HSCIC | Health & Social Care Information Centre

Compendium of population health statistics

Results of user feedback survey

Clinical Indicators Team

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Contents

Introduction

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) continually strives to improve the quality and content of our products and services. The Compendium of population health indicators is a long-standing indicator set and comprises over 1,000 indicators. These indicators are available to download from the HSCIC Indicator Portal at https://indicators.hscic.gov.uk.

As the Compendium indicators have been in existence for many years, additional sources of information, which weren't previously available, have become accessible to users. A user feedback survey inviting comments on the Compendium indicators and how they're used was set up. As well as being circulated to known users of the Compendium of population health indicators, the user feedback survey was promoted via the HSCIC website.

The survey included questions about the importance of the different indicator sets within the Compendium and the organisational level at which they're published as well as providing an opportunity for users to provide free-text feedback about the indicators.

The survey was available for approximately two months and 100 responses were received. Full details of the questions included in the survey are available in Appendix A.

The purpose of this document is to summarise the feedback obtained from the survey and to set out the next steps for the development of this indicator set.

Key findings

- 68.0 per cent of users said that they access the Compendium indicators either weekly or monthly.

- 91.2 per cent of respondents stated that they require the data for local authorities.

- Emergency admission, mortality (including years of life lost) and emergency readmission indicators are used by the most number of respondents.

Next steps

The feedback from the user survey indicates that although the indicators are well used there are a variety of views about the Compendium overall. A number of helpful suggestions have been made which the HSCIC will look to implement for future releases.

This feedback has been reviewed and will feed into a wider consultation on the future of the Compendium of population health indicators. This will be published on the HSCIC website in summer 2016 and users are invited to provide their views on the proposed changes.

We continue to welcome feedback on the Compendium of population health indicators. This should be sent to enquiries@hscic.gov.uk, including 'Compendium of population health statistics' in the subject line.
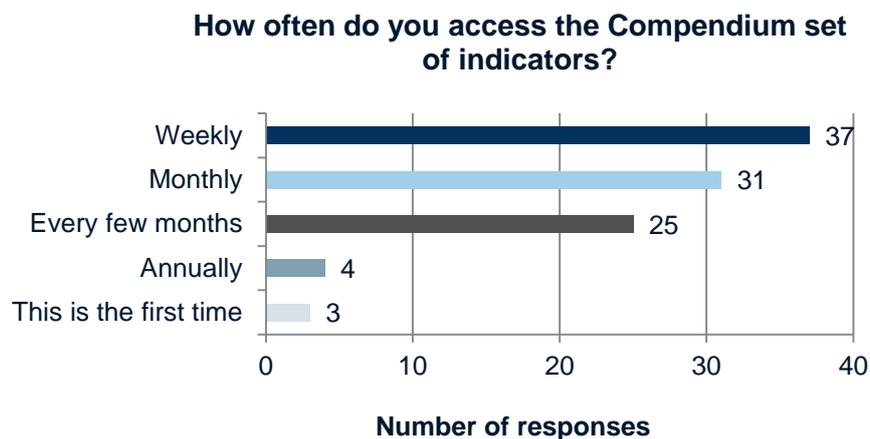
Analysis of responses

In this section, the responses to each question in the user feedback survey are presented[1].

Question 1: How often do you access the Compendium set of indicators?

There were 100 responses to this question. Of the 100 responses:

- 68 (68.0 per cent) stated that they access the Compendium indicators either weekly or monthly.

- 25 (25.0 per cent) stated that they access the Compendium indicators every few months.

- 4 (4.0 per cent) stated that they access the Compendium indicators annually.

- 3 (3.0 per cent) stated that this is the first time they had accessed the Compendium indicators.
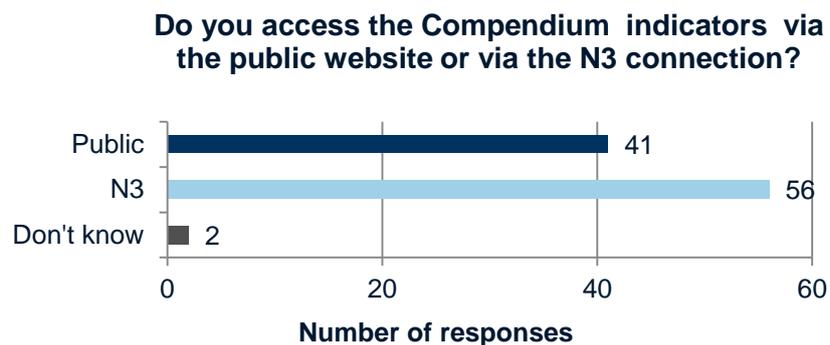
How often do you access the Compendium set of indicators?

Number of responses

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[1] Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Question 2: Do you access the Compendium indicators via the public website, or via the N3 connection? If you access the indicators via the N3 connection, do you use unsuppressed indicator data for your work?

There were 99 responses to this question. Of the 99 responses:

- 41 (41.1 per cent) access the Compendium indicators using the public indicator portal.

- 56 (56.6 per cent) access the Compendium indicators via an N3 connection.

- 2 (2.0 per cent) did not know whether they accessed the Compendium indicators via the public website or an N3 connection.

Do you access the Compendium indicators via the public website or via the N3 connection?

Public	41
N3	56
Don't know	2

Number of responses

In February 2016 the HSCIC Indicator Portal accessed via an N3 connection was decommissioned. Historically data files on the public indicator portal were over-suppressed whilst data files on the indicator portal accessed via an N3 connection had minimal disclosure control applied. The disclosure control applied to the data published on the public portal has been rationalised in order to provide reliable information with increased utility.

Question 3: Please tell us which indicator sets you use, and how important they are to your work.

The responses to this question indicate that the following indicators sets are used the most:

- Emergency admissions (83 respondents)

- Mortality (including years of life lost) (83 respondents)

- Emergency readmissions (81 respondents)

- Infant and child mortality, life expectancy and resident mid-year population estimates (80 respondents each)

The indicator sets with the fewest number of responses were:

- Congenital anomaly incidence (63 respondents)

- Abortions (64 respondents)

- Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) serious accidents and returning to usual place of residence (66 respondents each)

- Local basket of inequality indicators (69 respondents)

The following table shows a full breakdown of responses:

Indicator Set	Very important or useful		Provide a context		Not useful		Total responses
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	
Abortions	52	81.3%	8	12.5%	4	6.3%	64
Births	73	93.6%	2	2.6%	3	3.8%	78
Cancer incidence	67	91.8%	3	4.1%	3	4.1%	73
Cancer screening	66	90.4%	5	6.8%	2	2.7%	73
Cancer survival	65	89.0%	6	8.2%	2	2.7%	73
Congenital anomaly incidence	34	54.0%	24	38.1%	5	7.9%	63
Deaths at home	61	79.2%	13	16.9%	3	3.9%	77
Deaths within 30 days	63	81.8%	10	13.0%	4	5.2%	77
Emergency admissions	77	92.8%	5	6.0%	1	1.2%	83
Emergency readmissions	71	87.7%	7	8.6%	3	3.7%	81
Fertility and conception	66	91.7%	3	4.2%	3	4.2%	72
Health Survey for England indicators	62	78.5%	12	15.2%	5	6.3%	79
HES serious accident	34	51.5%	22	33.3%	10	15.2%	66
Indices of deprivation	65	83.3%	8	10.3%	5	6.4%	78
Infant and child mortality	77	96.3%	2	2.5%	1	1.3%	80
Infectious disease incidence	53	74.6%	12	16.9%	6	8.5%	71
Life expectancy	76	95.0%	3	3.8%	1	1.3%	80
Local Basket Of Inequality	40	58.0%	21	30.4%	8	11.6%	69
Mortality (includes Years of Life Lost)	79	95.2%	4	4.8%	0	0.0%	83
ONS area classification	57	76.0%	13	17.3%	5	6.7%	75
Oral health	56	80.0%	9	12.9%	5	7.1%	70
Procedures	55	78.6%	11	15.7%	4	5.7%	70
Resident mid-year population estimates	64	80.0%	8	10.0%	8	10.0%	80
Returning to usual place of residence	42	63.6%	17	25.8%	7	10.6%	66
Vaccination	63	91.3%	4	5.8%	2	2.9%	69
Other	11	78.6%	1	7.1%	2	14.3%	14

Question 4: What do you use the Compendium indicators for?

There were 91 responses to this question. Users identified the following uses of the indicators:

- To support health needs assessments and joint strategic needs assessments.

- Local and national benchmarking.

- Public health reporting.

- Local analysis and validation.

- Planning, commissioning and performance.

- For use in trust Quality Accounts.

- Academic research.

- To support charities and wider health organisations.

Question 5: At which organisational level do you require the indicators?

Overall there were 91 responses to this question and respondents could select more than one option. Of the 91 responses:

- 83 (91.2 per cent) stated that they required data at a local authority level.

- 81 (89.0 per cent) stated that they required data at an England level.

- 69 (75.8 per cent) stated that they required data at region level.

- 69 (75.8 per cent) stated that the required data at a clinical commissioning group (CCG) level.

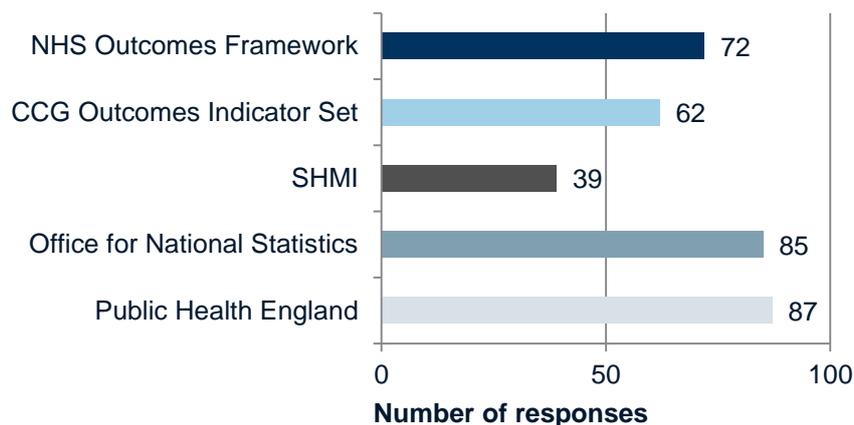The following table shows a full breakdown of responses:

Level of data	Count of responses	Percentage (%)
England	81	89.0
Region	69	75.8
Local authority	83	91.2
County	44	48.4
Provider	32	35.2
Clinical commissioning group	69	78.8
Area team	19	20.9
Other	22	24.2

Question 6: Which other sources of health related indicator data do you use?

Overall there were 91 responses to this question and respondents could select more than one option. Of the 91 responses:

- 87 (95.6 per cent) stated that they use health related indicator data from Public Health England.

- 85 (93.4 per cent) stated that they use health related indicator data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

- 72 (79.1 per cent) stated that the use the NHS Outcomes Framework via the HSCIC Indicator Portal.

- 62 (68.1 per cent) stated that the use the CCG Outcomes Indicator Set via the HSCIC Indicator Portal.

- 39 (42.9 per cent) stated that they use the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) via the HSCIC Indicator Portal.

Which other sources of health related indicator data do you use?

In addition to these data sources, 27 respondents stated that they used health related indicator data from alternative sources:

- Department for Communities and Local Government.

- Primary Care Mortality Database.

- Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework.

- Quality and Outcomes Framework.

- National Drug Treatment Monitoring System.

- NHS England.

- Cancer Commissioning Toolkit.

- World Health Organisation and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

- National Obesity Observatory.

Question 7: If you have any feedback on any of our Compendium indicators, or any other aspect of our presence on the Indicator Portal, please let us know.

A range of comments were provided in the space for other feedback.

- Many respondents commented that they find the indicators and the content of the Compendium a useful source of health data; allowing users to put their local data into context and providing data which is not readily available elsewhere.

- In contrast it was noted that some of the data published as part of the Compendium is available elsewhere, for example, life expectancy data which can be downloaded from the ONS website. Work is ongoing to reduce duplication within the Compendium and where data are freely available elsewhere we have provided links to this information. Also, some users felt that the amount of information is confusing, particularly as some of the indicators are very similar. These are things which will be further investigated as the Compendium is reorganised.

- A number of users suggested that additional indicators for hospital admissions by specific conditions would be a useful addition to the Compendium. We are currently reviewing the existing indicator list and will publish a public consultation on the planned changes in summer 2016.

- It was suggested that information regarding the geographic/demographic breakdown of indicator spreadsheets could be included on the indicator landing page so that users do not need to open the data files to determine what level the data is available at. This is something which we will look to include on the individual indicator landing pages.

- A number of users commented that it would be useful if the layout of the data files was consistent between indicators. This is something which we're looking to implement as and when each indicator set is updated. A user also commented that it would be better if there were no hidden columns within the data files so we will look to remove these.

- Several users identified other geographies which the indicators could be presented at. In addition, new indicator topics were suggested. These are things which will be investigated further as the Compendium is reorganised.

- It was suggested that it would be useful if users could receive notifications about which indicators had been updated on the Indicator Portal each month. It is possible to register with the HSCIC Contact Centre in order to receive a list of which indicators have been released each month. Details on how to register for this service are available on the portal landing page. Information on whether an indicator has been discontinued is also now included on the individual indicator landing pages.

- Many respondents commented that the Indicator Portal is frustrating to use and that it is difficult to find specific data due to the amount of information. Although users recognised that the search function was useful, several users commented that it would be useful if the search results included details about where the indicator was

located within the tree structure. Users also felt it would be useful if the Indicator Portal was more interactive and additionally allowed multiple files to be downloaded at once.

We're currently investigating alternative ways of bringing together statistical publications, the indicator sets they are based on as well as improved visualisations and search capabilities within a single web portal. If you would be interested in hearing more please let us know and we can provide you with updates as they become available.

Appendix A – Survey questions

Question 1: How often do you access the Compendium set of indicators?

- Weekly

- Monthly

- Less than monthly but more than once a year

- Annually

- It's the first time I've looked at the Compendium

- Other

If it's the first time you have looked at the Compendium:

- How did you hear about it?

- What are your first impressions of the Compendium?

Question 2: Do you access the Compendium indicators via the public website, or via the N3 connection? If you access the indicators via the N3 connection, do you use unsuppressed indicator data for your work?

- Public (https://indicators.ic.nhs.uk/webview/)

- N3 (http://nww.indicators.ic.nhs.uk/webview/)

- Don't know

Question 3: Please tell us which indicator sets you use, and how important they are to your work.

	Very important	Useful	Provide a context	Not useful
Abortions	O	O	O	O
Births	O	O	O	O
Infant and child mortality	O	O	O	O
Cancer screening	O	O	O	O
Cancer incidence	O	O	O	O
Cancer survival	O	O	O	O
Fertility and conception	O	O	O	O
Congenital anomaly incidence	O	O	O	O
Deaths at home	O	O	O	O
Emergency admissions	O	O	O	O
Emergency readmissions	O	O	O	O
Procedures	O	O	O	O
Deaths within 30 days	O	O	O	O
Returning to usual place of residence	O	O	O	O
HES serious accident	O	O	O	O
Health Survey for England indicators	O	O	O	O
Indices of deprivation	O	O	O	O
Infectious disease incidence	O	O	O	O
Local basket of inequality indicators	O	O	O	O
Life expectancy	O	O	O	O
Mortality (includes years of life lost)	O	O	O	O
ONS area classification	O	O	O	O
Oral health	O	O	O	O
Resident mid-year population estimates	O	O	O	O
Vaccination	O	O	O	O
Other (please specify)	O	O	O	O

Question 4: What do you use the Compendium indicators for?

Question 5: At which organisational level do you require the indicators?

- England

- Region

- Local authority

- County

- Provider

- Clinical commissioning group

- Area team

- Other

Question 6: Which other sources of health related indicator data do you use?

- NHS Outcomes Framework (via Indicator Portal)

- CCG Outcomes Indicator Set (via Indicator Portal)

- Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) – via Indicator Portal

- Office for National Statistics

- Public Health England

- Other (please specify)

Question 7: If you have any feedback on any of our Compendium indicators, or any other aspect of our presence on the Indicator Portal, please let us know.