

Data tables

Contents

Table of results for selected questions, all response categories, NSW and all countries, and Primary Health Networks

Data source and methods

For more information

The Bureau of Health Information is a board-governed organisation that provides independent information about the performance of the NSW public healthcare system.

Enquiries:

BHI-enq@health.nsw.gov.au

Media assistance:

BHI-bhimedia@health.nsw.gov.au

Data source and methods

Data source

2016 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Adults

Each year, The Commonwealth Fund, a philanthropic organisation in the United States, commissions an international survey to support the creation of public reports that benchmark the performance of comparable healthcare systems. The survey focuses on different populations, generally following a three-year cycle. In 2015, it was conducted with primary care physicians, while in 2014, it sampled older adults aged 55+ years.

The 2016 International Health Policy Survey drew its sample from adults aged 18+ years. The Bureau of Health Information, as a partner, invested in an additional sample to ensure the number of NSW participants was sufficient to compute robust estimates of performance measures for NSW and to make statistically valid comparisons with the countries participating in the survey. For the first time this year, sampling was also conducted to ensure estimates were possible for Primary Health Networks (PHN).

Fieldwork in all countries took place between March and June 2016. The survey assessed public confidence in the healthcare system including questions of access, cost and quality. SSRS produced a comprehensive methodological report that details the sample design, data collection, data processing and survey procedures used in conducting the survey. Final samples were weighted to reflect the distribution of the adult population, by age, education profile and regional profiles in each country. The characteristics and populations used to calculate weights for each country are summarised in the SSRS methodology report. There were 5,248 respondents in Australia, with 3,845 in NSW (with approximately 350 in each of 10 PHNs).

The response rates for countries sampled for the 2015 survey varied from 11% in Norway to 48% in Switzerland (Table 1).

Table 1: 2016 Commonwealth Fund IHP Survey of Adults sample information by country

Country	Method Phone (landline and mobile)	Number of respondents	Response rate
Australia		5248	25%
NSW		3835	
Central and Eastern Sydney		401	
Hunter New England and Central Coast		418	
Murrumbidgee		371	
Nepean Blue Mountains		359	
North Coast		378	
Northern Sydney		384	
South Eastern NSW		382	
South Western Sydney		377	
Western NSW		375	
Western Sydney		390	
Canada		4547	21%
France		1103	25%
Germany		1000	27%
Netherlands		1227	32%
New Zealand		1000	31%
Norway		1093	11%
Sweden		7124	17%
Switzerland	Phone and Online (86%)	1520	47%
United Kingdom		1000	22%
United States		2001	18%

Methods

Statistical analysis

Reported percentages are the weighted estimates that are intended to reflect the views of adults about their experiences of healthcare.

Consistent with published reports on Commonwealth Fund data, non-response categories, such as 'not sure', 'declined to answer', and 'not applicable', were excluded from reporting and statistical analyses. Values based on fewer than 30 respondents are not reported.

Comparisons

The NSW estimates are compared with the rest of Australia and each of the 10 other countries. Results are shown for all of Australia, any differences between Australia and NSW are based on comparisons with the rest of Australia. A main response category was determined for each question, and responses were dichotomised such that the response value of interest (for example 'always') is coded as 1, and all other values, excluding non-response categories, are coded as 0. Logistic regression is then used to fit this binary variable on an explanatory variable for each respondent country, with appropriate adjustment for survey weights using the SAS procedures SURVEYLOGISTIC for the analysis. Any country values different from NSW are noted with shading to identify statistically significant differences at a 5% significance level. If no difference is flagged than with the available data, we are unable to detect statistical differences in the performance based on the statistical model. For Primary Health Networks comparisons are not made.

References

1. SSRS. International Health Policy Survey 2016 Methodology Report [Unpublished].
2. Osborn, R., et al., In New Survey Of Eleven Countries, US Adults Still Struggle With Access To And Affordability Of Health Care. *Health affairs (Project Hope)*, 2016. 35(12): p. 2327.
3. SAS Institute. The SAS System for Windows, version 9.3 Cary (NC). SAS Institute 2005. (Note: SAS and all other SAS Institute Inc. product or service names are registered trademarks or trademarks of SAS Institute Inc. in the USA and other countries. ® indicates USA registration)

Table: Percentage of adults providing specified responses to questions, by response category, and performance dimension, Australia and 10 comparator countries, NSW, Primary Health Networks, 2016

		NSW result compared to country result:										Primary Health Networks within NSW											
		Significantly worse					Significantly better																
Question	Response	Australia	Canada	France	Germany	Netherlands	New Zealand	Norway	Sweden	Switzerland	United Kingdom	United States	NSW	Central and Eastern Sydney	Hunter New England and Central Coast	Murrumbidgee	Nepean Blue Mountains	North Coast	Northern Sydney	South Eastern NSW	South Western Sydney	Western NSW	Western Sydney
Efficiency																							
In the past 12 months, how often has a doctor recommended a test or treatment that you did not feel was necessary for your health?	Frequently or occasionally	6	9	12	12	7	8	6	5	12	7	12	7	8	7	5	6	7	4	11	6	5	5
	Rarely	12	16	39	30	8	15	13	9	22	9	20	9	5	7	9	10	7	14	8	11	16	8
	Never	83	75	40	58	86	77	81	86	66	84	68	85	88	86	86	83	86	82	81	83	79	87
Thinking about the past two years, when receiving care for a medical problem, was there ever a time when doctors ordered a medical test that you felt was unnecessary because the test had already been done?	Yes	6	6	21	6	3	4	6	5	11	5	11	6	8	8	4	7	5	5	8	5	3	7
	No	93	94	79	94	97	96	94	95	89	95	89	94	92	92	96	93	95	95	92	95	97	93
Thinking about the past two years, when receiving care for a medical problem, was there ever a time when test results or medical records were not available at the time of your scheduled medical care appointment?	Yes	5	9	13	6	5	7	8	10	7	7	12	5	6	5	2	3	5	3	10	2	7	5
	No	95	91	87	94	95	93	92	90	93	93	88	95	94	95	98	97	95	97	90	98	93	95
In the past two years, have you experienced delays in being notified about abnormal test results?	Yes	6	7	6	2	4	8	10	9	3	6	10	6	5	6	6	4	5	5	12	5	4	5
	No	94	93	94	98	96	92	90	91	97	94	90	94	95	94	94	96	95	95	88	95	96	95
In the past two years, have you been given incorrect results for a diagnostic or lab test?	Yes	5	5	6	2	2	5	4	3	3	4	8	3	3	4	6	4	6	4	4	3	2	2
	No	95	95	94	98	98	95	96	97	97	96	92	97	97	96	94	96	94	96	96	97	98	98
The last time you went to the hospital emergency department was it for a condition that you thought could have been treated at your regular place of care?	Yes	29	43	22	44	34	32	41	34	37	30	49	30	24	24	23	39	34	17	33	22	47	24
	No	71	57	78	56	66	68	59	66	63	70	51	70	76	76	77	61	66	83	67	78	53	76
Socio-demographics, health status and healthcare use																							
Age	18 to 34 years	34	25	26	25	26	29	29	28	25	29	30	31	35	19	51	59	18	29	26	30	42	31
	35 to 49 years	26	27	25	25	26	27	27	24	27	26	25	26	28	24	19	17	31	23	35	31	22	29
	50 to 64 years	22	28	25	26	26	25	24	23	26	23	26	23	20	31	14	12	28	21	21	24	23	23
	65 years and over	17	19	25	25	22	19	21	25	22	22	19	19	17	26	15	12	22	27	18	15	14	16
Were you born in this country or somewhere else?	Yes, born in this country	78	82	80	84	93	81	93	86	70	90	85	79	66	89	85	80	90	74	81	67	91	72
	No, not born in this country	22	18	20	16	7	19	7	14	30	10	15	21	34	11	15	20	10	26	19	33	9	28
Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have: stroke, arthritis, cancer, depression, anxiety, or other mental health problem, chronic lung problems, heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes?	No condition	57	41	60	59	60	53	45	44	52	57	38	54	61	42	61	59	51	58	47	56	51	60
	Yes, has chronic condition	43	59	40	41	40	47	55	56	48	43	62	46	39	58	39	41	49	42	53	44	49	40
In the past two years, have you experienced emotional distress such as anxiety or great sadness which you found difficult to cope with by yourself?	Yes	20	27	12	7	19	21	20	24	21	17	26	16	16	22	16	11	21	13	17	19	14	11
	No	80	73	88	93	81	79	80	76	79	83	74	84	84	78	84	89	79	87	83	81	86	89
How many times have you used a hospital emergency department for your own medical care in the past two years?	None	78	59	67	89	80	77	74	63	69	76	65	81	85	80	82	82	79	83	76	83	72	85
	One	13	20	17	9	13	15	15	20	20	13	17	12	11	13	10	10	12	10	14	10	16	10
	Two or more	10	21	16	3	7	9	12	16	11	11	18	7	4	7	8	7	9	6	10	8	12	5
Have you seen or needed to see any specialist doctors or consultants in the past two years?	Yes	42	50	58	46	48	40	56	48	54	37	52	42	40	46	42	43	43	44	48	42	40	38
	No	58	50	42	54	52	60	44	52	46	63	48	58	60	54	58	57	57	56	52	58	60	62
Have you needed non-emergency or elective surgery in the past two years?	Yes	13	12	16	12	8	14	20	15	15	9	15	12	9	13	12	8	14	15	15	13	14	10
	No	87	88	84	88	92	86	80	85	85	91	85	88	91	87	88	92	86	85	85	87	86	90
During the past two years, have you been in the hospital as an inpatient, that is overnight or longer?	Yes	16	14	30	14	18	17	20	18	23	16	17	19	15	22	18	19	20	19	20	19	21	13
	No	84	86	70	86	82	83	80	82	77	84	83	81	85	78	82	81	80	81	80	81	80	87