



Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information in Scotland

Annual – year ending 31 March 2022

A National Statistics release for Scotland

Publication date: 27 September 2022

About this release

This release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides an updated range of statistics on different aspects of hospital care, sourced from hospital administration systems across Scotland. These include information on trends for outpatient, inpatient and day case activity, numbers of medical diagnoses, operations, emergency admissions and beds statistics. Data presented for 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 are provisional and subject to change in future publications as submissions may be updated to reflect more accurate and complete data from NHS boards.

Main points

Please note that this release includes Scotland going into emergency measures due to COVID-19, which is impacting on the volume of hospital activity and trends observed. For example, inpatient and day case activity and outpatient activity reduced by 13% when comparing financial year 2018/19 (pre-pandemic) to 2021/22. However, activity levels have generally been recovering from July 2020 onwards but remain below pre-pandemic levels.

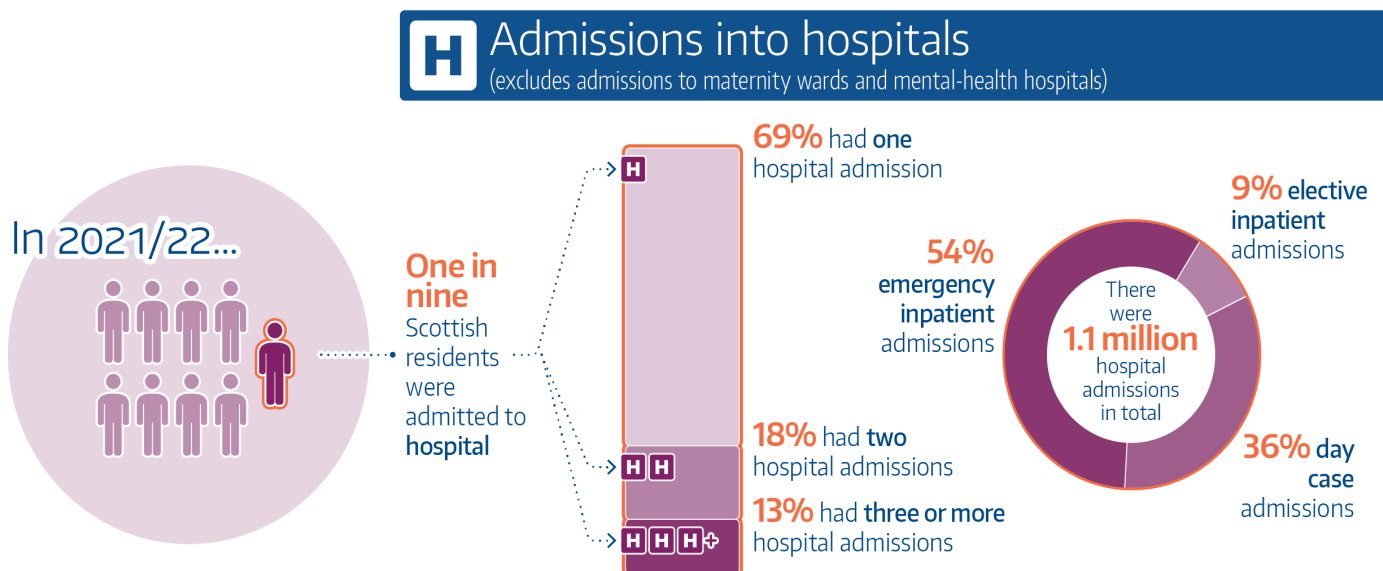
Outpatients

- Around 0.9 million Scottish residents (one in six of the population) visited an outpatient department in 2021/22 as a new outpatient. There were around 3.7 million total outpatient attendances (1.2 million new and over 2.5 million return attendances) in 2021/22 – a 23% increase on last year (2020/21) and a 17% decrease compared to five years ago (2016/17).

Hospital admissions

- Around 0.6 million Scottish residents (one in nine of the population) were admitted to hospital in 2021/22. Of these, three out of ten patients (31%) had more than one admission. There were just under 1.1 million admissions into hospital in 2021/22 – a 22% increase compared to last year (2020/21) and a 14% decrease compared to five years ago (2016/17).
- In 2021/22, there were around 0.9 million main procedures performed – a 33% increase on last year (2020/21) and a 21% decrease in the last four years (2017/18).

Number of people admitted to Scottish hospitals, 2021/22 (provisional)



Beds

- In 2021/22, the average number of available staffed beds for acute specialties was 13,323 – a 3.6% increase on last year (2020/21) and a 2.4% decrease when compared to five years ago (2016/17). The percentage occupancy for acute specialties rose from 74.8% in 2020/21 to 84.2% in 2021/22.

Background

Definitions of activity are available within the Glossary section of the **full report** and in the **PHS Data Dictionary**. There are known issues with the quality of data presented. For more information, please see the **data issues and completeness document**.

Contact

Kirsty Anderson | Principal Information Analyst | Kirsty.Anderson8@phs.scot

Quality Indicators | Secondary Care Team | phs.qualityindicators@phs.scot

For all media enquiries, please email phs.comms@phs.scot or call 0131 275 6105.

Further information

Data from this publication are available on the **Annual Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds data web pages** and the **Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data Portal**. The next release of this publication will be in September 2023.

Other formats of this publication are available on request at: 0131 314 5300
phs.otherformats@phs.scot

PHS and Official Statistics

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. PHS 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.**