
Data quality information — Services for people with disability, chapter 14

Data Quality Information

Data quality information (DQI) has been prepared for the first time for the 2011 Report on Government Services. DQI provides information for a selection of performance indicators in the Services for people with disability chapter. DQI for additional indicators will be progressively introduced in future reports.

Where RoGS indicators align with National Agreement indicators, DQI has been sourced from the Steering Committee's reports on National Agreements to the COAG Reform Council.

Technical DQI has been supplied or agreed by relevant data providers. Additional Steering Committee commentary does not necessarily reflect the views of data providers.

DQI are available for the following performance indicators:

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Access to CSTDA/NDA funded services

Data quality information for this indicator has been sourced from the Steering Committee's report to the COAG Reform Council on the National Disability Agreement (data supplied by AIHW) with additional Steering Committee comments.

Indicator definition and description

Element	Equity — access.
Indicators	Access to CSTDA/NDA funded services.
Measure (computation)	<p>1. Numerator: Number of users of specialist disability services aged 0–64 years in the reporting period.</p> <p>2. Denominator: Estimated potential population for specialist disability services on 30 June at start of reporting period.</p> <p>The potential population is defined as people aged under 65 years with profound or severe core activity limitation.</p> <p>Potential population for a reporting period is calculated by applying age-sex-specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation (from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) 2003) to the 30 June Estimated Residential Population (ERP) at the beginning of the reporting period by State/Territory by age group by sex. No Indigenous weight or scaling factor is used. National level age-sex rates from SDAC 2003, rather than State/Territory-age-sex rates are used due to the high sampling errors associated with some of the State/Territory-age-sex rate estimates. Estimates of potential population by country of birth and Remoteness Area are calculated by applying the Census 06 distributions of country of birth and Remoteness Area for people who need assistance with core activities by State/Territory by age group by sex to the State/Territory by age group by sex potential population estimates.</p> <p>3. Percentage: $R/N \times 100$ where R = number of service users aged 0–64 years in the CSTDA NMDS during the reporting period and N = estimated potential population on 30 June at the start of the reporting period.</p> <p>Performance indicators for disability services provided by the Australian Government (disability employment services only) are restricted to the age range 15–64 years.</p>
Data source/s	<p>Numerator: CSTDA NMDS. For general issues relating to the CSTDA NMDS, refer to the CSTDA NMDS data quality information.</p> <p>Denominator: AIHW calculation of potential population from SDAC, Census and ERP (see ABS data quality statements).</p>

Data Quality Framework Dimensions

Institutional environment	<p>The AIHW is an Australian Government statutory authority accountable to Parliament and operates under the provisions of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987. The AIHW provides expert analysis of data on health, housing and community services. More information about the AIHW is available on the AIHW website.</p> <p>For general issues relating to the CSTDA NMDS, refer to the CSTDA NMDS data quality information.</p> <p>For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, please see ABS Institutional Environment.</p>
Relevance	<p>Data from several different sources, each referencing different time periods, are used to produce performance indicators. Data used are from the CSTDA NMDS 2007–08 and 2008–09, SDAC 2003, ERP June 2007 and June 2008, and Census 2006. This may reduce the overall accuracy of the estimates. In</p>

particular:

- Data from the CSTDA NMDS 2007–08 and 2008–09, ERP June 2007 and June 2008 and Census 2006 cover all geographical areas of Australia, whereas the SDAC 2003 does not cover very remote areas nor Indigenous communities
- The use of SDAC 2003 age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation to calculate 2007 and 2008 estimates of potential population assumes these rates to be consistent over time. The assumption of constant age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation over time is not contradicted by historical SDAC data up to 2003. Data are not available to test whether rates have been stable since 2003 but no research has shown a change to the relative stability of age-sex specific disability prevalence
- The use of national level SDAC 2003 age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation assumes these rates to be consistent across states/territories. This assumption is untested
- Information from Census 2006 about people with need for assistance with core activities is based on the self enumerated completion of four questions, whereas people are defined as having a severe/profound core activity limitation in SDAC 2003 on the basis of a comprehensive interviewer administered module of questions, and thus the two populations are different although they are conceptually related
- The use of Census 2006 data about country of birth and Remoteness Area distributions for people with need for assistance with core activities assumes these distributions to be consistent over time. This assumption is untested.

CSTDA NMDS data are generated by processes that deliver services to people. It is assumed that these processes involve the determination of eligibility and the assessment of disability support needs following broadly consistent principles across jurisdictions. However, this assumption is untested.

The scope of services provided under the CSTDA/NDA varied across jurisdictions. In Victoria, Queensland and WA (in some cases), specialist psychiatric disability services were provided under the CSTDA/NDA. In all other jurisdictions specific mental health services were funded and provided under health, rather than disability, portfolios. To facilitate comparability of data, specialist psychiatric disability services in Victoria, Queensland and WA are excluded from the NDA performance indicators. That is, the data excludes those who only receive specialist psychiatric disability services, but does not exclude those people with a psychiatric condition who receive other specialist disability services. In addition, the predominant service models vary across jurisdictions, and this may affect comparability of data. For example, differences across the states and territories in the predominant model of accommodation support lead to differences in the number of people accessing those services. Caution is recommended in the use or interpretation of performance at the service type level. There is a risk when service type level data is interpreted in isolation as various service types are complementary and the emphasis on different services reflects jurisdictional policy directions.

Timeliness

CSTDA NMDS 2007–08 and 2008–09

ABS SDAC 2003; Census 2006; Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2007 and 30 June 2008

Accuracy

Potential sources of error in the CSTDA NMDS are data items for which the response is not stated or not collected. If the characteristics of the people for whom the information is not available are different to those people for whom information is reported, there is potential for bias to be introduced into the data.

Not stated/not collected rates vary substantially across jurisdictions and data items. The data item need for assistance has a particularly high not stated/not collected rate. For the 2007–08 data set the rate was 20.3 per cent overall, ranging from 5.3 per cent for Tasmania to 40.2 per cent for Victoria. For the 2008–09 data set the rate was 14.1 per cent overall, ranging from 0.2 per cent for Australian Government agencies to 41.8 per cent for Victorian agencies.

For general issues relating to the CSTDA NMDS, refer to the CSTDA NMDS data quality information.

Being a sample survey, estimates from the SDAC 2003 are subject to sampling variability. A measure of the sampling variability, the relative standard error (RSE) percent, is estimated below for the age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation.

Estimated RSE for age-sex rates of severe/profound core activity limitation at national level (per cent)

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0-4	13.5	22.3
5-14	9.8	12.3
15-24	15.7	15.9
25-34	14.6	12.0
35-44	11.8	11.4
45-54	9.8	9.2
55-64	9.6	7.3

Source: AIHW analysis of SDAC 2003 CURF

Potential sources of error in Census data include failure to return a Census form or failure to answer applicable questions. Data distributions calculated from Census 2006 data excluded people for whom data item information was not available. Should the characteristics of interest of the people excluded differ from those people included, there is potential for bias to be introduced into the data distributions. Quality statements about Census 2006 data items can be found on the ABS website.

See also ABS data quality statements.

Coherence

For general issues relating to the CSTDA NMDS, refer to the CSTDA NMDS data quality information.

There are issues with the consistency of the numerator and denominator for this performance indicator, as the numerator and denominator are drawn from differently defined populations and different data sources. These issues reduce the consistency of the performance indicators and lead to quality issues such as cells greater than 100 per cent.

While the numerator is taken from the CSTDA NMDS, the denominator is an estimate derived from SDAC, ERP and Census data. In the denominator, 'estimated potential population for specialist disability services' is defined as the estimated population with severe or profound core activity limitation. However, this does not match well with the numerator, which consists of people who used specialist disability services. People who used these services do not necessarily have a severe or profound core activity limitation (mobility, communication, or self-care). They may instead have a mild/moderate core activity limitation or limitations in other activities—for example, with working or education. This mismatch is more evident in certain types of services, such as open employment services, which are not necessarily tailored towards people with a severe or profound core activity limitation.

Accessibility	<p>The calculation of potential population (revised method) for the denominator, used to calculate the country of birth and remoteness disaggregations is the same as the calculation of potential population (unrevised method).</p> <p>The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the CSTDA NMDS. Published products available on the AIHW website are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability support services (annual report) • Interactive disability data cubes • Ad hoc data are available on request (charges apply to recover costs) • METeOR – online metadata repository • National Community Services Data Dictionary. <p>The ABS website provides information and data on the ERP, Census Need for Assistance and SDAC profound/ severe core-activity limitation. Detailed data extractions are available through the National Information Referral Service (cost-recovery applies).</p>
Interpretability	<p>Supporting information on the quality and use of the CSTDA NMDS are published annually in 'Disability support services' available in hard copy or on the AIHW website (<www.aihw.gov.au>).</p>

Data Gaps/Issues Analysis

Key data gaps/ issues	<p>The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTDA NMDS data are generated by processes that deliver services to people. It is assumed that these processes involve the assessment of disability support needs following broadly consistent principles and practices across jurisdictions. However, this assumption is untested • Data measuring the potential population is not explicitly available for the required time point and so has been estimated from several difference sources under several key assumptions. The assumption of constant age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation over time is not contradicted by historical SDAC data up to 2003. Data are not available to test whether rates have been stable since 2003 but no research has shown a change to the relative stability of age-sex specific disability prevalence. A further assumption that national level age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation from the 2003 SDAC apply consistently across states/territories is untested • There are issues with the consistency of the numerator and denominator for this performance indicator, as the numerator and denominator are drawn from differently defined populations and different data sources.
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Service use by severity of disability

Data quality information for this indicator has been sourced from the Steering Committee's report to the COAG Reform Council on the National Disability Agreement (data supplied by AIHW) with additional Steering Committee comments.

Indicator definition and description

Element	Equity — access.
Indicators	Service use by severity of disability.
Measure (computation)	<p>1. Numerator: Number of users of specialist disability services aged 0–64 years in the reporting period.</p> <p>2. Denominator: Estimated potential population for specialist disability services on 30 June at start of reporting period.</p> <p>The potential population is defined as people aged under 65 years with profound or severe core activity limitation.</p> <p>Potential population for a reporting period is calculated by applying age-sex-specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation (from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) 2003) to the 30 June Estimated Residential Population (ERP) at the beginning of the reporting period by State/Territory by age group by sex. No Indigenous weight or scaling factor is used. National level age-sex rates from SDAC 2003, rather than State/Territory-age-sex rates are used due to the high sampling errors associated with some of the State/Territory-age-sex rate estimates. Estimates of potential population by country of birth and Remoteness Area are calculated by applying the Census 06 distributions of country of birth and Remoteness Area for people who need assistance with core activities by State/Territory by age group by sex to the State/Territory by age group by sex potential population estimates.</p> <p>3. Percentage: $R/N \times 100$ where R = number of service users aged 0–64 years in the CSTDA NMDS during the reporting period and N = estimated potential population on 30 June at the start of the reporting period.</p> <p>Performance indicators for disability services provided by the Australian Government (disability employment services only) are restricted to the age range 15–64 years.</p>
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Service use by special needs groups

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Indicator definition and description

Element	Equity — access.
Indicators	Service use by special needs groups.
Measure (computation)	<p>1. Numerator: Number of users of specialist disability services aged 0–64 years in the reporting period.</p> <p>2. Denominator: Estimated potential population for specialist disability services on 30 June at start of reporting period.</p> <p>The potential population is defined as people aged under 65 years with profound or severe core activity limitation.</p> <p>Potential population for a reporting period is calculated by applying age-sex-specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation (from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) 2003) to the 30 June Estimated Residential Population (ERP) at the beginning of the reporting period by State/Territory by age group by sex. No Indigenous weight or scaling factor is used. National level age-sex rates from SDAC 2003, rather than State/Territory-age-sex rates are used due to the high sampling errors associated with some of the State/Territory-age-sex rate estimates. Estimates of potential population by country of birth and Remoteness Area are calculated by applying the Census 06 distributions of country of birth and Remoteness Area for people who need assistance with core activities by State/Territory by age group by sex to the State/Territory by age group by sex potential population estimates.</p> <p>3. Percentage: $R/N \times 100$ where R = number of service users aged 0–64 years in the CSTDA NMDS during the reporting period and N = estimated potential population on 30 June at the start of the reporting period.</p> <p>Performance indicators for disability services provided by the Australian Government (disability employment services only) are restricted to the age range 15–64 years.</p>
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Interpretability	<p>Supporting information on the quality and use of the CSTDA NMDS are published annually in 'Disability support services' available in hard copy or on the AIHW website (<www.aihw.gov.au>).</p>

Data Gaps/Issues Analysis

Key data gaps/ issues	<p>The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTDA NMDS data are generated by processes that deliver services to people. It is assumed that these processes involve the assessment of disability support needs following broadly consistent principles and practices across jurisdictions. However, this assumption is untested • Data measuring the potential population is not explicitly available for the required time point and so has been estimated from several difference sources under several key assumptions. The assumption of constant age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation over time is not contradicted by historical SDAC data up to 2003. Data are not available to test whether rates have been stable since 2003 but no research has shown a change to the relative stability of age-sex specific disability prevalence. A further assumption that national level age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation from the 2003 SDAC apply consistently across states/territories is untested • There are issues with the consistency of the numerator and denominator for this performance indicator, as the numerator and denominator are drawn from differently defined populations and different data sources.
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Service use by special needs groups – Indigenous people

Data quality information for this indicator has been sourced from the Steering Committee's report to the COAG Reform Council on the National Disability Agreement (data supplied by AIHW) with additional Steering Committee comments.

Indicator definition and description

Element	Equity – access.
Indicator	Service use by special needs groups – Indigenous people.
Measure (computation)	<p>1. Numerator: Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 0–64 years who used specialist disability services in the reporting period.</p> <p>2. Denominator: Estimated Indigenous potential population for disability services aged 0–64 years on 30 June at start of reporting period.</p> <p>The potential population is defined as people aged under 65 years with profound or severe core activity limitation.</p> <p>The Indigenous potential population is calculated by applying adjusted age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation (from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) 2003) to the 30 June Indigenous Projected Population at the beginning of the reporting period by State/Territory by age group by sex. Research indicates that the age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation are significantly different for Indigenous people as compared to non-Indigenous people, hence an adjustment to account for these differences must be applied to national level all person age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation. National level age-sex rates from SDAC 2003, rather than State/Territory-age-sex rates are used due to the high sampling errors associated with some of the State/Territory-age-sex rate estimates. The national level age-sex rates from SDAC 2003 are adjusted by the rate ratio of the Indigenous State/Territory-age-sex rate of need for assistance with core activities to the all persons State/Territory-age-sex rate of need for assistance with core activities, as calculated from Census 2006 data. Estimates of Indigenous potential population by Remoteness Area are calculated by applying the Census 06 distributions of Remoteness Area for people who need assistance with core activities by State/Territory by age group by sex to the State/Territory by age group by sex Indigenous potential population estimates.</p> <p>3. Percentage: $R/N \times 100$ where R = number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 0–64 years who used specialist disability services in the reporting period and N = estimated Indigenous potential population aged 0–64 years on 30 June at start of reporting period.</p> <p>Performance Indicators reporting on disability services funded by the Australian Government (employment services only) are restricted to the age range 15–64 years and not stated age.</p>
Data source/s	<p>Numerator: CSTDA NMDS. For general issues relating to the CSTDA NMDS, refer to the CSTDA NMDS data quality information.</p> <p>Denominator: AIHW calculation of Indigenous potential population from SDAC, Census and Indigenous Projected Population.</p>

Data Quality Framework Dimensions

Institutional environment	The AIHW is an Australian Government statutory authority accountable to Parliament and operates under the provisions of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987. The AIHW provides expert analysis of data on health, housing and community services. More information about the AIHW is
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Relevance

available on the AIHW website.

For general issues relating to the CSTDA NMDS, refer to the CSTDA NMDS data quality information.

For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, please see [ABS Institutional Environment](#).

Data from several different sources, each referencing different time periods, are used to produce performance indicator. Data used are from the CSTDA NMDS 2007–08 and 2008–2009, SDAC 2003, Indigenous Projected Population June 2007 and June 2008, and Census 2006. This may reduce the overall quality of the estimates.

- Indigeneity was not collected in the SDAC 2003, so a rate ratio adjustment, calculated from information from the Census, is made to the national all person age-sex specific severe/profound core activity limitation rates, as detailed in the Measure section. The use of these adjustments assumes consistency between the rate ratio as calculated from Census information, and the corresponding information if it were collected from the SDAC 2003. Two particular points of note with regards to this assumption are:
 1. Information from Census 2006 about people with need for assistance with core activities is based on the self enumeration (interview in Indigenous communities) of four questions, whereas people are defined as having a severe/profound core activity limitation in SDAC 2003 on the basis of a comprehensive interviewer administered module of questions, and thus the two populations are different, although they are conceptually related.
 2. ABS research indicates that the Indigenous identification rate differs between the Census and interviewer administered surveys.
- The cultural appropriateness for Indigenous people, of data collection instruments designed for the total population is not known; nor is it known how this, combined with different data collection methods, impacts on the accuracy of the estimated Indigenous potential population used in this indicator.

CSTDA NMDS data are generated by processes that deliver services to people. It is assumed that these processes involve the determination of eligibility and the assessment of disability support needs following broadly consistent principles across jurisdictions. However, this assumption is untested.

The scope of services provided under the CSTDA/NDA varied across jurisdictions. In Victoria, Queensland and WA (in some cases), specialist psychiatric disability services were provided under the CSTDA/NDA. In all other jurisdictions specific mental health services were funded and provided under health, rather than disability, portfolios. To facilitate comparability of data, specialist psychiatric disability services in Victoria, Queensland and WA are excluded from the NDA performance indicators. That is, the data excludes those who only receive specialist psychiatric disability services, but does not exclude those people with a psychiatric condition who receive other specialist disability services. In addition, the predominant service models vary across jurisdictions, and this may affect comparability of data. For example, differences across the states and territories in the predominant model of accommodation support lead to differences in the number of people accessing those services. Caution is recommended in the use or interpretation of performance at the service type level. There is a risk when service type level data is interpreted in isolation as various service types are complementary and the emphasis on different services reflects jurisdictional policy directions. For more information, see Disability support services 2007–08 and Disability support services 2008–09 (forthcoming).

Timeliness CSTDA NMDS 2007–08 and 2008–09
ABS SDAC 2003; Census 2006; Indigenous projected population at 30 June 2007 and 30 June 2008 (projected population is based on data from the 2006 Census).

Accuracy A potential source of error in the CSTDA NMDS is people for whom Indigenous status is not stated or not collected. For 2008–09, the not stated/not collected rate varied across jurisdictions from a low rate of 0.2 per cent for Australian Government agencies, to a high rate of 12.6 per cent for Victorian agencies; the overall rate being 4.6 per cent. For 2007–08, the not stated/not collected rate varied across jurisdictions from a low rate of 0.1 per cent for Australian Government agencies, to a high rate of 12.1 per cent for Victorian agencies; the overall rate being 4.7 per cent. See the accompanying appendix for further details. Not stated or not collected Indigenous status may introduce bias into the results affecting both the accuracy of estimates and the comparability of estimates across jurisdictions. In addition, a coding audit of the Indigenous status data item has not been undertaken, thus the accuracy of the rate of Indigenous identification in the NMDS is not known.

For general issues relating to the CSTDA NMDS, refer to the CSTDA NMDS data quality information.

Being a sample survey, estimates from the SDAC 2003 are subject to sampling variability. A measure of the sampling variability, the relative standard error (RSE) per cent, was estimated for the age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation and can be found in the Accuracy section of the data quality information.

The cultural appropriateness for Indigenous people of data collection instruments designed for the total population is not known. Poor cultural sensitivity of data collection instruments is a potential source of non-sampling error which affects the accuracy of Indigenous potential population estimates. The size of this error, if present, cannot be measured.

Potential sources of error in Census include failure to return a Census form or failure to answer every applicable question. Information calculated from Census 2006 data excludes people for whom data item information was not available. Should the characteristics of interest of the people excluded differ from those people included, there is potential for bias to be introduced. In particular for Indigenous estimates, undercounting of Indigenous Australians may introduce bias into the results which would affect the comparability of estimates across jurisdictions. The net Census undercount for all Indigenous Australians was estimated at 11.5 per cent, calculated as the difference between the Census count and estimated Indigenous population on Census night. Estimates of the Indigenous net undercount for all jurisdictions are included below.

Estimated Indigenous net Census undercount

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Undercount rate %</i>
NSW	8.6
Vic	9.4
Qld	11.6
WA	16.6
SA	8.6
Tas	8.8
ACT	8.8
NT	16.0

Source: ABS Cat no. 3238.0.55.001

	<p>Quality statements about Census 2006 data items can be found on the ABS website.</p> <p>For general issues relating to the SDAC, Census and Indigenous Projected Population, refer to ABS data quality statements.</p>
Coherence	<p>For general issues relating to the CSTDA NMDS, refer to the CSTDA NMDS data quality information.</p> <p>There are issues with the consistency of the numerator and denominator for this performance indicator, as the numerator and denominator are drawn from differently defined populations and different data sources. These issues reduce the consistency of the performance indicators and lead to quality issues such as cells greater than 100 per cent. For example, the proportion of the 15–24 year old Victorian Indigenous potential population accessing State/Territory delivered disability support services 2008–09 is reported to be 109.7 per cent (100.9 per cent in 2007–08). A combination of data quality issues, as discussed in this and previous sections, has led to this impossible figure.</p> <p>While the numerator is taken from the CSTDA NMDS, the denominator is an estimate derived from SDAC, Indigenous Projected Population and Census data. In the denominator, ‘estimated potential population for specialist disability services’ is defined as the estimated population with severe or profound core activity limitation. However, this does not match well with the numerator, which consists of people who used specialist disability services. People who used these services do not necessarily have a severe or profound core activity limitation (mobility, communication, or self-care). They may instead have a mild/moderate core activity limitation or limitations in other activities—for example, with working or education. This mismatch is more evident in certain types of services, such as open employment services, which are not necessarily tailored towards people with a severe or profound core activity limitation.</p> <p>The method used to calculate the Indigenous potential population (revised method) estimates is the same method used to calculate the Indigenous potential population (unrevised method) estimates.</p> <p>For general issues relating to the SDAC, Census and Indigenous Projected Population, refer to ABS data quality statements.</p>
Accessibility	<p>The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the CSTDA NMDS. Published products available on the AIHW website are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability support services (annual report) • Interactive disability data cubes • Ad hoc data are available on request (charges apply to recover costs) • METeOR – online metadata repository • National Community Services Data Dictionary. <p>The ABS website provides information and data on the ERP and the Indigenous Project Population, Census Need for Assistance and SDAC profound/ severe core-activity limitation. Detailed data extractions are available through the National Information Referral Service (cost-recovery applies).</p>
Interpretability	<p>Supporting information on the quality and use of the CSTDA NMDS are published annually in ‘Disability support services’ available in hard copy or on the AIHW website (<www.aihw.gov.au>).</p>

Data Gaps/Issues Analysis

Key data gaps/ issues	<p>The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of data about Indigeneity varies substantially between jurisdictions and data sources. Caution should be exercised when
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interpreting these data. It is recommended that these data be viewed in close conjunction with information about the data quality

- CSTDA NMDS data are generated by processes that deliver services to people. It is assumed that these processes involve the assessment of disability support needs following broadly consistent principles and practices across jurisdictions. However, this assumption is untested
- Data measuring the Indigenous potential population is not explicitly available for the required time point and so has been estimated from several different data sources under several key assumptions. Previous research has confirmed that Indigenous Australians experience severe or profound core activity limitation at more than twice the rate as non-Indigenous Australians but relative rates by age group and sex, across states and territories and remoteness areas, have not been fully investigated. In particular, caution should be exercised in comparing indicators for jurisdictions with very different remoteness area distributions of Indigenous population
- The use of 2006 Census data to adjust underlying age-sex specific rates of severe or profound core activity limitation to account for the higher level of disability among Indigenous Australians involves mixing self-report data from a relatively simple instrument for measuring need for assistance with sample survey data collected by trained interviewers using a comprehensive survey instrument. The cultural appropriateness for Indigenous people of data collection instruments designed for the total population is not known; nor is it known how this, combined with different data collection methods, impacts on the accuracy of the estimated Indigenous potential population used in this indicator
- There are issues with the consistency of the numerator and denominator for this performance indicator, as the numerator and denominator are drawn from differently defined populations and different data sources.

Assistance for younger people in residential aged care

Data quality information for this indicator has been sourced from the Steering Committee's report to the COAG Reform Council on the National Disability Agreement (data supplied by AIHW) with additional Steering Committee comments.

Indicator definition and description

Element	Equity – access.
Indicator	Assistance for younger people in residential aged care.
Measure (computation)	<p>1. Numerator: Number of younger people with disability in residential aged care assisted with more appropriate forms of accommodation, diversionary strategies and/or enhanced services.</p> <p>Measure (1): Number of people aged 0–64 years admitted to permanent residential aged care in the reporting period.</p> <p>Measure (2): Number of people aged 0–64 years receiving permanent residential aged care services in the reporting period.</p> <p>Measure (3): Number of people aged 0–64 years who separated from permanent residential aged care to return to home/family in the reporting period.</p> <p>2. Denominator: Measure (1): Estimated potential population for specialist disability services on 30 June at start of reporting period.</p> <p>The potential population is defined as people aged under 65 years with profound or severe core activity limitation.</p> <p>Potential population for a reporting period is calculated by applying age-sex-specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation (from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) 2003) to the 30 June Estimated Residential Population (ERP) at the beginning of the reporting period by State/Territory by age group by sex. No Indigenous weight or scaling factor is used. National level age-sex rates from SDAC 2003, rather than State/Territory-age-sex rates are used due to the high sampling errors associated with some of the State/Territory-age-sex rate estimates.</p> <p>3. Rate: For measure (1): $R/N \times 10,000$ where R = number of younger people with disability aged 0–64 years admitted to permanent residential aged care in the reporting period and N = estimated potential population on 30 June at the start of the reporting period.</p>
Data source/s	<p>Numerator: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) aged care data warehouse. The aged care data warehouse is a consolidated data warehouse of service provider and service recipient data held by the Ageing and Aged Care Division and the Office of Aged Care Quality and Compliance of the Department of Health and Ageing.</p> <p>Denominator: AIHW calculation of potential population from SDAC and ERP (refer to ABS data quality statements).</p>

Data Quality Framework Dimensions

Institutional environment	<p>Approved providers of residential and community care submit data to Medicare Australia to claim subsidies from the Australian Government. This data is provided to the Department of Health and Ageing to administer services under the Aged Care Act 1997 and the Aged Care Principles. The data for the numerator of this benchmark were prepared by the DoHA. The AIHW did not have all of the relevant datasets required to independently verify the data tables for this indicator.</p> <p>The AIHW is an Australian Government statutory authority accountable to</p>
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Parliament and operates under the provisions of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987. The AIHW provides expert analysis of data on health, housing and community services. More information about the AIHW is available on the AIHW website.

For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

Relevance

Data from several different sources, each referencing different time periods, are used to produce the performance indicator. Data used are from the DoHA aged care data warehouse, SDAC 2003, and ERP June 2007 and June 2008. This may reduce the overall accuracy of the estimates. In particular:

- Data from DoHA aged care data warehouse, ERP June 2007 and Census 2006 cover all geographical areas of Australia, whereas the SDAC 2003 does not cover very remote areas nor Indigenous communities
- The use of SDAC 2003 age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation to calculate 2007 and 2008 estimates of potential population assumes these rates to be consistent over time. The assumption of constant age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation over time is not contradicted by historical SDAC data up to 2003. Data are not available to test whether rates have been stable since 2003 but no research has shown a change to the relative stability of age-sex specific disability prevalence
- The use of national level SDAC 2003 age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation assumes these rates to be consistent across states/territories. This assumption is untested.

The DoHA aged care data warehouse provides complete coverage of aged care services funded by the Australian Government under residential age care, Community Aged Care Packages (CACP), Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH), and Extended Age Care at Home Dementia (EACHD) programs.

Timeliness

DoHA aged care data warehouse: Claims are submitted by approved providers on a monthly basis for services delivered under residential age care, CACP, EACH and EACHD. Data for the previous financial year are available in October each year.

ABS SDAC 2003; Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2007, 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009.

Accuracy

The DoHA aged care data used to calculate the numerator of this benchmark are from an administrative data collection designed for payment of subsidies to service providers and have accurate data on the number and location of funded aged care places.

Being a sample survey, estimates from the SDAC 2003 are subject to sampling variability. A measure of the sampling variability, the relative standard error (RSE) per cent, is estimated below for the age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation.

Estimated RSE for age-sex rates of severe/profound core activity limitation at national level (per cent)

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0-4	13.5	22.3
5-14	9.8	12.3
15-24	15.7	15.9
25-34	14.6	12.0
35-44	11.8	11.4
45-54	9.8	9.2
55-64	9.6	7.3

Source: AIHW analysis of SDAC 2003 CURF

Coherence	<p>See also ABS data quality statements regarding SDAC.</p> <p>The DoHA aged care data used to construct the numerator of this benchmark are consistent and comparable over time.</p> <p>For measure (1), there are issues with the consistency of the numerator and denominator, as the numerator and denominator are drawn from differently defined populations and different data sources. These issues reduce the consistency of the performance indicators and lead to quality issues such as cells greater than 100 per cent.</p> <p>While the numerator is taken from the DoHA aged care data warehouse, the denominator is an estimate derived from SDAC and ERP data. In the denominator, 'estimated potential population for specialist disability services' is defined as the estimated population with severe or profound core activity limitation. However, this does not match well with the numerator, which consists of people who used specialist residential aged care services. People who used these services do not necessarily have a severe or profound core activity limitation (mobility, communication, or self-care). They may instead have a mild/moderate core activity limitation or limitations in other activities.</p>
Accessibility	<p>Information on definitions used in the DoHA aged care data warehouse is available in the Aged Care Act 1997 and Aged Care Principles, and in the Residential Aged Care Manual 2009.</p> <p>The ABS website provides information and data on the ERP and SDAC profound/ severe core-activity limitation. Detailed data extractions are available through the National Information Referral Service (cost-recovery applies).</p>
Interpretability	<p>Aggregated data can be obtained on request from the Department of Health and Ageing.</p>

Data Gaps/Issues Analysis

Key data gaps/ issues	<p>The Steering Committee notes the following key data gaps/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The data used to measure the number of younger people in residential aged care are from an administrative data collection designed for payment of subsidies to service providers and have accurate data on the number and location of funded aged care places• Data measuring the potential population is not explicitly available for the required time point and so has been estimated from several difference sources under several key assumptions. The assumption of constant age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation over time is not contradicted by historical SDAC data up to 2003. Data are not available to test whether rates have been stable since 2003 but no research has shown a change to the relative stability of age-sex specific disability prevalence. A further assumption that national level age-sex specific rates of severe/profound core activity limitation from the 2003 SDAC apply consistently across states/territories is untested• There are issues with the consistency of the numerator and denominator for this performance benchmark, as the numerator and denominator are drawn from differently defined populations and different data sources.
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CSTDA National Minimum Data Set 2007–08 and 2008–09

Data quality information for this indicator has been sourced from the Steering Committee's report to the COAG Reform Council on the National Disability Agreement (data supplied by AIHW) with additional Steering Committee comments.

Indicator definition and description

Element	Equity — Access to appropriate services on the basis of relative need.
Indicator	Various — Access to CSTDA/NDA funded service, Service use by severity of disability, Service use by special needs groups, Assistance for younger people in residential aged care.
Measure (computation)	Various — Refer to respective DQI for indicators.
Data source/s	<p>The Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement National Minimum Data Set (CSTDA NMDS). This data set provides annual estimates of the number of people who used specialist disability support services funded under the 2002–2007 CSTDA.</p> <p>The CSTDA was replaced by the National Disability Agreement (NDA) from 1 January 2009 and the CSTDA NMDS was renamed the Disability Services (DS) NMDS from 1 July 2009. Further information about the DS/CSTDA NMDS is available on the AIHW website.</p>

Data Quality Framework Dimensions

Institutional environment	<p>Under the CSTDA, all State and Territory governments and the Australian Government were required to provide data annually for the CSTDA NMDS, and were responsible for the quality and timeliness of the data.</p> <p>CSTDA NMDS data were provided by both non-government service providers and State/Territory and Australian Government agencies. Service providers collated data in relation to each of their CSTDA-funded service type outlets, as well as the service users who accessed these outlets. A limited number of data items were provided by government agencies. Government agencies compiled, edited and verified the data, and supplied a final data set to the AIHW for further verification, national collation and analysis.</p> <p>The set of privacy and data principles for the CSTDA NMDS collection are outlined in the Data Guide, the most recent version of which is available on the AIHW website.</p> <p>The AIHW is an Australian Government statutory authority accountable to Parliament and operates under the provisions of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987. This Act ensures that the data collections managed by the AIHW are kept securely and under strict conditions with respect to privacy and confidentiality. More information about the AIHW is available on the AIHW website.</p> <p>When errors are found in published data, those errors are corrected immediately in publications on the AIHW website, and where necessary, in on-line tables and online interactive data cubes. Corrections are documented on the AIHW website.</p>
Relevance	<p>The CSTDA NMDS collects data about specialist disability support services according to nationally agreed data definitions. The 2007–08 dataset includes services received, or purchased with, funding under the third CSTDA during the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. This may be used as a reference or 'baseline' year but the 2007–08 data do not reflect service delivery under the National Disability Agreement. The 2008–09 dataset includes services received, or purchased with, funding under the third CSTDA during the period</p>

1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008, and/or provided under the NDA during the period 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009.

Data collected in the CSTDA NMDS includes characteristics of specialist disability services provided during the reporting period, the people receiving services and the outlets providing services. Disaggregation by State and Territory, Remoteness Area, demographic characteristics, support needs, broad service groups and service types are available.

The scope of services varied in terms of programs that were provided under the CSTDA/NDA across jurisdictions. In particular, the provision of specialist psychiatric disability and early childhood intervention services differed across states and territories. In Victoria, Queensland and WA (in some cases), specialist psychiatric disability services were provided under the CSTDA/NDA. In all other jurisdictions specific mental health services were funded and provided under health, rather than disability, portfolios. To facilitate comparability of data, specialist psychiatric disability services in Victoria, Queensland and WA are excluded from the NDA performance indicators. That is, the data excludes those who only receive specialist psychiatric disability services, but does not exclude those people with a psychiatric condition who receive other specialist disability services. In addition, the predominant service models vary across jurisdictions, and this may affect comparability of data. For example, differences across the states and territories in the predominant model of accommodation support lead to differences in the number of people accessing those services. Caution is recommended in the use or interpretation of performance at the service type level. There is a risk when service type level data is interpreted in isolation as various service types are complementary and the emphasis on different services reflects jurisdictional policy directions. For more information, see Disability support services 2007–08 and Disability support services 2008–09 (forthcoming).

Counts of service users are estimates derived using a statistical linkage key. Invalid or incomplete linkage keys mean that it is not possible to fully eliminate multiple counting of service users. This is believed to lead to a slight overestimate of service user numbers. In 2007–08, the proportion of invalid linkage keys was 0.9 per cent, ranging from zero to 2.7 per cent of the total number of service user records in each jurisdiction. In 2008–09, the proportion of invalid linkage keys was 0.4 per cent, ranging from zero to 1.3 per cent of the total number of service user records in each jurisdiction. A small number of invalid linkage keys were recovered for the final data sets by comparison with records from current or previous years.

The process for collecting the statistical linkage key in Victoria leads to a relatively high number of invalid linkage keys and an associated high estimate of service users. In Victoria, the process for collecting service user information is an 'opt-in' approach. All other states and territories follow an 'opt-out' approach in which individuals may elect not to provide their information for the NMDS, however, procedures for opting out of the data collection vary. This affects the comparability of counts of service users across jurisdictions.

Data on service users were not collected for all people who received a CSTDA/NDA-provided service. In particular, service user information was not required to be collected for people who accessed advocacy, information and alternative formats of communication services or 'other support' services including research and evaluation, training and development and peak bodies. In addition, some service types were not required to collect selected service user data items—for example, recreation/holiday programs were only required to collect statistical linkage key data, and disability employment services were not required to collect selected informal carer data items. Of particular note is information collected to enable the determination of need for

assistance: some of these data items are not applicable to younger age groups, and some services did not collect these data. The category 'Need for assistance not determined' includes these service users, as well as service users for whom the information was not adequately supplied. For more information, refer to the CSTDA NMDS report, Disability support services (published annually).

Timeliness

Data for the CSTDA NMDS are compiled and reported on an annual basis. Data from the 2007–08 CSTDA NMDS were released in December 2009, and revised data will be released on the AIHW website in early 2011. Data from the 2008–09 CSTDA NMDS are due to be released in January 2011. The NDA performance indicators reflect the 2007–08 CSTDA data set as initially confirmed by State/Territory and Australian Government agencies on 13 March 2009 with revisions applied as endorsed by NDIMG on 23 July 2010. The 2008–09 CSTDA NMDS data set was confirmed by State/Territory and Australian Government agencies on 29 July 2010.

Accuracy

The CSTDA NMDS aims to provide complete national data on all CSTDA-funded services, service type outlets and service users each year. The national response rate for service type outlets is based on the number of service type outlets that responded out of the total number of funded outlets in each jurisdiction (95 per cent in 2007–08 and 96 per cent in 2008–09). It is not possible to calculate a national response rate for service users, as some outlets do not report on all service users due to administrative or other error. In addition, some service types are not required to report service user information.

'Not stated/not collected' rates for individual data items varied substantially across items and jurisdictions. Further information about 'not stated/not collected' rates is available in the accompanying appendix tables.

The 2007–08 CSTDA NMDS data was initially confirmed by State/Territory and Australian Government agencies on 13 March 2009. Some coding errors were subsequently identified and, following NDIMG endorsement on 23 July 2010, revisions were made to the data set. The revised data set was used to produce the 2007–08 performance indicators in this report. The 2008–09 CSTDA NMDS data confirmed by State/Territory and Australian Government agencies on 29 July 2010 were used to produce 2008–09 performance indicators. Any coding errors advised subsequently are reported in Disability Support Services 2008-09 (forthcoming). A data revision policy for the CSTDA/DS NMDS collection is currently being developed by NDIMG.

In response to concerns expressed by some jurisdictions, the NDIMG endorsed changes to the CSTDA NMDS processing rules in 2010. These changes were to be effective for the 2008–09 NMDS and future collections, as well as retroactively to the 2007–08 data. The changes involve no longer attempting to match records with either missing sex or an estimated date of birth with existing records within the same year's data or previous years' CSTDA NMDS data. The matching process provided a means by which these not stated or estimated values could be updated based on other records that, given their high match in other items, were assumed to represent the same service user. By no longer performing these functions these records now stand alone, thereby increasing slightly the number of unique service users within the CSTDA NMDS.

Coherence

The CSTDA NMDS consists of a set of nationally significant data items that are collected in all jurisdictions (State/Territory and Australian Government) and an agreed method of collection and transmission. Data items and definitions have remained consistent each year since the launch of the redeveloped national collection in 2002.

Data items are largely based on national community services data standards to enable comparability between collections. Items are also designed to be

comparable with other major collections such as the ABS Survey of Disability, Aging and Carers (SDAC) and international standards including the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning and Disability (ICF). More information about the design and comparability of CSTDA NMDS data items is given in the AIHW publication Australia's national disability services data collection: Redeveloping the Commonwealth-State/Territory disability agreement National Minimum Data Set.

From 1 October 2008, targeted support services previously delivered by the Australian Government and included in the service group 'employment services' were transferred to State/Territory governments and thus recorded as State/Territory delivered disability support services. Targeted support services delivered by the Australian Government are not included in the NDA performance indicators.

In 2008-09 the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) changed the coding procedures used for data about open employment service users for the 'need for help or supervision with activities or participation in life areas' data items. As a result of these changes caution should be used when interpreting the 2007-08 and 2008-09 data in the 'need for assistance with life areas' tables for open employment users, as it is not possible to determine what quantum of change between the two reporting periods is due to change in characteristics of service users and what quantum of change is due to change in the coding procedures.

Accessibility

The CSTDA NMDS 2007-08 data were released in December 2009. The revised data will be released in early 2011. Data from the 2008-09 NMDS are due to be released in January 2011. However, the data may not be provided in the same format as for the performance indicators. Also, the NDA performance indicators are restricted to the age range 0-64 years, whereas CSTDA NMDS data releases include all ages.

Annual reports from the CSTDA NMDS data set are available for free download from the AIHW website. The AIHW also publishes interactive data cubes containing subsets of national information from the 1999 NMDS onwards, which allow people to construct data tables online according to their needs.

CSTDA NMDS data are used for service planning and monitoring in individual jurisdictions, and for reporting national performance indicators. Performance indicators formed part of the accountability measures under the third CSTDA, and were published annually as part of the FaHCSIA publication Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement annual public report. The most recent of these was the CSTDA annual public report 2005-06. The AIHW also released supporting web publications which included these indicator tables in more detail, and is available on the AIHW website.

Interpretability

Information available to aid the interpretation of CSTDA NMDS data includes the annual CSTDA NMDS Data Guide and the data specifications in METeOR, AIHW's online metadata registry.

Appendix

'Not stated / not collected' rates

Table 1.1 'Not stated / not collected' response rates for service user data items in the CSTDA NMDS, by State/Territory, 2007–08 (service users aged 0–64 years and service users with not stated age)^a

<i>Data item</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aus Gov</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Not stated / not collected										
Age	0.0	0.3	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	0.1
Sex	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	—	—	—	0.2
Indigenous status	4.2	12.1	5.0	0.9	6.3	3.6	2.3	6.9	0.1	4.7
Country of birth	5.1	12.0	4.9	5.5	5.3	3.6	2.7	6.3	0.8	5.3
Postcode of usual residence (used to derive Remoteness Area)	0.0	5.9	3.2	5.1	2.7	3.6	1.4	4.9	0.1	2.4
Need for assistance	19.5	40.2	7.0	7.0	10.8	5.3	10.7	23.3	13.9	20.3
Carer—existence of	2.4	29.7	—	3.2	5.7	5.3	3.5	21.4	2.6	9.3
Carer—primary status	11.6	26.3	33.1	8.6	1.0	4.5	1.6	15.6	28.9	19.3
Carer—residency status	16.6	25.1	33.0	1.0	2.3	3.5	1.0	16.5	23.0	18.4
Carer—relationship to service user (also used to derive carer sex)	13.8	27.3	30.8	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.1	2.1	11.8	16.1
Carer—age group	25.3	30.2	34.8	5.9	6.9	3.7	11.0	9.1	28.6	23.9

^a 'Need for assistance' was derived from a number of data items on service user support needs. The 'not stated/not collected' rate for need for assistance includes service users for whom need for assistance was not able to be determined.

— nil

Source: CSTDA NMDS 2007–08

Table 1.2 'Not stated / not collected' response rates for service user data items in the CSTDA NMDS, by State/Territory, 2008–09 (service users aged 0–64 years and service users with not stated age)^a

<i>Data item</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aus Gov</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Not stated / not collected										
Age	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sex	0.3	0.2	0.0	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	0.1
Indigenous status	4.6	12.6	6.6	0.5	4.8	3.4	3.5	10.2	0.2	4.6
Country of birth	6.4	12.7	6.1	3.5	4.6	3.5	4.1	8.5	0.4	5.1
Postcode of usual residence (used to derive Remoteness Area)	0.0	7.4	3.6	0.1	3.1	3.4	1.9	7.2	—	2.2
Need for assistance	20.7	41.8	6.5	4.3	8.3	4.7	11.5	22.3	0.2	14.1
Carer—existence of	11.4	25.5	5.0	3.3	5.0	3.4	4.7	20.4	—	8.5
Carer—primary status	3.0	25.3	2.7	8.4	0.9	0.5	1.7	12.8	22.9	11.6
Carer—residency status	7.4	26.6	2.8	1.3	2.4	2.3	0.9	16.0	24.0	12.5
Carer—relationship to service user (also used to derive carer sex)	8.5	21.6	2.3	1.2	1.8	0.0	1.2	2.1	4.3	8.4
Carer—age group	18.2	35.5	5.6	5.2	7.8	0.7	10.3	4.7	30.0	19.1

^a 'Need for assistance' was derived from a number of data items on service user support needs. The 'not stated/not collected' rate for need for assistance includes service users for whom need for assistance was not able to be determined.

— nil

Source: CSTDA NMDS 2008–09