# Proposed changes: Fingertips smoking profile

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### Introduction

In 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), including the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Office for National Statistics (ONS) and NHS England (NHSE) sought views on possible changes to their health and social care statistical products. A [response to this consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/health-and-social-care-statistical-outputs) was published in November 2024.

OHID would now like to ask users for their views on specific changes it plans to make based on the responses it received to this consultation. If you have any comments about these changes, please email pha-ohid@dhsc.gov.uk by 28 March 2025.

### Development of indicators on stop smoking services

We are keen to develop this [section of the profile](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/tobacco-control/data#page/1/gid/1938132890/pat/15/par/E92000001/ati/502/are/E09000003/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1) and would welcome feedback from users on which of the existing indicators they find most and least useful, and whether there are additional indicators from the [NHS England Statistics on Local Stop Smoking Services in England report](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-nhs-stop-smoking-services-in-england) they would like to see added and why.

### Archiving of indicators

We propose archiving some indicators which were added because of COVID-19, where a more appropriate indicator is available or for which data is no longer being updated. The data will remain available on Fingertips as an .ods file. The affected indicators are:

* Mortality rate from lung cancer, all ages (3-year range) (the 3-year trends were stopped and replaced with single year data during the pandemic and this has continued)
* Mortality rate from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, all ages (3-year range) (the 3-year trends were stopped and replaced with single year data during the pandemic and this has continued)
* Smoking prevalence in adults with anxiety or depression (aged 18 and over) - current smokers (GPPS) (last updated with 2016 to 2017 data)
* Smoking prevalence in adults (aged 18 and over) with serious mental illness (SMI) (last updated with 2014 to 2015 data)
* Rate of prescriptions for nicotine replacement products per 100,000 smokers (last updated with 2018 data)

Other indicators being proposed for removal are:

* Smoking prevalence in adults (aged 18 and over) - current smokers (GPPS)
* Smoking prevalence in adults (aged 15 and over) - current smokers (QOF)
* Smoking prevalence in adults (aged 18 and over) - ex smoker (GPPS)
* Smoking prevalence in adults (aged 18 and over) - never smoked (GPPS)

These indicators will be removed as the estimate for local authority smoking data from the Annual Population Survey (APS) is more relevant.

### Inequalities data for smoking prevalence indicators

We are keen to ensure that the inequalities data for the smoking prevalence indicators which use APS data are statistically robust. The indicators based on one year of APS data show smoking prevalence estimates at local authority level by socio-economic group, housing tenure and sex. However, the number of respondents who take part in the APS has been falling and confidence intervals for inequality groups overlap for most local authorities meaning that it is not possible to detect statistically significant differences between the groups. Therefore, we are proposing to remove these inequality breakdowns in the one-year APS indicators and instead include them in the recently added three-year APS indicators. We would welcome feedback from users on this proposal.