

SDR 141/2014

28 August 2014

## Patients in mental health hospitals and units in Wales, at 31 March 2014

This annual release presents summary results from the 2014 Psychiatric Census. Each year, on 31 March, a census is taken of residents in NHS hospitals and units for people with a mental illness or a learning disability and is a snapshot on that date.

In recent years, many of the large psychiatric hospitals have reduced in size with patients either re-settled into the community or transferred to smaller units. People with a learning disability are also now more likely to be cared for in the community rather than being in hospital and those who are taken into hospital are subsequently being re-settled into the community.

This release includes data on patients who have been resident in hospitals and units for people with a mental illness and for people with a learning disability at 31 March for the years 2004 to 2014 and provides various breakdowns of the data. See [Contents](#) page for more information on the data included.

For [key quality information](#) about this release, see page 7.

### Key results:

#### Hospitals and units for people with a mental illness in Wales:

##### At 31 March 2014:

- ♦ there were 1,486 resident patients (*chart 1*);
- ♦ the number of patients had fallen by 666 since 2004 and by 111 since 2013 (*chart 1*);
- ♦ 766 patients (52%) had been resident for less than 3 months;
- ♦ 519 patients (35%) were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, an increase of 20 from 2013 and 21 from 2004 (*chart 3*); and
- ♦ There were fewer female patients (647) than males (839) and they tended to be older (59% of female patients were aged 65 or over compared with 38% of males) (*chart 4*);.

#### Hospitals and units for people with a learning disability in Wales,

##### At 31 March 2014:

- ♦ there were 120 resident patients, 81 males and 39 females (*chart 1*);
- ♦ this was 10 less than 2013, and 79 less than 2004 (*chart 1*);
- ♦ 16 patients (13% of the total) were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, a decrease of 19 from 2013 and 3 from 2004 (*chart 8*); and
- ♦ 55 patients (46%) had been resident for 2 years or more (*charts 9a and 9b*).

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**Next update:** August 2015 (provisional)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/statisticswales](http://www.twitter.com/statisticswales) | [www.twitter.com/ystadegaucymru](http://www.twitter.com/ystadegaucymru)

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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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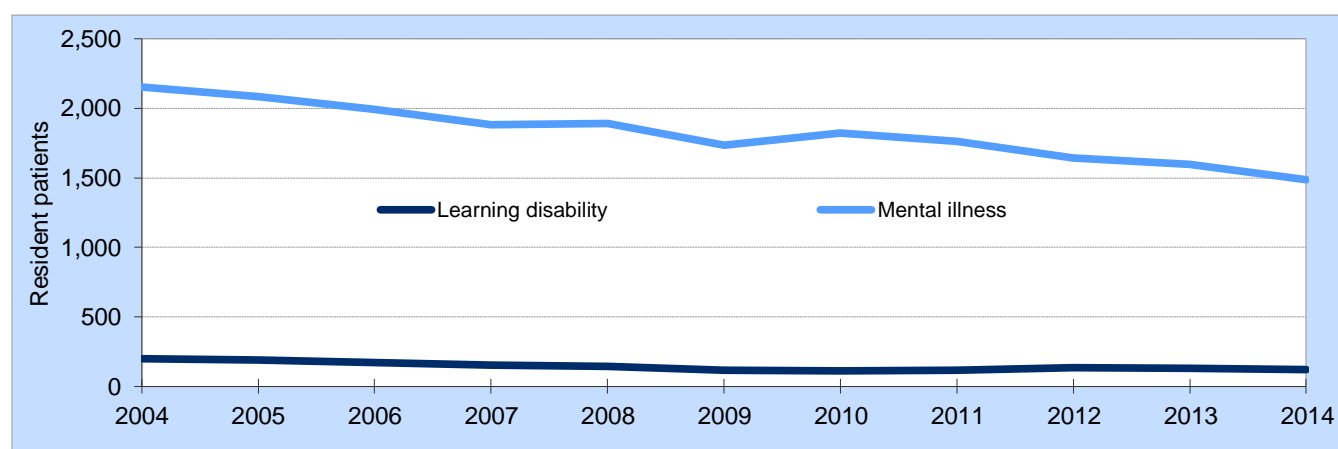
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**Chart 1** shows the number of patients in hospitals and units for people with a mental illness or a learning disability at 31 March.

- ♦ between 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2014, the number of patients resident in hospitals and units for people with a mental illness in Wales has fallen by 666 (31%) to 1,486;
- ♦ between 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2014, the number of patients resident in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability in Wales has fallen by 79 (40%) to 120.

### Chart 1: Patients in hospitals and units for people with a mental illness or learning disability (a)



(a) Patients resident at 31 March.

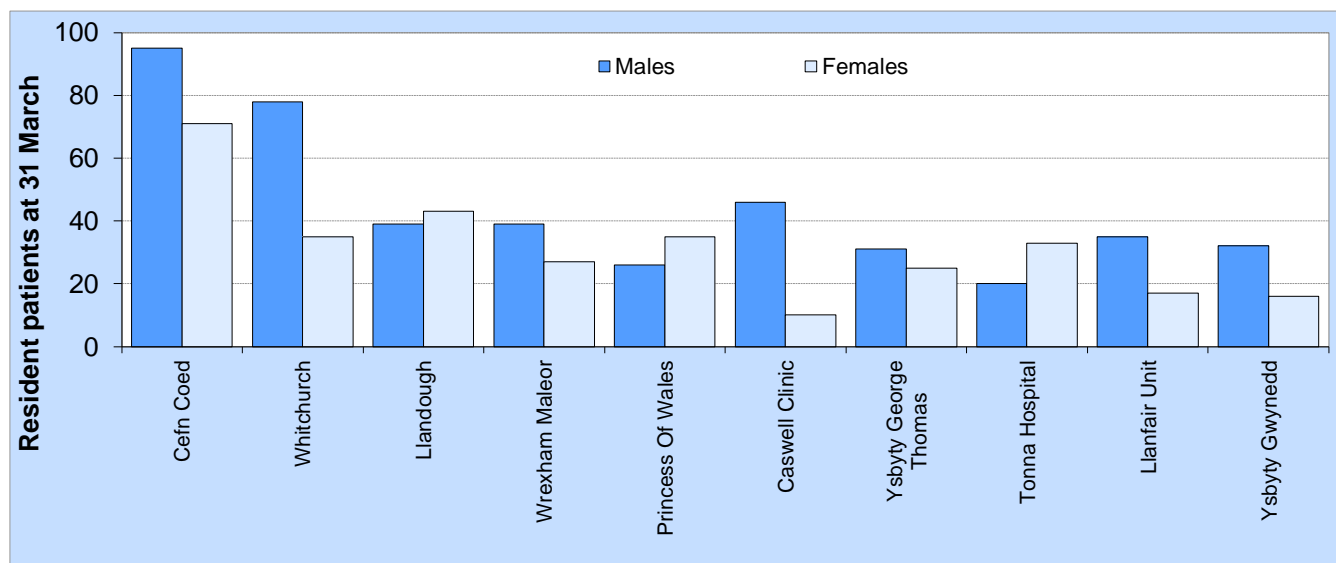
## Patients in hospitals or units for people with a mental illness

**Chart 2** shows the number of patients by hospital and sex, in the 10 largest hospitals or units for people with a mental illness in Wales.

On 31 March 2014:

- ♦ just over half of all residents with a mental illness were accommodated in the 10 largest hospitals or units in Wales for people with a mental illness; and
- ♦ the largest four hospitals or units (Cefn Coed, Whitchurch, Llandough and Wrexham Maelor) accommodated 29% of all residents.

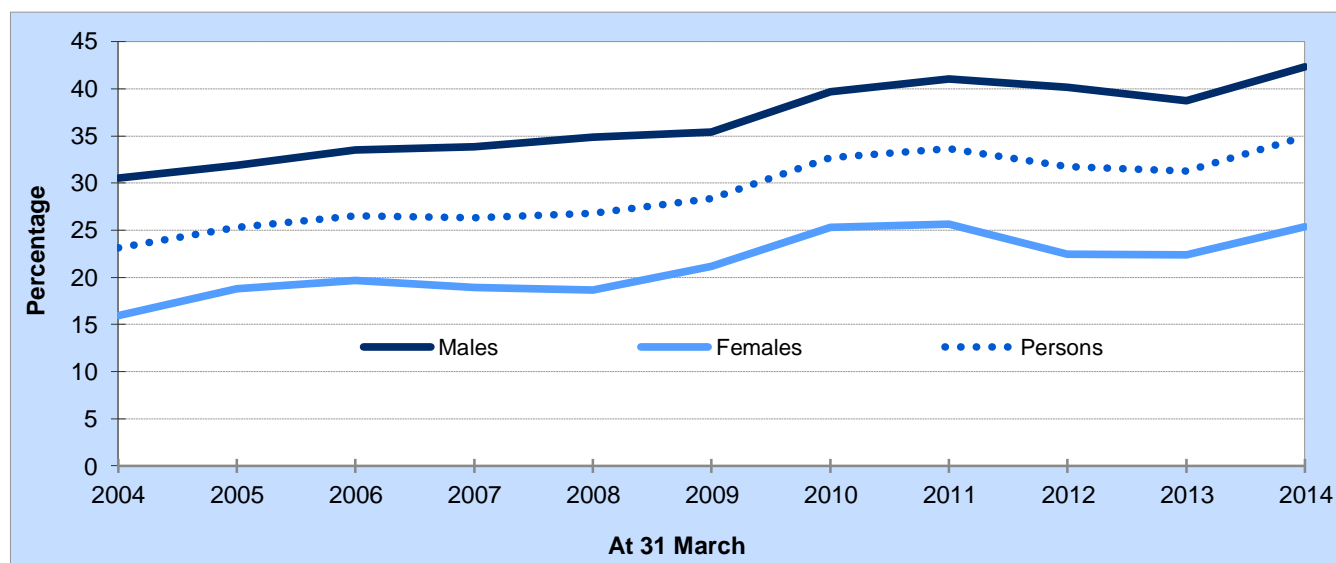
**Chart 2: Patients in hospitals or units for people with a mental illness, by sex, at 31 March 2014 in the 10 largest hospitals or units in Wales**



**Chart 3** shows the proportion of resident patients with a mental illness who were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, since 31 March 2004.

- ♦ Overall, the percentage of patients detained has risen from 23% on 31 March 2004 to 35% of the total residents on 31 March 2014;

**Chart 3: Percentage of patients with a mental illness detained under legislation**

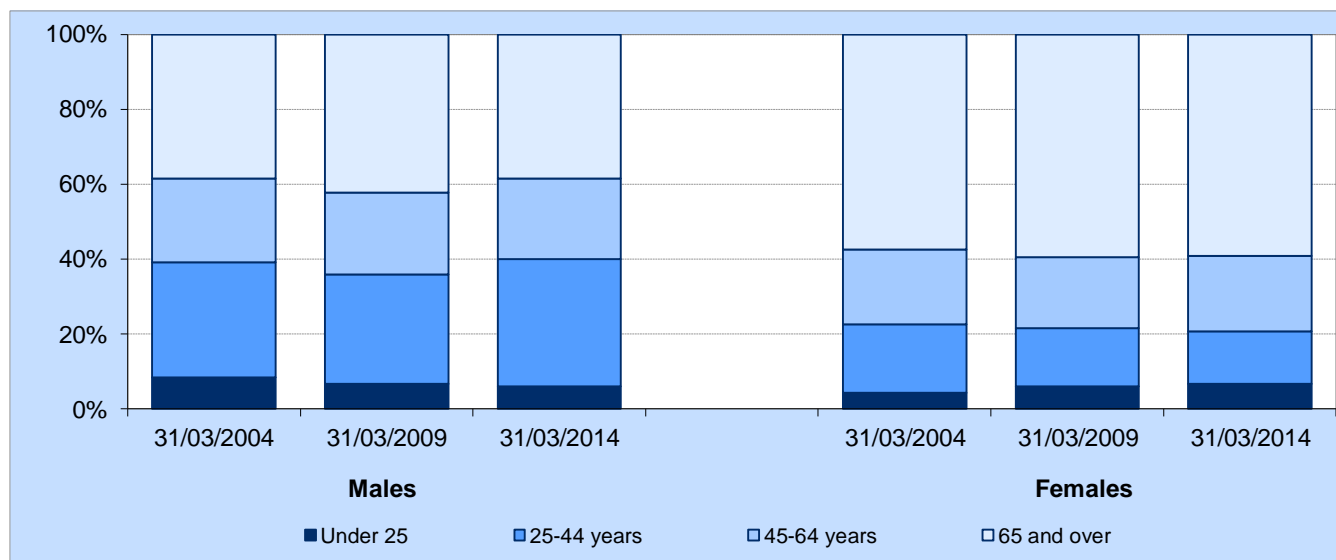


**Chart 4** shows the percentage distribution of patients in hospitals and units for people with mental illness, by age and sex, on 31 March 2014 compared with 5 and 10 years ago.

On 31 March 2014:

- ◆ 59% of female patients were aged 65 and over compared with 38% of males – this has remained fairly constant over the last 10 years; and
- ◆ 7% of the female patients and 6% of the male patients were aged under 25.

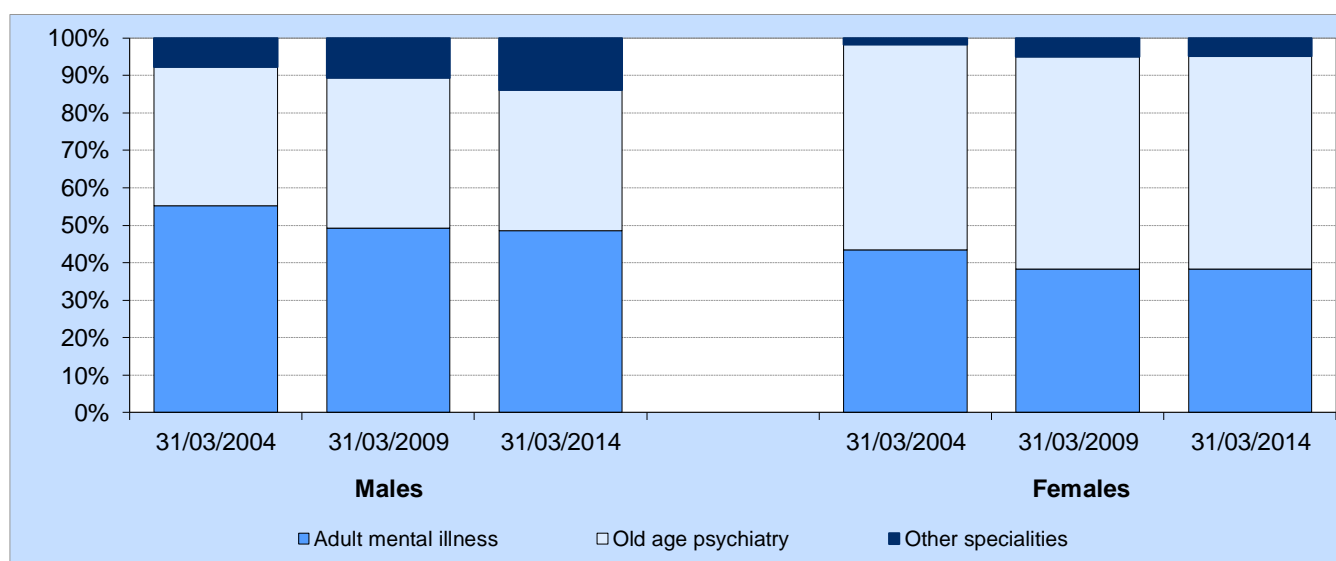
**Chart 4: Percentage distribution of patients by age and sex, on 31 March 2004, 2009 and 2014**



**Chart 5** shows the percentage distribution of patients, in hospitals and units for people with mental illness, by specialty and sex, on 31 March 2014 compared with 5 and 10 years ago.

- ◆ On 31 March 2014, 57% of female patients were being treated by doctors who specialise in old age psychiatry compared with 38% of males – this has remained fairly constant over the last 10 years.

**Chart 5: Percentage distribution of patients by sex and specialty, on 31 March 2004, 2009 and 2014**

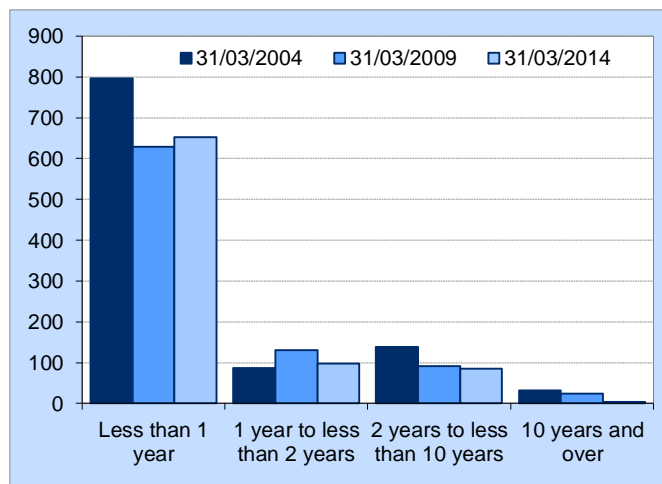


**Charts 6a and 6b** show the length of stay of patients resident in hospitals and units for people with mental illness on 31 March 2014 compared with 5 and 10 years ago.

On 31 March 2014:

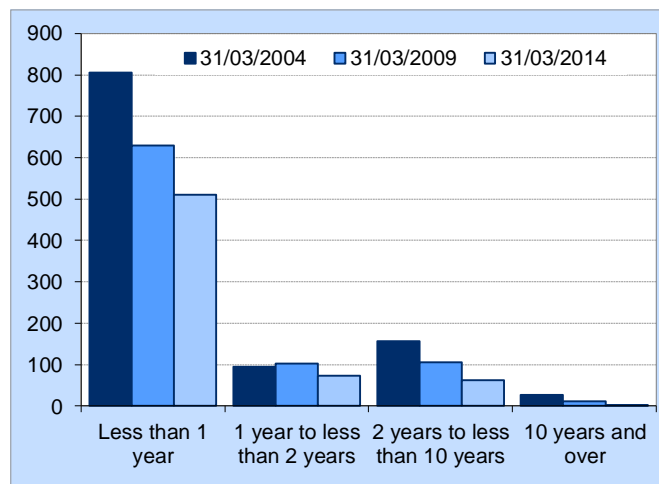
- ◆ 1,163 patients (78%) had been resident for less than 1 year; and
- ◆ only 3 males and 1 female had been resident for 10 years or over.

**Chart 6a: Male patients by length of stay, on 31 March 2004, 2009 and 2014 (a)**



(a) 2004 and 2009 have a small number of patients with an unknown length of stay.

**Chart 6b: Female patients by length of stay, on 31 March 2004, 2009 and 2014 (a)**



(a) 2004 and 2009 have a small number of patients with an unknown length of stay.

NOTE: the length of stay is calculated from the admission dates of patients taken from the hospital's patient administration systems. These admission dates can be affected by the creation of new trusts and temporary discharges to acute hospitals for treatment. This should be taken into account when making comparisons with earlier years.

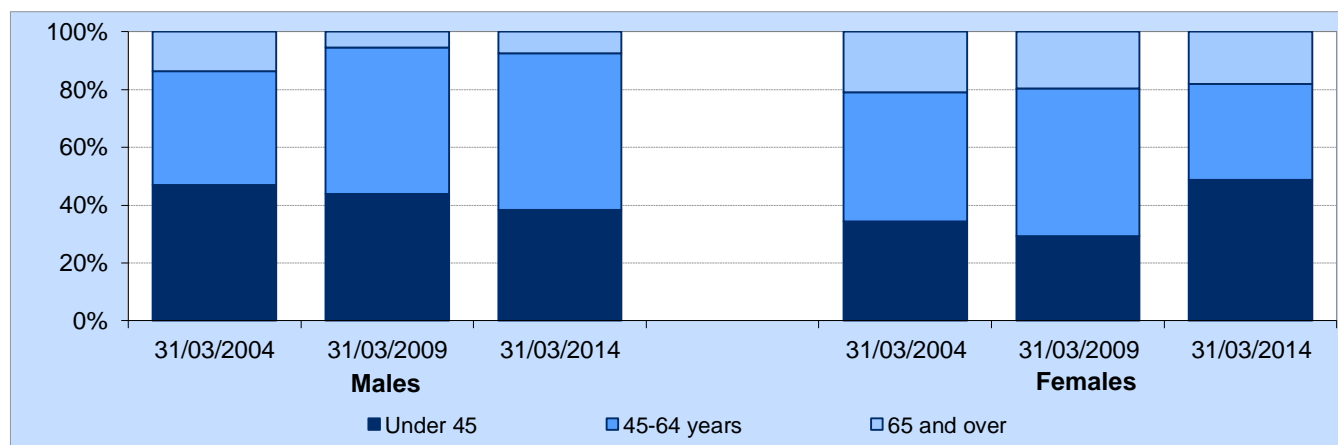
## Patients in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability

This section on Learning disability is based on small numbers of patients, therefore care should be taken when interpreting the figures.

**Chart 7** shows the percentage distribution of patients in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability, by age and sex, on 31 March 2014, compared with 5 and 10 years ago.

- ◆ On 31 March 2014, resident males aged 45-64 made up 54% of the total male residents, compared to 39% ten years previously; and
- ◆ on 31 March 2004 and 2009, 45-64 year olds was the group with the largest percentage of female residents; however, on 31 March 2014, under 45s was the group with the largest percentage of female residents (49%).

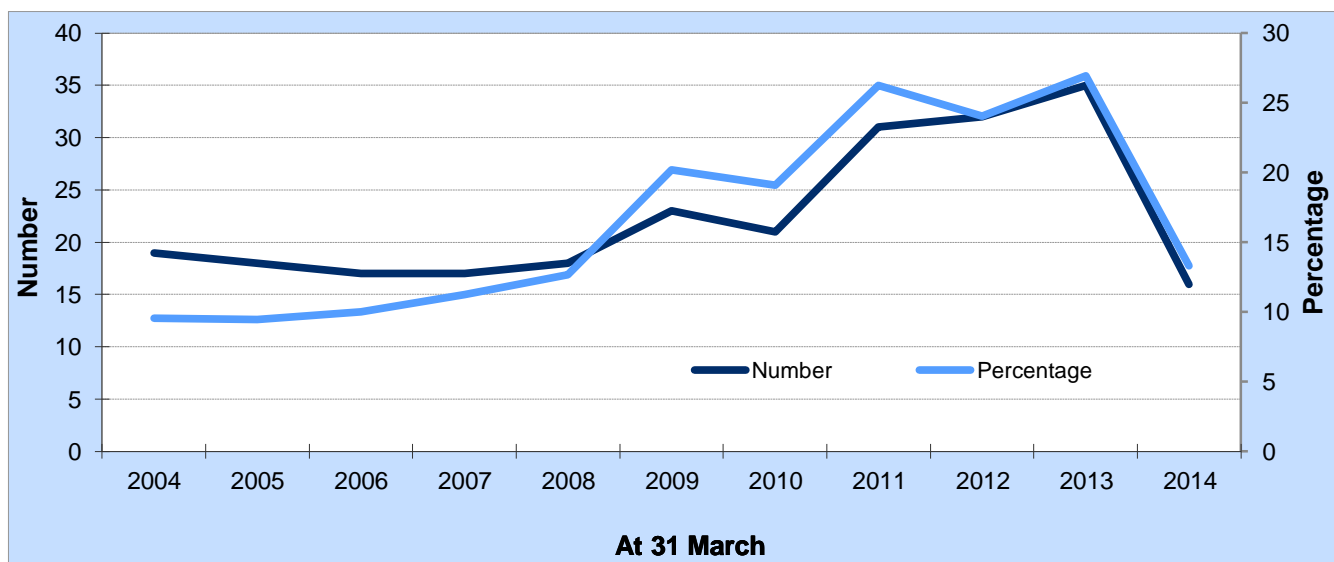
**Chart 7: Percentage distribution of residents by age and sex, on 31 March 2004, 2009 and 2014**



**Chart 8** shows the number and percentage of patients in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability, detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, from 31 March 2004.

- ◆ The number of detained patients has varied between 16 and 35 over the last 10 years, with the number at 31 March 2014 (16) being the lowest over this period; and
- ◆ The number of detained patients as a percentage of total patients has increased from 10% on 31 March 2004, to 13% on 31 March 2014. This however was a decrease from 27% on 31 March 2013 and the lowest figure since 31 March 2008.

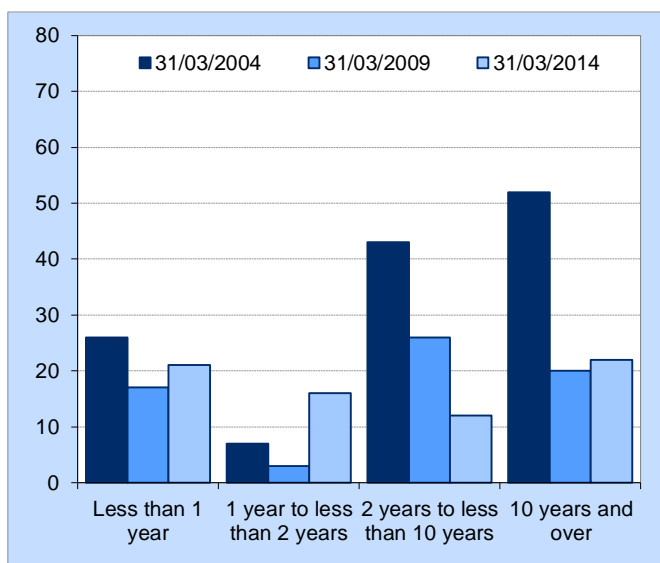
**Chart 8: Number and percentage of patients in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation**



**Charts 9a and 9b** show how long patients had been resident in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability on 31 March 2014, compared with 5 and 10 years ago.

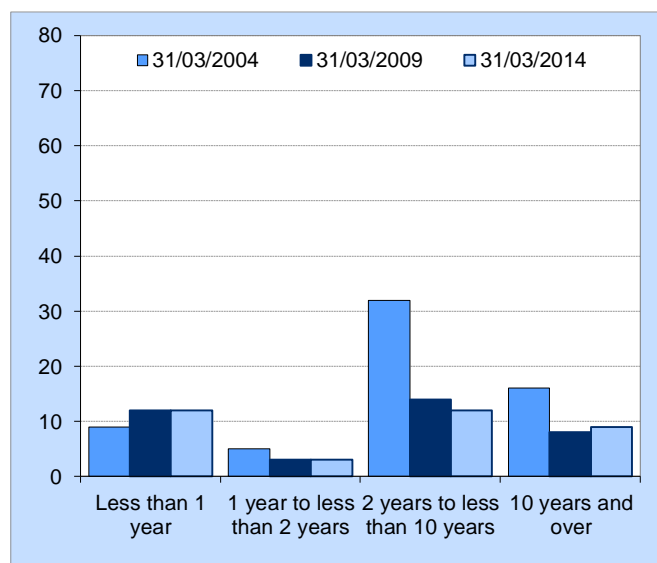
- ◆ Ten years ago, 52 males and 16 females had been residents for 10 years or more; and
- ◆ on 31 March 2014, only 22 males and 9 females had been resident for 10 years or more.

**Chart 9a: Male patients by length of stay, on 31 March 2004, 2009 and 2014 (a)**



(a) The years shown have a small number of patients with an unknown length of stay.

**Chart 9b: Female patients by length of stay, on 31 March 2004, 2009 and 2014 (a)**



(a) The years shown have a small number of patients with an unknown length of stay.

NOTE: The length of stay is calculated from the admission dates of patients taken from the hospital's patient administration systems. These admission dates can be affected by the creation of new trusts and temporary discharges to acute hospitals for treatment. This should be taken into account when making comparisons with earlier years.

## Key Quality information

This release provides data on the number of patients who have been resident in hospitals and units for people with a mental illness and for people with a learning disability at 31 March 2014 – a snapshot on that date.

It is published on the same day as another release on mental health: “Admission of patients to mental health facilities in Wales, 2013-14 (including patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983) and patients subject to supervised community treatment”. This provides data on the number of patients admitted to mental health facilities throughout the financial year by type of admission (e.g. formally or informally).

Definitions of terms used are in the [NHS Wales Data Dictionary](#).

### Source

Data are collected from individual Local Health Boards by NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS) and are subject to validation checks centrally prior to publication. For the data at 31 March 2013 onwards, further checks were introduced by NWIS to eliminate duplicate records. This has not been applied to historic data – the impact is expected to be minimal. It is the responsibility of Local Health Boards to ensure that the figures have been compiled correctly in accordance with central definitions and guidelines.

### Coverage

The census is taken at midnight on 31 March each year and covers patients in NHS mental health hospitals and mental health units in NHS hospitals which may have other specialties in Wales. Mental health hospitals and units include those patients with a learning disability as well as those with a mental illness. It does not include Welsh residents who are patients at hospitals in England, or English residents treated in Welsh hospitals.

### Users and uses

We believe the key users of these statistics are:

- ◆ Ministers and their advisors;
- ◆ Assembly members and Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- ◆ policy makers of the Welsh Government;
- ◆ other government departments;
- ◆ NHS Wales;
- ◆ students, academics and universities;
- ◆ media; and
- ◆ individual citizens.

The statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these include:

- ◆ to provide advice to Ministers;
- ◆ to inform debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond; and
- ◆ to help determine the service the public may receive from the relevant hospitals.

If you are a user and do not feel the above list adequately covers you please let us know via the contact details below.

### Quality

Statement on confidentiality and data access.

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/about/statement-of-compliance/confidentiality-data-access/?lang=en>

### StatsWales

More detailed tables will be available shortly via [StatsWales](#) (an interactive data dissemination service), as they are currently undergoing a further disclosure risk assessment.



## **Mental health data for other UK countries**

Statistics on patients in mental health facilities in England and Wales by ethnicity are available from the Count Me In Census on the Care Quality Commission website. The final 'Count Me In' Census was in 2010. The results are not directly comparable with the Psychiatric Census.

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/search/site/count%20me%20in?location=&sort=default&distance=15&mode>

Psychiatric hospital activity statistics for Scotland are available at:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Mental-Health/psychiatric-hospital-activity>

Mental health and learning disability activity statistics for Northern Ireland are available at:

[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_research/hospital-stats/mental\\_health\\_learning\\_disability.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/hospital-stats/mental_health_learning_disability.htm)

## **Feedback**

We actively encourage feedback from our users. If you have any comments or require further information, please contact us on the details below.

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