Sexual and reproductive health in England: A guide to local and national data (Revised December 2014)
About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

Public Health England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG
Tel: 020 7654 8000
www.gov.uk/phe
Twitter: @PHE_uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

Prepared by: PHE Integrated Sexual Health Information Group

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Introduction

Sexual health is fundamental to health and wellbeing and a national priority. The Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England, published in March 2013, outlined that sexual health covers:

- the provision of advice and services around contraception
- relationships
- sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV
- abortion

High quality information is key for the measurement of sexual health morbidity, to identify and target high risk groups, for service planning and to monitor and evaluate initiatives designed to improve sexual health.¹

There is a wide range of datasets available that can be used to provide information and intelligence on sexual health across England. This guide has been developed to provide health professionals including local government, service providers and commissioners with the key information required in order to understand the sexual health data that is available and how the data can be accessed. It includes data collected by Public Health England (PHE) and other organisations.

Document structure

Summary table (p5) - provides an overview of the information available on STIs, HIV, contraception, conception and abortion and where to access it. Information is divided into indicators (used for tracking progress), detailed local information (collation and interpretation of local intelligence) and national resources (tables and reports)

- indicators, detailed local information, national resources (p6 to p11) – further detail on the resources described in the summary table
- other areas of sexual and reproductive health (p12) – other related information
- sexual health compared to other topics (p13) – related tools
- confidentiality and data sharing policy (p14) – principles for accessing, storing and sharing of information
- appendix (p15 to p17) – summarises the different datasets

# Overview - what information is available and where can it be found?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic area</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Detailed local information</th>
<th>National resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Sexually transmitted infections (PHE)         | • numbers and rates of STIS  
• breakdowns by population characteristics eg sex, age, ethnicity  
• provision of services eg sexual health screening and vaccinations  
• patient flow eg patients attending services by patient residence  
• chlamydia screening  
• partner notification (GUM clinic attendees) | • sexual and reproductive health profiles  
• chlamydia diagnostic rate (PHOF) | • local authority sexual health epidemiology reports (LASERs)  
• HIV/STI web portal  
• email: PHE (see p8) | • STI data tables  
• chlamydia annual data tables  
• GRASP report  
• health protection report |
| HIV (PHE)                                     | • reports of first HIV diagnoses, first diagnosis of AIDS and deaths  
• recently acquired HIV infection  
• CD4 cell count measures and late HIV diagnoses  
• diagnosed HIV prevalence  
• people seen for HIV care  
• uptake of HIV testing in GUM clinic attendees  
• breakdowns by population characteristics | • sexual and reproductive health profiles  
• late diagnosis of HIV (PHOF) | • LASERs  
• HIV/STI web portal  
• email: PHE (see p8) | • HIV data tables  
• diagnosed HIV prevalence  
• annual report  
• health protection report |
| Contraception in clinics (Health and Social Care Information Centre) | • number of attendances at community contraceptive clinics  
• breakdowns by primary methods of contraception (eg oral contraception, long acting reversible contraceptives)  
• provision of emergency contraception  
• breakdowns by population characteristics (eg age)  
For GP prescribed contraception see page 12 | | • LASERs  
• email: srhad@phe.gov.uk  
enquiries@hscic.gov.uk | • annual report and data tables |
| Conceptions (Office for National Statistics)   | • numbers, rates and the percentage leading to abortion  
• analyses by age, area of residence of woman and marital status  
• numbers and rates of conceptions to females aged under 18 years  
• numbers and rates of conception to females aged under 16 years | • sexual and reproductive health profiles  
• under 18 conceptions (PHOF) | • ward level maps – rates and significance  
• email: info@ons.gsi.gov.uk | • quarterly statistics  
• annual statistics  
• teenage pregnancy resources  
• knowledge hub |
| Abortions (Department of Health)              | • abortions carried out under the terms of the Abortion Act 1967  
• overall number and rate of abortions  
• breakdown by characteristics (eg age, marital status, ethnicity)  
• breakdown by purchaser/provider and gestation  
• breakdowns by grounds for abortion, method of abortion  
• breakdown by length of stay, complications | • sexual and reproductive health profiles | • email: abortion.statistics@dh.gsi.gov.uk | • report and data tables |
Indicators

Sexual and reproductive health profiles

The sexual and reproductive health profiles have been developed by PHE to support local authorities, public health leads and other interested parties to monitor the sexual and reproductive health of their population and the performance of local public health related systems.

The profiles are publicly available and presented as interactive maps, charts and tables that provide a snapshot and trends across a range of topics. Wider influences on sexual health such as alcohol use, and other topics particularly relating to under 18 conceptions such as education and deprivation level, are also included. Indicators using contraception data from the sexual and reproductive health activity dataset (SRHAD) are being reviewed for inclusion in the profiles in the near future.

The data is grouped into 6 domains: key indicators, HIV and STIs, reproductive health, teenage pregnancy, wider determinants of health and all indicators. The key indicators provide a summary overview of sexual and reproductive health and include those in the public health outcomes framework (see below).

Geographic breakdowns include: local authority (upper and/or lower tier), England, region (former ‘Government Office Region’), PHE Centre, ONS cluster group (type of area – lower tier only) and deprivation decile (upper tier local authorities grouped into 10 levels of deprivation).

The tool allows you to compare your local authority with other authorities in the region and benchmark your local authority against the England average or nationally advised goals or thresholds where available. You can also benchmark your local authority against the average of the other geographies noted above. There is also an option to download a pdf report version of selected local authority presentations.

Public Health Outcomes Framework

The ‘Public Health Outcomes Framework Healthy lives, healthy people: improving outcomes and supporting transparency’\(^2\) sets out a vision for public health, desired

outcomes and the indicators that will help us understand how well public health is being improved and protected.

The online data tool presents data for available indicators at England and lower or upper tier local authority levels, collated by PHE. It allows the same grouping and benchmarking options as the sexual and reproductive health profiles (see above).

The importance of improving sexual health has been acknowledged by the inclusion of the following indicators in the public health outcomes framework:

- under 18 conceptions (health improvement)
- chlamydia diagnoses (15 to 24 year olds) (health protection)
- people presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection (health protection)
- population vaccine coverage – HPV (health protection)
- crude rate of sexual offences per 1000 population (wider determinants)

**Detailed local information**

**Local authority sexual health epidemiology reports (LASERs)**

These reports are produced by PHE on an annual basis. The aim of these reports is to describe STIs, HIV and reproductive health in the local area to inform joint strategic needs assessments so that commissioners can effectively target service provision. They provide local level data on STIs, including chlamydia and HIV, as well as clinic access and service use, with analyses and breakdowns by small geographical area and key STI prevention groups. Data on contraception provided by sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and general practices as well as some conception and abortion statistics have recently been included. These reports are available via the HIV and STI web portal (see below). They are not published due to the risk of deductive disclosure. A separate contraception appendix can be accessed via your local Field Epidemiology Service (FES) team. For more information please contact your local PHE office.

**HIV/STI web portal**

This is a restricted access PHE web portal that provides STI (collected from GUM clinics) and chlamydia (collected from NHS laboratories and local authority commissioned laboratories) surveillance data at a local level. The portal can be used to create ad hoc reports. These can be for specific geographical areas or
clinics and for chosen time frames. Reports can be downloaded from the website in pdf or Microsoft Excel format. Named health professionals (eg sexual health commissioners within local authorities) have access to the portal. For further information please get in touch with your local PHE office.

Local Reports

The PHE FES produces annual STI and HIV annual reports at a regional geographic level. Other local PHE reports may also be available that provide local figures and interpretation. These are usually circulated to local stakeholders including directors of public health, sexual health commissioners, GUM physicians and clinical networks. For more details please contact your local PHE office.

Data requests/queries

For further information on sexual health data collected by organisations other than PHE please email the contact details on p5.

For national queries on sexual health data collected by PHE please email the contacts below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic covered</th>
<th>Email address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual and reproductive health profiles</td>
<td><a href="mailto:profilefeedback@phe.gov.uk">profilefeedback@phe.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General HIV/STI enquiries</td>
<td><a href="mailto:HIVSTI@phe.gov.uk">HIVSTI@phe.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitourinary medicine activity dataset (GUMCAD)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gumcad@phe.gov.uk">gumcad@phe.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td><a href="mailto:harsqueries@phe.gov.uk">harsqueries@phe.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia testing activity dataset (CTAD)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ctad@phe.gov.uk">ctad@phe.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual and reproductive health activity dataset (SRHAD)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:srhad@phe.gov.uk">srhad@phe.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For local queries on sexual health data collected by PHE please contact your local PHE office. Anonymised disaggregate datasets for HIV, STIs and chlamydia are provided for each PHE centre and region to the appropriate PHE office.

**National resources**

**Sexually transmitted infections**

PHE annual data tables published online provide information on diagnoses of STIs and related service provision at local authority (upper and lower tier) and national level. Data provide information on trends in STI diagnoses and the numbers and rate of diagnoses by sex, age, ethnic group, sexual risk and geographical distribution. Trends on the provision of GUM services including sexual health screening and certain vaccinations are also presented. The annual data tables are accompanied by a slide set (available in pdf or MS PowerPoint format).

PHE publishes an annual report on the gonococcal resistance to antimicrobials surveillance programme (GRASP). GRASP, a national sentinel surveillance programme, reports annually on drug resistance and decreased susceptibility in gonorrhoea in England and Wales and has twice provided data which directly influenced changes in treatment guidelines.

**Chlamydia**

PHE annual data tables published online provide information on screening coverage, the proportion of chlamydia tests that are positive and the chlamydia diagnostic rate in England.

**HIV**

PHE annual data tables published online provide information on new HIV diagnoses, AIDS and deaths and people seen for HIV care. Data is used to monitor trends and associated risk factors, country of infection, recent infection, late HIV diagnosis, mortality and morbidity.

Data concerning paediatric infections (children <16 years) are collected separately by the Institute of Child Health and collated to produce the data tables.
The HIV quality of care dashboard for England has been developed to measures service access and delivery of care and treatment provided by the NHS. Currently, data for the HIV dashboard is provided directly by PHE (based on trusts submissions to SOPHID and the HIV & AIDS new diagnoses database). Results at national level are presented in the HIV annual report and available on request. Results for each trust are only available to service providers and commissioners from the trust. Key clinical outcome indicators include late HIV diagnosis, linkage to care, retention in care, virological response to HIV treatment and immunological response to medical care.

Each year, around National HIV Testing Week and World AIDS Day (November/December), PHE publishes an annual report called HIV in the UK. This report presents information on the latest trends broken down by population characteristics, e.g. age, sex, exposure group, and ethnicity. The annual report is accompanied by a slide set.

**Contraception**

Annual tables and a report are published online by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC). Information is presented from community contraceptive clinics (family planning clinics and clinics run by voluntary organisations such as Brook Advisory Centres). Information excludes services provided in out-patient clinics and those provided by GPs.

**Conception**

Annual statistics on conceptions to women usually resident in England and Wales are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This provides data on estimated number of conceptions, conception rates and the percentage of conceptions leading to abortion by age of women at conception. Information is provided on conceptions to females aged under 18 and under 16.

ONS also provide quarterly numbers and rates of conceptions, which are published online.

Numbers and rates of conceptions at ward level are available from ONS on request, although restrictions on the use of this data apply, however, ONS has produced online ward level maps showing rate ranges and auto display of trends.

No data at an individual level is made available by ONS.
PHE publishes tools for analysis of under 16 and under 18 conception data. Indicators are included in the public health outcomes framework data tool, and in the sexual and reproductive health profiles.

Other analyses that PHE publishes are forecasts of under 18 conception rates for top tier local authorities, and ward level maps showing statistical significance compared to the England average and auto display of trends. These resources can be found [here](#).

**Abortion**

In England and Wales, registered practitioners carrying out an abortion must complete an abortion notification form (HSA4). All HSA4 forms must be completed and submitted (either online or on paper) to the Chief Medical Officer within 14 days of termination. Since 2002, the Department of Health has produced an annual report and associated data tables summarising the information from the abortion notification forms. Statistics from 1974 to 2001 were published by ONS.

**Health Protection Report**

The health protection report (HPR) is the national public health bulletin for England and Wales and is published weekly by PHE. The report consists of 2 parts – a weekly digest of health protection related news (updated weekly) and surveillance reports which include infections, chemicals, radiation and emergencies.

Annual releases of STI and HIV data are usually reported within the HPR and there are other interim reports produced on topics of specific interest. For example, in November 2013 an article was published on the recent epidemiology of infectious syphilis and congenital syphilis. You can subscribe to the HPR [here](#).
Other areas of sexual and reproductive health

There are many sources of data relevant to sexual health. A range of links to organisations and online resources can be found here. More detail on some of the other data sources can be found in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Further information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GP prescribed contraception</td>
<td>The NHS Business Services Authority's ePact system provides detailed data on type of prescribing (not available by age group). An indicator of GP prescribed LARC is included in the sexual and reproductive health profiles and further details are provided in the LASERs. For contraception from community contraceptive clinics see p5</td>
<td>Prescribing data&lt;br&gt;Sexual and reproductive health profiles&lt;br&gt;LASERs – see p7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive health complications</td>
<td>Numbers and rates of pelvic inflammatory disease admissions to hospital&lt;br&gt;Numbers and rates of ectopic pregnancy admissions to hospital&lt;br&gt;Numbers, rates and ratios of cervical cancer registrations and mortality, with breakdowns by age bands&lt;br&gt;Rates of cervical cancer years of life lost, deaths at home and survival following diagnosis</td>
<td>Sexual and reproductive health profiles&lt;br&gt;Gynaecological cancer profiles&lt;br&gt;Health and Social Care Information Centre&lt;br&gt;indicator portal&lt;br&gt;email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@hscic.gov.uk">enquiries@hscic.gov.uk</a> or PHE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervical screening</td>
<td>Data from the NHS cervical screening programme are collected by PHE. An annual report is published providing information on number of women screened, proportion of eligible women screened, number of samples examined by cytology laboratories, number of tests showing different types of abnormality, number of women referred to colposcopy, turnaround time for results and proportion of tests that are inadequate. A web based tool which includes comparative cervical screening and cervical cancer data at local and national level can be found on the National Cancer Intelligence Network</td>
<td>Statistics for the NHS cervical screening programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV vaccination</td>
<td>The national human papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation programme in England began in 2008, offering routine immunisation to 12 year old girls and catch up immunisation to girls up to 18 years. Annual coverage data is published by Public Health England</td>
<td>HPV vaccine uptake&lt;br&gt;Sexual and reproductive health profiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female genital mutilation</td>
<td>The female genital mutilation (FGM) prevalence dataset is a monthly return of data from acute hospital providers in England. It is an aggregated return of the incidence of FGM including women who have been previously identified and are currently being treated (for FGM related or non-FGM related conditions at the end of the month) and newly identified women within the reporting period. It has been a mandated collection from 1 September 2014. Data is collected by the Health and Social Care Information Centre</td>
<td>FGM monthly reports&lt;br&gt;FGM prevalence dataset</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sexual health compared to other topics

PHE provides a number of tools that can help support priority setting at the local level. For example:

- **health profiles**
  a succinct summary of key public health issues launched annually at the Local Government Association (LGA) conference and a primary source of information for local councillors

- **child health profiles**
  a succinct summary of key public health issues for children and young people

- **spend and outcome tool (SPOT)**
  a means for comparing spend and outcomes at both local authority and clinical commissioning group (CCG) level, however, please note that the sexual health outcome measures in the tool are under review

- **public health outcomes framework (PHOF)**
  the priority tool for measuring public health progress as described on p6 and p7, covering a wide range of indicators
Confidentiality and data sharing policy

Due to the confidential nature of the data collected outputs are restricted to the level of detail appropriate to the data user and disseminated in accordance with the PHE sexual health data sharing policy. Other organisations will have their own policies.

The PHE data sharing policy is designed to eliminate the risk of deductive disclosure whereby an individual could be indirectly identified through using the demographic information collected for surveillance purposes. Since HIV and STI data is extremely sensitive, the data sharing policy must be followed.

Key summary points:

- HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) data presented at the national, PHE region or PHE centre level may be published in hard copy and on the website.
- Data at the UTLA and / or LA level may only be published provided these have been assessed and considered not to be at risk of deductive disclosure.
- The small cell size policy must be followed for all data that will be made publicly available. Suppression rules are to be applied to where cells are based on denominators less than 10,000 population. In this instance, cells with values from 1 to 4 inclusive must be anonymised and populated with “<5”.
- Patient-level data extracts are restricted to nominated users only.
- Any reproduction or analysis undertaken using data obtained from PHE must acknowledge the data source.
### Appendix - what datasets are collected and by whom?

**Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV**

Data collected by Public Health England.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dataset</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Geographical coverage</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>More information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genitourinary medicine clinic activity dataset (GUMCADv2)</td>
<td>Pseudo-anonymised patient level electronic dataset collecting information on diagnoses made and services provided</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>National Clinic Local authority</td>
<td>Level 3 (GUM) and level 2 sexual health services</td>
<td>Starter pack Guidance to clinical staff Technical guidance and specification GUMCADv2 FAQs SHHAPT FAQs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia testing activity dataset (CTAD)</td>
<td>Confidential patient level electronic dataset collecting information on chlamydia testing and diagnoses</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>National Local authority</td>
<td>Commissioned laboratories</td>
<td>Standard specification Briefing document and FAQs Commissioning guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS new diagnoses database (HANDD)</td>
<td>Reports of new HIV diagnoses, AIDS and deaths</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>National Clinic Local authority</td>
<td>Clinicians and microbiologists</td>
<td>Metadata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey of prevalent HIV infections diagnosed (SOPHID)</td>
<td>People seen for HIV care</td>
<td>Annual (6 monthly in London)</td>
<td>National Clinic</td>
<td>HIV outpatient clinics</td>
<td>Metadata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4 surveillance scheme</td>
<td>Reports of CD4 cell count measures</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>National Clinic Laboratory</td>
<td>Microbiologists</td>
<td>Metadata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS reporting system (HARS)</td>
<td>Information on patients diagnosed with HIV infection attending HIV outpatient care</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>National Clinic</td>
<td>HIV outpatient clinics</td>
<td>Data dictionary Technical and behavioural manual Site codes This dataset is intended to replace HANDD and SOPHID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Contraception

Data collected by Health and Social Care Information Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dataset</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Geographical coverage</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>More information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| SRHAD   | Pseudo-anonymised patient level electronic dataset collecting information on contraception and other sexual and reproductive health services provided | Quarterly (financial year) | National | Services providing community contraception and community based sexual and reproductive healthcare services | Behavioural guidance  
Summary guidance  
Technical guidance  
Q&A |

### Conceptions

Data collected by the Office for National Statistics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dataset</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Geographical coverage</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>More information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Conceptions | Conception statistics bring together records of birth registrations collected under the Births and Deaths Registration Act (1953) and abortion notifications received under the Abortion Act (1967), excludes miscarriages and illegal abortions | Quarterly (annual) | National  
Constituent counties, statistical regions, local authorities, wards | Abortion notifications and birth registrations. Aggregated by ONS. | Conception statistics metadata  
Conception quality and methodology information document |
## Abortion

Data collected by the Department of Health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dataset</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Geographical coverage</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>More information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abortion notifications forms (HSA4)</td>
<td>Medical practitioners are legally required, under the Abortion Act 1967, to notify the Chief Medical Officer of every abortion performed in England and Wales whether carried out in the NHS or an approved independent sector place and whether or not the woman is a UK resident</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>National Constituent counties, statistical regions, local authorities, clinical commissioning groups</td>
<td>Abortion notifications Aggregated by DH</td>
<td>Abortion notification form guidance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>