

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**Physical Health Checks for People with Severe Mental Illness**  
**May 2021**

The following experimental statistics were published today by NHS England:

Quarterly Physical Health Checks for People with Severe Mental Illness, 2020/21 Q4.

This is the tenth 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 was expanded in scope in 2019/20 Q1 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 tenth publication of this information and the data is known to be incomplete, this should be considered when interpreting results.

**The main findings for 2020/21 Q4 were:**

- 23.4% 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 2020/21 Q4 (121,030 out of 516,897 people received all six elements of the checks).
- While checks of smoking status, blood pressure and BMI weight were most commonly performed (61.9%, 53.5% and 53.0% respectively), alcohol checks were less common (40.0%).
- The data has been supplied by all CCGs, covering 91.3% of the estimated GP SMI population.
  - There is some uncertainty as to the completeness of the data collection; we measure completeness by comparing the reported denominator against the expected denominator (estimated from QoF and ONS population projections as 2020/21 plans are not yet available – the updated 2019/20 QOF figures were used for Q4).
  - There is regional variation; while 99.9% of the estimated GP SMI population was reported in the North West, this was 81.2% in the South East. This may be due to CCGs not obtaining data from all GPs in their area.
  - 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 is 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 and 2020/21 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. 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 was updated in 2020/21 Q1. Previously, estimated CCG SMI populations, excluding those in remission, that were collected as part of CCG operational plans were used as an estimate of the SMI population (the expected denominator). In 2020/21, an estimate of the SMI population has been made using QOF register values and ONS population projections due to the unavailability of 2020/21 plans (the updated 2019/20 QOF figures were used in Q4).

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

#### 4. Commissioner data

The expanded data collection for 2019/20 and 2020/21 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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