COVID-19 and the production of statistics

(Updated 7th September 2021)

Due to the coronavirus illness (COVID-19) and the need to release capacity across the NHS to support the response, NHS England and NHS Improvement paused the collection and publication of some of our official statistics. Initially this applied to the statistics listed in section 5, for data due to be submitted between 1 April and 30 June 2020.

The list of data collections was updated at Quarter 1 2021/22 and again in September 2021. The tables below outline which collections continue to be paused; which have been reinstated having been paused previously; and which have been permanently stopped.

NHS England and NHS Improvement will keep the paused collections under review to establish at which point further collections should be reinstated and update published information when the status of any of the collections change.

This decision is informed by the Office for Statistics Regulation's guidance on Changes to statistical outputs during the coronavirus outbreak.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact us.

1. Data sets that continue to be paused

Title	Designation	Frequency
Critical Care Bed Capacity and Urgent Operations Cancelled	Official Statistics	Monthly
Delayed Transfers of Care	Official Statistics	Monthly
Audiology	Official Statistics	Monthly
Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)	Official Statistics	Quarterly

2. Data sets paused in Q1 and Q2 2021/22

Title	Designation	Frequency	Dates would have been due for submission	Dates would have been published
Critical Care Bed Capacity and Urgent Operations Cancelled	Official Statistics	Monthly	14th April 14th May 11th June 13th July 12th Aug 13th Sept	13th May 10th June 8th July 12th Aug 9th Sept 14th Oct
Delayed Transfers of Care	Official Statistics	Monthly	21st April 20th May 17th June 19th July 18th Aug 17th Sep	13th May 10th June 8th July 12th Aug 9th Sept 14th Oct
Cancelled elective operations*	Official Statistics	Quarterly	28th April 26th Jul	13th May 12th Aug
Audiology	Official Statistics	Monthly	21st April 21st May 18th June 19th July 18th Aug 17th Sep	20th May 17th June 15th July 19th Aug 16th Sept 21st Oct
Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)	Official Statistics	Quarterly	29th April	1st June
Mixed-sex Accommodation**	Official Statistics	Monthly	13th April 12th May 9th June 9th July 10th Aug 9th Sept	13th May 10th June 8th July 12th Aug 9th Sept 14th Oct
Dementia Assessment and Referral Return	Official Statistics	Monthly	28th April 28th May 28th June	5th May 2nd June 7th July

*QMCO collection to resume for Oct to Dec 2021 data (Q3, submission 27th Jan, publication 10th Feb)
**MSA collection to resume for Oct 2021 data (submission 9th Nov, publication 9th Dec)

The retirement of the DAR collection was approved at the June 2021 meeting of the Data Alliance Partnership Sub Board with effect from 30th June 2021.

A consultation took place to seek feedback from users regarding proposals to retire the Mental Health Community Teams Activity return. Responses to the consultation were reviewed and a decision made to retire this collection. See Quarterly Mental Health Community Teams Activity Return Statistics Consultation - NHS England for further information.

3. Data sets paused in Q3 and Q4 2020/21

Title	Designation	Frequency	Dates would have been due for submission	Dates would have been published
Critical Care Bed Capacity and Urgent Operations Cancelled	Official Statistics	Monthly	12th October 11th November 10th December 13th January 10th February 10th March	12th November 10th December 14th January 11th February 11th March 8th April
Delayed Transfers of Care	Official Statistics	Monthly	19th October 18th November 17th December 20th January 17th February 17th March	12th November 10th December 14th January 11th February 11th March 8th April
Cancelled elective operations	Official Statistics	Quarterly	28th October 29th January	12th November 11th February
Audiology	Official Statistics	Monthly	19th October 18th November 17th December 20th January 17th February 17th March	19th November 17th December 21st January 18th February 18th March 15th April
Mixed-sex Accommodation	Official Statistics	Monthly	9th October 10th November 9th December 12th January 9th February 9th March	12th November 10th December 14th January 11th February 11th March 8th April
Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)	Official Statistics	Quarterly	29th October	1st December
Mental Health Community Teams Activity	Official Statistics	Quarterly	16th October (TBC) 19th January	13th November 12th February
Dementia Assessment and Referral Return	Official Statistics	Monthly	28th October 30th November 4th January 28th January 26th February 26th March	2nd December 6th January 3rd February 3rd March 7th April 5th May

A consultation took place to seek feedback from users regarding proposals to terminate the Quarterly Activity return (QAR), and significantly reduce the scope of the Monthly Activity Return (MAR). The rationale was that much of the information could be similarly derived from patient-level data sets, thereby reducing the NHS data collection burden. Responses to the consultation were reviewed and a decision made to retire QAR following the publication of Q4 2019/20 and reduce the scope of MAR to collect referrals information only following the publication of May 2020 data.

4. Data sets paused in Q2 2020/21

Title	Designation	Frequency	Dates would have been due for submission	Dates would have been published
Critical Care Bed Capacity and Urgent Operations Cancelled	Official Statistics	Monthly	10th July 12th August 10th September	13th August 10th September 8th October
Delayed Transfers of Care	Official Statistics	Monthly	17th July 19th August 17th September	13th August 10th September 8th October
Cancelled elective operations	Official Statistics	Quarterly	28th July	13th August
Audiology	Official Statistics	Monthly	10th July 12th August 10th September	20th August 17th September 15th October
Mixed-sex Accommodation	Official Statistics	Monthly	9th July 11th August 9th September	13th August 10th September 8th October
Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)	Official Statistics	Quarterly	29th October	1st December
Mental Health Community Teams Activity	Official Statistics	Quarterly	16th July (TBC)	14th August
Dementia Assessment and Referral Return	Official Statistics	Monthly	28th July 28th August 28th Sept	2nd September 7th October 4th November

5. Suspensions announced in April 2020[1] (Q1 2020/21)

Title	Designation	Frequency	Dates due to be submitted	Dates due to be published
Critical Care Bed Capacity and Urgent Operations Cancelled	Official Statistics	Monthly	14th April 13th May 10th June	14th May 11th June 9th July
Delayed Transfers of Care	Official Statistics	Monthly	21st April 20th May 17th June	14th May 11th June 9th July
Cancelled elective operations	Official Statistics	Quarterly	30th April	14th May
Audiology	Official Statistics	Monthly	21st April 20th May 17th June	21st May 18th June 16th July
Mixed-Sex Accommodation	Official Statistics	Monthly	9th April 12th May 9th June	14th May 11th June 9th July
Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)	Official Statistics	Quarterly	24th April	4th June
Ambulance Quality Indicators – Clinical Outcomes	National Statistics	Monthly	22nd April 22nd May 22nd June	14th May 11th June 9th July
Dementia Assessment and Referral	Official Statistics	Monthly	28th April 28th May 29th June	3rd June 1st July 5th August
Mental Health Community Teams Activity	Official Statistics	Quarterly	20th April	15th May

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[1] The Bed Availability and Occupancy collection (KH03) for Q4 2019/20 was included in error in the original list. This was subsequently removed.