Statistics on Alcohol

England 2015

Data Quality Statement

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This report may be of interest to members of the public, policy officials and other stakeholders to make local and national comparisons and to monitor the quality and effectiveness of services.

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Background

This annual compendium report presents a range of up-to-date information on drinking habits and behaviours 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 Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.

This report also presents some previously unreported information on hospital admissions attributable to alcohol consumption and prescribing costs for the treatment of alcohol dependence.

The report mainly focuses on England but does include some international comparisons. Sometimes figures are shown for GB instead of England if only GB figures were reported in the original data source.

Relevance

This publication is considered to be of particular interest to NHS and independent sector providers in England and to English NHS commissioning organisations. However, data and findings are likely also to be of interest to a much broader base of users.

Accuracy

This report is a National Statistic and is produced according to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Most of the information it contains 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team work closely with the Prescribing and Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) teams to ensure accuracy of the previously unpublished data produced for this report.


Specific data quality issues for the inpatient data for 2013/14 can be seen via the data quality note which accompanied the “Hospital Episode Statistics, Admitted Patient Care, England - 2013-14” report at: http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB16719

Data on the number of prescription items and Net Ingredient Cost (NIC) of pharmacotherapies prescribed to help people with alcohol dependency problems are not ideal measures of volume or cost since they do not take account of duration of supply. The NIC of all pharmacotherapies is the basic cost of the treatments and does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charge income.

Comparability and Coherence

This, like other national statistics published by the HSCIC that report on extracts of HES inpatient data, allocate episodes to time periods on the basis of episode end date.
The quality and coverage of HES data have improved over time and this should be considered when interpreting HES time series data. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvements in recording of secondary diagnoses and also improvements in the coverage of independent sector activity. This is particularly relevant for the hospital admissions attributable for alcohol which are based on the “broad” measure as this is more dependent on the use of secondary diagnoses than the “narrow” measure.

Some international comparisons are included within the report.

Since last year’s report was published, ONS have slightly revised the methodology for calculating the number of alcohol related deaths to exclude deaths of non-residents which were registered in England. Consequently, the historical data is different to that previously published in the Statistics on Alcohol reports but the impact of this change is very small and the maximum effect per condition is 7 registered deaths.

In addition five categories (G31.2 Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol, G62.1 Alcohol polyneuropathy, K29.2 Alcohol gastric, X65 International self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol and Y15 Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol undetermined intent) were published as a group (other causes) these are now presented separately.

**Timeliness and Punctuality**

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

**Accessibility and Clarity**

This report is published online and is available free of charge with accompanying tables (in Excel (.xls) and Comma Separated Values (.csv) format).

**Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions**

The compendia reports on smoking, alcohol, drugs and obesity were subject to a National Statistics consultation in 2011. The report on the findings of the consultation is available at: [http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/2787/Closed-consultations-and-surveys](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/2787/Closed-consultations-and-surveys)

The HSCIC is keen to gain a better understanding of the users of this publication and of their needs; feedback is welcome and may be sent via the “Have your say” link within the feedback section on the publication page, or by sending an email to enquiries@hscic.gov.uk with “Statistics on Alcohol” as the subject heading. Information on the Users and Uses of the report are included in an annex to the main report.

**Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden**

All data used within this report is either already published or is part of an existing dataset. Therefore there are no data collected specifically for this report.
Confidentiality, Transparency and Security

The data contained in this publication are National Statistics. The code of practice for official statistics is adhered to from collecting the data to publishing.


Statistical Governance Policy


Freedom of Information Process

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Statement of Compliance with Pre-Release Order


Small Numbers Procedure
