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Statistics on Alcohol, England - 2016 [NS]¹

The methodology used to calculate rates per population for hospital admissions has changed. Specifically instead of using the latest England mid-year population estimates as the denominator, the European standard population will be used².

This change follows a user consultation early in 2016³ where the majority of users were content with this change.

This methodology has been used historically by Public Health England to produce standardised rates for their Local Alcohol Profiles.

The advantage of using the European standard population is that it does not change year on year in the same way as mid-year population estimates do. Therefore a user of the standardised rates can be more confident that a change in the rate over time is due to a change in the number of alcohol related admissions and not due to a change in the population demographics.

The impact is that the rates for the “broad” measure of alcohol related admissions are on average 7 per cent higher at local authority level than if the England mid-year estimate had been used. The rates for the “narrow” measure are on average 5 per cent higher⁴.

¹ [NS] denotes that the publication has National Statistics status

² <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/health-and-life-events/revised-european-standard-population-2013--2013-esp-/index.html>.

³ <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/6770/Consultation-on-Lifestyles-Compendia-Reports>

⁴ For a definition of “broad” and “narrow” measures see the appendix of the report.