

Dimension Calculation

There are multiple ways to calculate dimension scores, and NRC Health offers two options in Advanced Reporting. A Dimension Calculation selector is available on Dashboard, Scorecard, Priority Matrix and Query Builder. The options for the selector are “NRC Standard – Respondent level” and “Modified – Question Level”, with the default being NRC Standard.

The NRC Health standard is to calculate a dimension score for each patient, and then average those scores to obtain the dimension score. In order to mitigate any potential biases related to unanswered questions, the “NRC Standard – Respondent Level” dimension calculation only includes patients who have valid responses to at least half (50%) of the questions in a given dimension.

The alternative method NRC Health offers calculates the positive score for each question in the dimension and averages those to obtain the dimension score. The “Modified – Question Level” gives the percent of all responses that were positive.

Neither calculation is more accurate than the other – they are simply different. Where the majority of respondents answered all of the questions in a dimension, these two approaches are very similar in their results. The benefits of the NRC Standard methodology becomes most evident where there are many respondents choosing not to answer or being directed to skip questions. The logic used in the NRC Standard protects from potential bias, by preventing patients with responses to less than half the questions, from contributing to dimension scores.

Things to keep in mind:

- All NRC benchmarks use the NRC Standard calculation. CMS Benchmarks use publically reported data.
- The n-size in both methods represents the number of respondents included in the dimension calculation.

Example Calculation:

NRC Standard - Respondent Level				
	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Respondent Dimension Score
Respondent 1	X	X		XX
Respondent 2	X		X	XX
Respondent 3	X	X	X	XXX
				Average
Dimension n-size = 3				

Modified - Question Level				
	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	
Respondent 1	X	X		
Respondent 2	X		X	
Respondent 3	X	X	X	
Question Positive Score	XXX	XX	XX	Average
Dimension n-size = 3				