



The voice of NHS leadership

## NHS performance statistics up to and including February 2017

This briefing provides an overview of the key findings from the latest set of NHS performance data and some relevant points of comparison.

### Headline results

- A&E attendances in the first 11 months of 2016/17 are 2.5 per cent higher in major (type 1) units and 2.4 per cent higher overall compared to same period in 2015/16.
- Emergency admissions via type 1 A&Es are up 3.1 per cent between April 2016 and February 2017, compared to the same period in 2015/16.
- Trolley waits are 54.7 per cent higher to date in 2016-17 compared to the same period in 2015/16. There have been 3,225 trolley waits in excess of 12 hours so far in 2016/17, compared to 664 across the same 11 months of 2015/16.
- The proportion of delayed days that are deemed to be the responsibility of social care organisations has increased from 25.9 to 34.3 per cent between April 2013 to February 2014 and April 2016 to February 2017.
- While the proportion of people seen within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer was the second highest of the year (95.4 per cent), only 79.8 per cent of patients received their first cancer treatment within two months of GP referral in February.
- Only 89.8 per cent of the 3.664m patients on the waiting list had been waiting less than 18 weeks. The number waiting longer than 52 weeks (1,583) increased to its highest number since August 2012 (2,054).
- A new high point for the early intervention in psychosis target has been achieved, with 80.20 per cent of service users with their first episode of psychosis starting treatment within two weeks of referral.
- The number of patients waiting in excess of six weeks for a diagnostic test has fallen to a more than three year low in February, at 9,241.

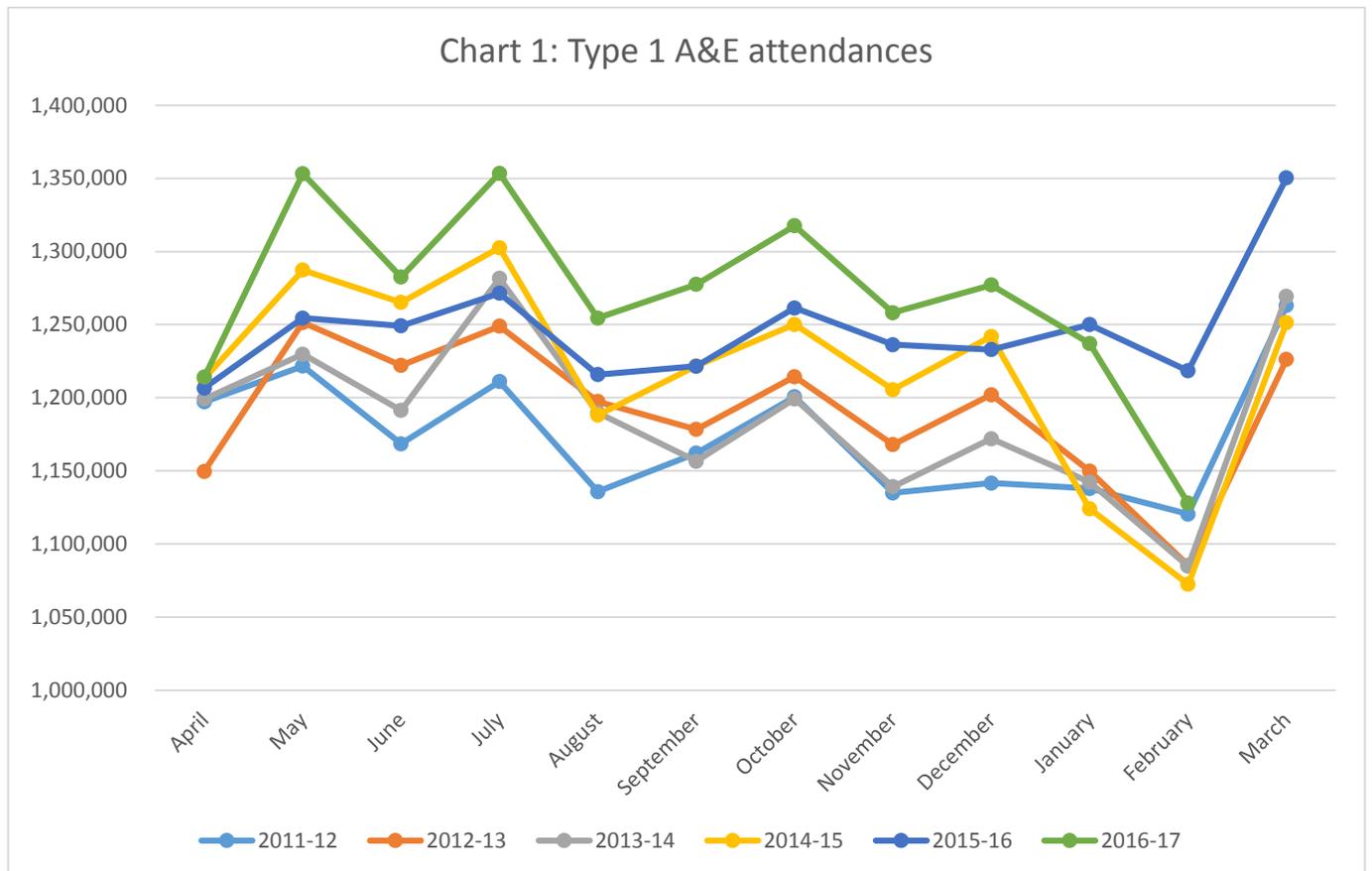
### A&E attendances

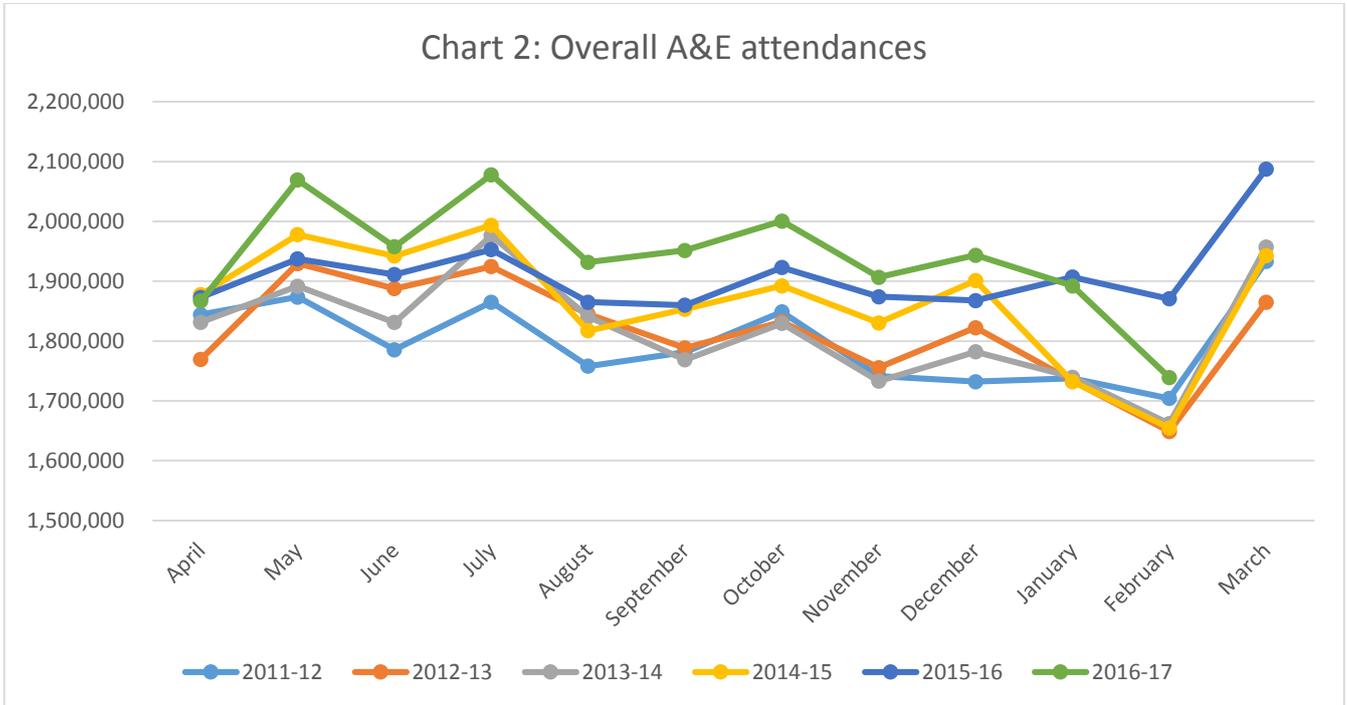
Attendances in both major (type 1) A&E units and overall were at their lowest level of the 2017/18 year to date in February. It was also the second month in a row where attendances were lower than the corresponding month in 2015/16, but the difference in February was far more dramatic than January. There were 1,127,909 type 1 attendances (7.4 per cent lower than February 2016) and 1,739,169 (7.0 per cent down on February 2016) attendances overall. While there was an extra day in February 2016, this can be thought to account for only about half the difference, based on average attendance levels for February 2017.

In the first 11 months of 2016/17, type 1 attendances (13.953m) are 2.46 per cent higher than the same period in 2015/16 (13.618m) and up 8.74 per cent on the same period in 2011/12 (12.832m). Attendances across all types of A&E services (21.338m) are 2.38 per cent higher in

2016/17 to date than the same period in 2015/16 (20.843m) and 8.47 per cent more than at the same point of 2011/12 (19.672m).

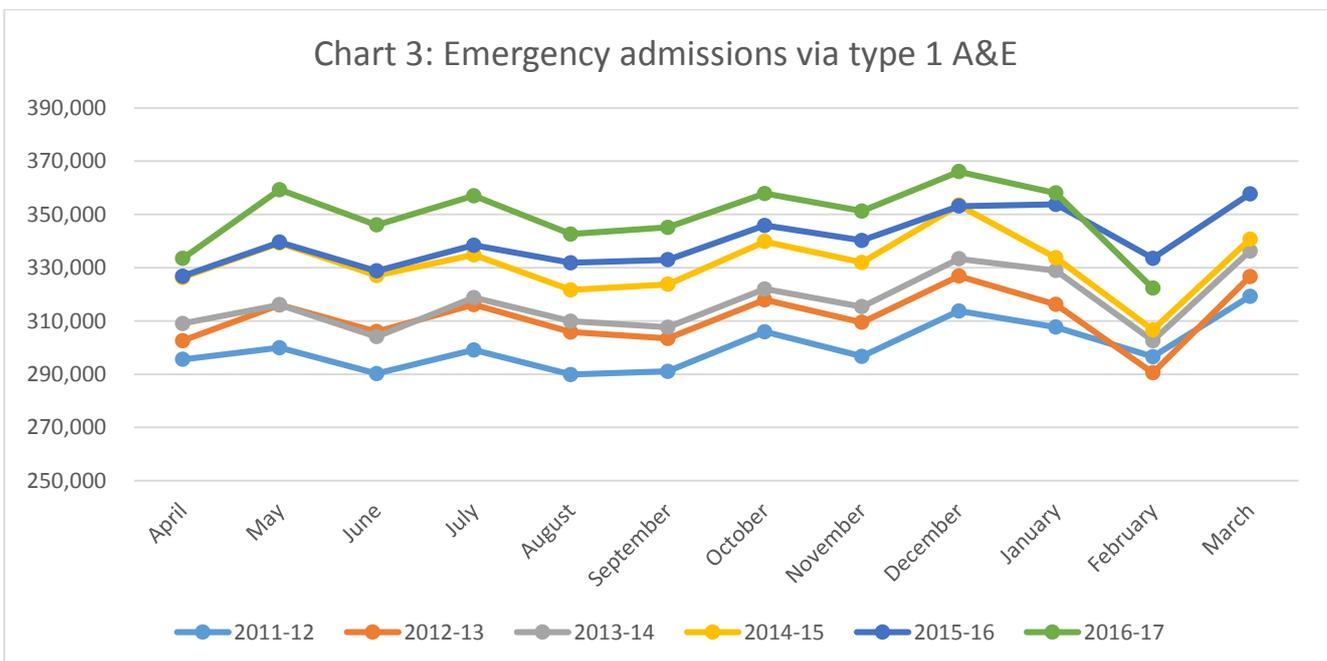
Charts 1 and 2 provide an updated perspective on the year-to-date and comparison points. 2015/16 was the exception among previous years in terms of February not being the month across the year with the lowest number of A&E attendances. Meanwhile, twice in the past five years (2011/12 and 2015/16) it has been March which has seen the highest monthly totals. Month-on-month increases between February and March have varied from 11.59 to 17.78 per cent across the past five years.





### Emergency admissions, via type 1 A&E

The situation here is similar to above, as illustrated in Chart 3 below. Emergency admissions via type 1 A&E units have amounted to 3.839m in the 11 months to February, 3.07 per cent up on the same months in 2015/16 (3.725m) and 16.82 per cent up on the same months in 2011/12 (3.286m).

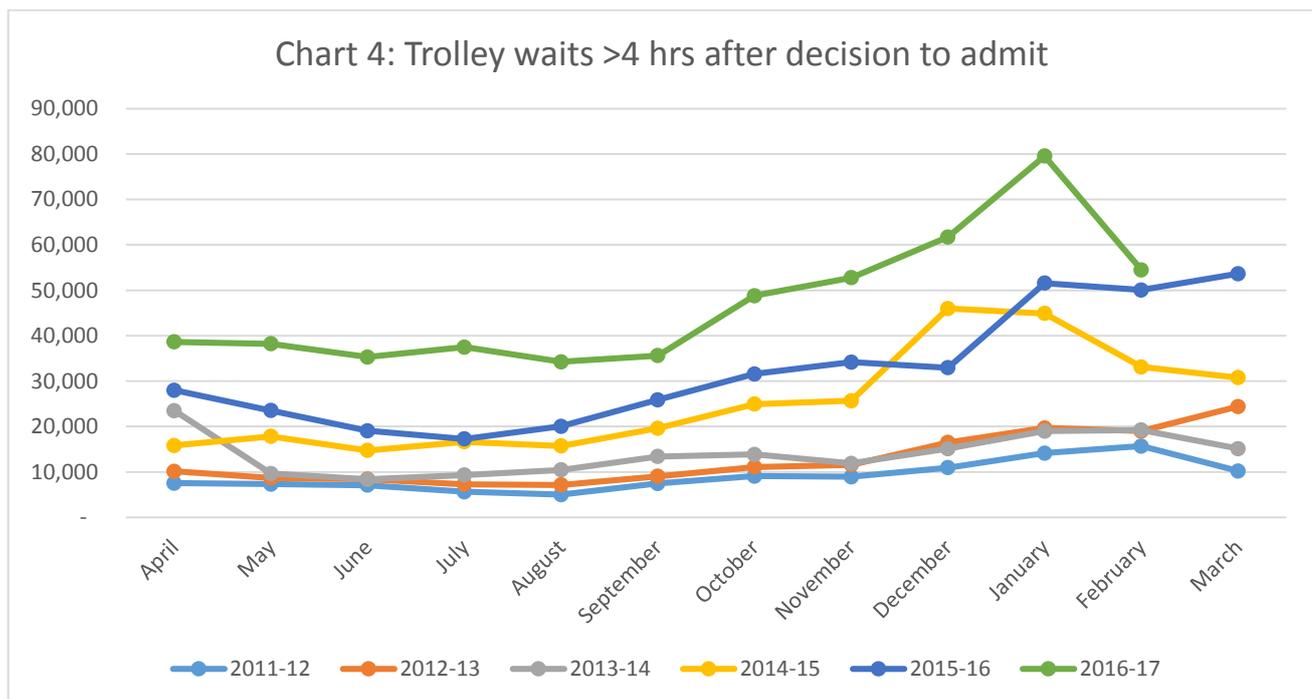


## Trolley waits

There has been a significant increase in ‘trolley waits’ across 2016/17 so far, although the rise in the number during February compared to the same month in 2016 is of a smaller magnitude than witnessed in recent months. In the 11 months to February there have been 516,833 patients waiting in excess of four hours between decision to admit and actual admission. This is 54.69 per cent higher than the same period in 2015/16.

In February 2017 alone there were 54,492 ‘trolley waits’, 8.84 per cent more than February 2016, but also 31.50 per cent lower than January.

In the 11 months to February, there have been 3,225 ‘trolley waits’ in excess of 12 hours, compared to only 664 in the same period of 2015/16. The total number in February (339) was the lowest recorded over the past four months however.



## Delayed transfers of care (DTOC)

In February, the number of patients subject to a delayed transfer at midnight on the last Thursday of the month was 4.35 per cent lower than the previous month, at 6,797.

Meanwhile delayed days declined to a lowest number since July (184,188) at 184,855, although this does still represent a 16.90 per cent rise on February 2016. The number of delayed days for which the NHS was deemed to be responsible (102,663) decreased to its lowest amount since April (101,020). The number of delayed days for which social care organisations were deemed

to be responsible has fallen for two consecutive months, standing at 67,319 in February. This compares to the all-time high level of December 2016, which was 70,217.

There have now been a total of 2.051m delayed days in 2016/17 to date compared to 1.291m in the same period in 2013/14. Social care organisations have continued to be deemed responsible for a growing proportion of DTOCs, with the percentage rising from 25.89 per cent between April 2013 to February 2014 to 34.26 per cent between April 2016 to February 2017.

Chart 5: Delayed days by responsible organisation  
April 2013 to February 2014

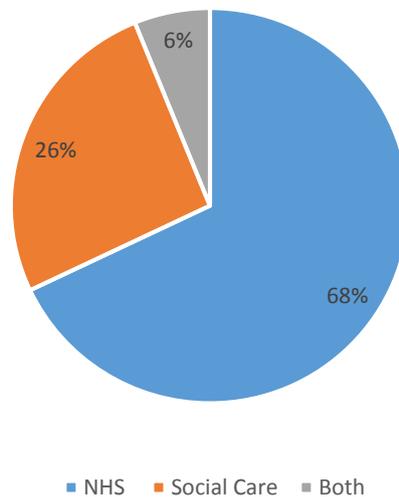
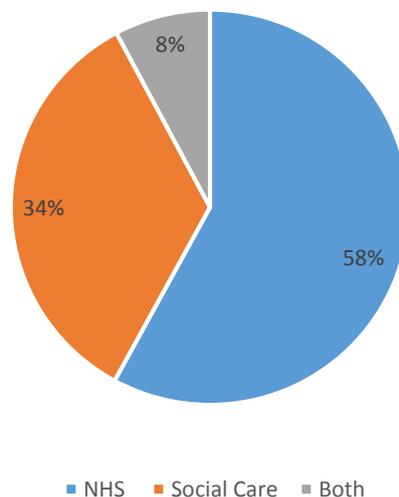


Chart 6: Delayed days by responsible organisation  
April 2016 to February 2017



## Cancer waiting times

- The proportion of patients seen by a consultant within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer was 95.4 per cent in February 2017, the second highest percentage of the financial year to date.
- 97.7 per cent of cancer patients in February received their first treatment within one month of the decision being made to treat. This was the same proportion as February 2016 and also up from 96.6 per cent in January.
- Only 79.8 per cent received their first cancer treatment within two months of GP referral in February, 0.1 per cent up on the previous month but also below the 85 per cent operational standard. The standard was last attained in December 2015 (85.1 per cent).

## Ambulance indicators

- 69.3 per cent of Red 1 and 61.7 per cent of Red 2 calls received a response within eight minutes in February. 89.7 per cent of Category A calls overall received a response within 19 minutes.
- 9.6 per cent of emergency calls were resolved through telephone advice or 'hear and treat' in February, the lowest proportion since September (9.4).
- 375,907 transported incidents were recorded by ambulance trusts in February, 11.11 per cent lower than January.
- In November, 28.6 per cent of those suffering from an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest who had resuscitation either continued or commenced by ambulance services achieved spontaneous circulation on their arrival at hospital. In the first eight months of 2016/17, performance on this measure also stands at 28.6 per cent, compared to the current annual peak of 27.8 per cent achieved in 2015/16.

## Referral to treatment: the waiting list

- The number of patients on the waiting list rose slightly in February, to reach 3.664m. This compares to 3.346m in the same point in 2016.
- Only 89.98 per cent had been waiting less than 18 weeks, a slight improvement on the previous two months. The 92 per cent threshold has, however, now been breached for 12 straight months.
- The number of patients waiting longer than 52 weeks (1,583) increased to its highest number since August 2012 (2,054).
- Median waits declined by a week compared to the previous month, reaching 6.2 weeks. This can also be compared to 5.6 weeks in February 2015 and 5.9 in February 2016.

### Other key points of waiting time data

- 80.20 per cent of service users with their first episode of psychosis commenced treatment within two weeks of referral, a new high point since the target was introduced. The proportion in the same month in 2016 was only 65.30 per cent.
- The number of patients waiting in excess of six weeks for a diagnostic test has fallen to a more than three year low in February, at 9,241 (in December 2013 the figure was 9,144). Meanwhile the number waiting in excess of 13 weeks fell for the second straight month to reach 1,432. This also equates to a 30.85 per cent decline from February 2016.

Source for all data: [NHS England](#), April 2017

### Related resources

- [A workforce fit for the future: Working together to improve the delivery of urgent and emergency care](#)
- [Analysis: NHS performance statistics up to and including December 2016](#)
- [Growing old together: Sharing new ways to support older people](#)
- [Key facts and trends in acute care](#)
- [Key facts and trends in mental health](#)
- [Rip off the sticking plaster now: Enabling the local implementation of sustainable urgent and emergency care models in 2015/16](#)
- [Ripping off the sticking plaster: Whole-system solutions for urgent and emergency care](#)

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