

**TOTAL SCORE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

NOVEMBER 2009 - VERSION 1

**WHAT IS A TOTAL SCORE REPORT?**

A total score is the total of each individual HoNOS item added together. Total score reports will provide analysis of HoNOS, HoNOS65+ and HoNOSCA total scores at each of the collection points (reasons for collection) and also by Team and Ethnic Group. In all analyses, the HoNOS/HoNOS65+ 10 item totals and 12 item totals are shown. Similarly, for HoNOSCA, 13 item totals and 15 item totals are shown.

**WHY USE TOTAL SCORES?**

Total scores provide a means of identifying aggregated levels of complexity of service users within Mental Health and Addiction Services. Outcome total score reports are particularly useful at DHB, regional and national reporting levels. They indicate trends and patterns over time that are useful for research, workforce development, and quality initiatives.

At service and team levels of reporting, outcomes total scores enhance monitoring of caseload trends. This in turn may indicate staffing requirements to ensure the best outcomes for service users.

**HOW ARE TOTAL SCORES CALCULATED?**

Only valid outcome collections are counted, i.e. those with 2 or less items with a score of '7' or '9' (missing or unable to rate). All item scores must be in the range 0-4.

Total Score Group	Description
HoNOS/HoNOS65+ 12 items	Sum of the 12 items, adjusted for the number of valid items
HoNOS/HoNOS65+ 10 items	Sum of the first 10 items, adjusted for the number of valid items
Total HoNOSCA 15 items	Sum of the 15 items, adjusted for the number of valid items
Total HoNOSCA 13 items	Sum of the first 13 items, adjusted for the number of valid items

**HOW CAN TOTAL SCORES BEST BE PRESENTED?**

The simplest way to present the data is in a bar graph comparing the mean total scores. Examples of these showing confidence intervals are overleaf. The data can also be presented in a table comparing the mean, standard deviation and number in each category across teams, reason for collection, ethnicity, etc.

**HOW CAN THIS INFORMATION BE INTERPRETED?**

In interpreting this information, users need to remember that the total score can be made up in many different ways. For example, a total score of 12 could be 12 items with a score of 1; 6 items with a score of 2; 4 items with a score of 3; or many other combinations. The higher the score the more severe the presentation.

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### HOW CAN THIS INFORMATION BE USED?

Total score reports provide a useful summary mechanism, both for DHBs locally and at national level. DHBs, services and teams may use this to look at mean admission and discharge scores against the national means (when these are available). They can be used to provide a reality check and inform discussion within and between teams.

### LIMITATIONS OF A TOTAL SCORE REPORT

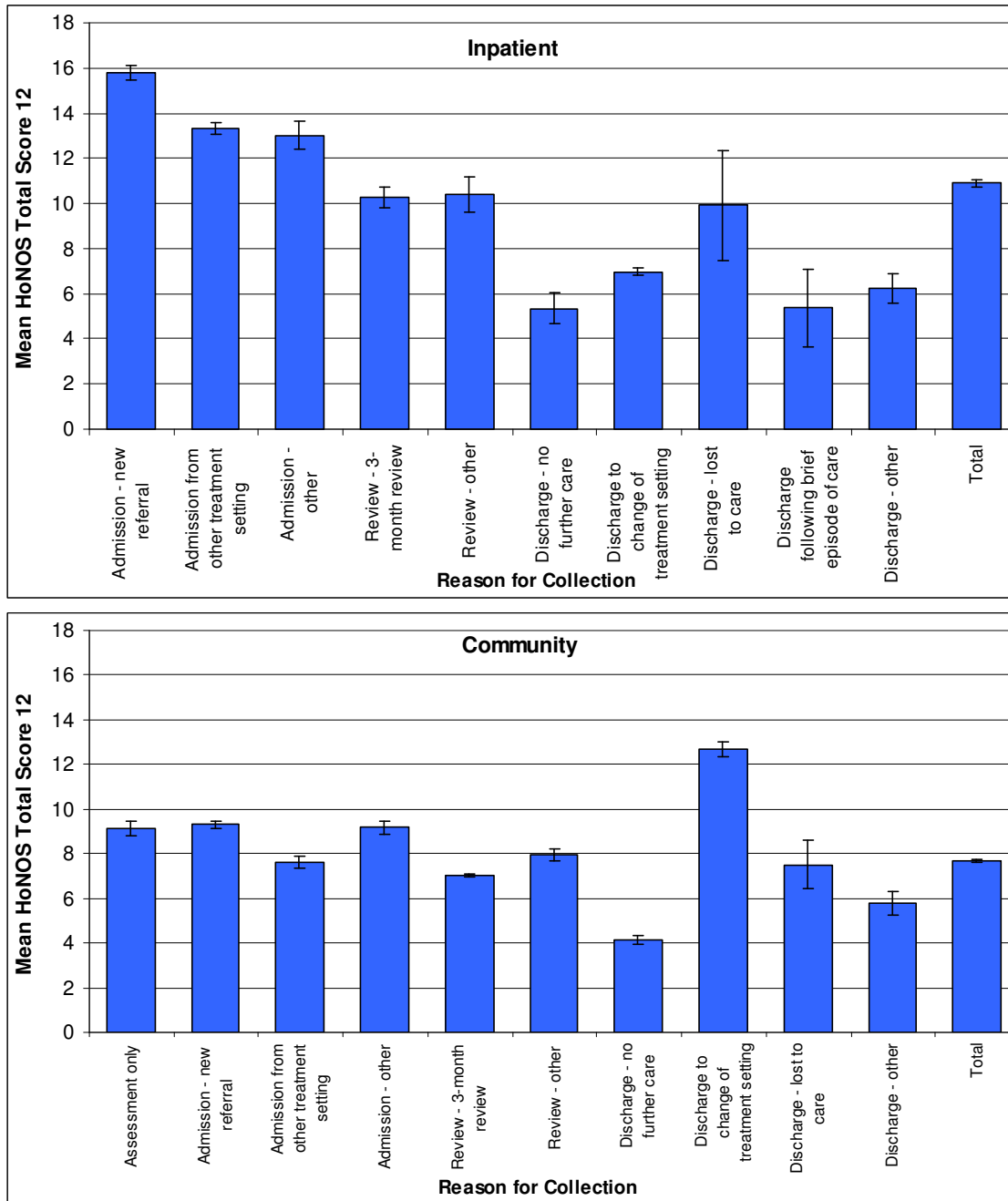
Total Score does not show the individual item scores – there is no indication of what problems make up the total score. There may be limited utility at team level because of this as teams may be more interested in what has made up the total score. A caution to users to bear in mind is that HoNOS does not measure everything. This report should be used in conjunction with other PRIMHD Outcome Reports. These tables are not casemix adjusted to take account of the differences in the mix of service users between different teams and DHBs.

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Figure 1: HoNOS Total Score 12 items, by Reason for Collection and Setting



Note 1: When there is under 30 observations the data is excluded from this graph.

Note 2: This is not casemix adjusted.