

People dispensed a strong opioid who had a public hospital event in the 8 days prior to dispensing

Technical information	
Indicator name (short)	People dispensed a strong opioid who had a public hospital event, percent.
Description	This measure details the percentage of people dispensed a strong opioid who had a public hospital event in the eight days prior to dispensing.
Rationale	All people starting a strong opioid will have a medical reason for doing so and it is likely that many have a hospital event related to that reason. People receiving a strong opioid without a hospital event are expected to have received their prescription from either a private hospital or their GP.
Numerator	People having a 'trigger event' in National Minimum Dataset (NMDS) or National Non-Admitted Patients Collection (NNPAC) in the eight days prior to first dispensing of a strong opioid.
Denominator	People dispensed a strong opioid, excluding those dispensed for opioid substitution treatment.
Inclusions	Only events occurring in public hospitals were included.
Exclusions	–
Note for calculation	Unit of measure: Percentage Adjustment applied: None District health board (DHB) assignment: Domicile
Data sources	Pharmaceutical Collection, Ministry of Health. National Resident Population, Stats NZ.
Suppression rule	Data is not presented where the denominator was less than 10.
Notes	A trigger event was defined as any public hospital inpatient or outpatient event that occurred no more than eight days before a strong opioid was dispensed. <i>See appendix for more details.</i>

Appendix 1. Interpretation notes

Standard deviation

Data is presented as standard deviation from the mean.

Standard deviation is a statistical measure of variation from a mean. Assuming that recorded instances are normally distributed (ie, they are in the usual 'bell-shaped curve'), 68 percent of all recorded instances would be expected to be within one standard deviation either side of the mean and 95 percent within two standard deviations. The two 'middle' shades will be within one standard deviation of the mean.

Confidence intervals

Data for each DHB is presented as rate per 1,000 population. Upper and lower confidence intervals were calculated to 95 percent level of confidence.

Calculating magnitude of variation

When reporting the size of variation between DHBs to prevent either low or high outliers having a large effect on the reported ratio, the top and/or bottom DHBs are excluded to avoid overstating the variation.

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