About this release

This report from Information Services Division presents information on the General Practitioner (GP) workforce contracted to work in Scottish practices in the years 2007 to 2017. This report also provides information about the number of GP practices and profile of patients registered.

Main points

- The proportion of GPs who are women has risen to 60% in 2017.
- The number (headcount) of GPs in Scotland has remained at around 4,900 since 2008. The number of GPs increased steadily in the years prior to 2008.
- A third of all GPs are aged 50 or over.
- The number of patients registered with GP practices continues to rise slowly year on year and has increased by 5% since 2007. The number of patients aged 65+ has increased by 20% since 2007.
- The number of practices in Scotland decreased by 7% since 2007, reflecting a trend towards larger practices.
Background

This publication presents data on the General Practitioner (GP) workforce contracted to work in Scottish practices in the years 2007 to 2017. Data is broken down at NHS Board and local authority level, by age, gender and designation.

Information is also presented on the number of patients registered with GP practices between 2007 and 2017, broken down at NHS Board and local authority level, by age group and practice type.

Note that GP workforce information is only available as a headcount. An estimate of the whole time equivalent GPs for 2015 can be found in the National Primary Care Workforce Survey 2015.

GP headcounts in this report do not include GPs who work only as locums, who work purely in Out of Hours services, or who are in foundation programs.

For workforce information on all medical staff employed directly by the NHS, please see the NHSScotland Workforce Publications http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/.

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Find out more

Further information can be found in the GP workforce and practice list sizes 2007-2017 publication.

The data from this publication is available to download from our web page where a glossary can also be found.

For more information on General Practice see the General Practice section of our website.

The next release of this publication will be in December 2018.

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.