Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information in Scotland
Annual – Year Ending 31 March 2018
A National Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication date: 25 September 2018

Revisions Statement - Revision to multiple emergency admissions and annual trends in available beds tables

Multiple Emergency Admissions table
A formula error was identified in the 65+ age group, where the data for the 65-69 age category was not captured within the 65+ age group. This has now been corrected and it should be noted that the overall age group total and the other age groupings at NHS Board and Scotland level are unaffected. This table was revised on 11 December 2018.

Annual Trends in Available Beds Table
Multiple errors identified in the excel lookups meant that some data was not being displayed properly within the data table. These have now been corrected and it should be noted that there has been no change to the background data figures at hospital, NHS Board or Scotland level. This table was revised on 11 December 2018, and again on 9 January 2019.

About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) provides an update on 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 admissions; and beds statistics. Data presented for 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 are provisional and subject to change in future publications as submissions may be updated to reflect a more accurate and complete set of data from NHS Boards. There are known issues with the quality of data presented which are summarised within the data issues and completeness document which accompanies this publication.
Main Points

Hospital Admissions

Number of People Admitted to Scottish Hospitals, 2017/18

- Around 693,000 Scottish residents (one in eight of the population) were admitted to hospital in 2017/18. Of these, 69% had a single admission to hospital with three out of ten people having more than one admission.

- There were a total of 1,201,785 admissions into hospital in 2017/18; a small reduction (2%) compared to last year and a 1% increase compared to 2012/13.

- In 2017/18, 686,557 (72%) of main procedures were carried out as an outpatient or day case (excluding imaging, injections, infusions, x-ray); a 7% reduction on last year and a 3% decrease compared to 2013/14.

Beds

- The average number of available hospital beds in Scotland has been decreasing over the years. In 2017/18, the available beds for acute specialties was 13,426; a 2% decrease on last year and a 4% reduction when compared to 2012/13.

Outpatients

- 1.07 million Scottish residents (around one in five of the population) visited an outpatient department in 2017/18.

- Overall there were 4.23 million total outpatient attendances; a 6% decrease on last year, with a 7% reduction in the last five years (2012/13).

- 9.4% (146,817) of new outpatient appointments were not kept without prior notification ('Did Not Attends'), lower than 2016/17 and 2012/13 at 9.5% and 10.2% respectively. In 2017/18, people aged 25-44 were three times more likely not to keep their new outpatient appointment compared to those aged 65 and over (15% vs. 5%).
Background
Definitions of outpatients, hospital admissions and available staffed beds are available in the Glossary section of the full report. Further details are also available on the ISD Data Dictionary.

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Further Information
Find out more in the accompanying full report. Further information is also available on the Acute Hospital Activity web pages. The next update of this publication will be in October 2019.

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.