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Announcement of methodological changes to Statistics on Women's Smoking Status at Time of Delivery, England

Change in methodology

Presently, the smoking status at the time of delivery (SATOD) is not known for around 2% of women across England. This can be significantly higher for some CCGs, in 2016/17, 7 CCGs had more than 10% with an unknown smoking status. The previous methodology for calculating the percentage of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery included the number of mothers with an unknown smoking status in the denominator.

From April 2017, the methodology will exclude unknowns from the denominator when calculating the percentage of women smoking at the time of delivery. To aid the transition to this new definition, the indicator has been published under both definitions during 2016/17 to allow CCGs to be aware of the impact of the change and to give them time to improve the quality of their data.

Previous methodology:

Percentage of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery: $100 \times (\text{Number of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery} / \text{Number of maternities})$. This includes those mothers with an unknown smoking status (as well as those who are smokers and non-smokers) in the denominator, thus covering all maternities.

New methodology:

Percentage of mothers smoking at the time of delivery (excluding unknowns): $100 \times (\text{number of mothers recorded as smoking at time of delivery} / (\text{number of mothers recorded as smoking at time of delivery} + \text{number of mothers recorded as not smoking at time of delivery}))$.

Amending the methodology by excluding the unknowns will remove the previous limitation of the under reporting of percentages for known smokers and/ or non-smokers. The number of maternities with an unknown smoking status will be shown as contextual information alongside the indicator.

This change to definition is supported by NHS Digital, DH and PHE.

Revisions

As a result of feedback from CCGs, revisions will now be accepted as part of the SATOD collection. In Q4 2017/18, CCGs will be able to upload revised data for Quarters 1, 2 and 3. The publications for Quarters 1, 2 and 3 will be published on a provisional basis, with the finalised data being published in Q4.

This change is supported by NHS Digital, DH and PHE.