

Adult social care statistics: winter update

What we did...

In 2018, we spoke to over 50 stakeholders (data providers and users) about adult social care statistics across the UK. **Thank you for taking the time to share your views with us.**


People from councils, government departments, the NHS, inspectorates, care providers, charities and umbrella organisations told us about their frustrations with – and aspirations for – social care statistics.

We will be:

- assisting statistics producers with ongoing long-term data collection projects to support improved data reporting;
- working with stakeholders to explore their concerns about these statistics in more detail;
- encouraging statistics producers to collaborate and identify solutions across health and social care;
- publishing more detailed findings and recommendations for action later in 2019.

...Our next steps

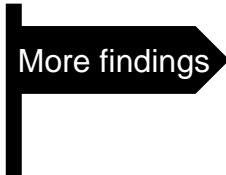
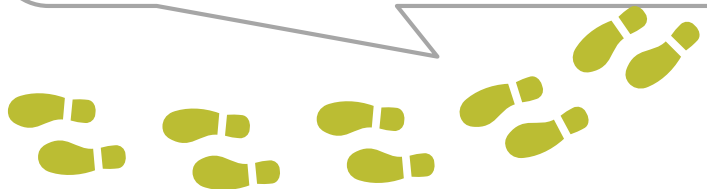
...what we heard



Official statistics about adult social care are not meeting stakeholders' needs. Statisticians are working on making improvements, but much-needed change will take a long time.

Stakeholders need more detailed and more frequent statistics; more joining-up of social care information with health care and benefits information; and a stronger focus on people's experience and quality of life.

The statistics paint only a partial picture of what actually happens and the public value of the statistics is limited because there is no shared understanding of how activities should be comprehensively recorded. The quality of some adult social care statistics could be improved.



More findings

Summary of improvements needed to the data and statistics

Stakeholders felt that the statistics could be more timely

To be more helpful, the statistics need to go into more detail

It should be easier to find the statistics needed on the government websites

Stakeholders would appreciate more commentary and insight into what the statistics mean

The statistics should reflect the lived experience of people using social care

Stakeholders thought that the data collected should be more consistent

Stakeholders' specific concerns about adult social care data and statistics

- Definitions might not be consistent across councils and providers
- Data collection processes might not be standardised
- Age bands are too broad
- Insufficient published information about:
 - protected characteristics
 - health diagnoses
 - cost effectiveness
 - the impact of means-testing
 - the current or future picture of need
- Little independent sector data
- Need more statistics relevant to Wales only
- The 2016 data break has caused some issues

Contact us to join the conversation in 2019

Project team:
Caroline Jones
Catherine Bromley
Jo Mulligan
Sarah Whitehead
Vicky Stone

regulation@statistics.gov.uk

