

Publication Summary



General Practice GP workforce and practice list sizes

2005 – 2015

Publication date – 15 December 2015

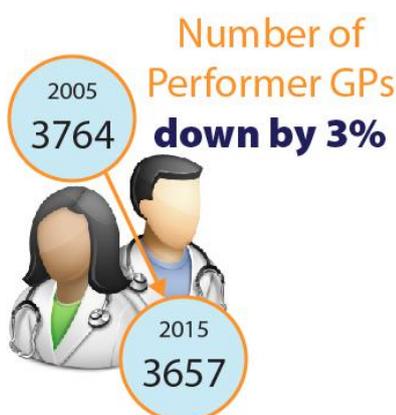


About this Release

This report from the Information Services Division presents information on the General Practitioner (GP) workforce contracted to work in Scottish practices in the years 2005 to 2015. This report also provides information about the number of GP practices and profile of patients registered.

Key Points

- At 30 September 2015, approximately 34% of GPs were aged 50 and over and therefore likely to retire within the next 10 years.
- Average practice list sizes in Scotland have increased by 10% since 2005.
- The headcount of all GPs has increased by 9% since 2005 but the number of Performer GPs (usually practice partners) has seen an overall decrease of 3% in this time.
- There has been a shift in GP gender profile over the last 11 years, with females now accounting for the majority of the GP workforce.
- The number of Salaried GPs has more than doubled over the last 11 years, with now 1 in 7 GPs salaried.
- The number of patients aged 65 and over registered with GP practices in Scotland has risen from approximately 834,000 in 2005 to 985,000 in 2015; an 18% increase.



Background

GP workforce information for Scotland is only available as a headcount. An estimate of the whole time equivalent GPs in post for 2012/13 is available in the latest [Primary Care Workforce Survey](#). The GP headcounts in this report do not include GPs who work only as locums (also known as sessional GPs) and those working purely in Out of Hours services.

The number of female GPs in post at 30 September 2015 was 2,842 compared with 2,096 males. These headcounts do not reflect part-time hours and it is worth noting that, for 2015, there were 113 female retainees compared with zero males (GPs who can be utilised by a practice as required are referred to as retainees and are typically part-time).

Salaried GPs are employed by the practice or NHS Board on a salaried basis and account for approximately 14% of the GP workforce.

A Performer GP is a general practitioner who has entered into a contract to provide services to patients; they are not salaried, retainees or registrars and are usually the practice partners. Performers GPs represent the majority (74%) of the GP workforce.

Please note that this publication includes a revision of data for number of patients registered with a GP practice for years 2012, 2013 and 2014. The number of GP registered patients in Scotland was previously under-reported by approximately 12,000 to 13,000 for these years due to an incorrect application of suppression. This revision affects data table 4, [Practice list sizes by NHS Board and age group](#).

Contact

Jane Goodall

Principal Information Analyst

jane.goodall@nhs.net

0131 275 6183

Victoria MacDonald

Senior Information Analyst

v.macdonald1@nhs.net

0141 282 2918

General enquiries

nss.isdgeneralpractice@nhs.net

Further Information

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

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