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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Research, Audits, and Evaluation Branch
Annual Purchase of Service (POS) Reports

Methodology Update Notice:

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the accuracy and completeness of data, and to adhere to statutory requirements, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) has released updated requirements for collecting key demographic information. These requirements will be implemented by regional centers in the 2025 calendar year. The methodology used to produce the 2023-24 and future reports is different from the methodology and data sources used to produce prior reports. Comparisons with prior periods should be made with caution, and only in consultation with the Department.

The following FAQs are provided to support the use of the Annual POS Reports. These reports provide regional center (RC) and statewide summaries of expenditures and authorizations. These reports protect confidential information, in accordance with the California Health and Human Services De-identification Guidelines.

1. **How are the Annual POS Reports different from the Public Comprehensive Dashboard?**
   Some key differences include:
   - Time period: The Public Comprehensive Dashboard is organized by month and includes all fiscal years (FYs) since FY 2011/12. The Annual POS Reports summarize one FY at a time.
   - Caseload counts:
     - The Public Comprehensive Dashboard shows individuals who were active at any point in the FY or had a POS expenditure during the FY.
     - The Annual POS Reports use a point in time method, counting individuals with either an active status in January of the FY or at least one POS record in the FY.
   - Some information in the Annual POS Reports is not available in the Public Comprehensive Dashboard. Most notably, data describing POS authorization and utilization can be seen only in the Annual POS Reports.

2. **How are the Annual POS Reports put together?**
   Annual POS Reports are provided as separate files in Excel workbook format. Each workbook includes a series of worksheets, organized by topic. Detailed methods used to create the reports can be seen in the Methodology Overview document.

3. **Is there a statewide version of these reports?**
   Yes, a statewide version of these reports is posted on the Department's website with the RC reports.

4. **What are the "NoPOS" reports?**
   Annual POS Reports include a series of "NoPOS" worksheets, also known as "NoPOS" reports. NoPOS reports describe characteristics of individuals with no POS claims in the FY, with following columns of data:
   - Individuals Count: The total number of individuals served by the RC.
   - Individuals with No Purchased Services: The number of individuals with missing, zero, or negative POS claims in the FY.
   - Percent with No Purchased Services: The percent of individuals with missing, zero, or negative POS claims in the FY.

5. **What are the insurance reports?**
   Annual POS Reports include a series of "Insurance" worksheets (e.g., InsxLang) that describe expenditures among individuals with co-payments or other insurance-related costs. The "Individuals Count" column in these reports includes only the subset of individuals with insurance-related costs.

6. **Why are there no "Total" rows in reports broken down by diagnosis?**
   In tables that summarize individuals by diagnosis, individuals with more than one diagnosis can be listed in more than one category. Therefore, a "Total" row would not show the correct number of individuals.

7. **What is the difference between reports showing Individual Program Plan (IPP) translations?**
   Annual POS Reports include two IPP translation reports, "IPP45" and "IPP60", showing IPP translations requested in a threshold or a non-threshold language, respectively. For the purposes of Annual POS Reports, a threshold language is a primary language spoken by at least 5% of individuals receiving services. Requests for IPP translations in a threshold language must be completed within 45 days. A non-threshold language is a primary language spoken by less than 5% of individuals served. Requests for IPP translations in a non-threshold language must be completed within 60 days. For more information, see section 1810.410 of Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations.

8. **What is the difference between a “0” and a “-” in report tables?**
   A “0” means the value in that cell is zero. A “-” means there is no data for that cell.

9. **Can I request more detailed data that is not available in the reports?**
   Yes. Please see the Public Records Requests webpage on the Department’s website for more information: https://www.dds.ca.gov/general/news-room/public-records-requests/

10. **Who can I contact for comments and/or further questions?**
    Please e-mail us if you have any suggestions or see any problems or errors: Analytics@dds.ca.gov