

Data Impact Challenge Answer Submission Template

Template:

- Question: For what portion of adults is an annual physical exam conducted in any given year?
- Team and list of all team member names:
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Describing the Data and Analysis

- Data Custodian Organization(s) and data sources:
 - Alberta Health
- List of Datasets Used (e.g. names of database and/or data origins):
 - IHDA population estimates derived from Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Population Registry Files (As of June 30).
 - Alberta Physician Claims Data (2010-2015)
- Nature and Size of Cohort (e.g. geographic area covered, number of patients included):
 - Includes all medical visits with billed through Alberta Health
- Data timeframe: 2010 to 2014
- Exclusions: Any exams performed by Nurse Practitioners

Please provide a brief summary of the analysis methodology:

Alberta has a definition (Definition 1) of a comprehensive visit similar to a physical which entails a full examination of the patient. This is broad definition and the practitioner can bill once every 180 days for such an examination. A more narrow definition (Definition 2) is to include only a comprehensive exam performed by a general physician.

Definition 2 can be considered to be a lower estimate and Definition 1 can be considered to be a broader estimate. These two values give an approximate range and the true value lies somewhere in between.

Limitations:

Main data source available and used for analysis is an administrative data base used for billing, and may not fully reflect a providers practice. Not all data may be captured by the physician claims data, including data from nurse practitioners.

Definition 1

- Health Service Code(s) : 03.04A, 03.09B, 08.11C, 08.19A, 08.19AA, 03.04O, 03.04P, 03.08 Series
- Definition used is of a Comprehensive Visit as defined by Governing Rule 4.6.1 in the Alberta Schedule of Medical Benefits.
- Patient age is greater than 18 on the service date
- Maximum one visit per year is included

Definition 2

- Health Service Code 03.04A
- Patient age is greater than 18 on the service date
- Maximum one visit per year is included
- Only exams performed by a GP are considered.

Describing the Findings

Numerator: # of adults in Alberta with at least one complete physical exam performed

Denominator: The number of people with a valid Alberta health registration on June 30, ie for 2014/2015 the number of registrants on June 30, 2014.

Approximately 35% of adults are given an annual physical exam by their general practitioner in any given year. Approximately 53% of adults are provided some type of comprehensive exam in a given year. The trend shows that this number has been increasing in the previous 5 years, contrary to recommendations.

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Year	Definition #1 # of Individuals	Definition #2 # of Individuals	Population	% of Individuals with 03.04A/GP	% of Individuals with comprehensive exam
2010/11	877,755	1,430,424	2,902,901	30.2%	49.3%
2011/12	922,589	1,486,300	2,949,781	31.3%	50.4%
2012/13	954,906	1,529,007	3,032,597	31.5%	50.4%
2013/14	1,014,596	1,604,121	3,132,290	32.4%	51.2%
2014/15	1,115,420	1,705,080	3,226,327	34.6%	52.8%