

Publication Report



Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Waiting Times in Scotland

Quarter ending 30 September 2012

Publication date – 27 November 2012

Contents

Contents.....	1
Introduction	2
Key points	3
Results and Commentary.....	4
Adjustment of waiting times.....	4
How long people waited to start their treatment	5
People waiting at the end of the month	9
Number of people referred to CAMH Services	13
Glossary.....	14
List of Tables.....	15
Contact.....	16
Further Information.....	16
Rate this publication.....	16
A1 – Background Information	17
A2 – Data Quality	18
A3 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details).....	20
A4 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)	22
A5 – ISD and Official Statistics.....	23

Introduction

This publication contains information about how long children and young people waited for mental health services provided by the NHS in Scotland. It is the second time that this information has been published. The information in this publication covers the period July to September 2012, with figures from the first publication (April to June 2012) for reference.

The NHS in Scotland provides mental health services for children and young people with a wide range of mental health conditions including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety, behaviour problems, depression and early onset psychosis.

This treatment is provided through Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services. These services, which are mainly outpatient and community based, are provided by a range of staff including psychiatrists, mental health nurses, clinical psychologists, child psychotherapists, occupational therapists and other allied health professionals.

The Scottish Government requires the NHS in Scotland to measure the time people wait for treatment and this includes people waiting for CAMH services. The Scottish Government has set a target for the NHS in Scotland to deliver a maximum 26 week waiting time from a patient's referral to treatment for specialist CAMH services from March 2013, reducing to 18 weeks by December 2014.

The systems for collecting data locally are still being developed and as a result some people who attended a CAMH service are not included in this publication. However the information in this publication does give a good indication of waiting times in most areas of Scotland. Over the coming months, we expect to increase the volume of information that we can collect from NHS Boards.

Key points

- Waiting times information for CAMH services is still at an early stage of development. NHS Boards are working with ISD and the Scottish Government to improve the consistency and completeness of the information. The target is due for delivery from March 2013.
- To report on CAMHS waiting times, NHS Boards have had to develop, for the first time, systems to report on CAMHS waiting times.
- During the quarter ending September 2012, around 2400 children and young people started treatment at CAMH services in Scotland.
- The initial estimates from data at an early stage of development indicate that around 89% of people were seen within 26 weeks.

Results and Commentary

Adjustment of waiting times

Waiting times for most NHS services are worked out using a calculation that takes into account any periods a person is unavailable and missed or cancelled appointments. These are referred to as adjustments. Some NHS Boards are not able to make all the appropriate adjustments to waiting times for CAMH services so we have included information on what adjustments each NHS Board has made.

Waiting time adjustments allow fair reporting of waiting times which have been affected by factors outside the NHS Board's control. However the timing of appointments is always based on clinical need. For CAMH services, resetting the waiting time to zero is done for reporting purposes only and does not impact on the timing of any further appointments.

The main adjustments that are made to CAMH services waiting times are:

- If a person is unavailable (for example on holiday), the period for which they are unavailable is subtracted from their total waiting time.
- If a person does not attend an appointment and has to be given another their waiting time is reset to zero.
- If a person rearranges an appointment their waiting time is reset to zero on the day they contact the service to rearrange their appointment.
- If a person is offered several appointments and declines them all their waiting time is reset to zero. NHS Boards report that this happens very rarely as most appointments are agreed by telephone.

This report also shows unadjusted waiting times. These are the actual times people have waited. Unadjusted waiting times are not available for all NHS Boards.

How long people waited to start their treatment

This section shows waiting times for patients who started their treatment during the period July - September 2012. During that period (see Table 1):

- Around 2400 children and young people started their treatment at CAMH services in Scotland.
- Using adjusted waits where available, 89% of people seen by a CAMH service started their treatment within 26 weeks of being referred. Half of people started their treatment within 8 weeks.
- In the NHS Boards that are able to report unadjusted waits, 86% of people seen by a CAMH service started their treatment within 26 weeks of being referred. Half started their treatment within 11 weeks.

There has been a slight decrease in the percentage of people seen within 26 weeks this quarter compared to the quarter April – June 2012 (Chart 1). However data for successive months are not strictly comparable due to ongoing development of information systems, so small changes from one month to the next should not be interpreted as a significant rise or drop in performance at this stage. We expect to be able to make more accurate comparisons in future publications.

Information by NHS Board is shown in Tables 2 and 3 and Chart 2.

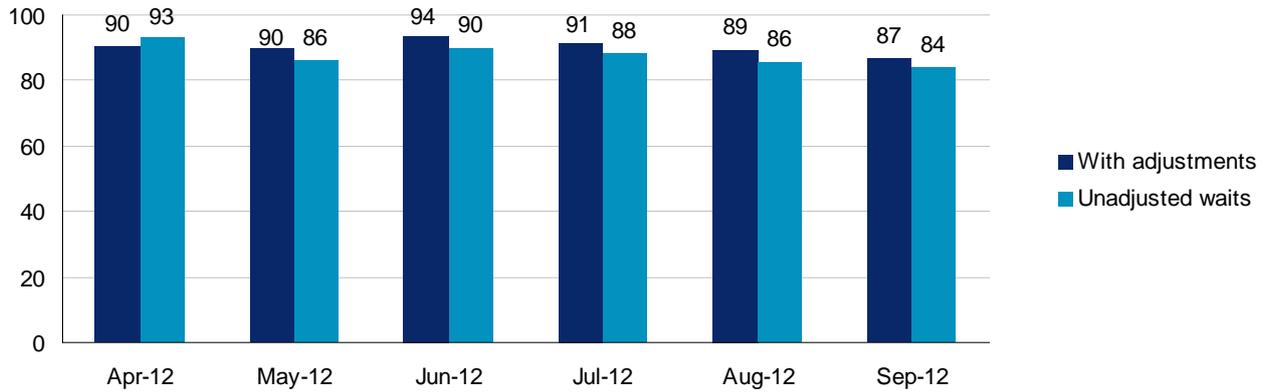
Table 1. Waiting times for people who started their treatment in July – September, NHS Scotland (excluding NHS Fife and NHS Grampian)

Month	People seen	With adjustments ¹		Unadjusted ²	
		Seen within 26 weeks (%)	Average weeks waited (median)	Seen within 26 weeks (%)	Average weeks waited (median)
July 2012 ³	751	91%	8	88%	11
August 2012	840	89%	9	86%	12
September 2012	807	87%	9	84%	11
Total	2398	89%	8	86%	11

Notes

1. Includes unadjusted waits for NHS Boards where adjusted waits are not available.
2. Excludes NHS Dumfries and Galloway where unadjusted waits are not available.
3. Excludes NHS Highland

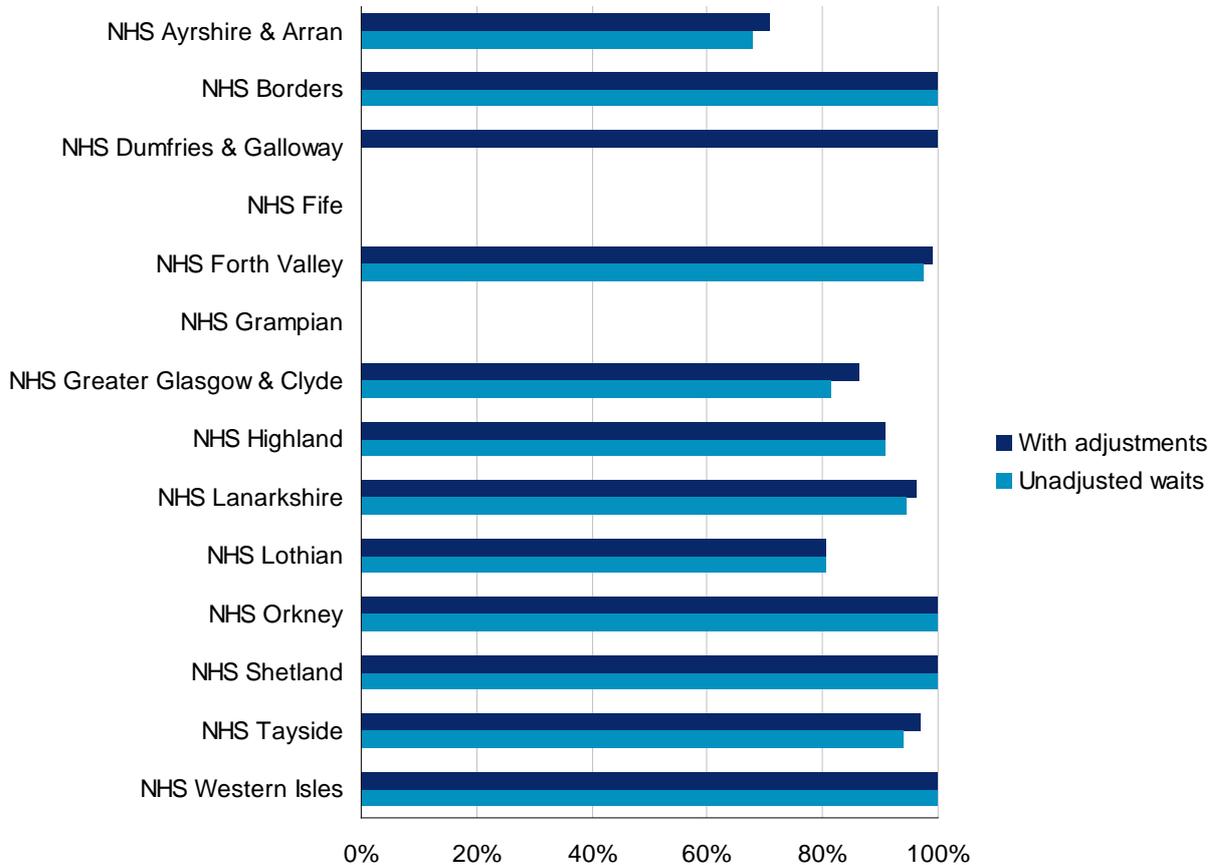
4. **Chart 1. Percentage of people who started their treatment within 26 weeks, NHS Scotland, April – September 2012 (excluding NHS Fife and NHS Grampian)**



Notes

1. For details of adjustments see Table 2.
2. Previously published data for the period April – June 2012 has been revised to exclude data for NHS Fife. This is due to data quality issues which were recently identified.
3. Unadjusted data excludes NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Ayrshire & Arran (April to June 2012), Tayside (April to June 2012) and NHS Highland (April to July 2012).
4. The higher reported percentage of patients seen within 26 weeks using unadjusted waits compared to adjusted waits is due to differences in the NHS Boards included in each measure.

Chart 2. Percentage of people who started their treatment within 26 weeks by NHS Board, July – September 2012



Notes

1. For details of adjustments see Table 2.
2. NHS Highland unadjusted data only includes August and September. No data is available for July 2012.
3. No data is available for NHS Fife and NHS Grampian.

Table 2. Waiting times (with adjustments) for people who started their treatment in July – September 2012 by NHS Board

NHS Board of Treatment	People seen	People seen within 26 weeks (%)	Average weeks waited (median)	Waiting time adjustments ¹
NHS Scotland²	2398	89%	8	-
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	175	71%	21	NA, U, RO
NHS Borders	129	100%	3	NA
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	77	100%	7	NA, U, RO
NHS Fife	..	..	..	-
NHS Forth Valley	120	99%	8	NA, U
NHS Grampian	..	..	..	-
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	875	86%	8	NA, U, RO
NHS Highland ³	138	91%	9	None
NHS Lanarkshire	257	96%	5	NA, U, RO
NHS Lothian	304	81%	13	None
NHS Orkney	19	100%	6	None
NHS Shetland	11	100%	9	NA, U, RO
NHS Tayside	257	97%	12	NA, U, RO
NHS Western Isles	36	100%	3	NA, RO

Notes

.. Data not available

1. Waiting time adjustments:

NA: Non Attendance. Waiting time may be reset if a person misses or rearranges an appointment.

U: Unavailability. Time a person is unavailable may be subtracted from the waiting time.

RO: Refuses Reasonable Offer. Waiting time may be reset if a person declines 2 or more dates.

For further information see P3.

2. Excludes NHS Fife and NHS Grampian

3. NHS Highland figures only include August and September data. No data is available for July.

Further information by NHS Board can be found [here](#).

Table 3. Unadjusted waiting times for people who started their treatment in July – September 2012 by NHS Board

NHS Board of Treatment	People seen	People seen within 26 weeks (%)	Average weeks waited (median)
NHS Scotland¹	2330	86%	11
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	187	68%	22
NHS Borders	122	100%	4
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	..	..	..
NHS Fife	..	..	..
NHS Forth Valley	120	98%	9
NHS Grampian	..	..	..
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	879	81%	13
NHS Highland ²	138	91%	9
NHS Lanarkshire	257	95%	7
NHS Lothian	304	81%	13
NHS Orkney	19	100%	6
NHS Shetland	11	100%	9
NHS Tayside	257	94%	15
NHS Western Isles	36	100%	3

Notes

.. Data not available

1. Excludes NHS Dumfries & Galloway, NHS Fife and NHS Grampian

2. NHS Highland figures only include August and September data. No data is available for July.

Further information by NHS Board can be found [here](#).

People waiting at the end of the month

This section presents a summary of waiting times information for CAMH services for people who are waiting at the end of each month.

This is a useful measure for managers of these services as it can help them take early action to ensure that patient waits do not exceed the target. However this measure does not show how long people actually wait before they received care.

At the end of September 2012 (Table 4):

- Around 3600 people were waiting to start treatment at CAMH services in Scotland.
- Using adjusted waits where available, 187 of these had been waiting for more than 26 weeks.
- In the NHS Boards that are able to report unadjusted waits, 187 of these had been waiting for more than 26 weeks.

The number of people waiting has fallen over the quarter and there has been an increase in the percentage of people waiting less than 26 weeks. However data for successive months are not strictly comparable due to ongoing development of information systems, so small changes from one month to the next should not be interpreted as a significant rise or drop in performance. We expect to be able to make more accurate comparisons in future publications.

Information by NHS Board is shown in Chart 4 and Tables 5 and 6.

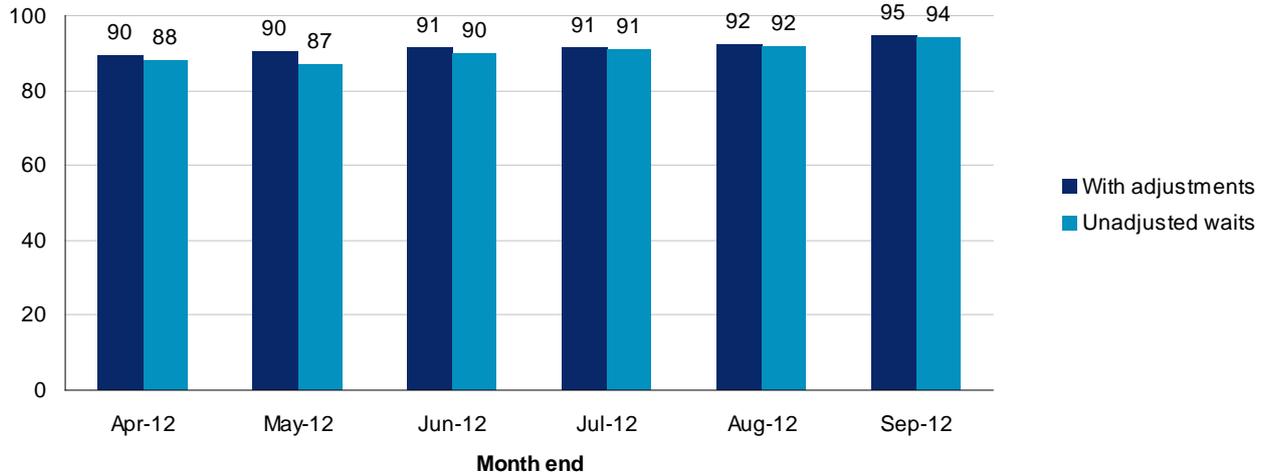
Table 4. Waiting times for people waiting at the end of the month in Scotland

Month End	Total People Waiting	Less than 26 weeks (%)		More than 26 weeks (number)	
		With adjustments ¹	Unadjusted ²	With adjustments ¹	Unadjusted ²
July 2012	3993	91%	91%	347	330
August 2012	3529	92%	92%	275	257
September 2012	3602	95%	94%	187	187

Notes

1. Includes unadjusted waits for NHS Boards where adjusted waits are not available.
2. Excludes NHS Ayrshire & Arran and NHS Dumfries & Galloway.
3. The lower numbers of patients waiting over 26 weeks using unadjusted waits compared to adjusted waits is due to differences in the NHS Boards included in each measure.

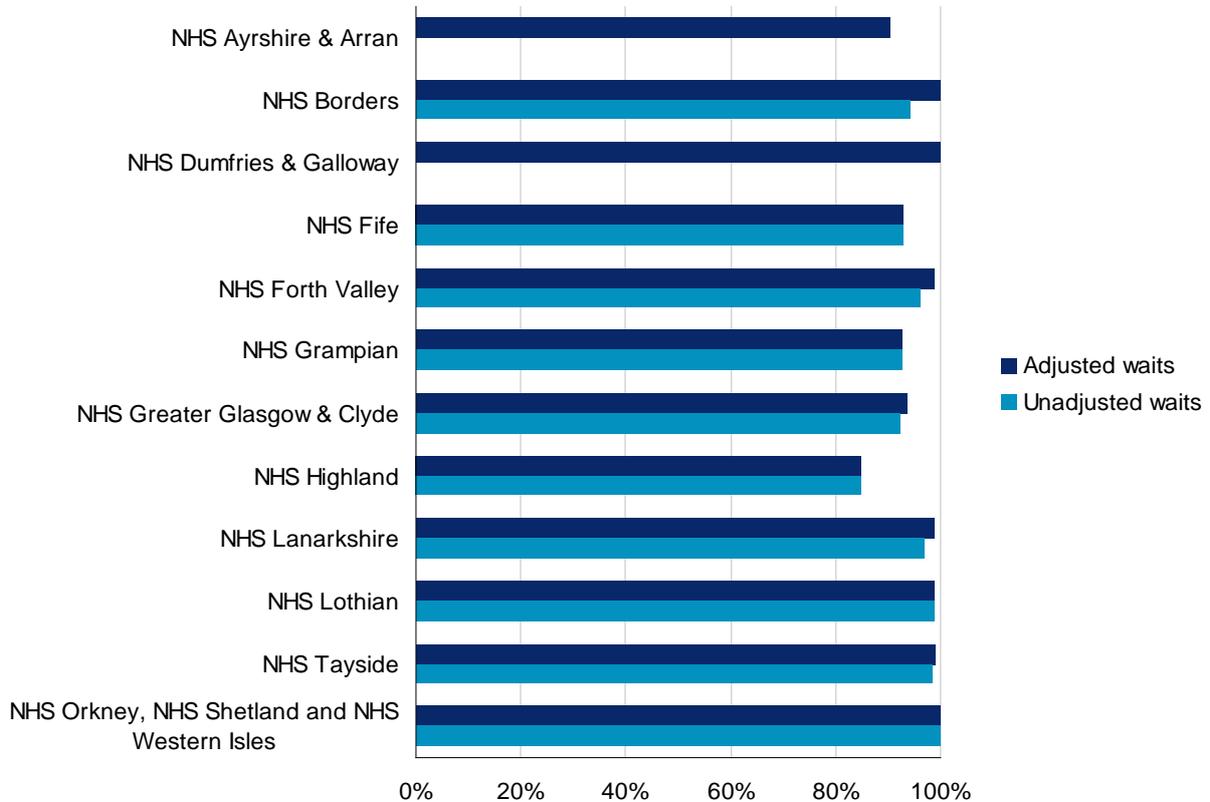
Chart 3. Percentage of people waiting less than 26 weeks, NHS Scotland, April – September 2012



1. Waiting time adjustments:

NA: Non Attendance. Waiting time may be reset if a person misses or rearranges an appointment.
 U: Unavailability. Time a person is unavailable may be subtracted from the waiting time.
 RO: Refuses Reasonable Offer. Waiting time may be reset if a person declines 2 or more dates.
 For further information see P3.

Chart 4. Percentage of people waiting less than 26 weeks by NHS Board, 30 September 2012



Notes

- Waiting time adjustments:
 NA: Non Attendance. Waiting time may be reset if a person misses or rearranges an appointment.
 U: Unavailability. Time a person is unavailable may be subtracted from the waiting time.
 RO: Refuses Reasonable Offer. Waiting time may be reset if a person declines 2 or more dates.
 For further information see P3.
- Due to small numbers, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles have been combined.

Table 5. Waiting times (with adjustments) for people waiting at 30 September 2012 by NHS Board

NHS Board of treatment	Total People Waiting	Less than 26 weeks (%)	More than 26 weeks (number)	Waiting time adjustments ¹
NHS Scotland	3602	95%	187	-
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	284	90%	27	NA, U, RO
NHS Borders	53	100%	0	NA
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	71	100%	0	NA, U, RO
NHS Fife	383	93%	27	None
NHS Forth Valley	153	99%	2	NA, U
NHS Grampian	233	93%	17	None
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	949	94%	61	NA, U, RO
NHS Highland	260	85%	39	None
NHS Lanarkshire	339	99%	4	NA, U, RO
NHS Lothian	517	99%	7	None
NHS Tayside	342	99%	3	NA, U, RO
NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles ²	18	100%	0	-

Notes

1. Waiting time adjustments:

NA: Non Attendance. Waiting time may be reset if a person misses or rearranges an appointment.

U: Unavailability. Time a person is unavailable may be subtracted from the waiting time.

RO: Refuses Reasonable Offer. Waiting time may be reset if a person declines 2 or more dates.

For further information see P3.

3. Due to small numbers, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles have been combined.

Further information by NHS Board can be found [here](#).

Table 6. Unadjusted waiting times for people waiting at 30 September 2012 by NHS Board

NHS Board of treatment	Total People Waiting	Less than 26 weeks (%)	More than 26 weeks (number)
NHS Scotland¹	3244	94%	187
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	..	..	..
NHS Borders	50	100%	0
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	..	..	..
NHS Fife	383	93%	27
NHS Forth Valley	153	96%	6
NHS Grampian	233	93%	17
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	949	92%	74
NHS Highland	260	85%	39
NHS Lanarkshire	339	97%	11
NHS Lothian	517	99%	7
NHS Tayside	342	98%	6
NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles ²	18	100%	0

Notes

.. Data not available

1. Excludes NHS Ayrshire & Arran and NHS Dumfries & Galloway

2. Due to small numbers, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles have been combined.

Further information by NHS Board can be found [here](#).

Number of people referred to CAMH Services

This section has information on how many children and young people are referred to CAMH services. Waiting lists can build up where demand for services exceeds the capacity of that service, so the number of referrals is a key measure for managing waiting times.

During the period July – September 2012 around 4000 children and young people were referred to CAMH services. The numbers of referrals by NHS Board are shown in Table 7. However please note that this information is developmental and may contain inaccuracies. We expect the quality of data to improve over the coming months.

It is not possible to give a direct comparison of referral rates across the NHS Boards as CAMH services vary in the age of population served. Some areas provide services for all those under 18, while others offer services to those over 16 only if they are in full time education (for more detail see [Workforce Information](#)). The 'referrals per 1,000 people under 18' give an indication of the relative differences in demand.

Table 7. Referrals to CAMH services by NHS Board, July – September 2012

NHS Board	Number of referrals ¹	Referrals per 1,000 people under 18
NHS Scotland	3996	3.9
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	115	1.6
NHS Borders	122	5.4
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	161	5.8
NHS Fife	362	4.9
NHS Forth Valley	164	2.7
NHS Grampian	517	4.7
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	803	3.4
NHS Highland	207	3.4
NHS Lanarkshire	509	4.3
NHS Lothian	632	3.9
NHS Orkney	..	..
NHS Shetland	12	2.5
NHS Tayside	338	4.3
NHS Western Isles	54	10.8

Notes

.. Data not available

1. Excludes referrals that were rejected.

Further information on referrals can be found [here](#).

Glossary

CAMH services

These are the Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services provided by NHSScotland. Services are provided by teams of clinicians including psychiatrists, mental health nurses, clinical psychologists, child psychotherapists, occupational therapists and other allied health professionals. These services are based mainly in outpatient clinics and in the community.

Children and young people

These are the people served by CAMH services. Some areas provide services for all those under 18, while others offer services to those over 16 only if they are in full time education (for more detail see [Workforce Information](#)).

Start of treatment

This is when treatment starts or the person is removed from the waiting list. Not all people who are referred to a CAMH service go on to have treatment. Some people attend an assessment appointment, need no further treatment and so are removed from the waiting list. Some people are offered treatment but decide not to go ahead.

Adjusted waiting time

This is how long a person waited after taking into account any periods they were unavailable and any appointments that they missed or rearranged. The adjustments are described on Page 3. If a person has no periods of unavailability and attends on the first date that they accept then no adjustments are made and their adjusted waiting time is the same as their unadjusted waiting time.

Unadjusted waiting time

The total time from the date the referral was received by the CAMH service to the date treatment commenced.

HEAT targets

A set of targets agreed between the Scottish Government and NHSScotland relating to Health Improvement, Efficiency, Access or Treatment (HEAT).

List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
1	Adjusted Completed waits for people seen	April 2012 – September 2012	Excel [732kb]
2	Unadjusted Completed waits for people seen	April 2012-September 2012	Excel [725kb]
3	Adjusted Waiting times for people waiting	April 2012-September 2012	Excel [732kb]
4	Unadjusted waiting times for people waiting	April 2012-September 2012	Excel [721kb]
5	Referrals	April 2012-September 2012	Excel [692kb]

Note: in order to view the tables to full effect, your macro security settings will need to be set to medium. To change macro security settings using Tools, Macro, Security - set security level to Medium and re-open the report.

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Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ISD website](#)

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Appendix

A1 – Background Information

Why are waiting times important?

The main function of CAMH services is to develop and deliver services for those children and young people (and their parents and carers) who are experiencing the most serious mental health problems. They also have an important role in supporting the mental health capability of the wider network of children's services.

Delivery of good quality CAMH services depends on timely access to healthcare. Early action is more likely to result in full recovery and, in the case of children and young people, minimises the impact on other aspects of their development such as their education, so improving their wider social development outcomes.

Mental Health Policy and Targets

Developments in mental health care have been driven by a series of reports and policy recommendations:

[The Scottish Needs Assessment Programme \(SNAP\) Report on Child and Adolescent Mental Health](#) (2003) highlighted the importance of CAMH services and the need for development of these services within Scotland.

[Mental Health of Children and Young People: A Framework for Promotion, Prevention and Care](#) (Scottish Executive, 2005) set the policy direction and a commitment to developing these services.

A [HEAT target](#) for CAMH services was set in April 2010. The target is that no child or young person will wait longer than 26 weeks from referral to treatment in a specialist CAMH service from March 2013, reducing to 18 weeks by December 2014.

The [Mental Health Strategy for Scotland: 2012-2015](#) (2012) sets the policy direction for the next four years and includes a commitment to achieving and maintaining waiting times targets.

Workforce Information

[CAMH Workforce Information](#) (2012) presents the latest information on numbers of clinical staff working in CAMH Services.

A2 – Data Quality

CAMHS waiting times data has been collected nationally from January 2010, although initially data was very incomplete and of poor quality. There have been significant improvements in data quality and completeness over time, but some systems for collecting data locally are still being developed and as a result the data is not yet complete. Over the coming months, we expect the quality and completeness of data to continue to improve.

Data completeness by NHS Board is shown on Page 18.

Adjusted and unadjusted waiting times

It is not possible to report nationally consistent data at Scotland level due to the differences in adjustments made to waiting times across the NHS Boards.

When the HEAT target was announced, NHS Boards were asked to adjust waiting times where patients were unavailable or did not attend an appointment and had to be given another. This “New Ways” calculation of wait is used in other NHS services such as inpatients, outpatients and audiology.

Some NHS Boards developed systems to enable this calculation for CAMH services. However not all systems are able to make all the appropriate adjustments, so all data which includes adjusted figures also includes information about what adjustments have been applied.

With the exception NHS Dumfries and Galloway, all NHS Boards which adjust data also report unadjusted waiting times.

Data completeness: common issues

Waiting times data is extracted from local administration systems which are updated frequently with information about appointments, attendances etc. This may lead to different reported numbers of patients seen or waiting depending on the date the data was extracted. However any differences equate to a relatively small proportion of total numbers of patients seen or waiting.

Data quality issues by NHS Board

This section lists any quality issues with data held by ISD. For data completeness see Page 18.

NHS Fife: NHS Fife have identified issues with their recording of waiting times data for patients seen from April 2012 to present. Previously published data has now been removed and Scotland level figures revised to exclude NHS Fife data.

CAMHs Data Completeness - April – September 2012

The completeness of the data submitted for each NHS Board is summarised in the table below:

NHS Board	April 2012	May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	August 2012	September 2012
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	1	1	1	2	2	2
NHS Borders						
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	1	1	1	1	1	1
NHS Fife	3	3	3	3	3	3
NHS Forth Valley						
NHS Grampian	4	4	4	4	4	4
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde						
NHS Highland	3	3	3	5		
NHS Lanarkshire						
NHS Lothian	6	6	6	6	6	6
NHS Orkney	6	6	6	7	7	7
NHS Shetland						
NHS Tayside	1	1	1			
NHS Western Isles						

Key

-  No Data Submitted
-  Partial Data Submitted
-  All Data Submitted

1. Unadjusted waits unavailable.
2. Unadjusted waits for patients waiting unavailable.
3. Only data available is unadjusted waits for patients waiting.
4. Only data available is unadjusted waits for patients waiting. Distribution for patients waiting not available.
5. Data for patients seen not available.
6. Adjusted waits unavailable.
7. Adjusted waits unavailable. Referrals data unavailable.

A3 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details)

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication title	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Waiting Times http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/Child-and-Adolescent-Mental-Health/
Description	Monthly and quarterly summary of waiting times and waiting lists for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Theme	Health and Social Care
Topic	Access and Waiting Times
Format	Excel workbooks
Data source(s)	Aggregate counts accredited and derived from individual NHS Scotland Boards are submitted monthly to ISD using a defined Excel template.
Date that data are acquired	Deadline for data submission is the 24th of each month, though files can be resubmitted up to 3 weeks before publication where the quality assurance process identifies differences with local figures.
Release date	The last Tuesday of the month for each publication
Frequency	Quarterly
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Data from April 2012
Continuity of data	Information has been collected nationally since January 2010 with a revised dataset introduced in April 2012.
Revisions statement	Previously published waiting times are revised at each publication to reflect the latest available data submitted to ISD by the NHS Boards.
Revisions relevant to this publication	<p>Previously published unadjusted figures at Scotland level used adjusted waits for NHS Boards where unadjusted waits were not available. We have revised the methodology in this publication so Scotland level data only includes NHS Boards for which unadjusted data is available.</p> <p>NHS Ayrshire & Arran and NHS Tayside have updated data for the period April – June 2012 to include unadjusted as well as adjusted data. Scotland level figures have been updated to reflect this.</p> <p>NHS Fife have identified issues with their recording of waiting times data from April 2012 to present. Previously published data has now been removed and Scotland level figures revised to exclude NHS Fife data.</p>
Concepts and definitions	Definitions not contained in this report are available here .
Relevance and key uses of	Waiting times are important to patients and are a measure

the statistics	<p>of how the NHS is responding to demands for services. Measuring and regular reporting of waiting times highlights where there are delays in the system and enables monitoring of the effectiveness of NHS performance throughout the country. The NHS in Scotland has been set a number of targets for maximum waiting times.</p> <p>Other uses of the data include information requests for a variety of customers, e.g. research charities; public companies; Freedom of Information requests; information support to Boards; health intelligence work; parliamentary questions and HEAT targets.</p>
Accuracy	<p>These data are classified as developmental. ISD only receives aggregate data from each NHS Board. Although aggregated data cannot be systematically validated by ISD, reported data are compared to previous figures and to expected trends. Derivation of the figures and data accuracy are matters for individual NHS Boards.</p>
Completeness	<p>100% of submitted data is used for analysis and publication.</p>
Comparability	<p>Comparative waiting times information is not possible at present using these data due inconsistencies in definitions of waiting times for treatment across the four nations. Collaborative efforts by the health departments of the four nations to produce comparable figures on waiting times is currently underway by the UK Comparative Waiting Times Group.</p>
Accessibility	<p>It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to published guidelines.</p>
Coherence and clarity	<p>Key statistics for the latest quarter are linked to on the main Waiting Times page www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/.</p> <p>Statistics are presented within Excel spreadsheets. NHS Board and national figures are presented. Further features to aid clarity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tables are printer friendly. 2. Key data presented graphically.
Value type and unit of measurement	<p>Number and percentage of patients seen, number and percentage of patients waiting, median and 90th percentile waits; by NHS Board.</p>
Disclosure	<p>The ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol is followed.</p>
Official Statistics designation	<p>Official Statistics</p>
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	<p>Awaiting assessment</p>
Last published	<p>-</p>
Next published	<p>26 February 2013</p>
Date of first publication	<p>28 August 2012</p>
Help email	<p>Nss.CAMH@nhs.net</p>
Date form completed	<p>27 November 2012</p>

A4 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)

Pre-Release Access

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD are obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access and, separately, those receiving extended Pre-Release Access.

Standard Pre-Release Access:

Scottish Government Health Department
NHS Board Chief Executives
NHS Board Communication leads

Extended Pre-Release Access

Extended Pre-Release Access of 8 working days is given to a small number of named individuals in the Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division). This Pre-Release Access is for the sole purpose of enabling that department to gain an understanding of the statistics prior to briefing others in Scottish Government (during the period of standard Pre-Release Access).

Scottish Government Health Department (Analytical Services Division)

A5 – ISD and Official Statistics

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Purpose: To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

Mission: Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

Vision: To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

ISD's statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (ie assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (ie legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#).