## Data quality information — Corrective Services, chapter 8

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| Data quality information |
| Data quality information (DQI) was prepared for the first time for the 2011 Report on Government Services. The 2014 Report provides DQI against the ABS data quality framework dimensions for seven performance indicators in the Corrective Services chapter. |
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DQI are available for the following performance indicators:

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### Escapes

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| **Indicator definition and description** | |
| **Element** | Corrective services performance indicator framework - outcome indicator |
| **Indicator** | Rate of escapes from corrective services custody (per 100 prisoners/detainees) |
| **Measure (computation)** | The indicator is defined as the rate of escapes from corrective services custody in each State/Territory during the reference period:  Numerator: Number of escapes:   * Prisoners, disaggregated by open and secure prisons * Periodic detainees   Denominator: Annual average population:   * Prisoners, disaggregated by open and secure prisons * Periodic detainees   The indicator is calculated as the number of escapes, divided by the annual average prisoner population, multiplied by 100.  The indicator is reported as the annual rate of escapes disaggregated by:   * open prisons, secure prisons and periodic detention centres * State/Territory and Australian total |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | |
| Institutional environment | The data for the rate of escapes is recorded and compiled for the Report on Government Services by corrective services agencies in each State/Territory. |
| Relevance | The rate of escapes is an outcome indicator of governments’ achievement against the objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment.  The indicator represents, for prisoners, all escapes by prisoners under the direct supervision of corrective services officers or private providers under contract to corrective services, including escapes during transfer between prisons, during transfer to or from a medical facility and escapes that occurred from direct supervision by corrective services outside a prison, for example during escort to a funeral or medical appointment. The rate for periodic detainees relates to those detainees who have been convicted of escape from lawful custody.  The escape rates exclude circumstances where the prisoner or detainee is not under direct corrective services supervision, for example, failure to return to prison from unescorted leave. Incidents occurring during transfer to/from court or from within a court complex are also excluded, as such security arrangements are usually delivered by other agencies.  The numerator for the escape rate is derived from same target population as the denominator, that is, the total population of prisoners, disaggregated by open and secure prisons, and periodic detainees in corrective services custody. |
| Timeliness | Data on escapes of prisoners and periodic detainees is published annually following the end of the reference period in which the escapes occurred. |
| Accuracy | All escape incidents are recorded by corrective services agencies and the escape rates are calculated on the basis of all prisoner and periodic detainee escapes that occur during the reference period. |
| Coherence | All States/Territories apply the same definition and classification of prisoner and periodic detainee escapes and no substantive changes have been made to the rate of escapes indicator since reporting commenced. |
| Accessibility | The data for the numerators and denominators for the escape rates in each jurisdiction are reported in the attachment tables in the corrective services chapter of the Report on Government Services. |
| Interpretability | Rates of escape of prisoners and periodic detainees should be interpreted with caution. A single occurrence in a jurisdiction with a relatively small prisoner population, can significantly increase the rate in that jurisdiction, but would have only a minor impact in jurisdictions with larger prisoner populations. |
| Key data gaps/issues | None |

### Order completions

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| **Indicator definition and description** | |
| **Element** | Corrective services performance indicator framework - outcome indicator |
| **Indicator** | Completion of community corrections orders (per cent) |
| **Measure (computation)** | This indicator is defined as the number of orders successfully completed as a percentage of all community corrections orders completed during the reference period:  Numerator: Number of orders successfully completed in the counting period  Denominator: Number of orders completed in the counting period  The indicator is calculated as the number of orders successfully completed, divided by the number of total number of orders completed, multiplied by 100.  The indicator is reported as the percentage of orders successfully completed disaggregated by:   * Order category   State/Territory and Australian total |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | |
| Institutional environment | The data for community corrections order completions is recorded and compiled for the Report on Government Services by corrective services agencies in each State/Territory. |
| Relevance | Completion of community corrections orders is an outcome indicator of governments’ achievement against the objective of providing an effective community corrections environment.  The indicator represents all community based orders administered by Corrective Services that were successfully and unsuccessfully completed in the reference period.  An order is successfully completed if the requirements of the order are satisfied. An order is unsuccessfully completed if the requirements of the order were breached for failure to meet the order requirements or because further offences were committed.  Orders discharged by corrective services or set aside by the court for reasons other than completion of the order or breaches of the conditions, for example, due to death or illness of the offender, are excluded from the count of completed orders.  The numerator for community corrections order completions is a subset of the orders included in the denominator. |
| Timeliness | Data on community corrections order completions is published annually following the end of the reference period in which the completions occurred. |
| Accuracy | The percentage of community corrections orders completed is based on all orders completed during the reference period. |
| Coherence | All States/Territories apply the same definitions and counting rules for community corrections order completions and there have been no substantive changes to the order completions indicator since reporting commenced. |
| Accessibility | Completion rates disaggregated by order category are reported in the attachment tables in the corrective services chapter of the Report on Government Services. |
| Interpretability | Community corrections order completions need to be interpreted with caution. The percentage of order completions may be affected by differences in the overall risk profiles of offender populations in jurisdictions and in the risk assessment and breach procedures applied by jurisdictions. |
| Key data gaps/issues | None |

### Unnatural deaths

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| **Indicator definition and description** | |
| **Element** | Corrective services performance indicator framework - Effectiveness |
| **Indicator** | Rate of deaths from apparent unnatural causes in corrective services custody (per 100 prisoners/detainees) |
| **Measure (computation)** | The indicator is defined as the rate of deaths from apparent unnatural causes of prisoners and periodic detainees in the custody of corrective services in each State/Territory during the reference period.  Numerator: Number of deaths from apparent unnatural causes:   * Prisoners, disaggregated by open and secure prisons * Periodic detainees   Denominator: Annual average population:   * Prisoners, disaggregated by open and secure prisons * Periodic detainees   The indicator is calculated as the number of deaths from apparent unnatural causes, divided by the annual average prisoner population, multiplied by 100.  The indicator is reported as the annual rate of deaths from apparent unnatural causes disaggregated by:   * Prisons and periodic detention centres * Indigenous status * State/Territory and Australian total |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | |
| Institutional environment | The data for the rate of deaths from apparent unnatural deaths of prisoners and periodic detainees in corrective services custody is provided for the Report on Government Services by the corrective services agencies in each State/Territory.  Coroners investigate the circumstances surrounding all ‘reportable deaths’ to establish the cause of death. Reportable deaths include deaths of persons held in custody.  Deaths that occur in corrective services custody are also reported to the National Deaths in Custody Program. |
| Relevance | The rate of deaths from apparent unnatural causes is an indicator of governments’ achievement against the objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment.  The indicator represents all deaths of prisoners and periodic detainees from apparent unnatural causes in corrective services custody. This includes deaths that occur within prisons and periodic detention centres, during transfer to or from prison, within a medical facility following transfer from prison, or in the custody of corrective services outside a custodial facility.  The rate of deaths from apparent unnatural causes does not include deaths from apparent natural or apparent unknown causes, or deaths of persons in the custody of police or juvenile justice agencies.  The numerator for the rate of deaths of prisoners and periodic detainees from apparent unnatural causes is derived from same target population as the denominator, that is, the population of prisoners and periodic detainees in corrective services custody. |
| Timeliness | Data on deaths of prisoners and periodic detainees from apparent unnatural causes is published annually following the end of the reference period in which the deaths occurred. |
| Accuracy | The rates of deaths from apparent unnatural causes are calculated on the basis of all prisoner and periodic detainee deaths that occur during the reference period.  Deaths of prisoners and periodic detainees in corrective services are initially classified as apparent natural or unnatural based on the circumstances of the death, but the classification may be revised at the conclusion of the coronial inquiry.  In a small number of cases, it is not possible to conclusively identify the cause of death immediately and such cases are provisionally classified as apparent unknown deaths until a coroner determines the cause of death. If the coroner finds that the cause of death was unnatural, the rate of deaths from apparent unnatural causes is recalculated. |
| Coherence | All States/Territories apply the same definition and classification of prisoner and periodic detainee deaths and no substantive changes have been made to the indicator since reporting commenced. |
| Accessibility | The data for the numerators and denominators for the rates of death from apparent unnatural causes in each jurisdiction are reported in the attachment tables of the corrective services chapter of the Report on Government Services. |
| Interpretability | The rates of deaths of prisoners and periodic detainees from apparent unnatural causes should be interpreted with caution. A single occurrence in a jurisdiction with a relatively small prisoner population, can significantly increase the rate in that jurisdiction, but would have only a minor impact in jurisdictions with larger prisoner populations |
| Key data gaps/issues | None |

### Assaults

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| **Indicator definition and description** | |
| **Element** | Corrective services performance indicator framework - Effectiveness |
| **Indicator** | Assaults in prison custody (per 100 prisoners/periodic detainees) |
| **Measure (computation)** | The indicator is defined as the rate of assaults by prisoners/detainees on other prisoners/detainees and staff in each State/Territory during the reference period.  Numerator: Number of assaults by prisoners/detainees on:   * Other prisoners * Other detainees * Staff   Denominator: Annual average population:   * Prisoners * Periodic detainees   The indicator is calculated as the number of assaults divided by the annual average prisoner/detainee population, multiplied by 100.  The indicator is reported as the annual rate of assaults disaggregated by:   * Assaults * Serious Assaults * State/Territory and Australian total |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | |
| Institutional environment | The data for assault rates is compiled for the Report on Government Services by the corrective services agencies in each State/Territory.  Corrective services agencies in all State/Territories record details of reported assault incidents in prisons/periodic detention centres and the assault data for the Report is based on the incident records. |
| Relevance | The rate of assaults is an output indicator of governments’ achievement against the objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment.  Assault rates are based on assaults by prisoners/detainees in corrective services physical and legal custody on other prisoners, detainees and prison staff. The rates include assaults that occur in public and private prisons, periodic detention centres and during transport between prisons.  The assault rate represents the number of victims of acts of physical violence committed by prisoners/detainees resulting in physical injuries during the reference period, divided by the annual daily average prisoner/detainee population, multiplied by 100. An assault victim is defined as a person subjected to physical violence by a prisoner/detainee in corrective services physical and legal custody.  Assaults are classified by the seriousness of the impact on the victim.  The category of ‘Assault’ refers to acts of physical violence that result in a physical injury but do not require hospitalisation or on-going medical treatment.  The category of ‘Serious assault’ refers to acts of physical violence resulting in injuries requiring medical treatment involving overnight hospitalisation in a medical facility or on-going medical treatment and all sexual assaults. |
| Timeliness | Data on assaults by prisoners/detainees on other prisoners, detainees and staff is published annually following the end of the reference period in which the assaults occurred. |
| Accuracy | The assault rates are based on information provided in reports on incidents involving assaults by prisoners and detainees that occurred during the reference period.  In some jurisdictions, corrective services does not have reliable access to information that is relevant to the classification of an assault, e.g. whether a victim required overnight hospitalisation or on-going medical treatment. |
| Coherence | All States/Territories apply the same definitions for assaults and the prisoner/detainee populations. The definitions are subject to review and refinement by corrective services agencies to improve consistency and comparability. |
| Accessibility | Five-year trend data for the rates of assaults on prisoners, detainees and staff by assault category in each jurisdiction are reported in the attachment tables in the corrective services chapter of the Report on Government Services. |
| Interpretability | The rates of assaults on prisoners, detainees and staff should be interpreted with caution. A single occurrence in a jurisdiction with a relatively small prisoner/detainee population, can significantly increase the rate in that jurisdiction, but would have only a minor impact in jurisdictions with larger prisoner/detainee populations.  The assaults indicator is not completely comparable due to differences between jurisdictions in the availability of information that is relevant to the classification of an assault. |
| Key data gaps/issues | None |

### Offender-to-staff ratio

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| **Indicator definition and description** | |
| **Element** | Corrective services performance indicator framework – output indicator |
| **Indicator** | Offender-to-staff ratio |
| **Measure (computation)** | The indicator is defined as the ratio of offenders to the number of active full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in community corrections in each State/Territory:  Numerator: Total daily average offender population  Denominator: Average number of staff disaggregated by:   * Operational staff * Other staff   The indicator is calculated as the total daily average offender population, divided by the number of active FTE staff in community corrections.  The indicator is reported as the ratio of offenders to community corrections staff disaggregated by:   * Operational staff * Other staff * State/Territory and Australian total |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | |
| Institutional environment | The data for the ratio of offenders-to-staff is compiled for the Report on Government Services by corrective services agencies in each State/Territory. |
| Relevance | The ratio of offenders to full-time community corrections staff is an output indicator of governments’ achievement against the objective of providing an effective community corrections environment.  The numerator for the offender to staff ratio is the average daily number of offenders under supervision by community corrections.  The denominator is the average number of full-time staff equivalents directly employed in community corrections at the end of each month. Staff numbers are disaggregated by operational staff and other staff.  ‘Operational’ refers to staff whose main responsibility involves the supervision or provision of support services directly to offenders. ‘Other’ refers to staff whose responsibilities are primarily managerial or administrative.  ‘Active employee’ means a person who attends work and is paid or is on paid leave in the last pay period before the end of the reference period.  Part-time positions are converted into full-time equivalent positions for the purposes of the indicator. |
| Timeliness | Data on ratio of offenders to community corrections staff is published annually following the end of the reference period. |
| Accuracy | The offender-to-staff ratio is based on corrective services administrative data on the numbers of offenders under supervision by community corrections and the number of staff directly employed in community corrections during the reference period. |
| Coherence | All States/Territories apply the same definitions for community corrections staff and the offender population. |
| Accessibility | Five-year trend data for offender-to-staff ratios in each jurisdiction are reported in the attachment tables in the corrective services chapter of the Report on Government Services. |
| Interpretability | Offender-to-staff ratios should be interpreted in conjunction with other factors such as the supervision and program requirements of the offender populations as well differences in geographic dispersion and isolation factors. |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis | |
| Key data gaps/issues | None |

### Prisoner employment

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| **Indicator definition and description** | |
| **Element** | Corrective services performance indicator framework – output indicator |
| **Indicator** | Per cent of prisoners/periodic detainees employed |
| **Measure (computation)** | The indicator is defined as the number of prisoners/detainees employed as a percentage of those eligible to participate in employment in each State/Territory:  Numerator: Number of prisoners/detainees employed  Denominator: Total prisoner/detainee population eligible to participate in employment:  The indicator is calculated as the number of prisoners/detainees employed, divided by the total number of prisoners/ detainees eligible to work, multiplied by 100.  The indicator is reported as the rate of prisoners/detainee employment disaggregated by:   * Employment category: * Commercial industries * Service industries * Work release * State/Territory and Australian total |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | |
| Institutional environment | The data for the prisoner employment rate is compiled for the Report on Government Services by corrective services agencies in each State/Territory. |
| Relevance | The percentage of prisoners/detainees employed is an output indicator of governments’ achievement against the objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment.  The indicator represents the number of prisoners/detainees employed as a percentage of those eligible for employment.  Prisoners/detainees not eligible for employment may include those unable to participate in work programs because of full-time education, ill health, age-related factors or relatively short periods of imprisonment.  The numerator for the employment rate is derived from the same population as the denominator, i.e. the total number of prisoners/periodic detainees eligible to participate in employment. |
| Timeliness | Data on prisoner/detainee employment is published annually following the end of the reference period. |
| Accuracy | The prisoner/detainees employment rates are based on corrective services administrative data on prisoners/detainees participating in work and the number of prisoners/detainees ineligible to participate in work during the reference period. |
| Coherence | All States/Territories apply the same definitions for the number of prisoners/detainees employed and the prisoner/detainees populations.  The definition allows jurisdictions to use either an average of the end-of-month data or an end-of-year snapshot of prisoner employment and prisoner population data. |
| Accessibility | Five-year trend data for the rates of prisoner employment in each jurisdiction are reported in the attachment tables in the corrective services chapter of the Report on Government Services. |
| Interpretability | The percentage of the total prison population ineligible to participate in employment varies between jurisdictions depending on the numbers in the various exclusion categories. |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis | |
| Key data gaps/issues | None |

### Time out of cells

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| **Indicator definition and description** | |
| **Element** | Corrective services performance indicator framework – output indicator |
| **Indicator** | Time out-of-cells (average hours per prisoner per day) |
| **Measure (computation)** | This indicator is defined as the average number of hours per day that prisoners are not confined to their cells or units during the reference period.  Numerator: Total out-of-cell hours during the reference period  Denominator: Days in reference period  The indicator is calculated as the total hours out-of-cell divided by 365.25.  The indicator is reported as the average time out of cell per prisoner per day disaggregated by:   * Open/secure prisons * State/Territory and Australian total |
| **Data source/s** | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | |
| Institutional environment | The data for the average time out-of-cell is compiled for the *Report on Government Services* by corrective services agencies in each State/Territory. |
| Relevance | Average time out-of-cell is an output indicator of governments’ achievement against the objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment.  The total out-of-cell hours include all the hours when prisoners are free to leave their cells/units, for example for meals, exercise, work, study and recreation. The count of out-of-cell hours excludes periods for regular lock-ins or irregular lock-downs.  In locations where a curfew applies but prisoners are not locked in their cells due to the configuration of the prison/unit for other reasons, time out-of-cell is calculated as the time during which the curfew does not apply. |
| Timeliness | Data on average time out-of-cell per prisoner per day is published annually following the end of the reference period. |
| Accuracy | Average time-out-of-cell is based on corrective services administrative data on the number of out-of-cell hours in each prison/unit during the reference period.  The average out-of-cell hours is based on the total out-of-cell hours for all prisoners during the year. |
| Coherence | All States/Territories apply the same definitions for calculating the number of out-of-cell hours. |
| Accessibility | Five-year trend data for the annual average time out-of-cell for open, secure and all prisons in each jurisdiction are reported in the attachment tables in the corrective services chapter of the Report on Government Services. |
| Interpretability | No issues |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis | |
| Key data gaps/issues | None |

### Community work

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| **Indicator definition and description** | | |
| **Element** | | Corrective services performance indicator framework – output indicator |
| **Indicator** | | Community work – hours worked |
| **Measure (computation)** | | The indicator is defined as the ratio between (i) the number of hours directed to be worked on new orders made during the year, plus the hours of community work remaining on orders made in the previous year that were still in force and (ii) the hours actually worked during the current year.  Numerator: Number of hours directed to be worked.  Denominator: Number of hours actually worked. |
| **Data source/s** | | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | | |
| Institutional environment | | The data for community work is compiled for the Report on Government Services (RoGS) by corrective services agencies in each State/Territory. |
| Relevance | | The Community work indicator is an output indicator of governments’ achievement against the objective of providing an effective community corrections environment..  The numerator is derived from the same population as the denominator, i.e. the total number of offenders subject to corrections orders. |
| Timeliness | | Data on community work is published annually following the end of the reference period. |
| Accuracy | | The indicator is based on corrective services administrative data. Offenders are required to complete the community work requirements by the expiry of their orders. However, hours worked in the current counting period can relate to hours directed to be worked in orders made in the previous year and hours ordered to be worked in the current counting period may not have to be completed until the following year. Therefore, the ratio does not represent a direct correlation between the hours ordered to be worked and the hours actually worked in relation to individual orders. Neither is it a direct measure of the extent of compliance by an individual offender in completing the requirements of the order pertaining to that particular offender.  The ratio can be affected by factors such as availability of suitable community work projects in some geographic areas or for some categories of offenders, the levels of general compliance across all offenders with the requirements of their orders and by variations in the number of orders with community work requirements made by the courts. |
| Coherence | | All States/Territories apply the same definitions in the NCAG data manual. |
| Accessibility | Annual data for each jurisdiction are reported in the attachment tables in the corrective services chapter of the Report on Government Services. |
| Interpretability | Data on community work are provided in the RoGS attachment tables. |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis |
| Key data gaps/issues | None |

### Education

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| **Indicator definition and description** | | |
| **Element** | | Corrective services performance indicator framework – output indicator |
| **Indicator** | | Percentage of eligible prisoners participating in education. |
| **Measure (computation)** | | The indicator is defined as the number of prisoners participating in one or more accredited education and training courses under the Australian Qualifications Framework as a percentage of those eligible to participate (that is, excluding those unable to participate for reasons of ill health, relatively short period of imprisonment or other reason). Education figures do not include participation in non-accredited education programs or a range of offence related programs that are provided in prisons, such as drug and alcohol programs, psychological programs, psychological counselling and personal development courses.  Numerator: Number of prisoners participating in one or more accredited education and training courses.  Denominator: Number of prisoners eligible to participate. |
| **Data source/s** | | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | | |
| Institutional environment | | The data is compiled for the Report on Government Services (RoGS) by corrective services agencies in each State/Territory. |
| Relevance | | Education is an indicator of governments’ objective of providing program interventions to reduce the risk of re‑offending.  The rates reported for this indicator need to be interpreted with caution as the indicator does not assess participation relative to individual prisoner needs, or measure successful completion of education programs.  The numerator is derived from the same population as the denominator, i.e. the total number of prisoners eligible to participate in accredited education and training courses. |
| Timeliness | Data is published annually following the end of the reference period. | |
| Accuracy | The indicator is based on corrective services administrative data.  Data for some jurisdictions data are based on the number of prisoners on a single day, with other jurisdictions using an average number calculated over a longer period of time. | |
| Coherence | All States/Territories apply the same definitions in the NCAG data manual. | |
| Accessibility | Annual data for each jurisdiction are reported in the attachment tables in the corrective services chapter of the Report on Government Services. | |
| Interpretability | Data on Education are provided for all jurisdictions in the attachment tables of the Report on Government Services. | |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis |
| Key data gaps/issues | None | |

**Cost per prisoner/offender per day**

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| **Indicator definition and description** | | | |
| **Element** | | Corrective services performance indicator framework – Efficiency | |
| **Indicator** | | Annual average operating expenditure per prisoner/offender per day. | |
| **Measure (computation)** | | The indicator is defined as the net operating expenditure (excluding payroll tax) per prisoner/offender per day during the reference period for each jurisdiction:  Numerator: Annual net operating expenditure on corrective services by:   * Prisons, disaggregated by secure, open (including periodic detention) and total * Community corrections   Denominator: Annual average population:   * Prisoners, disaggregated by secure, open (including periodic detainees) and total * Offenders   The indicator is calculated as the annual net operating expenditure on prisons/community corrections divided by the annual average prisoner/offender population and 365.25, multiplied by 100.  The indicator is reported as the average cost per:   * Prisoner per day: * Open prisons(including periodic detainees) * Secure prisons * State/Territory and Australian total * Offender per day * State/Territory and Australian total | |
| **Data source/s** | | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory | |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | | | |
| Institutional environment | | The data for the cost per prisoner/offender is compiled for the *Report on Government Services* by corrective services agencies in each State/Territory. | |
| Relevance | | The cost per prisoner/offender is an output indicator of governments’ achievement of efficient resource management by corrective services.  Operating expenditure is expenditure of an on-going or recurrent nature incurred by government in the delivery of corrective services, i.e. the management, security and supervision of prisoners and offenders in the custody or under the supervision of corrective services. Operating expenditure includes the full direct and indirect recurrent costs to government for the delivery of corrective services.  Corrective services report the annual capital costs, i.e. depreciation, debt service fees and the user cost of capital, for prisoners and offenders separately from the operating expenditure. | |
| Timeliness | Data on the cost per prisoner/offender is published annually following the end of the reference period. | | |
| Accuracy | The operating expenditure data for the cost per prisoner/offender indicator is based on annual financial statements prepared by each corrective services agency in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory reporting requirements.  The corrective services expenditure data has been subject to extensive review and verification. | | |
| Coherence | All States/Territories apply the same definition of cost per prisoner/offender. The operating expenditure is reported net of payroll tax. The exclusion of payroll tax from the operating expenditure is the only substantive change to the cost per prisoner/offender indicator since reporting commenced. | | |
| Accessibility | The numerators and denominators for the cost per prisoner/offender in each jurisdiction are reported in the attachment tables in the corrective services chapter of the *Report on Government Services*. | | |
| Interpretability | Efficiency indicators are difficult to interpret in isolation and need to be considered in conjunction with effectiveness indicators. A low cost per prisoner, for example, can reflect less emphasis on providing prisoner programs to address the risk of re‑offending.  Unit costs are also affected by differences in the profile of the prisoner and offender populations, geographic dispersion and isolation factors that limit opportunities to reduce overheads through economies of scale. | | |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis | |
| Key data gaps/issues | A review of the cost per prisoner/ offender found that the operating expenditure is reported on a comparable basis except in the reporting of the costs of the health services delivered to prisoners. There is variation between jurisdictions in the extent to which prisoner health services costs are included in the operating expenditure as a result of service delivery and funding arrangements and corrective services is currently addressing this issue. | | |

### Prison utilisation rate

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| **Indicator definition and description** | | |
| **Element** | | Corrective services performance indicator framework – output Efficiency |
| **Indicator** | | Prison utilisation rate of the prison and periodic detention centre design capacity (per 100 prisoners/detainees). |
| **Measure (computation)** | | The indicator is defined as the rate of the utilisation of the prison design capacity during the reference period:  Numerator: Annual average population:  Prisoners, disaggregated by open and secure prisons  Periodic detainees  Denominator: Annual average design capacity:  Prisons, disaggregated by open and secure prisons   * Periodic detention centres   The indicator is calculated as the number of prisoners/periodic detainees, divided by the average design capacity, multiplied by 100.  The indicator is reported as the utilisation rate disaggregated by:   * Open prisons * Secure prisons * State/Territory and Australian total * Periodic detention centres |
| **Data source/s** | | Numerator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory  Denominator: Corrective Services agencies in each State/Territory |
| **Data Quality Framework Dimensions** | | |
| Institutional environment | | The data for the numerator and denominator used for the prison utilisation rate is recorded and compiled for the Report on Government Services by corrective services agencies in each State/Territory. |
| Relevance | | The prison utilisation rate is an output indicator of governments’ achievement of efficient resource management by corrective services.  The prison utilisation rate is an indicator of the extent to which the design capacity meets the demand for prison and periodic detention accommodation.  Design capacity includes both permanent accommodation plus the design capacity of anytemporaryaccommodation units.  Included in the prison design capacity are:   * Gazetted prisons * Transitional centres * Cells in police facilities administered by corrective services   Design capacity in periodic detention centres is reported separately.  Design capacity does not include:   * additional bed places that have been placed in any type of accommodation over and above the design capacity. * accommodation used for special purposes, i.e. disciplinary segregation; observation or crisis care; or hospital or infirmary accommodation unless it is special accommodation for the long term accommodation for aged prisoners or prisoners with long term illnesses. * facilities or sections of facilities that have been decommissioned. * Cells out of commission for maintenance or refurbishment. |
| Timeliness | Data on the utilisation rates for prisons and periodic detention centres is published annually following the end of the reference period. | |
| Accuracy | The utilisation rates are based on capacity data maintained by the corrective services agencies for the management of the prison and periodic detention systems. | |
| Coherence | All States/Territories that report data for this indicator apply the same definitions of design capacity and prisoner/periodic detainee populations. No substantive changes have been made to the utilisation rate indicator since reporting commenced. | |
| Accessibility | Five-year trend data for the utilisation rates for prisons and periodic detention centres in each jurisdiction are reported in the attachment tables in the corrective services chapter of the Report on Government Services. | |
| Interpretability | Prisons require spare capacity to cater for the transfer of prisoners, special-purpose accommodation such as protection units, separate facilities for males and females and different security levels, and to manage short-term fluctuations in prisoner numbers. Percentages close to but not exceeding 100 per cent indicate better performance towards achieving efficient resource management. | |
| Data Gaps/Issues Analysis |
| Key data gaps/issues | None | |