

**STATISTICAL COMMENTARY**

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

**Q4 2013/14**

**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 Q1-4 2013/14 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 Q1-4 2013- 2014.

### Coverage

* 138 maternity providers were identified for 12 week & breastfeeding initiation submissions. We have received data returns covering 127 of these providers Q1-3, an uptake rate of 92%, for Q4 129 providers submitted data, an uptake rate of 93%.
* The level of maternity provider submissions at Q4 was 18-19% higher than during the pilot submission of Q1-3 data.
* As data submissions were below 95% we do not have sufficient data coverage to publish a 12 week maternal assessment or breastfeeding Initiation England figure for Q1-4 2013/14.
* 111 Child Health Information System (CHIS) providers were identified for 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence submissions. We have received data returns covering 106 of these providers Q1-4, an uptake rate of 95%.
* The level of provider submissions at Q4 was 11% higher than during the pilot submission of Q1-3 data.
* In 2013/14 the number of eligible children with no breastfeeding prevalence status recorded was 10.4%. As insufficient data passing the 95% data completeness we are unable to publish the 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence England figures for Q1-4 2013/14.

### 12 week risk assessment

* In England amongst the 116 NHS Trust that passed validation in Q2 2013/14, the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days ranged from 17.8% Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust to 278.0%\* in County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and the percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 1.3% in Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust to 314.7%\* in St George's Healthcare NHS Trust (Table 2).
* In England amongst the 139 CCGs that passed validation, the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days ranged from 1.2% in NHS Slough CCG to 173.0%\* in North Tyneside CCG and the percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days ranged from 0.6% in Southend CCG to 243.9%\* in Stoke On Trent CCG (Table 3).
* In England the percentage of assessments undertaken before and after 12 week and 6 days in the first three quarter of 2013-14 was not published due to low data coverage.
* In 2012/13 Q4 the percentage seen before 12 week and 6 days was 96.7% compared with 2011/12 (95.1%), 2010/11 Q4 (92.3%), 2009/10 Q4 (87.0%). In 2012/13 Q4 the percentage of maternities that were seen after 12 weeks and 6 days was 15.2% compared with 2011/12 (14.8%), 2010/11 Q4 (16.9%), 2009/10 Q4 (21.7%) (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. 110 trusts passed data validation checks for breastfeeding initiation.
* In England amongst the 110 NHS Trust that passed validation at 2013/14 OT, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 39.3% in University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust to 92.2% in St George's Healthcare NHS Trust (Table 5).
* In England amongst the 126 CCGs that passed validation at 2013/14 OT, breastfeeding initiation ranged from 36.7% in NHS Stoke on Trent CCG to 92.8% in NHS Wandsworth CCG (Table 7).
* In England the breastfeeding initiation rate was not published due to low data coverage. 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).

### 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.
* When making comparisons over time, it is important to only compare those quarters with high and consistent levels of coverage, as improvements in coverage have resulted in the inclusion in the statistics of a disproportionately higher number of women who are not breastfeeding.
* In England the breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks was not published in 2013/14 due to the number children with no recorded status of 6-8 week breastfeeding prevalence being greater than 5% of all eligible children.
* In 2013/14 130 CCG's failed to pass validation checks. 68 failed as the number of eligible children submitted failed to meet the -10% +20% number of expected children. 62 CCG's failed due to more than 5% of their eligible children having no breastfeeding status recorded.
* Amongst the 81 CCGs that passed validation, breastfeeding prevalence as a percentage of infants due a 6-8 week check ranged from 19.9% in NHS Knowsley CCG to 82.9% in NHS Central London (Westminster) CCG (Table 14).

### 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***

For media enquiries only please contact the Department of Health press office on 020 7210 5221

The NHS England responsible lead for producing these data is:

Sarah Blundell

NHS England

Email: england.dataflows@nhs.net