

Children’s Mental Health Access

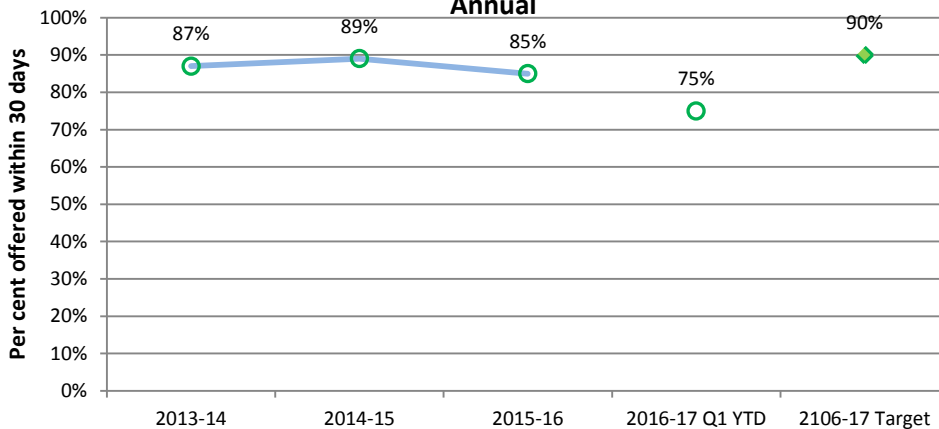
Measure Definition

Percentage of children aged 0 to 17 years offered scheduled community mental health treatment within 30 days from referral.

Understanding this Measure

Delays in treating mental illness can have negative consequences, including exacerbation of the client’s condition. Research has shown that the longer children wait for service, the more likely they are to not attend their first appointment. One of the strategies associated with Addiction and Mental Health is to improve how children and youth access addiction and mental health services. Monitoring the percentage of children who have symptoms or problems that require attention but are not considered urgent or emergent can help in identifying system delays and assessing service capacity, while ensuring that children most in need of treatment receive it immediately.

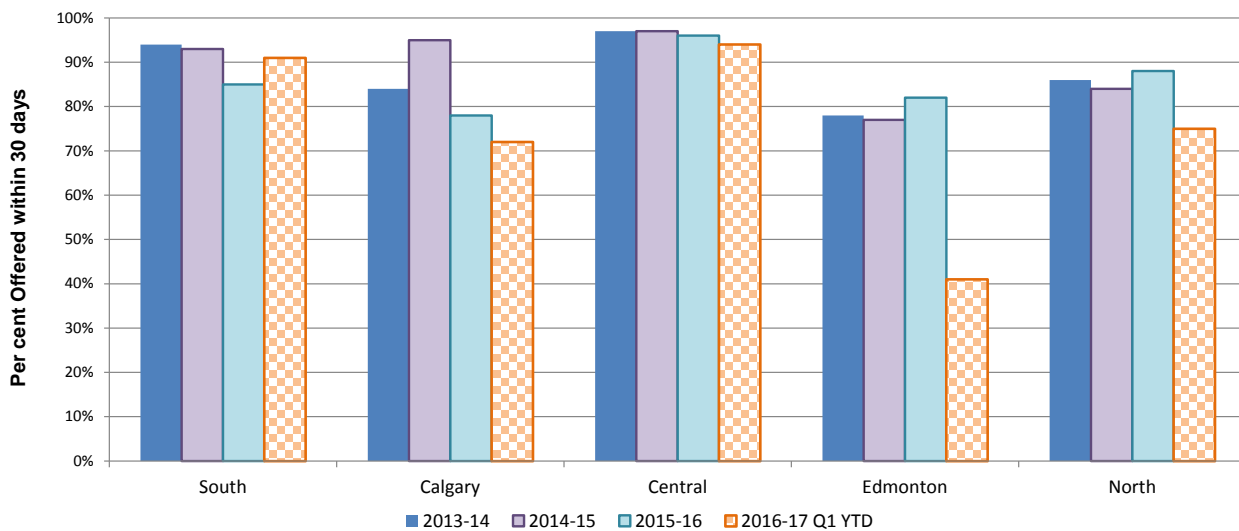
Children Offered Mental Health Services within 30 days - Annual



How Do We Compare?

Comparable national data is not available for this measure.

Children Offered Mental Health Services within 30 days - Zone



NOTE: North Zone data for Q1 has been impacted due to the wildfires in Q1 resulting in the temporary closure of a hospital and mental health clinic.

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ACTIONS

South Zone is working closely with clinic staff to address supply and demand imbalances should wait times exceed 30 days.

Calgary Zone is creating a high level plan for Child and Adolescent Addiction and Mental Health. The Alberta Children’s Hospital and Addiction and Mental Health will work collaboratively to ensure Psychiatric Emergency space and capacity needs are integrated into overall Emergency Department Space and Capacity Optimization Plans.

Central Zone will continue to work with Regional Collaborative School Delivery (RCSD) including the new First Nations RCSD planning. There has been an increase – of over 25 percent in enrollments for children community service and work is ongoing to manage this increased demand including planning underway for children’s’ clinical service resources and operational supports enhancement. Central Zone is linking with the Addiction and Mental Health SCN working group on best practice for borderline personality disorders.

Edmonton Zone is increasing capacity and geographic access for south-side residents and opening an integrated child’s addiction and mental health clinic (Rutherford Clinic) to respond to increased referrals.

North Zone is implementing a Youth Mental Health day program and a child psychiatry workforce plan.

SUMMARY

Central Zone has almost reached target of 96% but continues to perform above 90%. South Zone demonstrated improvement compared to the same period as last year.

Provincial, Calgary, and Edmonton Zones have shown deterioration from last year due to increases in demand and staff shortages.

Children mental health services access was impacted by an increase in demand with no corresponding enhancement to services; and, staff vacancies / leaves impacting availability of services and wait-times.

Edmonton Zone is working to increase access with a new Children’s Clinic opening in Rutherford, expansion in the number of school-based therapists in high schools and enhancing the mental health team in the Stollery Emergency Department.

In the Calgary Zone, a new service was implemented where community mental health clinics provide follow-up service to emergency department and inpatient clients. This is easing pressure on these services, but has resulted in reduced capacity for scheduled appointments in community clinics.

Provincial and North Zone results have been impacted by the temporary closure of Northern Lights Regional Hospital and the Fort McMurray Mental Health Clinic; as well as displacement of the population in Fort McMurray due to the wildfires in Q1.

This page was revised to more accurately reflect delivery of Children’s Mental Health Services in Edmonton Zone.

DID YOU KNOW

Wait times for access to community mental health treatment services are used as an indicator of client access to the health care system and reflect the efficient use of resources.

Currently, Alberta is the only province with access standards for children’s mental health. There is no comparable information from other provinces regarding the wait times for children to receive community mental health treatment.

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Percentage of children aged 0 to 17 years offered scheduled community mental health treatment within 30 days from referral.

Children Offered Scheduled Mental Health Services within 30 days	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Q1 YTD		Trend	2016-17 Target
				2015-16 Last Year	2016-17 Current		
Trend: ★ Achieved Target, ✓ Stable or better than prior period, ✗ Area requires additional focus							
Provincial	87%	89%	85%	85%	75%	✗	90%
South Zone	94%	93%	85%	68%	91%	✓	93%
Calgary Zone	84%	95%	78%	86%	72%	✗	90%
Central Zone	97%	97%	96%	95%	94%	✗	96%
Edmonton Zone	78%	77%	82%	94%	41%	✗	80%
North Zone ⁺	86%	84%	88%	85%	N/A	N/A	90%

⁺ North Zone results have been impacted by the temporary closure of Northern Lights Regional Hospital and displacement of the population in Fort McMurray due to the wildfires in Q1.

Number of new enrollments	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Q1 YTD	
				2015-16 Last Year	2016-17 Current
Provincial	7,456	7,947	8,870	1,772	1,890
South Zone	1,450	1,697	1,749	480	424
Calgary Zone	1,465	1,815	2,038	524	606
Central Zone	1,170	1,257	1,458	339	430
Edmonton Zone	1,852	1,562	1,703	429	430
North Zone ⁺	1,519	1,616	1,922	N/A	N/A

⁺ North Zone results have been impacted by the temporary closure of Northern Lights Regional Hospital and displacement of the population in Fort McMurray due to the wildfires in Q1.