

Model for estimating the prevalence of Hypothyroidism

The Public Health Intelligence Unit developed the hypothyroidism prevalence model to support Doncaster's PCTs development of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). The model estimates prevalence for people of all ages who have hypothyroidism within practice populations.

The model starts with the results from the Morbidity Statistics in General Practice report (MSGP4) ¹ that provide information on the age distribution of hypothyroidism in practices. These figures are then adjusted in the light of the overall community prevalence rates taken from the Whickham studies^{2 3}. The model may be slightly underestimating prevalence rates as the Whickham studies only account for 'spontaneous hypothyroidism' and does not include patients with hypothyroidism from other causes

Percentage prevalence by age and sex

	0-4	5-15	16-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Men	0.05	0.03	0.09	0.24	0.60	1.54	1.44	2.22
Women	0.09	0.17	0.56	2.03	5.17	9.89	7.82	6.48

No further adjustments were made for deprivation or other factors.

¹ OPCS, Morbidity Statistics from General Practice: fourth national study 1991-1992 (MB5), **1995**, London.

² Vanderpump MPJ, Tunbridge MWG, French JM, Appleton D, Clark F, Grimley Evans J, Hasan DM, Rodgers H, Tunbridge F, Young ET, The incidence of thyroid disorders in the community: a twenty-year follow-up of the Whickham survey, **1995**, Clinical Endocrinology, 43, 55-68

³ Vanderpump MPJ, & Tunbridge WMG, Epidemiology and prevention of clinical and subclinical hypothyroidism, **2002**, Thyroid, 12,10,839-847.