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 fourth iteration of the Scottish Atlas of Variation and presents geographical variation of Colorectal Cancer incidence, Colorectal Cancer mortality, Colonoscopy and Uptake of Bowel Screening.

Colorectal Cancer mortality, Colonoscopy and Uptake of Bowel Screening information is reported at Health Board of Residence and Local Authority level for calendar years 2013 – 2017.
Colorectal Cancer incidence information is reported at Health Board of Residence and Local Authority level for calendar years 2012 – 2016.

Main Points

Colorectal Cancer incidence
• In 2016 there was a 1.6-fold variation in the incidence rate of colorectal cancer across NHS Boards, ranging from 60.3 to 94.0 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 73.9.

Colorectal Cancer mortality
• In 2017 there was a 2.3-fold variation in the mortality rate of colorectal cancer across NHS Boards, ranging from 25.1 to 56.8 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 33.9.

Colonoscopy
• In 2017 there was a 2.5-fold variation in the rate of colonoscopy procedures across NHS Boards, ranging from 769.2 to 1891.8 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 1245.3.

Uptake of Bowel Screening
• The bowel cancer screening uptake rate across NHS Boards in 2017, ranged from 51.6% to 66.5% and the corresponding Scotland figure was 56.0%. The Scottish Bowel Screening Programme target is 60%.
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.