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 2018 to 31 March 2019 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.

Main Points

Hospital Admissions

- Around 698,000 Scottish residents (one in eight of the population) were admitted to hospital in 2018/19. Of these, more than two thirds (69%) had a single admission to hospital with three out of ten patients having more than one admission.
- There were just over 1.2 million admissions into hospital in 2018/19; a small increase (<1%) compared to last year (2017/18) and five years ago (2013/14).
- In 2018/19 there were just under 1.2 million total procedures performed within the acute hospital care setting (excluding imaging, injections, infusions, x-ray); a 1% increase on last year (2017/18), with a 3% reduction in the last four years (2014/15).
Beds

- The average number of available hospital beds in Scotland has been decreasing over the years. In 2018/19, the average available staffed beds for acute specialties was 13,105; a 2% decrease on last year (2017/18) and a 6% reduction when compared to five years ago (2013/14). The percentage occupancy has remained relatively stable over the years. In 2018/19, the percentage occupancy for acute specialties was 87%.

Outpatients

- Around 1.1 million Scottish residents (one in five of the population) visited an outpatient department in 2018/19.

- Overall there were nearly 4.3 million total outpatient attendances (new and return/follow-up) in 2018/19; a 1% increase on last year (2017/18), with a 7% reduction in the last five years (2013/14). The number of new outpatient attendances was just over 1.4 million whilst the number of return attendances was over 2.8 million.

Data Quality

There are known issues with the quality of data presented, in particular with statistics on new outpatient appointments not attended without prior warning ('Did Not Attends'). For more information please see the data issues and completeness document which accompanies this publication.

Background

Definitions of outpatients, admissions and available staffed beds are available within the Glossary Section of the full report. Further details are also available the ISD Data Dictionary.

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Further Information

Find out more in the full report. Further information is also available on the Acute Hospital Activity web pages. The next release of this publication will be in August 2020.

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.