Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Scotland: Waiting Times
Quarter ending 31 December 2019

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) presents Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting times at 31 December 2019.

Main Points

- 3,884 children and young people started treatment at CAMHS in Scotland which is a 0.4% decrease from the previous quarter (3,901), and 14.1% decrease from the same quarter ending December 2018 (4,523).

- Over two thirds (66.4%) of children and young people were seen within 18 weeks, compared to 64.5% for the previous quarter and 72.8% for the quarter ending December 2018. The Scottish Government standard states that 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral to CAMHS.

  Half of the children and young people seen started their treatment within 11 weeks which is a decrease compared to the previous quarter (13 weeks) and the same as the same quarter the previous year.

Percentage of patients seen by CAMHS within 18 weeks of referral, by quarter, NHSScotland

- Across Scotland, more than one in nine patients (11.7%) referred to CAMHS did not attend their first appointment which is a decrease from the previous quarter (14.0%) and an increase from the same quarter ending December 2018 (9.7%).

- 9,196 children and young people were referred to CAMHS in Scotland compared to 7,464 for the previous quarter, and 9,604 for the quarter ending December 2018.
Total number of Referrals and Referrals rejected by quarter, NHSScotland March 2015 - December 2019

Background
The main function of CAMHS is to develop and deliver services for children and young people (and parents and carers) who are experiencing mental health problems. They also have an important role in supporting the mental health capacity of wider children's services. Delivery of good quality CAMHS depends on timely access to health care and adequate numbers of well trained staff being recruited and retained across NHSScotland.

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Further Information
Find out more in the full report and data that are available to download from our web page along with background information and glossary.

For more information on Waiting Times for Psychological Therapies see the Psychological Therapies section of our website. CAMHS Psychology Workforce information is also included in the main Psychology Workforce publication. Previously published information can still be accessed via the ISD Mental Health publication page.

For related topics, please see the Mental Health pages.

CAMHS inpatient activity can be found here.

The next release of this publication will be on 2 June 2020.

ISD and Official Statistics
Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. Further information about our statistics.