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## Statistics on Drug Misuse, England - 2016 [NS]<sup>1</sup>

The methodology used to calculate rates per population for hospital admissions has changed. Specifically instead of using the latest mid-year population estimates as the denominator, the European standard population will be used<sup>2</sup>.

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 admissions and not due to a change in the population demographics.

The impact is that the rates for hospital admissions are on average 1 per cent different at local authority level than if the England mid-year estimate had been used.

The commentary style in the report has also changed from a previous text based report to a bullet point style with accompanying infographics.

Both of these changes follow a user consultation early in 2016<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [NS] denotes that the publication has National Statistics status

<sup>2</sup> <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>.

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