

Lifestyles compendia reports: proposal to update future content and publication schedule

August 2022

1 Executive Summary

NHS Digital have proposed changes to the content and publication schedule of the Lifestyles compendia series. This includes four compendia publications which have been produced annually at different points in the year:

- Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet
- Statistics on Alcohol
- Statistics on Smoking
- Statistics on Drug Misuse

As a result, NHS Digital created and shared documentation outlining these proposals to enable these changes to take place. This paper outlines the steps taken in order to put forward the following NHS Digital recommendation:

- ***Combining the four compendia publications into one compendium publication***

2 Steps to the consultation

In early 2022:

- NHS Digital shared a proposal document with some key stakeholders (OHID/DHSC, ONS and Home Office), outlining the rationale for the proposed changes.
- When the document was shared, there was a clear assumption that if no objections to the proposal were received a public consultation would be launched imminently.
- No objections were received at this point and as such, a public consultation was agreed to go ahead.

27th January 2022

- An 8-week public consultation was launched via the four compendia publication webpages which coincided with the release of the 'Statistics on Alcohol, England 2021' publication, (full details regarding the consultation and results are detailed in Section 3).
- The same stakeholders (as above) were sent a link to the live consultation asking them to formally provide a response and if they wished to, circulate to their wider networks.

23rd March 2022

Public consultation was closed.

3 Consultation summary and responses

3.1 Overview

The consultation was live for a period of 8 weeks from 27 January 2022 to 23 March 2022. The start date coincided with the publication of the 'Statistics on Alcohol, England 2021' publication, the most recent of the four publications within the Lifestyles compendia series.

The consultation was accessible via a resource link from each of the four individual publications' main page.

- Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet (<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-obesity-physical-activity-and-diet>)
- Statistics on Alcohol (<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-alcohol>)
- Statistics on Smoking (<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-smoking>)
- Statistics on Drug Misuse (<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-drug-misuse>)

Notification of the consultation, including closing date, was displayed in the Summary section at the top of each webpage (*Statistics on Alcohol illustrated below*).

The screenshot shows the 'Statistics on Alcohol' webpage. The page has a blue header with the title 'Statistics on Alcohol' and 'Official statistics, National statistics'. Below the header, there are details about the publication: Frequency: Yearly, Geographic Coverage: England, and Geographical Granularity: Clinical Commissioning Groups, Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships, Clinical Commissioning Regions. The main content area is divided into 'Page contents' and 'Summary'. The 'Page contents' section has links for 'Summary', 'Latest statistics', 'About this publication', 'Past publications', and 'Resources'. The 'Summary' section contains a consultation notice: 'NHS Digital is proposing changes to the content and publication schedule of the Lifestyles compendia series, which includes this publication. The consultation can be found below in Resource Links. We would welcome your views on the proposed changes. Please provide responses by 23 March 2022.' Below the summary, there is a 'Latest statistics' section with two entries: 'Statistics on Alcohol, England 2021' (published 27 January 2022) and 'Statistics on Alcohol: England, 2007' (published 26 June 2007). At the bottom, there is a 'Resources' section with a link to 'Consultation on Lifestyles compendia reports'.

Series / Collection
Statistics on Alcohol
Official statistics, National statistics

Frequency: Yearly
Geographic Coverage: England
Geographical Granularity: Clinical Commissioning Groups, Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships, Clinical Commissioning Regions

Page contents

- Summary
- Latest statistics
- About this publication
- Past publications
- Resources

Summary

This publication series presents or signposts to a range of information relating to alcohol use and misuse drawn from a variety of sources for England unless otherwise stated.

NHS Digital is proposing changes to the content and publication schedule of the Lifestyles compendia series, which includes this publication. The consultation can be found below in Resource Links. We would welcome your views on the proposed changes. Please provide responses by 23 March 2022.

Latest statistics

- Statistics on Alcohol, England 2021**
This report presents newly published information on prescriptions items for drugs used to treat alcohol dependence and affordability of alcohol and expenditure...
Published: 27 January 2022
- Statistics on Alcohol: England, 2007**
26 June 2007
- Statistics on Alcohol: England, 2006**
30 June 2006

Resources

- Consultation on Lifestyles compendia reports

3.2 Consultation content

The consultation outlined the proposals for change alongside the rationale. It then presented respondents with 6 questions (available on page 5) as to whether they were supportive of the changes and the option to provide their reasons if they were not supportive of the changes. A decision was made to keep the number of questions small and simple based on advice from other NHS Digital colleagues who had recently run similar consultations.

The consultation included the following information:

Consultation summary

This consultation outlined the proposed changes to the content and frequency of this compendia series, proposing that they are all combined into one annual compendium publication.

The rationale for change

- a single, concise annual compendium publication would provide a better overall view, especially for users who are interested in more than one topic area.
- a single, concise annual compendium publication would be released once new data becomes available so would improve the timeliness of current reporting for all topic areas. Updated hospital admissions data becomes available in May so the Smoking and Drug Misuse topics would follow in August and November with data becoming less timely for the SOPAD and Alcohol topic areas published the year after in February and May.
- more signposting of data to replace existing information published elsewhere, ensures users can still access year-round updates from external sources from one place
- alignment of production resource to a single period in time will free up capacity for any future development, ensuring reporting remains relevant and a comprehensive resource for users.

Details of proposed change to publication schedule.

In summary, the proposal is that this publication series will be combined to form a single, annual compendium publication.

It is anticipated that the new format of this proposed publication would be published in 2022/23 covering two years of hospital admissions data and prescribing data (2020/21 and 2021/22). Once developed, it is anticipated that future publications would be released in the Autumn term of any given year for all four topic areas

Details of proposed changes to publication resources

Key Facts

This will continue in HTML format but will cover all four topic areas.

Commentary

This will be reduced and summarise the new data being published across all four topic areas with increased signposting to already published material. This will continue in HTML format.

Excel and CSV data files

These will continue to be produced in the same format for new data being published.

Data Quality Statement

This will continue in HTML format but will cover all four topic areas.

Interactive visualisation

Interactive dashboards are currently produced for the Statistics on Drug Misuse and Statistics on Physical Activity and Diet compendium publications covering hospital admissions data. A single dashboard is to become available covering all four topic areas for hospital admissions data.

Press release

This will continue but will cover all four topic areas.

Consultation questions:

- 1) Are you supportive of the proposed changes to an annual compendium across the four topic areas?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Indifferent
- 2) If you answered “no” or “indifferent”, what are the reasons for this?
- 3) Are you supportive of dropping the derivations for the affordability calculations for the smoking and alcohol topic areas?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Indifferent
- 4) If you answered “no” or “indifferent”, what are the reasons for this?
- 5) Is there anything missing from current reporting?
- 6) If you are happy to be contacted in relation to this or any future development, please provide your email address below.

3.3 Consultation responses

➤ 22 responses were received in total:

1. Are you supportive of the proposed changes to an annual compendium across the four topic areas?

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

● Yes	9
● No	9
● Indifferent	4



- 9 supportive of the proposed change (*Question 1*)
- 9 not supportive of the proposed change
- 4 indifferent to the proposed change

2. If you answered "no" or "indifferent", what are the reasons for this?

6 respondents (29%) answered **affordability** for this question.



3. Are you supportive of dropping the derivations for the affordability calculations for the smoking and alcohol topic areas?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	4
● No	16
● Indifferent	2



- 4 supportive of dropping the derivations for the affordability calculations (*Question 3*)
- 16 not supportive of dropping the derivations for the affordability calculations
- 2 indifferent to dropping the derivations for the affordability calculations

4. If you answered “no” or “indifferent”, what are the reasons for this?



Whilst the support or non-support for changes to the compendium is equally balanced in question 1, most respondents are not supportive of dropping the derivations for the affordability calculations rather than not being supportive of a combined annual compendium publication.

Most commonly, non-supportive respondents specifically reference the Alcohol publication with regards to dropping the alcohol affordability derivation, as illustrated by associated word clouds for questions 2 and 4.

It's worth noting that most respondents routed through to the survey via the Alcohol publication page (see Section 4 – Web statistics).

Seven respondents provided some detail relating to elements not covered by current reporting (*Question 5*). Again, these were mostly alcohol related and illustrated in the word cloud below.

5. Is there anything missing from current reporting?



4 Post consultation

Since conducting this consultation a new dashboard has been delivered by NHS Digital on Obesity, as a pre-cursor to the future National Obesity Audit. HES data that is produced for the Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet (SOPAD) publication around bariatric procedures, are incorporated in this dashboard with a revised methodology developed in partnership with the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme led by NHS England. The British Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society (BOMSS) have also fed into this methodological change. A first release has been published on 11 August 2022 and we will look to involve users and stakeholders as it develops further. These figures have been published as Management Information (MI) to support the National Obesity Audit (NOA) under the title: Bariatric surgical procedures, 2021/22 (provisional)– National Obesity Audit. The data and revised methodology are available here: <http://digital.nhs.uk/pubs/noa-bsp-2122prov>

As this dashboard and methodology develop, we will consider in liaison with stakeholders and users, whether they continue to be published separately from SOPAD or realign back into SOPAD, a National Statistic, as part of the combined Lifestyles compendia publication. In the meantime, there is a need to consider the confusion that may be caused by having two sets of statistics based upon differing methodologies. If you would like to provide any feedback on this, then a link to a survey can be found in the link above.

Even though the NOA data is more up-to-date as it includes HES data for 20-21 and 21-22, the SOPAD data (latest is 19-20) is still considered as the official source of information on bariatric surgical procedures until further notice.

Once feedback is gathered from the release of NOA, it may indicate a need to conduct a more detailed consultation with users on the SOPAD content of the forthcoming combined lifestyles compendium.

5 Web statistics

NHS Digital collate web statistics on hits to publication pages. Information is presented below for 2 time periods to provide some context as to the use of the indicators within these publications.

Table 1

Publication	Page views in consultation period (27/01/22 – 23/03/22)	Click-through to consultation survey	Page views in 12 months (08/12/20 – 07/12/21)
Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet	2,075	3	17,917
Statistics on Alcohol	912	18	5,076
Statistics on Smoking	1,412	0	18,160
Statistics on Drug Misuse	1,223	3	14,807

Unsurprisingly, most click-throughs to the consultation survey came via the Statistics on Alcohol publication main page as they were both published on the same day. This is also borne out in terms of the responses received as described in section 3.

It's worth noting the most recent publication dates for the 4 reports concerned:

- Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet – 18th May 2021
- Statistics on Alcohol – 27th January 2022 (there was a delay on releasing this publication as it was dependent on OHID conducting a review of the alcohol attributable fractions which are applied to the Hospital admissions data).
- Statistics on Smoking – 8th December 2020
- Statistics on Drug Misuse – 28th January 2021

Some of these publications were delayed from July 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) requiring changes to NHS Digital's statistical production schedule.

6 Recommendation

Based on the information presented in this paper, NHS Digital do not consider there to be enough evidence to retain the four compendia publications as separate series and therefore recommend the following outcomes:

The four compendia publications should move to a combined annual compendium publication

Given feedback in support of the alcohol affordability, we now recommend retaining this information for both the Alcohol and Smoking topic areas following a methodology review.

Key actions for NHS Digital to move to an annual compendia publication include:

- Leading an Alcohol Working Group to review and discuss the alcohol affordability methodology (which may impact the smoking affordability methodology) and implementing any new requirements
- If there are significant changes to the alcohol affordability methodology, then NHS Digital shall publish a Methodological Change Notice ahead of the first annual publication.
- Discuss the timeliness of the Alcohol admissions data currently published by OHID.
- Development of a dashboard that includes the separate elements for each of the topic areas.
- Continue to explore a small number of other outputs where we are adding value for users e.g., following the introduction of new or ad-hoc data, within or outside of NHS Digital.

It is anticipated that the new format of this proposed publication would be published in 2022/23 (date to be confirmed) covering two years of hospital admissions data and prescribing data (2020/21 and 2021/22). Once developed, then it is anticipated that future publications would be released in the Autumn of any given year for all four topic areas with updated data for the relevant topic areas (see Table 1 below). All signposted links will be updated on an ongoing basis, which will make information more timely.

The availability of data for future releases of a combined compendium are illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1: Availability of data

	Hospital admissions (NHSD) ²	Prescribing (NHSD) ³	Deaths (ONS) ⁴	Expenditure (ONS)	Affordability ⁵
Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Statistics on Alcohol ¹	Signpost to PHE published data with alcohol attributable fractions applied)	✓	Signpost	Signpost	✓
Statistics on Smoking	✓	✓	✓	Signpost	✓
Statistics on Drug Misuse	✓	✗	Signpost	✗	✗

Notes:

- ✗ Denotes where data has not been published or signposted historically in the compendia series.
1. Alcohol attributable fractions (AAFs) are currently calculated by OHID and smoking attributable fractions (SAFs) are calculated by NHS Digital. NHS Digital will continue to publish smoking attributable admissions and deaths data at national level. NHS Digital will work with OHID on timeliness of future alcohol attributable admissions.
 2. NHS Digital would publish 2020/2021 and 2021/22 data for a publication in 2022/23. Date yet to be confirmed.
 3. This would include all the latest data up to 2021/22 for a publication in 2022/23.
 4. For the smoking topic, NHS Digital would publish 2020 data for a publication in 2022/23.
 5. The methodology for deriving these calculations is out-dated and not the most robust approach. Based on the consultation feedback in support of retaining this information, NHS Digital will form a working group to review this methodology.