Injury Profiles
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are the Injury Profiles?
The Profiles are a set of indicators relating to both intentional and unintentional injuries that are available for every local authority in England. The indicators are presented in map, chart and table format, using InstantAtlas software.

What are they for?
They enable a wide range of stakeholders, including commissioners and providers of health and social care, to:

- quantify the burden of injury in their local areas
- understand who is most at risk in their population, and
- support injury prevention initiatives through the identification, monitoring and targeting of areas or groups with high levels or worrying patterns of injury.

Who produces the Profiles?
The Profiles are produced by the South West Public Health Observatory (SWPHO), on behalf of the Public Health Observatories in England. The SWPHO is the lead public health observatory for unintentional injury and a partner in the Injury Observatory for Britain and Ireland (IOBI).

What do the Profiles include?
The Profiles include a wide range of information. They present data on:

- Deaths
- Hospitals admissions and A&E attendances
- Children and older people
- Road traffic collisions
- Falls
- Fractures
- Burns and fire related injuries
- Poisoning
- Drowning
- Intentional injuries
- Alcohol use
- Deprivation
- Quality of health services data

They provide comparisons with other local authorities, and regional and national averages. As well as the InstantAtlas tool for presenting the data, there are indicator descriptions and definitions to help with interpretation.

How should I use the Injury Profiles?
The Profiles help identify issues that that can be explored further at local level. We therefore recommend that you use them alongside local sources of information, knowledge and expertise. This is important before drawing any definitive conclusions about the quality or outcomes of local services.

Where do the data come from?
The data are drawn from a number of sources, using the latest available at January 2012. They are all referenced in the Profiles themselves, but include:

- Mortality data
- Hospital Episode Statistics 2010/11 for both hospital admissions and A&E attendances
- Department for Transport road casualty data

Is most of the data new or has it been published before?

Over half of the indicators are new. The rest have been published elsewhere. For a full list of indicators and their data sources, see the data tables.

How can I find out more about the how the indicators were designed?

There are indicator description documents that describe each indicator in detail.

Are there any particular issues relating to the indicators that are worth noting?

The indicator descriptions gives you all the information you need about an indicator – for example why it was included, its data source, and any special considerations that may affect its interpretation. However, here are some indicator-specific questions that you may have:

- *Some of the hospital admissions data looks different to other sources, why is that?*
  We have used a different methodology for calculating some of the hospital admissions indicators than is commonly used elsewhere. It concerns the decision to count hospital admissions using not only the 'external cause' code, but also the ICD-10 S and T diagnoses codes, which specify whether an admission relating to an external cause actually resulted in an injury. If the resulting diagnosis is not an injury, it is not included in the count. This means that the counts for some of the hospital admissions for adults may appear lower for these indicators than in other data sources.

- *Why haven't you included age breakdowns for every indicator?*
  Some of the indicators focus on younger or older age groups. However, it has not been possible to do age breakdowns for all indicators in this first release. We hope to be able to do this for appropriate indicators in the future. See 'Will the Profiles be updated?' below.

- *Why haven't you included trend data?*
  We have drawn on some well-established indicators for which trend data is already available. However, it has not been possible to do this for all indicators in this first release. We hope to be able to do this for appropriate indicators in the future. See 'Will the Profiles be updated?' below.

Will the Profiles be updated?

It is our plan to update the profiles on an annual basis. However, the changes currently taking place in the NHS mean that there is some uncertainty about the future. Your views on the usefulness of the Profiles and how they can be improved is therefore especially valuable at this time. Please complete our short user survey.