



Office for Health  
Improvement  
& Disparities

# Health Visitor Service Delivery Metrics (Experimental Statistics)

2020/2021 Annual Data Statistical Commentary (November 2021)

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# Main findings

This statistical commentary should be considered alongside the [2020/2021 Health visitor service delivery metrics data file](#).

Please treat the figures contained in this report with caution: where totals are presented for England and PHE centres, these are aggregate totals of the areas that submitted information and passed initial validation (see the section 'Validation rules' below for further details).

Where no reference to a particular quarter is mentioned it should be assumed that the data refers to 2020/2021.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Quarter 1 2020/2021</b>	<b>Quarter 2 2020/2021</b>	<b>Quarter 3 2020/2021</b>	<b>Quarter 4 2020/2021</b>	<b>2020/2021 annual data</b>
<b>C2: New Birth Visits (NBVs) completed within 14 days %</b>	87.4% (87.3 - 87.6)	88.5% (88.3 - 88.6)	88.7% (88.6 - 88.9)	87.2% (87.0 - 87.4)	88.0% (87.9 - 88.1)
<b>C3: New Birth Visits (NBVs) completed after 14 days %</b>	9.2% (9.1 - 9.4)	9.3% (9.2 - 9.5)	9.0% (8.9 - 9.2)	11.0% (10.8 - 11.2)	9.6% (9.5 - 9.7)
<b>C8i: 6-8 week reviews completed %</b>	73.3% (73.0 - 73.5)	80.4% (80.2 - 80.6)	83.6% (83.4 - 83.7)	84.4% (84.2 - 84.6)	80.2% (80.1 - 80.4)
<b>C4: 12 month reviews completed by the time the child turned 12 months %</b>	63.5% (63.2 - 63.7)	62.6% (62.3 - 62.8)	68.5% (68.3 - 68.7)	71.4% (71.2 - 71.6)	66.3% (66.2 - 66.4)
<b>C5: 12 month reviews completed by the time the child turned 15 months %</b>	81.2% (81.0 - 81.4)	72.3% (72.0 - 72.5)	73.0% (72.8 - 73.2)	78.4% (78.2 - 78.6)	76.1% (76.0 - 76.2)
<b>C6i: 2-2½ year reviews completed %</b>	73.4% (73.2 - 73.6)	69.4% (69.2 - 69.6)	71.1% (70.8 - 71.3)	72.5% (72.2 - 72.7)	71.5% (71.4 - 71.6)
<b>C6ii: 2-2½ year reviews completed using ASQ-3 %</b>	86.0% (85.8 - 86.2)	82.7% (82.5 - 82.9)	86.1% (85.9 - 86.3)	85.8% (85.6 - 86.0)	85.2% (85.1 - 85.3)

Percentages are based on local authorities that made submissions and passed initial validation. Confidence intervals are shown in brackets.

# Background

In October 2015, the responsibility for commissioning children's public health for the 0 to 5 years' population transferred from NHS England to local authorities. To support this transfer, Public Health England established an interim data collection for a number of key performance indicators associated with these services, which it is critical to monitor and report. The strategic reporting solution hosted by NHS Digital, the Community Services Dataset, is collecting relevant data items directly from providers' systems and in time will take on reporting of these indicators.

The health visiting information in this publication has been obtained via the interim reporting system. It was submitted to PHE by local authorities on a voluntary basis. It covers Quarters 1-4 of 2020/2021. The [2020/2021 Health visitor service delivery metrics data file](#) contains the full data.

The health visiting service leads on the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP), which was set up to improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0-5 years. This is achieved through health and development reviews, health promotion, parenting support and screening and immunisation programmes.

The health visiting service consists of specialist community public health nurses and teams who provide expert information, assessments and interventions for babies, children and families, including first time mothers and fathers with complex needs.

The health visitor service delivery metrics currently cover the antenatal contact, new birth visit, the 6-8 week review, the 12-month review and the 2-2½ year review and report on the following metrics:

- C1: Number of mothers who received a first face-to-face antenatal contact with a health visitor at 28 weeks or above
- C2: Percentage of New Birth Visits (NBVs) completed within 14 days
- C3: Percentage of New Birth Visits (NBVs) completed after 14 days
- C8i: Percentage of 6-8 week reviews completed
- C4: Percentage of 12-month development reviews completed by the time the child turned 12 months
- C5: Percentage of 12-month development reviews completed by the time the child turned 15 months

- C6i: Percentage of 2-2½ year reviews completed
- C6ii: Percentage of 2-2½ year reviews completed using ASQ-3 (Ages and Stages Questionnaire)

These metrics are presented as management information and are reported by local authority, PHE centre and England level.

The decision has been taken to publish this information as 'experimental statistics' on the basis that there has been a significant change to the reporting methods, both in units of collection and the mandatory/voluntary nature.

## Data collection method

An interim reporting system is hosted on the Local Government Association (LGA) website to collect the data on health visiting indicators. The data collection window was open between Monday 10 May and Friday 25 June for all quarters of 2020/2021. In recognition of the difficulties that local authorities encountered submitting data as they responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, some submissions and amendments were accepted after the deadline so that local authorities were not disadvantaged because of current pressures where they wished to submit data.

To support local authorities in submitting data, [detailed guidance](#) was circulated to explain how analysts and commissioners in local authorities should submit data.

Virtual contacts were counted as valid, mandated service delivery for all data for 2020/2021 during the period of the pandemic response.

A dedicated mailbox, [interimreporting@phe.gov.uk](mailto:interimreporting@phe.gov.uk), was also in place to respond to questions and comments.

Once the collection window closes the data received is centrally collated, validated and reported.

## **Data quality**

The following data relates to the whole of 2020/2021 based on the four quarters submitted. Prior to validation, a process of estimation was applied to any local authority data where numerical data were submitted for only 3 quarters in 2020/2021. An annual numerator and denominator were estimated from 'scaling up' the three supplied numerators and denominators.



# Validation rules

A set of validation rules was applied to each health visiting metric.

Validation Stage	Definition
Stage 1	Indicator numerator and denominator are integers, and numerator <= denominator.
Stage 2 for all indicators other than C6ii	Indicator denominator is within 20% of the resident population of the relevant age (0 years for new baby visits and 6-8 week reviews, 1 year for 12 month reviews, and 2 years for 2½ year reviews). The annual figures are divided by 4 to provide quarterly estimates.
Stage 2 for indicator C6ii	Indicator denominator is within 20% of the numerator for indicator C6i

Each local authority has to pass both stages 1 and 2 in order for its values to be shown.

The values for areas that did not pass stage 1 validation are excluded from their respective PHE centre and the England aggregated calculations.

A comprehensive breakdown of the results following the application of the validation can be found in the [2020/2021 Health visitor service delivery metrics data file](#).

# Summary of 2020/2021 Annual Data

## **Indicator C1: Number of mothers who received a first face-to-face antenatal contact with a health visitor**

This is unable to be collected as a percentage due to the difficulties in defining an adequate denominator.

Based on all 146 local authorities which provided a value, there were 229,959 antenatal contacts nationally in 2020/2021.

This compares to 231,754 in 2019/2020 (based on the final figures published in February 2021).

## **Indicators C2 and C3: Percentage of births that received a face-to-face new birth visit (C2: within 14 days and C3: after 14 days)**

New birth visits should ideally occur within 14 days, however it is accepted that in some circumstances this is not possible.

The aggregate percentage of new birth visits within 14 days (indicator C2) for England for 2020/2021 is 88.0% (with confidence intervals of 87.9% – 88.1%). This is higher than 2019/2020, based on the final figures published in February 2021.

The aggregate percentage of new birth visits after 14 days (indicator C3) for England for 2020/2021 is 9.6% (with confidence intervals of 9.5% – 9.7%). This is lower than 2019/2020, based on the final figures published in February 2021.

The aggregate percentage of new birth visits within or after 14 days (indicator C2+C3) for England for 2020/2021 is 97.6% (with confidence intervals of 97.6% – 97.6%).

Values for percentages of new birth visits within 14 days could be published for all PHE centres for 2020/2021 (these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). Values ranged from 76.8% to 94.3%.

Values for percentages of new birth visits after 14 days could be published for all PHE centres. These ranged from 3.8% to 20.5%.

The percentage of babies who received a new birth visit within 14 days could be published for 146 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 27.9% to 99.9%, with the majority (129) reporting between 80% and 100%.

The percentage of babies who received a new birth visit after 14 days could be published for 146 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 0% to 70%.

### **Indicator C8i: Percentage of children who received a 6–8 week review by eight weeks**

The aggregate percentage of infants receiving a 6–8 week review for England for 2020/2021 based on 145 local authorities passing initial validation is 80.2% (with confidence intervals of 80.1% – 80.4%). This is lower than 2019/2020, based on the final figures published in February 2021.

Values for the percentage of children who received a 6–8 week review by eight weeks could be published for all PHE centres for 2020/2021 (again these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). These ranged from 75.0% to 90.1%.

Values for the percentage of children who received a 6–8 week review by eight weeks could be published for 145 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 6.1% to 99.6%, with the majority (102) reporting between 80% and 100%.

### **Indicator C4: Percentage of children who received a 12-month review by 12 months**

The aggregate percentage of children receiving a 12-month review by 12 months of age for England for 2020/2021 based on 143 local authorities passing initial validation is 66.3% (with confidence intervals of 66.2% - 66.4%). This is lower than 2019/2020, based on the final figures published in February 2021.

Values for completed reviews within 12 months could be published for all PHE centres for 2020/2021 (again, these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). These ranged from 52.1% to 85.8%, with two of the nine centres achieving over 80%.

Values for the percentage of children who received a 12-month review by 12 months could be published for 143 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 2.1% to 99.1%, with 58 reporting between 80% and 100%.

### **Indicator C5: Percentage of children who received a 12-month review by 15 months**

The aggregate percentage of children receiving a 12-month review by 15 months of age for England for 2020/2021 based on 139 local authorities passing initial validation is 76.1% (with confidence intervals of 76.0% - 76.2%). This is lower than 2019/2020, based on the final figures published in February 2021.

Values for completed reviews within 15 months could be published for all PHE centres for 2020/2021 (again these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). These ranged from 58.6% to 94.1%, with only three of the nine centres achieving over 80%.

Values for the percentage of children who received a 12-month review by the age of 15 months could be published for 139 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 0.1% to 99.6%, with the majority (84) reporting between 80% and 100%.

### **Indicator C6i: Percentage of children who received a 2–2½ year review by 2½ years**

The aggregate percentage of children receiving a 2–2½ year review by the age of 2½ for England for 2020/2021 based on 145 local authorities passing initial validation is 71.5% (with confidence intervals of 71.4% – 71.6%). This is lower than 2019/2020, based on the final figures published in February 2021.

Values for the percentage of children who received a 2–2½ year review by 2½ years could be published for all PHE centres for 2020/2021 (again these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). These ranged from 60.0% to 92.1%, with only two of the nine centres achieving over 80%.

The percentage of children who received a 2–2½ year review by 2½ years could be published for 139 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 5.0% to 99.4%, with 61 reporting between 80% and 100%.

### **Indicator C6ii: Percentage of children who received a 2–2½ year review using Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3).**

The aggregate percentage of children receiving a 2–2½ year review which used ASQ-3 for England for 2020/2021 is 85.2% (with confidence intervals of 85.1% - 85.3%). This is lower than 2019/2020, based on the final figures published in February 2021.

Values for completed 2–2½ year reviews using ASQ-3 could be published for all PHE centres for 2020/2021 (again these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). These ranged from 75.7% to 92.3%, with seven of the nine centres achieving over 80%.

The percentage of children who received a 2–2½ year review using ASQ-3 could be published for 125 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 17.7% to 100%, with the majority (103) reporting between 80% and 100%.

## Data quality notes

When making a submission, local authorities have the opportunity to enter comments in a free text box to explain any issues with reporting. During the submission of Quarter 4 data and refreshed Quarter 1 to 3 data, comments were received from 2 local authorities related to health visiting data, of collective interest: Two local authorities reported they knew, or suspected, that they had made an incomplete submission. This may include receiving confirmation of nil returns from neighbouring authorities.

Many local authorities also used this route to make PHE aware of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the service and on their data.

During the submission of 2020 to 2021 data, comments were received from 24 local authorities related to health visiting service delivery. Three local authorities provided general comments, 18 commented on the impact of the pandemic, and one comment explaining that six to eight week reviews in the area were targeted was not clear whether that was as a result of the pandemic.

On the impact of the pandemic, eight local authorities reported increasing use of digital and telephone reviews: some moved to this method for all families and some continued to deliver some reviews in person. Seven local authorities noted that their delivery of reviews had reduced or been delayed as a result of the pandemic. Three local authorities stated they had agreed changes to the timescales for their reviews locally. Three raised the issue of health visitor deployment.

In general, two local authorities said they had had problems caused by data quality or by IT systems. One noted an incomplete submission. Another mentioned that not all reviews had been carried out by a health visitor, but by another appropriate staff member.

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