Objective To develop a measure of maternal mood that provides novel answering and scoring formats, accounts for the spectrum of emotions and symptoms experienced by women in the perinatal period, and correlates with clinical diagnostic measures.

Methods A literature review was conducted to assess current understanding of diagnostic criteria for perinatal mental health conditions. Based on previous research with adjective checklists and women’s free text responses to national maternity surveys in 2010 and 2014, scoping of the measure was undertaken. A list of 24 adjectives (12 positive items, 12 negative items) was determined for a prototype measure in which women could choose the adjectives to describe how they had been feeling in the last seven days. Cognitive interviews were conducted with 12 women who had recently given birth, and positive feedback endorsed the content, verified item selection and face validity of the scale.

Results The checklist was administered in a survey of maternal and child health to which 551 new mothers responded. Exploratory and Confirmatory factor analyses were conducted to explore underlying factor structure. Two models resulted: a two-factor solution (1. positive mood, 2. negative mood) and a four-factor solution: (1. positive mood, 2. negative mood, agitation; 3. anhedonia, low energy; 4. positive life orientation). Analyses were undertaken for validation and to explore associations with other screening measures to support its use.

Conclusion This novel method of reporting feelings and mood in an engaging format will facilitate research in the perinatal field and allow more opportunities for conversations about mood and mental health with health care professionals. As a tool that is psychometrically robust, time-efficient, and which may afford greater insight on the emotional state of the women cared for, the perinatal mood checklist is an effective addition to measures currently available.

Background Public Health England recently published a tool to help local authorities monitor the density of fast food outlets, with restrictions on access to these ‘unhealthy’ outlets being promoted in the fight against obesity. Secondary data containing the locations of food outlets present valuable resources to guide and evaluate these interventions. However, evidence appraising these data sources is limited. This study therefore seeks to validate two sources of secondary food environment data (SFED): Ordnance Survey Points of Interest (POI) data and food hygiene data from the Food Standards Agency (FSA), against street audits. These data sources are commonly used in research, with the former also being used in the Public Health England tool.

Methods Audits were conducted across 54 Lower Super Output Areas in England. All streets within each Lower Super Output Area were covered to identify the name and street address of all food outlets therein. Audit identified outlets were matched to outlets in the SFED to identify true positives (TP: outlets in both the SFED and the audits), false positives (FP: outlets in the SFED only) and false negatives (FN: outlets in the audits only). Agreement was assessed using positive predictive values (PPV: TP/(TP + FP)) and sensitivities (TP/TP + FN)). Confidence intervals were calculated in Excel using the Agresti-Coull method.

Results Overall, the street audits identified 1188 food outlets, compared to 1102 and 1098 for the POI and FSA data respectively. Sensitivity and PPV were significantly higher for FSA data (sensitivity: 0.80, CI: 0.77–0.82; PPV: 0.86, CI: 0.84–0.88) than for the POI data (sensitivity: 0.73, CI: 0.71–0.76; PPV: 0.79, CI: 0.77–0.81). Both datasets had ‘good’ agreement with street audits according to the Paquet classifications (‘good’ defined as PPV and sensitivities between 0.71 and 0.90).

Conclusion This study provides new evidence for the validity of SFED commonly used in research and emergently used by policymakers. Agreement between the SFED and street audits is sufficiently good to provide local authorities with confidence in using tools and research based on these SFED. Whilst FSA data has statistically significantly higher agreement with street audits than POI, the magnitude of the difference is relatively small. POI also has other advantages (e.g. more detailed outlet classifications and better spatial accuracy). Thus, POI is still a useful and recommended source of food environment data.