

Children's Mental Health Access

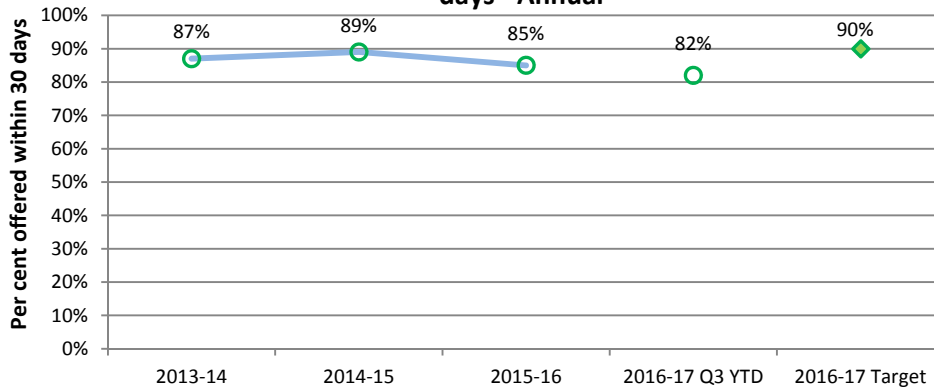
Measure Definition

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.

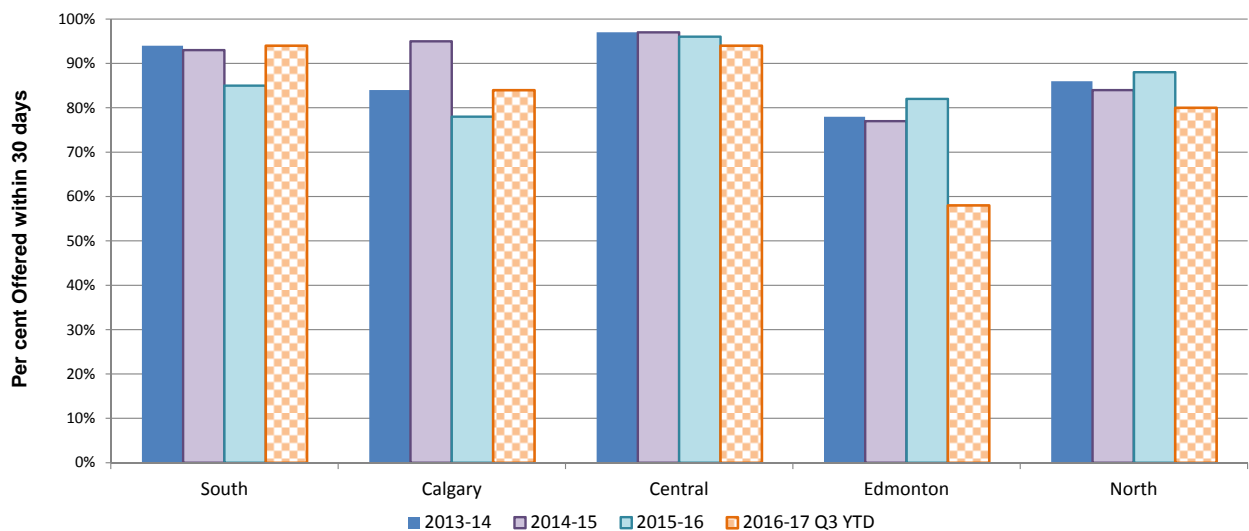
Children Offered Scheduled Mental Health Services within 30 days - Annual



How Do We Compare?

Comparable national data is not available for this measure.

Children Offered Scheduled Mental Health Services within 30 days - Zone



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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 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

South Zone met target for Q3 YTD and Calgary Zone performed better than the same period as last year. Central Zone also continues to offer a large majority of children an appointment within 30 days of referral (94%), similar to results from the South Zone.

Overall, there has been an improvement in Edmonton Zone in Q3 in the time to access children’s mental health services when compared to Q2; however, year-to-date results have been impacted by increased demand for children’s mental health services combined with staff vacancies/leaves that impact the availability of services and wait-times.

AHS is employing several improvement strategies to improve efficiency including: process improvement and service innovation, parenting programs and walk-in sessions, successful recruitment into long-standing vacancies, continuing with AIM work, implementation of regional collaborative school delivery projects as well as children and youth mental health projects via child and family services and primary care networks, expanded in-reach into high schools and improved access to care for families in south Edmonton through the newly opened Rutherford Clinic.

North Zone working closely with Edmonton Zone to redesign the delivery of child and adolescent psychiatry services through Telehealth to partially address the zone’s child psychiatry recruitment challenges.

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	Q3 YTD		Trend	2016-17 Target
				2015-16 Last Year	2016-17 Current		
Trend: ★ Achieved Target, ✓ better or ⇔ stable than prior period*, ✗ Area requires additional focus							
Provincial	87%	89%	85%	88%	82%	✗	90%
South Zone	94%	93%	85%	83%	94%	★	93%
Calgary Zone	84%	95%	78%	83%	84%	✓	90%
Central Zone	97%	97%	96%	96%	94%	⇔	96%
Edmonton Zone	78%	77%	82%	92%	58%	✗	80%
North Zone	86%	84%	88%	88%	80%	✗	90%

* "Stable" trend indicates when current period performance (Q3 year-to-date) is within 5% from the same time period as last year.

Number of new enrollments	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Q3 YTD	
				2015-16 Last Year	2016-17 Current
Provincial	7,456	7,947	8,870	6,628	6,403
South Zone	1,450	1,697	1,749	1,263	1,124
Calgary Zone	1,465	1,815	2,038	1,527	1,619
Central Zone	1,170	1,257	1,458	1,054	1,244
Edmonton Zone	1,852	1,562	1,703	1,238	1,362
North Zone	1,519	1,616	1,922	1,546	1,054