

Announcement of methodological change to NHS Outcomes Framework indicator 1.5 – Excess under 75 mortality rate in adults with serious mental illness

From December 2013, indicator 1.5 (Excess under 75 mortality rate in adults with serious mental illness) in the NHS Outcomes Framework will be published using a different calculation methodology.

The indicator compares the mortality rate in mental health patients with that of the general public. Previously this was expressed as the difference between the two mortality rates by subtracting the general population rate from the mental health population rate. This methodology has been changed and from December 2013 the indicator value is displayed as a standardised mortality ratio expressed as a percentage rather than the difference.

The key weakness of the previous approach was that, taken by itself, the actual indicator value was meaningless as it did not give any indication of scale, and did not allow for comparison across either time or geography. By presenting a standardised mortality ratio of observed over expected deaths the scale is automatically included in the calculation, thereby providing the context. This methodology has been assured by the Methodology Review Group (MRG) in October 2013.