



11.9. Unplanned hospital re-admissions for mental illness (MH-11)

11.9.1. Documentation sheet

Description	Proportion of readmissions within 30 days in psychiatric hospitals
Calculation	Numerator: Number of readmissions in the same hospital within 30 days after discharge. Denominator: Number of stays in psychiatric hospital (PH) or in psychiatric services of general hospital (PSGH)
Rationale	Hospital readmission rates are commonly used as proxy for relapse or complication following a psychiatric inpatient stay: they can point to premature discharge or lack of coordination with outpatient care or a lack of continuity of care.
Primary Data source	RPM from FPS Public Health Period 2010-2016
Periodicity	Yearly
Technical definitions and limitations	Data is reported based on the region of the patient's residence. Some hospitals have a unique stay number rather than a unique patient number (readmissions are not counted as such). Only hospital stays where the patient was discharged are included.
International comparability	This indicator is currently included in the international mental health comparison from the NHS Benchmarking Network ^{III} , it was proposed by the OECD mental care panel ¹
Dimensions	Quality (Appropriateness)

11.9.2. Results

Belgium

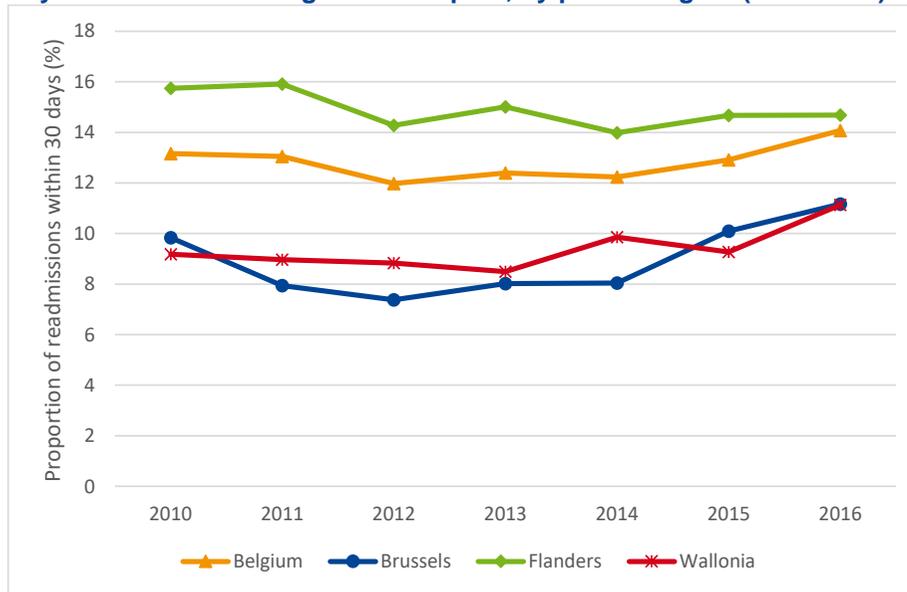
The rate of 30 days readmissions is 14.1% in Belgium in 2016. At the regional level, while Flanders is the only region with a stable trend, it has a higher rate (14.7% in 2016) than Wallonia (11.1%) and Brussels (11.1%). The lower rates for these two regions until 2015 come partly from an artefact: Brussels had two psychiatric services of general hospital (out of a total of 19 for both PH and PSGH) that had a unique number for stays instead of a unique number for patient: those hospitals had a nil readmission rate.

Wallonia had a similar problem with one psychiatric service of a general hospital (out of a total of 41 for both PS and PSGH). These problems have been resolved from 2016 on.

^{III} <https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/nhsbn-static/Other/2018/International%20MH%20Report%202018.pdf>



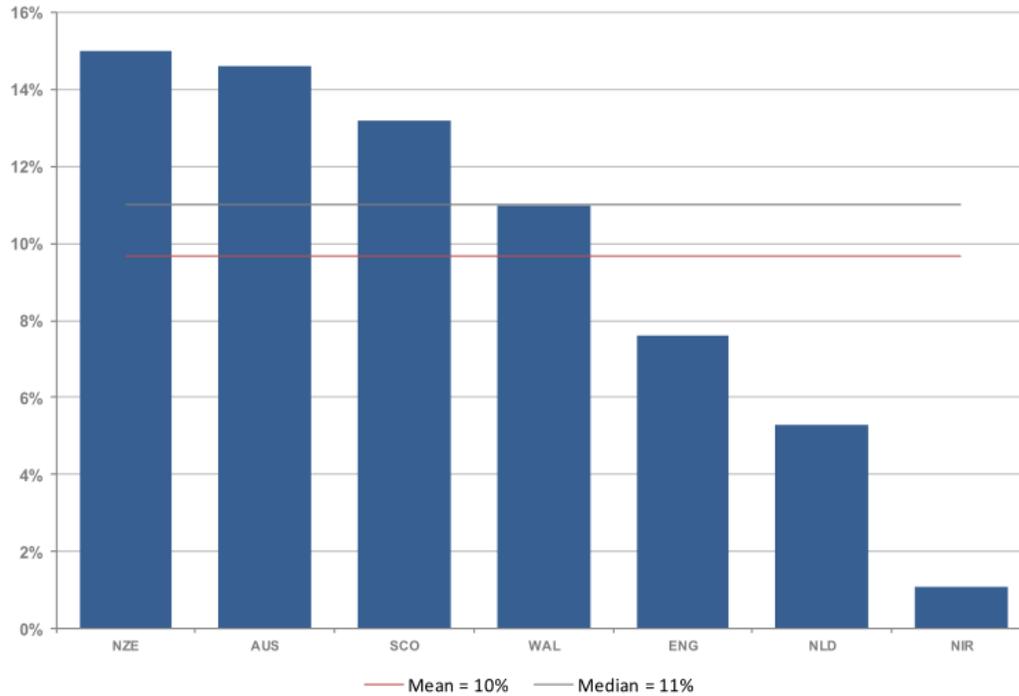
Figure 171 – 30 days readmission rate in Psychiatric hospital or in Psychiatric services in general hospital, by patient region (2010-2016)



Source: SPF Public Health Institute (MPG – RPM)

International comparison

The NHS Benchmarking Network is setting up an initiative to compare mental health service for adults and older adults; emergency readmissions is in the indicators set. The mean readmission rate among the countries (Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand and UK) is 10% and the median 11%.

**Figure 172 – Unplanned readmission rate for adults in mental healthcare: international comparison**

Source: NHS Benchmarking Network 2018

NZE: New Zealand, AUS: Australia, SCO: Scotland, WAL: Wales, ENG: England, NLD: the Netherlands, NIR: Northern Ireland.

Key points

- **Belgium has a 30 days readmission rate for mental illness of 14.1% in 2016, which is in the range of other similar countries**
- **Flanders has a higher rate (14.7%) than Wallonia (11.1%) and Brussels (11.1%)**

References

1. Hermann RC, Mattke S. Selecting indicators for the quality of mental health care at the health systems level in OECD countries. Paris: OECD; 2004. OECD Health Technical Papers 17 (17)