

# Publication Summary



## Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times

Publication date – 29 May 2012

### About this Release

This release details monthly summary information on the activity from Emergency Departments and departments that provide Accident and Emergency services in Scotland; number and rate of attendance, attendance and admission rates by age band and gender and the performance against the 4 hour waiting time standard are presented.

### Key points

- During the quarter ending 31 March 2012, the number of new and unplanned return attendances at all A&E services across Scotland was approximately; 129,400 in January, 127,200 in February and 147,900 in March. The March 2012 attendances are an 8.7 % increase on the average March attendance for the previous 4 years. The attendances show an increase towards the last week of the month, which may be due to the reported record temperatures for this month.
- During the quarter ending 31 March 2012, the proportion of new and unplanned return attendances at all A&E services across Scotland that were seen within 4 hours was; 94.2 % in January, 94.4 % in February and 95.3 % in March.
- During the quarter ending 31 March 2012, the rate of new and unplanned return attendances (per 100,000 population) at all A&E services across Scotland was; 2,477 in January, 2,435 in February and 2,832 in March.
- Of 0-24 year olds, 0-4 year olds are most likely to attend an Emergency Department or be admitted, followed by 20-24 year old males and 15-19 year old females.
- Males aged 70 and over, and females aged 75 and over, have at least a 1 in 2 chance (greater than 50 %) of being admitted following an attendance at an Emergency Department.

### Background

Data from Emergency Departments and departments that provide Accident and Emergency services has been submitted to ISD since July 2007. This was primarily established to support the 4-hour waiting time target. Since that time the dataset has been expanded and the information has been used to support a variety of other purposes both by NHS Boards and Scottish Government. Information on compliance with the 4-hour wait has been published since 2007 and more recently we have been expanding the published information on this activity.

This release includes several charts and tables which present additional information about attendances at these services across Scotland. The information is provided at both Scotland level and at NHS Board level.

The tables and charts in this publication include;

- Total attendances by site type
- Attendances and admission rates by age band and gender
- Waiting Times performance against the 4-hour wait standard
- Heat Target attendance rates

Throughout the publication report we refer to the collective term Accident and Emergency (A&E) Services which includes the following site types:

- 1) Emergency Departments (EDs) – a consultant-led, 24 hour service with full resuscitation facilities and designated accommodation for the reception of emergency patients
- 2) MIU/Other – smaller sites such as Minor Injury Units (MIUs), community A&Es or community casualty departments that are GP or nurse led

A list of sites and their classification can be found on the [Emergency Department Activity - Data Collection](#) webpage.

## Contact

### Michael Burslem

Senior Information Analyst

[nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net](mailto:nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net)

0131 275 6532

### Gary King

Senior Information Analyst

[nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net](mailto:nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net)

0141 282 2024

### Elaine Parry

Principal Information Analyst

[nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net](mailto:nss.isdunscheduledcare@nhs.net)

0131 275 6655

## Further Information

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

### About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD 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 Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)