

## Children's Mental Health Access

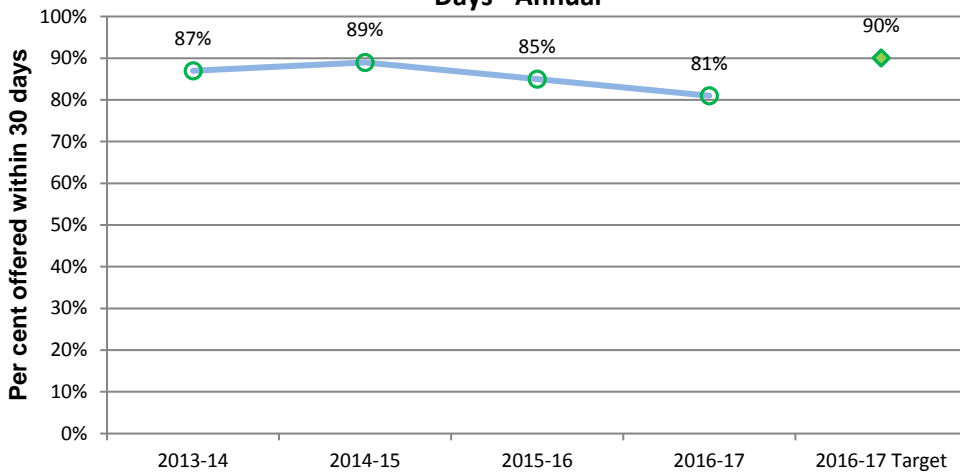
### Measure Definition

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. 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.

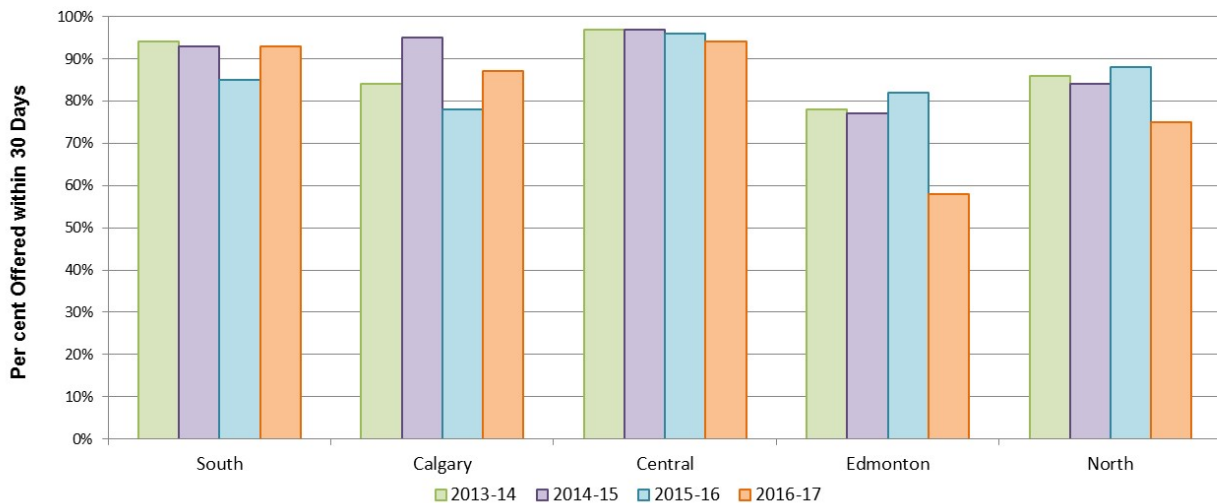
**Children Offered Scheduled Mental Health Services within 30 Days - Annual**



### How Do We Compare?

Comparable national data is not available for this measure.

**Children Offered Scheduled Mental Health Services within 30 Days - Zone**



## Children's Mental Health Access

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Wait times for access to community mental health treatment services are used as an indicator of client access to the healthcare 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.

Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act (PChAD) is an Alberta law that helps children under 18 whose use of alcohol or drugs is likely to cause significant psychological or physical harm. AHS provides the PChAD program and currently has four safe houses in Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer and Grande Prairie. The safe houses provide secure and supportive home-like setting for these children and give them direct access to addiction counselors and other health professionals to help them address their alcohol, substance abuse or concurrent disorders. As of March 31, 2017, AHS opened 13 addiction spaces (including three new PChAD beds) and 111 community mental health spaces. With a provincial total of 25 PChAD beds, approximately 600 youth were admitted to PChAD in 2016-17.

AHS is employing several improvement strategies to improve efficiency include: service delivery redesign, parenting programs and walk-in sessions, successful recruitment into long-standing vacancies, continuing with AIM work, deployment of a temporary navigator in the North Zone, implementation of regional collaborative school delivery projects, and opening of the Rutherford Clinic and Access Open Minds clinic (April 2017) in Edmonton. The Access Open Minds clinic will offer a centralized option for addiction and mental health services and supports for local and area residents ages 11 to 25.

Online training modules were developed to support community-based agencies and Primary Care Networks to expand the InRoads Drug Treatment Funding Program. The program's goal is to develop capacity to increase access to sustainable, evidence-informed, early intervention treatment services for children and youth in Alberta with addiction and mental health concerns.

### **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

South Zone met target for Q4 YTD, Calgary Zone performed better and Central Zone remained stable compared to the same period as last year. Edmonton and North zones deteriorated from last fiscal year.

Overall, there has been an improvement in Edmonton and North Zones in quarter over quarter in the time to access children's mental health services; 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.

Strategies to improve efficiency include: process improvement and service innovation, parenting programs and walk-in sessions, successful recruitment into long-standing vacancies, 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 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. 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.

## Children's Mental Health Access

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	Q4 YTD		Trend	2016- 17 Target
				2015-16 Last Year	2016-17 Current		
<b>Trend: ★ Target Achieved; ✓ Improving; ⇔ Stable; ✖ Performance not improving</b>							
<b>Provincial</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>✖</b>	<b>90%</b>
South Zone	94%	93%	85%	85%	93%	★	93%
Calgary Zone	84%	95%	78%	78%	87%	✓	90%
Central Zone	97%	97%	96%	96%	94%	⇔	96%
Edmonton Zone	78%	77%	82%	82%	58%	✖	80%
North Zone	86%	84%	88%	88%	75%	✖	90%

\* "Stable" trend indicates when current period performance is ≤ 3% from the same time period as last year.

Number of New Enrollments	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Q4 YTD	
				2015-16 Last Year	2016-17 Current
<b>Provincial</b>	<b>7,456</b>	<b>7,947</b>	<b>8,870</b>	<b>8,870</b>	<b>9,312</b>
South Zone	1,450	1,697	1,749	1,749	1,575
Calgary Zone	1,465	1,815	2,038	2,038	2,298
Central Zone	1,170	1,257	1,458	1,458	1,754
Edmonton Zone	1,852	1,562	1,703	1,703	1,962
North Zone	1,519	1,616	1,922	1,922	1,723