

Publication Summary



Annual Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information in Scotland

Year ending 31 March 2015

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Revised – 24 May 2016



About this Release

The Information Services Division has updated a range of statistics on different aspects of hospital care, sourced from hospital administration systems across Scotland. These include information on trends in outpatient, inpatient and day case activity; numbers of medical diagnoses and operations; emergency and childhood admissions; and bed statistics.

Key Points

Outpatients and inpatients/day cases - Revised

- There were around 4.46 million outpatient attendances for all specialties at consultant clinics in 2014/15 in Scotland. This is similar to the numbers in previous years.
- Around a third of the outpatient attendances in 2014/15 were new appointments and these have increased by nearly 10% from 1.34 million in 2005/06 in all specialties.
- The percentage of new outpatient who did not attend their appointment (10.1%) is back to being very similar to the level it was in 2005/06 (10.3%).
- There were around 1.57 million hospital discharges from acute specialties in 2014/15. This is an increase of nearly 2% since 2013/14, and of 23% since 2005/06, when there were 1.28 million hospital discharges (inpatients and day cases).
- Around 570,000 emergency inpatient discharges were reported in 2014/15, an increase of around 18% from around 480,000 in 2005/06, and of around 1% since 2013/14.

Bed statistics

- The average number of available staffed beds in acute specialties for Scotland excluding Grampian and Highland NHS Boards has remained at around 13,700 since 2011/12, although there was a 6% reduction in the numbers from 14,500 in 2005/06. A long term trend in these figures is not available for Scotland due to problems of submission from their patient admission systems.

Operations

- Nearly 1.2 million main operations were carried out in Scotland in 2014/15, with around 648,000 of them carried out as inpatient and day cases.

Children

- Around 88,400 children were admitted to hospital in 2014/15 during 128,000 stays (CIS) in all specialties in Scotland in 2014/15. The majority of admissions were as an emergency.

Emergency admissions

- The rate of emergency bed days per 1,000 patients aged 75 and over in Scotland has reduced by 10.3% since 2009/10.

Background

Outpatient attendances are categorised as new or follow-up (return) attendances. Less complex operations may also be undertaken in an outpatient setting. Inpatients refers to people who are admitted and either remain in hospital overnight or are expected to remain overnight but are discharged earlier. This summary presents data by both admission to and discharges from hospital.

Day cases refer to episodes where a person makes a planned admission to an available staffed bed in a hospital for clinical care, and requires the use of a bed (or trolley in lieu of a bed). For the purposes of national data a day case episode refers to a patient who is admitted as a day case and is discharged on the same day as planned.

Available staffed beds is the number of bed days available to over a period of time.

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Further Information

More information is available on the [Acute Hospital Activity](#) web pages.

Further information can also be found in the accompanying [Annual Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information Publication Report](#).

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](#).