Learning Disability Services Monthly Statistics
Mental Health Services Dataset: Learning Disability and Autism Statistics
Final August 2018, Experimental

This publication provides the most timely picture available of people using NHS funded, learning disabilities and autism (LDA) services in England. This information will be of use to people needing access to information for operational decision making and other purposes. Further information on people using NHS funded secondary mental health services can be found within the main publication for the Mental Health Services Dataset which is available here.

Key Findings:

Data collected for LDA inpatients from 69 service providers for August 2018 show that:

1,325 were admitted to hospital
1,330 were discharged from hospital
3,685 were in hospital at the end of the month

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This is an Experimental Statistics publication

This document is published by NHS Digital, part of the Government Statistical Service

Experimental statistics are official statistics which are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage. It is important that users understand that limitations may apply to the interpretation of this data. More details are given in the report.

All official statistics should comply with the UK Statistics Authority’s Code of Practice for Official Statistics which promotes the production and dissemination of official statistics that inform decision making.

Find out more about the Code of Practice for Official Statistics at

Find out more about Experimental Statistics at

We hope this publication is helpful and would be grateful if you could spare a couple of minutes to complete a short customer satisfaction survey at:
http://web.ict.hscic.gov.uk/hscicgov.uk-amnje/pages/7f454cb28f9fe711811670106fa55dc1.html

This information will support discussions between providers and commissioners of learning disability and autism services. For patients, researchers, and the wider public it provides up to date information about people using services and to support the monitoring of access to timely, evidence-based care.
Introduction

This publication provides the most timely statistics available relating to NHS funded, learning disabilities and autism (LDA) services in England. These statistics are derived from submissions made using version 3.0 of the Mental Health Services Dataset (MHSDS). The MHSDS was introduced on the 1 January 2016 and superseded the following standards:

- ISB 0011 Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Dataset (MHLDDS)
- ISB 1072 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Dataset
- ISB 1509 Mental Health Care Cluster
- ISB 1078 Mental Health Clustering Tool

The changes incorporate requirements in support of Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (CYP IAPT), elements of the Learning Disabilities Census (LDC) and elements of the Assuring Transformation (AT) Information Standard. Information provided in this release therefore covers, learning disabilities and autism services for all ages. Learning disabilities and autism services have been included in MHSDS (and its previous guises) since September 2014.

From May 2018, these LDA specific reports and data files will no longer be included as part of the main MHSDS publication and will be reported separately. This is the first report in the new MHSDS LDA series and has been published alongside the LDA report from the Assuring Transformation series so that LDA data can be presented in one place, making the comparisons between the two datasets easier.

High level statistics on mental health services will continue to be published in the main MHSDS publication series for users requiring statistics for this group of services as a whole.

All elements of this publication, other previous editions of this publication series, and related annual publication series’ can be found on the NHS Digital website at:


These measures are currently experimental statistics and will be released as such, until the characteristics of data flowed using the current data standard are fully understood.

Information is presented by hospital spells and ward stays in this report. A hospital spell is a continuous period of inpatient care under a single Hospital Provider starting with a hospital admission and ending with a discharge from hospital. A ward stay is within a hospital spell so one hospital spell could include more than one ward stay for a patient if they have moved wards. The counts of hospital spells are therefore different to the count of ward stays and would expect the count of ward stays to be greater. However, submissions have to include hospital spell information but not necessarily ward stay information. Where the number of ward stays are less than hospital spells, this indicates that information about the ward where patients were receiving care was not provided for everyone in hospital. Despite the limitations of the ward stay information, it is still used in the report as it provides more detailed information than hospital spells about the episode of care.
Summary of main findings:

At the end of August 2018 (based on hospital spells data):

- There were 3,685 people with learning disabilities and/or autistic spectrum disorders in hospital.
- There were 1,325 admissions and 1,330 discharges, 87% of these were discharged back into the community.
- There were 174,540 referrals for people with learning disabilities and autism (LDA).

Of these inpatients:

- 1,375 (37%) had been in hospital for over 2 years.
- 165 (4%) had a delayed discharge.
- The largest proportion (28%) were aged between 25-34 (1,035).
- The lowest proportion (5%) were aged under 18 (170).
- 72% were male (2,650) and 28% were female (1,035).
- There are 445 inpatients with a planned discharge date.

Findings based on ward stays data:

- There were 3,690 ward stays reported for the end of the period.
- The majority of inpatients were in a Learning disabilities ward 1,690 (46%), followed by an adult mental health ward 1,470 (40%).
- 1,910 (52%) were in a non-secure setting¹. 1,670 (45%) were in a secure setting.
- 585 (16%) travelled over 50km from home to get to the hospital for care or treatment.

[¹] Non-secure wards include inpatients in general wards. Secure wards include patients in low, medium and high secure ward settings
Further information about this publication

Provisional and final data

Published data which are labelled as ‘provisional’ are produced from primary monthly submissions, (i.e. the first submission of each month’s data). Provisional statistics are provided in some instances in order to give the timeliest information possible for some key measures. Provisional statistics are indicative and subject to change.

Providers are able to make an optional 'refresh' submission at the time of the next month’s primary submission. Statistics which have been published under the label ‘final’ are a combination of both the primary and refresh submissions. Where a refresh submission is made, the primary submission is not used. If a refresh submission is not made then the primary submission is used. This ensures the most complete and latest picture for the MHSDS is made available. Once final statistics are published then any provisional statistics for the same period should no longer be used.

Service type breakdowns

The previous MHLDS monthly reports produced from Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Dataset (MHLDDS) submissions included a limited number of measures designed to suggest the number of people in the dataset who were in adult learning disabilities (including autism) and mental health services. With the expansion of the dataset to include services for young people further, methods for breaking down the data by service type have been developed.

Learning disabilities and autism monthly data file

In this publication a data file has been produced to present information for people identified as having learning disabilities and/or autistic spectrum disorder (LDA) characteristics within their submitted data for the reporting period². LDA measures are presented for referrals and inpatient activity, as reference data tables and a CSV file. Further measures and breakdowns of existing measures will be introduced in future publications.

² Full details of the method used to identify people with learning disabilities and/or autism are provided in the metadata file.
These measures show the volumes of patients accessing services throughout the month. This is summarised into five types of measurements:

1. Open referrals/inpatients accessing services at the start of the reporting period
2. New referrals/admissions during the month
3. Referrals closing/discharges during the month
4. Referrals opening and closing/inpatients admitted and discharged within the month
5. Open referrals/inpatients accessing services at the end of the reporting period

The inpatient data has been created to replicate the measures currently available in the Assuring Transformation publication. It includes LDA patients with ‘a bed’ normally designated for the treatment or care of people with a learning disability or those with ‘a bed’ designated for mental illness treatment or care who have been diagnosed or are understood to have a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum disorder.

We would welcome feedback on both the methodology we have used to identify the cohort of patients and the measures that have been introduced. Please send any comments to enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk with ‘MHSDS LDA feedback’ in the subject.

From May 2018, LDA specific reports and data files will no longer be included as part of the main MHSDS publication and will be reported separately. This is the first report in the new MHSDS LDA series and has been published alongside the LDA report from the Assuring Transformation series so that LDA data can be presented in one place, making the comparisons between the two datasets easier.

High level statistics on mental health, learning disabilities and autism services will continue to be published in the main publication series for users requiring statistics for this group of services as a whole.

**Interpreting inpatient statistics**

A group of measures about hospital spells and ward stays open at the end of the month can be used to provide a detailed picture of inpatient caseload at National, Provider and CCG of registration or residence level. Each measure has a unique identifier (referenced in the metadata file), to ensure that users know what is represented by each measure.

This national picture is incomplete without full submissions from all providers of inpatient services and gaps in the provision of information from independent sector providers will also affect the figures at subnational level to varying degrees. See the data quality section of this report for more details. These are experimental statistics and should be used with caution, using all the other available information about data quality to aid interpretation.
Statistical disclosure control

To prevent the release of disclosive information, for the majority of statistics within this publication any sub-national figures numbers less than five (including zero) are replaced by a "***" symbol. All other sub-national numbers are rounded to the nearest five. National totals are not suppressed or rounded. Calculated values in the data files are based on unrounded numbers but rounded to the nearest whole percent to prevent backward calculation. This is a change from previous months when calculated values were rounded to one decimal place. Where a value is suppressed, the corresponding percentage is also suppressed. This approach prevents identification of a person through cross referencing different publications.

In line with the NHS Anonymisation Standard, since the total population of inpatients identified as having a learning disability and/or autism is less than 10,000, additional disclosure controls have been applied to the learning disabilities and autism (LDA) data file, the LDA MHDS/Assuring Transformation comparison file and any statistics for people with learning disabilities and/or autism in this report. This additional control for LDA is required to ensure that the disclosure control is in line with the Assuring Transformation² publication. For all LDA statistics values of less than five, including at national level, have been replaced by a "***" symbol. All other values have been rounded to the nearest 5. Percentage calculations are based on unsuppressed numbers and rounded to the nearest whole number. Where a value is suppressed, the corresponding percentage is also suppressed.
Data quality

Background

The LDA data is sourced from MHSDS, which is a regular return of data generated by providers of Community and Mental Health services in the course of delivering mental health, learning disability and autism services to people of all ages in England. The original version of the dataset was first mandated in April 2003 and is acknowledged as the national source of administrative data about NHS funded secondary mental health services for secondary uses. Submission of the dataset is a requirement of the NHS Contract for mental health, learning disability and autism services.

The dataset has gone through a number of version changes since April 2003 in response to changes to legislation, service models and payment mechanisms. The scope has also been expanded to include independent sector providers of NHS funded mental health services (from April 2010), learning disabilities and autism services (September 2014) and, since January 2016, mental health services for children and young people. The current version was approved by Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI) in September 2017 for implementation from 1 April 2018. Further information on the MHSDS and on the Information Standard can be found at https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-sets/mental-health-services-data-set

This section aims to provide users with an evidence based assessment of the quality of the statistical output of the MHSDS Monthly Reports publication by reporting against those of the nine European Statistical System (ESS) quality dimensions and principles² appropriate to this output.

In doing so, this meets our obligation to comply with the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) Code of Practice for Official Statistics, particularly Principle 4, Practice 2 which states:

“Ensure that official statistics are produced to a level of quality that meets users’ needs, and that users are informed about the quality of statistical outputs, including estimates of the main sources of bias and other errors and other aspects of the European Statistical System definition of quality”.

For each dimension this section briefly describes how this applies to the publication. We will continue to provide clear and comprehensive information about the methods used in our analysis and the quality of the data to assist users in interpreting our reports. More detailed background information will be presented once the quality of the data has been investigated further.

Relevance

This dimension covers the degree to which the statistical product meets user need in both coverage and content.

This publication comprises a report which has been produced from learning disabilities and autism service providers’ MHSDS final data for February 2018. The information provided in this publication series is the timeliest that is available from providers for LDA services in England.

[2] The original quality dimensions are: relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, and coherence and comparability; these are set out in Eurostat Statistical Law. However more recent quality guidance from Eurostat includes some additional quality principles on: output quality trade-offs, user needs and perceptions, performance cost and respondent burden, and confidentiality, transparency and security.
The statistics in this publication are marked as experimental and may be subject to further change as we develop our statistics. The classification of experimental statistics is in keeping with the UK Statistics Authority’s Code of Practice. Experimental statistics are new official statistics that are undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development, and as a means to build quality at an early stage. The UK Statistics Code of Practice states that “effective user engagement is fundamental to both trust in statistics and securing maximum public value…” and that as suppliers of information, it is important that we involve users in the evaluation of experimental statistics.


Feedback is very welcome via enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk (please quote ‘MHSDS LDA Monthly’ in the subject line).

**Accuracy and reliability**

This dimension covers, with respect to the statistics, their proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.

The MHSDS is a rich, referral level dataset that records packages of care received by individuals as part of referrals into treatment within NHS funded, learning disabilities and autism services and these packages of care vary widely. This means that each record contains different elements of the dataset. Therefore, no single approach can measure the completeness and accuracy of the data collected and reported nationally. However, NHS Digital provides a number of different reports at different stages in the data flow to ensure that the submitted data reflect the services that have been provided.

**For data suppliers only**

At the point of submission:

- Providers receive immediate feedback on the quality of their submission, including detailed Data Summary Reports about coverage, volume, code validity and data consistency. Providers have the opportunity to re-submit data up to the deadline and to send a refresh submission one month later.

On receipt of processed data by NHS Digital:

- Where there are concerns about data quality we contact providers directly so that any issues with local data extraction processes can be addressed for a future submission. These checks are currently limited to key elements of the dataset. Additional checks will be developed as part of future submissions to the extent where they offer the same level of coverage as those previously available for MHLDDS submissions. We also issue individual monthly Data Quality Notices to all providers highlighting key data quality issues.
For all users

As part of the main MHSDS publication national and organisation level data quality measures are shown that validate a selection of key data items by provider. These show the proportion of records as counts and percentages which have ‘valid’, ‘other’, ‘default’, ‘invalid’ and ‘missing’ values for key elements of the dataset, such as Team Type and Primary Reason for Referral. A coverage report shows the number of providers submitting data each month and the number of records by provider and by table. These elements will be expanded upon in future submissions.

All providers of NHS funded specialist mental health and learning disability services should submit to the MHSDS. However, at present only a small number of independent sector providers are making submissions, and this has an impact on the completeness, particularly in areas such as inpatient care and forensic services, where the independent sector provides much of the NHS funded care. A coverage report is included within the main MHSDS publication showing the number of providers submitting each month and number of records submitted. When an organisation starts or ceases to submit data this can affect overall record numbers.

The main MHSDS publication and associated files can be found here:


For LDA, the number of providers submitting data is lower than that recorded in as providing services in the Assuring Transformation publication (approximately 60% of providers with data in the Assuring Transformation collections are submitting data to MHSDS). To reflect this low coverage, England/national totals are not displayed for LDA measures; instead the ‘Total of submitted data’ is presented. Caution is advised when interpreting these data as they will under-represent the LDA services at a national level.

To support NHS England’s change in Care Treatment Review (CTR) policy, from December 2017, we have included some data quality analysis on the Care Treatment Review (CTR) data within the LDA reference tables We have also included a data quality tab which includes the counts below on the use of the three SNOMED codes that relate to CTRs.

- The number of providers who are submitting the CTR SNOMED codes
- The number of each CTR SNOMED code being used within the month

Care and Treatment Reviews (CTRs) were developed to improve the care of people with learning disabilities, autism or both in England with the aim of reducing admissions and unnecessarily lengthy stays in hospitals and reducing health inequalities.
Timeliness and punctuality

Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.

The MHSDS LDA reports have been produced within three months of the end of the reporting period and five weeks of the submission deadline.

The submission deadlines for MHSDS are published here:


Accessibility and clarity

Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.

Re-use of our data is subject to conditions outlined here:


Definitions for measures included in this publication are available in the accompanying metadata file. Terminology is defined where appropriate. These definitions will be developed, and further guidance provided in future editions of this publication series when needed.

Full details of the way that MHSDS returns are processed, which will be of use to analysts and other users of these data, are provided in the MHSDS User Guidance, available on the NHS Digital website:

Coherence and comparability

Coherence is the degree to which data which have been derived from different sources or methods but refer to the same topic are similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.

The number of providers of learning disability and autism services submitting is consistent with the volume previously making a submission of MHLDDS monthly data.

From October 2016, the MHSDS LDA inpatient data has been compared to the Assuring Transformation collection. There is a slight difference in scope between these two data collections. The MHSDS data is from providers based in England and includes care provided in England but may be commissioned outside England. Whereas the Assuring Transformation data are provided by English commissioners and healthcare will typically be provided in England but also includes data on care commissioned in England and provided elsewhere in the UK. These comparators will be used to reconcile and understand the difference between the inpatient counts in the two collections as it is anticipated that the Assuring Transformation collection will be retired, and MHSDS will be the long-term vehicle for reporting on LDA inpatients.

Many of the measures in the monthly comparator data file were previously part of the MHLDS Monthly Reports. There are notes in the metadata file about which measures previously published in MHLDS Monthly Reports can be compared to measures in the monthly comparator data file, although it may take more time for these measures to support direct like for like comparisons.

MHSDS and Assuring Transformation comparison data file

This file has been created to compare data from MHSDS to the Assuring Transformation (AT) publications. The measures in this data file include comparisons of LDA hospital inpatient counts at the start and end of the month along with inpatient flows. Provider counts from MHSDS and AT are then compared. Additional comparators may be added in the future. For further details about the Assuring Transformation collection please visit:


This month’s file is comparing August 2018 data from the MHSDS dataset with August 2018 data from the Assuring Transformation dataset. (Note that the AT data published alongside this publication covers up to the end of October 2018 which will include retrospective updates for August 2018).
Trade-offs between output quality components

This dimension describes the extent to which different aspects of quality are balanced against each other.

Although the collection of LDA data via MHSDS commenced in January 2016, some providers continue to experience issues making a comprehensive submission within the permitted timescales. We expect a more complete and accurate picture to emerge over time. This analysis presents an early view and is subject to caveats both in terms of the completeness of the submission, particularly for services that have only come within scope of the dataset since 1 January 2016, and the limits of the data that could be provided about pathways into services to support monitoring of waiting times.

The format of this publication has been determined to enable timely reporting of key measures while adjusting the scope of analysis to be achievable within NHS Digital resources and production time. Further work on data quality issues with providers is planned to help increase the usefulness and usability of these statistics for different users. Though this work, we hope to support discussions with and between providers and commissioners about caseload and activity to help narrow the differences between the two data sources, so we can look to move to one official source of LDA information in the long term.

Assessment of user needs and perceptions

This dimension covers the processes for finding out about users and uses and their views on the statistical products.

The purpose of the MHSDS LDA monthly reports is to provide learning disability and autism service providers, commissioners and other stakeholders with timely information about caseload and activity. This is intended to support changes in commissioning arrangements as services move from block commissioning to commissioning based on activity, caseload and outcomes for patients.

We undertook a consultation on our adult mental health statistics during 2015 and published the results in November 2015. Changes to the MHLDS Monthly Reports that were previously published from MHLDDS are described in a Methodological Change Paper. The introduction of statistics to support the monitoring of waiting times is in line with the ambitions set out in the NHS England’s Five Year Forward View for Mental Health and we will introduce further waiting time measurements in line with priorities identified with interested parties.

Regular consultation with customers and stakeholders is undertaken to ensure that developments introduced to the publication meet their requirements.

Performance, cost and respondent burden

This dimension describes the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.

The dataset preceding MHSDS (MHLDDS) was identified as the data source to replace others in the Fundamental Review of Returns programme designed to reduce burden on the NHS. As a secondary uses data set it intends to re-use clinical and operational data from administrative sources, reducing the burden on data providers of having to submit information through other primary collections. As part of the agenda to reduce burden of data collections, it is anticipated that the Assuring Transformation collection for LDA inpatients will be retired when the data in MHSDS is of sufficient quality and completeness to provide equivalent data measures.
Confidentiality, transparency and security

The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.

Submissions have been processed in line with the rules described in the Technical Output Specification for the dataset\(^3\) using a fully assured system that pseudonymises individual identifiers. As for all NHS Digital publications, the risk of disclosing an individual’s identity in this publication series has been assessed and the data are published in line with a Disclosure Control Method for the dataset approved by the NHS Digital’s Disclosure Control Panel.

Please see links below to relevant NHS Digital policies:

Statistical Governance Policy


Freedom of Information Process

digital.nhs.uk/foi

A Guide to Confidentiality in Health and Social Care


Privacy and Data Protection

digital.nhs.uk/privacy

GDPR


Further Information

Please see below for links to statistics and information that you may find useful:

Main MHSDS publication

NHS Workforce Statistics including experimental report on Mental Health and Learning Disability workforce
https://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB30189

Health and Care of People with Learning Disabilities