

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 13-Waiting times for public dentistry, 2016 QS

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	602217
Registration status:	Health! , Superseded 31/01/2017

Data quality

Data quality statement summary:	<p>This indicator is being reported for the first time (for 2013–14 and 2014–15) drawing on data collated under an agreement to report against the Public Dental Waiting Times (PDWT) National Minimum Data Set (NMDS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data are not comparable across jurisdictions due to differences in the way in which services are arranged and different arrangements that determine which people requiring treatment are placed on a public dental waiting list, including how jurisdictions prioritise certain disadvantaged population groups• Data for 2013–14 and 2014–15 do not include New South Wales or Northern Territory, due to data quality concerns• Data for jurisdictions are comparable across years• Waiting times are not shown by waiting list type. Differences in the purpose and processes between different list types limit comparability of waiting times between jurisdictions and over time• Waiting times could not be calculated for some records (including where negative waiting times were reported or where a record had no date of offer or date of dental care)• Waiting times of zero days are included in all analyses• The collection excludes people who are treated under jurisdictional priority client schemes• In a small number of cases, double counting of people may occur across these reference years due to an inability to link people across reference years in this collection.
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Institutional environment:	<p>The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is a major national agency set up by the Australian Government under the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987 to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. It is an independent corporate Commonwealth entity governed by a management board, and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health portfolio.</p>
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The AIHW aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through better health and welfare information and statistics. It collects and reports information on a wide range of topics and issues, ranging from health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, and mental health, to ageing, homelessness, disability and child protection.

Timeliness:	The reference period for these data is 2013–14 and 2014–15.
Accessibility:	The AIHW will publish data from this collection on the AIHW website at www.aihw.gov.au
Interpretability:	<p>Metadata information for the PDWT NMDS is published in the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry (METeOR) and the National health data dictionary.</p> <p>METeOR and the National health data dictionary can be accessed at the following AIHW web addresses, respectively:</p> <p>/content/index.phtml/itemId/517220</p> <p>http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737422826</p>

Relevance: The purpose of the PDWT NMDS is to collect information about the length of time that patients wait for public dental care in Australia. The scope of the NMDS is people who received or were offered public dental care, in the reporting period, in Australia.

The data collection excludes people who are treated under jurisdictional priority client schemes, and may also exclude some other people who are not placed on a public dental waiting list. Therefore, the waiting times reported are not the median waiting times experienced by all people aged 18 years or over who received public dental services.

The analyses by remoteness and socioeconomic status are based on the usual residence of the patient. However, data are reported by jurisdiction of receipt of dental care regardless of the jurisdiction of usual residence.

Accuracy: For 2013–14 and 2014–15, data are published for all jurisdictions except New South Wales and Northern Territory.

Data providers are primarily responsible for the quality of the data they provide. However, the AIHW has undertaken basic validation of the data. The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors or missing or incorrect values, however, data were excluded from waiting times calculations where:

- the data provided resulted in a negative waiting time, or
- where a record has no date of offer or date of dental care, and so a waiting time could not be calculated.

Waiting times of zero days are included in the analysis.

Only treatments received after a person is removed from a public dental waiting list should be recorded.

Some double counting may occur in this collection due an inability to link cases where:

- a waiting time to being offered dental care was reported for a person in one reference period and then
- a waiting time till dental care was reported for the same person in the next reference period.

Coherence: 2013–14 was the first year of collection of national public dental waiting times data under the agreement to collect PDWT NMDS data.

In relation to the ability to compare data over time, and between jurisdictions:

- New South Wales data were not available for 2013–14 and are not published in 2014–15 due to data quality issues.
- Northern Territory data are not published in 2013–14 or 2014–15 due to data quality issues.
- Data for jurisdictions across years is comparable.
- Data is not comparable across jurisdictions due to differences in the way in which services are arranged and different arrangements that determine which people requiring treatment are placed on a public dental waiting list, including how jurisdictions prioritise certain disadvantaged population groups.
- Waiting times are not shown by waiting list type. Differences in the purpose and processes between different list types limit comparability of waiting times between jurisdictions and over time.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 13-Waiting times for public dentistry, 2015 QS](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 08/07/2016

Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 13-Waiting times for public dentistry, 2017 QS](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 30/01/2018

**Indicators linked to this
Data Quality statement:**

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 13—Waiting times for public dentistry, 2016
Health!](#), Superseded 31/01/2017