



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending watchdog

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000

Direct Line +44 (0)207 798 7264

Email foi@nao.org.uk

Reference FOI-1768

Date 6 December 2024

PROGRESS IN PREVENTING CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Thank you for your requests to the National Audit Office (NAO) dated 13 November 2024. You asked for breakdowns by sex of the statistics in figures 1, 2, 3, 10 and 11 of our [Progress in preventing cardiovascular disease](#) report. We have handled your requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We used data from public sources and do not hold any of the data that you requested that is not in the public domain. While we did not conduct the specific analysis that you have requested and therefore do not hold this information, the data that you need for your work is publicly available and in an easy-to-use format. In an annex to this letter, we have provided a link to the relevant dataset for each of your queries, along with advice, if needed, on how to conduct the analysis.

Our policy is to respond to requests as helpfully and promptly as possible. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely

Director

Annex: datasets

| | Details of request | Dataset and advice on use |
|------------------|---|---|
| Request 1 | <p>From your analysis of the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities' data, I would be grateful if you could provide the male/female sex breakdown of the statistics featured in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figure 1: Mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (CVD) for the under-75s from 2001 to 2023 in England <p>If figures for a recent and limited time period are available, that would still be sufficient.</p> | <p>Male: Mortality Profile - Data Fingertips Department of Health and Social Care</p> <p>Female: Mortality Profile - Data Fingertips Department of Health and Social Care</p> |
| Request 2 | <p>From your analysis of the NHS England's Quality and Outcomes Framework data, I would be grateful if you could provide the male/female sex breakdown of each condition in the statistics featured in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figure 2: The percentage change in the numbers of people diagnosed with the main conditions that make up cardiovascular disease (CVD) in England from 2006-07 to 2023-24 <p>If figures for a recent and limited time period are available, that would still be sufficient</p> | <p>A breakdown by gender is not available in QOF data.</p> <p>But you can get a similar gender breakdown from the dataset CVDPrevent for some indicators below:</p> <p>Atrial Fibrillation: Data Explorer CVDPREVENT</p> <p>Hypertension: CVDPREVENT</p> <p>Heart Failure: Data Explorer CVDPREVENT</p> |
| Request 3 | <p>From your analysis of the Global Burden of Disease, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (2021) I would be grateful if you could provide the male/female sex breakdown of the statistics featured in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figure 3: Percentage of deaths in the under-70s from cardiovascular disease (CVD) which were attributed to modifiable risk factors in England, 2021 <p>These could be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the actual percentage of men (for example, 50% of men died from hypertension as did 40% women), or the percentage of men and women as part of the overall total (the 44% of people who died from hypertension, 65% were men and 35% women) <p>If figures for a recent and limited time period are available, that would still be sufficient.</p> | <p>To access this dataset, you need to register for an account here: Sign Up - IHME Identity Provider</p> <p>Then visit here: https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-results/</p> <p>And make the below selections:</p> <p>GDB Estimate: 'Risk Factor'</p> <p>Measure: 'Deaths'</p> <p>Metric: 'Percent'</p> <p>Risk: 'Air pollution'; 'Tobacco'; 'Dietary Risks'; 'High Fasting Plasma Glucose'; 'High LDL Cholesterol'; 'High Systolic Blood Pressure'; 'High Body Mass Index'; 'Kidney Disfunction'</p> <p>Location: 'UK'>>'England'</p> <p>Age: '<70 years old'</p> <p>Sex: 'Male'; 'Female'</p> <p>Year: '2021'</p> |
| Request 4 | <p>From your analysis of the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities' data, I would be grateful if you could provide the</p> | <p>The data does not break down by gender.</p> <p>You can access the dataset here:</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <p>male/female sex breakdown of the statistics featured in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figure 10: Numbers of people attending an NHS Health Check (Health Check) from 2013-14 to 2023-24 <p>If figures for a recent and limited time period are available, that would still be sufficient.</p> | NHS Health Check - Data Fingertips Department of Health and Social Care |
|--|---|---|