Information Agreement for collection by States and Territories and collation by the AIHW. This report contains data specified under the NMDS – Admitted Patient Mental Health Care and the NMDS – Community Mental Establishments. The third data set, specified as the NMDS – Community Mental Health Care, will be collated for the first time in 2002.

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing provides National Mental Health Strategy funds to the AIHW to manage NMDS definitional development and collection strategies for mental health care. The AHMAC National Mental Health Working Group (NMHWG) oversees the NMDSs – Mental Health Care work program. Detailed advice on NMDS development is provided to the NMHWG by the Group's Information Strategy Committee and its NMDS subcommittee.

NMDS—Admitted Patient Mental Health Care

The NMDS – Admitted Patient Mental Health Care represents an agreement between States and Territories to collect and report information on patients admitted to hospital who receive specialised psychiatric care. This includes patients who receive treatment and/or care in psychiatric hospitals or in specialised psychiatric units (referred to as designated units) of public and private acute care hospitals. The hospital separations covered in the NMDS – Admitted Patient Mental Health Care are, in effect, a subset of those covered by the NMDS – Admitted Patient Health Care, which is compiled by the AIHW as the National Hospital Morbidity Database and covers all admitted patients in almost all hospitals.

In acute care hospitals, a 'specialised' episode of care or separation may comprise some psychiatric care days (care in a specialised psychiatric ward) and some days in general care, or psychiatric care days only. An episode of care in a public psychiatric hospital is deemed to comprise psychiatric care days only and to be 'specialised', unless some care was given in a unit other than a psychiatric unit, such as a drug and alcohol unit.

The NMDS for admitted patient mental health care effectively began in July 1996, with the collection of data on *Mental health legal status* and *Total psychiatric care days*. Since 1997, a wider range of data elements has been collected. In 1999–00, a total of 31 were specified (Table A1.1).

National Minimum Data Set—Community Mental Health Establishments

The data elements for the NMDS—Community Mental Health Establishments were agreed for collection from July 1998 and are presented in Table A1.3. Data are collected on the number of establishments, expenditure and staffing. For community residential facilities, data on beds and separations are also collected. Within this NMDS, the term ‘separation’ refers to episodes of non-admitted patient residential care in community-based residential services.

The *Total full-time-equivalent staff* and the *Total salaries and wages* data elements do not include the identification of expenditure in the nine staffing subcategories included in the NMDS—Public Hospital Establishments (e.g. *Registered nurses, Diagnostic and health professionals, Administrative and clerical staff*). Similarly, the *Non-salary operating costs* data element does not include the identification of expenditure in the subcategories included in that NMDS (e.g. *Superannuation employer contributions, Medical and surgical supplies*). The one exception is the *Payments to visiting medical officers* data element which has been agreed for inclusion, but not yet fully implemented for the NCMHED. Where available, jurisdictions are encouraged to supply data for the absent subcategories, but it is not an agreed component of the NMDS.

The data specified in the NMDS—Community Mental Health Establishments is collated at the AIHW as the NCMHED.

Included in the scope of the NMDS are all specialised mental health services dedicated to the assessment, treatment, rehabilitation or care of non-admitted patients. The scope includes:

- both residential and ambulatory public community mental health care establishments;
- both adult and adolescent and child community mental health services; and
- non-admitted services in hospitals such as specialised psychiatric outpatient services.

The scope excludes:

- admitted patient mental health care services;
- support services that are not specialised mental health care services (e.g. accommodation support services);
- residential services that are staffed less than 24 hours per day; and
- services provided by non-government organisations.

It needs to be noted that there is an overlap in the scope of the NMDS—Community Mental Health Establishments and the NDMS—Public Health Establishments. The hospital establishments in the scope of the NDMS—Public Health Establishments encompass outpatient and outreach services based at the hospital, in addition to community-based services under the management of the hospital. The establishments in the scope of the NMDS—Community Mental Health Establishments include all public hospital-based outpatient and outreach services and public hospital-managed community-based services that provide specialised mental health care.

Table A1.2 presents information on the extent to which data elements were reported by the different jurisdictions and sectors for 1999–00. *Type of usual accommodation, Employment status* and *Referral to further care (psychiatric patient)* data elements were reported for less than 50% of separations.

National Minimum Data Set—Community Mental Health Care

The client-level data elements collected for each service contact in ambulatory community mental health care were agreed for collection from 1 July 2000 (see Table A1.4 below). From 1 July 2001, the NMDS will include *Marital status*, *Area of usual residence* and *Country of birth* data elements.

Included in the scope of the NMDS are all specialised mental health services dedicated to the assessment, treatment, rehabilitation or care of non-admitted patients. The scope includes service contacts for non-admitted patients in public community mental health care establishments, including adult, adolescent and child community mental health services and non-admitted services in hospitals such as specialised psychiatric outpatient services.

The scope excludes:

- admitted patient mental health care services;
- support services that are not specialised mental health care services (e.g. accommodation support services); and
- services provided by non-government organisations and residential care services.

Thus the scope of this NMDS is the service contacts provided in non-residential establishments that are included in the NMDS—Community Mental Health Establishments. Subject to quality and consistency of the data provided, some summary data from this NMDS will be presented in *Mental Health Services in Australia 2000–01*.

Table A1.1: Data elements^(a) that constitute the NMDS – Admitted Patient Mental Health Care for 1999–00

Data element	Specific to specialised mental health care	Knowledgebase ^(b) identifier
Identifiers		
Establishment identifier (made up of)		000050
<i>State identifier</i>		000380
<i>Establishment sector</i>		000379
<i>Region code</i>		000378
<i>Establishment number</i>		000377
Person identifier		000127
Sociodemographic items		
Sex		000149
Date of birth		000036
Country of birth		000035
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status		000001
Marital status	✓	000089
Employment status	✓	000317
Area of usual residence		000016
Pension status—psychiatric patients	✓	000121
Type of usual accommodation	✓	000173
Service and administrative items		
Care type (previously Type of episode of care)		000168
Previous specialised treatment		000139
Admission date		000008
Separation date		000043
Total leave days		000163
Mode of admission (previously Source of referral to acute hospital or private psychiatric hospital)	✓	000385
Mode of separation		000096
Source of referral to public psychiatric hospital	✓	000150
Referral to further care (psychiatric patients)	✓	000143
Total psychiatric care days	✓ ^(c)	000164
Mental health legal status	✓ ^(c)	000092
Clinical items		
Principal diagnosis		000136
Additional diagnosis		000005
Diagnosis Related Group		000042
Major Diagnostic Category		000088
Intended length of stay		000076

(a) All data elements are defined in the *National Health Data Dictionary*, Version 8.0 (NHDC 1999).

(b) The Knowledgebase: Australia's Health, Community Services and Housing Metadata Registry can be accessed through the AIHW web site at www.aihw.gov.au.

(c) Collected for all patients but relevant only to specialised psychiatric care.

Table A1.2: Reporting of data elements^(a) that constitute the NMDS – Admitted Patient Mental Health Care for 1999–00

Data element	Hospital type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	% not reported
Area of usual residence	Public acute	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3.4
	Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	0.6
	Public psychiatric	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	5.5
	<i>Total</i>									2.5
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status	Public acute	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1.9
	Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	..	0.9
	Public psychiatric	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	2.1
	<i>Total</i>									1.5
Country of birth	Public acute	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5.3
	Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	..	9.8
	Public psychiatric	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	3.2
	<i>Total</i>									6.8
Marital status	Public acute	40% reported	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20.7
	Private	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	..	28.9
	Public psychiatric	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	9.8
	<i>Total</i>									22.7
Employment status	Public acute	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	53.5
	Private	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	..	65.6
	Public psychiatric	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	63.0
	<i>Total</i>									59.1
Type of usual accommodation	Public acute	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	68.0
	Private	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	..	80.0
	Public psychiatric	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	..	..	74.7
	<i>Total</i>									73.2

(continued)

Table A1.2: (continued) Reporting of data elements^(a) that constitute the NMDS – Admitted Patient Mental Health Care for 1999–00

Data element	Hospital Type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	% not reported
Type of episode	Public acute	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
	Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	0
	Public psychiatric	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	0
Mode of admission	Public acute	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	41% reported	Yes	3.1
Source of referral	Public psychiatric	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	0
Previous specialised treatment	Public acute	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	48.2
	Private	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	..	54.3
	Public psychiatric	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	..	..	28.0
	<i>Total</i>									<i>48.4</i>
Referral to further care	Public acute	42% reported	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	57.3
	Private	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	..	79.6
	Public psychiatric	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	..	..	21.5
	<i>Total</i>									<i>62.1</i>
Mode of separation	Public acute	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0.1
	Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	6% reported	No	Yes	..	3.2
	Public psychiatric	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	0.1
	<i>Total</i>									<i>1.3</i>
Principal diagnosis	Public acute	Yes	471 missing	Yes	Yes	Yes	57 missing	Yes	Yes	0.6
	Private	Yes	5 missing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	0.0
	Public psychiatric	Yes	61 missing	Yes	Yes	Yes	132 missing	..	..	1.1
	<i>Total</i>									<i>0.4</i>
Mental health legal status	Public acute	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	18.0
	Private	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	..	47.8
	Public psychiatric	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	12.2
	<i>Total</i>									<i>28.8</i>

(a) All data elements are defined in the *National Health Data Dictionary*, Version 8.0 (NHDC 1999).

.. Not applicable.

Table A1.3: Data elements^(a) that constitute the NMDS – Community Mental Health Establishments for 1999–00

Data element	Knowledgebase^(b) identifier
Establishment identifier (made up of)	000050
<i>State identifier</i>	000380
<i>Establishment sector</i>	000379
<i>Region code</i>	000378
<i>Establishment number</i>	000377
Separations ^(c)	000205
Geographic location of establishment	000260
Number of available beds	000255
Total full-time-equivalent staff	000252
Total salaries and wages	000254
Total non-salary operating costs	000360
<i>Payments to visiting medical officers</i>	000236

(a) All data elements are defined in the *National Health Data Dictionary*, Version 8.0 (NHDC 1999).

(b) The Knowledgebase: Australia's Health, Community Services and Housing Metadata Registry can be accessed through the AIHW web site at www.aihw.gov.au.

(c) The term 'separations' refers to the number of non-admitted patient separations from community residential mental health care establishments.

Table A1.4: Data elements^(a) that constitute the NMDS – Community Mental Health Care for 2000–01

Data element	Knowledgebase^(b) identifier
Establishment identifier (made up of)	000050
<i>State identifier</i>	000380
<i>Establishment sector</i>	000379
<i>Region code</i>	000378
<i>Establishment number</i>	000377
Person identifier	000127
Sex	000149
Date of birth	000036
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status	000001
Mental health legal status	000092
Principal diagnosis	000136
Service contact date	000402

(a) All data elements are defined in the *National Health Data Dictionary*, Version 9.0 (NHDC 2000).

(b) The Knowledgebase: Australia's Health, Community Services and Housing Metadata registry can be accessed through the AIHW web site at www.aihw.gov.au.