

Publication Summary



Primary Care Workforce Survey 2013

“Out of Hours” GP Services Strand – Sections 1,2,3 and 6

Publication Date – 19 November 2013

About this Release

This Experimental Report presents further results from the 2013 Primary Care Workforce Survey. The main results from the survey were released as an Official Statistics Publication on 24 September 2013.

Overview

The Primary Care Workforce Survey 2013 GP Out of Hours (OOH) strand was designed to complement the existing “In-Hours” survey of Scottish general practices. More detail about the “In Hours” survey is available at www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/General-Practice/GPs-and-Other-Practice-Workforce/primary-care-workforce-survey-2013.asp. The OOH strand was newly developed and piloted in 2013. The pilot survey form was agreed by the National GP Out of Hours Operations (OOH Ops) group, ISD Scotland and the Scottish Government. The intended aims of the OOH strand were:-

1. To provide information on the demographic profile of GPs working in GP OOH services, and how the amount of time input to GP OOH services may vary in relation to age, gender and designation.
2. Similarly, to provide information on the demographic profile of the nurses and nurse practitioners who are directly employed/managed by the GP OOH services. The survey was not designed to capture demographic information on other nurses or nurse practitioners who give time to the GP OOH services but are not directly employed/managed by them.
3. To estimate the ‘person-hours’ required to support GP OOH services in each NHS Board area, by staff group and type of OOH period.
4. To estimate the extent to which required person-hours were filled, and whether this varied by staff group and/or type of OOH period.
5. To identify some of the challenges in filling OOH shifts and efforts made to mitigate those challenges.

Results for the first two elements listed above were included in the Official Statistics publication of the 2013 survey results (24 September 2013), available at www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/General-Practice/GPs-and-Other-Practice-Workforce/primary-care-workforce-survey-2013.asp. This Experimental Report presents results for the other elements of the pilot GP OOH survey.

The other elements generated a mixture of qualitative and quantitative information that was gathered in a variety of different ways and varied in completeness and accuracy. The variations mean that the information gathered is not sufficiently robust to present as an Official Statistics report. For example, we cannot make definitive, robust comparisons between individual GP OOH services on the basis of much of the information gathered.

A key message for users of this report is to consider the broad patterns and overall messages emerging from this survey rather than to dwell too closely on fine details of apparent differences, which may be real or may be artefactual, arising due to differences in the ways that individual GP OOH services have been able to compile this experimental information. However, we expect that these experimental results will nonetheless contain some very useful information and messages for the GP Out of Hours Services, NHS Boards, the Scottish Government and others. They will also provide a basis for consideration of future surveys and help inform any future work in relation to workforce and/or service planning for GP Out of Hours Services both locally and nationally.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

About ISD

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