Hours worked

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000313   Version number: 1

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NHIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 30-JUN-97

Definition: Hours worked is the amount of time a person spends at work in a week in a job. It may apply to hours actually worked in a week or hours usually worked per week, and the National Health Labour Force Collection collects hours usually worked. It includes all paid and unpaid overtime less any time off. It also
- includes travel to home visits or calls out;
- excludes other time travelling between work locations;
- excludes unpaid professional and / or voluntary activities.

Total hours worked is the amount of time spent at work in all jobs.

As well as total hours worked, for some professions the National Health Labour Force Collection asks for hours worked in each of the main job, second job and third job. Hours worked for each of these is the amount of time spent at work in each job.

Context: Health labour force: important variable in relation to issues of economic activity, productivity, wage rates, working conditions etc. Used to develop capacity measures relating to total time available. Assists in analysis of human resource requirements and labour force modelling. Used to determine full-time and part-time work status and to compute full-time equivalents (FTE) (see entry for FTE).

Often the definition for full-time or FTE differs (35, 37.5 and 40 hours) and knowing total hours and numbers of individuals allows for variances in FTE.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: QUANTITATIVE VALUE

Representation layout: NNN

Minimum Size: 3

Maximum Size: 3

Data Domain:
000	No hours
001	1 hour
002	2 hours
003	3 hours
999	Not stated / inadequately described

Guide For Use: For medical practitioners the hours are split into three categories for each position (job):
-    direct patient care hours (hours spent on service provision to patients including direct contact with patients, providing care, instructions and counselling, and providing other related services such as writing referrals, prescriptions and phone calls);
-    total hours worked including any on-call hours actually worked (includes patient care and practice administration);
-    hours on-call (not worked).

Related metadata: has been superseded by Hours worked by health professional version 2
has been superseded by Hours worked by medical practitioner in direct patient care version 2
has been superseded by Hours on-call (not worked) by medical practitioner version 2
has been superseded by Total hours worked by a medical practitioner version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Labour Force Data Working Group

Comments: There are inherent problems in asking for information on number of hours usually worked per week, for example, reaching a satisfactory definition and communicating this definition to the respondents in a self-administered survey. Whether hours worked are collected for main job only, or main job and one or more additional jobs, it is important that a total for all jobs is included.

It is often argued that health professionals contribute a considerable amount of time to voluntary professional work and that this component needs to be identified. This should be considered as an additional item, and kept segregated from data on paid hours worked.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM   Labour characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Health labour force   From 01-Jul-95 to 30-Jun-96