



# Data Quality in the Abortion Notification System

The Abortion Notification System is the digital repository of information reported by medical practitioners about induced abortions (terminations of pregnancy) conducted in Western Australia.

Notifications are handwritten on the form provided and the form is submitted to the Western Australian Department of Health using Australia Post with 14 days.

Notifications are logged with a sequential number in the order they are received by the Department. Information from the Notifications is transcribed to the Abortion Notification System.

## Quality Assurance Processes

1. At time of receipt or data entry to Abortion Notification System, submitted forms that have incomplete or inconsistent data are sent back to reporter for correction.
2. At time of data entry validation rules in the Abortion Notification System are used to check for inconsistent data or data entry.
3. Every year, summaries of data held in the Abortion Notification System are provided to reporting practitioners and/or health services to enable verification of data summaries for the period reported.

## Quality Statement

The small number of data items collected combined with the simple method of reporting and data entry would suggest there are minimal errors in data collection and minimal systemic issues with data quality.

Errors evident in the data that are unable to be corrected are able to be excluded from reporting.

Errors in the data that are unable to be detected cannot be quantified and cannot be excluded from reporting.

## Accuracy

These data are believed to have reasonable correlation with clinical reality. Minimal data is reported. The form has not been updated since 2001 and clinical procedures listed on the form are rare in current practice. The most common procedure type used now is reported as free text.

## Timeliness

Information is reported within 14 days of the event. Data entry occurs within eight weeks of the event. Validation of data entered is complete within 1 month of the end of each period validated. Timeliness for availability of this data meets all current reporting requirements.

## Comparability

Data in the Abortion Notification System has good comparability across time and has been collected in Western Australia since 1998. Data elements reported are described and legislated in Regulations for the WA Health Act 1911. These 1998 regulations have changed once, in 2001. Comparability with other administrative data held by WA has decreased over time due to induced abortion procedures having an increased use of medication and outpatient services. There is some comparability with summary data reported by other countries and Australian jurisdictions.

## Usability

These data have high usability. The small number of well-defined data items in the collection are easily understood and can be readily accessed. Metadata is available at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/510999>. These data do not include patient identifying information and thus are described as non-identified records.

## Relevance

These data have moderate relevance for current and future requirements of the data. Data items and their reportable values were last amended in 2001.



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