



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

# Health Profiles

## Indicator inclusion criteria



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This document summarises the key criteria to be met by any indicator included within the Health Profiles. A list of current spine chart indicators can be found using the online tool: <http://www.healthprofiles.info>.

Additional considerations that the Health Profiles project group will take into account (but which stakeholders may not be able to influence) are also included for information.

A checklist is provided to enable demonstration that criteria have been met, please use this when requesting the addition of a new indicator.

First published: October 2017

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## About indicators in the Health Profiles

The Health Profiles contain indicators on a number of topics, providing a snapshot overview of health for each local authority in England.

The indicators contained in the Health Profiles are reviewed each year following the publication of the annual pdf report. This takes into account:

- The relevance of indicators (i.e. is the topic covered by an indicator still a current public health issue?)
- The continuity of indicators (i.e. will the indicators be updated prior to the next Health Profiles pdf update and will the methodology change significantly?)
- Identification of indicators on new or emerging health topics (e.g. as of August 2017 estimated diagnosis rate of dementia is included in the Health Profiles for the first time)
- New requests for indicators or comments on existing indicators (feedback received during previous user surveys or general feedback to [healthprofiles@phe.gov.uk](mailto:healthprofiles@phe.gov.uk)).

Inclusion criteria	Rationale
Available at local authority district level	The Health Profiles are designed for use at upper tier, unitary authority and local authority district level. Indicators that are not available at district level will not usually be considered for inclusion. If the data are available but the numbers are small resulting in a high level of suppression the indicator may not be included.
Regular updates (annually as a minimum)	The pdf profiles are updated once a year. In order for the Health Profiles to provide as timely information as possible, indicators need to be updated between publications to ensure data are not out of date.
Spine chart indicator source is a PHE Official Statistics (OS) profile OR is available in a non OS PHE profile but provides key information relating to a national strategy	Use of OS products ensures the high quality of data included in Health Profiles. If OS status is not met, the indicator should relate to a key national strategy e.g. childhood obesity. Using indicators from existing PHE profiles reduces potential sources of error and duplication (data are uploaded once and the potential for the creation of duplicate indicators is avoided).

	Indicators on pages 2 & 3 are broken down into more detail to provide further context, this information might not be included in an OS product.
Includes 95% confidence intervals	The Health Profiles use a spine chart to indicate whether a low or high value is considered good or bad compared to the England average. Confidence intervals are required in order to provide this interpretation.

Additional considerations for the project group	
Inclusion criteria	Rationale
Indicator is publically available prior to publication in the Health Profiles annual pdf report	Data content of the annual Health Profiles pdf should be available to stakeholders via the online tool or other PHE profile before publication.
User feedback provides support for the indicator	Changes will not be made to the Health Profiles without undertaking a user survey to gauge the views of stakeholders.
Indicators not to be produced solely for use within the Health Profiles (related to indicator source criteria above)	Health Profiles bring together information from multiple PHE profiles, promoting them as sources of further information.
The Health Profiles pdf does not exceed 4 pages	Health Profiles to remain a short, snapshot overview of health (this equates to a maximum of roughly 32 indicators).

If requesting the inclusion of a new indicator to the Health Profiles (via [healthprofiles@phe.gov.uk](mailto:healthprofiles@phe.gov.uk)) please use this checklist to demonstrate how it meets the inclusion criteria.

**Checklist:**

Inclusion criteria	Evidence criteria met
Available at local authority district level	
Regular updates (annually as a minimum)	
Spine chart indicator source is a PHE Official Statistics profile OR is available in a non OS profile but provides key information relating to a national strategy	
Includes 95% confidence intervals	