General Practice

GP Workforce and practice list sizes 2009 - 2019

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division provides information on the General Practitioner (GP) workforce contracted to work in Scottish practices in the years 2009 to 2019. It includes information about the number of GP practices and profile of patients registered.

Main Points

As at 30 September 2019:

- The headcount of GPs in Scotland is 5,049. This is a slight rise of 55 GPs compared to last year.

- This rise is predominantly in female GPs, who now make up 61% of GPs in Scotland. There has been a decrease in male GPs, who now make up 39% of all GPs.

- The headcount of GPs remained roughly constant at around 4,900 between 2009 and 2017.

- 32% of all GPs are aged 50 and over, down from a high of 34% in 2014.
As at 1 October 2019:
- The number of patients registered with GP practices continues to rise slowly year on year and has increased by 5% since 2009 to 5,770,000.
- The number of patients aged 65+ has increased by 21% since 2009 to 1,054,000.
- The number of practices in Scotland decreased by 9% from 1,023 practices in 2009 to 935, reflecting a trend towards larger practices with more GPs serving a larger number of patients.

Background
This publication presents data on the General Practitioner (GP) workforce contracted to work in Scottish practices in the years 2009 to 2019. Data is broken down at NHS Board and local authority level, by age, gender and designation (type of GP).

Information is also presented on the number of patients registered with GP practices between 2009 and 2019, 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 2017 can be found in the National Primary Care Workforce Survey 2017.

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 the early stages of GP training.

For workforce information on all medical staff employed directly by the NHS, please see the NHSScotland Workforce Publications.

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Further Information
Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page along with background information and a glossary.

For more information on Primary Care in Scotland see the General Practice section of our website.

The next release of this publication will be December 2020.