

Out of Hours Primary Care Services in Scotland

1 April 2014 – 31 March 2016

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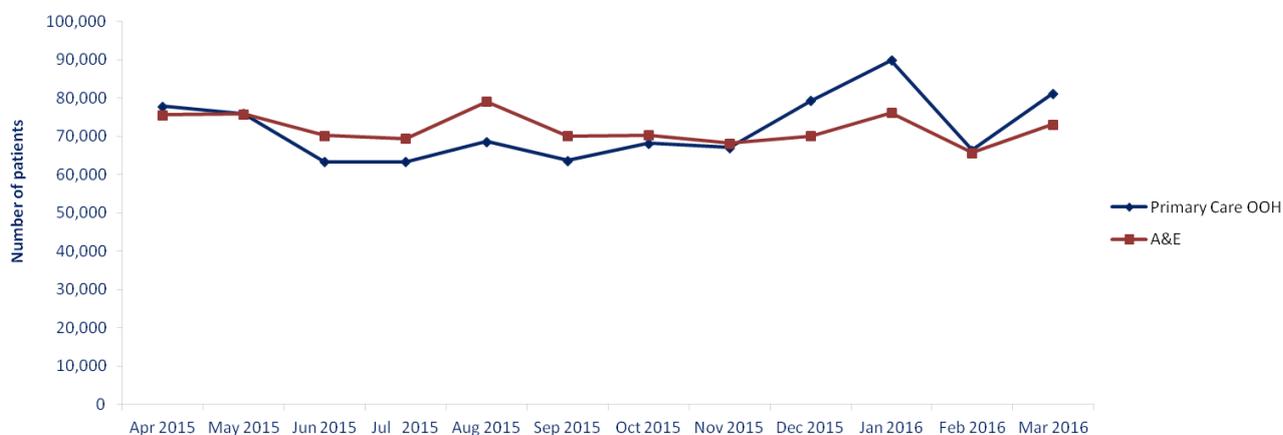
About this release

Across Scotland, NHS Boards provide Out of Hours (OOH) Primary Care services for patients when their registered GP Practices are closed. This is the third publication of data from Information Services Division on patients attending these OOH Primary Care Services and presents data from 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Main Points

- In both 2014/15 and 2015/16, nearly 900,000 patients contacted OOH Primary Care services, resulting in just under a million patient consultations (attendance at Primary Care Emergency Centres, Home Visits &/or GP Advice)
- Children under 5, women in their twenties and people aged 75 and over are the most common age groups of patients contacting Out of Hours Primary Care services.
- Home visits account for 1 in 5 (190,000) of contacts with OOH Primary Care services. Among those aged 75 and over, over half (57%) of the patients receive a home visit.
- For just over half of patients their treatment was completed following contact with OOH Primary Care services. Just over 3% of outcomes were a referral to A&E/Minor Injuries Unit.

Number of contacts in OOH Primary Care and OOH attendances at A&E Services, Out of Hours period only, Scotland, 2015/16



- In comparison with OOH Primary Care services, during the OOH time period A&E services have more attendances during the summer months when there is more daylight and injuries. OOH Primary Care have a higher number of contacts during the winter months and a slight increase in the months which include public holidays.
- OOH Primary Care services see a larger increase in contacts during four day public holiday weekends than A&E Services.

Background

From April 2014, data on patient contacts at OOH Primary Care Services across Scotland are collected and maintained by ISD in the national data warehouse known as the GP OOH datamart. Data are collected on local IT system (Adastra), then extracted and submitted to the datamart on a weekly basis.

In the chart above, it should be noted that in the areas where only aggregate A&E data is returned to ISD (typically NHS Grampian and NHS Highland), there will be an undercount of patients seen. This will not make a significant difference to the overall results. The time period being compared relates to when both services are open i.e. the out of hours time period. This includes evenings, weekends and Easter, Christmas and New Year public holidays

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Further Information

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

You may also be interested to read the [publication](#) on the National Review of Primary Care Out of Hours Services.

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.](#)