

A helicopter view of patient outcomes in palliative care

National overview | September 2019

About this report

The Australian Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC) is a national palliative care outcomes and benchmarking program. PCOC's primary objective is to systematically improve patient outcomes (including pain and symptom control).

This report provides a high level summary of key patient outcomes, and highlights the improvements achieved by participating palliative care services between 2009 and 2018.

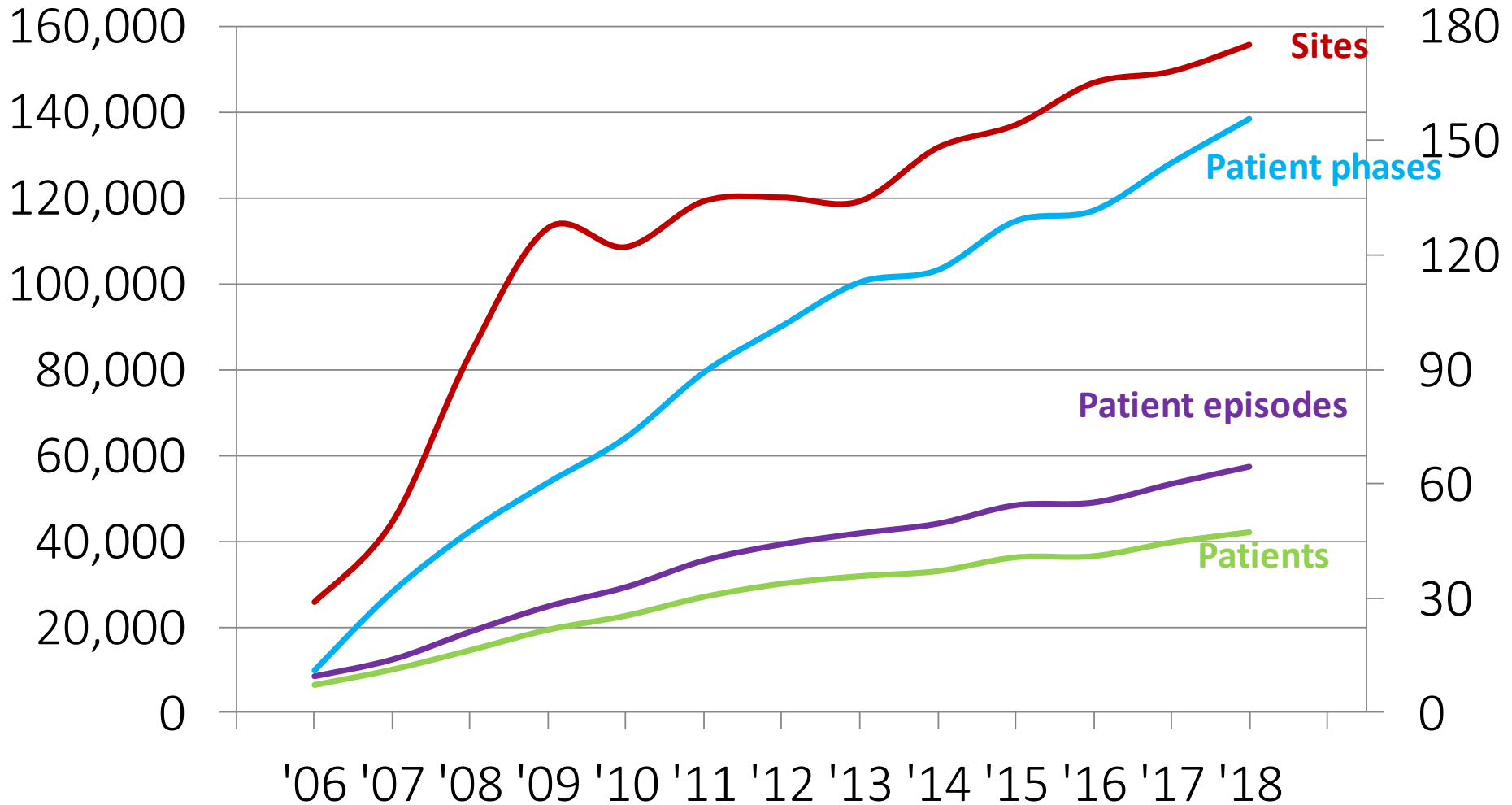
More information about PCOC and more detail about each of the outcome measures can be found in the National and State reports available at pcoc.org.au

PCOC is a national palliative care project funded by the Australian Government Department of Health

Growth of PCOC

Patients, episodes & phases (N)

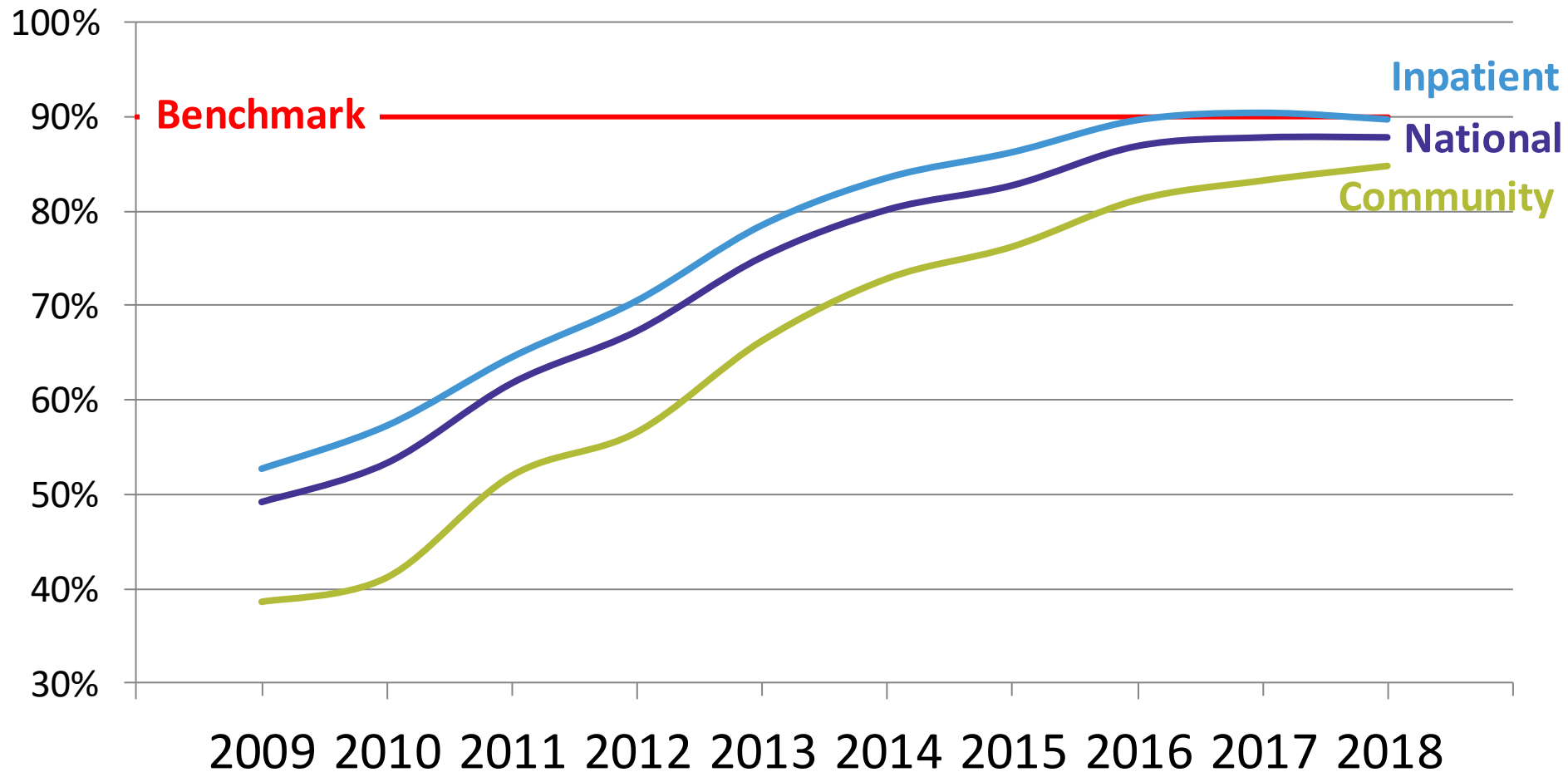
Sites (N)



Trends in patient outcomes

Responsiveness to urgent needs

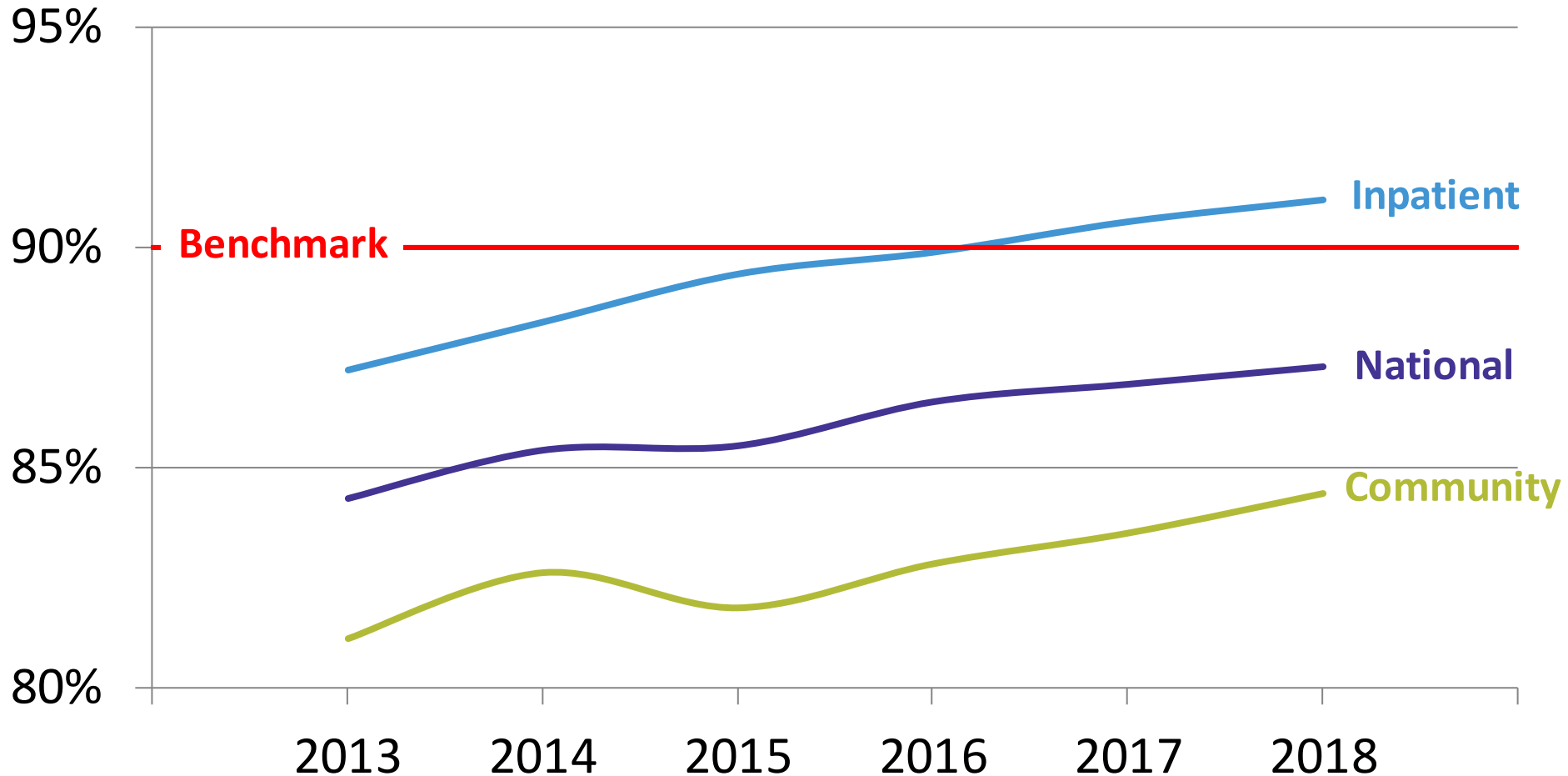
Positive outcome = Patients with unstable needs addressed within three days



Trends in patient outcomes

Anticipatory pain management

*Positive outcome = Patients with absent or mild pain at the end of a phase
(maintained that way from the beginning of the phase)*

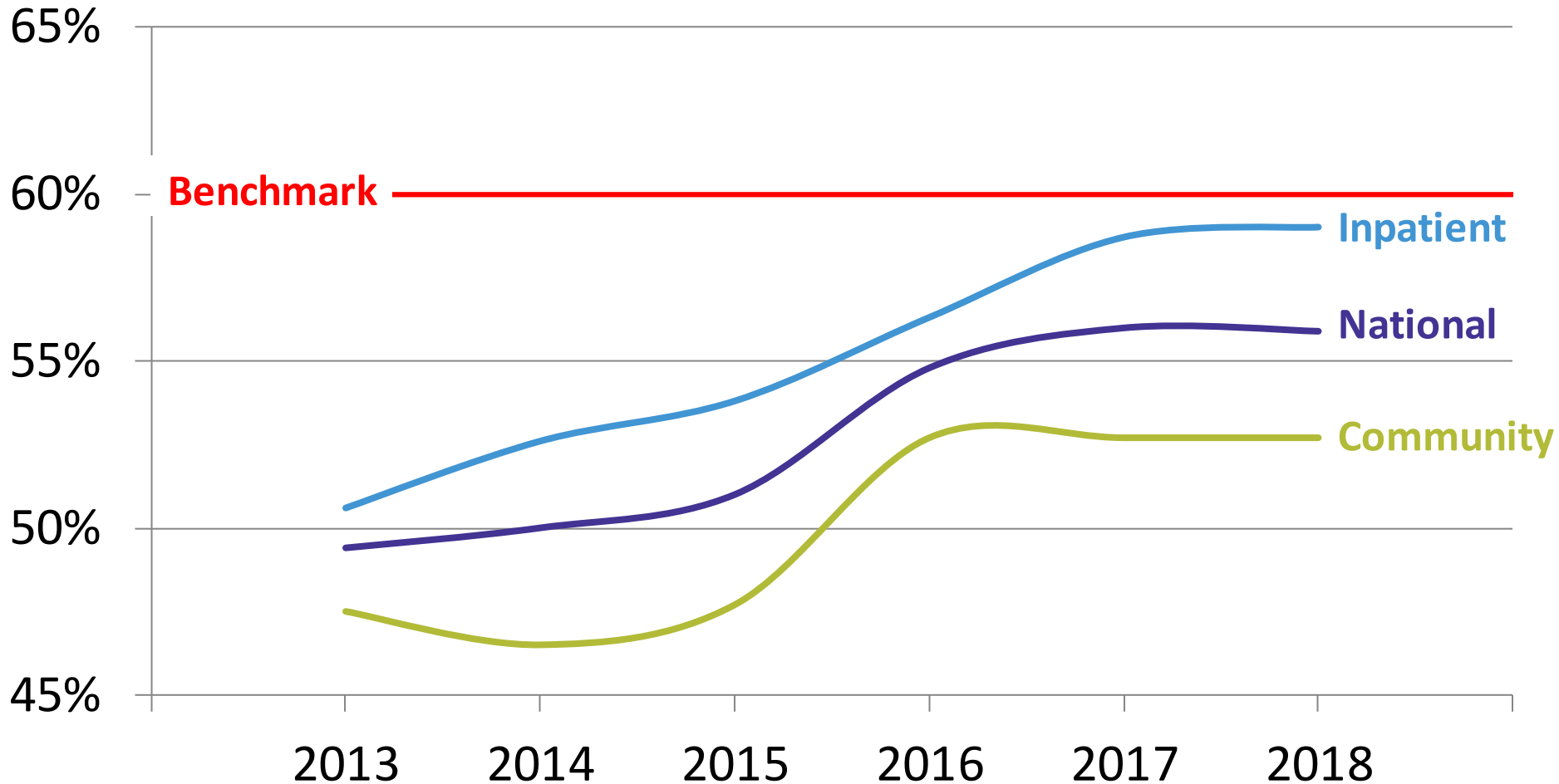


Trends in patient outcomes

Responsive pain management

Positive outcome = Patients with absent or mild pain at the end of a phase

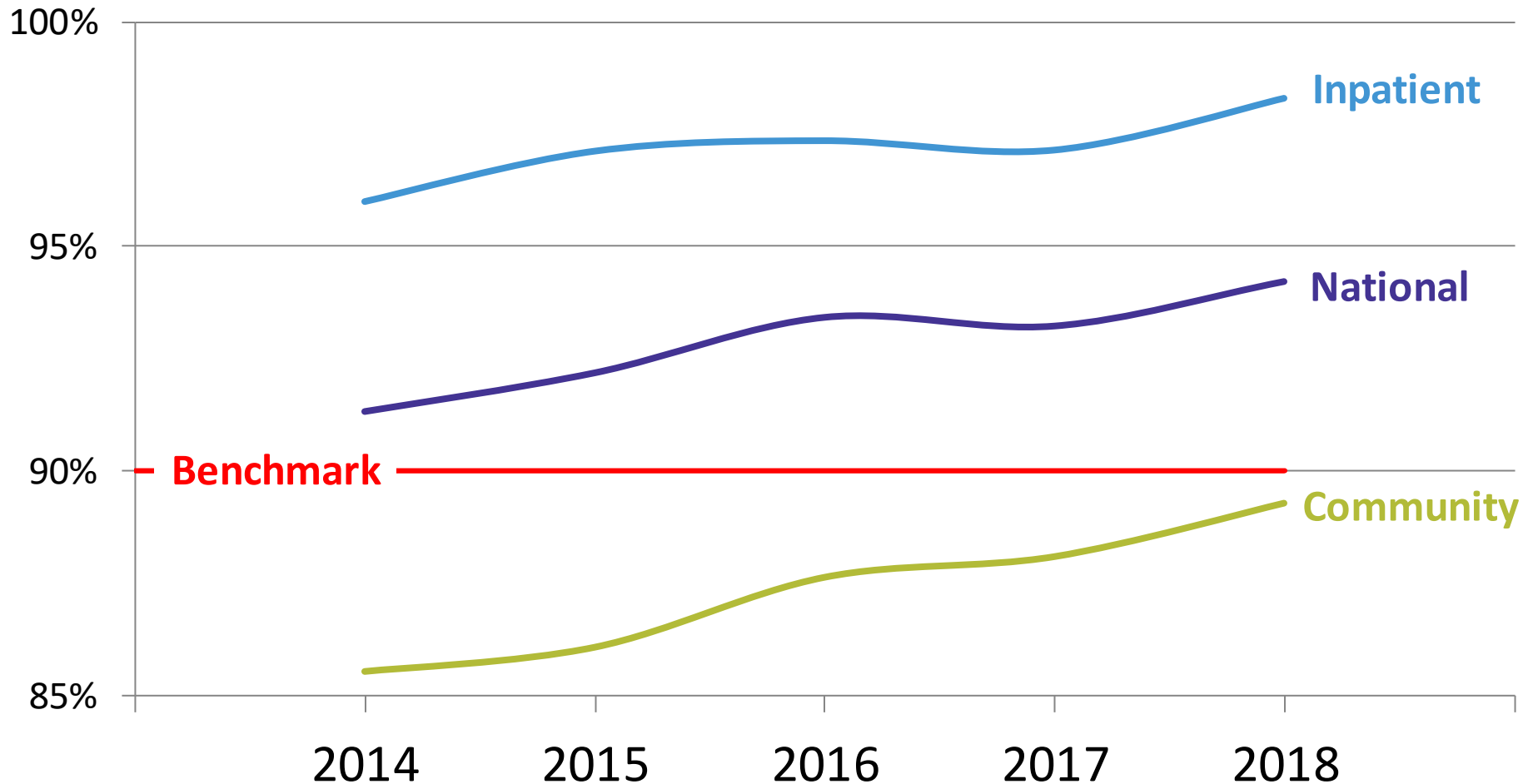
(reduced from moderate to severe at the beginning of the phase)



Trends in patient outcomes

Timely commencement of palliative care

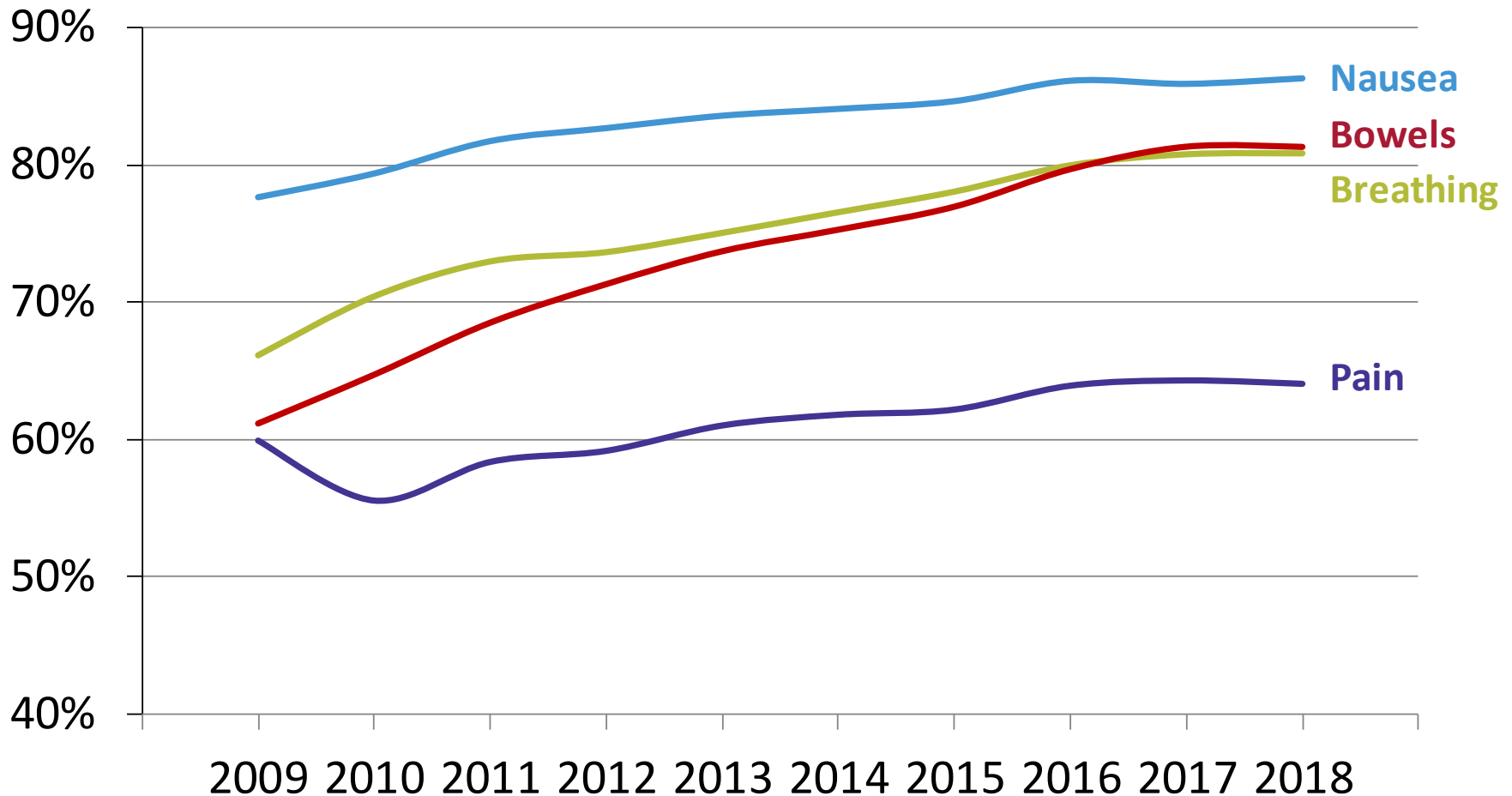
Positive outcome = Palliative care beginning within two days of the patient being ready



Trends in patient outcomes

Casemix adjusted outcomes (Patient reported distress)

Positive outcome = a patient's change in pain or symptom is equal to or better than that of the national average patient in 2008



Trends in patient outcomes

Case-mix adjusted outcomes (Clinician reported severity)

Positive outcome = a patient's change in pain or problem is equal to or better than that of the national average patient in 2008

