

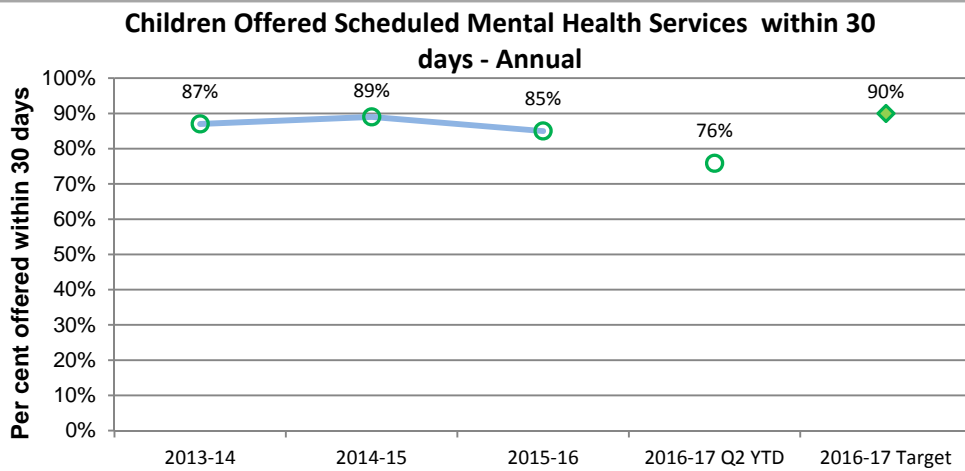
Children's Mental Health Access

Measure Definition

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

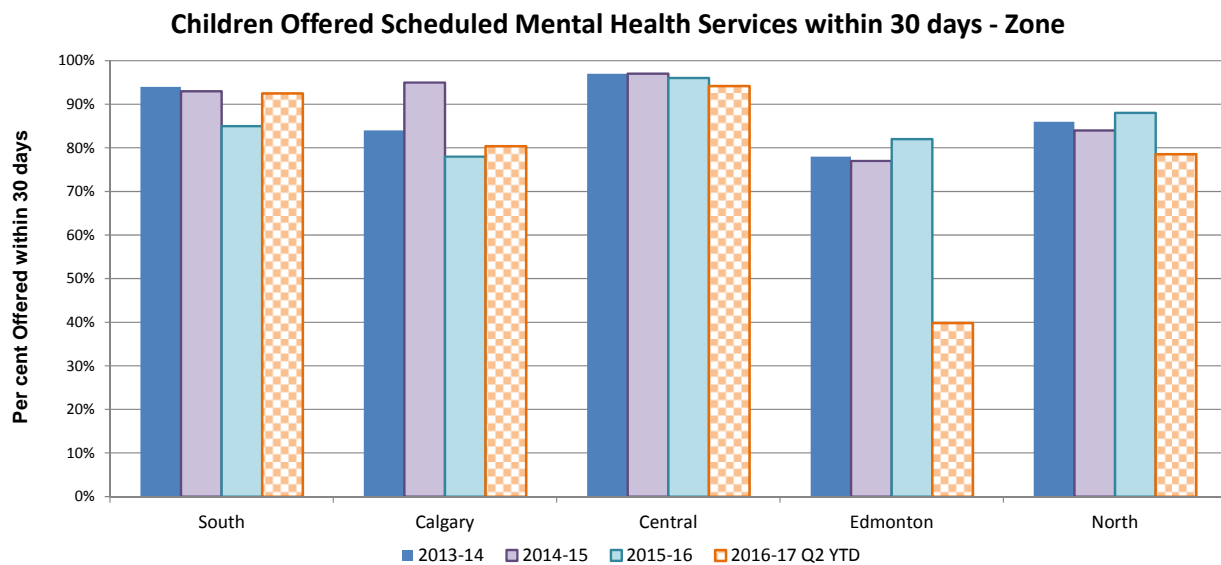
Understanding this Measure

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.



How Do We Compare?

Comparable national data is not available for this measure.



Children's Mental Health Access

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 Strategic Clinical Network 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 reviewing plans for a Youth Mental Health day program in Grande Prairie and developing a child psychiatry workforce plan.

SUMMARY

Q2 results for the South Zone demonstrated a significant improvement – nearly reaching target. Provincial results and the four remaining zones have shown deterioration from last year due to the following reasons.

Edmonton Zone has seen a 70% increase in children requiring mental health services since 2014-15. Monthly averages have increased from 300-400 new referrals to 600-700 new referrals over the past 18 months. From April 2014 to December 2015, the zone undertook initiatives to increase internal capacity and efficiency through process improvement, but by January 2016 reached a saturation point where further efficiencies were not possible and internal capacity was maximized. In addition to an increase in referrals, the program is also experiencing recruitment and retention challenges. Edmonton Zone is working to increase access and improve achievement of the wait time target 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.

North Zone results were 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. In Fort McMurray, some families may not have returned home in this quarter. Also, lower enrollment numbers were due to providing wildfire alternative service models such as more outreach and walk-in services rather than scheduled care, as captured in this measure. In some sites, all school-based staff were moved to 10-month contracts, with schools closed, families on vacation, and staff not working over the summer months, there were marked reductions in enrollments.

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	Q2 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%	86%	76%	✗	90%
South Zone	94%	93%	85%	76%	92%	✓	93%
Calgary Zone	84%	95%	78%	83%	80%	✗	90%
Central Zone	97%	97%	96%	96%	94%	✗	96%
Edmonton Zone	78%	77%	82%	94%	40%	✗	80%
North Zone	86%	84%	88%	86%	79%	✗	90%

Number of new enrollments	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Q2 YTD	
				2015-16 Last Year	2016-17 Current
Provincial	7,456	7,947	8,870	4,152	3,920
South Zone	1,450	1,697	1,749	782	693
Calgary Zone	1,465	1,815	2,038	973	1,009
Central Zone	1,170	1,257	1,458	603	724
Edmonton Zone	1,852	1,562	1,703	807	864
North Zone	1,519	1,616	1,922	987	630