

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**Physical Health Checks for People with Severe Mental Illness**  
**August 2019**

The following experimental statistics were published today by NHS England:

Quarterly Physical Health Checks for People with Severe Mental Illness, 2019/20 Q1.

This is the third publication of data gathered from CCGs in relation to the number of people on the GP severe mental illness (SMI) register to have had physical health checks in the 12 months to the end of the reporting period. The data collection has been expanded in scope to include physical health checks delivered in any setting, previously it was limited to health checks delivered in primary care.

This data collection has been established to monitor the standard that at least 60% of people with SMI should have a comprehensive physical health check and be offered relevant interventions at least once a year. This is the third publication of this information and the data is known to be incomplete, this should be considered when interpreting results.

**The main findings for 2019/20 Q1 were:**

- 29.5% of people on GP SMI registers were in receipt of all six elements of the health checks in the 12 months to the end of 2019/20 Q1 (144,160 out of 489,185 people received all six elements of the checks).
- While checks of blood pressure, smoking status, and alcohol consumption were most commonly performed (72.3%, 68.9% and 67.8% respectively), checks of blood lipid were less common (50.5%).
- The data are known to be incomplete; nationally 178 of 191 CCGs supplied data, covering 93.5% of the estimated GP SMI population.
  - There is regional variation; while 100.8% of the estimated GP SMI population was reported in the Midlands, this was 76.5% in the South East.
  - Completeness should be considered when interpreting the results presented here.
  - NHS England is working with CCGs where required to address data completeness or performance concerns.
- The data, presented by commissioner, can be found via the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/serious-mental-illness-smi/>

This data will be published on a quarterly basis.

## Notes to Editors

### 1. Physical Health Checks for People with SMI Standard

In 2016, the [Five Year Forward View Mental Health](#) (MHFYFV) set out NHS England's approach to reducing the stark levels of premature mortality for people living with severe mental illness (SMI) who die 15-20 years earlier than the general population, largely due to preventable or treatable physical health problems.

In the MHFYFV, NHS England committed to leading work to ensure that by 2020/21, 280,000 people living with SMI have their physical health needs met by increasing early detection and expanding access to evidence-based physical care assessment and intervention each year. This equates to a target of 60% of people on the General Practice SMI register receiving a full and comprehensive physical health check and the required follow up care in primary and secondary care settings. This commitment was reiterated in the [Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View](#).

Physical health checks may be delivered in either primary or secondary care. **This standard measures in 2019/20 the number and percentage of people on General Practice SMI registers who are receiving a comprehensive physical health check in any setting.** Please note the delivery of health checks in secondary care has been reported separately in 2018/19 via the [Improving physical healthcare to reduce premature mortality in people with serious mental illness \(PSMI\) CQUIN and associated audit](#).

### 2. Measuring the Standard

The standard applies from the end of Q4 2018/19 and this publication provides information on activity delivered in any setting. This is the first publication of data from the expanded collection and the data is expected to be incomplete. The incompleteness and the fact that data collection systems are developing should be considered when interpreting results.

### 3. Data quality

Information about the estimated completeness of the data collected is presented in the publication files. It should be noted that CCGs have gathered data from GPs and other providers of physical health checks and have sometimes been unable to gather information from all such providers. Where this is the case the denominator / expected denominator will be less than 100%.

The method of calculating data completeness has been updated from 2019/20 Q1. Estimated CCG SMI populations, excluding those in remission, have been collected as part of CCG operational plans and these are used as an estimate of the SMI population (the expected denominator) where available. Where CCGs did not supply these plan values, an estimate of the SMI population is made using QOF register values and ONS population projections.

There are cases where CCGs have advised that they are unable to supply data at all, again these are highlighted in the publication files.

The incompleteness of the data should be noted when interpreting results.

#### 4. Commissioner data

The expanded data collection for 2019/20 is on a commissioner basis and considers people on the GP SMI register accessing physical health checks in any setting. The delivery of health checks in secondary care has been reported separately in 2018/19 via the [Improving physical healthcare to reduce premature mortality in people with serious mental illness \(PSMI\) CQUIN and associated audit](#).

#### 5. Feedback

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of **Physical Health Checks for People with Severe Mental Illness** within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on the NHS England website. Please email any comments on this, or any other issues regarding the **Physical Health Checks for People with Severe Mental Illness statistics**, to: [england.mh-data@nhs.net](mailto:england.mh-data@nhs.net)

#### Additional Information

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England media team on 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959.

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