

# Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

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The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is Australia's national agency for health and welfare statistics and information. It is an Australian Government statutory authority within the Health and Ageing portfolio, reporting direct to the portfolio Minister.

The AIHW undertakes a range of statistical work specifically related to mental health care services and to people with mental illness, and work that is not specific for mental health, but can provide some information relevant to mental health.

## **Mental health services-related data collections**

The AIHW is custodian of a number of mental health services related data sets, compiled from data provided by the states and territories under the National Health Information Agreement. These include the National Community Mental Health Care Database which is based on the National Minimum Data Set for Community Mental Health Care, the National Community Mental Health Establishments Database which is based on the National Minimum Data Set for Community Mental Health Establishments and the mental health-related subset of the National Hospital Morbidity Database which is based on the National Minimum Data Set for Admitted Patient Mental Health Care. These data, for each financial year ending 30 June, are provided to the AIHW annually by state and territory health authorities.

### **National Community Mental Health Care Database**

This database contains service contact data on clients receiving community care from specialised, public establishments for community mental health. It includes demographic information on these clients, including age, sex, country of birth, Indigenous status and marital status; and mental health related information, for example, the principal diagnosis of the client based on the International Classification of Diseases 10th revision Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) and service contact date. From 2005-06, information on duration of service contact, whether the service contact was a group session and whether the client was present at the service contact will also be available.

### **National Community Mental Health Establishments Database**

This database contains data on all specialised public establishments for community mental health, including both residential and non-residential services. It includes information on the geographical location of the establishment, the number of full-time equivalent staff, salaries and wages and non-salary operating costs, the number of available beds for residents, the number of separations, and the type of specialised mental health service setting (residential or community).

## **National Hospital Morbidity Database**

The mental health related subset of the National Hospital Morbidity Database is based on the Admitted Patient Mental Health Care National Minimum Dataset. It contains episodes of care data for admitted patients in psychiatric hospitals or specialised psychiatric units of acute care hospitals. These data include information on consumer demographics, length of stay and clinical and administrative information. The clinical information includes, for example, principal and additional diagnosis, care type and previous specialised treatment.

## **Other mental health services-related data collections**

The AIHW will also be custodian of two new mental health services related databases. Data will be provided for the National Residential Mental Health Care Database, commencing with data for financial year ending 30 June 2005, and the National Mental Health Establishments Database commencing with data for financial year ending 30 June 2006. The National Residential Mental Health Care Database will contain data for government-funded residential mental health care services in Australia, except those in receipt of funding under the Aged Care Act. The National Mental Health Establishments Database will contain data on staffing, expenditure, beds and activity for all specialised mental health services managed or funded by state or territory health authorities, including from private hospital and non-government residential service units funded by specialised mental health services.

Other AIHW collections which contain mental health services related information include the National Public Hospitals Establishment Database, the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement National Minimum Data Set, the National Medical Labour Force Survey, the National Nursing Labour Force Survey and the Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health survey of general practice.

## **Mental health services-related data reporting**

### **Mental health services in Australia**

Data on mental health related services are reported annually by the AIHW in the Mental Health Services in Australia report. This report describes the characteristics and activity of Australia's mental health services including mental health-related care provided by hospitals, community-based residential and non-residential services, general practitioners, private psychiatrists and some disability support services.

Information on the broad trends in mental health care is presented in a summary and detailed statistics show the hospital care of people admitted with a mental health related diagnosis, the services, beds, staffing and expenditure in psychiatric hospitals and community based services, and mental health related medications prescribed by general practitioners and private psychiatrists.

Data used in this report include data from the collections described in the previous section and from other AIHW and external sources. These include data from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, Medicare; the Private Health Establishments Collection and the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

### **Other reports containing mental health-related data**

Summary information on population mental health and mental health services is included in the Institute's biennial Australia's Health reports. Some mental health related information is also included in various other AIHW reports. For example, results from the Kessler 10 scale collected in the AIHW's National Drug Strategy Household Survey are included in the *2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: First Results cat. no. PHE 57*; and information on the proportion of people seeking assistance due to a psychiatric disability in the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) is included in the AIHW Bulletin *Homeless SAAP clients with a disability 2002–03*.

As part of its work program the AIHW also has a focus on the health of population groups including the mental health of the population groups, where data are available. Relevant areas of work on population groups include a wide ranging work program on the health of Indigenous persons, a project to develop a National Minimum Data Set of prisoner health and work in the area of children's health and the health of residents of rural and remote areas.