Data Quality Statement

Background

This annual compendia report presents a range of up-to-date information on obesity, physical activity and diet among both adults and children from a variety of sources, including previously published information from reports such as the Health Survey for England and the National Child Measurement Programme. This report also presents some previously unreported information on prescribing and hospital admissions related to obesity which are datasets managed by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC).

Some of the areas covered in the report include Body Mass Index (BMI) prevalence, sedentary levels and fruit and vegetable consumption. The report focuses on England only where possible.

Data Collection and Burden

There is minimum burden placed on data providers. Prescribing and Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data are already collected and/or provided by the HSC IC whilst all other sources are already published.

Timeliness

This compendia report is published annually and presents or signposts to the most up-to-date information available.

Accessibility

This report is published online and is available free of charge with accompanying Excel tables (in .xls and .csv format) covering data presented in the Health Outcomes chapter (Chapter 7).

Confidentiality

No personal/individual level information is contained in the report.

Accuracy

This report is a National Statistic and is produced following the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Most of the information in this report has been previously published. The sources of the information are trusted sources; the majority being either National or
Official Statistics. Most sources referenced in this report include a Methodology section for further information.

The Lifestyles team work closely with the Prescribing and Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) teams to ensure accuracy of the data produced for this report.

The quality and coverage of HES data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Practices vary between hospitals as to whether some bariatric procedures are carried out in outpatient or inpatient settings. This may particularly be the case for maintenance procedures. The data presented in this report are for inpatients only, so may not reflect all hospital activity. This should be considered when interpreting the data as practice may vary over time and between regions. See Appendix A for further detail on HES.

Data on the number of prescription items and Net Ingredient Cost (NIC) for drugs prescribed for obesity give a measure of how often a prescriber writes a prescription and it is not an ideal measure of the volume of drugs prescribed as different practices may use different durations of supply. The NIC is the basic cost of a drug as listed in the Drug Tariff or price lists; it does not include discounts, prescription charges or fees.

Comparability

See above section on Accuracy.

The 2006 - 2012 OPAD compendia reports were also published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre and can be found at: http://www.ic.nhs.uk/searchcatalogue

Previous editions of this report were published by the Department of Health. Information about their statistics and surveys is available on the Department of Health’s website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/index.htm