

Winter crisis and impact of Covid - 19

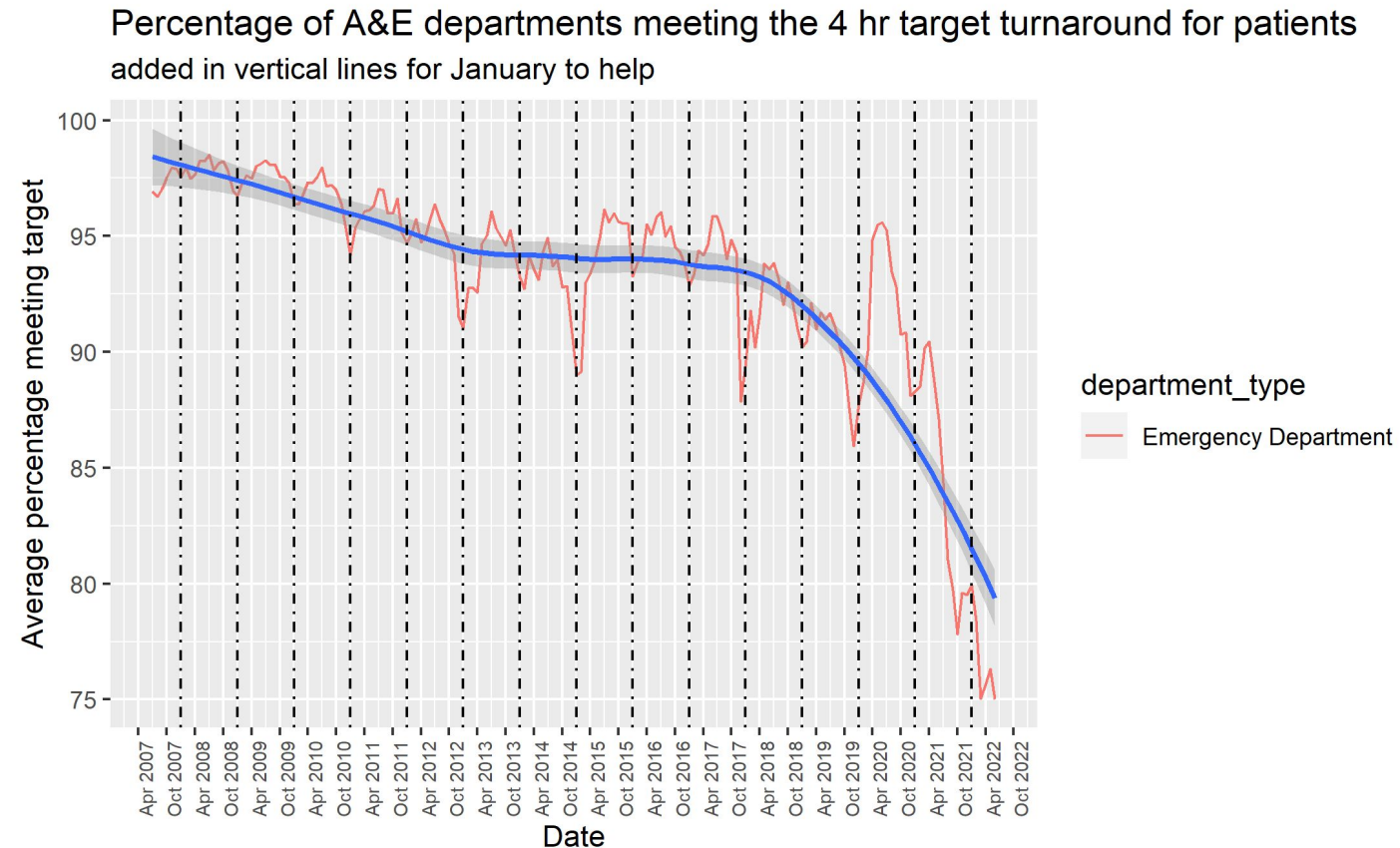
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Questions

- To what extent is the winter crisis “real”?
- What evidence is there that Covid-19 impacted the winter crisis?

NHS winter crisis

- Perennial issue resulting from increase in season-specific medical problems (Lawson & Lovatt, 2020)
- 4 hour target turnaround is the most common metric
- Part of an overall healthcare crisis



Overview of data

- Focus on A&E attendance data
 - 4 hr turnaround times
 - Attendance at A&E and destinations
- Timespan covered:
 - July 2007 - June 2022
- Demographics covered:
 - Age group
 - SIMD
 - Biological sex
- Measures of impact
 - Attendance/admission/episode numbers
 - Number of attendances meeting 4 hr target
 - Length of stay/episode
 - Bed occupancy

Bias and limitations

Race:

- Minorities experienced the economic effects of the crises harder
- Higher deaths among minorities and higher hate crimes towards minorities

Disabled people :

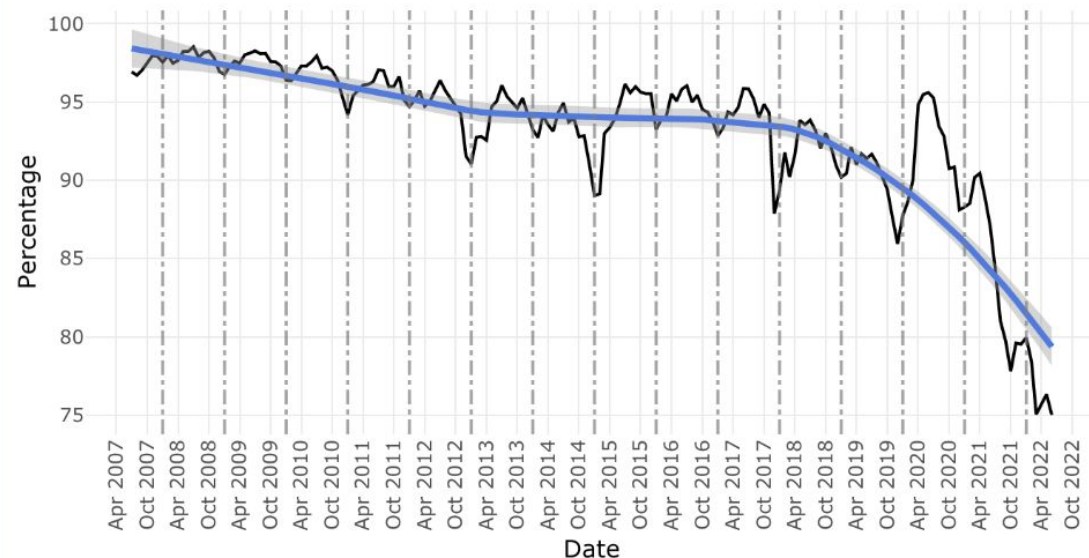
- Significant disruption to health and care services
- More likely to experience loneliness

(Scottish Government, 2021)

Unspecified geographical deprivation areas

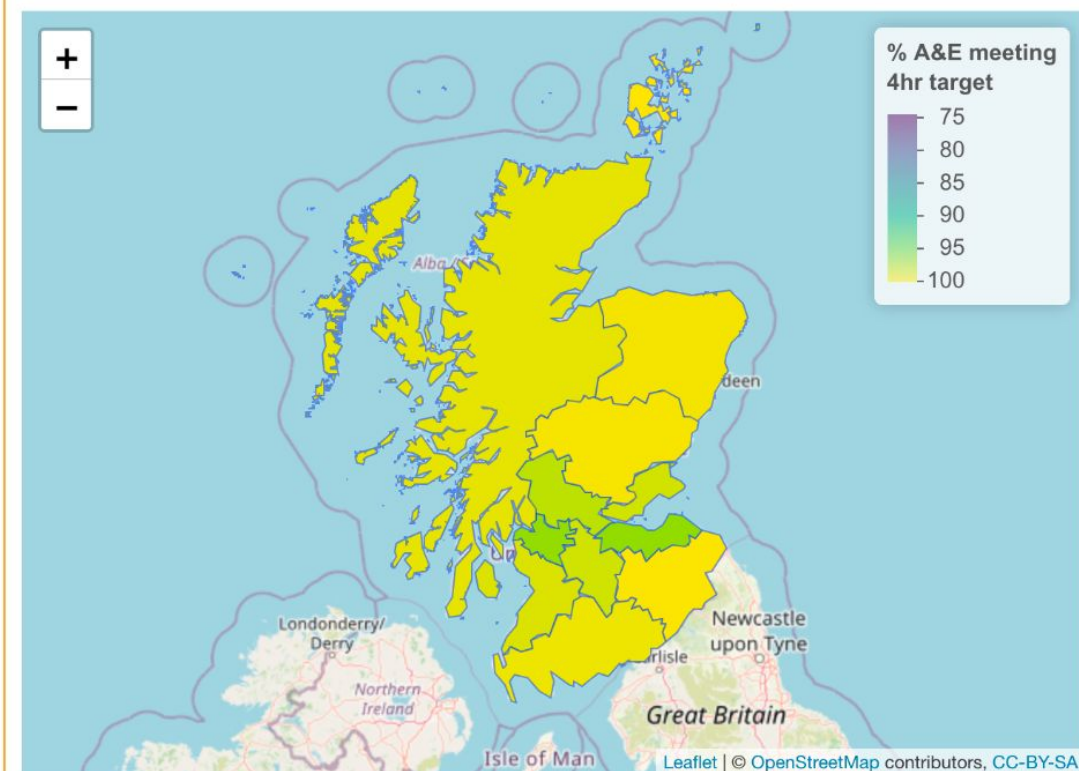
Information on deaths is not provided

Percentage of A&E Departments Meeting the 4hr Target Turnaround for Patients



Percentage of A&E Departments Meeting 4hr Target by Healthboard

Please select year



Winter crisis over time

Pattern over time

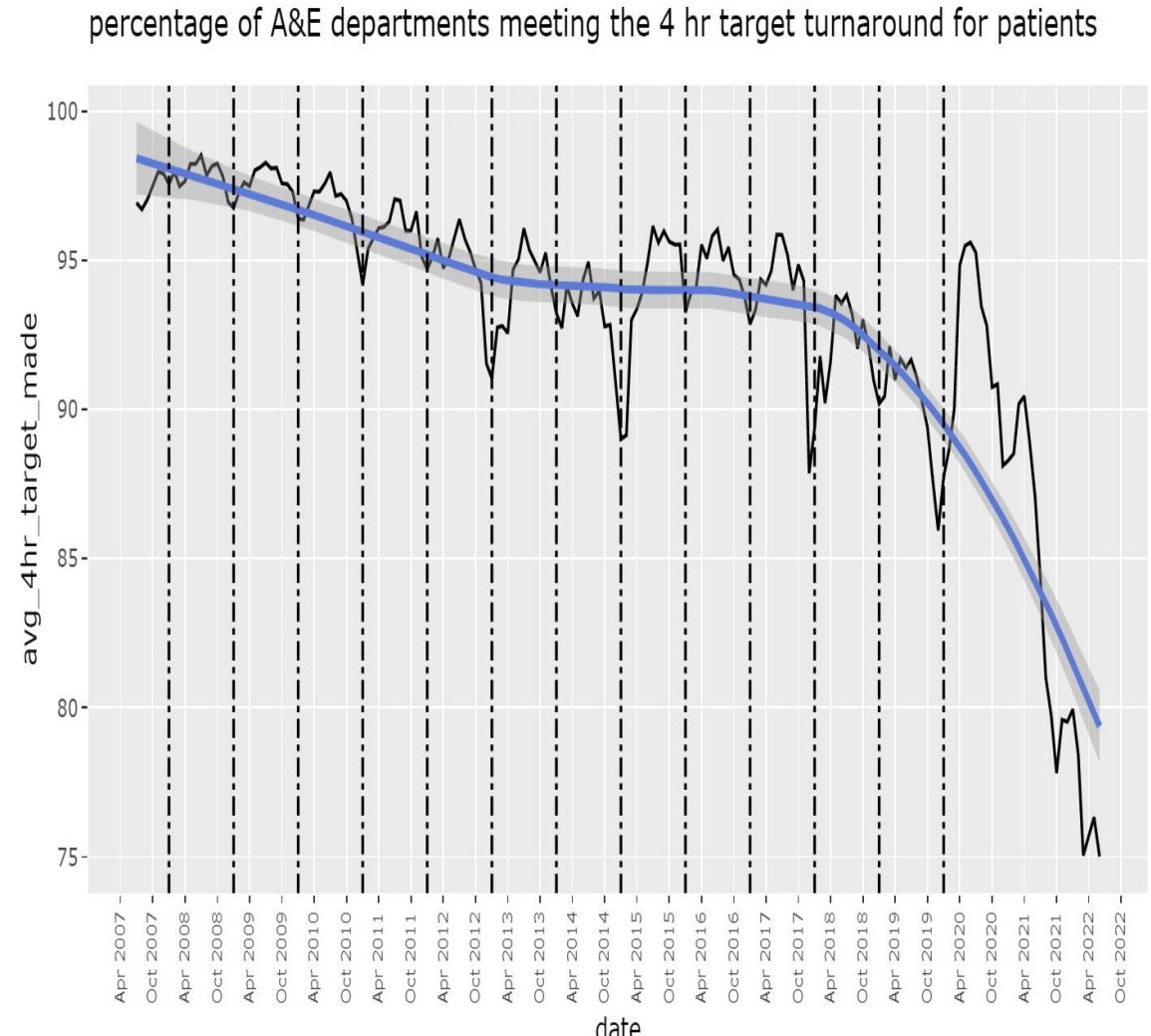
- A&E 4hr target decreasing over time
- “Troughs” in winter getting worse

Potential causes

- Emergency admissions increase in winter
- % discharged to residence decreases in winter

Healthboard

- 2007 - lowest was Lothian on 96%
- 2021 - lowest was Lanarkshire on 76%



Demographic impact

Age

Higher age groups

- More likely to go to hospital
- Stay longer in hospital

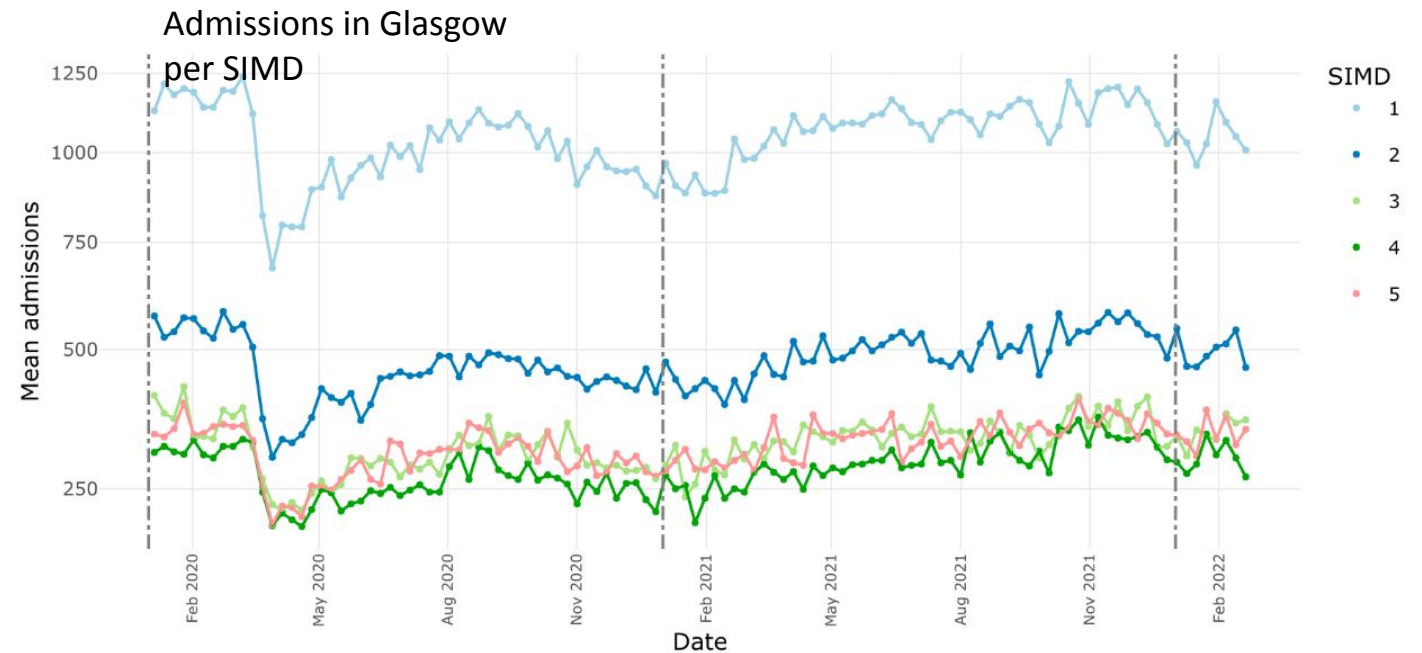
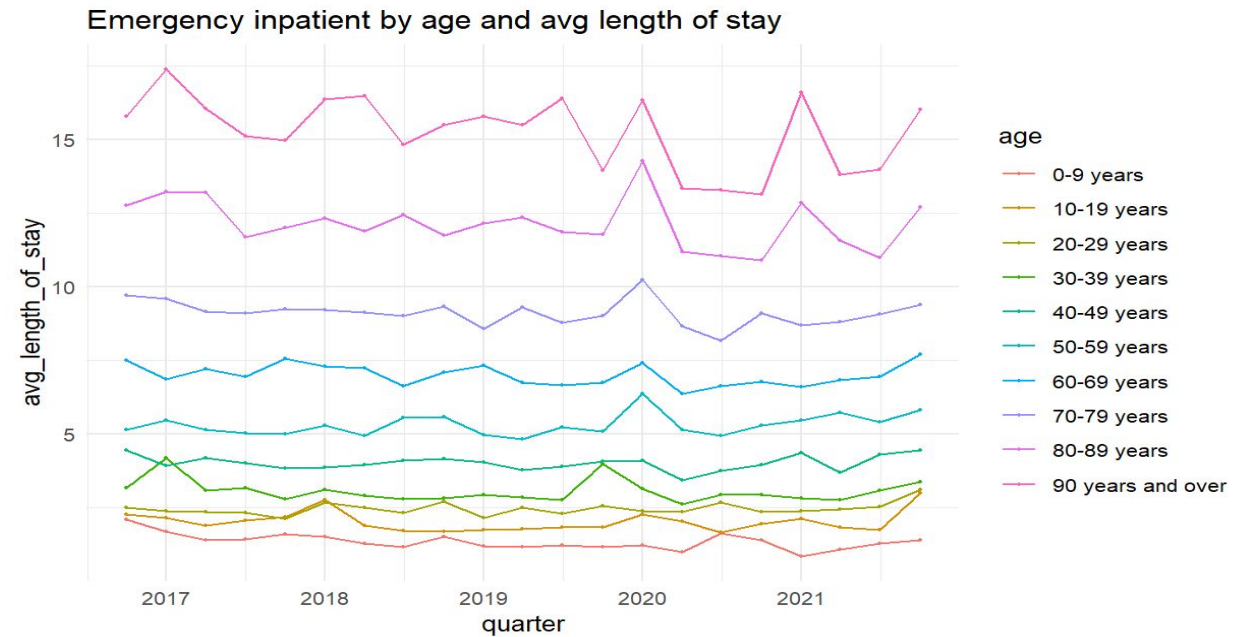
Sex

- Females slightly more likely to go to hospital

SIMD

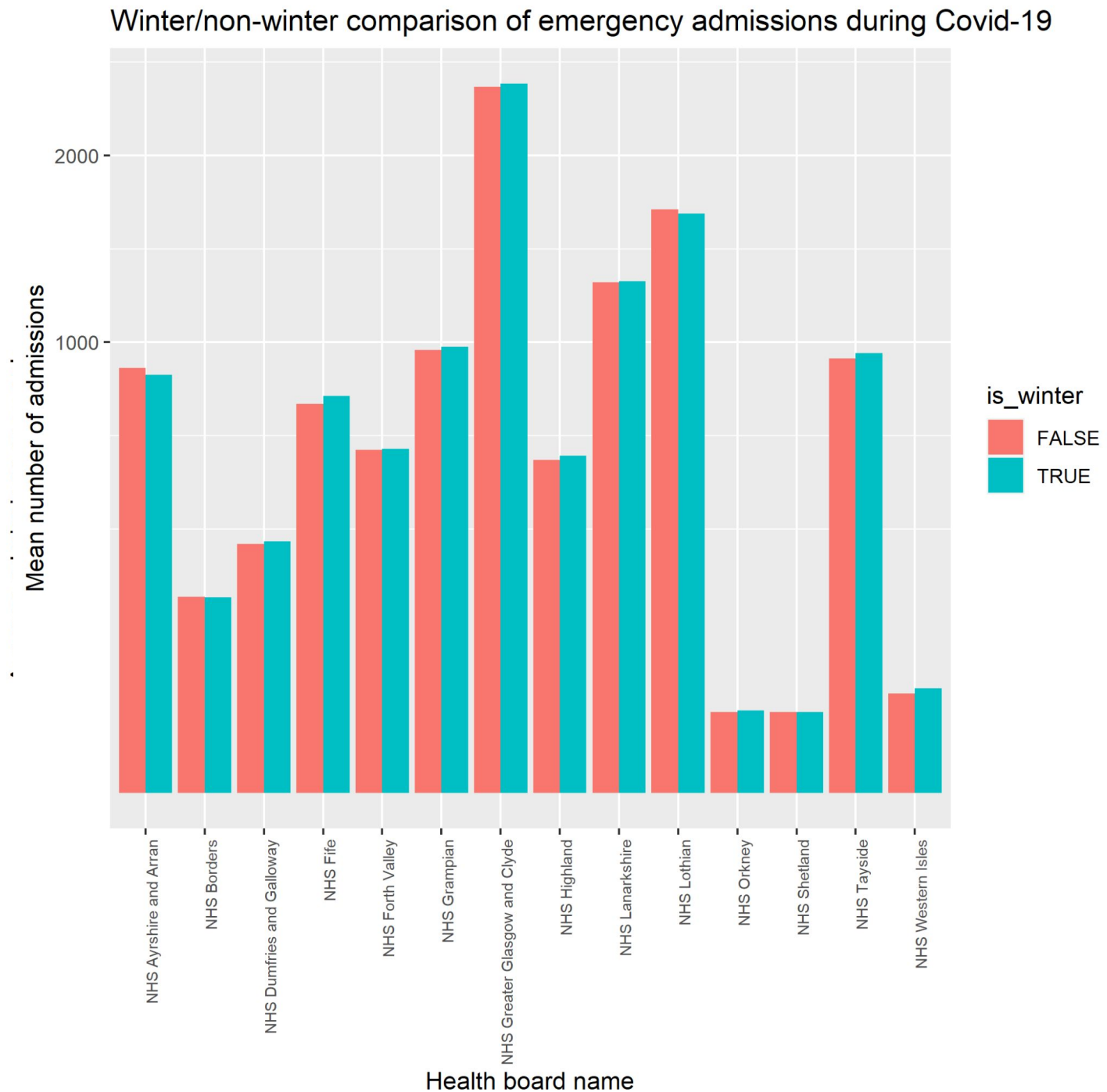
More deprived groups

- More likely to go to hospital



Covid -19 impact

- Impact on some health boards more noticeable than others
- Minimal differences between winter/non-winter admissions



Conclusions

- Can we predict the near future impact of Covid and the winter crisis?

