



## Department of Children and Youth Affairs

### Inventory of Data Sources on Children's Lives

## A33 National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System (NPIRS): Hospital Census

<b>Data owner</b>	Health Research Board ( <a href="http://www.hrb.ie">www.hrb.ie</a> )
<b>Brief description</b>	The Hospital Census records all patients resident at midnight on 31st March of the year in question in all psychiatric in-patient facilities around the country (including psychiatric hospitals, general hospital psychiatric units, private hospitals, child and adolescent units, and the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum) on the Register of Approved Centres under the Mental Health Act 2001. All patients on the books in hospitals and units, including those on leave, are also enumerated in the census; patients who are on the books but absent on the night of census are still enumerated, but are not recorded as resident on the night. Data collected include demographic data and clinical/ diagnostic information.
<b>Primary function of data</b>	Like the NPIRS database (see A32), the Hospital Census database plays an important role in mental health policy, planning and management. It gives a snapshot of in-patient resident numbers and their characteristics on a particular night. Due to the accelerated move to community psychiatric services, it was felt that an earlier appreciation of the impact of such changes on in-patient resident numbers and characteristics was needed and thus a census was carried out on 31st March 2006 after an interval of just 5 years. Following an agreement with the Mental Health Commission, the HRB agreed to carry out a Hospital Census every 3 years (resources permitting), commencing on 31st March 2010. A further census was carried out on 31st March 2013.
<b>Key classificatory variables</b>	ID Other; Sex; DOB; County; Occupation; Labour Force Status; Marital Status
<b>Themes/domains</b>	Health; Demographics
<b>Unit of observation</b>	Patient resident in psychiatric hospital on the night in question
<b>Start date of data collection</b>	1963
<b>Frequency of data collection</b>	Every 3 years since 2010
<b>Data format</b>	Individual case data
<b>Method of data collection</b>	Data are computerised and obtained from data submitted to the HRB's NPIRS database.
<b>Access/further information</b>	Health Research Board: <a href="http://www.hrb.ie">www.hrb.ie</a> Publications available at: <a href="http://www.hrb.ie/publications/mental-health/">http://www.hrb.ie/publications/mental-health/</a>
<b>Notes</b>	All psychiatric in-patient facilities entered on the Register of Approved Centres under the Mental Health Act 2001 are included.  Data are analysed and presented in the HRB's <i>Irish Psychiatric Units and Hospitals Census</i> report.