About this release

This release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting times for the quarter to 30 June 2020.

NHS Boards, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic made changes to their service delivery in March 2020. All NHS Boards have advised that the measures put in place have had an impact on their figures for this quarter. More information can be found in the Data Quality document.

Main Points

For the quarter ending June 2020:

- 3,561 children and young people started treatment at CAMHS in Scotland. This is a 13.6% decrease from 4,122 starting treatment in the previous quarter, and an 11.2% decrease from 4,012 starting treatment in the same quarter the previous year.

- Nearly six out of 10 (59.3%) children and young people were seen within 18 weeks, compared to 65.2% for the previous quarter and 69.8% for the quarter ending June 2019. 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 14 weeks which is an increase from 11 weeks in the previous quarter and from 12 weeks in the same quarter the previous year.

- Since March 2020 there has been a decline in both referrals and patients seen in response to measures taken at a national level to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

Percentage of patients seen by CAMHS within 18 weeks of referral, by quarter, NHSScotland.
• Across Scotland, more than one in eight patients (13.5%) referred to CAMHS did not attend their first appointment which is a slight increase from the previous quarter where 13.3% did not attend their first appointment, and also an increase from the same quarter ending June 2019 where 12.2% did not attend their first appointment.

• As expected, there has been a drop in referrals during this quarter, with 3,985 children and young people being referred to CAMHS in Scotland. This compares to 9,017 for the previous quarter, and 8,520 for the quarter ending June 2019.

Total number of Referrals and Referrals rejected by quarter, NHSScotland June 2015 – June 2020

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. Please see News and Updates section of our website for more details.

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Further Information

Data from this publication are available from the publication page on our website. The next release of this publication will be 01 December 2020.

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in NHS Performs. NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

PHS and Official Statistics

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. PHS 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.