

Female—number of antenatal care visits, total N[N]

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Female—number of antenatal care visits, total N[N]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Antenatal care visits
Synonymous names:	Number of antenatal care visits
METEOR identifier:	695227
Registration status:	Health! , Superseded 20/11/2019
Definition:	The total number of antenatal care visits attended by a pregnant female.
Context:	Perinatal

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	Female—number of antenatal care visits
Synonymous names:	Antenatal visits
METEOR identifier:	695238
Registration status:	Health! , Superseded 20/11/2019
Definition:	The number of antenatal care visits attended by a pregnant female.
Object class:	Female
Property:	Number of antenatal care visits

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
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Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain:	Total number N[N]
METEOR identifier:	347205
Registration status:	Health! , Standard 01/10/2008 Community Services (retired) , Standard 10/04/2013 Housing assistance , Standard 01/05/2013 Indigenous , Standard 08/10/2014 Disability , Standard 13/08/2015 Commonwealth Department of Health , Qualified 23/09/2015 Children and Families , Standard 22/11/2016 Tasmanian Health , Standard 20/12/2016 Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired) , Standard 20/06/2018
Definition:	The total number.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Total
Data type:	Number
Format:	N[N]

Maximum character length: 2

	Value	Meaning
Supplementary values:	99	Not stated/inadequately described

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: [Antenatal care visits](#) are attributed to the pregnant female.

In rural and remote locations where a clinician or midwife is not employed, registered Aboriginal health workers and [registered nurses](#) may perform this role within the scope of their training and skill licence.

Include all pregnancy-related visits with medical officers where the medical officer has entered documentation related to that visit on the antenatal record of pregnancy and/or birth.

An antenatal care visit does not include:

- a visit where the sole purpose of contact is to confirm the pregnancy
- contacts that occurred during the pregnancy that related solely to non-pregnancy related issues
- a visit where the sole purpose of contact is to perform image screening, diagnostic testing or the collection of blood or tissue for pathology testing. An exception to this rule is made when the health professional performing the procedure or test is a clinician or midwife and the visit directly relates to this pregnancy and the health and wellbeing of the fetus.

Collection methods: Collect the total number of antenatal care visits for which there is documentation included in the antenatal record. To be collected once, after the onset of labour. Include all medical specialist appointments or medical specialist clinic appointments where the provider of the service event has documented the visit on the antenatal record.

Multiple visits on the same day should be recorded as one visit.

Comments: The scope and definition of antenatal care visits was developed through consultation with stakeholders from midwifery, obstetrics, perinatal data managers and other interested parties in 2010.

Antenatal care visits for females with an uncomplicated pregnancy should include advice, education, reassurance, support and treatment for minor problems of pregnancy, as well as effective screening throughout the pregnancy, to identify problems as they arise, with referral as appropriate (Breeze & Kean 2009).

The number of antenatal care visits is an indicator of access and use of health care during pregnancy. The antenatal period presents opportunities for reaching pregnant females with interventions that may be vital to their health and wellbeing and that of their infants. Receiving antenatal care at least four times, as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), increases the likelihood of receiving effective maternal health interventions during antenatal visits (WHO 2015).

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Reference documents: Breeze A & Kean L 2009. Routine antenatal management at the booking clinic. *Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine* 20(1):1–6.

Clinical Practice Improvement Unit 2006. 3Centre consensus guidelines on antenatal care. Melbourne: 3Centres Collaboration.

WHO (World Health Organization) 2015. World health statistics 2015: indicator compendium. Geneva: WHO. Viewed 12 May 2017, http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/WHS2015_IndicatorCompendium.pdf?ua=1.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Female—number of antenatal care visits, total N\[N\] Health!](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

Has been superseded by [Female—number of antenatal care visits, total N\[N\] Health!](#), Standard 20/11/2019

[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 03/07/2020

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Perinatal NMDS 2019–20 Health!](#), Superseded 03/12/2020

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

Implementation end date: 30/06/2020