

Appendixes

Appendix 1: Data elements included in the AODTS–NMDS for 2001–02

The detailed data definitions for the data elements included in the AODTS-NMDS for 2001–02 are published in the *National Health Data Dictionary* (NHDD) version 10 (AIHW 2001b). Table A1.1 lists all data elements collected for 2001–02.

Table A1.1: Data elements for the AODTS–NMDS, 2001–02

Data element	New to NMDS in 2001–02	NHDD code
Establishment-level data elements		
Establishment identifier (comprising)		000050
— State identifier		000380
— Establishment sector		000379
— Region code		000378
— Establishment number		000377
Establishment type		000327
Geographical location of establishment		000260
Client-level data elements		
Client type		000426
Country of birth		000035
Date of birth		000036
Date of cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs	✓	000424
Date of commencement of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs		000430
Establishment identifier		000050
Indigenous status		000001
Injecting drug use		000432
Main treatment type for alcohol and other drugs	✓	000639
Method of use for principal drug of concern		000433
Number of service contacts within a treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs	✓	000641
Other drugs of concern		000442
Other treatment type for alcohol and other drugs	✓	000642
Person identifier		000127
Preferred language		000132
Principal drug of concern		000443
Reason for cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs	✓	000423
Sex		000149
Source of referral to alcohol and other drug treatment services		000444
Treatment delivery setting for alcohol and other drugs	✓	000646
Supporting data element concepts		
Cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs		000422
Commencement of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs		000427
Service contact	✓	000401
Treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs	✓	000647

Appendix 2: Technical notes

This section provides information on data presentation, population definitions and transformation of data from treatment episodes to estimates of number of clients within agencies. As noted previously the state/territory data collection systems for the AODTS-NMDS are highly diverse. As a result:

- it is important to understand the agreed definitions, terms and collection rules – these are set out in this appendix; and
- there is a need to edit the data in a number of ways to enable their meaningful presentation in this report and to maximise comparability of the data between jurisdictions (see *Guidelines for the NMDS for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services 2001–02*).

A2.1 Data presentation

The tables include data only for the Commonwealth and those states and territories for which data were available, as indicated in the tables. The exceptions relate to tables in which data from some jurisdictions were not published, for confidentiality reasons. The abbreviation ‘n.p.’ has been used in these tables to denote this. Throughout the publication, percentages may not add up to 100.0 due to rounding.

Population definitions

Populations used in the publication comprise treatment services, client registrations and treatment episodes.

Treatment services population refers to establishments that provided data for 2000–01.

Client registration population refers to the number of clients registering or re-registering during 2001–02 (see A2.2).

Treatment episode population refers to the number of treatment episodes that closed during 2001–02. For all tables using this population that include Principal drug of concern, Other drug of concern, or Injecting drug use status the treatment episode population excludes clients seeking treatment for the drug use of others (i.e. Client type category 2).

See also Boxes 3.1 and 4.1 for other key definitions and counts.

A2.2 Client registration versus treatment episode data

Treatment episode data, 2001–02

Starting from the 2001–02 collection, all data should now be collected on a treatment episode basis with closed treatment episodes being the basis of measurement. A treatment episode is considered closed when one or more of the following applies:

- (a) a client’s treatment plan has been completed;
- (b) there has been no treatment contact between the client and the treatment agency for a period of 3 months, unless that period of non-contact was planned;
- (c) the client’s Principal drug of concern has changed;
- (d) the client’s Main treatment type has changed;

- (e) the Treatment delivery setting for the client's Main treatment type has changed; and/or
- (f) the client's treatment has ceased for other reasons (e.g. imprisoned, ceased treatment against advice or died).

Client registration data, 2000–01

In 2000–01, unit record data were collected for both establishment-level and client-level data. For the establishment data, a single unit record was reported for each agency/organisation that provided client data. For client-level data, all new or returning clients who registered or re-registered for treatment during the reporting period were required to be included in the collection. Data were to be reported as a single unit record for each new client registration on commencement of treatment. A client is identified as commencing treatment when one or more of the following applies:

- (a) they are a new client; or
- (b) they have had no contact with the service for a period of 3 months, nor plan in place for further contact; and/or
- (c) they are a current client whose Principal drug of concern has changed.

2001–02 data collection

For the 2001–02 collection, the majority of jurisdictions provided treatment episode data based on treatment episodes that *closed* during the period 1 July 2001–30 June 2002 (as noted in Section 7.1). South Australia supplied client registration data based on clients who *opened* treatment episodes during this period.

2000–01 data collection

For the 2000–01 collection, the AODTS–NMDS was to be a registration-based data collection that consisted of an establishment-level component and a client-level component. The establishment-level data items collected information about the type and location of the service provider. The client-level data items collected demographic and drug-related information about clients using the services within scope for the NMDS.

In practice, the 2000–01 collection also contained treatment episode data. New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory provided data based on the forthcoming treatment episode approach and a further three jurisdictions provided data that were a mixture of both collection types. This had a number of implications for the data analysis phase and for obtaining comparable counts across jurisdictions. For example, the data based on completed treatment episodes excluded clients with open episodes or records at 30 June 2001. This resulted in an undercounting of actual client numbers from these jurisdictions for the 2000–01 collection period as clients with open records were to be included under the client registration-based collection system. All data were converted back to client registration data and reported on that basis (see AIHW 2002b).

Estimates of number of client registrations

Although the majority of data presented in this report are based on treatment episodes the report also includes estimates of the number of client registrations within agencies. These estimates were obtained through a data transformation process (see below). More detailed information on factors affecting these estimates is available in Section 1.3.

Transformation of 2001–02 treatment episode data to estimates of number of client registrations was done as follows (for use in Section 3.1 and Tables A3.1–A3.3):

1. Select each record where the Establishment identifier, Person identifier, Date of birth and Sex are the same.
2. From that group of records select the record that has the earliest Date of cessation.
3. Use that record as the equivalent of an estimate of number of client registrations.

This approach transforms treatment episode-based data to estimates of number of client registrations.

Note that, in contrast to 2000–01 client registration data, the 2001–02 estimates of client registrations, for all jurisdictions apart from South Australia, were based on the date the client *ceased* treatment for an alcohol or other drug problem. South Australian data were based on the date treatment *commenced*, as in the previous year.

A2.3 Clients aged under 10 years

Legitimate records for clients aged less than 10 years occur, for the most part, when children receive counselling as a result of a parent’s drug use, or when a baby is born to a drug-dependent mother and requires treatment. In 2000–01, it was estimated that these records comprised less than 0.002% of all records. There was also probably a small number (fewer than 10) of clients aged less than 10 years who received treatment for their own drug use.

Data validation and cleaning processes for the 2000–01 collection indicated that many of the records initially received for this group were in fact errors in collection or processing. For the 2001–02 collection the NMDS Working Group decided that, for the time being, due to the extra work involved in checking these data, the extremely small size of legitimate records for this group and subsequent problems with confidentiality, these clients should not be reported on in the publication and data on this group should not be provided to the AIHW. This decision was taken at the April 2003 Working Group meeting.