

3 What's new for 2003–04?

3.1 Treatment episodes reported by all jurisdictions

A treatment episode refers to a period of contact, with defined dates of commencement and cessation, between a client and a treatment provider. For the 2001–02- collection period, closed treatment episodes were introduced as the unit of measurement. The inclusion of a treatment episode concept at the national level required the introduction of the following data elements and concepts:

- *Date of cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs*
- *Main treatment type for alcohol and other drugs*
- *Number of service contacts within a treatment episode for alcohol & other drugs*
- *Other treatment type for alcohol and other drugs*
- *Reason for cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs*
- *Treatment delivery setting for alcohol and other drugs*
- *Service contact (data element concept)*
- *Treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs (data element concept)*

All jurisdictions supported the inclusion of the above data elements and concepts in the AODTS-NMDS, on the condition that a phased uptake of the revised data set be adopted. The uptake process began on 1 July 2001 and all jurisdictions agreed to comply by 1 July 2002. Closed treatment episodes will be the unit of measurement used by all jurisdictions for the 2003–04 collection period.

3.2 Changes to existing data elements—summary

The following changes were incorporated into version 12 of the *National Health Data Dictionary*. See chapter 4 for more detailed information.

- *State/territory identifier*
 - change of name from State identifier to State/territory identifier
- *Sex*
 - change to Data domain
- *Indigenous status*
 - change to Definition and Context to more accurately reflect what is being collected
 - change to Data domain and Guide for use to bring more clarity to the codes used
 - change to Collection methods, Source document and Comments for clarification purposes
- *Client type – alcohol and other drug treatment services:*
 - change to Definition and Context to reflect treatment episode

- removal of code three in Data domain
- modification to Guide for use and Collection methods to ensure consistency
- *Injecting drug use:*
 - revision of Data domain
 - additional information included in Collection methods and Related data
- *Principal drug of concern:*
 - revised Data definition, Data domain, and Guide for use
 - additional information added to Collection methods and Related data
- *Other drugs of concern*
 - slight change to title and revised Data definition, Data domain, and Guide for use
additional information added to Collection methods and Related data.
- *Source of referral to alcohol and other drug treatment service*
 - the Data domain and the Guide for use revised to more accurately capture the most common sources of referral and to make the categories more mutually exclusive
 - the separation of codes into Agency and Non-agency categories reflects the approach taken in the NCSDD data element 'Referral source'
 - see further important information under The data elements – in brief p. 10.
- *Service delivery outlet*
 - a new data element concept has been developed and it is designed to be generic so that it can apply to other community health areas, while still adequately covering AODTS outlets.
- *Geographic location of service delivery outlet*
 - a new derived data element has been developed to provide the geographic location of each AODTS outlet
 - this data element has also been designed to be generic so that it can apply to other community health areas
 - it is intended to function as a replacement for *Geographical location of establishment* in the AODTS NMDS

More information about data elements and concepts is provided in Chapter 4. See Appendix B for full definitions of all data elements and concepts as they appear in the *National Health Data Dictionary*. Table 1 presents the complete data set for mandatory collection by states and territories from 1 July 2003.

Table 1: Data elements that are agreed for collection by states and territories from 1 July 2003 for the alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS

Data element	Changes since 2002–03 Guidelines		NHDD code
	New	Revised	
Establishment-level data elements			
Establishment identifier (comprising)			000050
— State/territory identifier		✓	000380
— Establishment sector			000379
— Region code			000378
— Establishment number			000377
Geographical location of service delivery outlet	✓		000260
Client-level data elements			
Client type—alcohol & other drug treatment services		✓	000426
Country of birth			000035
Date of birth			000036
Date of cessation of treatment episode for alcohol & other drugs			000424
Date of commencement of treatment episode for alcohol & 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 & 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
Service delivery outlet	✓		000845
Treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs			000647

*At the WG meeting in April 2003 it was decided that, subject to endorsement by the NHDC, *Number of service contacts* would no longer be used in the AODTS NMDS collection from 2003–04.

See further information on pp. 15–16 for revised codeset agreed at the WG meeting in April 2003.