

Accident & Emergency Activity and Waiting Times Statistics

National Statistics Publication - Feb 2016

This document contains information on A&E activity and waiting times including trends in compliance and attendances. Please read all accompanying notes before interpreting the data. Please note that data tables with an ED and hospital breakdown and information on destination on leaving department can be found online (please see link below).

[Data Tables](#)

Contents

Attendances	Monthly attendances figures, by board from April 2010.
4 Hours	Percent of A&E attendances within 4 hours, by board from April 2010
8 hours	Number of A&E attendances in department over 8 hours, by board from April 2010
12 Hours	Number of A&E attendances in department over 12 hours, by board from April 2010

Notes

- 1) This document is a National Statistics Publication.
- 2) Latest data available is for: **Feb-16** (extract taken on 21 March 2016).
- 3) This document only includes 'New' and 'Unplanned Return' attendances at Accident & Emergency (A&E), i.e. excludes those who are 'Recall' or 'Planned Return'.
- 4) A&E sites submit data as either episode level files containing a detailed record for each attendance or as aggregate files containing monthly summary attendance and compliance figures only. See 'List of Sites' for details.
- 5) This document contains information on all A&E sites across NHS Scotland where possible. However for sites submitting an aggregated return to ISD, information on the number of patients waiting for more than 8 hours, 12 hours and the patients destination upon leaving the A&E department is unavailable. Please take this into account when interpreting the information presented in this document.
- 6) Note that some hospitals began submitting episode level data throughout the time period of this report. More details can be found on the 'List of Sites'.
- 7) Since 2007, the national standard for A&E waiting times is that new and unplanned return attendances at an A&E service should be seen and then admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours. This standard applies to all areas of emergency care such as EDs, assessment units, minor injury units, community hospitals, anywhere where emergency care type activity takes place.

[For information on how the Scottish Government \(SG\) plans to monitor NHS Boards' performance within A&E Services, please see the NHS Local Delivery Plan standards.](#)

8) Emergency Department (ED) is a site that provides a 24 hour consultant led service.

9) MIU / Other is a site that includes minor injuries units (MIU), small hospitals and health centres in rural areas that carry out emergency department related activity and are GP or Nurse led. They may or may not be open 24 hours.

10) The waiting time is defined as the time of arrival until the time of discharge, admission or transfer.

11) The information presented is based on data under development, the quality and accuracy are being monitored.

12) ISD and NHS Boards are reviewing a small number of very long waits in the A&E datamart after it became apparent that a proportion of waits over 12 hours reflect errors in recording, and are not genuine long waits. These records have since been updated locally and accurate data may be resubmitted to the datamart. This may then be reflected in future releases of these data.

Figure 1 shows the information provided to us from NHS boards with approximate counts for the number of over 12 hour waits which are in error in 2011/12 to 2013/14. There may also be changes to over 12 hour waits in other years in future releases of these data as a result of further quality assurance.

It is important to note that based on 1.6million attendances per year, these erroneous records do not impact at all on the percentage compliance with the HEAT target and standard either within a Board or at a Scotland level.

Figure 1: Number of new attendances at A&E Services across Scotland for NHS Boards with erroneous 12 hour waits, April 2011 to March 2014

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	15	18	2
NHS Fife	13	0	0
NHS Grampian	1	1	2
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	2	4	3
NHS Lothian	14	27	2

NHS Borders

Borders General Hospital transferred to a new patient management system at the end of November 2010. There was an issue with the new system that prevented the recording of different attendance categories from November 2010 to September 2011. This results in the attendance figures for Borders General being artificially inflated by approximately 0.8 % (estimated from the prior 12 month's data). Please interpret the attendances and the associated rates from this time period with caution.

NHS Fife

As of 08:00 hrs on 19 January 2012 all ED services were transferred to Victoria Hospital and Queen Margaret Hospital became an MIU.

NHS Forth Valley

As of 08:00 on 12 July 2011 the ED at Stirling Royal Infirmary closed and became an MIU at Stirling Community Hospital; the MIU at Falkirk Community Hospital closed; and a new ED opened at Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

March 2013 - Due to power outages at Stirling Community Hospital, several days MIU data have been lost. Work is ongoing to restore the lost data.

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

On 3 July 2015 the South Glasgow University Hospital was renamed The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital opened on 2 May 2015 at 8:00am.

As of 08:00 hrs on 2 May 2015, all A&E services at the Southern General Hospital were transferred to The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, and the Southern General Hospital closed.

As of 08:00 hrs on 16 May 2015, the ED at Victoria Infirmary closed with the service transferred to The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. The Victoria Infirmary MIU was not affected.

As of 08:00 hrs on 30 May 2015, the ED service at Western Infirmary closed with the service transferred to The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. The new West Glasgow MIU service began on the Western Infirmary site.

As of 08:00 hrs on 10 Jun 2015, the A&E services at the Royal Hospital for Children (Glasgow) moved location from the Yorkhill campus to The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital campus.

Stobhill Hospital changed services in April 2011 from having both an ED and MIU to only having an MIU.

NHS Highland

Some sites in NHS Highland which supply aggregate data have on occasion not split return attendances into unplanned and planned return attendances, so that only new attendances have been included. This issue will affect NHS Highland's total attendance figure by around 1-4% per month and has a negligible affect on Scotland's total attendances.

NHS Lanarkshire

The health board transferred to a new patient management system during March 2011. There was an issue with the new system that prevented the recording of different attendance categories from March to June 2011. This results in the attendance figures for the three EDs from March to June 2011 being artificially inflated by approximately 5.0 % (estimated from the prior 12 month's data). Please interpret the attendances and the associated rates from this time period with caution.

NHS Orkney

Balfour hospital became an ED on the 1st January 2014.

NHS Tayside

Due to staffing levels, Crieff Community Hospital has run a reduced service since June 2015

Revisions:

If NHS boards discover that data submitted for publication is incorrect, or that data is missing, further re-submissions can be made up until the publication submission deadline date. Any revised figures will then be reflected within the current publication. Figures contained within each publication may also be subject to change in future releases as submissions may be updated to reflect a more accurate and complete set of data.

NHS Fife have resubmitted data for the period June 2011 to October 2011 to remove a number of records which were incorrectly recorded as A&E activity. This affects the number of patients in the department over 4, 8 and 12 hours. It is important to note these erroneous records do not impact on the percentage compliance with the HEAT target and standard. The difference between figures published in March 2016 and those in this month's publication are given in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Impact of resubmission - change in figures from March to April releases

			Number in A&E department over			Discharge Destination					
			Attendances	4 hours	8 hours	12 hours	Place of	Transfer	Admitted	Other Spec	Unknown
NHS Fife	VICTORIA HOSPITAL	Jun-11	-1	-4	-1	-1	-1	0	0	0	0
		Jul-11	-2	-7	-2	-2	0	0	-149	-1	+148
		Aug-11	-6	-1	0	0	-1	0	-141	0	+136
		Sep-11	-194	-105	-13	-6	0	0	0	0	-194
		Oct-11	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	-121	0	0	+120
	QUEEN MARGARET HOSPITAL	Jun-11	+1	-2	-1	-2	+1	0	0	0	0
		Jul-11	-2	0	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	0	0
		Aug-11	-1	0	0	0	-2	0	+1	0	0
		Sep-11	+2	0	0	0	+1	0	+1	0	0
		Oct-11	0	+1	0	0	+1	0	0	0	-1