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Rationale for changes to indicators presented in the Health Profiles online tool and annual PDF

Background

Changes have been made to the indicators included in Health Profiles as part of the August 2016 update. These changes were made to improve how different PHE tools and indicator sets relate to each other and to align Health Profiles more closely with the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF). Health Profiles will retain their place as short summaries of important health and wellbeing information, mostly taken from the PHOF.

In addition, the PHOF has recently been refreshed and there was a requirement to update the indicator definitions in Health Profiles to ensure consistency with the new PHOF. The detail of the revised PHOF is available at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reviewing-the-indicators-in-the-public-health-outcome-framework.

The health profiles team undertook a user consultation during May and June 2016. Where there were choices about which PHOF indicators to choose for the Health Profiles, this was informed by the recent Health Profiles user consultation.

This document outlines the changes we have made to the Health Profiles indicators in August 2016.

Indicator changes

There have been definitional or methodological changes to the following Health Profiles indicators in order to make them consistent with the new PHOF or other PHE Tools:
- deprivation
- statutory homelessness
- smoking prevalence
- infant mortality
- suicide rate

Details of how these indicators are now defined and calculated can be found in the definitions tab on the online tool.

The children in poverty (under 16s) indicator has been renamed to children living in low income families (under 16s).

The following indicators have been removed or replaced:
- Obese adults – this indicator is not in the PHOF and has been removed, but Health Profiles will retain PHOF indicator 2.12 Excess weight in adults.
- Incidence of malignant melanoma – this indicator is not in the PHOF and has been replaced with the PHOF indicator 2.19 Cancer diagnosed at early stages. 80% of those who responded to the Health Profiles consultation were in favour of replacing this indicator with Cancer diagnosed at early stages. The National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS) provide cancer incidence, survival and mortality data for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), including incidence malignant melanoma, at https://cancerdata.nhs.uk/.
- Prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine use – this indicator is not in the PHOF and has been replaced with the new PHOF indicator 2.15iv Deaths from drug misuse. 56% of those who responded to the consultation were in favour of replacing this indicator with Deaths from drug misuse.

Alongside these changes to the list of indicators included within the Health Profiles, data for several indicators were updated or revised as part of the August 2016 update. For details of which indicator data were updated or revised please see the August 2016 data update at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-profiles or the recent updates box at http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles.

Further information

The online Health Profiles can be found at http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles.

If you have any questions about the Health Profiles please contact HealthProfiles@phe.gov.uk.