



Health Visitor Service Delivery Metrics

Quarter 4, 2016/17 and previous quarter(s) revised Statistical commentary (July 2017 release)

This statistical commentary should be considered alongside the 2016/17 Quarter 4 Health Visitor Service Delivery Metrics statistical release, which can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-visitor-service-delivery-metrics-2016-to-2017

Please treat the figures contained in this report with caution.

Where totals are presented for England and PHE centres, these are aggregate totals of the areas that submitted information and passed initial validation (see the section 'Validation rules' for further details).

Local authorities had the opportunity to re-submit data for previous quarters. This means that any reference to data from previous quarters will relate to 'refreshed' figures provided in the latest reporting quarter.

Where no reference to a particular quarter is mentioned, it should be assumed that the data refers to the most recent quarter's data.

Main findings

Indicator	Quarter 1 England value	Quarter 2 England value	Quarter 3 England value	Quarter 4 England value	2016/17 England value
C2: New Birth Visits (NBVs) completed within 14 days %	87.8% (87.6 – 87.9)	88.3% (88.2 - 88.5)	88.4% (88.3 - 88.6)	88.3% (88.2 - 88.5)	
C3: New Birth Visits (NBVs) completed after 14 days %	9.8% (9.6 - 9.9)	9.5% (9.3 - 9.6)	9.4% (9.2 - 9.5)	9.9% (9.7 - 10.0)	
C8i: 6-8 week reviews completed %	81.5% (81.3 - 81.7)	81.7% (81.5 - 81.8)	83.3% (83.1 - 83.5)	83.6% (83.4 - 83.7)	
C4: 12 month reviews completed by the time the child turned 12 months %	73.8% (73.6 - 74.1)	75.2% (75.0 - 75.4)	74.8% (74.6 - 75.0)	75.9% (75.7 - 76.1)	
C5: 12 month reviews completed by the time the child turned 15 months %	82.0% (81.9 - 82.2)	82.7% (82.5 - 82.9)	82.5% (82.3 - 82.7)	82.7% (82.5 - 82.9)	
C6i: 2-2½ year reviews completed %	76.4% (76.2 - 76.6)	78.4% (78.2 - 78.6)	78.5% (78.3 - 78.7)	77.4% (77.2 - 77.5)	
C6ii: 2-2½ year reviews completed using ASQ-3 %	86.4% (86.2 - 86.6)	89.6% (89.4 - 89.7)	91.1% (91.0 - 91.3)	91.3% (91.1 - 91.4)	

Percentages are based on local authorities that made submissions and passed initial validation. Confidence intervals are shown in brackets.

Background

In October 2015, the responsibility for commissioning children's public health for the 0-5 years' population transferred from NHS England to local authorities. To support this transfer Public Health England established an interim data collection for a number of key performance indicators associated with these services, which it is critical to monitor and report. The strategic reporting solution hosted by NHS Digital, the Children and Young People's Health Services (CYPHS) Dataset, is collecting relevant data items directly from providers' systems and in time will take on reporting of these indicators.

The health visiting information in this publication has been obtained via the interim reporting system. It was submitted to PHE by local authorities on a voluntary basis. It covers Quarter 4 of 2016/17, which is the eighth reporting period. The full data can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-visitor-service-delivery-metrics-2016-to-2017

The health visiting service leads on the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP), which was set up to improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0-5 years. This is achieved through health and development reviews, health promotion, parenting support and screening and immunisation programmes.

The health visiting service consists of specialist community public health nurses and teams who provide expert information, assessments and interventions for babies, children and families, including first time mothers and fathers with complex needs.

The health visitor service delivery metrics currently cover the antenatal contact, new birth visit, the 6-8 week review, the 12-month review and the 2-2½ year review and report on the following indicators:

- C1: Number of mothers who received a first face-to-face antenatal contact with a health visitor at 28 weeks or above
- C2: Percentage of New Birth Visits (NBVs) completed within 14 days
- C3: Percentage of New Birth Visits (NBVs) completed after 14 days
- C8i: Percentage of 6-8 week reviews completed
- C4: Percentage of 12-month development reviews completed by the time the child turned 12 months
- C5: Percentage of 12-month development reviews completed by the time the child turned 15 months
- C6i: Percentage of 2-2½ year reviews completed
- C6ii: Percentage of 2-2½ year reviews completed using ASQ-3 (Ages and Stages Questionnaire)

These metrics are presented as management information and are reported by local authority, PHE centre and England level.

Data collection method

An interim reporting system was hosted on the Local Government Association (LGA) website to collect the data on health visiting indicators. The reporting window for Quarter 4 data (along with refreshed data for previous quarters) was 22 May to 16 June 2017.

To support local authorities in submitting data, detailed guidance was circulated to explain how analysts and commissioners in local authorities should submit health-visiting indicators. A dedicated mailbox (interimreporting@phe.gov.uk) was also in place to respond to questions and comments.

Once the collection window closes, the data received was centrally collated, validated and reported.

Joint submissions

Following publication of Quarter 2, 2015/16 (January release), it was confirmed that Hackney and City of London would be submitting data jointly and that any data submitted in previous quarters for Hackney also included City of London residents.

As the data submitted for the Isles of Scilly showed very small numbers, which in some cases would have needed to be suppressed, these have been combined with Cornwall.

Revision of data from Norfolk

In February 2017, Norfolk advised of a significant error in data covering Q3-Q4 2015/16 and Q1-Q2 2016/17. The errors primarily relate to breastfeeding data, but the numbers of infants due a 6-8 week check have been revised. The changes for 2015/16 are detailed below:

	Q3 2015/16		Q4 2015/16		2015/16	
	Original	Revised	Original	Revised	Original	Revised
Norfolk	2,165	2,167	2,200	2,193	8,864	8,859
East of England	19,598	19,600	18,190	18,183	75,264	75,629
England	168,402	168,404	159,067	159,060	645,463	645,458

The one-off revisions to Q1 and Q2 2016/17 have been incorporated into this publication in the usual way and are included in the accompanying statistical release, which can be found: www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-visitor-service-delivery-metrics-2016-to-2017

Data quality

The following data relates to Quarter 4, 2016/17.

A total of 149 reporting local authorities submitted a return for the interim reporting system for Quarter 4, 2016/17. The local authority that did not submit data is Richmond upon Thames.

Validation rules

A set of validation rules was applied to each health visiting metric.

Validation Stage	Definition
Stage 1	Indicator numerator and denominator are integers, and numerator <= denominator.
Stage 2 for all indicators other than C6ii	Indicator denominator is within 20% of the resident population of the relevant age (0 years for new baby visits and 6-8 week reviews, one year for 12 month reviews, and two years for 2½ year reviews). The annual figures are divided by four to provide quarterly estimates.
Stage 2 for indicator C6ii	Indicator denominator is within 20% of the numerator for indicator C6i.

Each local authority has to pass both stages 1 and 2 in order for its values to be shown.

The values for areas that did not pass stage 1 validation are excluded from their respective PHE centre and the England aggregated calculations.

A comprehensive breakdown of the results following the application of the validation can be found in the publication at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-visitor-service-delivery-metrics-2016-to-2017.

In a change to the validation that was applied for publications prior to Q4 2015/16, the Stage 2 validation is based on the 2016 mid-year ONS population estimates by local authority, as these became available in June 2017 and are more relevant to the denominators being considered.

Summary of Quarter 4 data

Indicator C1: Number of mothers who received a first face-to-face antenatal contact with a health visitor:

- this is unable to be collected as a percentage due to the difficulties in defining an adequate denominator
- based on the 149 local authorities that did provide a value (including three that reported '0' zero), there were 68,814 antenatal contacts nationally in Quarter 4, 2016/17
- this compares to 66,224 in Quarter 4, 2015/16 (based on the final figures published in October 2016)

Indicators C2 and C3: Percentage of births that received a face-to-face new birth visit C2: within 14 days and C3: after 14 days:

- new birth visits should ideally occur within 14 days, however it is accepted that in some circumstances this is not possible
- the aggregate percentage of new birth visits within 14 days (indicator C2) for England for Quarter 4 is 88.3% (with confidence intervals of 88.2% – 88.5%). This is higher than Quarter 4, 2015/16, based on the final figures published in October 2016
- the aggregate percentage of new birth visits after 14 days (indicator C3) for England for Quarter 4 is 9.9% (with confidence intervals of 9.7% – 10.0%). This is higher than Quarter 4 for 2015/16 based on the final figures published in October 2016
- the aggregate percentage of new birth visits within or after 14 days (indicator C2+C3) for England for Quarter 4 is 98.2% (with confidence intervals of 98.1% – 98.3%)

- values for percentages of new birth visits within 14 days could be published for all PHE centres for Quarter 4 (these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). Values ranged from 78.7% to 93.3%
- values for percentages of new birth visits after 14 days could be published for all PHE centres. These ranged from 5.6% to 17.3%
- the percentage of babies who received a new birth visit within 14 days could be published for 143 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 25.1% to 99.4% with the majority (123) reporting between 80% and 100%
- the percentage of babies who received a new birth visit after 14 days could be published for 143 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 0.6% to 74.9%

Indicator C8i: Percentage of children who received a 6–8 week review by eight weeks:

- the aggregate percentage of infants receiving a 6–8 week review for England for Quarter 4 based on 147 local authorities passing initial validation is 83.6% (with confidence intervals of 83.4% – 83.7%). This is higher than Quarter 4, 2015/16, based on the revised figures published in April 2017
- values for the percentage of children who received a 6–8 week review by eight weeks could be published for all PHE centres for Quarter 4 (again these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). These ranged from 59.3% to 92.5%, with all but one of the centres achieving over 80%
- values for the percentage of children who received a 6–8 week review by eight weeks could be published for 141 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 8.5% to 99.9% with the majority (108) reporting between 80% and 100%

Indicator C4: Percentage of children who received a 12-month review by 12 months:

- the aggregate percentage of children receiving a 12-month review by 12 months of age for England for Quarter 4 based on 149 local authorities passing initial validation is 75.9% (with confidence intervals of 75.7% - 76.1%). This is higher than Quarter 4, 2015/16, based on the final figures published in October 2016
- values for completed reviews within 12 months could be published for all PHE centres for Quarter 4 (again, these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). These ranged from 51.8% to 86.6%, with six of the nine centres achieving over 80%
- values for the percentage of children who received a 12-month review by 12 months could be published for 148 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 3.0% to 98.9% with the majority (86) reporting between 80% and 100%

Indicator C5: Percentage of children who received a 12-month review by 15 months:

- the aggregate percentage of children receiving a 12-month review by 15 months of age for England for Quarter 4 based on 147 local authorities passing initial validation is 82.7% (with confidence intervals of 82.5% - 82.9%). This is similar to Quarter 4, 2015/16, based on the final figures published in October 2016
- values for completed reviews within 15 months could be published for all PHE centres for Quarter 4 (again these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). These ranged from 63.9% to 95.2% with seven of the nine centres achieving over 80%
- the percentage of children who received a 12-month review by the age of 15 months could be published for 141 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 5.0% to 99.2% with the majority (107) reporting between 80% and 100%

Indicator C6i: Percentage of children who received a 2–2½ year review by 2½ years:

- the aggregate percentage of children receiving a 2–2½ year review by the age of 2½ for England for Quarter 4 based on 149 local authorities passing initial validation is 77.4% (with confidence intervals of 77.2 – 77.5%). This is higher than Quarter 4, 2015/16, based on the final figures published in October 2016
- values for the percentage of children who received a 2–2½ year review by 2½ years could be published for all PHE centres for Quarter 4 (again these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). These ranged from 61.4% to 89.9%, with five of the nine centres achieving over 80%
- the percentage of children who received a 2–2½ year review by 2½ years could be published for 146 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 18.5 % to 99.5% with the majority (84) reporting between 80% and 100%

Indicator C6ii: Percentage of children who received a 2–2½ year review using Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3):

- the aggregate percentage of children receiving a 2–2½ year review which used ASQ-3 for England for Quarter 4 based on 138 local authorities passing initial validation is 91.3% (with confidence intervals of 91.1% - 91.4%). This is higher than Quarter 4, 2015/16, based on the final figures published in October 2016
- values for completed 2–2½ year reviews using ASQ-3 could be published for all PHE centres for Quarter 4 (again these were aggregates of 'valid' local authorities in each centre). These ranged from 82.2% to 96.6%

- the percentage of children who received a 2–2½ year review using ASQ-3 could be published for 125 local authorities who passed additional validation. Values ranged from 17.0% to 100%, with the majority (119) reporting between 80% and 100%

Data Quality Notes

When making a submission, local authorities have the opportunity to enter comments in a free text box to explain any issues with reporting. During the Quarter 4 submission, 43 comments were received from local authorities, of collective interest:

- issues with validation and accuracy: 15 reports related to technical issues with data, either due to incomplete data or validation errors caused by local difficulties
- missing data: 12 reports related to incomplete datasets and missing data. For example, from neighbouring areas
- system or service issues: 10 reports related to implementation of new IT systems, or service changes meaning the providers were unable to deliver the data as required
- revision of previous quarters' data: Six reports stated that they had revised previous quarters' figures to improve data quality and validation

Next steps

Local commissioners are encouraged to ensure that health visiting elements of 0-5 Healthy Child Programme delivery metrics and outcomes indicators are covered in contracts or 'in-house' arrangements in a way which:

- supports local data collection in the standard national format. Details of the requirements are set out in 'Technical Guidance on Health Visitor Service Delivery Metrics and Outcomes Indicators: Notice of change to data flows'
- ensures the local service benefits from the operation of a Child Health Information System (or equivalent) and that the standardised data is made available to this system
- ensures that NHS Digital is informed of every health visiting service provider commissioned by their local authority. So coverage of data submissions can be monitored and uptake supported (enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk)
- ensures that the standardised data flows from the local Child Health Information System (or equivalent) to NHS Digital via the CYPHS dataset on a monthly basis
- ensures that local information sharing agreements are in place for the sharing of performance data between providers and commissioners where necessary

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