About this Release

This publication presents information on mental health (psychiatric) hospital inpatients and day cases derived from Scottish Morbidity Record 04 (SMR04) records submitted to ISD by NHS boards in Scotland.

The publication is interim and minimal in nature because of problems with the completeness of SMR04 data submitted in recent years. Many of these problems have been resolved, but the remaining issues prevent ISD from producing a report with Scotland-level data or figures by NHS board of residence at this stage.

The publication shows trends in numbers of admissions, discharges, continuous inpatient stays, patients and residents for selected NHS boards of treatment, over the time period 1997/98 to 2012/13.

Key points

- All NHS boards presented showed a decline in the number of admissions, discharges, continuous inpatient stays, patients and residents between 1997/98-1999/2000 and 2010/11-2012/13.

- The pattern for admissions was similar to discharges. For discharges, several boards showed a decline of around 40% over this time period.

- Generally, the decline in the number of patients (individuals discharged during the year) tended to be slightly less than for discharges, suggesting that in addition to fewer people being admitted in a year, each person had fewer admissions.

- The number of residents (individuals in hospital on 31 March each year) in several boards dropped by over 50% (average for 2011, 2012 and 2013 compared with average for 1998, 1999 and 2000).

- These patterns are to be expected, due to the shift in recent years in the care of people with mental health problems away from inpatient treatment towards various forms of care in the community.
Future work

- A more comprehensive report is planned for publication in winter 2014/15.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the full Publication Report.