

HES 2011-12¹ A&E Data Quality Note

The data quality note will be updated in the event of issues arising post-publication. A summary of changes made will appear in the table below.

Version control	
Date	Summary of Update
23/01/2013	2011-12 A&E Data Quality Note published

Please note this data is provisional and subject to changes and revisions each month. It should be treated as an estimate until the final National Statistics annual publications.

The following issues have been identified in the 2011-12 A&E data:

Experimental data set

The A&E dataset is an experimental data set which has a number of continuing issues regarding quality and coverage of certain key fields. The latest information on these issues can be found on the [HESonline](http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk) website:

[<http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=1275>].

Age at CDS Activity Date

There are unusually high counts in this field for the values '8' and '9' which do not correspond with HES-derived age fields such as 'Age on Arrival'. This is due to technical issues when providers submit data. Work is underway to try to resolve this issue and the fields will be made available when they are of sufficient quality.

Impact: These fields have been removed until the issue has been fully investigated.

Ethnic Category

The field 'Ethnic Category' is now populated in the A&E dataset. However coverage in this field is very poor.

Impact: Caution is advised when using this field.

Age fields

Please note that due to some hospital systems using either '01/01/1900' or '01/01/1901' as a default date of birth, there are a high number of records that contain age fields with values of '111' or '112'

Impact: These field values should be interpreted with caution.

¹ Data submitted to SUS by 23 May 2012.

Extract date not consistent across all providers.

Some data for the following organisations was extracted from SUS on the 29 June 2012:

Organisations with data extracted on 28 June 2011			
Organisation name	Org. code	Months affected Partially by submission	Months affected Fully by submission
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	REP		Mar
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	RPA	Mar	

Known provider issues: coverage issues

The following organisations have shortfalls; their data should be interpreted with caution.

Organisations with shortfalls / missing data			
Organisation name	Org. code	Months affected	Approx. total no. of records missing
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	RC3	Jul - Mar	36,000
Hounslow And Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust	RY9	Apr - Feb	20,000
Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust	RJD	Dec - Mar	3,500
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	RYQ	Dec - Mar	8,000
Sussex Community NHS Trust	RDR	Dec - Mar	950
Wiltshire PCT	5QK	Apr - May	8,800

Patient Postcode field

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (RXP)

Due to local system issues, data for County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (RXP) has a significant number of postcode values where postcode = ZZ99 3WZ (Unknown). This has mainly affected Minor Injury Unit activity (A&E Department Type = 03).

Impact: This will affect the provider's patient postcode values and any fields that derive from postcode. This data should be interpreted with caution.

Patient Date of birth

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (RXP)

Due to local system issues, data for County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (RXP) has a significant number of date of birth values where date of birth = null. This has mainly affected Minor Injury Unit activity (A&E Department Type = 03).

Impact: This will affect the provider's patient date of birth values and any fields that derive from date of birth (e.g. age fields).. This data should be interpreted with caution.

Patient Group

The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust (RL4)

The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust (RL4) has unusually very high counts for the field 'Patient Group' due to system issues at the Trust. This issue affects the field values '10' (Road traffic accident), '40' (Sports injury) and '50' (Fireworks injury).

Impact: Caution is advised when using this Trust's records when in analysis of this field.