Technical Notes

Younger People in Residential Aged Care Dashboard: Data to 30 September 2024

These notes provide general information about data arrangements and the AIHW's collation, processing and reporting of data included in the Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Dashboard.

The Australian Government is working to reduce the number of younger people (under the age of 65) going into residential aged care, and to help younger people who are already in residential aged care to move into age-appropriate accommodation with the supports they need. The YPIRAC Dashboard tracks the progress being made towards the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Targets (the Targets), using the most recent data available, as per Recommendation 74 of the Australian Government Response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

It is recognised that there are some people aged under 65 who are eligible to access care and support through residential aged care facilities, either on a temporary or permanent basis (Department of Health and Aged Care 2023).

Where it is their preference, this includes:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) people aged 50–64, and/or

- A person who is homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and aged 50–64.

When the YPIRAC dashboard started in April 2021, reporting of YPIRAC targets were measured by counting all people under the age of 65 entering or living in permanent residential aged care. From the release of data to 31 December 2023 and onwards, First Nations people aged 50–64 are excluded from the YPIRAC targets but are reported separately in the downloadable data tables.

At present, data on people aged 50–64 who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless is not available. An indication of this cohort is provided in the factsheet using data from the National Screening and Assessment Form (NSAF), provided by the Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department).

From 1 July 2024, the NSAF was replaced with the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) and includes a mandatory field for client diversity (homeless/at risk of becoming homeless). However, the Department's data and reporting development in respect to the IAT is continuing. As such, there is currently an under-representation of younger people who identify as homeless/at risk of becoming homeless through an IAT assessment. For this reason, data in the factsheet will continue to use the 'Complex Needs Inadequate Housing Indicator' sourced from the NSAF until all new assessments have transitioned to the IAT. Once data and reporting developments are completed, data sourced from the IAT will be used for the factsheet and dashboard.

The updated reporting of YPIRAC and First Nations people aged 50–64 separately can only be applied to quarters from September 2018 onwards (see *Data source* section). A historical version of the data is available for download on the YPIRAC Dashboard. This presents the YPIRAC counts before First Nations people aged 50–64 were reported separately and includes periods from July 2016 to September 2023. Data from the current and historical data downloads are not comparable.

Data source

The majority of data for the YPIRAC Dashboard to 30 September 2024 are sourced from the Department's Aged Care Data Warehouse (ACDW – previously known also as the CASPER data warehouse). The ACDW collates a variety of aged care data. Data extraction for each update of the YPIRAC Dashboard is performed using an IBM Cognos tool to query data in ACDW. Some of the data in the ACDW are made available to users through various IBM Cognos reporting tools. The IBM Cognos tool used to extract data for the YPIRAC dashboard has access to the previous 5 years of data only.

The ACDW currently does not contain data on homelessness. As a result, data for the factsheet box 'People who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, aged 50–64' is instead derived by the Department from their Siebel database. All other data in this release has been updated and is based on the Department's ACDW.

From August 2022 to August 2023, the ACDW was unavailable to allow the Department to integrate the new aged care payment system into the ACDW. Please note, data table downloads released during this period may differ to recent releases as data for the July-September and October-December 2022 quarters were derived by the Department from their Siebel database. Updates to the ACDW were completed in September 2023.

The YPIRAC Dashboard is made available on AIHW's GEN Aged Care website. GEN contains data and information about aged care services in Australia. It reports on capacity and activity in the aged care system, focusing on people, their aged care assessments, and the aged care services they use. The majority of reporting on GEN is based on data from AIHW's National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse (NACDC), which is sourced from an annual snapshot from the ACDW.

Data coverage

Data Quality

The live data available in the ACDW are comparable to the data that are later provided to AIHW in an annual snapshot (static dataset) for the NACDC. The NACDC has a Data Quality Statement which outlines various aspects of data quality. The live ACDW data are not the responsibility of the AIHW but many of the data quality issues identified in the National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse Data Quality Statement would also be applicable to the live ACDW data.

Data coverage

The number of younger people living in permanent residential aged care does not include other aged care that may be provided in a residential setting, such as respite residential aged care or flexible aged care programs such as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care (NATSIFAC) Program. Younger people living in respite residential aged care are out of scope for the calculation of the YPIRAC targets but the data are available in the ACDW. Younger people receiving an equivalent of permanent residential aged care via the NATSIFAC Program or other flexible programs are of interest, but data are not currently available to AIHW in order to quantify trends in admissions or number of younger people using the program (or the crossover between these programs).

'Ageing out'

People who are at one point under age 65 and living in permanent residential aged care, but 'age out' of the cohort by turning 65, are not included in the results on the YPIRAC dashboard once they turn 65. YPIRAC who 'age out' of the cohort are not counted as 'exits'. Other work by AIHW and others seeks to describe the experiences of YPIRAC after they turn 65. For published information on exit reasons that include ageing out, see the AIHW report, *Exploring pathways for younger people living in residential aged care*.

Results from 2020 onward may be influenced by the impacts of COVID-19 on permanent residential aged care and availability of other supported living arrangements in Australia. It is possible this could have affected the reported number of admissions and discharges during the period and could vary by state and territory.

Methods

Data extraction from ACDW

Data for the YPIRAC Dashboard are extracted from ACDW at least 6 weeks following the end of each quarter. As data from the ACDW is live, differences between the current and previous extracts may be observed.

Analysis is presented by quarter as defined in ACDW (January–March, April–June, July–September, October–December). Each quarter, all ACDW data in the time series are refreshed as far back as the IBM Cognos tool will allow. Data no longer available in the IBM Cognos tool (i.e. more than 5 years old) are not refreshed once the data become unavailable in the IBM Cognos tool, and the last available extract of the older data is used for presentation on the dashboard.

Definition of YPIRAC

Younger people in residential aged care are identified in the data via ACDW using the following extraction criteria:

- Younger people Indicator = 'Younger people in RACS <65'

- Program Type = 'Residential'

- Care Type = 'Permanent'

- Additional indicators 'Indigenous status' and 'Age' are used to identify First Nations people aged 50–64. This subpopulation is reported separately and excluded from the YPIRAC targets but are reported separately in the downloadable data tables.

The data element 'Younger people Indicator' identifies all people under age 65. 'Program Type' identifies that the person is in residential aged care, and 'Care Type' identifies that the care is classified as permanent residential aged care (rather than for example, respite care).

The YPIRAC targets only include younger people in *permanent* residential aged care. A number of younger people also use *respite* residential aged care. Respite care is available on either a planned or emergency basis to people who intend to return to their ownhome but require temporary residential aged care. It supports people in transition stages of health, as well as providing carers with a break from their caring duties (AIHW 2019a).

Respite care may be a temporary situation but in many cases for YPIRAC it occurs at some stage before an entry to permanent residential aged care (AIHW 2019b). Respite care stays tend to be short in duration and are not currently captured in the dashboard.

Indigenous status refers to whether a person has identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. The 'Indigenous' variable in ACDW includes 'Indigenous' (including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander), 'Non-Indigenous' (neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin), and 'Unknown'. Only people in the 'Indigenous' category are included in counts for First Nations people aged 50–64 entering or living in permanent residential aged care. People in all other Indigenous status categories are included in the YPIRAC counts.

Target measures

The YPIRAC Targets are, apart from in exceptional circumstances:

- **no people under the age of 65 entering residential aged care by 1 January 2022**
- **no people under the age of 45 living in residential aged care by 1 January 2022**
- **no people under the age of 65 living in residential aged care by 1 January 2025**

The three targets are calculated using the YPIRAC definition as above, and the following measures/filters in ACDW:

Target #	Target description	Measure	Other filters	Other notes
1	Number of first admissions for people under age 65 to residential aged care	Number of Admissions	• First Admission Indicator (Y/N) = 'Y'	• Number of admissions refers to admissions <u>during</u> the selected period (e.g. one quarter) • Number of first admissions refers to a person's first admission to permanent residential aged care, and does not include readmissions or transfers between facilities • Includes people where exact age was unknown, but it was known that the person was under age 65 • Indigenous status and Age included to separate counts of YPIRAC who are First Nations people aged 50–64 from the Target count.
2	Number of people under age 45 living in residential aged care	Number of Recipients	• Select ages 18–44	• Number of people refers to people on the last day of the period (e.g. a quarter)
3	Number of people under age 65 living in residential aged care	Number of Recipients		• Number of people refers to people on the last day of the period (e.g. a quarter) • Includes people where exact age was unknown, but it was known that the person was under age 65 • In the time series, records with an unknown age or age of less than 18 are included in counts of YPIRAC if they have Younger people Indicator = 'Younger people in RACS <65'. For these cases, it is assumed the person is <65, but exact age is not known. However, these records are excluded from age-specific counts (e.g. 18–44, 45–59, 60–64), as exact age can't be determined or is unreliable using ACDW for these cases. This is known to have impacted 12 records.

					• Indigenous status and Age included to separate counts of YPIRAC who are First Nations people aged 50–64 from the Target count.

The three Targets are presented in an interactive dashboard by quarter and by State and Territory of the residential aged care service. The three Targets are also available in a downloadable Excel workbook by quarter and State and Territory of the residential aged care service. The number of YPIRAC is presented by quarter, sex and age group in a downloadable Excel workbook. All tables include separate reporting for YPIRAC who are First Nations people aged 50–64, except for Table 2 (Target 2), which does not include anyone above the age of 45.

Additional measures

Exits

YPIRAC Exits from permanent residential aged care per quarter are available in a downloadable Excel workbook.

Number of exits refers to a person's last exit from permanent residential aged care and does not include transfers between facilities. The concept of 'last' exit is calculated in ACDW using the data element 'Last Discharge Indicator (Y/N)' = Y.

Exits are presented by age group (18–44, 45–59, 60–64) and by 'Discharge Reason' as defined in ACDW, excluding transfers between facilities. Reasons for discharge as defined in ACDW are 'Death', 'To Hospital', 'Return to Family or Home', and 'Other'. AIHW does not have visibility of what precisely 'Other' includes. YPIRAC who turn 65 while in permanent residential aged care are not counted as 'exits'. They have 'aged out' of the YPIRAC cohort but have not exited permanent residential aged care. There are differing views regarding if deaths in aged care should be described as 'exits'. Regardless of terminology, the number of YPIRAC who die while in aged care is important to count, and the data are presented in the Exits section of the report, as this is how they are captured in the ACDW. Deaths that occur after a person has exited to a location such a hospital, family or home or 'other', are not necessarily captured as a 'death' or discharge reason of death in the ACDW.

Length of Stay

Average current length of stay by quarter is available in a downloadable Excel workbook. Average current length of stay is based on the length of time a person has spent in permanent residential aged care during their current stay. This does not include time spent during other stays, for example if a person were discharged home or to hospital for some time and then returned to permanent residential aged care. Thus, average *current* length of stay will be less than average *total* length of stay, which accounts for all the time that a person has spent in permanent residential aged care across various stays.

Reviews and checks

All data are reviewed by the Data Custodian of AIHW's National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse, and representatives from the Department of Health and Aged Care, Department of Social Services and the National Disability Insurance Agency, the three agencies working together to reduce the number of younger people in residential aged care.

References

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2019a. Pathways in Aged Care 2014: technical guide. Cat. no. AGE 82. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2019b. Pathways of younger people entering permanent residential aged care. Cat. no. AGE 89. Canberra: AIHW.

Department of Health and Aged Care (2023). Principles and guidelines for a younger person's access to Commonwealth funded aged care services, Department of Health and Aged Care.