

# Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS) Data February 2023 Statistical Commentary

## Background

The UEC Recovery Plan (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/delivery-plan-for-recovering-urgent-and-emergency-care-services/>) commits to publication of 12 hours in an Emergency Department (ED) from arrival data on a regular basis from April 2023.

These data are sourced from the Emergency Care Dataset (ECDS) and are separate from the data published as part of the Monthly A&E Attendances and Emergency Admissions Official Statistics.

ECDS is a patient-level dataset and contains a high level of patient information, including clinical condition and patient demographics, enabling us to understand capacity and demand and improve patient care.

This publication contains ECDS data including 12 hours from arrival at A&E as experimental data for Type 1 trusts alongside the current published statistics and is the first time these data have been published on a monthly basis.

The publication will be expanded to type 2 and 3 services as data coverage and completeness reaches the required levels.

## Main findings

### Attendances

- In February 2023 the total number attendances at type 1 emergency departments was 1,185,000.

### Emergency Admissions

- There were 212,000 attendances resulting in an admission in February 2023.

### Twelve Hour Delays

- Of all the total attendances in February 2023, 126,000 waited more than 12 hours from arrival at A&E (10.6%).

## Patient characteristics

### Age

- 25% of total attendances were for patients aged 65 years or older, with 11% of these being for patients 80 years or older. Children under five years old made up 11% of attendance, 10% for ages 5 to 14 years old and 12% for 15 to 24 years old.
- 49% of attendances resulting in an admission were for patients aged 65 years or older, with 26% of these being for patients 80 years or older.
- Attendances resulting in an admission for all other age groups was 51% with the lowest percentage being for those aged 5 to 14 years old and 15 to 24 years old.

## Gender

- 51% of total attendances and 52% of attendances resulting in an admission were female which aligns to the England population breakdown (51% female).

## Ethnicity

- 71% of total attendances and 78% of attendances resulting in an admission were from any white background which is lower than the England population breakdown (84% any white background).
- A higher proportion of total attendances from BME groups occurred in London, and some areas of the Midlands, reflecting known population breakdowns.
- A higher proportion of attendances resulting in an admission were from BME backgrounds in London and parts of the Midlands.

## Chief Complaint

- The highest proportion of total attendances was for Trauma/ musculoskeletal (23%), but this group only made up 11% of the attendances resulting in an admission.
- The most common reason for attendances resulting in an admission was Airway/ breathing (16%) and Gastrointestinal and General / minor/ admin (both 15%).

## Missing data for February 2023

The following organisations did not achieve the data quality thresholds for inclusion in the data for February 2023. For further details on data quality and completeness please refer to the supporting Excel file.

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

## Methodology

Record-level data is submitted to the Emergency Care Dataset (ECDS) via the SUS+ service. This data is then aggregated by NHS England to produce these data. Data is extracted approximately 5 to 6 weeks post month-end. From Q2 2023/24 this will reduce to approximately 5 to 10 days post month-end.

Data is presented at site-level, which is aggregated to ICB-level using Organisation Data Service (ODS) mapping of site to ICB.

For the full methodology of this publication please see the ECDS technical definitions document (<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ae-waiting-times-and-activity/>).

## Data availability

These data are published to a pre-announced timetable, usually every second Thursday of the month. The data is published on the NHS England website here:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ae-waiting-times-and-activity/>

## Data revisions

These data are published as provisional statistics. A final version will be published at year-end (date tbc).

## Data comparability

These data can be compared to the Monthly A&E Attendances and Emergency Admissions data published by NHS England (<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ae-waiting-times-and-activity/>). A summary of the comparability between these sources is available here: (<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ae-waiting-times-and-activity/>)

These data can also be compared to A&E data for Wales collected by the Welsh Government, data for Scotland collected by the Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland, and data for Northern Ireland collected by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. A description of the technical differences between data from the four administrations can be found here: <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/health-waiting-time-statistics/>

The Welsh Government publishes monthly data on A&E attendances and 12-hour from arrival performance. Data can be found here: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Waiting-Times/emergency-department>

ISD Scotland publishes weekly data on A&E attendances and 12-hour from arrival performance. Data can be found here: <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Emergency-Care/Publications/index.asp?ID=1251>

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety publishes quarterly data on A&E attendances and 12-hour from arrival performance. Data can be found here: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/statistics/hospital/waitingtimes-emergency.htm>

12-hour from arrival performance data were published as part of a joint NHS England and NHS Digital Annual A&E Report (<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/hospital-accident--emergency-activity/2021-22>).

## Glossary

### A&E Attendance

The presence of a patient in an A&E service seeking medical attention.

### A&E Type

Collectively the term All Types includes the following department types:

Type 1) Major A&E Departments (also referred to as Emergency Departments (EDs))

Type 2) Single Specialty A&E services (e.g. ophthalmology, dental)

Type 3) Other types of A&E such as Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs), Urgent Care Centres (UCCs), Minor Injury Units (MIUs) and Walk-in Centres (WICs)

### Emergency admission via A&E (also referred to as an Admitted A&E Attendance)

Admission to a hospital bed as an emergency via an A&E Department.

**Provider**

An organisation that provides NHS treatment or care, for example, an NHS acute trust, mental health trust, community provider, or an independent sector organisation.

**Type 1 A&E**

A major A&E or emergency department which provides a consultant-led, 24 hour service with full resuscitation facilities and designated accommodation for the reception of emergency patients.

**Waiting Time**

The time of arrival until the time of admission, transfer, or discharge.

**Feedback welcomed**

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of the data within this report and those published on the NHS England website. If anyone has any comments on this, or any other issues regarding A&E data and statistics, then please email [england.nhsdata@nhs.net](mailto:england.nhsdata@nhs.net).

**Additional Information**

Full details of A&E and emergency admissions data for individual organisations are available at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/ae-waiting-times-and-activity/>

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