

Data Quality Statement

Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983

2010/11

Relevance:	This report contains the latest statistics about cases of guardianship under Sections 7 and 37 of the Mental Health Act 1983
Comparability:	Data is collected from local authorities in England. Mental Health Act publications are available for Scotland and Wales and can be found using these links: Wales http://www.hiw.org.uk Scotland http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/Recent
Timeliness:	This data is collected on an annual basis. The collection deadline is approximately 8 weeks after the end of the reported period and publication is approximately 15 weeks after the collection deadline.
Accessibility:	The publication is accessible via the NHS IC internet as a PDF document with supporting MS Excel reference tables and a machine readable data file
Burden:	Data should be submitted by all local authorities who have open, continuing or have closed any cases of Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983 in the reported year. In some cases where there are no cases to report, a nil return is submitted. Authorities complete a survey form with some details of each case. For more information on the format and content of the survey form please see Appendix B within the main publication document available here: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/guardianmh11
Confidentiality:	All publications are subject to a standard NHS IC risk assessment prior to issue. Disclosure control is implemented where it is judged as necessary

Coverage: A return was submitted by all 152 local authorities in England. Of these 20 local authorities submitted a return with no data relating to 2010/11

Notes when using the data:

Each year data providers can submit updates that affect published data from previous years. Corrections to historic data are also submitted from the data providers. For this reason, time series data will vary in each year publication and the most recent reported period should be taken as the authoritative representation of the data.

It has been brought to the attention of the NHS Information Centre (NHS IC) that some Local Authorities have been closing continuing cases and then reopening them as a new case whenever a Guardianship order has been renewed. This will have an impact on the reporting of these new, continuing and closed cases and will also impact the reporting of the length of closed cases figures. Therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting the results. Where information relating to this data quality issue has been made available in time, amendments have been made to the results. However, it appears that there may be more cases where data has been submitted incorrectly.

Changes submitted within the 2010/11 return affecting published data:

- 53 cases that had been closed prior to 1 April 2010 that have not been reported previously were included in the 2010/11 return. These cases came from Liverpool, Kent, Cumbria, Sefton, Blackburn with Darwen, Sandwell, Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Harrow, Newham, Poole and Devon.
- 21 cases that had been opened prior to 1 April 2010 that have not been reported previously were included in the 2010/11 return. These cases came from South Tyneside, Cumbria, Nottingham, Gloucestershire, Birmingham, Portsmouth, Westminster, Walsall, Kent, Sefton and Dorset.