LENS Project
Learning from notifications in social care

Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland

(Open Access)

Data Quality Statement

HRB Health Research Board

Health Information and Quality Authority

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

Version History

Version	Date	Specific updates
V1.0	20 January 2021	Date of first data quality statement
V1.1	20 May 2021	Updated to reflect addition of 2020 data to database.
V1.2	30 May 2022	Minor update of dates to reflect addition of 2021 data to the database.

Purpose:

This document aims to provide users with an evidence-based assessment of the quality of the statistical output of the Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland (Open Access) dataset.

In doing so, this complies with the Information Management Standards for National Health and Social Care Data Collections published by HIQA, and Theme 3: Use of information, in particular:

- Standard 5: The managing organisation of the national health and social care data collection complies with health information standards and nationally agreed definitions to enable comparability and sharing of information.
- Standard 6: The managing organisation of the national health and social care data collection systematically assesses, monitors and improves the quality of the data it holds to ensure its objectives are met.
- Standard 7: The managing organisation of the national health and social care data collection disseminates data and information appropriately and ensures that data users can access data and information in a timely manner to meet their needs.

Description:

The Chief Inspector in HIQA is responsible for regulating nursing homes and residential services for people with disabilities (collectively referred to herein as designated centres). Among the regulatory requirements of designated centres is the reporting of incidents and adverse events that occur in their services, to the Chief Inspector. Some events are required to be reported within three days (for example, serious injury, outbreak of disease) and others are reported every three months (for example, pattern of theft or burglary, use of restrictive practices) as outlined in the guidance document for statutory notifications. This information is used by HIQA inspectors to assess the level of risk to residents in a designated centre and to inform their monitoring approach for that centre.

The LENS (**LE**arning from Statutory **N**otifications in **S**ocial Care) Project is a HIQA initiative to compile this information into an analysable database and to use these data to inform quality and safety improvements in social care services. The LENS Project is funded by Health Research Board's Secondary Data Analysis Project Grant [SDAP-2019-005] and co-funded by HIQA. A component of this grant is the publication of these data in a desensitised format in order to make it available to other researchers. This is the open access version of the dataset and this data quality statement is specific to those data.

Content:

Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland

Information on notifications received by HIQA from 2013 to 2019 were initially extracted and compiled into a database in 2020. The data were primarily retrieved from HIQA's IT system known as 'PRISM' and were supplemented with additional data from designated centres' Statement of Purpose documents. Other variables were generated by the research team by combining or editing existing data. Data is added to the database on a yearly basis, typically in April of each year.

Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland (Open Access)

The resulting dataset was then assessed to determine what information could be made available for the open access version of the dataset. In accordance with privacy and data protection concerns, it was necessary to remove or pseudonymise any data that may identify an individual centre or resident. The output of this process is the open access version of the dataset which is made publicly available and updated on a yearly basis.

Summary of key issues and considerations:

- **Missing data:**

  There are incidents within the Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland (Open Access) where data may be missing or incomplete. This is due to a number of factors including how the data were reported to the Chief Inspector in HIQA, difficulties in retrieving the data from HIQA archives and inaccurate data entry.

- **Changes in the collection process:**

  Some notifications that were originally required to be reported on a 3-day basis were subsequently changed to being reported on a quarterly basis. In 2015, pressure sores of Grade II or higher were changed from 3-day notifications to quarterly. Prior to 2018, quarterly notifications were received as a composite of five different notifications (NF39). A change to the process in 2018 resulted in each of these five notifications becoming separate notifications (NF39A/B/C/D/E).

  Quality and privacy concerns:

- In accordance with privacy and data protection regulations, it was necessary to remove all occurrences of sensitive free-text data among the notifications, to collapse certain variable groups such as designated centre type, bed numbers and sex, to remove any data that was already made available publicly (this applied in the case of NF08 notifications) or appeared in low frequencies. This helps to protect against a privacy or data breach of an individual centre or resident.

Evaluation of the Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care, (Open Access) against the five dimensions of data quality.	
Relevance	The data reflect the incidence and frequency of statutory notifications to the Chief Inspector in HIQA. This information is of use to researchers or other interested parties who wish to learn about the nature of adverse events or incidents that occur in social care settings.
Accuracy and reliability	The data available in the Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland (Open Access) is taken directly from the Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland, a fully comprehensive dataset created for internal use within HIQA. As such, the data is reflective of the incidence and frequency of statutory notifications that are notified to the Chief Inspector in HIQA. Notwithstanding this, there is a risk that some incidents or adverse events may not be reported to HIQA, or not be reported accurately.
Timeliness and punctuality	The data in the Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland, (Open Access) covers the period 2013-2021 inclusive. The data will be updated with new information once a year. It is not possible to update the data more regularly than this due to a range of factors: privacy concerns, time it takes to complete and close a notification, resources available.
Coherence and comparability	The data published initially in the Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland (Open Access) dataset is more comprehensive than subsequent updates. Some data were retrieved manually and

	underwent extensive cleaning and coding as part of the LENS project grant in 2019. Subsequent data does not have the same degree of detail e.g. sex of residents in the service, distance from hospital, disability type. In addition, it should be noted that records for 2018 and 2019 have additional information such as certain service characteristics. This is a consequence of an additional effort by the project team to manually source improved data for these years.
Accessibility and clarity	The data are made available via the online platform Tableau, with a link from the LENS project page on the HIQA website. There are no impediments to access and the data are available to all who visit the website. The Tableau page is organised into tabs in accordance with different notification types. Each tab outlines headline data and visualisations. The Tableau dashboard has an option to download selected data or the dataset in its entirety. An online e-learning course has also been made available to assist users navigate through the dataset and complete analyses.

Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland, (Open Access): Data dictionary

The data dictionary provides a descriptive list of the variables available in the Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland (Open Access). The data dictionary includes standardised definitions of the variables, information about the origin and completeness of the variables and additional information to assist data users to accurately interpret and use the data. The data dictionary is updated as required on a yearly basis, following updates to the database.

The Data Dictionary for the Database of Statutory Notifications from Social Care in Ireland (Open Access), follows the template outlined in the HIQA Guidance on a data quality framework within health and social care.

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