

Technical Notes

Younger People in Residential Aged Care Dashboard: Data to 31 March 2022

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 targets in the [Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020–25](#), using the most recent data available.

Data source

Data for the YPIRAC Dashboard are sourced from the Department of Health and Aged Care's [Aged Care Data Warehouse \(CASPER\)](#). The Client and Service Provider E-analysis and Reporting (CASPER) data warehouse 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 CASPER. Some of the data in the CASPER Aged Care Data Warehouse are made available to users through various IBM Cognos reporting tools. CASPER is the source of the up-to-date, 'live' data in the YPIRAC dashboard.

The YPIRAC Dashboard is then 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 care assessments, and the 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 the Aged Care Data Warehouse from an annual snapshot.

Data coverage

Data Quality

The live data available in the Aged Care Data Warehouse are the same data that are later provided to AIHW in an annual snapshot (static dataset) for the National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse (NACDC). The NACDC has a Data Quality Statement which outlines various aspects of data quality. The live CASPER Aged Care Data Warehouse data are not the responsibility of the AIHW but would have many similar data quality issues as identified in the [National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse Data Quality Statement](#).

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](#). YPIRAC in respite residential aged care are out of scope for the calculation of the targets identified in the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020–25 but the data are available in the Aged Care Data Warehouse. YPIRAC receiving an equivalent of permanent residential aged care via the

NATSIFACP 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 YPIRAC 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.

COVID-19 impacts

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 CASPER

Data for the YPIRAC Dashboard are extracted from CASPER between 6 and 8 weeks following the end of each quarter. Analysis is presented by quarter as defined in CASPER (January–March, April–June, July–September, October–December). Each quarter, all CASPER 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 Cognos tool/product, 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 CASPER using the following extraction criteria:

- Younger people Indicator = 'Younger people in RACS <65'
- Program Type = 'Residential'
- Care Type = 'Permanent'

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).

It is not explicitly stated in the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020–25 that the YPIRAC targets should 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 own home 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 stays tend to be short in duration and are not currently captured in the dashboard.

Target measures

The Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020–25 sets out to achieve its goal through the following targets, apart from in exceptional circumstances:

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

The 3 targets are calculated using the YPIRAC definition as above, and the following measures/filters in CASPER:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Admission Indicator (Y/N) = 'Y' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
2	Number of people under age 45 living in residential aged care	Number of Recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select ages 18–44 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, one or 2 records have unknown age or age=1. Records with unknown age are included in counts of YPIRAC if they have Younger people Indicator = 'Younger people in RACS <65', as 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 using CASPER.

The three target measures are presented in an interactive dashboard by State and Territory, by quarter and by State/Territory of the aged care service. The three measures are also available in a downloadable Excel workbook by quarter and State and Territory. The number of YPIRAC is presented by quarter, sex and 5-year age group in a downloadable Excel workbook.

A person's access to government-subsidised aged care is determined by their assessed need, not their age. In the Aged Care Clearinghouse data used for the dashboard there are no instances of YPIRAC less than 18 years of age. There are one or two records with age=1 and 'Younger people in RACS <65', but in this case it is assumed that the person is under 65 but exact age is not known as it is not plausible that a 1 year old would be admitted to residential aged care.

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 CASPER using the data element 'Last Discharge Indicator (Y/N)' = Y.

Exits are presented by age group (18–44, 50–69, 60–64) and by 'Discharge Reason' as defined in CASPER, excluding transfers between facilities. Reasons for discharge as defined in CASPER 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 Aged Care Data Warehouse. 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 Aged Care Data Warehouse.

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.

Indigenous status

The proportion of YPIRAC who were identified in the data as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is presented in the Factsheet. The proportion is calculated using the 'Indigenous' variable in CASPER. Options were 'Indigenous' (including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander), 'Non Indigenous' (neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin), and 'Unknown' (Not stated/Inadequately described). Fewer than 1% of YPIRAC had an 'Unknown' status.

The proportion of Indigenous YPIRAC is derived using the following formula:

$$\text{Proportion of Indigenous YPIRAC} = \frac{\text{Number of Indigenous YPIRAC}}{(\text{Number of Indigenous YPIRAC} + \text{Number of non-Indigenous YPIRAC})} \times 100$$

Remote and very remote

The proportion of YPIRAC who were identified in the data as living in remote or very remote areas is presented in the Factsheet. The proportion is calculated using the 'Remoteness Area' variable in CASPER. Options were 'Major Cities', 'Inner Regional', 'Outer Regional', 'Remote' and 'Very Remote'. Remoteness areas are based on the location of the aged care service and classified according to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. No YPIRAC had an unknown remoteness area.

The proportion of YPIRAC living in remote or very remote areas is derived using the following formula:

$$\text{Proportion of YPIRAC living in remote or very remote areas} = \frac{\text{Number of YPIRAC living in Remote areas} + \text{Number of YPIRAC living in Very Remote areas}}{(\text{Total Number of YPIRAC living in Major Cities} + \text{Inner Regional} + \text{Outer Regional} + \text{Remote} + \text{Very Remote areas})} \times 100$$

Preferred language

The proportion of YPIRAC who had a preferred language that is not English is presented in the Factsheet. The proportion is calculated using the 'Preferred Language' variable in CASPER. The variable has 103 different options, including 98 different languages/language groups, 'None', 'Non Verbal', 'Not Stated/ Inadequately Described', 'Other Languages Not Elsewhere Classified', and 'Unknown'. YPIRAC with a preferred language of 'None', 'Non Verbal', 'Not Stated/ Inadequately Described' and 'Unknown' were not included in the calculation, as it was not clear what their preferred language was. In the time series data this represented 1% of YPIRAC.

The proportion of YPIRAC who have a preferred language other than English is derived using the following formula:

$$\text{Proportion of YPIRAC with a preferred language other than English} = \frac{\text{Number of YPIRAC with a preferred language that is one of the 97 non-English languages/language groups, or 'Other Languages Not Elsewhere Classified'}}{\text{Number of YPIRAC with a specified preferred language/language group or 'Other Languages Not Elsewhere Classified'}} \times 100$$

Reviews and checks

All data presented on the YPIRAC Dashboard are approved by the Data Custodian of AIHW's National Aged Care Data Clearinghouse.

All data are also reviewed by representatives from the Department of Health and Aged Care, Department of Social Services and the National Disability Insurance Agency, the 3 agencies responsible for the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Strategy 2020–25.

References

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

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2019b. Pathways of younger people entering permanent residential aged care. Cat. no. AGE 89. Canberra: AIHW.

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