

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**Physical Health Checks for People with Severe Mental Illness**  
**May 2024**

The following experimental statistics were published today by NHS England:

Quarterly Physical Health Checks for People with Severe Mental Illness, 2023/24 Q4.

This is the twentieth publication of data gathered from Sub-ICB locations in relation to the number of people on the GP severe mental illness (SMI) register to have had physical health checks in the 12 months to the end of the reporting period. The data collection was expanded in scope in 2019/20 Q1 to include physical health checks delivered in any setting, previously it was limited to health checks delivered in primary care. The data is known to be incomplete, this should be considered when interpreting results.

**The main findings for 2023/24 Q4 were:**

- 361,210 out of 527,556 people on GP SMI registers were in receipt of all six elements of the health checks in the 12 months to the end of 2023/24 Q4.
- While checks of smoking status (455,979 people), blood pressure (448,049 people) and BMI weight (444,625 people) were most common, the blood lipid check (421,292 people) was least common.
- The data has been supplied by all Sub-ICBs, covering 84.5% of the estimated GP SMI population.
  - There is some uncertainty as to the completeness of the data collection; we measure completeness by comparing the reported denominator against the expected denominator (estimated from the latest QoF figures and ONS population projections).
  - There is regional variation in completeness. While 88.3% of the estimated GP SMI population was reported in London, this was 82.1% in East of England. This may be due to Sub-ICBs not obtaining data from all GPs in their area.
  - Completeness should be considered when interpreting the results presented here.
  - NHS England is working with Sub-ICBs where required to address data completeness or performance concerns.
- The data, presented by commissioner, can be found via the following link:  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/serious-mental-illness-smi/>

This data is published on a quarterly basis.

## Notes to Editors

### 1. Physical Health Checks for People with SMI Standard

In 2016, the [Five Year Forward View Mental Health](#) (MHFYFV) set out NHS England's approach to reducing the stark levels of premature mortality for people living with severe mental illness (SMI) who die 15-20 years earlier than the general population, largely due to preventable or treatable physical health problems.

In the MHFYFV, NHS England committed to leading work to ensure that by 2020/21, 280,000 people living with SMI have their physical health needs met by increasing early detection and expanding access to evidence-based physical care assessment and intervention each year. This equated to a target of 60% of people on the General Practice SMI register receiving a full and comprehensive physical health check and the required follow up care in primary and secondary care settings. This commitment was reiterated in the [Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View](#). The [NHS Long Term Plan](#) commits to 390,000 people with a Severe Mental Illness (SMI) receiving a full annual physical health check in 2023-24. To be in line with the Long Term Plan, this publication (from Q2 2021/22) has now shifted focus from percentage achievement to activity.

Physical health checks may be delivered in either primary or secondary care. **This standard measures in 2019/20 to 2023/24 the number of people on General Practice SMI registers who are receiving a comprehensive physical health check in any setting.**

Please note the delivery of health checks in secondary care has been reported separately in 2018/19 via the [Improving physical healthcare to reduce premature mortality in people with serious mental illness \(PSMI\) CQUIN and associated audit](#).

### 2. Data quality

Information about the estimated completeness of the data collected is presented in the publication files. It should be noted that Sub-ICBs have gathered data from GPs and other providers of physical health checks and have sometimes been unable to gather information from all such providers. Where this is the case the denominator / expected denominator will be less than 100%.

The method of calculating data completeness was updated in 2020/21 Q1. Previously, estimated Sub-ICB SMI populations, excluding those in remission, that were collected as part of Sub-ICB operational plans were used as an estimate of the SMI population (the expected denominator). In 2020/21 to 2023/24, an estimate of the SMI population has been made using the latest QOF register values and ONS population projections.

The incompleteness of the data should be noted when interpreting results.

### 3. Commissioner data

The expanded data collection for 2019/20 through 2023/24 is on a commissioner basis and considers people on the GP SMI register accessing physical health checks in any setting. The delivery of health checks in secondary care has been reported separately in 2018/19 via the [Improving physical healthcare to reduce premature mortality in people with serious mental illness \(PSMI\) CQUIN and associated audit](#).

### 4. Feedback

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of **Physical Health Checks for People with Severe Mental Illness** within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on the NHS England website. Please email any comments on this, or any other issues regarding the **Physical Health Checks for People with Severe Mental Illness statistics**, to: [england.mh-data@nhs.net](mailto:england.mh-data@nhs.net)

### Additional Information

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England media team on 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959.

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