

# Median wait time for community-based substance abuse services

Resource for Indicator Standards (RIS)  
Health Analytics Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

## Indicator description

### RIS indicator name

Median wait time for community-based substance abuse services

### Other names for this indicator

Median wait time for community-based substance abuse service Median wait times (in days) for selected community-based substance abuse services

### Indicator description

Availability or "wait time", as reported to ConnexOntario, refers to the estimated date of the next available treatment slot, where treatment slot refers to the next available bed, appointment date, and/or caseload opening, depending on the type of service.

As part of the transfer payment agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), all organizations that receive ministry funding to provide mental health and addictions services must enter into an agreement with ConnexOntario Health Services Information to provide information to the Drug & Alcohol Helpline (DAH), Ontario Problem Gambling Helpline (OPGH) and Mental Health Helpline (MHH) registries, including regular reporting on the of the availability of service. The reporting frequency (daily, weekly or monthly) depends on the service type.

### Accountability agreement(s) or ministry initiative(s) the indicator supports

- The Quarterly

## Numerator

### Data source

ConnexOntario Health Services Information

## Inclusion/exclusion criteria

### Includes:

1. All values for the estimated time to the next available treatment slot (wait time) for all reporting periods for the specific program categories (based on MOHLTC provincial service categories) reported by agencies during the fiscal quarter.

### Excludes:

1. Values for agencies that did not report wait times to ConnexOntario Health Services Information according to the reporting schedule.

## Calculation

### Steps:

1. Include all wait time values for the agencies and program category reported for the fiscal quarter;
2. Take the 50th percentile wait time value (mid-point) among all the reported values for the fiscal quarter.

## Denominator

### Data source

N/A

### Inclusion/exclusion criteria

#### Includes:

N/A

#### Excludes:

N/A

### Calculation

#### Steps:

N/A

# Timing and geography

## Timing/frequency of release

**How often and when data are being released (e.g., be as specific as possible...data are released annually in mid-May)**

Data are available quarterly or monthly.

## Trending

**Years available for trending**

FY 2005/2006 Q4.

## Levels of comparability

**Levels of geography for comparison**

Data are presented at the provincial level in the Quarterly.

Data are presented at the LHIN of the service provider level in the MLAA Supplementary reports.

# Additional information

## Limitations

**Specific limitations**

Programs funded through hospital global budgets are not currently required to report availability information to ConnexOntario.

Organizations are to report availability information regularly to ConnexOntario. It is worth noting, however, that some organizations may not provide updated information when scheduled.

The reported information reflects the expected wait for service, which may differ from the actual wait time experienced by individual clients.

## Comments

**Additional information regarding the calculation, interpretation, data source, etc.**

N/A

## References

**Provide URLs of any key references (e.g., Diabetes in Canada, [http:// ...](#))**

N/A

## Contact information

For more information about this indicator, please contact [RIS@ontario.ca](mailto:RIS@ontario.ca).

## Date RIS document created (YYYY-MM-DD)

2017-08-08

## Date last reviewed (YYYY-MM-DD)

2017-08-08