About this release

Information Services Division publish information on NHS General Ophthalmic Services eye examinations and related findings annually. This publication provides statistics for 2016/17 with comparisons with previous years.

Main points

- In 2016/17 around 2.2 million eye examinations were performed by optometrists working in Scottish local communities, the highest level reported since 2006/07.

![Graph showing number of eye examinations, Scotland, by year; 2006/07 - 2016/17](image)

- Most patients attending for an eye examination were managed within primary care optometry (94%) and not referred for further investigation.
- Four in five claims were for initial eye examinations (primary examinations). The others were for emergency, additional or follow-up care (supplementary examinations).
- The most common reason for a supplementary examination was ‘Sudden vision loss and floaters’.
- Clinical conditions were recorded during the eye examination. Cataracts were the most common of all the recorded conditions (17%).
Background

NHS General Ophthalmic Services

NHS General Ophthalmic Services in Scotland are provided by eye care professionals who use a wide variety of tests and procedures to examine the eyes of a patient during an eye examination. There are a number of possible outcomes following the examination including:

- No medical or corrective action needs to be taken
- A prescription for glasses / contact lenses needs to be issued
- A medical procedure may be required by the patient’s General Practitioner (GP) or a hospital specialist.

In April 2010, a change in legislation reduced the frequency and circumstances under which a primary examination can be undertaken. If these conditions are not met, only a supplementary examination can be claimed (see Ophthalmic Report for further information).

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Find out more

Further information can be found in the Ophthalmic Report.

The Information Services Division published a wide range of ophthalmic statistics. You can find all our ophthalmic information at the ISD Eye-Care website.

The next release of this report is expected September 2017 and will present data as at 31 March 2017.

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. Find out more about our statistics.