Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times Weekly Update

Publication Metadata (including revision details)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metadata Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publication title</td>
<td>Weekly Update of Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>This publication reports key statistics on attendances at Emergency Departments (ED) across Scotland. The information presented in the publication includes trends in the number of attendances and length of time patients spend in ED.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>Health and Social Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Emergency Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td>Webpage, Excel workbook and CSV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data source(s)</td>
<td>NHS Board aggregate submissions to PHS on Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date that data are acquired</td>
<td>Tuesday of the week prior to publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release date</td>
<td>Every Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeframe of data and timeliness</td>
<td>New data for the week ending 9 days before publication (e.g. 16 April publication contains data for week ending 7 April)</td>
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| Continuity of data       | 1) [A&E discharge times at hospitals in NHS Lothian](https://www.gov.scot) were not accurately recorded up to November 2017. The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges was commissioned by Scottish Government to ascertain the causes for the data issues in NHS Lothian. The review findings were published 26 June 2018.  
2) Since 3 March 2015, the Scottish Government (SG) has released Official Statistics weekly A&E activity and waiting times information for the EDs in Scotland, derived from aggregate information supplied by NHS Boards on the number of attendances and 4, 8, and 12 hour waits. ISD took over this data collection for statistics covering the week ending 7 June 2015.  
3) From 20 May 2018, Raigmore hospital in NHS Highland trialled a new patient flow system. As a consequence the accuracy of some patients’ waits may have been affected between this date and 4 July, however the total number of attendances remains correct. |
| Revisions statement      | These figures are official statistics intended to provide timely information from aggregate weekly returns and it is envisaged that revisions will not be made. |
Data subject to a higher level of quality assurance is released monthly and a comparison of the two sources is available on the ISD website.

Revisions relevant to this publication

Concepts and definitions

Relevance and key uses of the statistics
Waiting times are important to patients and are a measure of how the NHS is responding to demands for services. Measuring and regular reporting of waiting times highlights where there are delays in the system and enables monitoring of the effectiveness of NHS performance throughout the country. The NHS in Scotland has been set a number of targets for maximum waiting times.

Accuracy
These aggregate statistics are subject to only basic quality assurance checks. NHS Boards are required to confirm to PHS that the statistics are accurate.

Completeness
The statistics in this release cover only EDs (larger A&E services that typically provide a 24 hour consultant led service). Full information on the use of other sites that provide A&E services such as minor injury units, small hospitals and health centres in rural areas is not currently included.

Complete information is reported through PHS’s monthly report on Accident and Emergency Activity and Waiting Times.  

The percentage of A&E activity in NHS Scotland taking place within Emergency Departments: Financial Year 2018/19 is shown in the table 1 below.

Table 1 Percentage of A&E activity in NHS Scotland taking place within Emergency Departments: Financial Year 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NHS Board</th>
<th>Percentage ED activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Borders</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Dumfries &amp; Galloway</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Fife</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHS Forth Valley</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Grampian</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Highland</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Lanarkshire</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Lothian</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Orkney</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Shetland</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Tayside</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS Western Isles</td>
<td>73%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Comparability

National Statistics on A&E Activity and Waiting Times are published on the first Tuesday of every month. These statistics are derived from the A&E datamart to which NHS Boards submit data as either episode level files containing a detailed record for each attendance or as aggregate files containing monthly summary attendance and compliance figures only. These statistics are subject to a higher level of quality assurance than the weekly statistics; however, there is good agreement between the two data sources. **Comparison between weekly and monthly sources of ED Activity and Waiting Times.**

All 4 UK countries publish information on the time spent in Accident and Emergency (A&E), though this can be labelled under Emergency Department (as in Scotland) or Emergency Care (as in Northern Ireland). The published statistics are not exactly comparable because: they were designed to monitor targets which have developed separately within each country; the provision and classification of unscheduled care services varies across the UK; the systems which collect the data are different.

- **England**

- **Northern Ireland**

- **Wales**

### Accessibility

It is the policy of PHS to make its web sites and products accessible according to **published guidelines**.

### Coherence and clarity

### Value type and unit of measurement

- Count of total attendances.
- Count of attendances in department for 4, 8 and 12 hours.
- Proportion of attendances in department for 4 hours.

### Disclosure

The [PHS protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol](http://www.nss.classification.gov.uk/pubs/dsdp) is followed.

### Official Statistics designation

Non National Statistics

### UK Statistics Authority Assessment

Not Assessed.

### Date of first publication

03 March 2015

### Help email

nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net

### Date form completed

4 June 2020
Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)

Pre-Release Access
Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD are obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication).

Standard Pre-Release Access:
- Scottish Government Health Department
- NHS Board Chief Executives
- NHS Board Communication leads

Early Access for Quality Assurance
These statistics will also have been made available to those who needed access to help quality assure the publication:
- NHS Board data suppliers
ISD and Official Statistics

About ISD
Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Purpose: To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

Mission: Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

Vision: To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

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 Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

ISD’s statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (ie assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (ie legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

Further information on ISD’s statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the ISD website.