

Publication Summary



General Practice – GP Workforce and Practice Population Statistics 2014

Publication date – 16 December 2014

Revised – 03 August 2015



About this Release

The first part of this publication presents data on General Practitioners (GPs) contracted to work in Scottish practices in the years 2004 to 2014. We describe the types of GP contract held, the age profiles and gender profiles of GPs in Scotland. Much of the information is available at the geographic levels of Scotland, NHS Board and Community Health Partnership.

The second part of the release gives information on the practices and the patients registered with them. This includes broad age distributions of registered patients at NHS Board and CHP level.

Please note that figures in this publication have been revised since they were originally published. Typographical errors in Part 1 of the full report and data tables 1 and 2 have been corrected. A small number of outdated Practice Types in Chart 7 of the full report have been revised.

An error in methodology has resulted in under-reporting of the numbers of patients registered with a GP practice in data tables 4 and 5, for 2014 and previous years. Due to the dynamic nature of the underlying database, and that the data are reported at fixed points in time, errors within these data tables have not been revised and corrected methodology will be applied to the December 2015 publication. It is estimated that the total number of patients registered with a GP practice in Scotland is under-reported by around 11,000 as at 01 October 2014, representing about 0.2 % of the Scotland practice list size. Caution should be exercised when using data from these tables.

These revisions do not affect the overall interpretation or conclusions to be drawn from previously published data.

Key Points

- The number of GPs contracted to work for NHS Scotland has risen by about 10% since the agreement of the General Medical Services Contract (Scotland) in 2004. Currently there are around 4,900 GPs in post across Scotland.

- Since 2004, the GP workforce has changed from mainly being male (55% in 2004) to mainly being female (only 44% males in 2014).
- The population of GPs has aged alongside its patients. In 2014, 45% of the male GPs, and around a quarter of the female GPs, were aged 50 years and over. In 2004 this was 38% and 17%, respectively.

Change in proportions of gender and age groups among male and female GPs in post in Scotland, 2004 and 2014

2004

2,432 Male GPs in total

915^R (38%) aged 50+

2,024 Female GPs in total

335^R (17%) aged 50+

2014

2,176 Male GPs in total

975 (45%) aged 50+

2,742 Female GPs in total

714 (26%) aged 50+

Source: [GMS](#) (2004 only), [GPCD](#) (2014)
Underlying data can be found in [this spreadsheet](#)

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Further Information

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

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