

Version 1

Announcement of methodological change -

Mental Health Bulletin: Annual report from
Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS)
returns – England 2011/12, initial national figures

To be published: February 2013

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The Mental Health Bulletin summarises annual information about people using, and activity in, speciality mental health services in England. It covers hospital care and services delivered in the community, including services delivered by NHS and independent sector hospitals.

A new version of the Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS) was mandated in April 2012. MHMDS Version 4.0¹ becomes the new data source for the Mental Health Bulletin from this date and contains a wealth of new information such as Payment by Results (PbR) and clustering information.

In view of the data source change, we held a public consultation² in 2012 to determine user needs and requirements of national MHMDS data reporting at service and provider level. A number of recommendations were made as a result (including a demand for much more information, particularly population based analysis, and information at a more granular geographic level) which informed the new design of the Mental Health Bulletin, which is due for publication in February 2013. We will regularly review our MHMDS statistics to ensure that they remain relevant and a useful source of MHMDS information, and continue to welcome feedback on this publication at any time via:

enquiries@ic.nhs.uk

The changes fall into seven categories:

1. Source of annual statistics;
2. Change to processing of data submissions;
3. Changes to derivations used in analysis;
4. Additional statistical breakdowns;
5. Cessations of time series analysis;
6. Underlying data file;
7. Changes for the forthcoming (2011/12) publication only.

Source of annual statistics

The annual return of MHMDS data was discontinued in order to reduce burden and in recognition that the MHMDS is now a well-established collection. However, because the submission requirements are for discreet quarterly data (as opposed to cumulative quarterly data), a data source containing annual information for the Mental Health Bulletin has been prepared from quarterly data. Some derivations have been amended in order to allow calculation of statistics from quarterly data (see below) From April 2013, MHMDS returns will be made on a monthly basis and further notice of

¹ Mental Health Minimum Data Set specifications and guidance:
<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/mhmds/spec>

² Consultation on statistics produced from the mental health minimum data set (MHMDS):
<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/mhmdsconsultation>

any resultant methodology change to our routine MHMDS reports will be made via the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) website.

Change to processing of data submissions

The processing of MHMDS version 4 submissions now includes the derivation of a centrally maintained index of spells from which a unique spell ID is allocated to each person's spell of care. This ID supports the linking of MHMDS records across reporting periods within a provider and will support future analyses of patient pathways which can span many submissions. A count of patient spells of care within the reporting period is the basic measure underpinning our analysis.

Some derivations which were previously part of the processing (assembly) of MHMDS submissions at Exeter are now constructed by HSCIC as part of receipt and load of data. Due to a lack of definitive documentation for the legacy (MHMDS version 3³) assembler system, we cannot be sure exactly how it worked, but we have tried to replicate analyses and maintain comparability wherever possible and we are confident that we have the best methodology currently possible. MHMDS data received at the HSCIC contains larger volumes of records than were produced by the previous 'assembly' system for processing submissions. We think this is because spells are no longer automatically closed when no activity has been recorded for a period of time and also because the old assembly of the data failed to flow contacts that were not assigned to a specific staff group. We have redesigned the analyses to take account of this as far as possible, but more than ever before there is onus on data providers to ensure that they follow the submissions requirements and submit the required information, including the end of episodes, at the correct time. Further details will be provided in the background data quality statement released as part of the Bulletin.

Changes to derivations used in analysis

We have also had to redesign some derivations that were always produced in house. We believe these are more reliable than before because the new source of MHMDS data we receive is more granular. Full details of derivations for our analyses will be included in the reference data tables as part of the publication.

Counting activity

Because the data source is constructed from four submissions of quarterly data rather than an annual file, counts of activity (e.g. bed days, admissions, discharges, Community Treatment Orders (CTO)) across the year had to be derived to support the annual analysis. We believe that methodologies are comparable to those used in previous publications unless otherwise stated. Further details will be given in the Bulletin commentary.

One improvement supported by the more granular v4 data is the aggregated count of bed days. We could not previously see the sequence and duration of ward stays using version 3 data, and the aggregated count of bed days provided in the assembler file was capped (no more than 365 per year). With version 4 data, we are now able to identify and subtract days where ward stays overlapped from our cleansed bed days calculation, producing a more accurate calculation.

³ MHMDS specifications and guidance archive:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120802111034/http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/mental-health/using-the-service/datasets-databases-and-data-collections/mental-health-minimum-dataset-mhmds/specifications-and-guidanc>

We are also confident that the version 4 is flowing all submitted contacts for the relevant submission period, where as our investigations suggest that contacts where the staff group was described as 'other', failed to flow through the assembler.

Counting people

Analyses within the forthcoming Bulletin use various 'person flags' to select records for people counting. This means that people are counted only once in national level analysis, and only once per provider in provider level analysis, using the spell at each level with the highest level of care, legal restrictiveness, or intensity of care programme approach. In previous publications we used a single flag for both levels of analysis, which selected the provider with the spell with the highest level. The change was made in response to user feedback received since the previous publication, to allow more accurate local comparisons to be drawn. Now, if a person appears more than once in the annual data, across more than one provider, then more than one record is flagged for that person ID. Each provider spell is linked to only one commissioner, which allows us to base commissioner level analysis on provider level person flags.

Each type of flag is described below, and has one national level and one provider level flag. Flags are granted based on a series of criteria (prioritisation logic), the most important of which are described below. Further details will be available in a 'derivations' sheet available with each set of analyses.

Highest level of care (Table 1.1 in national tables; 1a-1b in organisational tables)

Highest level of care is based around whether a person was admitted, spell duration and intensity. From the 2011/12 publication onwards only two grouping will be used – 'Admitted' (as per previous reports) and 'Other' (replacing previous categories of 'Non-admitted' and 'No Care').

Most restrictive legal status (Tables 2.1-2.3 in national tables)

Most restrictive legal status is ranked first on restrictiveness scores attributed to various sections of the Mental Health Act⁴ that a person may be subject to (with sections requiring formal admission ranking highest), and is broadly comparable to the previously used ranking of highest legal status. However, the categories used to produce analysis by highest legal status have changed.

Following recommendations made in the course of our public consultation on our Mental Health Act statistics⁵, we worked with Mental Health Act experts to refine Mental Health Act measures and definitions used in our statistics, ensuring their consistency with those published by other organisations (e.g. Care Quality Commission (CQC)⁶).

Previous publications used the broad groupings 'formally detained' and 'not detained', with the 'formally detained' group being divided into sub-groupings of 'Part 2', 'Court and Prison Disposals', and 'Place of Safety'. From the 2011/12 Bulletin onwards we are bringing these categories in line with our publication on Mental Health Act statistics⁷ and using the groupings 'Subject to the Mental

⁴ And related superceded legislation

⁵ Mental Health Act statistics consultation:
http://www.ic.nhs.uk/MentalHealthAct_stats_consultation

⁶ CQC 'Monitoring the Mental Health Act in 2010/11'; page 15:
http://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/documents/cqc_mha_report_2011_main_final.pdf

⁷ KP90 publication link

Health Act' (with sub-groupings of 'Court and Prison Disposals', 'Civil Detentions' and 'Holding Powers') and 'Not subject to the Mental Health Act'.

Further details will be provided in the report, the reference tables in footnotes and in the derivations worksheet. It should be noted that patients whose highest level of restrictiveness is being subject to a Community Treatment Order (CTO) are now included; these were not in previous analyses because the system for restrictiveness scoring used with MHMDS version 3 (based on was set up before the introduction of CTOs (supervised discharge was included at this time instead)

Care programme approach (CPA)

Care programme approach is ranked on the intensity of care programme approach applied during the year. Although the derivation of this flag and related analyses are different, we believe the statistics generated are comparable to those in previous publications.

Additional statistical breakdowns

We have included additional breakdowns to our reference table statistics to meet some user needs identified as part of the consultation. A full list of changes to reference data tables can be found in the Appendix to this document.

Cessations of analyses

Omitted tables

Average length of stay (Tables 4.1 in national tables; Table 4a in organisational tables)

The method used for this calculation could not measure length of stay across submissions and so the maximum length of stay that could be reported was a year. Version 4 will support a more accurate measure but further engagement with key stakeholders, such as commissioners, is required to understand how this should be defined.

New users on CPA with recent HoNOS assessment (Tables 3g and 3h in organisational tables)

We have omitted these tables from the Bulletin going forward as we now publish similar analyses as part of our routine quarterly reports throughout the year.

Time series

We will maintain time series at high level within our reference data tables but we cannot be confident that at more detailed breakdowns (e.g. age and gender) we can make like-for-like comparisons with statistics from the previous data source. Data are shown for the current year only, and will be extended as a new time series going forward.

Underlying data file

To meet user needs (and our obligations under the Transparency Agenda), we will include a machine readable file of underlying activity data in our release. This will include mental health service activity by CCG and provider combinations, similar to last year but with slight amendments to information about contacts, drawing on the new, richer data source.

Changes for the 2011/12 reporting year only

The publication for this year only will be made in two parts due to the resource involved in redesigning our statistics from the new data source.

The first release, due for publication in February, will include national level analysis as a report and a series of reference data tables.

The second release, due for publication in April, will include organisational level analysis and an underlying machine readable data file.

An update of Table 1.5 (Rates of access to NHS funded adult specialist mental health services per 100,000 population by ethnic group, 2011/12) containing standardised rates calculations will be issued once the appropriate population breakdowns are available from the Office for Nation Statistics (ONS).

Appendix – changes to reference tables

The tables below explain the changes to content of tables for inclusion in the forthcoming Mental Health Bulletin publication.

Table 1: 2011/12 National reference tables

Table	Title of table in previous publication	Changes from previous publication and notes	Proposed number and title of table in 2011/12 publication
1.1	Number of people using adult and elderly NHS funded secondary mental health services, 2003/04 - 2010/11	The title of this table has been amended to improve accuracy (the table includes a breakdown by highest level of care). Includes a new 'other' category, which includes the historical care categories of 'non-admitted' and 'no care'. Going forward from 2011/12 onwards, these categories will be replaced by a new 'other category'.	1.1 Number of people using adult and elderly NHS funded secondary mental health services by highest level of care and provider type, 2003/04 - 2011/12
1.2	Number of people using adult and elderly NHS secondary mental health services by gender and age, 2006/07 - 2010/11	Combine with 1.3 to make new table 1.2, 2011/12 data only	1.2 Number of people using NHS funded adult and elderly secondary mental health services by gender, age and provider type, 2011/12
1.3	Number of people using adult and elderly independent sector secondary mental health services by gender and age, 2010/11	Combine with 1.2 to make new table 1.2, 2011/12 data only	1.2 Number of people using NHS funded adult and elderly secondary mental health services by gender, age and provider type, 2011/12
1.4	Number of people using adult and elderly NHS funded secondary mental health services by gender and 5 year age band, 2010/11	Table and title unchanged Becomes new table 1.3	1.3 Number of people using NHS funded adult and elderly secondary mental health services by gender and 5 year age band, 2011/12
1.5	Number of people using adult and elderly NHS secondary mental health services by ethnic group, 2006/07 - 2010/11	Becomes new table 1.4 2011/12 data only Add breakdown by provider type	1.4 Number of people using NHS funded adult and elderly secondary mental health services by ethnic group and provider type, 2011/12
1.6	Rates of access to NHS funded adult specialist mental health services per 100,000 population by ethnic group, 2010/11	Becomes new table 1.5 Crude rates rather than standardised as latest census data not yet available by age, gender and ethnicity (standardised rates to be issued as a subsequent revision to this table)	1.5 Rates of access to NHS funded adult specialist mental health services per 100,000 population by ethnic category, 2011/12
1.7	Rates of access to NHS funded hospital inpatient care per 100 mental health service users, by ethnic group, 2010/11	Becomes new table 1.6	1.6 Rates of access to NHS funded hospital inpatient care per 100 mental health service users by ethnic group, 2011/12
2.1	Most restrictive legal status of people who were inpatients during the year, 2006/07 - 2010/11	None To show scale of difference - new/old processing but prepare to heavily caveat	2.1 Most restrictive legal status of people who were inpatients during the year by provider type, 2007/08-2011/12
2.2	Number of inpatients subject to detention in an NHS hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 by most restrictive legal status, gender and age, 2006/07 - 2010/11	2011/12 data only Add breakdown by provider type	2.2 Number of inpatients subject to detention in an NHS hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 by most restrictive legal status, gender and age, 2011/12
2.3	Number of inpatients subject to detention in an NHS hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 by most restrictive legal status and ethnic group, 2006/07 - 2010/11	2011/12 data only Add breakdown by provider type	2.3 Number of inpatients subject to detention in an NHS hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 by most restrictive legal status and ethnic group, 2011/12

**Announcement of methodological change -
Mental Health Bulletin: Annual report from MHMDS returns – England 2011/12, initial national figures**

2.4	Number of people on Supervised Community Treatment (SCT) at 31st March 2011 by gender, age and ethnic group	Changed title from SCT to CTO to reflect amendments following consultation on Mental Health Act statistics ⁸ All NHS funded services – small numbers involved so no split by provider type possible	2.4 Number of people subject to Community Treatment Orders (CTOs) at 31st March 2012 by gender, age and ethnic group
3.1	The number of people accessing services and those on CPA, 2006/07 - 2010/11	Figures for most recent year will illustrate the scale of difference between MHMDS version 3.5 and version 4.0 processing. These figures will be caveated with notes on comparability.	3.1 Number of people accessing services and those on CPA, 2007/08-2011/12
3.2	The number of people on CPA, NHS providers only, by gender and age, 2006/07 - 2010/11	Add breakdown by provider type 2011/12 data only See notes for 3.1 above	3.2 Number of people on CPA by gender, age and provider type, 2011/12
3.3	The number of people on CPA, NHS providers only, by ethnic group, 2006/07 - 2010/11	Add breakdown by provider type 2011/12 data only See notes for 3.1 above	3.3 Number of people on CPA by ethnic group and provider type, 2011/12
	N/A	New table – experimental statistics	3.4 Proportion of service users on Cluster at the end of the year by age, gender and cluster
	N/A	New table – experimental statistics	3.5 Proportion of people on cluster by ethnic group and cluster
4.1	Average length of stay in a NHS psychiatric hospital, per record, by year, 2006/07 - 2010/11	Table removed Currently unable to produce comparable analysis	N/A
4.2	In year bed days by type of provider, gender and age, 2010/11	Becomes new table 4.1 Uses new derivation for 'cleansed bed days'	4.1 In year bed days by age, gender and type of provider
4.3	Mean in year bed days by type of provider, gender and age, 2010/11	Becomes new table 4.2 Use cleansed bed days	4.2 Mean in year bed days by age, gender and type of provider
4.4	Bed days by diagnosis, using ICD10 sections, 2010/11	Table removed No method for associating diagnosis with bed days yet.	N/A
5.1	Inpatient activity by year, NHS providers only, 2006/07 - 2010/11	None	5.1 Inpatient activity by year 2007/08 - 2011/12 (NHS providers only)
5.2	Admissions and discharges by gender and age, 2010/11	None	5.2 Admissions and discharges by gender and age, 2011/12
6.1	Outpatient and community activity by year, NHS providers only, 2006/07 - 2010/11	In version 4 contacts are collected in a different way and can be grouped by Team Type. As the categories cannot be mapped easily to version 3 this is considered a new table which replaces the previous tables 6.1 and 7.1.	6.1 Outpatient and community contacts by team type and attendance, 2011/12
7.1	Team type for care spells which included a CPA review, NHS providers only, 2006/07 - 2010/11	Replaced by new table 6.1 – see notes for 6.1 above	6.1 Outpatient and community contacts by team type and attendance, 2011/12

Table 2: Organisational reference tables

Table	Title of table in previous publication	Changes from previous publication and notes	Proposed number and title of table in 2011/12 publication
1a	Number of people using adult and elderly NHS funded secondary mental health services by mental health provider, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None The title of this table has been amended to improve accuracy (the table includes a breakdown by highest level of care).	1a Number of people using adult and elderly NHS funded secondary mental health services by mental health provider and highest level of care, 2008/09 – 2011/12

⁸ Mental Health Act statistics consultation:
http://www.ic.nhs.uk/MentalHealthAct_stats_consultation

**Announcement of methodological change -
Mental Health Bulletin: Annual report from MHMDS returns – England 2011/12, initial national figures**

1b	Number of people using adult and elderly NHS funded secondary mental health services by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None The title of this table has been amended to improve accuracy (the table includes a breakdown by highest level of care).	1b Number of people using adult and elderly NHS funded secondary mental health services by NHS commissioner and highest level of care, 2008/09 – 2011/12
1c	Rates of access to NHS funded adult specialist mental health services per 100,000 population by PCT, 2010/11	None	1c Rates of access to NHS funded adult specialist mental health services per 100,000 population by PCT, 2011/12
1d	Rates of access to NHS funded hospital inpatient care per 100 mental health service users, by PCT, 2010/11	None	1d Rates of access to NHS funded hospital inpatient care per 100 mental health service users, by PCT, 2011/12
2a	Number of inpatients subject to detention in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 by mental health provider, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None	2a Number of inpatients subject to detention in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 by mental health provider, 2008/09 – 2011/12
2b	Number of inpatients subject to detention in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None	2b Number of inpatients subject to detention in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 – 2011/12
2c	Supervised Community Treatment (SCT) by mental health provider: new Community Treatment Orders, 2010/11	None Update KP90 reference figures and amend column heading term 'Uses of supervised community treatment' to 'Uses of Community Treatment Orders' in line with Mental Health Act statistics consultation recommendations	2c New Community Treatment Orders by mental health provider, 2011/12
3a	The number of people on CPA by mental health provider, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None	3a Number of people on CPA by mental health provider, 2008/09 – 2009/10
3b	The number of people on CPA by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None	3b Number of people on CPA by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 – 2011/12
3c	Proportion of adults on Care Programme Approach receiving secondary mental health services in settled accommodation, by mental health provider, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None	3c Proportion of adults on Care Programme Approach receiving secondary mental health services in settled accommodation by mental health provider, 2008/09 – 2011/12
3d	Proportion of adults on Care Programme Approach receiving secondary mental health services in settled accommodation, by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None	3d Proportion of adults on Care Programme Approach receiving secondary mental health services in settled accommodation by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 – 2011/12
3e	Proportion of adults on Care Programme Approach receiving secondary mental health services in employment, by mental health provider, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None	3e Proportion of adults on Care Programme Approach receiving secondary mental health services in employment by mental health provider, 2008/09 – 2011/12
3f	Proportion of adults on Care Programme Approach receiving secondary mental health services in employment, by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None	3f Proportion of adults on Care Programme Approach receiving secondary mental health services in employment by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 – 2011/12
3g	Proportion of users on new CPA in the year who have had a HoNOS assessment in the last 12 months, by mental health provider, 2010/11	Table removed Similar analysis has been included in the Routine quarterly MHMDS reports throughout the year	N/A
3h	Proportion of users on new CPA in the year who have had a HoNOS assessment in the last 12 months, by NHS commissioner, 2010/11	Table removed Similar analysis has been included in the routine quarterly MHMDS reports throughout the year	N/A
4a	Average length of stay in psychiatric hospital, per record, by mental health provider, 2008/09 -	Table removed Currently unable to produce comparable	N/A

**Announcement of methodological change -
Mental Health Bulletin: Annual report from MHMDS returns – England 2011/12, initial national figures**

	2010/11	analysis	
4b	In year bed days by gender and mental health provider, 2009/10 - 2010/11	None Becomes Table 4a	4a In year bed days by gender and mental health provider, 2009/10 – 2011/12
4c	In year bed days by gender and NHS Commissioner, 2009/10 - 2010/11	None Becomes Table 4b	4b In year bed days by gender and NHS Commissioner, 2009/10 - 2011/12
5a	Inpatient activity by mental health provider, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None	5a Inpatient activity by mental health provider, 2008/09 – 2011/12
5b	Inpatient activity by NHS Commissioner, 2008/09 - 2010/11	None	5b Inpatient activity by NHS Commissioner, 2008/09 – 2011/12
6a	Outpatient and community activity by mental health provider, 2008/09 - 2010/11	In version 4 contacts are collected in a different way and can be grouped by Team Type. As the categories cannot be mapped easily to version 3 this is considered a new table which replaces the previous tables 6a and 7a	6a Outpatient and community contacts by team type, attendance and mental health provider, 2011/12
6b	Outpatient and community activity by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 - 2010/11	In version 4 contacts are collected in a different way and can be grouped by Team Type. As the categories cannot be mapped easily to version 3 this is considered a new table which replaces the previous tables 6b and 7b	6b Outpatient and community contacts by team type, attendance and mental health provider, 2011/12
7a	Team type for care spells which included a CPA review, by mental health provider, 2008/09 - 2010/11	In version 4 contacts are collected in a different way and can be grouped by Team Type. As the categories cannot be mapped easily to version 3 this is considered a new table which replaces the previous tables 6a and 7a	6a Outpatient and community contacts by team type, attendance and mental health provider, 2011/12
7b	Team type for care spells which included a CPA review, by NHS commissioner, 2008/09 - 2010/11	In version 4 contacts are collected in a different way and can be grouped by Team Type. As the categories cannot be mapped easily to version 3 this is considered a new table which replaces the previous tables 6b and 7b	6b Outpatient and community contacts by team type, attendance and mental health provider, 2011/12