

Caveats on data quality

Data can sometimes lead to constructing misleading pictures, and some data is more vulnerable to misinterpretation than others. Some cautionary notes are included in this section to highlight where data is not always fully complete, up to date, or is perhaps compiled by means of people self-reporting their behaviour. Users of the JSNA should bear in mind that the presentation of messages through phrases, graphs and maps are based on an interpretation of data; something which is often forgotten once they have been put onto paper. At times, these messages suggest areas for further investigation. They prompt more questioning rather than simply supplying incontestable answers or truths. Occasionally statutory indicators have not been published due to data quality concerns. Such gaps are also explained in this section.

1) People receiving services not included in the data

The scorecards on services include services provided by both the PCT and the council. The data in these scorecards on social care services only includes people where the council is making a financial contribution to their care. This does not include all people, it excludes people who:

- choose not to approach the council
- have social care needs, but either have sufficient savings and or income and therefore do not qualify for publicly funded care
- have assessed needs below the locally established eligibility threshold.

We do not have detailed information on people where the council is not making a financial contribution. However we estimate that of 4,262 care beds in Oxfordshire, 2,600 (61%) beds are either purchased by self funders or other authorities. Levels and amounts of community based services purchased and arranged by self funders in Oxfordshire, is not known. However, based on national figures provided by the Commission for Social Care Inspection and our local market intelligence around care homes, we estimate that 50% of the home support capacity would be purchased by self funders. We assume that the rest arrange their own care in the community or are supported by their families and carers.

2) Service records not included in the analysis

Records are mapped to wards by post code. Not all records had current Oxfordshire post codes. There are three main reasons for this.

1. Some people funded by Oxfordshire County Council live outside Oxfordshire. These are mainly people who have been placed in care homes or in supported living houses outside Oxfordshire;
2. not all service records contain post-codes
3. some records contain old post-codes and in some areas post-codes have been changed and the record has not been updated.

Figure 20 identifies the proportion of cases we were able to map for each of the social care service related indicators. This is the first year the JSNA has been published. When it is refreshed next year the following improvement will have been made to the core indicator data set:

1. Review records to ensure current post codes are available;
2. for people placed in residential or nursing care that we fund we will report on both where they now live, but also where they lived before they moved to the residential or nursing home;
3. recording all of people's needs not just the primary needs.

Figure 20: Social care indicators – proportion of cases that were mapped

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Actual Clients	Number mapped	% Mapped
Services 002	Numbers - Referrals	9307	8680	93%
Services 003	Numbers - Nursing care	1174	1011	86%
Services 004	Numbers - Residential Care funded by Oxfordshire (excluding those housed outside of the county)	1966	1550	79%
Services 005	Numbers - Adult placement	122	111	91%
Services 006	Numbers - Home Support	2216	1969	89%
Services 007	Numbers - Receiving community equipment	1723	1679	97%
Services 008	Numbers - Telecare	492	492	100%
Services 010	Numbers - physical disability, frailty and sensory impairment (older clients)	10771	9777	91%
Services 011	Number - physical disability, frailty and sensory impairment (older clients) receiving community-based services	9628	8686	90%
Services 012	Numbers - physical disability, frailty and sensory impairment (clients aged 18+)	12965	11733	90%
Services 013	Number - physical disability, frailty and sensory impairment receiving community-based services aged 18+	11787	10597	90%
Services 014	Numbers - learning disability (older clients)	157	135	86%
Services 015	Number learning disability clients (older clients) receiving community-based services	138	116	84%
Services 016	Numbers - learning disability (clients age 18+)	1537	1261	82%
Services 017	Number learning disability clients aged 18+ receiving community-based services	1387	1190	86%
Services 018	Numbers - mental health (older clients)	823	719	87%
Services 019	Number - mental health (older clients) receiving community-based services	605	493	81%
Services 020	Numbers - mental health (clients age 18+)	2190	1942	89%
Services 021	Number - mental health receiving community-based services age 18+	1956	1692	87%
Services 026	Numbers - other vulnerable people (older clients)	203	148	73%
Services 027	Number - other vulnerable people (older clients) receiving community-based services	195	141	72%
Services 028	Numbers - other vulnerable people (clients)	309	209	68%
Services 029	Number - other vulnerable people receiving community-based services	295	199	67%
Services 030	New Clients where assessment was undertaken	6731	6316	94%
Services 031	People supported to live independently through social services (NATIONAL INDICATOR)	11461	9821	86%
Services 032	Numbers - Homecare (Inc intensive home support) - Extra Care Housing	43	43	100%
Services 033	Numbers - Homecare (Inc intensive home support) - Supported living	523	502	96%
Services 035	Number of carers - Respite Care	677	538	79%
Services 036	Number of carers - Direct Payments	197	78	40%
Services 053	Numbers - Library users	131909	102855	78%
Services 054	Numbers - Information and Advocacy	205	148	72%

3) Population forecasts do not always match ONS projections

The JSNA data set uses the most recent [population and household forecasts for wards in Oxfordshire](#), which were published in August 2007 and forecast population changes at ward level up to 2016. A key feature of these OCC forecasts is the inclusion of known and expected housing developments. A full report on the methodology used to produce the forecasts can be downloaded [here](#). It should be noted that the small area forecasts are produced using a different model to that used for the ONS projections and have not been aligned with the district and county totals produced by the Office for National Statistics. It is also worth noting that should planned developments not take place, or provide fewer or greater properties, current forecasts will no longer be fully accurate.

4) Waiting times for social care assessments not included

The Department of Health does recommend that we published how quickly people were assessed for adult social care. This has not been included in the JSNA as all assessments for social care in Oxfordshire are undertaken by one central team, so performance would not be affected by geography. The guidance did not ask us to identify where people who were assessed lived. However, this has been added as a useful local measure.

5) Boundary issues mean some people not included

Thame is not part of Oxfordshire PCT as the GPs in this area are aligned with Buckinghamshire PCT. This means that within the health data broken down at ward level, data is missing from the wards which are within this area (i.e. Thame South, Thame North and Chinnor).

6) Data that is out of date or otherwise less reliable

Some of this data comes from the 2001 Census which is now 7 years out of date, and so figures must be treated with caution. Data on the proportion of people eating five portions of fruit and vegetables per day was calculated from Tesco Clubcard data from 2004. This does not show what percentage of the purchased fruit and vegetables was consumed as opposed to thrown away, nor which members of the family ate it. The year of collection also pre-dates a significant marketing campaign to raise awareness of the five-a-day message.

7) Data not published in the scorecards

To protect confidentiality, where there were such small numbers of people for any indicator in a particular ward such that individuals might effectively be identified, data has not been published. In the GP practice-based view for the scorecards, Luther Street Clinic has been removed as it specialises in services to homeless people and this has biased the data (for example its life expectancy results were the lowest, and its hospital admission rates were 3 – 5 times higher than the next highest practice).