



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Preparing a maternity, children and young people's needs assessment

Guidance for students

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through advocacy, partnerships, world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

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Executive summary

This document has been developed in response to a significant number of enquiries received each year from students who, as part of their university course, have been asked to develop a local needs assessment. The resources provided by Public Health England and specifically the National Child and Maternal (ChiMat) Health Intelligence Network are often recommended as a starting point for such projects.

Your local public health department may also be able to provide additional information not collated nationally. The local joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) is often a good starting point.

The following sections give guidance and links to relevant data sources, tools and documents to help students when undertaking a needs assessment and are supported by using the ChiMat section on our website which follows the commissioning cycle (www.chimat.org.uk/usingchimat).

A good needs assessment should:

- establish the current and future state of the local population's health and wellbeing over the short term (3-5 years) and long term (5-10 years)
- map local service provision.

This document is based on developing a needs assessment at local authority level. Further information about JSNAs and joint health and wellbeing strategies is available on the government website at www.gov.uk/government/publications/jsnas-and-jhws-statutory-guidance

The document also gives guidance on accessing data at a level lower than upper tier local authority, such as district council or electoral ward, and its limitations.

Determining the population

There are a number of tools which you can use to help gain an understanding of a local population:

JSNA navigator – children and young people

The JSNA navigator - children and young people takes you directly to the data which you need when conducting a JSNA locally for children and young people. This tool is available at www.chimat.org.uk/jsnanavigator

ChiMat service planning and performance reports

The ChiMat service planning and performance reports give appropriate evidence-based information on prevalence, incidence and risk factors affecting children and maternal health and the provision of healthcare services.

In addition to providing information for needs assessments, these reports help you to develop a business case, justify investment, initiate conversations around service improvements and carry out a service review or local audit.

You can obtain reports for your local area at www.chimat.org.uk/serviceplanning

A short guide to the use and interpretation of the reports is also available on the same page.

The content of these reports can be exported directly into a Microsoft word document for editing or can be copied by clicking on the pdf export button.

Population data is also available separately within the data atlas.

The data atlas brings together a range of data and statistics on child and maternal health into one easily accessible hub and is available at <http://atlas.chimat.org.uk/IAS/dataviews>

Additional supporting resources

If you are unfamiliar with the use of the data provided in these reports and the data atlas, the following document and web page will provide you with some guidance:

- Technical briefing 3: commonly used public health statistics and their confidence intervals
www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=48457
- about maps and data
<http://atlas.chimat.org.uk/IAS/dataviews/about>

Small area data

Small areas include any geographical area smaller than an English local authority district. Often there is only a limited range of datasets available for these small areas. There may be no demographic data which can mean that it is difficult to calculate rates and compare data. This means that data for small areas has to be used with caution.

Using small area data

Technical briefing 6: using small area data in public health intelligence provides a detailed explanation of small area data and its limitations. The briefing is available at www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=74894

Finding small area data

Some data for small areas is available. Local Health gives you access to interactive maps, data and reports at electoral ward, medium super output area (MSOAs are small 'neighbourhood' size areas) level as well as for whole local authorities. The website for this tool is www.localhealth.org.uk

The general practice profiles present a range of practice-level indicators drawn from the latest available data. The information is shown in a variety of different charts and the profiles can be found at <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/general-practice>

Identifying local health issues

Having identified the population, it is important to review the health priorities for the population and their priority for service provision. The previous data sources and tools as well as the following additional tools can support you in identifying key priorities.

Child health profiles give a snapshot of child health and wellbeing for each upper tier local authority in England using key health indicators, which enable comparison locally, regionally and nationally. The profiles are available on the ChiMat website:

www.chimat.org.uk/profiles

In addition NHS England and the National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network have developed a health profile of public health outcomes relating to infant mortality, breastfeeding, early years (children aged 0-5 years) and school aged children

www.chimat.org.uk/profiles

The 'Children and young people's health benchmarking tool' brings together and builds on health outcome data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework and the NHS Outcomes Framework. It is available at <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/cyphof>

PHE also has a data and knowledge gateway which gives a single point of access to data and analysis tools from across the organisation. Here you will find other relevant tools and data sources such as:

- Public Health Outcomes Framework
- Strategic Health Asset Planning and Evaluation (SHAPE)
- NCMP Local Authority Profile
- sexual and reproductive health profiles

Other data sources and tools

Although this document focuses on the support available from PHE there are various data sources and tools provided by other organisations that may be of value. The Tools and Data Directory helps you find and understand when to use the wide range of tools and data collections currently available. It is available at www.chimat.org.uk/directory

In addition these specific tools may be of use:

NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare for Children and Young People
www.chimat.org.uk/variation

PREview Planning Resources
www.chimat.org.uk/preview

Disease Management Information Toolkit
<http://atlas.chimat.org.uk/IAS/dmit>

Outcomes versus Expenditure Tools
<http://atlas.chimat.org.uk/IAS/ovet>

Local authority interactive tool (LAIT)
www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait

Education and skills in your area
www.education.gov.uk/inyourarea/

For the latest news, events, policy reports, research and other resources relating to children's, young people's and maternal health subscribe to our eBulletins.
www.chimat.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=CHMK9