Ambulatory sensitive (avoidable) hospital admissions, 0-4 years

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| **Technical information** |
| **Indicator name (short)** | ASH (0-4) |
| **Description** | ASH events per capita, rate for 0-4 years. |
| **Rationale** | An ambulatory sensitive hospitalisation (ASH) is a hospital event for a condition that the hospitalisation could potentially have been avoided by the provision of appropriate health interventions and early disease management, normally delivered in primary care and community based care settings e.g. general practitioners, dentists, nurses and other health professionals. It has been suggested that admission rates can serve as proxy markers for primary care access and quality, with high admission rates indicating difficulty in accessing care in a timely fashion, poor care coordination or care continuity, or structural constraints such as limited supply of primary care workers. ASH rates are also determined by other factors, such as hospital emergency departments and admission policies, health literacy and overall social determinants of health. This measure can also highlight variation between different population groups. |
| **Numerator** | ASH events for 0-4 years: Inpatient hospital events where the hospital admission is acute (or elective for selected dental conditions), the patient is 0 to 4 years, and the event primary diagnosis is included in the list of ASH conditions. |
| **Denominator** | Children aged 0 to 4 years old. |
| **Inclusions** | See appendix for list of ASH conditions included. |
| **Exclusions** | Non-casemix events Neonates, i.e. patients less than 29 days old at admission Events with an overseas or unknown DHB of domicile |
| **Note for calculation** | Unit of measure: Rate is number of events per 100,000 populationDistrict health board assignment: Domicile |
| **Data sources** | National minimum dataset (Hospital Inpatient Events) NMDSPopulation projections PHO registration dataset |
| **Suppression rule** | Ethnicity: Pacific ethnicity is only defined in 7 DHBs with relatively large Pacific population and patients. These DHBs are Auckland, Waitematā, Counties Manukau, Waikato, Hawke's Bay, Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley, Canterbury. For other DHBs, Pacific is grouped into other.  |
| **Notes** | Conditions are based on primary diagnosis.Age is calculated at admission. |