

Accessing Medicare Australia's Statistics on the Internet

Medicare Australia uses technology to improve efficiency and to promote effective use of information within the health sector.

The use of health information using technology plays a valuable role in the community by helping:

- doctors make decisions in consultation with consumers of health services
- researchers evaluate treatments or therapies
- policy makers assess initiatives to improve Australia's health
- consumers of health services to make their own health decisions

Statistics from the following Medicare Australia administered programs are available from Medicare Australia's website:

- Medicare
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
- Family Assistance Office Rebate (prior to 1 July 2000, these payments were from the Commonwealth Childcare Rebate)
- Australian Organ Donor Register

Standard reports (such as bulk billing, enrolment numbers, key results) and reports specific to Divisions of General Practice can also be generated from Medicare Australia statistics. There is also a page displaying bulk bill statistics by Commonwealth electorates.

Availability of Statistics

Statistical reports and charts can be generated online, using data aggregated from the programs administered by Medicare Australia. Users can drill down through more detailed levels of data to generate specific reports. Both the content and format of the reports can be customised by selecting from the menus available on the website.

You can even construct charts online so that trends in data can be easily identified and, if necessary, further analysed after downloading the data into a spreadsheet.

Alternatively, the data can be explored online before requesting more complex reports from Medicare Australia.

The Medicare Australia statistics on the website are freely available and widely used. In response to the demand, Medicare Australia is working to increase the scope of the dynamic web pages and extend the available range of health information. Medicare Australia is also looking to create reporting options focusing on the specific requirements of doctors, pharmacists and health consumers.

What is not included

Medicare Australia reports do not include services provided to public patients in public hospitals or those that qualify for a benefit under the Department of Veterans' Affairs National Treatment Account.

How to run a simple statistics report

To obtain a report, for example on Medicare statistics:

1. Go to <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au> and click on the 'For Health Professionals' option
2. Click on 'Forms, publications & statistics'
3. Click on 'Health Statistics' on the navigation bar on the left hand column of the page (This takes you to the general information section of the Health Statistics site. The menus will provide you with access to all the Medicare Australia statistics, not just Medicare.)
4. Click on the 'Medicare' link and then select the 'MBS Group Reports' link
5. Now customise your report by choosing from the options in the drop-down menus in each field on the form
6. Click on the 'Create Report' button. Your report will be created and returned to your screen automatically
7. After reviewing your report, you can use the 'back' button on your browser to run other Medicare Benefits Scheme group reports. The left hand menu will allow you to access other sections within the Health Statistics site.

How to get statistics that are not available on Medicare Australia website

You can request further statistical data by contacting Medicare Australia. Some statistics are not available online due to patient and provider confidentiality issues. Medicare Australia reserves the right to exercise discretion in declining to provide information or to charge a fee to recover the cost of the provision of customised information.

Contact information

We are continually improving our website in response to customer needs and feedback. We welcome comments and suggestions.

Email: statistics@medicareaustralia.gov.au

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Visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au next time you need Medicare or other Medicare Australia statistics.