



Making Life Better Area Profiles on NINIS - Definitions

This document outlines the definitions used in the headline indicators of the Making Life Better Strategy. It also includes definitions for rates/measures used in the supporting indicators. The headline indicators are highlighted in green while the supporting indicators are in blue.

Note that this document does not include definitions for all statistics included in the profile but rather it focuses on those which may be less familiar or obvious to users. The sources sections of the Making Life Better Area Profiles include links to all datasets used in the profiles – these links also provide metadata which cover the definitions for all variables used in the Profiles.

KEY OVERARCHING INDICATORS:

Life expectancy – The expected years of life at time of birth based on mortality patterns in the period in question. It is based on the average death rates over a three year period. Presented separately for males and females. Source: DHSSPS

Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) – This is the average number of years a person can expect to live in good health. HLE provides an estimate of lifetime spent in 'Very Good' or 'Good' health, calculated using respondents' perception of their own health according to the Health Survey Northern Ireland. HLE is calculated from 3 years of data. Source: DHSSPS

Disability Free Life Expectancy (DFLE) – This is the average number of years a person can expect to live disability free. DFLE provides an estimate of lifetime spent free from a limiting persistent (twelve months or more) illness or disability, based upon a self-rated functional assessment of health recorded in the Health Survey Northern Ireland. DFLE is calculated from 3 years of data. Source: DHSSPS

Standardised Death Rate – A straight comparison of crude death rates between areas may present a misleading picture because of differences in the sex and age structure of the respective populations. The technique of standardisation is used to remedy this. In general, standardisation involves a comparison of the actual number of events occurring in an area with the aggregate number expected if the age/sex specific rates in the standard population were applied to the age/sex groups of the observed population. The results are expressed either as standardised rates or as standardised mortality ratios (SMRs) where the standard ratio (for Northern Ireland) equals 100. Source: DHSSPS

Potential Years of Life Lost – Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) over a five year period (2004-2008, 2005-2009, 2006-2010, 2007-2011 and 2008-2012). A summary measure of premature mortality which provides an explicit way of weighting deaths occurring at younger ages, which are, a priori, preventable. PYLL uses the average age specific life expectancy for each five year age band as the age to which a person in that age band might be expected to live. The calculation of PYLL involves summing up deaths occurring at each age and multiplying this with the number of years a person of that age could have been expected to live. Source: DHSSPS

THEME 1 - GIVING EVERY CHILD THE BEST START:

Infant Mortality Rate – The number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Infant deaths relate to all deaths in the first year of life. Infant mortality rates are calculated from 5 years of data. Source: DHSSPS

Smoking during pregnancy – This is the proportion of all live births that were to mothers that reported smoking during pregnancy (taken from the Child Health System). As this indicator is self-reported, it may be subject to a degree of under-reporting. In addition, it should be noted that expectant mothers are asked of their smoking status at their first hospital appointment and therefore rates may drop after this point. Source: DHSSPS

Breastfeeding on discharge from hospital – Information on the proportion of mothers that were breastfeeding their child on discharge from hospital extracted from the Child Health System. The figures include mothers that were breastfeeding their child but also using complementary feeding as well. Source: DHSSPS

Educational Attainment - School Leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE at A*-C inc. English and Maths - Information on the number of school leavers as a proportion of the total cohort achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent, including GCSE English and GCSE maths provided by the Department of Education and sourced from post primary school administrative systems. Source: DOE

Birth Rate – number of births per 1,000 female population aged 15-44 years. Source: DMB, NISRA

Birth rate to teenage mothers – Births registered to mothers under the age of 17 per 1,000 females. Source: DHSSPS

Still Birth Rate – A stillbirth rate refers to the number of stillbirths per 1,000 live and still births. The stillbirths presented in this profile do not include stillbirths to non Northern Ireland resident mothers. Stillbirths are defined as a child which has issued forth from its mother after the 24th week of pregnancy and which did not breathe or show any other sign of life. Source: DMB, NISRA

Infant Death Rate – Infant deaths refer to all deaths in the first year of life. An infant death rate refers to the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births (including non Northern Ireland residents). Source: DMB, NISRA

Childhood Deaths – Deaths to children aged 1 to 15. Source DMB, NISRA

Looked After Children – The number of children looked after in care. The Children's Social Care Statistics are based on the children order returns for Northern Ireland. For information relating to this data in particular see [Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2013/14](#). Source: DHSSPS

Child Protection Register – The number of children on the Child Protection Register. The Children's Social Care Statistics are based on the children order returns for Northern Ireland. For information relating to this data in particular see [Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2013/14](#). Source: DHSSPS

Children in need, referred to Social Services – The number of children referred to Social Services. The Children’s Social Care Statistics are based on the children order returns for Northern Ireland. For information relating to this data in particular see Children’s Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2013/14. Source: DHSSPS

THEME 2 - EQUIPPED THROUGHOUT LIFE

Long-term Unemployment Rate – The percentage of unemployed who have been unemployed for 12 months or more sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Source: ELMSB, NISRA

Not in Employment, Full-time Education or Training (NEETs) – The proportion of 16 to 24 year olds who are not in employment, full time education or training (NEETS) provided by the Department of Finance and Personnel and sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Sub-regional HSCIMS 2015 Appendices. Source: ELMSB, NISRA

Destination School Leavers – School leavers entering Higher Education, entering Further Education, entering employment, entering training, entering unemployment/unknown. The dataset is collected from schools via their C2k administration system. Source: DE

THEME 3 - EMPOWERING HEALTHY LIVING

Smoking – The proportion of adults (aged 16+) that smoke taken from the Health Survey Northern Ireland (HSNI), a Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety survey that runs every year on a continuous basis. Source: DHSSPS

Standardised Admission Rate (SAR) due to Alcohol related causes – This is a comparison of alcohol related admission rates in an area with Northern Ireland as a whole. This comparison takes account of the different age-sex profiles in different areas. Alcohol related admissions are classified using the ICD-10 codes set out in Table A3 of the Regional NI Health & Social Care Inequalities Monitoring Report <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hscims-2014-bulletin.pdf>. Source: DHSSPS

Adults drinking above sensible guidelines – The proportion of adults (aged 18 and over) drinking above sensible weekly limits (DoH) taken from the Health Survey Northern Ireland.

Teenage birth rates – This crude rate is the number of births in an area to teenage mothers (i.e. between 13 and 16 years of age) expressed per 1,000 females. Figures are an average of three years data. Source: DHSSPS

Adult obesity – Percentage of adults surveyed who were classified as obese taken from the Health Survey Northern Ireland. Results have been weighted by age and sex, in order to reflect the composition of the general population of Northern Ireland. Obesity levels are estimated using the body Mass Index (BMI). This is a widely used indicator of body fat levels which is calculated by dividing a person’s weight in kilograms by the square of their height in metres. A BMI of 30kg/m² or above is considered obese. Source: DHSSPS

Childhood obesity – Percentage of children surveyed who were classified as obese taken from the Health Survey Northern Ireland. Results have been weighted by age and sex, in order to reflect the composition of the general population of Northern Ireland. Obesity levels are estimated using the body Mass Index (BMI). The calculation of the Body Mass Index in children depends on the age and sex of the child as well as their height and weight, based on the guidelines put forward by the International Obesity Task Force. Source: DHSSPS

Mental Health & Wellbeing – Mean Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale Score taken from the Health Survey Northern Ireland. The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale is used to measure mental health and wellbeing. The scale asks people to indicate how often they have felt a certain way on a range of items, such as feeling optimistic, feeling relaxed, thinking clearly, feeling confident and feeling cheerful. A score then is assigned (minimum score of 14 and maximum score of 70). The higher a person's score, the better their level of mental wellbeing. The scale was not designed with a view to categorising the population according to a level of mental wellbeing, thus no cut off points have been developed. Rather, it is a tool for monitoring the mental wellbeing of groups of people over time or differences between groups. Source: DHSSPS

Crude Suicide Rate – Suicide deaths in Northern Ireland are defined using the UK definition which includes deaths from Self-inflicted Injury (International Classification of Disease (ICD-10) codes X60-X84, Y87.0) as well as Events of Undetermined Intent (ICD-10 codes Y10-Y34, Y87.2). Data for three years have been aggregated in order to provide robust results. The suicide rates are not age standardised as, previously, it was found to make little or no difference whilst introducing a new confidence interval. Source: DHSSPS

Blood pressure/Hypertension – Number of patients with established hypertension and % of GP registered patients with established hypertension taken from the Payment Calculation and Analysis System (PCAS) as part of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). Appendices Sub-regional HSCIMS 2015 <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hscims-mlb-2015.pdf>. Source: DHSSPS

Attendances at structured patient education/self management programmes - Information is collected by Community Information Branch (CIB) within the DHSSPS through a questionnaire issued to each of the five Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts, as well as a range of voluntary and community organisations who currently provide patient education and self management programmes in Northern Ireland. Source: DHSSPS

Standardised Admission Rate for All Hospital Admissions - The information is aggregated data extracted from Northern Ireland Hospitals Patients Administration System under the Equality Monitoring System. Data are collected on a financial year basis. Admissions in each geographical area were directly standardised by age and sex with respect to the European Standard Population 2010. Data shown relates to the number of admissions per 100,000 population. Source: DHSSPS

Standardised Admission Rate for Emergency Hospital Admissions - The information is aggregated data extracted from Northern Ireland Hospitals Patients Administration System under the Equality Monitoring System. Data are collected on a financial year basis. Admissions in each geographical area were directly standardised by age and sex with respect to the European Standard Population 2010. Data shown relates to the number of admissions per 100,000 population. Source: DHSSPS

Standardised Admission Rate due to Circulatory or Respiratory Diseases - The information is aggregated data extracted from Northern Ireland Hospitals Patients Administration System. Data are collected on a financial year basis, and presented in groups of three consecutive financial years. Admissions in each geographical area were directly standardised by age and sex with respect to the European Standard Population 2010. Data shown relates to the number of admissions per 100,000 population.

THEME 4 - CREATING THE CONDITIONS

Investment in Public Health – the amount invested in public health (measured in terms of the Public Health Agency (PHA) resource outturn). This does not represent the total amount invested in public health in NI, it is simply an indicator of such. Source: PHA

Households below average income – the percentage of the population in relative poverty (before housing costs) provided by the Department of Social Development and sourced from the Households Below Average Incomes (HBAI) dataset. The HBAI dataset is created from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). The FRS collects information on the incomes and circumstances of private households in NI. Relative poverty is measured as having less than 60% of the UK median income. Source: DSD

Households with children under 16 with below average income – the percentage of the children in relative poverty (before housing costs) provided by the Department of Social Development and sourced from the Households Below Average Incomes (HBAI) dataset. The HBAI dataset is created from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). The FRS collects information on the incomes and circumstances of private households in NI. Relative poverty is measured as having less than 60% of the UK median income. Source: DSD

Economic Inactivity Rate – the percentage of 16-64 year olds who are economically inactive provided by the Department of Finance and Personnel and sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Source: ELMSB, NISRA

Housing Standards – the non-decency rate of social housing dwellings provided by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and sourced from the 2011 House Condition Survey Report which provides a comprehensive overview of Northern Ireland's dwelling stock (including dwelling unfitness) and its occupants.

Air Quality – a number of indicators on air quality including ambient concentrations of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, ozone and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons provided by the Department of Environment. The ambient air quality data are sourced from the Automatic Urban and Rural Network, the UK's national air quality monitoring network.

Water Quality – a number of water quality indicators including Compliance of Water Utility Sector Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) and Mean zonal compliance percentage failure with Northern Ireland. Urban Waste Water Treatment and drinking water compliance is assessed by NIEA based on an agreed sample programme.

THEME 5 - EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Social Capital – the percentage of respondents to the NI Omnibus Survey who had volunteered in the past year provided by the Department of Social Development and sourced from the NI Omnibus Survey.

Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) Killed or Seriously Injured – the number of casualties killed or seriously injured in Road Traffic Collisions provided by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Source: PSNI

RTC Collisions – the number of Road Traffic Collision involving death or personal injury occurring on a road or other public place reported to PSNI within 30 days of occurrence. Source: PSNI

RTC Seriously Injured - the number of casualties seriously Injured in Road Traffic Collisions provided by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Source: PSNI

RTC Deaths - the number of casualties killed in Road Traffic Collisions provided by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Source: PSNI

ABBREVIATIONS:

DHSSPS: Department of Health Social Services & Public Safety

DOE: Department of the Environment

DE: Department of Education

DSD: Department for Social Development

DMB: Demography & Methodology Branch

NISRA: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency

ELMSB: Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch

PSNI: Police Service of Northern Ireland

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