

# Ambulatory sensitive hospitalisation rate per 100,000 population for 0 to 4 year olds

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HQMNZ ID: HQM16.6.29.956

## Outcome

Reduced avoidable hospital admissions among children

## Measure

Ambulatory Sensitive Hospitalisation (ASH) rate per 100,000 population for 0 to 4 year olds

## Type

Contributory measure

## Relationship(s) to other frameworks

ASH rates for the 0 – 4 year age group and the 45 – 65 age group are part of the District Health Board (DHB) Non-financial monitoring framework and performance measures (measure SI1): Ministry of Health. 2015. DHB Non-financial monitoring framework and performance measures – Sept 2015. Wellington: Ministry of Health Framework available at: [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)

## Rationale

Ambulatory sensitive hospitalisations (ASH) are mostly acute admissions that are considered potentially reducible through prophylactic or therapeutic interventions deliverable in a primary care setting. In New Zealand children, ASH accounts for approximately 30 percent of all acute and arranged medical and surgical discharges in that age group each year. However, determining the reasons for high or low ASH rates is complex, as it is in part a whole-of-system measure.

It has been suggested that admission rates can serve as proxy markers for primary care access and quality, with high admission rates indicating difficulty in accessing care in a timely fashion, poor care coordination or care continuity, or structural constraints such as limited supply of primary care workers.

ASH rates are also determined by other factors, such as hospital emergency departments and admission policies, health literacy and overall social determinants of health. This measure can also highlight variation between different population groups that will assist with DHB planning to reduce disparities.

A composite ASH measure is preferred because it gathers up more conditions and aligns with the intention of using measures that operate at a system level rather than ones that focus on a specific condition or service.

## Population measure

## Eligible population

ASH admissions for 0 to 4 year old children

## Measure status

Active

## Measure definition

### Numerator

Number of ASH admissions for 0 - 4 year old children

### Denominator

Number of 0 - 4 year old children

## National target

The National Target is equitable ASH rates for Māori, Pacific, and other New Zealanders.

## Local target

Milestones to be decided by Alliance

## Annual weighting

## Total population

## Data Sources

- National Minimum Dataset (NMDS)
- Statistics New Zealand Population Projections

## Data extracted from data sources

Refer to calculation process below

## Data availability

Data will be released by the Ministry of Health quarterly

## Measure calculation process

## Relationship(s) to other measures

- Linkages with the Acute Hospital Bed Days system level measure (SLM006) as ASH is also one of the contributory measures for SLM006.

- A set of modified ASH measures for 0 – 4, 5 – 9 and 10 - 14 year age groups are a part of the Health Quality and Safety Commission (HQSC) Atlas of Variation. Data for this Atlas is drawn from the NMDS and presents overall ASH rates by DHB.

<http://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Health-Quality-Evaluation/Atlas/ASH-child-single/atlas.html>

## Measure development notes

Technical notes: Work is being undertaken within the Ministry of Health to enable access for the sector to information for their enrolled populations. Reporting frequency: Six monthly Measure champion: Bryn Jones, Ministry of Health Measure implementation group: Service Analysis and Modelling team, Ministry of Health