

Publication Report



Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Waiting Times in Scotland

Quarter ending 31 March 2013

Publication date – 28 May 2013

Contents

Contents.....	1
Introduction	2
Key points	3
Results and Commentary.....	3
Adjustment of waiting times	4
How long people waited to start their treatment	5
People waiting at the end of the month	8
Number of people referred to CAMH Services	13
Glossary.....	15
List of Tables.....	16
Contact.....	17
Further Information.....	17
Rate this publication.....	17
A1 – Background Information	18
A2 – Data Quality	19
A3 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details).....	20
A3 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details).....	20
A4 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)	23
A5 – ISD and Official Statistics.....	24

Introduction

This publication contains information about how long children and young people waited for mental health services provided by the NHS in Scotland. This information has been published quarterly since August 2012. The information in this publication covers the period January to March 2013, with figures from October to December 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 from December 2014.

Following the conclusion of previously planned work on a tolerance level for CAMH service waiting times and engagement with NHS Boards and other stakeholders, the Scottish Government has determined that the CAMH services target should be delivered for at least 90% of patients.

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. The volume of information we have been able to collect from NHS Boards has increased each quarter and we expect this to continue to increase in the coming months.

Key points

- Waiting times information for CAMH services is still in 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 March 2013, 3,971 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 96% 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 available for all NHS Boards except for one.

How long people waited to start their treatment

This section shows waiting times for patients who started their treatment during the period January - March 2013. During that period (see Table 1):

- 3,971 children and young people started their treatment at CAMH services in Scotland.
- Using adjusted waits where available, 96% of people seen by a CAMH service started their treatment within 26 weeks of being referred. Half started their treatment within 7 weeks.
- In the NHS Boards that are able to report unadjusted waits, 93% of people seen by a CAMH service started their treatment within 26 weeks of being referred. Half started their treatment within 9 weeks.

There has been an increase in the percentage of people seen within 26 weeks this quarter compared to the quarter October - December 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.

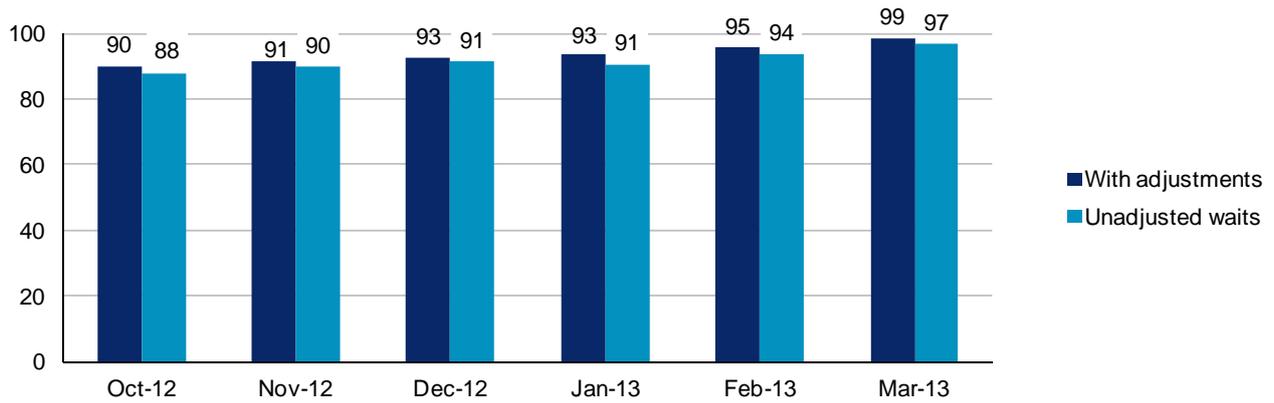
Table 1. Waiting times for people who started their treatment in January – March 2013, NHS Scotland

Month	People seen	With adjustments ¹		Unadjusted ²	
		Seen within 26 weeks (%)	Average weeks waited (median)	Seen within 26 weeks (%)	Average weeks waited (median)
January 2013	1,361	93%	8	91%	9
February 2013	1,389	95%	7	94%	9
March 2013	1,221	99%	6	97%	7
Total	3,971	96%	7	93%	9

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. NHS Grampian data for patients seen is estimated to be 80% complete.

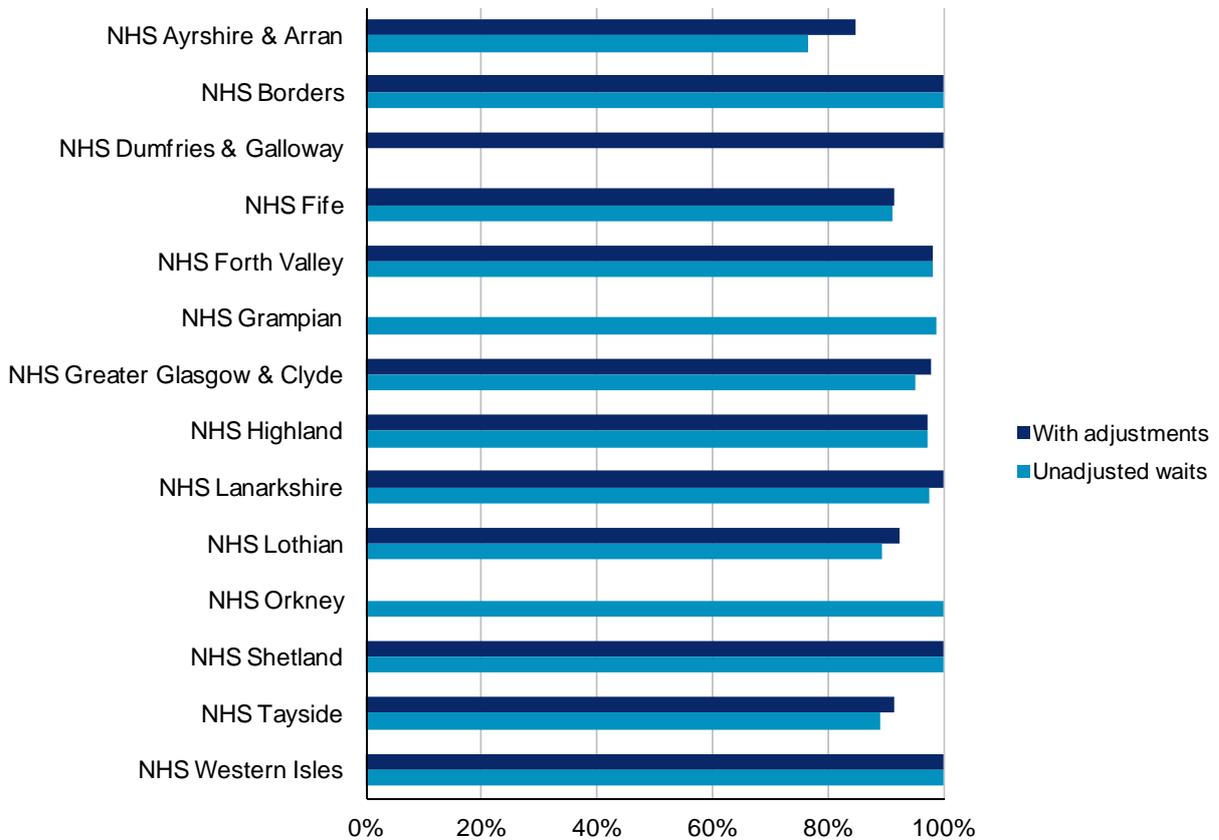
Chart 1. Percentage of people who started their treatment within 26 weeks, NHS Scotland, October 2012 – March 2013



Notes

1. For details of adjustments see Table 2.
2. Includes unadjusted waits for NHS Boards where adjusted waits are not available.
3. Unadjusted data excludes NHS Dumfries & Galloway.
4. NHS Grampian data for patients seen is estimated to be 80% complete.

Chart 2. Percentage of people who started their treatment within 26 weeks by NHS Board, January – March 2013



Notes

1. For details of adjustments see Table 2.
2. NHS Grampian data for patients seen is estimated to be 80% complete.

Table 2. Waiting times (with adjustments) for people who started their treatment in January – March 2013 by NHS Board

NHS Board of Treatment	People seen	People seen within 26 weeks (%)	Average weeks waited (median)	Waiting time adjustments ¹
NHS Scotland²	3,971	96%	7	-
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	208	85%	11	NA, U, RO
NHS Borders	169	100%	4	NA
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	95	100%	7	NA, U, RO
NHS Fife	353	92%	7	NA
NHS Forth Valley	98	98%	9	NA, U
NHS Grampian	460	99%	..	Unadjusted
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	1,034	98%	6	NA, U, RO
NHS Highland	245	97%	6	NA, U
NHS Lanarkshire	369	100%	5	NA, U, RO
NHS Lothian	479	92%	7	NA
NHS Orkney	17	100%	7	Unadjusted
NHS Shetland	9	100%	10	NA, U, RO
NHS Tayside	415	92%	12	NA, U, RO
NHS Western Isles	20	100%	5	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 page 4.

2. Includes unadjusted waits for NHS Boards where adjusted waits are not available.

3. NHS Grampian are unable to provide weekly data at this stage to calculate medians and percentiles. NHS Grampian data for patients seen is estimated to be 80% complete.

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

Table 3. Unadjusted waiting times for people who started their treatment in January – March 2013 by NHS Board

NHS Board of Treatment	People seen	People seen within 26 weeks (%)	Average weeks waited (median)
NHS Scotland¹	3,876	93%	9
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	208	76%	15
NHS Borders	169	100%	4
NHS Dumfries & Galloway
NHS Fife	353	91%	7
NHS Forth Valley	98	98%	11
NHS Grampian	460	99%	..
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	1,034	95%	9
NHS Highland	245	97%	6
NHS Lanarkshire	369	98%	7
NHS Lothian	479	89%	10
NHS Orkney	17	100%	7
NHS Shetland	9	100%	10
NHS Tayside	415	89%	15
NHS Western Isles	20	100%	6

Notes

.. Data not available

1. Excludes NHS Dumfries & Galloway.

2. NHS Grampian are unable to provide weekly data at this stage to calculate medians and percentiles. NHS Grampian data for patients seen is estimated to be 80% complete.

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 March 2013 (Table 4):

- 4,941 people were waiting to start treatment at CAMH services in Scotland.
- Using adjusted waits where available, 69 of these had been waiting for more than 26 weeks.
- In the NHS Boards that are able to report unadjusted waits, 141 of these had been waiting for more than 26 weeks.

The number of people waiting has increased over the quarter, as has 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.

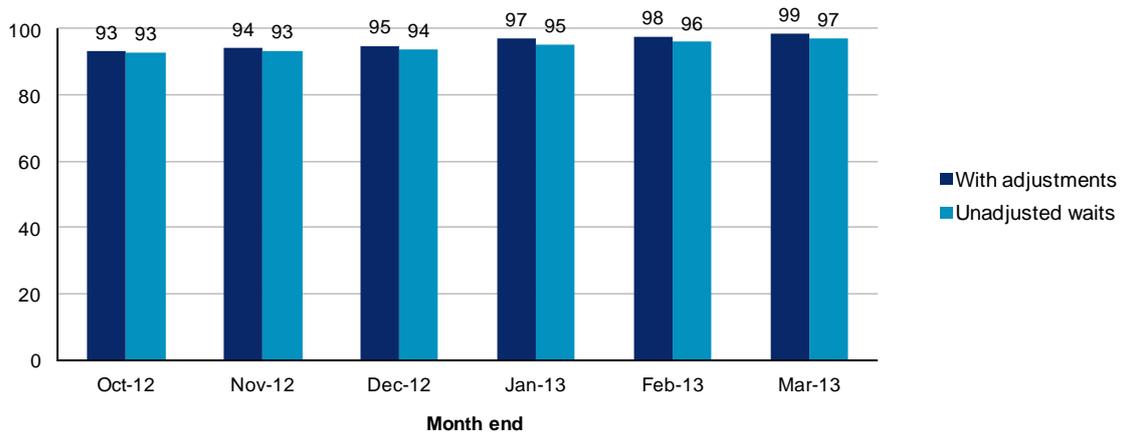
Table 4. Waiting times for people waiting at the end of the month in Scotland

Month End	Total People Waiting	Less than 26 weeks (%)		More than 26 weeks (number)	
		With adjustments ¹	Unadjusted ²	With adjustments ¹	Unadjusted ²
January 2013	4,330	97%	95%	132	206
February 2013	4,494	98%	96%	103	176
March 2013	4,941	99%	97%	69	141

Notes

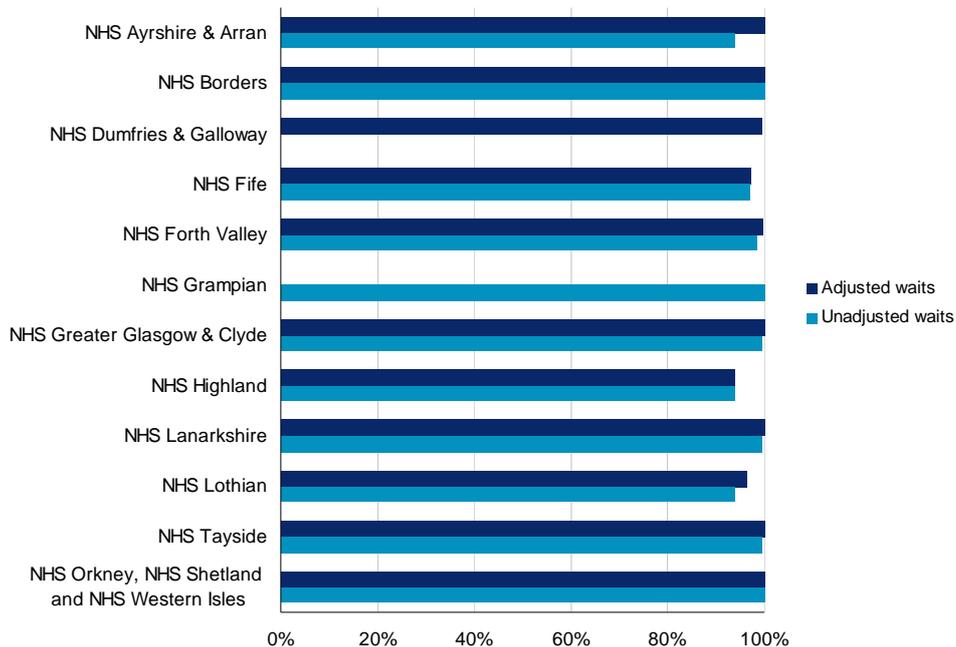
1. Includes unadjusted waits for NHS Boards where adjusted waits are not available.
2. Excludes NHS Dumfries & Galloway.

Chart 3. Percentage of people waiting less than 26 weeks, NHS Scotland, October 2012 – March 2013



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 page 4.
2. Includes unadjusted waits for NHS Boards where adjusted waits are not available.
3. Unadjusted data excludes NHS Dumfries & Galloway.

Chart 4. Percentage of people waiting less than 26 weeks by NHS Board, 31 March 2013



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 page 4.
2. 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 31 March 2013 by NHS Board

NHS Board of treatment	Total People Waiting	Less than 26 weeks (%)	More than 26 weeks (number)	Waiting time adjustments ¹
NHS Scotland²	4,941	99%	69	-
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	414	100%	-	NA, U, RO
NHS Borders	122	100%	-	NA
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	150	99%	1	NA, U, RO
NHS Fife	355	97%	10	NA
NHS Forth Valley	252	100%	1	NA, U
NHS Grampian	357	100%	-	Unadjusted
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	898	100%	-	NA, U, RO
NHS Highland	210	94%	13	NA, U
NHS Lanarkshire	473	100%	-	NA, U, RO
NHS Lothian	1,224	96%	44	NA
NHS Tayside	461	100%	-	NA, U, RO
NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles ³	25	100%	-	-

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 page 4.
2. Includes unadjusted waits for NHS Boards where adjusted waits are not available.
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 31 March 2013 by NHS Board

NHS Board of treatment	Total People Waiting	Less than 26 weeks (%)	More than 26 weeks (number)
NHS Scotland¹	4,791	97%	141
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	414	94%	25
NHS Borders	122	100%	-
NHS Dumfries & Galloway
NHS Fife	355	97%	11
NHS Forth Valley	252	98%	4
NHS Grampian	357	100%	-
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	898	99%	6
NHS Highland	210	94%	13
NHS Lanarkshire	473	99%	3
NHS Lothian	1,224	94%	76
NHS Tayside	461	99%	3
NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles ²	25	100%	-

Notes

.. Data not available

1. Excludes 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 January - March 2013 around 6,800 children and young people were referred to CAMH services. The number 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, January – March 2013

NHS Board	All referrals		Referrals excluding rejected referrals	
	Number of referrals	Referrals per 1,000 people under 18	Number of referrals	Referrals per 1,000 people under 18
NHS Scotland	6,763	6.5	5,204	5.0
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	490	6.9	357	5.0
NHS Borders	214	9.5	201	8.9
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	248	9.0	224	8.1
NHS Fife	461	6.3	405	5.5
NHS Forth Valley	333	5.4	279	4.5
NHS Grampian	707	6.5
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	1,419	6.0	1,102	4.7
NHS Highland	352	5.8	297	4.9
NHS Lanarkshire	797	6.7	748	6.3
NHS Lothian	1,137	7.0	1,033	6.4
NHS Orkney	18	4.6	16	4.1
NHS Shetland	19	3.9	17	3.5
NHS Tayside	546	7.0	504	6.4
NHS Western Isles	22	4.4	21	4.2

Notes

.. Data not available

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 4. 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	October 2012 – March 2013	Excel [732kb]
2	Unadjusted Completed waits for people seen	October 2012 – March 2013	Excel [725kb]
3	Adjusted Waiting times for people waiting	October 2012 – March 2013	Excel [732kb]
4	Unadjusted waiting times for people waiting	October 2012 – March 2013	Excel [721kb]
5	Referrals	October 2012 – March 2013	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 from December 2014. Following the conclusion of previously planned work on a tolerance level for CAMH service waiting times and engagement with NHS Boards and other stakeholders, the Scottish Government has determined that the CAMH services target should be delivered for at least 90% of patients.

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](#) (2013) 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 21.

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 21.

NHS Grampian are now able to provide information on patients seen for October 2012 to March 2013. Data was unavailable for October to December 2012 in the last publication.

NHS Lothian recently identified an error in their data collection for patients waiting. Information for October to December 2012 has been resubmitted and will therefore differ to previously published figures.

CAMHs Data Completeness – October 2012 – March 2013

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

NHS Board		October 2012	November 2012	December 2012	January 2013	February 2013
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Borders	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Fife	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Forth Valley	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Grampian	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted	1	1	1	1	1
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Highland	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Lanarkshire	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Lothian	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Orkney	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Shetland	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Tayside	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					
NHS Western Isles	Adjusted					
	Unadjusted					

Key

	No Data Submitted
	Partial Data Submitted
	All Data Submitted

1 Partial submission for completed waits (patients seen).

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 up to March 2013 is included.
Continuity of data	Information has been collected nationally since January 2010 with a revised dataset introduced in April 2012. Monthly information is included in the report for the last six months.
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	NHS Lothian resubmitted data from October 2012 – January 2013 to include data for all patients waiting therefore figures will have changed from the previously published data. NHS Grampian submitted information for patients seen for the first time this quarter; figures have been included for October to December 2012 where information was missing in the previous publication.
Concepts and definitions	Definitions not contained in this report are available here .
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	Waiting times are important to patients and are a measure 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. 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.
Accuracy	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.
Completeness	100% of submitted data is used for analysis and publication.
Comparability	Comparative waiting times information is not possible at present using these data due to 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.
Accessibility	It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to published guidelines .
Coherence and clarity	Key statistics for the latest quarter are linked to on the main Waiting Times page www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/ . Statistics are presented within Excel spreadsheets. NHS Board and national figures are presented. Further features to aid clarity: 1. Tables are printer friendly. 2. Key data presented graphically.
Value type and unit of measurement	Number and percentage of patients seen, number and percentage of patients waiting, median and 90 th percentile waits; by NHS Board.
Disclosure	The ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol is followed.
Official Statistics designation	Official Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Awaiting assessment
Last published	26 February 2012
Next published	28 August 2013
Date of first publication	28 August 2012
Help email	Nss.CAMH@nhs.net
Date form completed	28 May 2013

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)

Early Access for Management Information

These statistics will also have been made available to those who needed access to 'management information', ie as part of the delivery of health and care:

Early Access for Quality Assurance

These statistics will also have been made available to those who needed access to help quality assure the publication:

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](#).