# 13 Mental health management

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| **Attachment tables** |
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This chapter reports on the Australian, State and Territory governments’ management of mental health and mental illnesses. Performance reporting focuses on State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services, and mental health services subsidised under the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) (provided by General Practitioners (GPs), psychiatrists, psychologists and other allied health professionals).

All abbreviations used in this Report are available in a complete list in volume A: Approach to performance reporting.

## 13.1 Profile of mental health management

Mental health relates to an individual’s ability to negotiate the daily challenges and social interactions of life without experiencing undue emotional or behavioural incapacity (DHAC 1999). The World Health Organization describes positive mental health as:

… a state of well‑being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community (WHO 2001).

Mental illness is a term that describes a diverse range of behavioural and psychological conditions. These conditions can affect an individual’s mental health, functioning and quality of life. Each mental illness is unique in its incidence across the lifespan, causal factors and treatments.

### Service overview

There are a range of Australian, State and Territory governments’ provided or funded services that are specifically designed to meet the needs of people with mental health issues; the key services are:

* MBS subsidised mental health specific services that are partially or fully funded under Medicare on a fee‑for‑service basis and are provided by GPs, psychiatrists, psychologists or other allied health professionals under specific mental health items.
* State and Territory government specialised mental health services (treat mostly low prevalence, but severe, mental illnesses), which include:
* Admitted patient care in public hospitals — specialised services provided to inpatients in stand‑alone psychiatric hospitals or psychiatric units in general acute hospitals.
* Community‑based public mental health services, comprising:
* ambulatory care services provided by outpatient clinics (hospital and clinic based), mobile assessment and treatment teams, day programs and other services dedicated to assessment, treatment, rehabilitation and care
* residential services that provide beds in the community, staffed onsite by mental health professionals.
* Not‑for‑profit, NGO services, funded by the Australian, State and Territory governments to provide community‑based support for people with psychiatric disability, including accommodation, outreach to people living in their own homes, residential rehabilitation units, recreational programs, self‑help and mutual support groups, carer respite services and system‑wide advocacy (DoHA 2010).
* A staged implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) began in July 2013. People with a psychiatric disability who have significant and permanent functional impairment will be eligible to access funding through the NDIS. In addition, people with a disability other than a psychiatric disability, may also be eligible for funding for mental health‑related services and support if required.

There are also other health services provided and/or funded by governments that make a significant contribution to the mental health treatment of people with a mental illness, but are not specialised or specific mental health services. Information on these non‑specialised services provided in hospitals can be found in *Mental Health Services in Australia* (AIHW 2016).

### Roles and Responsibilities

State and Territory governments are responsible for the funding, delivery and/or management of specialised mental health services including inpatient/admitted care in hospitals, community‑based ambulatory care and community‑based residential care.

The Australian Government is responsible for the oversight and funding of a range of mental health services and programs that are primarily provided or delivered by private practitioners or NGOs. These services and programs include MBS subsidised services provided by GPs (under both general and specific mental health items), private psychiatrists and allied mental health professionals, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) funded mental health‑related medications and other programs designed to prevent suicide or increase the level of social support and community‑based care for people with a mental illness and their carers. The Australian Government also funds State and Territory governments for health services, most recently through the approaches specified in the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) which includes a mental health component.

A number of national initiatives and nationally agreed strategies and plans underpin the delivery and monitoring of mental health services in Australia including:

* the *Mental Health Statement of Rights and Responsibilities* (Australian Health Ministers 1991)
* the *National Mental Health Policy 2008*
* the *National Mental Health Strategy* (NMHS) (DoH 2014)
* four five‑year *National Mental Health Plans.* Themost recent of which ― the *Fourth Plan (2009–2014)* has now expired and a Fifth Plan is currently being developed.

### Funding

Nationally (excluding the ACT), real government recurrent expenditure of around $8.0 billion was allocated to mental health services in 2014‑15 (table 13A.1). State and Territory governments made the largest contribution ($5.0 billion, or 62.1 per cent, which includes Australian Government funding under the NHRA), with Australian Government expenditure of $3.0 billion or 37.9 per cent of total government recurrent expenditure on mental health services (table 13A.1).

Real recurrent government expenditure per person on mental health services (excluding the ACT) was $339.26 in 2014‑15 (figure 13.1).

Expenditure on MBS subsidised services was the largest component of Australian Government expenditure on mental health services in 2014‑15 ($1051.0 million or 34.6 per cent) (table 13A.2). This comprised MBS payments for psychologists and other allied health professionals (15.6 per cent), consultant psychiatrists (11.0 per cent) and GP services (8.0 per cent) (table 13A.2). Another significant area of Australian Government expenditure on mental health services in 2014‑15 was expenditure under the PBS for mental‑health related medications ($589.0 million) (table 13A.2).

Nationally (excluding the ACT), expenditure on admitted patient services is the largest component of State and Territory governments’ expenditure on specialised mental health services ($2.2 billion or 43.6 per cent in 2014‑15, followed by expenditure on community‑based ambulatory services ($1.9 billion or 37.6 per cent) (table 13A.3). State and Territory governments’ expenditure on specialised mental health services, by source of funds and depreciation (which is excluded from reporting) are in tables 13A.4 and 13A.5 respectively.

| Figure 13.1 Real recurrent governments’ expenditure on mental health services, by funding source (2014‑15 dollars)**a** |
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| | Figure 13.1 Real recurrent governments’ expenditure on mental health services, by funding source (2014-15 dollars)  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | --- | |
| a See table 13A.1 for detailed footnotes and caveats b Data were not available for the ACT in 2014‑15 and have been excluded from the total. |
| *Source*: Department of Health (unpublished); Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (unpublished) Mental Health Establishments (MHE) National Minimum Data Set (NMDS); table 13A.1. |
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### Size and scope of sector

In 2014‑15, 1.8 per cent and 9.0 per cent of the total population received State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services and MBS subsidised services, respectively (figure 13.2). While the proportion of the population using State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services has remained relatively constant, the proportion using MBS subsidised services has increased steadily over time from 4.9 per cent in 2007‑08 to 9.0 per cent in 2014‑15 (table 13A.7). Much of this growth has come from greater utilisation of GP mental health specific services (from 3.5 to 7.2 per cent) and other allied health services (1.3 per cent to 2.7 per cent) over that period (table 13A.7).

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| Figure 13.2 Population receiving mental health services, by service type, 2014‑15**a** |
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| a See table 13A.7 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*:AIHW (unpublished) derived from data provided by State and Territory governments and Australian Government, Department of Health and DVA; ABS (unpublished) *Estimated Residential Population*, 30 June (prior to relevant period); table 13A.7. |
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Information on the proportion of *new* clients who accessed State and Territory governments’ specialised and MBS subsidised mental health services are available in tables 13A.8–9.

#### MBS subsidised mental health services

In 2014‑15, GPs provided 2.9 million MBS subsidised specific mental health items. A further 6.9 million MBS subsidised mental health services were provided by psychiatrists (2.3 million), psychologists (4.3 million) and allied health professionals (0.3 million). Service usage rates varied across states and territories (table 13A.10).

#### State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services

The proportion of the total Australian population treated in these public services was below 2 per cent in 2014‑15 (table 13A.7). Across states and territories, the mix of admitted patient and community‑based services and care types can differ. As the unit of activity varies across these three service types, service mix differences can be partly understood by considering items which have comparable measurement such as expenditure (table 13A.3), numbers of full time equivalent (FTE) direct care staff (table 13A.11), accrued mental health patient days (table 13A.12) and mental health beds (table 13A.13).

Additional data are also available on the most common principal diagnosis for admitted patients, community‑based ambulatory contacts by age group and specialised mental health care by Indigenous status in *Mental Health Services in Australia* (AIHW 2016).

#### Government funded not‑for‑profit, NGO services

There are limited data available on the size and scope of the mental health services provided by the Australian, State and Territory governments’ funded not‑for‑profit, NGO sector. The targeted community care (Mental Health) program is one exception. In 2014‑15, there were 136 169 participants in the program across three service types: 20 337 for Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs), 75 188 for Family Mental Health Support Services and 40 644 for Mental Health Respite Carer Support (table 13A.14).

## 13.2 Framework of performance indicators

Box 13.1 describes the vision and objectives for mental health services. The vision and objectives draw on governments’ broad objectives as expressed in the *National Mental Health Policy 2008* and the *National Mental Health Plans.*

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| Box 13.1 Objectives |
| Mental health services aim to:   * promote mental health and well‑being, and where possible prevent the development of mental health problems, mental illness and suicide, and * when mental health problems and illness do occur, reduce the impact (including the effects of stigma and discrimination), promote recovery and physical health and encourage meaningful participation in society, by providing universal access to services that: * are high quality, safe and responsive to consumer and carer goals * facilitate early detection of mental health issues and mental illness, followed by appropriate intervention * match the needs of individuals (appropriate to their conditions and circumstances) * are coordinated and provide continuity of care * are timely, affordable and readily available to those who need them * are sustainable in terms of workforce, infrastructure, innovation and capacity to respond to emerging needs.   Governments aim for mental health services to meet these objectives in an equitable and efficient manner. |
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The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of mental health services (figure 13.3).

The performance indicator framework shows which data are complete and comparable in the 2017 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability, data completeness and information on data quality from a Report wide perspective. In addition to section 13.1, the Report’s statistical context chapter (chapter 2) contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this chapter.

Improvements to performance reporting for mental health services are ongoing and will include identifying indicators to fill gaps in reporting against key objectives, improving the comparability and completeness of data and reviewing proxy indicators to see if more direct measures can be developed.

| Figure 13.3 Mental health management performance indicator framework |
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| | Figure 13.3 Mental health management performance indicator framework  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | --- | |
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## 13.3 Key performance indicator results

Different delivery contexts, locations and types of clients can affect the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of mental health management services.

### Outputs

Outputs are the services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see chapter 1). Output information is critical for equitable, efficient and effective management of government services.

### Equity

#### Access — mental health service use by selected community groups

‘Mental health service use by selected community groups’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide mental health services in an equitable manner (box 13.2).

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| Box 13.2 Mental health service use by selected community groups |
| ‘Mental health service use by selected community groups’ is defined by two measures:   * the proportion of the population in a selected community group using the service, compared to the proportion of the population outside the selected community group, for each of: * State and Territory governments’ specialised public mental health services * MBS subsidised mental health services.   The selected community groups reported are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, people from outer regional, remote and very remote locations and people residing in low socioeconomic areas.  Results for this indicator should be interpreted with caution. Variations in use could be due to variations in access, but could also be a result of differences in the prevalence of mental illness. It also does not provide information on whether the services are appropriate for the needs of the people receiving them, or correctly targeted to those most in need.  Data reported for the State and Territory governments’ specialised public mental health services measure:   * may not be comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time and may not be comparable across jurisdictions * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data reported for the MBS subsidised mental health services measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions, but a break in series means that data from 2011‑12 onwards by geographic location and SEIFA are not comparable to data for previous years’ * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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While a higher proportion of the population access MBS subsidised mental health services than State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services, the pattern of service use across the selected community groups differs. For State and Territory governments specialised public mental health services, across all the selected community groups, higher proportions of people within these groups (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, people from outer regional, remote and very remote areas and people residing in low socioeconomic areas) access these services than those outside these groups (figures 13.4–13.5 and table 13A.15).

For MBS subsidised mental health services the results are mixed. Nationally, a similar proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians accessed these services to non‑Indigenous Australians (figure 13.4) likewise for people across different socioeconomic areas (table 13A.15). Results varied across states and territories. However, for people in outer regional, remote and very remote areas, the proportions accessing MBS subsidised services were lower than for people in inner regional and major cities both nationally and across all states (figure 13.5).

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| Figure 13.4 Population using mental health services, by Indigenous status and service type, 2014‑15**a** |
| |  | | --- | | **State and Territory governments’ specialised public mental health services** | | Figure 13.4 Population using mental health services, by Indigenous status and service type, 2014-15  State and Territory governments' specialised public mental health services  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | **MBS subsidised mental health services** | | Figure 13.4 Population using mental health services, by Indigenous status and service type, 2014-15  MBS subsidised mental health services  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.2 and table 13A.16 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: AIHW (unpublished), derived from data provided by State and Territory governments, DoH and DVA, ABS (unpublished) ERP, 30 June (prior to relevant period); table 13A.16. |
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| Figure 13.5 Population using mental health services, by geographic location and service type, 2014‑15**a, b, c** |
| |  | | --- | | **State and Territory governments’ specialised public mental health services** | | Figure 13.5 Population using mental health services, by geographic location and service type, 2014-15  State and Territory governments' specialised public mental health services  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | **MBS subsidised mental health services** | | Figure 13.5 Population using mental health services, by geographic location and service type, 2014-15  MBS subsidised mental health services  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.2 and table 13A.17 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Victoria does not have very remote areas. Tasmania does not have major cities. The ACT does not have outer regional, remote or very remote locations. The NT does not have major cities or inner regional locations. c ACT data are not published for inner regional areas. |
| *Source*: AIHW (unpublished), derived from data provided by State and Territory governments and the Australian Government Department of Health and DVA; ABS (unpublished) Estimated Residential Population, 30 June (prior to relevant period); table 13A.17. |
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Data on the use of private hospital mental health services are also contained in tables 13A.16–17 and 13A.7.

### Effectiveness

#### Appropriateness — primary mental health care for children and young people

‘Primary mental health care for children and young people’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to facilitate early detection of mental health issues and mental illness, followed by appropriate intervention (box 13.3).

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| Box 13.3 Primary mental health care for children and young people |
| ‘Primary mental health care for children and young people’ is defined as the proportion of young people aged under 25 years who received a mental health care service subsidised through the MBS from a GP, psychologist or an allied health professional.  High or increasing proportions of young people who had contact with MBS subsidised primary mental health care services is desirable.  Variations in use could be due to variations in access, but could also be a result of differences in the prevalence of mental illness. This indicator does not provide information on whether the services are appropriate for the needs of the young people receiving them, or correctly targeted to those young people most in need.  Results for this indicator should be interpreted with caution as some primary mental health services for children and young people are excluded; for example, community health centres, school and university counsellors and health nurses and some mental health care provided by State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services (NMHPSC 2011a).  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2015‑16 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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The proportion of all children and young people who receive MBS subsidised primary mental health care services has increased gradually over time (table 13A.18). The proportion increases as age increases; with the highest proportion for young people aged 18−24 years (11.5 per cent of this population receiving these primary mental health care services nationally in 2015‑16) (figure 13.6). The proportion of young females who had contact with MBS subsidised primary mental health care services is higher than that of males across all years reported (13A.19) Data by Indigenous status, SEIFA, and service type are available in tables 13A.19–20.

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| Figure 13.6 Children and young people who received MBS subsidised primary mental health care, by age group, 2015‑16**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 13.6 Children and young people who received MBS subsidised primary mental health care, by age group, 2015-16  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.3 and table 13A.18 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: Australian Government Department of Health (unpublished); table 13A.18. |
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#### Appropriateness — consumer and carer involvement in decision making

‘Consumer and carer involvement in decision making’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide universal access to services that are high quality, safe and responsive to consumer and carer goals (box 13.4).

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| Box 13.4 Consumer and carer involvement in decision making |
| ‘Consumer and carer involvement in decision making’ is defined by two measures, the number of paid FTE:   * consumer staff per 1000 FTE direct care staff * carer staff per 1000 FTE direct care staff.   High or increasing proportions of paid FTE direct care staff who are consumers or carers implies better opportunities for consumers and carers to influence the services received.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions but a break in series means that data from 2010‑11 are not comparable to data for previous years * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required data for 2014‑15 are available for all jurisdictions. |
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The number of paid FTE consumer and carer staff per 1000 paid FTE direct care staff are reported in figures 13.7 and 13.8 respectively.

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| Figure 13.7 Paid FTE consumer staff per 1000 paid FTE direct care  staff**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 13.7 Paid FTE consumer staff per 1000 paid FTE direct care  staff  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.4 and table 13A.21 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Tasmania did not employ consumer staff in 2012‑13. The ACT do not employ consumer staff. The NT did not employ consumer staff in 2010‑11 and 2011‑12 . |
| *Source*:AIHW (unpublished) MHE NMDS; table 13A.21. |
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| Figure 13.8 Paid FTE carer staff per 1000 paid FTE direct care staff**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 13.8 Paid FTE carer staff per 1000 paid FTE direct care staff  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.4 and table 13A.21 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b WA did not employ carer staff in 2013‑14 and the NT did not employ any carer staff in 2010‑11 to 2013‑14. The ACT does not employ any carer staff. |
| *Source*:AIHW (unpublished) MHE NMDS; table 13A.21. |
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#### Quality — safety — services reviewed against the National Standards

‘Services reviewed against the National Standards’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide universal access to services that are high quality, safe and responsive to consumer and carer goals (box 13.5).

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| Box 13.5 Services reviewed against the National Standards |
| ‘Services reviewed against the National Standards’ is defined as the proportion of expenditure on State and Territory governments’ specialised public mental health services that had completed a review by an external accreditation agency against the National Standards for Mental Health Services (NSMHS) and met ‘all standards’ (level 1). The assessment levels are defined in section 13.4.  A high or increasing proportion of expenditure on specialised mental health services that had completed a review by an external accreditation agency and had been assessed against the NSMHS as level 1 is desirable.  This is a process indicator of quality, reflecting progress made in meeting the NSMHS. It does not provide information on whether the standards or assessment process are appropriate. In addition, services that had not been assessed do not necessarily deliver services of lower quality. Some services that had not completed an external review included those that were undergoing a review and those that had booked for review and were engaged in self‑assessment preparation.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions * incomplete for the current reporting period. All required 2014‑15 data were not available for the ACT. |
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Figure 13.9 shows the proportion of expenditure on specialised public mental health services that had completed an external review against the NSMHS and met ‘all standards’ (level 1).

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| Figure 13.9 Share of expenditure on specialised public mental health services reviewed against the NSMHS, 30 June 2015**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 13.9 Share of expenditure on specialised public mental health services reviewed against the NSMHS, 30 June 2015  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.5 and table 13A.22 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Data were not available for the ACT in 2014‑15 and have been excluded from the Australian totals. |
| *Source*: AIHW (unpublished) MHE NMDS; table 13A.22. |
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#### Quality — safety — rate of seclusion ― acute inpatient units

‘Rate of seclusion ― acute inpatient units’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide universal access to services that are safe (box 13.6).

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| Box 13.6 Rate of seclusion ― acute inpatient units |
| ‘Rate of seclusion ― acute inpatient units’ is defined as the number of seclusion events per 1000 bed days in State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health acute inpatient units.  Seclusion involves a patient being confined at any time of the day or night alone in a room or area from which it is not within their control to leave (section 13.4 provides further details on seclusion and ‘seclusion events’). Legislation or mandatory policy governs the use of seclusion in each State and Territory and may result in exceptions to the definition of a seclusion event and variations in the data collected across jurisdictions (NMHPSC 2011b). |
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| Box 13.6 (continued) |
| Supporting data on the duration of seclusion events are provided in table 13A.23. These data when considered with the rate of seclusion provide information on the use and management of seclusion within each jurisdiction. A low rate of seclusion events combined with shorter average durations is desirable.  A low or decreasing number of seclusion events per 1000 bed days in specialised public mental health inpatient units is desirable.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required data for 2015‑16 are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally, the number of seclusion events per 1000 bed days has decreased from 12.1 in 2010‑11 to 8.1 in 2015‑16. This downward trend was reflected across most jurisdictions (figure 13.10) and target population groups (table 13A.24). The lowest seclusion rates were in older people’s units and the highest were in children and adolescent units (table 13A.24).

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| Figure 13.10 Rate of seclusion**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 13.10 Rate of seclusion  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.6 and table 13A.23 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: AIHW (unpublished) National Seclusion and Restraint Data Collection; table 13A.23. |
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#### Quality — responsiveness — consumer and carer experiences of services

‘Consumer and carer experiences of services’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide universal access to services that are high quality, safe and responsive to consumer and carer goals (box 13.7).

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| Box 13.7 Consumer and carer experiences of services |
| ‘Consumer and carer experiences of services’ is yet to be defined. |
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#### Quality — continuity — specialised public mental health service consumers with nominated GP

‘Specialised public mental health service consumers with nominated GP’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide universal access to services that are coordinated and provide continuity of care (box 13.8).

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| Box 13.8 Specialised public mental health service consumers with nominated GP |
| ‘Proportion of specialised public mental health service consumers with nominated GP’ is yet to be defined. |
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GPs are often the first type of service accessed by people seeking help when suffering from a mental illness (AIHW 2016) and can diagnose, manage and treat mental illnesses and refer patients to more specialised service providers. In 2014‑15, an estimated 12.7 per cent of GP encounters included management of mental health‑related problems (equivalent to an estimated 17.6 million encounters) (table 13A.25). Data on GP mental‑health related encounters can be found in *Mental Health Services in Australia* (AIHW 2016).

#### Quality — continuity — community follow‑up after psychiatric admission/hospitalisation

‘Community follow‑up after psychiatric admission/hospitalisation’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide universal access to services that are coordinated and provide continuity of care (box 13.9).

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| Box 13.9 Community follow‑up after psychiatric admission/hospitalisation |
| ‘Community follow‑up after psychiatric admission/hospitalisation’ is defined as the proportion of State and Territory governments’ specialised public admitted patient overnight acute separations from psychiatric units for which a community‑based ambulatory contact was recorded in the seven days following separation.  A high or increasing rate of community follow‑up within the first seven days of discharge from hospital is desirable.  This indicator does not measure the frequency of contacts recorded in the seven days following separation. Neither does it distinguish qualitative differences between the mode of contact. Only follow‑up contacts made by State and Territory governments’ specialised public mental health services are included.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within some jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time for other jurisdictions * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally, the rate of community follow‑up for people within the first seven days of discharge from an acute inpatient psychiatric unit has increased from 49.6 per cent in 2009‑10 to 67.0 in 2014‑15 (figure 13.11). Community follow‑up rates by Indigenous status, remoteness areas, SEIFA, age groups and gender are in tables 13A.26–27.

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| Figure 13.11 Community follow‑up for people within the first seven days of discharge from acute inpatient psychiatric units**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 13.11 Community follow up for people within the first seven days of discharge from acute inpatient psychiatric units  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.9 and table 13A.28 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Victorian data are not available for 2011‑12 and 2012‑13. |
| *Source*: AIHW (unpublished), from data provided by State and Territory governments; table 13A.28. |
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#### Quality — continuity — readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge

‘Readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide universal access to services that are coordinated and provide continuity of care (box 13.10).

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| Box 13.10 Readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge |
| ‘Readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge’ is defined as the proportion of State and Territory governments’ admitted patient overnight separations from psychiatric acute inpatient units that were followed by readmission to the same type of unit within 28 days of discharge.  A low or decreasing rate of readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge is desirable.  Whilst readmissions can indicate that inpatient treatment was either incomplete or ineffective, or that follow‑up care was inadequate (NMHPSC 2011a), they can also be affected by other factors such as the cyclic and episodic nature of some illnesses (National Mental Health Working Group Information Strategy Committee Performance Indicator Drafting Group 2005).  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within some jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time for other jurisdictions * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally, the rates of readmission to hospital acute psychiatric units within 28 days of discharge have remained relatively stable since 2009‑10 (figure 13.12). Data by Indigenous status, remoteness areas, SEIFA, age group and sex are in table 13A.29.

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| Figure 13.12 Readmissions to acute psychiatric units within 28 days**a** |
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| a See box 13.10 and table 13A.30 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*:AIHW (unpublished), from data provided by State and Territory governments; table 13A.30. |
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### Efficiency

The efficiency indicators reported here cover State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services. Mainstreaming has occurred at different rates across states and territories, with some treating a greater proportion of clients with severe mental illnesses in community‑based services than other jurisdictions (see section 13.4 for definition of mainstreaming). This can create differences across states and territories in the mix of clients, and therefore the costs, within service types.

#### Efficiency — Cost of care

‘Cost of care’ is an indicator of governments’ objective that mental health services are delivered in an efficient manner (box 13.11).

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| Box 13.11 Cost of care |
| ‘Cost of care’ has three measures.  *‘Cost of inpatient* *care’,* defined by two sub‑measures:   * 1. *‘Cost per inpatient bed day’*, defined as expenditure on inpatient services divided by the number of inpatient bed days — data are disaggregated by hospital type (psychiatric and general hospitals) and care type (acute and non‑acute units) and by inpatient target population (acute units only).   2. *‘Average length of stay’*, defined as the number of inpatient patient days divided by the number of separations in the reference period — data are disaggregated by inpatient target population (acute units only). Patient days for clients who separated in the reference period (2014‑15) that were during the previous period (2013‑14) are excluded. Patient days for clients who remain in hospital (that is, are not included in the separations data) are included.   These sub‑measures are considered together for the inpatient acute units by target population to provide a ‘proxy’ measure to improve understanding of service efficiency. Average inpatient bed day costs can be reduced with longer lengths of stay because the costs of admission, discharge and more intensive treatment early in a stay are spread over more days of care.  *Cost of community‑based residential care’* is defined as the average cost per patient day. Data are reported for both the care of adults and older people.  *‘Cost of ambulatory care’* is defined by two sub‑measures:   * 1. average cost per treatment day   2. average number of treatment days per episode — this measure is provided, along with average costs, as frequency of servicing is the main driver of variation in care costs.   (continued next page) |
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| Box 13.11 (continued) |
| For each measure a low or decreasing cost per input is desirable, which can indicate more efficient service delivery, but efficiency data need to be interpreted with care as they do not provide information on the quality of the service provided.  Data reported for measures one and two are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.   Data reported for measure three are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within some jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time for other jurisdictions.   Data reported for all measures for this indicator are:   * incomplete for the current reporting period. All required data for 2014‑15 were not available for the ACT. |
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Nationally in 2014‑15 (excluding the ACT), the average cost per inpatient bed day was higher in acute than non‑acute units and slightly higher in psychiatric hospitals than in general hospitals for both acute and non‑acute units (figure 13.13).

| Figure 13.13 Average recurrent cost per inpatient bed day, by public hospital and care type, 2014‑15**a, b, c, d, e** |
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| | Figure 13.13 Average recurrent cost per inpatient bed day, by public hospital and care type, 2014-15  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | --- | |
| a See box 13.11 and table 13A.31 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Queensland does not provide acute services in psychiatric hospitals. c Tasmania, the ACT and the NT do not have psychiatric hospitals. d SA, the ACT and the NT do not have non‑acute units in general hospitals. e Data were not available for the ACT in 2014‑15 and have been excluded from the Australian totals. |
| *Source*:AIHW (unpublished) MHE NMDS; table 13A.31. |
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Older people’s units have lower costs per inpatient day, but have considerably longer lengths of stay than general adult or child and adolescent units (figure 13.14). Data for forensic services are included for costs per inpatient bed day only, as the length of stay is dependent on factors outside the control of these services. Data on the average cost per inpatient bed day by target population for all care types are reported in table 13A.32.

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| Figure 13.14 Inpatient care in acute units of public hospitals, by target population, 2014‑15**a, b, c, d, e, f** |
| |  | | --- | | **Cost per inpatient bed day** | | Figure 13.14 Inpatient care in acute units of public hospitals, by target population, 2014-15  Cost per inpatient bed day  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | **Average length of stay** | | Figure 13.14 Inpatient care in acute units of public hospitals, by target population, 2014-15  Average length of stay  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.11 and tables 13A.33–34 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Queensland does not report any acute forensic services. c Tasmania does not provide, or cannot separately identify, child and adolescent mental health services or older people’s mental health services. d The ACT does not have separate forensic or child and adolescent mental health inpatient services. e The NT has general mental health services only. f Data were not available for ACT in 2014‑15 and have been excluded from the Australian totals. |
| *Source*:AIHW (unpublished) MHE NMDS; tables 13A.33–34. |
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Nationally in 2014‑15 (excluding the ACT), the average cost for 24 hour staffed residential care is higher for general adult units ($490.83 per patient day) compared to older people’s care units ($435.71 per patient day), although this varied across states and territories (table 13A.35). Nationally and for all relevant jurisdictions (except SA), the costs for general adults units were higher for those staffed 24 hours compared to those that were non‑24 hours staffed (table 13A.35).

Nationally in 2014‑15 (excluding the ACT), the average recurrent cost per treatment day of ambulatory care was $311.65, and the average treatment days per episode of ambulatory care were 6.9 (figure 13.15).

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| Figure 13.15 Average cost, and treatment days per episode care (2014‑15 dollars)**a, b, c** |
| |  | | --- | | **Cost per treatment day** | | **Figure 13.15 Average cost, and treatment days per episode care (2014-15 dollars)  Cost per treatment day  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image.** | | **Average treatment days per episode** | | Figure 13.15 Average cost, and treatment days per episode care (2014-15 dollars)  Average treatment days per episode  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.11 and table 13A.36 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Victorian 2011‑12 and 2012‑13 data are not available. c Data were not available for the ACT in 2014‑15 and have been excluded from all totals for 2014‑15. |
| *Source*:AIHW (unpublished) Community Mental Health Care (CMHC) NMDS; AIHW (unpublished) MHE NMDS; table 13A.36. |
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### Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (see chapter 1).

#### Prevalence of mental illness

‘Prevalence of mental illness’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to, where possible prevent the development of mental health problems, mental illness and suicide (box 13.12).

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| Box 13.12 Prevalence of mental illness |
| ‘Prevalence of mental illness’ is defined as the proportion of the total population who have a mental illness.  A low or decreasing prevalence of mental illness can indicate that measures to prevent mental illness have been effective.  Many of the risk and protective factors that can affect the development of mental health problems and mental illness are outside the scope of the mental health system. These include environmental, sociocultural and economic factors, of which some can increase the risk of mental illness whilst others can support good mental health.  Not all mental illnesses are preventable and a reduction in the effect of symptoms and an improved quality of life will be a positive outcome for many people with a mental illness.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions (no time series data are reported) * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2007 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally in 2007, the prevalence of a mental illness (with symptoms in the previous 12 months) was 20.0 per cent for people aged 16−85 years, with a further 25.5 per cent reported as having a mental illness at some point in their life (table 13A.37). National data on the prevalence of mental illness by disorder, age and sex are reported in tables   
13A.37–39. These prevalence estimates are for the mental disorders that are considered to have the highest incidence rates in the population, but not some severe mental disorders, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. The *National Survey of Psychotic Illness 2010* provides information on the one‑month treated prevalence of psychotic illnesses. In 2010, there were an estimated 3.1 cases of psychotic illness per 1000 adult population (aged   
18–64 years) (Morgan et al. 2011).

The prevalence of mental illness among children and young people aged 4−17 years was an estimated 13.9 per cent in 2013‑14 (Lawrence et al. 2015). Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) was the most common mental illness overall for this age group, with 7.4 per cent assessed as having ADHD in the previous 12 months, followed by anxiety disorders (6.9 per cent) (Lawrence et al. 2015).

A proxy measure of the overall mental health and wellbeing of the population is the Kessler 10 (K10) psychological distress scale. Very high levels of psychological distress may signify a need for professional help and provide an estimate of the need for mental health services (ABS 2012). Higher levels of psychological distress are reported for:

* females compared to males (table 13A.40)
* people with disability compared to those without (table 13A.41‑42)
* people in lower socioeconomic areas compared to those in higher areas   
  (table 13A.41‑42)
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians compared to non‑Indigenous Australians (table 13A.43).

High rates of substance use and abuse can contribute to the onset of, and poor recovery from, mental illness. Information on rates of licit and illicit drug use can be found in tables 13A.44‑46 and the *National Drug Strategy Household Survey detailed* report 2013 (AIHW 2014).

#### Mortality due to suicide

‘Mortality due to suicide’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to, where possible prevent the development of mental health problems, mental illness and suicide (box 13.13).

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| Box 13.13 Mortality due to suicide |
| ‘Mortality due to suicide’ is defined as the suicide rate per 100 000 people. Deaths from suicide are defined as causes of death with the International Classification of Diseases (ICD)‑10 codes X60−X84 and Y87.0.  A low or decreasing suicide rate per 100 000 people is desirable.  While mental health services contribute to reducing suicides, other services also have a significant role including public mental health programs and suicide prevention programs (addressed through the initiatives of other government agencies, NGOs and other special interest groups).  Many factors outside the control of mental health services can influence a person’s decision to commit suicide. These include environmental, sociocultural and economic risk factors. Often a combination of these factors can increase the risk of suicidal behaviour.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time for some years and disaggregations but not comparable for other years and disaggregations * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2015 data are available for all jurisdictions (2014 data available for disaggregations). |
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People with a mental illness are at a higher risk of suicide than are the general population. For the period 2011–2015, 13 434 deaths by suicide were recorded in Australia (table 13A.47) — equivalent to 11.5 deaths per 100 000 people (figure 13.16).

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| Figure 13.16 Suicide rates, 5 year average, 2011–2015**a** |
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| a See box 13.13 and table 13A.47 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*:ABS (2016) *Causes of Deaths, Australia*, Cat. no. 3303.0; table 13A.47. |
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National data available by age and sex show that the rate for males (17.5 per 100 000 males) was over three times that for females (5.6 per 100 000 females) (ABS 2016). Data disaggregated by significant urban areas, Indigenous status and for 15–24 year olds for the period 2010–2014 can be found in tables 13A.48‑50.

#### Physical health outcomes for people with a mental illness

‘Physical health outcomes for people with a mental illness’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to promote recovery and physical health and encourage meaningful participation in society (box 13.14).

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| Box 13.14 Physical health outcomes for people with a mental illness |
| ‘Physical health outcomes for people with a mental illness’ is defined as the proportion of adults with a mental illness (compared to those without a mental illness) who experienced a long‑term physical health condition: cancer, diabetes, arthritis, cardiovascular disease and asthma.  Low or decreasing proportions of people with a mental illness who experience a long‑term physical health condition are desirable.  People with a mental illness have worse physical health outcomes than people without mental illness (Happell et al. 2015; Lawrence, Hancock and Kisely 2013), but the relationship between the two is complex. Poor physical health can exacerbate mental health problems and poor mental health can lead to poor physical health. In addition, some psychiatric medications prescribed to treat mental health conditions may lead to worse physical health.  Greater exposure to particular health risk factors can also contribute to poorer physical health. Information on selected risk factors by mental illness status can be found in table 13A.51.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions (no time series data are reported) * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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A higher proportion of adults with a mental illness had long‑term health conditions compared to adults without mental illness. Nationally in 2014‑15, the proportions of adults with a mental illness who had arthritis (26.4 per cent) and cardiovascular disease (8.6 per cent) were higher than those without mental illness (16.4 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively) (figure 13.17). Table 13A.52 provides data for cancer, asthma and diabetes.

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| Figure 13.17 Adults with long‑term health conditions, by mental illness status, 2014‑15**a** |
| |  | | --- | | **Arthritis** | | Figure 13.17 Adults with long term health conditions, by mental illness status, 2014-15  Arthritis  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | **Cardiovascular disease** | | **Figure 13.17 Adults with long term health conditions, by mental illness status, 2014-15  Cardiovascular disease  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image.** | |
| a See box 13.14 and table 13A.52 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*:ABS (unpublished) NHS 2014‑15, Cat. no. 4364.0; table 13A.52. |
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#### Social and economic inclusion of people with a mental illness

‘Social and economic inclusion of people with a mental illness’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to promote recovery and physical health and encourage meaningful participation in society (box 13.15).

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| Box 13.15 Social and economic inclusion of people with a mental illness |
| ‘Social and economic inclusion of people with a mental illness’ is defined by two measures, the proportion of people:   * aged 16–64 years with a mental illness who are employed, compared with the proportion for people without a mental illness * aged 15 years or over with a mental illness who had face‑to‑face contact with family or friends living outside the household in the last week, compared with the proportion for people without a mental illness.   High or increasing proportions of people with a mental illness who are employed, or who had face–to–face contact with family or friends, are desirable.  This indicator does not provide information on whether the employment, education or social activities participated in were appropriate or meaningful. It also does not provide information on why people who were not employed were not looking for work (for example, those outside the labour force).  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions for all surveys and over time for  2014‑15, 2011‑12 and 2007‑08 (NHS data) * complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2014‑15 data and 2014 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally in 2014‑15, the proportion of people employed was lower for those with a mental illness (62.3 per cent) compared to those without a mental illness (79.8 per cent) (figure 13.18). The significantly higher proportion of people with a mental illness who do not participate in the labour force, compared to those without a mental illness, is a major contributing factor (29.2 per cent compared to 16.7 per cent) (table 13A.54).

Information on the proportion of people aged 16–30 years with a mental illness who were employed and/or are enrolled for study in a formal secondary or tertiary qualification can be found in table 13A.53.

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| Figure 13.18 People aged 16–64 years who are employed, by mental illness status, 2014‑15**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 13.18 People aged 16–64 years who are employed, by mental illness status, 2014-15  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.15 and table 13A.54 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ABS (unpublished) *NHS 2014‑15*, Cat. no. 4364.0; table 13A.54. |
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Nationally in 2014, the proportion of people aged 15 years or over with a mental illness who had face‑to‑face contact with family or friends living outside the household in the last week (76.5 per cent) was similar to the proportion for people without a mental illness (77.1 per cent) (table 13A.55).

#### Mental health outcomes of consumers of specialised public mental health services

‘Mental health outcomes of consumers of specialised public mental health services’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to promote recovery and physical health and encourage meaningful participation in society (box 13.16).

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| Box 13.16 Mental health outcomes of consumers of specialised public mental health services |
| ‘Mental health outcomes of consumers of specialised public mental health services’ is defined as the proportion of people receiving care who had a significant improvement in their clinical mental health outcomes, by service type. Section 13.4 provides information on how the consumer outcomes average score is derived.  Supplementary data are reported on the proportion who experienced no significant change or a significant deterioration in their mental health outcomes.  A high or increasing proportion of people receiving care in State and Territory governments’ specialised public mental health services who had a significant improvement in their clinical mental health outcomes is desirable.  This indicator has a number of technical and conceptual issues. The outcome measurement tool is imprecise as a single ‘average score’ does not reflect the complex service system in which services are delivered across multiple settings (inpatient, ambulatory and residential) and provided as both discrete, short‑term episodes of care and prolonged care over indefinite periods (AHMC 2012). The approach separates a consumer’s care into segments (hospital versus the community) rather than tracking the person’s overall outcomes across treatment settings. In addition, consumers’ outcomes are measured from the clinician’s perspective and not as the ‘lived experience’ from the consumer’s viewpoint.  Data reported for this indicator:   * may not be comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time and may not be comparable across jurisdictions due to differences in the quality of the data and the proportion of episodes for which completed outcomes data are available (table 13A.56) * are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required data for 2014‑15 are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally in 2014‑15, 27.6 per cent of people in ongoing ambulatory care, 47.6 per cent of people discharged from ambulatory care and 73.2 per cent of people discharged from a hospital psychiatric inpatient unit showed a significant improvement in their mental health clinical outcomes (figure 13.19). Across age groups and over the reporting years from 2007‑08, for those discharged from hospital and community care, a larger proportion of people aged 18–64 years old showed a significant improvement compared to those in other age groups. Whereas, for those in ongoing community care, younger people aged   
0–17 years had the highest proportion who showed a significant improvement compared to other age groups (table 13A.57).

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| Figure 13.19 Mental health outcomes of consumers of State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services, 2014‑15**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | **People in ongoing community‑based ambulatory care** | | Figure 13.19 Mental health outcomes of consumers of State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services, 2014-15  People in ongoing community-based ambulatory care  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | **People discharged from community‑based ambulatory care** | | Figure 13.19 Mental health outcomes of consumers of State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services, 2014-15  People discharged from community-based ambulatory care  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | **People discharged from hospital** | | Figure 13.19 Mental health outcomes of consumers of State and Territory governments’ specialised mental health services, 2014-15  People discharged from hospital  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 13.16 and table 13A.58 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Some ACT and NT data are not published due to insufficient observations. |
| *Source*:AIHW (unpublished) from data provided by the Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classification Network; table 13A.58. |
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## 13.4 Definitions of key terms

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| **Acute services** | Services that primarily provide specialised psychiatric care for people with acute episodes of mental illness. These episodes are characterised by recent onset of severe clinical symptoms of mental illness that have potential for prolonged dysfunction or risk to self and/or others. The key characteristic of acute services is that the treatment effort focuses on symptom reduction with a reasonable expectation of substantial improvement. In general, acute psychiatric services provide relatively short term treatment. Acute services can:   * focus on assisting people who have had no prior contact or previous psychiatric history, or individuals with a continuing psychiatric illness for whom there has been an acute exacerbation of symptoms * target the general population or be specialised in nature, targeting specific clinical populations. The latter group include psychogeriatric, child and adolescent, youth and forensic mental health services. |
| **Accrued mental health patient days** | Mental health care days are days of admitted patient care provided to admitted patients in psychiatric hospitals, designated psychiatric units and days of residential care provided to residents in residential mental health services. Accrued mental health care days can also be referred to as occupied bed days in specialised mental health services. The days to be counted are only those days occurring within the reference period, that is from 1 July to the following 30 June for the relevant period, even if the patient/resident was admitted prior to the reference period or discharged after the reference period.  The key basic rules to calculate the number of accrued mental health care days are as follows:   * For a patient admitted and discharged on different days, all days are counted as mental health care days except the day of discharge and any leave days. * Admission and discharge on the same day are equal to one patient day. * Leave days involving an overnight absence are not counted. * A patient day is recorded on the day of return from leave. |
| **Ambulatory care services** | Mental health services dedicated to the assessment, treatment, rehabilitation or care of non‑admitted inpatients, including but not confined to crisis assessment and treatment services, mobile assessment and treatment services, outpatient clinic services (whether provided from a hospital or community mental health centre), child and adolescent outpatient treatment teams, social and living skills programs (including day programs, day hospitals and living skills centres), and psychogeriatric assessment teams and day programs. |
| **Anxiety disorders** | Feelings of tension, distress or nervousness. Includes agoraphobia, social phobia, panic disorder, generalised anxiety disorder, obsessive–compulsive disorder and post‑traumatic stress disorder. |
| **Average available beds** | The number of beds available to provide overnight accommodation for patients admitted to hospital (other than neonatal cots [non‑special‑care] and beds occupied by hospital‑in‑the‑home patients) or to specialised residential mental health care, averaged over the counting period. Beds are available only if they are suitably located and equipped to provide care and the necessary financial and human resources can be provided. |
| **Child and adolescent mental health services** | Services principally targeted at children and young people up to the age of 18 years. Classification of services in this category requires recognition by the regional or central funding authority of the special focus of the inpatient service on children or adolescents. These services can include a forensic component. |
| **Community‑based residential services** | Staffed residential units established in community settings that provide specialised treatment, rehabilitation or care for people affected by a mental illness or psychiatric disability. To be defined as community‑based residences, the services must: provide residential care to people with mental illnesses or psychiatric disability; be located in a community setting external to the campus of a general hospital or psychiatric institution; employ onsite staff for at least some part of the day; and be government funded. |
| **Comparability** | Data are considered comparable if (subject to caveats) they can be used to inform an assessment of comparative performance. Typically, data are considered comparable when they are collected in the same way and in accordance with the same definitions. For comparable indicators or measures, significant differences in reported results allow an assessment of differences in performance, rather than being the result of anomalies in the data. |
| **Completeness** | Data are considered complete if all required data are available for all jurisdictions that provide the service. |
| **Forensic mental health services** | Services principally providing assessment, treatment and care of mentally ill individuals whose behaviour has led them to commit criminal offences or makes it likely that they will offend in the future if not adequately treated and contained. This includes prison‑based services, but excludes services that are primarily for children and adolescents and for older people even where they include a forensic component. |
| **General mental health services** | Services that principally target the general adult population  (18–65 years old) but that can provide services to children, adolescents or older people. Includes, therefore, those services that cannot be described as specialised child and adolescent, youth, older people’s or forensic services.  General mental health services include hospital units whose principal function is to provide some form of specialised service to the general adult population (for example, inpatient psychotherapy) or to focus on specific clinical disorders within the adult population (for example, postnatal depression, anxiety disorders). |
| **General practice** | The organisational structure in which one or more GPs provide and supervise health care for a ‘population’ of patients. |
| **Health management** | The ongoing process beginning with initial client contact and including all actions relating to the client. Includes assessment/evaluation, education of the person, family or carer(s), and diagnosis and treatment. Involves problems with adherence to treatment and liaison with, or referral to, other agencies. |
| **Mainstreaming** | The First National Mental Health Plan emphasised decreasing the number of psychiatric beds in favour of community‑based options, reducing the reliance on stand‑alone psychiatric hospitals, and ‘mainstreaming’ the delivery of acute inpatient care into general hospitals. |
| **Mental illness** | A diagnosable illness that significantly interferes with an individual’s cognitive, emotional and/or social abilities. |
| **Mental health** | The capacity of individuals within groups and the environment to interact with one another in ways that promote subjective wellbeing, the optimal development and use of mental abilities (cognitive, affective and relational) and the achievement of individual and collective goals consistent with justice. |
| **Mental health  problems** | Diminished cognitive, emotional or social abilities, but not to the extent of meeting the criteria for a mental illness. |
| **Mental health promotion** | Actions taken to maximise mental health and wellbeing among populations and individuals. It is aimed at changing environments (social, physical, economic, educational, cultural) and enhancing the ‘coping’ capacity of communities, families and individuals by giving power, knowledge, skills and necessary resources. |
| **Mental illness prevention** | Interventions that occur before the initial onset of an illness to prevent its development. The goal of prevention interventions is to reduce the incidence and prevalence of mental health problems and mental illnesses. |
| **Non‑acute  services** | Non‑acute services are defined by two categories:   * Rehabilitation services that have a primary focus on intervention to reduce functional impairments that limit the independence of patients. Rehabilitation services are focused on disability and the promotion of personal recovery. They are characterised by an expectation of substantial improvement over the short to mid‑term. Patients treated by rehabilitation services usually have a relatively stable pattern of clinical symptoms. * Extended care services that primarily provide care over an indefinite period for patients who have a stable but severe level of functional impairment and an inability to function independently, thus requiring extensive care and support. Patients of extended care services present a stable pattern of clinical symptoms, which can include high levels of severe unremitting symptoms of mental illness. Treatment is focused on preventing deterioration and reducing impairment; improvement is expected to occur slowly. |
| **Non‑government organisations (NGOs)** | Private not‑for‑profit community managed organisations that receive State and Territory government funding specifically for the purpose of providing community support services for people affected by a mental illness or psychiatric disability. Programs provided by the NGOs sector can include supported accommodation services (including community‑based crisis and respite beds), vocational rehabilitation programs, advocacy programs (including system advocacy), consumer self‑help services, and support services for families and primary carers. |
| **National Standards for Mental Health Services (NSMHS)** | Services at level 1 — services reviewed by an external accreditation agency and judged to have met all National Standards.  Services at level 2 — services reviewed by an external accreditation agency and judged to have met some but not all National Standards.  Services at level 3 — services (i) in the process of being reviewed by an external accreditation agency but the outcomes are not known, or (ii) booked for review by an external accreditation agency.  Services at level 4 — services that do not meet criteria detailed under levels 1 to 3 (AHMC 2010). |
| **Older people’s mental health services** | Services principally targeting people in the age group 65 years or over. Classification of services in this category requires recognition by the regional or central funding authority of the special focus of the inpatient service on aged people. These services can include a forensic component. Excludes general mental health services that may treat older people as part of a more general service. |
| **Outpatient services   — community‑based** | Services primarily provided to non‑admitted patients on an appointment basis and delivered from health centres located in community settings, physically separated within hospital sites. They can include outreach or domiciliary care as an adjunct to services provided from the centre base. |
| **Outpatient services   — hospital‑based** | Services primarily provided to non‑admitted patients on an appointment basis and delivered from clinics located within hospitals. They can include outreach or domiciliary care as an adjunct to services provided from the clinic base. |
| **Outcomes measurement — calculating the consumers ‘score’.** | The assessment of a consumer’s clinical mental health outcomes is based on the changes reported in a consumer’s ‘score’ on a rating scale known as the Health of the Nation Outcomes Scale (HoNOS), or for children and adolescents, the Health of the Nation Outcome Scales for Children and Adolescents (HoNOSCA). Outcome scores are classified based on effect size — a statistic used to assess the magnitude of a treatment effect (AHMC 2012). The effect size is based on the ratio of the difference between the pre‑ and post‑scores to the standard deviation of the pre‑score. Individual episodes are classified as ‘significant improvement’ if the effect size index is greater than or equal to positive 0.5; ‘no change’ if the index is between 0.5 and ‑0.5; and ‘significant deterioration’ if the effect size index is less than or equal to ‑0.5 (AHMC 2012) |
| **Prevalence** | The number of cases of a disease present in a population at a given time (point prevalence) or during a given period (period prevalence). |
| **Preventive interventions** | Programs designed to decrease the incidence, prevalence and negative outcomes of illnesses. |
| **Psychiatrist** | A medical practitioner with specialist training in psychiatry. |
| **Public health** | The organised, social response to protect and promote health, and to prevent illness, injury and disability. The starting point for identifying public health issues, problems and priorities, and for designing and implementing interventions, is the population as a whole or population subgroups. Public health is characterised by a focus on the health of the population (and particular at‑risk groups) and complements clinical provision of health care services. |
| **Public (non‑psychiatric) hospital** | A hospital that provides at least minimum medical, surgical or obstetric services for inpatient treatment and/or care, and around‑the‑clock, comprehensive, qualified nursing services, as well as other necessary professional services. |
| **Schizophrenia** | A combination of signs and symptoms that can include delusions, hallucinations, disorganised speech or behaviour, a flattening in emotions, and restrictions in thought, speech and goal directed behaviour. |
| **Seclusion** | Seclusion is the confinement of the consumer at any time of the day or night alone in a room or area from which free exit is prevented. The intended purpose of the confinement is not relevant in determining what is or is not seclusion. Seclusion applies even if the consumer agrees or requests the confinement (NMHPSC 2011b).  The awareness of the consumer that they are confined alone and denied exit is not relevant in determining what is or is not seclusion. The structure and dimensions of the area to which the consumer is confined is not relevant in determining what is or is not seclusion. The area may be an open area, for example, a courtyard. Seclusion does not include confinement of consumers to High Dependency sections of gazetted mental health units, unless it meets the definition (AIHW 2015). |
| **Seclusion event** | An event is when a consumer enters seclusion and when there is a clinical decision to cease seclusion. Following the clinical decision to cease seclusion, if a consumer re‑enters seclusion within a short period of time this would be considered a new seclusion event. The term ‘seclusion event’ is utilised to differentiate it from the different definitions of ‘seclusion episode’ used across jurisdictions (NMHPSC 2011b). |
| **Separation** | An episode of care for an admitted patient, which can be a total hospital stay, or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute to rehabilitation). Separation also means the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care. |
| **Specialised mental health inpatient services** | Services provided to admitted patients in stand‑alone psychiatric hospitals or specialised psychiatric units located within general hospitals. |
| **Specialised mental health services** | Services whose primary function is specifically to provide treatment, rehabilitation or community support targeted towards people affected by a mental illness or psychiatric disability. Further, such activities are delivered from a service or facility that is readily identifiable as both specialised and serving a mental health function. This criterion applies regardless of the source of funds. |
| **Specialised residential services** | Services provided in the community that are staffed by mental health professionals on a non‑24 or 24‑hour basis. |
| **Staffing categories (mental health)** | Medical officers: all medical officers employed or engaged by the organisation on a full time or part time basis. Includes visiting medical officers who are engaged on an hourly, sessional or fee‑for‑service basis.  Psychiatrists and consultant psychiatrists: medical officers who are registered to practice psychiatry under the relevant State or Territory medical registration board; or who are fellows of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists or registered with Health Insurance Commission as a specialist in Psychiatry.  Psychiatry registrars and trainees: medical officers who are formal trainees within the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists’ Postgraduate Training Program.  Other medical officers: medical officers employed or engaged by the organisation who are not registered as psychiatrists within the State or Territory, or as formal trainees within the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists’ Postgraduate Training Program.  Nursing staff: all categories of registered nurses and enrolled nurses, employed or engaged by the organisation.  Registered nurses: people with at least a three year training certificate or tertiary qualification who are certified as being a registered nurse with the State or Territory registration board. This is a comprehensive category and includes general and specialised categories of registered nurses.  Enrolled nurses: refers to people who are second level nurses who are enrolled in all states except Victoria where they are registered by the state registration board to practise in this capacity. Includes general enrolled nurse and specialist enrolled nurse (e.g. mothercraft nurses in some states).  Diagnostic and health professionals (allied health professionals): qualified staff (other than qualified medical or nursing staff) who are engaged in duties of a diagnostic, professional or technical nature. This category covers all allied health professionals, such as social workers, psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and other diagnostic and health professionals.  Social workers: people who have completed a course of recognised training and are eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers.  Psychologists: people who are registered as psychologists with the relevant State or Territory registration board.  Occupational therapists: people who have completed a course of recognised training and who are eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Occupational Therapists.  Other personal care staff: attendants, assistants, home companions, family aides, ward helpers, warders, orderlies, ward assistants and nursing assistants who are engaged primarily in the provision of personal care to patients or residents, and who are not formally qualified or who are undergoing training in nursing or allied health professions.  Administrative and clerical staff: staff engaged in administrative and clerical duties. Excludes medical, nursing, diagnostic and health professional and domestic staff wholly or partly involved in administrative and clerical duties, who should be counted under their appropriate occupational categories. Civil engineers and computing staff are included in this category.  Domestic and other staff: staff involved in the provision of food and cleaning services including domestic staff primarily engaged in administrative duties such as food services manager. Dieticians are excluded. |
| **Psychiatric hospitals** | Health establishments that are primarily devoted to the treatment and care of inpatients with psychiatric, mental or behavioural disorders, and that are situated at physically separate locations from a general hospital. Stand‑alone hospitals may or may not be managed by the mainstream health system. Psychiatric hospitals situated at physically separate locations from a general hospital are included within the ‘stand‑alone’ category regardless of whether they are under the management control of a general hospital. A health establishment that operates in a separate building but is located on, or immediately adjoining, the acute care hospital campus can also be a stand‑alone hospitals if the following criteria are not met:   * a single organisational or management structure covers the acute care hospital and the psychiatric hospital * a single employer covers the staff of the acute care hospital and the psychiatric hospital * the location of the acute care hospital and psychiatric hospital can be regarded as part of a single overall hospital campus * the patients of the psychiatric hospital are regarded as patients of the single integrated health service. |
| **Substance use disorders** | Disorders in which drugs or alcohol are used to such an extent that behaviour becomes maladaptive, social and occupational functioning is impaired, and control or abstinence becomes impossible. Reliance on the drug can be psychological (as in substance misuse) or physiological (as in substance dependence). |
| **Youth mental health services** | Services principally targeting children and young people generally aged 16‑25 years. The classification of a service into this category requires recognition by the regional or central funding authority of the special focus of the service. These services may include a forensic component. |

## 13.5 References

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