ANNEX 9

HEALTH SURVEY FOR ENGLAND INDICATORS UPDATE

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Introduction

This annex presents a summary of the project commissioned by The Information Centre for health and social care with the aim of providing updated estimates of key health and lifestyle indicators from the Health Survey for England (HSE). Its text, as well as the indicators’ definitions in the User Guide and layout of the HSE data files, have been modified in accordance with the standard Compendium file structure and presentation style.

The HSE is a series of annual surveys designed to measure health and health related behaviours in adults and children living in private households in England. The survey consists of an interview and nurse visit. It has a series of core elements that are included every year and special topics that are included in selected years. Core topics include general health, smoking, drinking and fruit and vegetable consumption, height, weight, blood pressure measurements and blood and saliva samples. Special topics include cardiovascular disease, physical activity, accidents, lung function measurement and certain blood analytes.

New analysis of data covering three year periods and annual data was carried out for England and at sub-national levels that included Government Office Regions (GORs), ONS Classification areas, Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs), and Counties plus their comparisons to England figures. The analysis has been presented as three-year moving averages and as trend analysis based on annual figures and will be updated each year alongside the main survey publication. For most of the indicators, the figures have been calculated for the following three year periods: 2001-03, 2002-04, 2003-05 and 2004-06 and for single years from 1998 to 2006 except the indicators for which 1999 and 2004 data were unavailable.

Aim

The aim was to investigate any geographic variations from the national rates and to investigate whether trends for any sub-national levels differed from the national trends. In particular, to investigate whether there was a consistent pattern over time and across health indicators.

Methods

The background information about methods for this analysis can be found in the report “Health and lifestyle indicators for Strategic Health Authorities, 1994-2002” available at the following website address:

Methods for data collection can be found in the reports for each year of the survey. The estimates for earlier years replace the previously published and may be slightly different due to using a different version of the National Statistics Postcode Directory (NSPD) to locate HSE respondents to the classifications.

Age-standardised tables are presented showing whether individual geographic areas are statistically significantly different from the national average for each health indicator for each 3 year period. These national comparisons are based on 95% and 99.8% confidence intervals of the rate and fall into five following bands:

- B1 = Significantly lower than the national average at the 99.8% level;
- B5 = Significantly lower than the national average at the 95% level but not at the 99.8% level;
- W = National average lies within expected variation (95% confidence interval);
- A5 = Significantly higher than the national average at the 95% level but not at the 99.8% level;
- A1 = Significantly higher than the national average at the 99.8% level.

For releases up to to 2010, data 1994-2010 is standardised against the 2001 Census population
For releases from 2011, data for 2009 onwards is standardised against the 2011 Census population.
For releases from 2011 onwards, data is no longer presented at county level. This is due to the exclusion of the large proportion of people who do not fall into a county.

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