

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Waiting Times in NHSScotland



Quarter ending 31 December 2016

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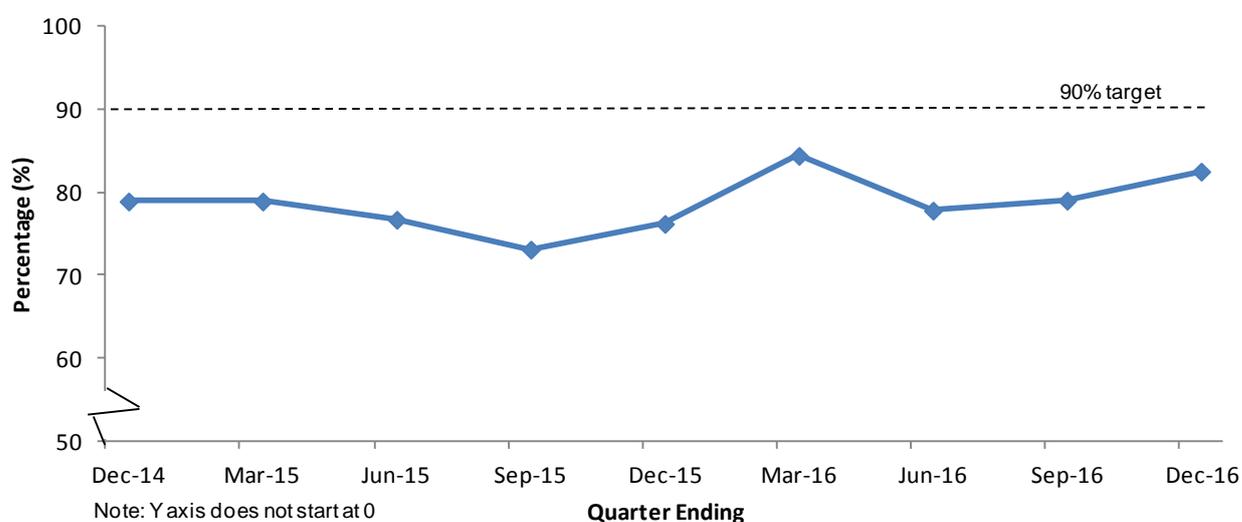
About this release

This publication by Information Services Division (ISD) summarises how long children and young people waited to start treatment for mental health services provided by NHSScotland for the quarter ending December 2016.

Main Points

- 4,222 children and young people started treatment at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Scotland which is an increase from the previous quarter (4,072) but a decrease from quarter ending December 2015 (4,505).
- Over eight out of 10 (82.5%) people were seen within 18 weeks and half started their treatment within nine weeks. This compares with 79.0% in the previous quarter and 76.2% for the quarter ending December 2015.
- The 18 week standard was met by seven NHS Boards (NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Shetland, NHS Tayside and NHS Western Isles).
- Across Scotland, over one in nine (11.9%) patients referred to CAMHS did not attend their first appointment, this compares with 13.4% in the previous quarter and 13.0% in the quarter ending December 2015.

Percentage (%) of patients seen within 18 weeks by quarter - NHSScotland



Background

The main function of CAMHS is to develop and deliver services for those children and young people who are experiencing the most serious mental health problems. They also have an important role in supporting the mental health capability of the wider network of children's services.

Delivery of good quality CAMHS depends on timely access to healthcare. Early action is more likely to result in full recovery and, in the case of children and young people, minimises the impact on other aspects of their development, such as their education, so improving their wider social development outcomes. 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral.

Scottish Government asked Healthcare Improvement Scotland to lead a programme of work to improve access to CAMHS. ISD are a partner in this programme of work providing data, analytical and intelligence support working closely with NHS Boards.

Although NHS Highland* achieved the 18-week standard the data submitted to ISD does not represent 100% of patients seen in the quarter due to data quality issues.

* Due to data quality issues, the reported figure for NHS Highland does not represent 100% of Tier 2 patients seen in quarter.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [CAMHs Waiting Times in NHSScotland](#) report or on the [CAMHs pages of the ISD website](#) or you maybe interested in our other [Mental Health](#) and [Waiting Times](#) publications. Workforce information is also released today and can be found here. [CAMHS Workforce publication](#)

ISD and Official Statistics

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