### National Housing and Homelessness Agreement

### Indicator (h) - Supplementary technical document

This document is designed to assist in the understanding of the calculation of Indicator (h) – *A decrease in the number of people that experience repeat homelessness.*

1. **METeOR specifications**
2. **Supplementary technical documentation**
3. **State/territory counting rules for the Return to homelessness indicator**

#### METeOR specifications

**National Performance Indicators for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement – The number of people who experience persistent homelessness, (Client level), 2021**

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| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Metadata item type: | Indicator |
| Indicator type: | Indicator |
| Short name: | NPI NHHA: number of people who experience persistent homelessness |
| METEOR identifier: | 752560 |
| Registration status: | * *No registration status* |
| Description: | The number of people (clients) in the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) who experience persistent homelessness, characterised by a recurring pattern of homelessness over time. |
| Rationale: | The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA), which commenced in 2018, funds homelessness services with the objective of improving access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing across the housing spectrum from crisis housing to home ownership, including to prevent and address homelessness, and to support social and economic participation.  The NHHA specifies the National Performance Indicators that assess and monitor the efficacy of homelessness services. There is a range of homelessness services across Australia; however, this indicator specification measures only those services delivered by SHS.  The Indicator is calculated annually for each financial year. |
| Indicator set: | [National Performance Indicators for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (2021)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746061) |

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| Collection and usage attributes | |
| Computation description: | **Coverage/scope:**  The indicator is derived from support periods–the period of time during which a client is receiving SHS support. Within each support period, agencies collect client information that allows for the derivation of housing status at numerous points in time:   1. A week before the client presents to the agency 2. At the time of presentation 3. **At the last service provision date of each month during support** 4. At the end of the support period   Only point 3 is included in this indicator, i.e. monthly housing status for months when the client is receiving support. Note that the monthly housing status is based on information collected at the last service provision date of each month during the support. Therefore, it represents the housing status of a client on the one day of the month only and does not reflect whether the client has continuous days of "homeless" or "housed" status.  A very small number of clients have concurrent support periods within the same month. The rules for deciding monthly housing status for these clients are outlined in the [supplementary technical documentation.](https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/national-housing-and-homelessness-agreement-performance-indicators-1)  A client is **in-scope** for this indicator if they have at least one support period with a monthly housing status of “homeless” at any month during the financial year.  The definition for the housing status of a client is described in Glossary item [**Housing status (SHS).**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/750477)  **Methodology:**  Of the in scope population, the persistently homeless clients are those who have been homeless for more than 7 months over a 24-month period (i.e., at least 30% of the time). The period starts from the final month that the client received support during the financial year, and goes back retrospectively over a 24-month period from that point. The client’s homeless months do not have to be consecutive. The client may have the following housing status in any non-homeless months within the 24-month period:   * not applicable, no support provided during this month * housed * in an institution * not stated.   For example, for the 2020-21 financial year:   * A client is in scope if they have at least one support period between July 2020 and June 2021. * If the in-scope client’s final support month is September 2020, then their monthly housing statuses are assessed back over 24-month period from September 2020 (i.e., October 2018 to September 2020) to identify whether the client has been homeless for more than 7 months during that period. If yes, then the client is considered to have experienced persistent homelessness.   This indicator identifies clients with a more chronic experience of homelessness than other clients. The identified cohort is not mutually exclusive with clients who return to homelessness after achieving housing (defined in [National Performance Indicators for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement – The number of people who return to homelessness after achieving housing, (Client level), 2021](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752557)). A persistently homeless client can be counted as:   * a persistent homelessness but not a return to homelessness client or * a return to homelessness and a persistent homelessness client. |
| Computation: | Numerator only |
| Numerator: | Number of clients who have been homeless for more than 7 months over a 24-month period (i.e., at least 30% of the time), starting from the final month that clients received support during the financial year and going back retrospectively over a 24-month period from that point. |
| Numerator data elements: | **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  Monthly housing status (derived)  See definition in glossary item [**Housing status (SHS).**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/750477)  Monthly housing status items are labelled from month 1 to the latest month available in the data source. Month 1 represents the housing status for July 2011, which is the first month when the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) began.  **Collection methods / guide for use**  The monthly housing status items are coded as follows:   * -1 = not applicable, no support provided during this month. * 1 = homeless. * 2 = housed. * 3 = in an institution. * 9 = not stated.   **Data Source**  [Specialist Homelessness Services Collection Longitudinal Data Set](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752803) |
| Denominator data elements: | **Data Element / Data Set** |
| Disaggregation: | 2020–21 — Nationally.  2020–21 — State and territory. Some dis-aggregation may result in numbers too small for publication. |
| Disaggregation data elements: | **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  NHHA priority homelessness cohorts - [**people exiting institutions and care into homelessness**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/738495)  **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  NHHA priority homelessness cohorts - [**older people**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/742702)  **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  NHHA priority homelessness cohorts - [**women and children affected by family and domestic violence**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/742709)  **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  NHHA priority homelessness cohorts - [**Indigenous Australians**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/742718)  **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  NHHA priority homelessness cohorts - [**children and young people**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/742724)  **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  Client’s financial year indicators (for national count)  The financial year indicators flag whether the client received support in the specified financial year. There is one indicator per financial year.  Client’s state/territory-specific financial year indicators (for state/territory count)  The state/territory-specific financial year indicators flag whether the client received support in the specified financial year and state/territory. There are 8 state/territory indicators (representing each state or territory) per financial year.  **Data Source**  [Specialist Homelessness Services Collection Longitudinal Data Set](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752803)  **Guide for use**  Code 1 indicates that client received support. |
| Comments: | **Exclusions**  Clients are excluded if they do not have any support period with a monthly housing status of “homeless” during the financial year.  **Data collection**  Data are collected monthly from agencies participating in the collection. All agencies that receive funding under the NHHA (previously the NAHA or the NPAH) to provide specialist homelessness services are in scope for the SHSC, although some agencies are exempted from supplying data. Agencies submit data on the periods of support provided to clients.  The longitudinal SHSC data set is updated yearly. For this indicator, the latest available longitudinal data set is used for any financial year.  **State/territory counting rules**  The counting methodology for state/territory disaggregation is conceptually based on the client's journey regardless of their movement between states and territories. An in-scope client will be counted towards a state/territory as a persistent homelessness client if:   * they have been homeless for more than 7 months within or across states/territories over the 24-month period * they received support within the state/territory during the financial year 2020–21. |
| Representational attributes | |
| Representation class: | Count |
| Data type: | Integer |
| Unit of measure: | Person |
| Format: | [NNNNNN] |
| Data source attributes | |
| Data sources: | **Data Source**  [Specialist Homelessness Services Collection Longitudinal Data Set](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752803)  **Quality statement**  [Specialist Homelessness Services Collection, 2020–21; Quality Statement](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746581) |
| Accountability attributes | |
| Reporting requirements: | Agency supplied data. |
| Organisation responsible for providing data: | Specialist homelessness services agencies. |
| Accountability: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| Source and reference attributes | |
| Submitting organisation: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| Reference documents: | CFFR (Council on Federal Financial Relations) 2018. National Housing and Homelessness Agreement 2018. Council on Federal Financial Relations, Canberra. Viewed 15 October 2021, <https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/national-housing-and-homelessness-agreement-0> |
| Relational attributes | |
| Related metadata references: | See also  [National Performance Indicators for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement – The number of people who return to homelessness after achieving housing, (Client level), 2021](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752557)  *No registration status* |
| Registry management attributes | |
| Created by: | Kline Nazareth |
| Created date/time: |  |
| Last updated by: | Kline Nazareth |
| Last updated date/time: |  |
| Workgroup: | AIHW Homelessness Reporting and Data Development workgroup |

**National Performance Indicators for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement – The number of people who return to homelessness after achieving housing, (Client level), 2021**

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| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Metadata item type: | Indicator |
| Indicator type: | Indicator |
| Short name: | NPI NHHA: number of people who return to homelessness after achieving housing |
| METEOR identifier: | 752557 |
| Registration status: | * *No registration status* |
| Description: | The number of people (clients) in the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) who experience one or more repeat episodes of homelessness after achieving housing, typically with a signature homeless–housed–homeless pattern of housing status over a period of time. |
| Rationale: | The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA), which commenced in 2018, funds homelessness services with the objective of improving access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing across the housing spectrum from crisis housing to home ownership, including to prevent and address homelessness, and to support social and economic participation.  The NHHA specifies the National Performance Indicators that assess and monitor the efficacy of homelessness services. There is a range of homelessness services across Australia; however, this indicator specification measures only those services delivered by SHS.  The Indicator is calculated annually for each financial year. |
| Indicator set: | [National Performance Indicators for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (2021)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746061) |

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| --- | --- |
| Collection and usage attributes | |
| Computation description: | **Coverage/scope:**  The indicator is derived from support periods; the period of time during which a client is receiving SHS support. Within each support period, agencies collect client information that allows for the derivation of housing status at numerous points in time:   1. A week before the client presents to the agency 2. At the time of presentation 3. **At the last service provision date of each month during support** 4. At the end of the support period   Only point 3 is included in this indicator, i.e. monthly housing status for months when the client is receiving support. Note that the monthly housing status is based on information collected at the last service provision date of each month during the support. Therefore, it represents the housing status of a client on the one day of the month only and does not reflect whether the client has continuous days of "homeless" or "housed" status.  A very small number of clients have concurrent support periods within the same month. The rules for deciding monthly housing status for these clients are outlined in the [supplementary technical documentation.](https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/national-housing-and-homelessness-agreement-performance-indicators-1)  A client is **in-scope** for this indicator if they have at least one support period with a monthly housing status of “homeless” at any month during the financial year.  The definition for the housing status of a client is described in Glossary item [**Housing status (SHS).**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/750477)  **Methodology:**  Of the in-scope population, clients returning to homelessness are those with a homeless–housed–homeless pattern of housing status over a 24-month period. The period starts from the client’s last homeless month in the financial year and goes back retrospectively over a 24-month period from that point. The client may have the following housing status in between the homeless-housed-homeless pattern:   * not applicable, no support provided during this month * in an institution * not stated.   For example, for the 2020–21 financial year:   * A client is in scope if they have at least one support period with a monthly housing status of homeless between July 2020 and June 2021. * If the in-scope client’s last homeless month is September 2020, then their monthly housing statuses are assessed back over 24-month period from September 2020 (i.e., October 2018 to September 2020) to identify whether the client has experienced a homeless–housed–homeless pattern in any time during that period. If yes, then the client is considered to be returning to homelessness after achieving housing.   This indicator identifies clients who return to homelessness after achieving housing. The identified cohort is not mutually exclusive with clients who experience persistent homelessness (defined in [National Performance Indicators for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement – The number of people who experience persistent homelessness, (Client level), 2021](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752560)). A return to homelessness client can be counted as:   * a return to homelessness but not a persistent homelessness client * a return to homelessness and a persistent homelessness client. |
| Computation: | Numerator only |
| Numerator: | Number of clients who experience a homeless–housed–homeless pattern of housing status, starting from the last homeless month in the financial year and going back over a 24-month period from that point. |
| Numerator data elements: | **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  Monthly housing status (derived)  See definition in glossary item [**Housing status (SHS).**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/750477)  Monthly housing status items are labelled from month 1 to the latest month available in the data source. Month 1 represents the housing status for July 2011, which is the first month when the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) began.  **Collection methods / guide for use**  The monthly housing status items are coded as follows:   * -1 = not applicable, no support provided during this month. * 1 = homeless. * 2 = housed. * 3 = in an institution. * 9 = not stated.   **Data Source**  [Specialist Homelessness Services Collection Longitudinal Data Set](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752803) |
| Denominator data elements: | **Data Element / Data Set** |
| Disaggregation: | 2020–21 — Nationally.  2020–21 — State and territory. Some disaggregation may result in numbers too small for publication. |
| Disaggregation data elements: | **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  NHHA priority homelessness cohorts - [**people exiting institutions and care into homelessness**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/738495)  **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  NHHA priority homelessness cohorts - [**older people**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/742702)  **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  NHHA priority homelessness cohorts - [**women and children affected by family and domestic violence**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/742709)  **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  NHHA priority homelessness cohorts - [**Indigenous Australians**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/742718)  **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  NHHA priority homelessness cohorts - [**children and young people**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/742724)  **Data Element / Data Set**  **Data Element**  Client’s financial year indicators (for national count)  The financial year indicators flag whether the client received support in the specified financial year. There is one indicator per financial year.  Client’s state/territory-specific financial year indicators (for state/territory count)  The state/territory-specific financial year indicators flag whether the client received support in the specified financial year and state/territory. There are 8 state/territory indicators (representing each state or territory) per financial year.  **Data Source**  [Specialist Homelessness Services Collection Longitudinal Data Set](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752803)  **Guide for use**  Code 1 indicates that client received support. |
| Comments: | **Exclusions**  Clients are excluded if they do not have any support period with a monthly housing status of “homeless” during the financial year.  **Data collection**  Data are collected monthly from agencies participating in the collection. All agencies that receive funding under the NHHA (previously the NAHA or the NPAH) to provide specialist homelessness services are in scope for the SHSC, although some agencies are exempted from supplying data. Agencies submit data on the periods of support provided to clients.  The longitudinal SHSC data set is updated yearly based on snapshot taken in August each year. For this indicator, the latest available longitudinal data set is used for any financial year.  **State/territory counting rules**  The counting methodology for state/territory disaggregation is conceptually based on the client's journey regardless of their movement between states and territories. An in-scope client will be counted towards a state/territory as a return to homelessness client if:   * they experienced the homeless–housed–homeless pattern of monthly housing status within or across states/territories over the 24-month period * they received support within the state/territory during the financial year 2020–21. |
| Representational attributes | |
| Representation class: | Count |
| Data type: | Integer |
| Unit of measure: | Person |
| Format: | [NNNNNN] |
| Data source attributes | |
| Data sources: | **Data Source**  [Specialist Homelessness Services Collection Longitudinal Data Set](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752803)  **Quality statement**  [Specialist Homelessness Services Collection, 2020–21; Quality Statement](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746581) |
| Accountability attributes | |
| Reporting requirements: | Agency supplied data. |
| Organisation responsible for providing data: | Specialist homelessness services agencies. |
| Accountability: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| Source and reference attributes | |
| Submitting organisation: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| Reference documents: | CFFR (Council on Federal Financial Relations) 2018. National Housing and Homelessness Agreement 2018. Council on Federal Financial Relations, Canberra. Viewed 15 October 2021, <https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/national-housing-and-homelessness-agreement-0> |
| Relational attributes | |
| Related metadata references: | See also  [National Performance Indicators for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement – The number of people who experience persistent homelessness, (Client level), 2021](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/752560)  *No registration status* |
| Registry management attributes | |
| Created by: | Kline Nazareth |
| Created date/time: |  |
| Last updated by: | Kline Nazareth |
| Last updated date/time: |  |
| Workgroup: | AIHW Homelessness Reporting and Data Development workgroup |

#### Supplementary technical documentation

**Housing status for clients with concurrent support periods within the same month**

Client’s monthly reported dwelling, tenure and occupancy information are used to derive monthly housing status as defined in glossary item [Housing status (SHS).](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/750477) A very small number of clients have concurrent support periods within the same month. Where this occurs, the following rules are applied to determine which dwelling, tenure and occupancy information to use to derive housing status:

* Step 1: Select response value from the earliest starting support period
* Step 2: If there are multiple support periods starting on the same date with different response values, then the response value from the support period with the most support days in the month would be selected. Using tenure as an example (see screenshot for question relating to tenure below), if a client has two support periods starting on the same date and:
* response value “Renter – private housing (1)” was recorded for a support period where support was provided for the entire month
* response value “Other renter (8)” was recorded for the other support period where support was provided for 20 days of the month

then the response “Renter – private housing (1)” would be selected.

A picture containing graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

* Step 3: If the multiple support periods starting on the same date also have equal number of support days in the month, then the lowest domain value would be selected unless one of the responses is “Don’t know (99)” which would be given selection preference. Using tenure again as an example, if a client has two support periods starting on the same date and:
* response value “Renter – private housing (1)” was recorded for a support period where support was provided for the entire month
* response value “Other renter (8)” was recorded for the other support period where support was provided for the entire month

then the response “Renter – private housing (1)” would be selected because the domain value for “Renter – private housing (1)” is lower than “Other renter (8)”.

**Relationship between the Return to homelessness and Persistent homelessness indicators**

As displayed in the Figure 1 below, an in-scope client can be counted as:

* a return to homelessness but not a persistent homelessness client
* a persistent homelessness but not a return to homelessness client
* a return to homelessness and a persistent homelessness client or
* neither a return to homelessness nor persistent homelessness client (not in circles).

Figure 1: Relationship between the Return to homelessness and Persistent homelessness indicators

Return to homelessness & persistent homelessness clients

Persistent homelessness clients

Return to homelessness clients

Clients with at least one monthly housing status of “homeless” at any month during the financial year

#### Scenarios to illustrate the application of state/territory counting rules for the Return to homelessness indicator

Figure 2 displays some hypothetical simplified client scenariosof how clients would be counted if they:

* are in-scope for the indicator (i.e., they have at least one monthly housing status of “homeless” at any month during the reporting year); and
* meet the pattern criteria for return to homelessness over the 24-month floating period.

All example clients in Figure 2 meet the return to homelessness pattern criteria (homeless–housed–homeless) over the 24-month floating period. The return to homelessness pattern criteria can be observed for a client:

* within one jurisdiction only (Clients A & B)
* within multiple jurisdictions (Client C)
* across jurisdictions only (Clients D to F)
* within and across jurisdictions (Client G).

Once defined as a return to homelessness client, the client will be counted in jurisdiction/s where they received service/s during the reporting year (in this example, 2019–20) regardless of:

* the jurisdiction/s where the return to homelessness pattern criteria is met
* the client's housing status within each jurisdiction where they received service/s (including any housing statuses after the 24-month floating period which can be other than “homeless”).

This concept is illustrated in Figure 2 and further explained in Table 1.

Figure 2: Hypothetical simplified scenarios illustrating state/territory counting rules for return to homelessness clients based on 2019–20 reporting year



Table 1: State/territory counting explanations for Figure 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Client A | This return to homelessness client received service/s only in NSW in 2019–20. Therefore, this client is counted in NSW only. |
| Client B | This return to homelessness client received services in NSW and the ACT in 2019–20. Therefore, the client is counted towards both jurisdictions even though the return to homelessness pattern is only met within NSW and the client only has "Other" housing status in the ACT outside of the 24-month floating period. |
| Client C | This return to homelessness client received services in NSW, Vic and the ACT in 2019–20. Therefore, the client is counted towards all three jurisdictions even though the client met the return to homelessness criteria within NSW & Vic only and the client only has "Other" housing status in the ACT. |
| Client D | This return to homelessness client received service/s only in NSW in 2019–20. Therefore, the client is counted towards NSW only even though the return to homelessness criteria is met across jurisdictions (ACT & NSW). |
| Client E | This return to homelessness client received service/s only in Vic in 2019–20. Therefore, the client is counted towards Vic only even though the return to homelessness criteria is met across jurisdictions (NSW & Vic). |
| Client F | This return to homelessness client received service/s only in the ACT in 2019–20. Therefore, the client is counted towards ACT only even though the return to homelessness criteria is met across jurisdictions (NSW & ACT). The client is also counted towards the ACT even though their final housing status in the ACT in 2019–20 is “Housed”. |
| Client G | This return to homelessness client received service/s only in NSW in 2019–20. Therefore, the client is counted towards NSW only even though the return to homelessness criteria is met within (NSW) and across jurisdictions (ACT & NSW). |