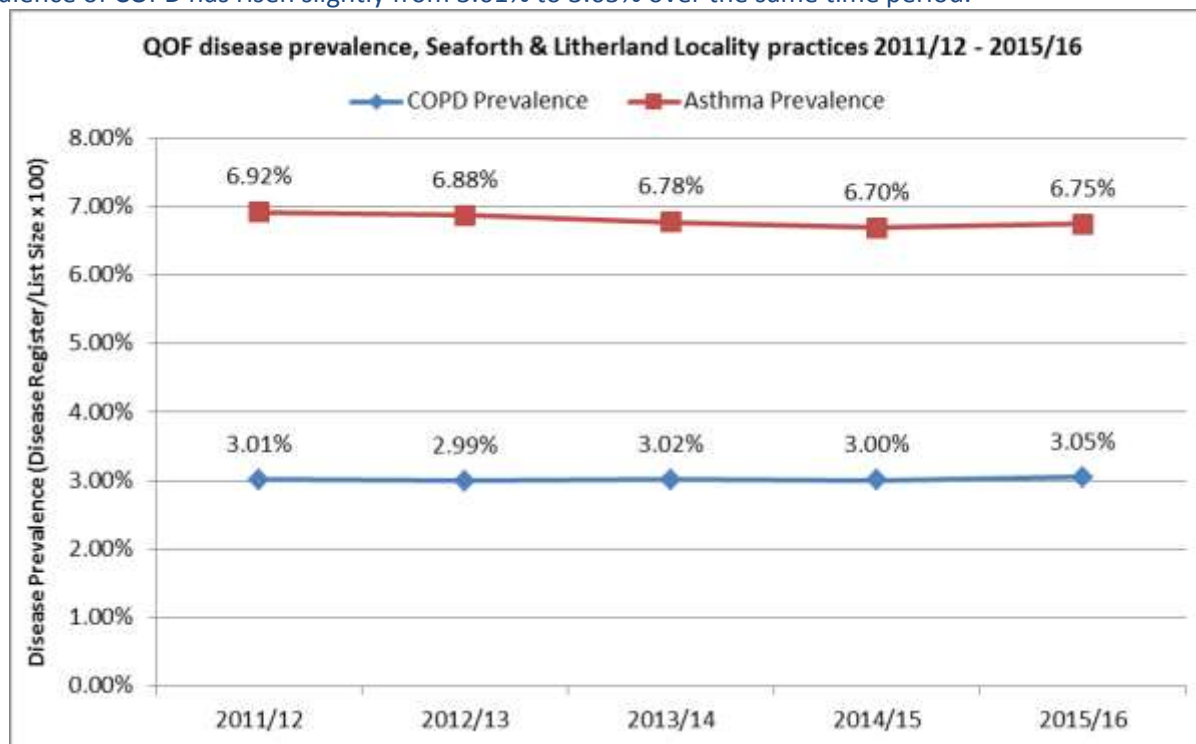


Freedom of Information Request – Response FOI37174

Disease prevalence is a measure of the proportion of disease found to have been affecting a population. The prevalence of some long term respiratory diseases is reported as part of a national data collection from all GP practices called the Quality & Outcomes Framework (QOF). NHS Digital uses a snapshot of QOF data extracted from practice IT systems annually on the NHS Digital website: <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/qof>.

In Sefton, our practices work together in groups called localities. There is a Seaforth and Litherland locality, of which the GP practices in that area are members (including Netherton practices). QOF reports disease prevalence for two long term respiratory conditions; Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and asthma. COPD is a term used for a number of conditions; including chronic bronchitis and emphysema. QOF registers are not broken down by age, and QOF does not collect disease prevalence relating to children.

Over the last five years prevalence of asthma has fallen slightly from 6.92% of adult patients to 6.75% of adult patients registered with practices in the Seaforth, Litherland and Netherton locality, whilst prevalence of COPD has risen slightly from 3.01% to 3.05% over the same time period.



Note that changes in disease prevalence from one year to another are not always due to more or less cases of a disease occurring in a population, but increases may be due to improved methods of detecting and diagnosing disease, or improved case-finding which may be as a result of increased awareness of symptoms among clinicians and patients, or a change in the clinical thresholds for diagnosing the presence of a disease may result in fewer or more cases being diagnosed in the population.