

Announcement of methodological change to **Statistics on Alcohol: England, 2014 [NS]**¹

This methodological change notice states the amendments made to the above publication.

Alcohol-related hospital admissions

Estimates of the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions are calculated by applying alcohol-attributable fractions (AAFs) to the number of admissions. AAFs take account of patient age, sex and diagnosis to estimate the number of admissions attributable to alcohol consumption.

A review of the methodology used to estimate alcohol related admissions took place in the form of a public consultation led by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO) working with the Department of Health and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC). The consultation was launched on 31 May 2012 and ran for 12 weeks. The responses to the consultation were considered and summarised and are available here: <http://www.lape.org.uk/natind.html>

As a result of this consultation the following changes will be made to *Statistics on Alcohol: England, 2014*:

1. Revised alcohol attributable fractions will be used to estimate the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions.
2. The alcohol-related diagnoses reported on have been revised.
3. A new measure will be included in the report. This measure will use alcohol-related primary diagnoses or alcohol-related external causes recorded in secondary diagnosis fields.

Prescribing

In April 2013, SHAs ceased to exist and were replaced by Area Teams which do not cover the same geographical areas as SHAs. Consequently there will be no breakdown of data by SHA for 2013 as there is only 3 months of data and no breakdown of data by Area Team for 2013 as there is only 9 months of data. When we have a full 12 months of data for 2014, we will breakdown the data by Area Team.

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