Scottish Atlas of Variation

Exploring geographical variation in the health & care system in Scotland.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland (Experimental)
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About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) introduces experimental statistics for the first iteration of the Scottish Atlas of Variation and presents activity data for three surgical procedures: elective primary hip replacement, elective primary knee replacement, and cataract surgery for 65 years and over. These are reported at NHS Board of Residence and Local Authority level for financial years 2013/14 – 2017/18.

Main Points
Elective primary hip replacement
- In 2017/18 there was a 2.4-fold variation in the rate of elective primary hip replacement procedures across Local Authorities, ranging from 83.6 to 202.2 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 129.7.

Elective primary knee replacement
- In 2017/18 there was a 2.1-fold variation in the rate of elective primary knee replacement procedures across Local Authorities, ranging from 88.1 to 185.2 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 129.2.

Cataract surgery among those aged 65 years and above
- In 2017/18 there was a 2.5-fold variation in the rate of cataract procedures across Local Authorities, ranging from 1924.3 to 4904.1 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 3560.5.
Background

The Scottish Atlas of Variation aims to highlight geographical variation in the provision of health services and associated health outcomes. It is designed to facilitate discussion and raise questions about why differences exist and promote quality improvement through this conversation.

The Scottish Atlas of Variation is an important tool to contribute to eliminating unwarranted variation, realising Realistic Medicine and support reducing harm and waste within the health service. The tool is designed to highlight variation and no judgement on the performance or inferences on quality of care of one geographical area against another should be concluded.

Please see the Introduction section of our website for more details.

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Further Information

Find out more in the interactive dashboard. The data from this publication is available to download from our ISD web page along with user guide, methodology and metadata documents.

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.