



Department
of Health

Provisional monthly data for NHS Outcomes Framework indicators

The Department of Health has been investigating the options for obtaining more timely data for some of the indicators used in the NHS Outcomes Framework. This is part of the wider move towards greater transparency and open data. The Government is committed to improving access to useful and timely information which benefits both the public, to enable them to understand important health trends, and the health and care sector, helping to drive improvement.

In this context, we commissioned the Office of National Statistics to undertake a feasibility study into using provisional monthly mortality data to calculate amenable Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL), the overarching Domain 1 indicator in the NHS Outcomes Framework, and mortality rates that are shared indicators in the NHS Outcomes Framework and Public Health Outcomes Framework. As part of this study the Office of National Statistics has produced an exploratory data set that gives provisional monthly figures for January 2001 to July 2014. The Department of Health is publishing this exploratory provisional data and is currently considering whether to introduce an official data set, using the provisional data, next year.

Although the definitions for the indicators used in this work are based on those used for calculating the NHS Outcomes Framework Indicators, the figures are not directly comparable with the official statistics which are available at:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/nhsf>. The exploratory data presents a monthly time series with seasonally adjusted rates and uses different data sources.

There are three aspects of the data that are provisional:

1. **Monthly population estimates:** Linear interpolation technique was used to derive monthly populations from successive official mid-year population estimates. Monthly populations for January 2001 to May 2013 are based on actual mid-year population estimates for 2000 to 2013 while those for July 2013 onwards are based on official population projections for 2014 and 2015.
2. **Life expectancy weights:** Sex-specific Potential Years of Life Lost data for 2013 and 2014 are based on official period life expectancy projections while the person-level PYLLs are based on unofficial actual period life expectancy for 2001 to 2012 and unofficial projections for 2013 onwards. The life expectancy weight for a particular year was used for all months in that year.
3. **Mortality data:** Deaths data for 2014 have not gone through ONS's final quality assurance checks are therefore provisional.

This data is available two months following the month in which deaths were registered, which is much quicker than official data can be made available. The ONS has seasonally adjusted the data to remove the effects of seasonally variation on deaths rates. More detail is available on the first tab of the spreadsheet.