Scottish Atlas of Healthcare Variation
Exploring geographical variation in the health & care system in Scotland.
An Official Statistics publication for Scotland
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About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) presents geographical variation for 7 respiratory related maps. Information is reported at NHS Board and Local Authority level for financial years 2014/15 – 2018/19. Smoking prevalence information is reported for years 2013 – 2017.

Main Points
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) – 1-3 emergency admissions
• In 2018/19 there was a 2.4-fold variation in the rate of people aged 40 years and over with between 1 and 3 emergency admissions to hospital for COPD across NHS Boards, ranging from 221.1 to 532.1 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 392.

COPD – 3+ emergency admissions
• In 2018/19 there was a 2.7-fold variation in the rate of people aged 40 years and over with 3 or more emergency admissions to hospital for COPD across NHS Boards, ranging from 21.7 to 57.8 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 39.8.

COPD – length of stay
• In 2018/19 there was a 1.9-fold variation in the mean length of stay for patients aged 40 years and over admitted to hospital as an emergency with a primary diagnosis of COPD across NHS Boards, with mean length of stay ranging from 4 days to 7.8 days. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 7 days.
• The median length of stay for NHS Boards ranges from 2 days to 5 days with a corresponding Scotland figure of 4 days.

COPD – mortality rates
• In 2018/19 there was a 1.8-fold variation in the COPD mortality rate for people aged 40 years and over across NHS Boards, ranging from 69.5 to 125.6 per 100,000 population, adjusted for age and sex. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 106.2.

COPD – emergency COPD readmissions within 28 days
• In 2018/19 there was a 1.8-fold variation in the percentage of emergency COPD readmissions within 28 days of a COPD admission across NHS Boards, ranging from 10.4% to 19.3%. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 16.6%.
Smoking cessation – 4-week quit rates

- In 2018/19 there was a 2.4-fold variation in the percentage of 4-week quits across NHS Boards, ranging from 33.4% to 81.1%. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 38.7%.

Smoking prevalence (adults 16+)

- In survey year 2017 there was a 1.6-fold variation in the percentage of random adult (16+) respondents answering yes to “Do you smoke cigarettes nowadays?” across NHS Boards, ranging from 14.4% to 22.4%. The corresponding figure for Scotland as a whole was 17.9%.

Background

The Scottish Atlas of Healthcare 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 Healthcare 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.

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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 Statistics. Further information about our statistics.