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Announcement of methodological changes to Community Care Statistics, England, 2014-15

The Community Care Statistics publication is an annual report on the social care activity of Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs). As a result of the Zero Based Review (ZBR), there have been a number of changes to the national data collections for adult social care for the 2014-15 reporting year. Further information on the ZBR review can be found [here](#). The changes that have an impact on the Community Care Statistics publication are the replacement of both the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) return and the Adult Social Care Combined Activity Return (ASC-CAR), with the Short and Long Term services (SALT) collection¹, and the introduction of the Equalities and Classifications Framework (EQ-CL), which has resulted in changes to the data collected as part of this process.

This notice provides further detail about each of the changes to the Community Care Statistics publication for 2014-15, and the implications for comparability over time.

The data collected in the SALT return tracks the number of journeys through the social care system, unlike RAP which was designed to track the number of clients. By providing a clearer picture of the social care journey for clients and carers, including the outcomes of reablement and other short term services to maximise independence, the data can be used to:

- provide data on council activity for use with the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF)
- provide new data on the outcomes for clients in receipt of short term care to maximise independence, an area that has not previously been subject to local, regional and national benchmarking
- provide new data on the sequels to requests for support for new clients
- provide an evidence basis to allow councils to plan resources and to help develop policies on resource allocation
- Enable CASSRs to monitor their own provision, develop local performance indicators and make comparisons between their own and other CASSRs

This dataset should also allow for easier integration with survey and other outcome measures.

¹ More information about EQ-CL and SALT is available at: www.hscic.gov.uk/socialcarecollections2015.



Overall, the report continues to focus on clients who are supported by Local Authorities for their Adult Social Care needs. However, due to the new data collection, some clients are now included, who were not in previous years

- 'Full-cost clients' (those who pay for the full costs of their services, but whose care needs are assessed and supported through the LA) were not eligible for inclusion in RAP or ASC-CAR but are included in SALT.
- Not all carers in receipt of support services (LTS003) will be reviewed during the year, however SALT now captures these as 'No review or assessment during the year'; this is a change from RAP in that those services would have previously been excluded.

Also, some clients are no longer included, however were captured in previous returns

- Many commissioned services (equipment and adaptations provision, professional support, short term residential care) are not included in SALT. As such, some service users previously included in RAP P1 will no longer be captured in LTS001b. The exception to this is that service users receiving professional support for their mental health needs are included in LTS001b even where this support is the only service they receive.

In more general terms

- A key change to the way data is recorded is that Primary Client Type has been replaced by Primary Support Reason. More information about this distinction is available in the documentation supporting the Equalities and Classifications Framework (EQ-CL).
- The reporting of ethnicity has changed. The new classification is taken from the EQ-CL and matches that used in the most recent Census. The impact of this change is the loss of 'Chinese' as a discrete group – this becomes a subclass of the 'Asian / Asian British' group.
- New clients are defined differently in SALT from that in previous collections; they are now defined as clients not in receipt of long term support at the time the contact was made.

There are further more subtle comparisons whereby the data items are similar but not identical to previous collections. For example:

- Totals in LTS001a relating to nursing and residential care are similar to those previously reported in RAP P1, however it should be noted that LTS001 includes full-cost clients so there will be some difference.



- ASC-CAR L tables are very similar to SALT measure LTS004, though it should be noted that Primary Support Reason is now in use, rather than Primary Client Type, to identify learning disability clients. Secondly clients 'known to the council' is determined by SALT measure LTS001a.

As a result of these changes, it is not possible to make direct comparisons between 2014-15 and previous years, with the exception of one data item; STS004, Proportion of Older People (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into Reablement / Rehabilitation Services is the only area that can be used for time series analysis. This was previously ASC-CAR Table I1. There was an intention when producing the collection to provide some bridging data in STS003, by collecting an estimate of what proportion of clients in receipt of short term support to maximise independence would have previously been included in the P forms of the RAP return.

The SALT stakeholder group (which includes representatives from the HSCIC, the Department of Health and local authorities in England), working alongside colleagues in the ASC-FR and EQ-CL groups, used the ZBR consultation responses to help produce the final SALT collection, and therefore agreed to the changes outlined in this document.

Please send any queries about these changes to salt@hscic.gov.uk.