Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Scotland: Waiting Times Quarter ending 30 September 2019

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) presents Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting times at 30 September 2019.

Main Points

- 3,901 children and young people started treatment at CAMHS in Scotland which is a decrease from the previous quarter (4,012) and from the same quarter ending September 2018 (4,239).

- More than six out of ten (64.5%) children and young people were seen within 18 weeks, compared to 69.7% for the previous quarter and 69.0% for the quarter ending September 2018. The Scottish Government standard states that 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral to CAMHS.

- Half of the children and young people seen started their treatment within 13 weeks.

Percentage of patients seen by CAMHS within 18 weeks of referral, by quarter, NHSScotland.

Notes:

1. The points for quarter ending September 2017 and December 2017 indicate data completeness issues. This is due to NHS Tayside not submitting data between 22 June 2017 to 31 October 2017

- Across Scotland, around one in seven patients (14.0%) referred to CAMHS did not attend their first appointment which is an increase from the previous quarter (12.2%) and from the same quarter ending September 2018 (12.6%).

- 7,379 children and young people were referred to CAMHS in Scotland which is a decrease from the previous quarter (8,382) and the same quarter ending September 2018 (7,509).
Total number of Referrals and Referrals rejected by quarter, NHSScotland March 2015 - September 2019

Background
The main function of CAMHS is to develop and deliver services for children and young people (and parents and carers) who are experiencing mental health problems. They also have an important role in supporting the mental health capacity of wider children’s services. Delivery of good quality CAMHS depends on timely access to health care and adequate numbers of well trained staff being recruited and retained across NHSScotland.

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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 glossary.

For more information on Waiting Times for Psychological Therapies see the Psychological Therapies section of our website. CAMHS Psychology Workforce information is also included in the main Psychology Workforce publication. Previously published information can still be accessed via the ISD Mental Health publication page.

For related topics, please see the Mental Health pages.

CAMHS inpatient activity can be found here.

The next release of this publication will be on 3 March 2020.

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.