

**STATISTICAL COMMENTARY**

**12 week Maternal Assessment, Breastfeeding Initiation & 6-8 Week Breastfeeding**

**Q1 2014/15**

**Background**

From the 1st April 2013 NHS England became responsible for undertaking Public Health Section 7A functions including screening, immunisations and wider child & maternal health. Historically key performance indicators around breastfeeding and maternal assessments were collected via PCTs in the *Integrated Performance Management Return.*

The 2013/14 & Q1 2014/15 collection of 12 week risk assessment, breastfeeding Initiation and 6-8 week breastfeeding data was collected directly from maternity service providers and child health information system providers.

Data was collected from providers at general practice level to enable uptake to be monitored locally and data to be aggregated and reported at Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). We are releasing these data as experimental official statistics because they remain under development. This is in line with the UK Code of Practice for official statistics, principle 4, which defines experimental statistics as:

"New official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development..."

## Key points

This commentary presents the 12 week Maternal Assessment, Breastfeeding Initiation & 6-8 Week Breastfeeding results and data for Q1 2014- 2015.

### Coverage

* 139 maternity providers were identified for 12 week & breastfeeding initiation submissions. We have received data returns covering all of these providers in Q1, an uptake rate of 100%.

* In Q1 2014/15 breastfeeding initiation status recorded was 74.0% of mothers initiating breastfeeding.
* In Q3 2013/14 the percentage of mothers seen for full maternal assessment before 12 week and 6 days was 91.5%.
* For maternity providers who had not submitted data for 2013/14 a final opportunity to submit was made available, as a result final 12 week & breastfeeding initiation submissions rates were 96% for Q1-3 13/14 and 99% for Q4 13/14.
* 111 Child Health Information System (CHIS) providers were identified for 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence submissions. We have received data returns covering 105 of these providers Q1, an uptake rate of 95%.
* In Q1 2014/15 the number of eligible children with no breastfeeding prevalence status recorded was 11.8%. As insufficient data passing the 95% data completeness we are unable to publish the 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence England figures for Q1 2014/15.

### 12 week risk assessment

* In England amongst the 123 NHS Trust that passed validation in Q3 2013/14, the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days ranged from 11.9% North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust to 510.0%\* in Weston Area Health NHS Trust and the percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.0% in Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust to 306.0%\* in South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Table 2).
* In England amongst the 139 CCGs that passed validation, the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days from 0.4% in NHS Corby CCG to 165.4%\* in North Tyneside CCG and the percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.3% in Nottingham City & Nottingham North & East CCGs to 282.3%\* in South Devon and Torbay CCG (Table 4).
* Due to the reopening of the return England data has now been published for Q4 2012/13 & Q1-3 2013/14. (See revised 2013/14 publication)
* In 2013/14 Q3 the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days was 91.5% compared with Q3 2011/12 (93.2%), 2010/11 Q3 (93.2%), 2009/10 Q3 (87.4%). In 2013/14 Q3 the percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days was 18.7% compared with Q3 2011/12 (14.3%), 2010/11 Q3 (16.1%), 2009/10 Q3 (19.0%) (Table 1).

*\* For 12 week risk assessment some recorded figures are greater than 100% of maternities. The reason for greater than 100% recording can be traced to two possible causes.*

*Firstly that the indicator definition compares bookings for mothers having assessments at a trust to the number of maternities at the point of delivery at that trust 2 quarters later. However the maternity at the point of delivery figure may be lower than the number of mothers having assessments due to mothers suffering miscarriage, women choosing to undergo a termination or women transferring to another hospital.*

*Secondly that women who live in urban areas where there are multiple hospitals they could chose to delivery at often chose to undergo assessments at more than one hospital to enable them to compare maternity service provision. As a result women may be double counted, leading to a higher ratio of assessments to deliveries.*

### Initiation of breastfeeding

* Trust data was validated against maternity figures pulled from Hospital Episode Statistics known deliveries. 122 trusts passed data validation checks for breastfeeding initiation.
* In England amongst the 122 NHS Trust that passed validation at Q1 2014/15, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 39.1% in University Hospital Of North Staffordshire NHS Trust to 92.4% in West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust (Table 4)
* In England amongst the 156 CCGs that passed validation at Q1 2014/15, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 35.0% in NHS Stoke On Trent CCG to 94.0% in NHS Newham CCG (Table 5).
* In England the breastfeeding initiation rate for Q1 2014/15was 74.0%. The annual percentage was 73.9% in 2012/13 and 2011/12 (74.0%) and which was slightly higher than 2010/11 (73.7%), 2009/10 (72.8%) and 2008/09 (71.7%) (Table 1).
* Due to the reopening of the return England data has now been published for Q2-4 2013/14, however a 2013/14 OT figure was not published due to validation failures. (See revised 2013/14 publication)

### Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks

* The 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence figures are based on the number of infants recorded by CCGs as totally or partially breastfeeding, as a percentage of all infants due a 6-8 week check.
* In England the breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks was not published in Q1 14/15 due to the number children with no recorded status of 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence being 11.8%, greater than the validation limit of 5% of all eligible children.
* In 2014/15 128 CCG's failed to pass validation checks. 61 failed as the number of eligible children submitted failed to meet the -10% +20% number of expected children. 67 CCG's failed due to more than 5% of their eligible children having no breastfeeding status recorded.
* Amongst the 83 CCGs that passed validation, breastfeeding prevalence as a percentage of infants due a 6-8 week check ranged from 13.2% in NHS Rotherham CCG to 82.1% in NHS City and Hackney CCG (Table 6).

### Notes

### *Methodology*

NHS England has not prescribed a specific method of collection and decisions on how to collect data have been taken locally. Each trust has been able to choose a data collection method that works best for its staff and people who use services.

***Notes to Editors***

This dataset covers the number and proportion of women seen and assessed by a healthcare professional within 12 weeks and 6 days of their maternity, the number and proportion of mothers’ who have initiated or not initiated breastfeeding and the number and proportion of infants who been fully, partially or not at all breastfed at 6-8 weeks. .

***Feedback welcomed***

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of these statistics within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on the NHS England website. If anyone has any comments on this, or any other issues regarding the data and statistics, then please email: england.dataflows@nhs.net

***Additional Information***

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