

Find that statistic – fast!

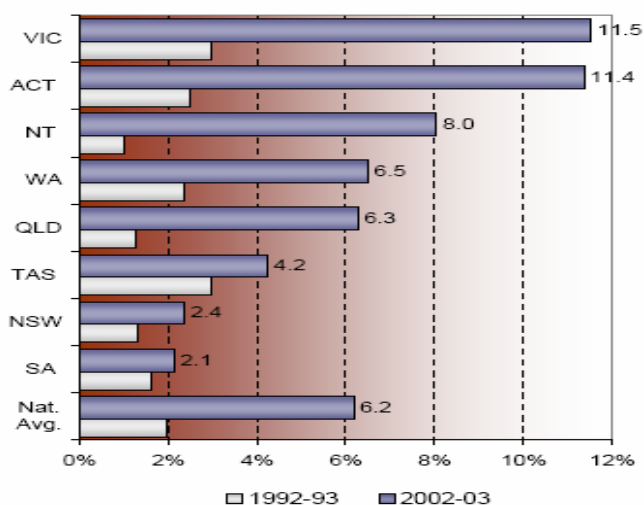
Writing a funding submission? Compiling a community campaign? Doing a brochure or an article about mental illness?

MHCC can't do all the work for you, but we can help with our ready reference to useful mental health statistics. Anyone who has written an article or a submission before knows that getting the right statistic can be time-consuming. Information about mental health and mental illness comes from a range of government reports, documents, surveys, and so on, and new releases come out all the time.

Now available online, the reference includes over 100 commonly-used and useful statistics with hyperlinks to their primary sources. Here are some examples of what you will find:

- 18% of adults have a mental health problem in any given 12 month period.
- Mental illness is the leading cause of non-fatal burden of disease in Australia (24% of total non fatal burden of disease).
- Suicide rates in NSW have been dropping over the last 10 years, and in 2005, 549 people died by suicide (a rate of 8.7 per 100,000 population) the lowest rate in 20 years.
- 80% of people who committed suicide in NSW in 2005 were males, but 60% of those hospitalised for suicide attempts were females.
- There were approximately 48,223 mental health-related occasions of service in hospital Emergency Departments in NSW in 2004-05.
- The total public psychiatric beds in 2004-05 in NSW was 2056.
- In 2006, 11% of people discharged from mental health inpatient care were re-admitted within 28 days.
- In 2004, 21% of the total prisoner population was Indigenous. Indigenous people aged over 17 years were incarcerated at 11 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians.
- In NSW in 2002-03, 2.4% of NSW mental health expenditure was on NGOs, well below the national average of 6.2%, and the second lowest of all states / territories.

**Funding to non government organisations
as a percent of total spending on
mental health services**



Source: Department of Health and Ageing, National Mental Health Report 2005, p. 5

Of course, this is a living document and will be updated constantly in response to updated statistics, as well as your suggestions for what else should be included. Contact Rachel Merton, Senior Policy Officer at MHCC with your suggestions and requests. The reference can be found at www.mhcc.org.au.