

Publication Summary



Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times

Publication date – 6 October 2015



About this Release

This National Statistics publication, by the Information Services Division (ISD) for NHS Scotland, reports key statistics on attendances at Accident and Emergency (A&E) services across Scotland. The information presented in the publication includes trends in the number of attendances and admissions, and performance against the four hour waiting time standard. [Detailed Hospital, NHS Board and Scotland information is available online.](#)

The statistics in this publication cover all A&E services, and include new data for August 2015.

Key Points

- In the month of August 2015:
 - There were 142,082 attendances at A&E services across Scotland.
 - 95.2% of attendances at A&E services were seen and subsequently admitted, transferred or discharged within 4 hours.
 - 399 (0.3%) patients spent more than 8 hours in an A&E department
 - 32 (<0.1%) patients spent more than 12 hours in an A&E department.
 - 25% of attendances led to an admission to hospital.
- For the year ending August 2015:
 - The total number of attendances was 1,606,169. This is 1.5% lower than the previous year (1,630,133).
 - The percentage spending 4 hours or less in an A&E department was 92.2%, lower than the previous year's value of 93.5%.

Background

There are 93 locations providing A&E services across Scotland. Of these, 30 are classed as Emergency Departments - larger A&E services that typically provide a 24 hour consultant led service. The 30 Emergency Departments are responsible for more than 8 out of every 10 A&E attendances, 19 out of 20 breaches of the four hour waiting time standard, and 19 out of 20 admissions from A&E to hospital.

Waiting times in A&E are subject to seasonal variation, and this publication includes rolling annual statistics covering a full year of data as well as information based on activity for the latest month.

The detailed A&E analysis is supplied online in an Excel Workbook with interactive tables and charts showing: number of attendances, over 4, 8 and 12 hour waits and destination on discharge from A&E by NHS Board, hospital and for all emergency departments (EDs). A data file (csv format) containing raw data at a low level of aggregation is also available.

Since 2007, the national standard for A&E waiting times is that new and unplanned return attendances at an A&E service should be seen and then admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours. This standard applies to all areas of emergency care such as EDs, assessment units, minor injury units, community hospitals, anywhere emergency care type activity takes place. A list of sites providing emergency care and their classification can be found online at [Emergency Care - Hospital Site List](#).

For information on how the Scottish Government (SG) monitors NHS Boards' performance within A&E Services, please see the [NHS Local Delivery Plan standards](#).

Since 3 March 2015, official statistics on Emergency Department activity and waiting times information have been released weekly for the EDs in Scotland, derived from aggregate information supplied by NHS Boards on the number of attendances and 4, 8, and 12 hour waits. Initially, the SG carried out the collection. ISD took over the collection and [publication of weekly A&E information](#) for statistics covering the week ending 7 June 2015.

Contact

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Further Information

Further information can be found on the [Emergency Care](#) pages of the ISD Scotland website. A [metadata document](#) has been produced for this publication.

The weekly [ED Activity and Waiting Times publication](#) is also released on 6 October 2015.

This publication covers EDs only, including new data for the week ending 27 September.

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](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/