How Primary 1 Body Mass Index statistics are used

The Scottish Government uses the statistics to inform strategy such as Healthy Eating, Active Living: An action plan to improve diet, increase physical activity and tackle obesity (2008-2011) (June 2008). Scottish Government policy and the setting and monitoring of child healthy weight targets tends to be based on the Scottish Health Survey as this covers a wider age range (children aged two to fifteen years). The Primary 1 Body Mass Index statistics are used as complementary source of information.

NHS Boards, councils and community health partnerships use the statistics to:

- Monitor the local performance of programmes to reduce rates of overweight and obesity, using the statistics as indicators in single outcome agreements
- Plan services and initiatives to improve child healthy weight rates
- Local newsletters

The statistics are published in Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics which has a range of users.

Other users include:

- The voluntary sector/charities and campaign groups: for example Physical activity and health alliance
- Public health networks e.g. Scottish Cancer Prevention Network
- Academic researchers: for example Growing up before growing out: secular trends in height, weight and obesity in 5–6-year-old children born between 1970 and 2006 (Smith, Craig, Raja, McNeill, Turner, Archives of Disease in Childhood, February 2013)
- The public, for example parents interested in healthy weight and obesity in children
- The media: for example Rising number of obese children in Scottish schools; Primary one obesity 'has been too high' for more than a decade