

Publication Summary



Emergency Department Activity and Waiting Times

Publication date – 01 December 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 October 2015.

Key Points

- In the month of October 2015:
 - There were 133,028 attendances at A&E services across Scotland.
 - 94.7% of attendances at A&E services were seen and subsequently admitted, transferred or discharged within 4 hours.
 - 526 (0.4%) patients spent more than 8 hours in an A&E department
 - 76 (0.1%) patients spent more than 12 hours in an A&E department.
 - 26% of attendances led to an admission to hospital.
- For the year ending October 2015:
 - The total number of attendances was 1,600,127. This is 2.3% lower than the previous year (1,637,512)
 - The percentage spending 4 hours or less in an A&E department was 92.6%, lower than the previous year's value of 93.2%.

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.

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 attendances for emergency care, including attendances in trolleyed areas of an Assessment Unit as well as Emergency Departments and minor injury units.

ISD are currently reviewing the scope of emergency care data collection to ensure that it continues to reflect the way emergency care is carried out. ISD are working with both the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine.

A list of sites providing emergency care and their classification can be found online at [Emergency Care - Hospital Site List](#).

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.

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

If you have any further questions about this publication, you can contact the team:

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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 1 December 2015, including new data for the week ending 22 November. This publication covers EDs only, and is derived from aggregate information supplied by NHS Boards on the number of attendances and 4, 8, and 12 hour waits.

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in [NHS Performs](#). NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

ISD and 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.

Further information [about our statistics](#).