

Annual Imaging and Radiodiagnostics Statistics Consultation



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1 Annual Imaging and Radiodiagnostics Statistics Consultation

1.1 Introduction

NHS England is seeking comments and views from data producers and users on ceasing collection and publication of the Annual Imaging and Radiodiagnostics Statistics.

1.2 Background

NHS England currently publishes, on an annual basis, National Statistics on NHS Imaging and Radiodiagnostics in England. These figures have been published since 1995 and have been used to monitor the number of imaging and radiodiagnostic examinations or tests.

However, NHS England now publishes monthly detailed information about diagnostic imaging tests from the diagnostic imaging dataset (DID). This information has been routinely published since April 2012. Now that this new data set is routinely published and the quality of the data has improved, the annual data could be viewed as a duplication of data collection resulting in undue burden to the NHS and potential confusion for users.

Since the introduction of the DID in April 2012, data coverage has been improving. Data coverage in 2013/14 and 2012/13 was 97.8%. So far in 2014/15 coverage in each month has varied from 92.3% to 97.3%. However, the proportion of organisations submitting data tends to be lower in the monthly provisional data and increases in the final annual publication.

Data completeness of the DID has also improved. The DID collects 18 different data items, not all of which are mandatory. By the end of November 2014, 95 out of 182 organisations were consistently submitting 17 or more data items. This is compared to just 69 organisations at the end of May 2014.

Comparison between the annual aggregate data and the richer patient-level monthly data has shown that there is a good match between the two data sets. When adjusted for differences in counting methods, about 98% of annual diagnostic tests are included in the DID. The remaining 2% of tests can be explained by an underreporting of certain tests within the DID, such as obstetric ultrasounds¹.

Trust level information from DID shows greater variability from the Annual Imaging and Radiodiagnostics Statistics, but there is a reasonable match in a majority of cases. 103 out of 165 trusts reported a total number of tests in the DID that was within 10% of the trusts annual diagnostic total. Again, this was after adjustment for differences in counting methods, and only included trusts which submitted for both data sets.

¹ Further information can be found in the 2013/14 DID Technical Report at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/06/Technical-Report-2013-14-DID-pdf-842-KB.pdf>

This suggests that there is now little added value in collecting and publishing the aggregate annual data.

Also, DID has the benefit of being more frequent and allowing different cuts of the data to be obtained. This includes demographic information such as GP registered practice, patient postcode, ethnicity, gender and date of birth, plus items about waiting times for each diagnostic imaging event, from time of test request through to time of reporting.

1.3 Proposed Changes

The recommendation is therefore that the Annual Imaging and Radiodiagnostics collection and publication be dropped. As stated above, the Diagnostics Imaging Dataset can now be used to derive similar information and provides more useful patient level data.

1.4 Consultation Process

Responses to this consultation should be sent via the online survey by Friday 12th June 2015. If you have any questions about the consultation, please email unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0113 8250576.

The responses will be analysed to inform the future annual publication of the Imaging and Radiodiagnostics Statistics.

We will publish a response document which will summarise responses to the consultation and decisions made based on this in June 2015. Please note that individual responses may be published unless anonymity is requested.

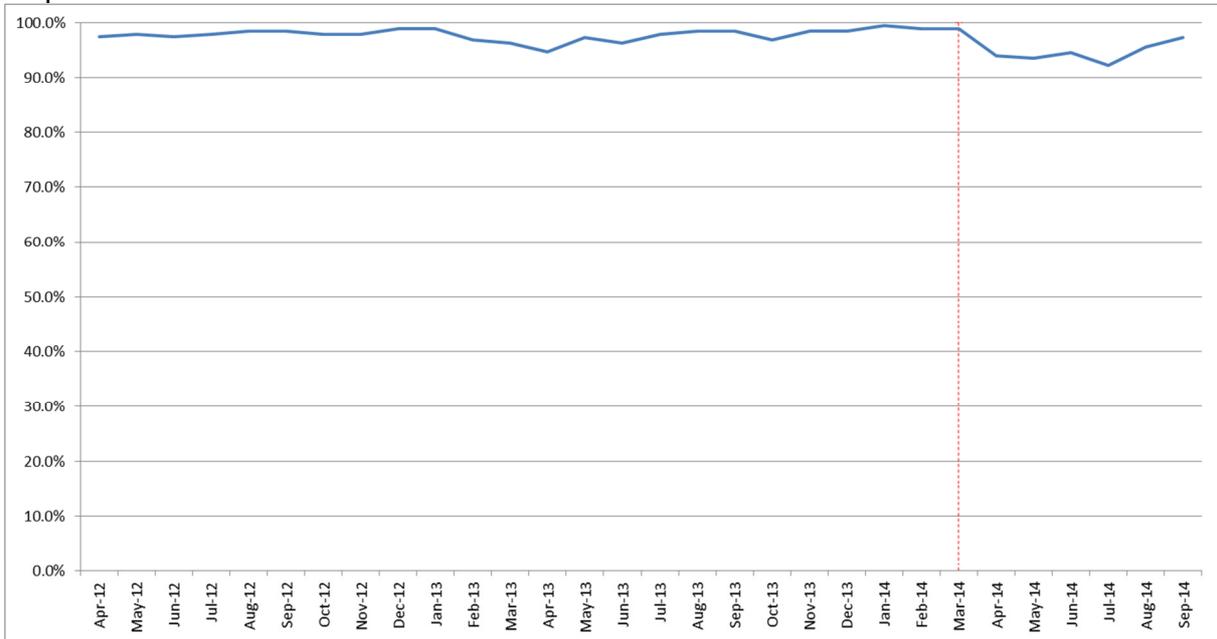
If you have any other general feedback about the Imaging and Radiodiagnostics publication, please email unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

1.5 Further Information

Full details of published Imaging and Radiodiagnostics data are available at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/imaging-and-radiodiagnostics-annual-data/>

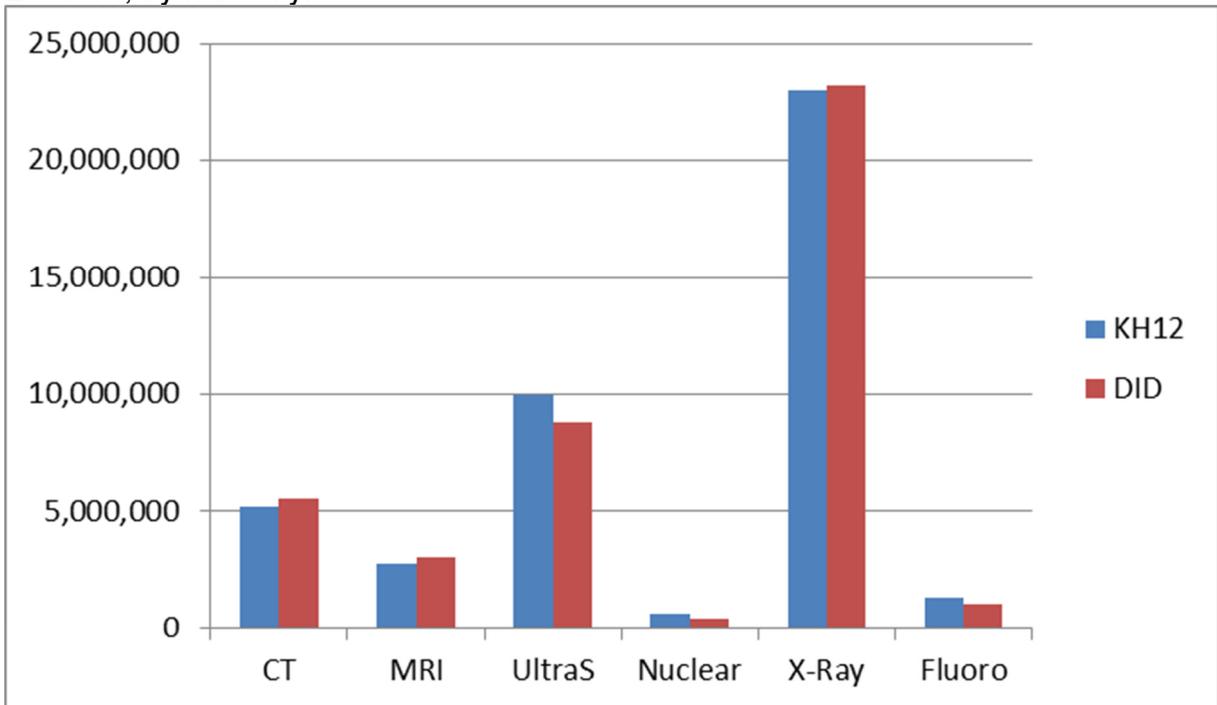
2 Annex A

Graph 1: Proportion of organisations that submit DID data each month, April 2012 - September 2014



Note: Data from April 2014 onwards is provisional, and the proportion of submitting organisations is likely to be lower than 'finalised' data from previous months.

Graph 2: Number of tests reported to annual diagnostics (KH12) and the DID in 2013-14, by modality.



3 Annex B: Consultation Questions

1. What is your name?
2. Are you filling this in for an organisation?
3. Which email address is best for us to use to get in touch?
4. Do you support our proposal either in whole or in part?
 - Yes, in whole
 - Yes, in part
 - No
5. If answered 'Yes, in part' or 'No' to question 4, please provide further detail
6. Are you a data producer or a data provider?
 - Data producer (provider)
 - Data user
7. Do you have any further suggestions or proposals for consideration?