



NHS

The
Information
Centre

for health and social care

Press Information

The NHS Information Centre is England's central, authoritative source of health and social care information.



The NHS Information Centre believes passionately in the value of high quality information, particularly in helping frontline staff deliver better services on the ground.



Tim Straughan
Chief Executive,
The NHS Information Centre

who we are and what we do

Got a great story but unsure of the facts and figures behind it?
The NHS Information Centre is England's central, authoritative source of health and social care information.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care is an independent special health authority funded by the Department of Health. We collect data from more than 300 health and social care providers (such as Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities) analyse it, and turn it into information that provides a national and regional picture of different NHS services and resources.

We also provide a range of support and analytical services to help front line staff, policy-makers and managers use our information effectively. This supports them in making positive, informed decisions and ultimately in providing patients with the best possible standard of health and social care.

Our information is published in the form of bulletins, reports and surveys throughout the year, all of which are freely available to the public on our website at www.ic.nhs.uk.

what information we can provide...

We have information on a broad range of health and social care topics, from obesity rates and hospital admissions to drug misuse and home care numbers. The topics listed in this guide are:

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Ambulances

We provide performance data about NHS Ambulance Trusts in England. Data can be broken down to regional level.

We hold information on:

- How many calls requesting an ambulance are made and how many incidents are attended by an ambulance within target times.
- How many emergency journeys ambulances make to hospital.

“How many women are screened for breast cancer?”

Cancer Screening

We hold information relating to the National Cancer Screening Programme, the data from which can be broken down by age and region.

We hold information on:

- How many women are screened for breast or cervical cancer.
- How many breast cancers are detected and their level of severity.
- How many cervical screen samples are tested by laboratories and how long it takes for women to receive test results.
- How long it takes for women to be referred for further cervical treatment.





Complaints

We hold information on how many complaints are made by patients about the level of service they receive from the NHS. Information can be split by region and profession and includes information on:

- How many complaints are made about GP practices, dental practices or hospital and community health services.
- The subject area of written complaints, such as privacy, staff attitude and treatment.
- How many complaints were concluded within the time limit set down by the Department of Health.

“How many people complain about their dentist?”

Contraception

We hold information on NHS Community Contraception Clinics, including attendances by age and gender.

Our data shows:

- How many people attend NHS Community Contraception Clinics.
- What type and amount of contraception is issued.

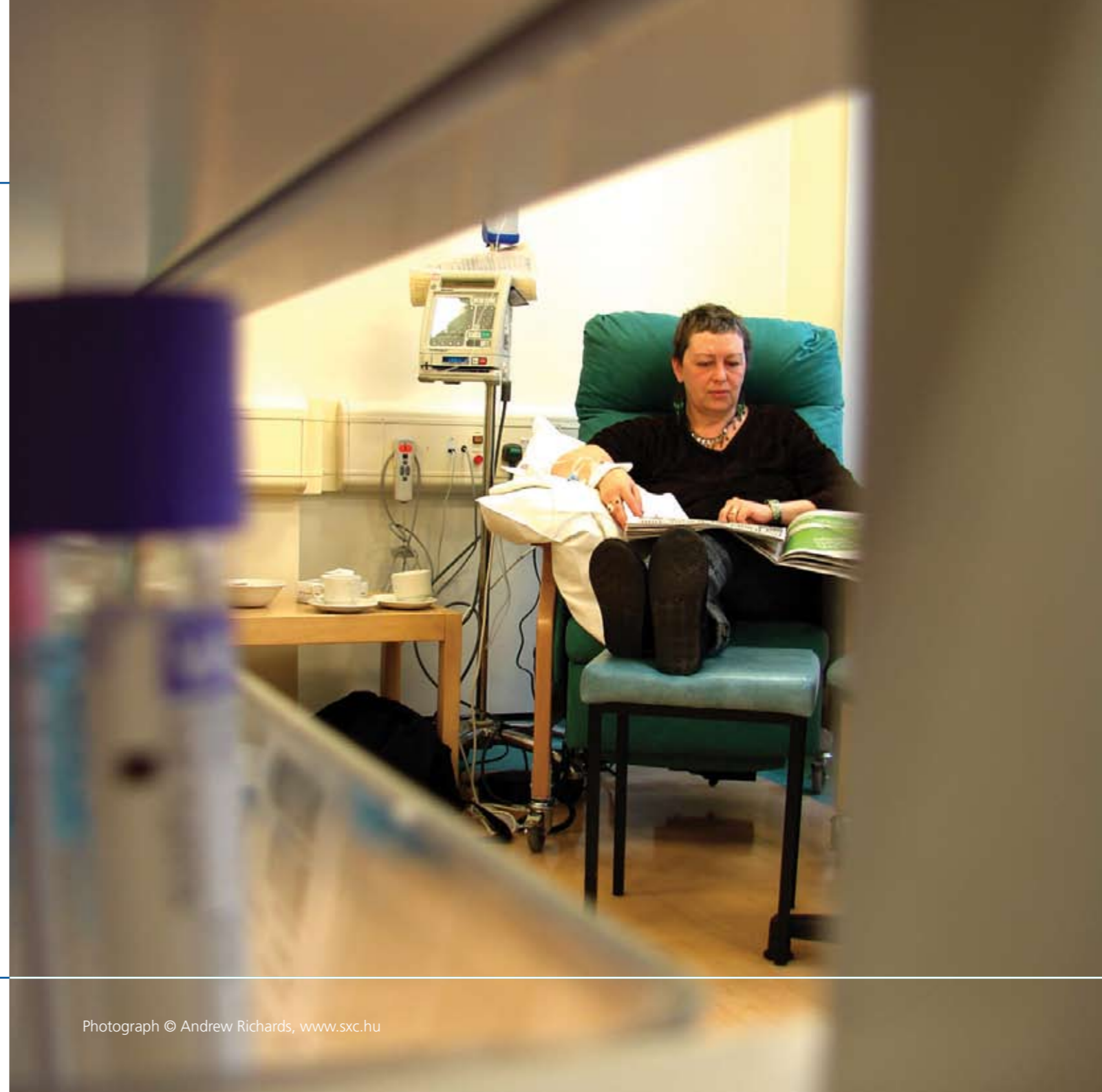
Hospital Care

Information on hospital care is produced by our **Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)** team, who have a separate website: www.hesonline.nhs.uk. Data can usually be broken down annually, by region, age, or gender.

We hold data on:

- Reasons for admission to hospital – from burns and car accidents to scorpion bites or falling off ladders. Recorded as ‘external causes’, there are more than 350 listed.
- How many admissions there are for particular conditions, from mumps and malnutrition to heart attacks and alcohol poisoning. Admissions are recorded as either a ‘primary diagnosis’ (the main reason for admission) or ‘secondary diagnosis’ (a contributing reason for admission), and there are 1,550 conditions listed. (Figures relate to the number of admissions, not the number of people, as one person could be admitted more than once in a year).
- How many procedures take place for a specific condition in hospital – from hip replacements and appendix removals to lung transplants and open heart surgery. There are nearly 1,500 different procedures listed.
- How many outpatient appointments there are for different condition areas – from paediatrics to dermatology. There are more than 90 condition areas listed.
- How many outpatients attend or fail to keep their first and subsequent appointments.

“How many hip replacements are performed each year?”





Immunisation

We collect data on the uptake of vaccines among children and older people in England. Regional information is available.

We hold information on:

- How many children are vaccinated for MMR, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, haemophilus influenzae type B and meningitis C.
- How many people are vaccinated for tuberculosis (TB).
- How many people aged 65 and over are vaccinated against flu.

“How many children are obese?”

Lifestyles

We commission surveys on the nation's lifestyle habits, covering areas such as drinking, drug misuse, smoking, obesity, physical activity and diet. Figures can be broken down annually by age, gender and region.

We hold data on:

- How much and how often adults and school children drink alcohol and how many hospital admissions and deaths can be linked to drinking.
- How much and how often adults and school children use illegal drugs.
- How many adults and children are overweight or obese and what sort of food people eat.
- How often adults and children take part in physical activity.
- How many hospital admissions, procedures and prescriptions relate to obesity.
- How many adults and children smoke and how often, and how many deaths and hospital admissions relate to smoking.
- How many people access NHS Stop Smoking Services, successfully give up smoking and use different therapies to help them quit.

Maternity and Infants

Our HES team produce information on NHS hospital deliveries, which can be broken down by region, and we also produce an infant feeding survey every five years.

We hold information on:

- How many women go into different types of labour (such as spontaneous or induced delivery) and the types of delivery they experience (such as caesarean).
- How long women spend in hospital before and after giving birth, and how many suffer complications.
- How many deliveries are carried out by different professions (hospital doctors, midwives or GPs).
- How many new mothers opt to breastfeed and how long for.

Mental Health

We hold information about the number of people accessing specialist mental health services and in-patients formally detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983.

We hold data on:

- How many people with severe or enduring mental health conditions access specialist mental health services.
- How many people are detained in NHS hospitals under the Mental Health Act and the number of formal and informal admissions to NHS and independent hospitals.

“How many people access specialist mental health services?”





Prescriptions

Prescription information is collected and analysed by our Prescribing Support Unit (PSU). Data is available for England and for reason for exemption from prescription charges, such as aged over 60 or under 16.

We hold information on:

- How many prescription items (by drug name and clinical area) are dispensed in the primary sector and their net ingredient cost (NIC), and which medicines are used by NHS hospitals.
- How many pharmacies there are in England and Wales, how many have an out-of-hours service and how many offer local enhanced services (such as medicine use reviews).

Primary Care

We collect data on GP, NHS dental and NHS ophthalmic activity, much of which can be broken down to regional level. Data about individual GP practices is held on the Quality and Outcomes Framework (The QOF).

We hold information on:

- How many **GPs** there are, how much they earn, how many hours they work and how they divide their working hours between consultation and other administrative tasks.
- How many GP practices there are and how much money is given to them. How many consultations take place, where they take place, how many patients are seen and what patients think of their GP service.
- How many **dentists** there are, how much they earn, how many patients they see and how many units of dental activity and courses of treatment they carry out.
- How much dentistry costs the NHS and patients.
- How many **opticians** there are, how many sight tests are carried out, who they are carried out by, where they are carried out and who receives them.
- How much the NHS pays for vouchers towards repairing or purchasing spectacles or contact lenses.

“How much do GPs earn?”

Social Care

We hold data about Councils with Social Service Responsibilities (CSSRs), the services they provide and fund, and the people who receive such services. Some of this information can be broken down by age, gender, ethnicity and region.

- How many households and people receive home care and for how many hours.
- How many carers there are and how many social services staff are employed by CSSRs.
- How much CSSRs spend on services including those for children, families and older people, residential and domiciliary care.
- How many new clients make contact with CSSRs, how many clients are assessed and how many receive services.
- How many people are registered as blind, partially-sighted, deaf or hard-of-hearing.

“How many people receive care in their own home?”





Workforce

We collect information on the NHS workforce in both primary and secondary care. Much of this information can be broken down by age, gender, ethnicity and region.

We hold information on:

- Headcounts and full time equivalent NHS staff numbers by group (medical, dental, general practice and non-medical staff) and staff turnover.
- The number of staff by speciality, area of work and pay grade.
- The number of job vacancies in NHS hospital and community health services and GP practices.

“How many full-time nurses work for the NHS?”

Quick Reference Guide

This guide lists the main publications available from the NHS Information Centre and indicates when they are published. Information is listed by subject area and spans all relevant publications.

Subject and relevant publications	Information
Alcohol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Statistics on Alcohol (Annual National Statistic Compendium – Spring) 📄 Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England (Annual Statistic – Summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult consumption • Cost to NHS • Hospital admissions • Pregnancy consumption • Related deaths • School children (11- 15) consumption
Ambulances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Ambulance Services, England (Annual National Statistic – Summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency journeys • Incidents attended • Target time achievements
Breast Feeding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Infant Feeding Survey (National Statistic - every five years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of time mothers breast feed • Feeding outside the home • Use of milk other than breast milk and alternative drinks
Cancer Screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Breast Cancer Screening Services, England (Annual National Statistic – Spring) 📄 Cervical Screening Programme (Annual National Statistic – Autumn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of women screened for cervical cancer • Number of cervical samples tested by laboratories and the number recorded as inadequate • Length of time for women to receive cervical cancer test results and be referred for treatment • Number of women invited to be screened for breast cancer • Number of women screened for breast cancer • How many breast cancers are detected and their level of severity
Complaints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Data on Written Complaints in the NHS (Annual Statistic – Winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of written complaints about hospital and community health services, general practice (including dental) and health services (formerly family health services) • Number of complaints by subject area • The proportion of complaints that were concluded within the 26 working days time limit

Subject and relevant publications	Information
Contraception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 NHS Contraceptive Services, England (Annual National Statistic – Autumn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of attendances at NHS Community Contraception Clinics • Number of different types of contraception issued, including emergency contraception
Dentists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 NHS Dental Statistics for England (Quarterly Statistic) 📄 NHS Dental Statistics (Annual – Summer) 📄 Dental Working Hours, England and Wales (Annual – Summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of dentistry to the NHS • Cost of dentistry to patients • How much dentists earn • Number of dentists • Number of patients seen by dentists • Dental working hours • Number of courses of dental treatment and types of treatment undertaken • Units of dental activity
Drugs (illicit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England (Annual Statistic – Summer) 📄 Statistics on Drug Misuse, England (Annual Statistic – Summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of illicit drugs among adults • Use of illicit drugs among school children aged 11 to 15 • Number of hospital admissions due to drug use • Deaths due to drug use
GPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 GP Earnings and Expenses Enquiry (Annual National Statistic – Spring) 📄 The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) (Annual Report – Autumn) 📄 Gross Investment Guarantee Report; England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland (Annual National Statistic – Autumn) 📄 GP Patient Survey (Annual – Summer) 📄 GP Workload Survey (Annual – Summer) 📄 Trends in Consultation Rates in General Practice (Annual – Summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of GPs and GP practices • How much GPs earn • How many hours GPs work • How much money is given to GP practices • How many consultations take place • How many patients are seen by GPs • What patients think about their GPs

Subject and relevant publications	Information
Hospitals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Hospital Episode Statistics; Admitted Patient Care (Annual National Statistic – Winter) 📖 Hospital Outpatient Activity (Annual Statistic – Spring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External cause for admission to hospital • Primary diagnosis upon admission • Number of procedures for a specific condition • Number of outpatient appointments attended or missed
Immunisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 NHS Immunisation Statistics, England (Annual National Statistic – Autumn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uptake of vaccines for MMR, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, haemophilus influenzae type B and meningitis C, among children • Uptake of BCG vaccinations • Number of people aged 65 and over immunised against flu
Opticians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Activity Statistics for England and Wales (Twice Annual National Statistic – Summer and Winter) 📖 General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales (Annual National Statistic – Summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of opticians • Number of sight tests • Venue of sight tests • Who receives sight tests • Number of sight vouchers issued and cost to NHS
Maternity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 NHS Maternity Statistics (Annual National Statistic – Summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of deliveries, by different types of labour • Number of women suffering complications • Number of deliveries carried out by different profession • Length of antenatal and postnatal hospital stay
Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 In-patients formally detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, NHS Trusts, Care Trusts, Primary Care Trusts and Independent Hospitals (Annual National Statistic - Winter) 📖 Mental Health Bulletin: Statistics from the Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS) (Annual – Winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people accessing specialist mental health services. • Number and rate (per 100,000 of the population) of detentions in NHS hospitals under the Mental Health Act • Number of formal and informal admissions to NHS and independent hospitals • Number of Place of Safety Orders involving assessment in hospital • Number of court and prison disposals
Pharmacists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales (Annual National Statistic – Winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of pharmacies in England and Wales • Number of pharmacies providing a medicine use review (MUR) service • Number of pharmacies providing local enhanced services

Subject and relevant publications	Information
Prescriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Prescription Cost Analysis (Annual National Statistic – Spring) 📖 Prescriptions Dispensed in the Community (Annual National Statistic – Summer) 📖 Report of Hospital Prescribing (Annual Statistic – Winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of prescription items dispensed in the primary sector • Net ingredient cost of prescriptions to the NHS • Which medicines are used in hospitals
Smoking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Health Survey for England (Annual National Statistic Survey – Spring) 📖 Statistics on Smoking (Annual National Statistic – Autumn) 📖 Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among young people in England (Annual National Statistic – Summer) 📖 NHS Stop Smoking Services (Quarterly Statistic) 📖 NHS Stop Smoking Services (Annual Statistic – Summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much adults smoke • How much children smoke • How children obtain cigarettes • How much pregnant women smoke • Hospital admissions due to smoking related illness • Deaths due to smoking • Number of people accessing NHS Stop Smoking Services • Number of people using smoking cessation methods • Number of people successfully giving up smoking
Weight, diet and exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Health Survey for England (Annual National Survey – Spring) 📖 National Child Measurement Programme (Annual National Statistic – Spring) 📖 Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet (Annual Compendium - Spring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of adults who are overweight or obese • Number of children who are overweight or obese • Number of people eating the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables • Types of food school children eat • Amount of exercise school children take • Amount of exercise adults take • Number of people at risk of developing illness due to obesity • Number of obesity related prescriptions • Number of hospital admissions related to obesity • Number of hospital procedures related to obesity

Subject and relevant publications	Information
<p>Social Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Community Care Statistics: Home Help/Care Services for Adults, England (Annual National Statistic – Spring) 📄 Personal Social Services Expenditure and Unit Costs, England (Annual National Statistic – Spring) 📄 Personal Social Services Staff of Social Services Departments, England (Annual National Statistic, Spring) 📄 Community Care Statistics: Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care for Adults, England (Annual National Statistic - Winter) 📄 People Registered as Deaf or Hard of Hearing, England (Every three years. National Statistic – Autumn) 📄 Community Care Statistics: Grant Funded Services for Adults, England (Annual Statistic – Autumn) 📄 Community Care Statistics: Supported Residents (Adults), England (Annual National Statistic – Autumn) 📄 People Registered as Blind or Partially Sighted (Every three years. National Statistic – Winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households receiving home care • Number of clients receiving home care • Number of home care contact hours undertaken by Councils with Social Services Responsibilities (CSSRs) • Number of home care contact hours undertaken by the independent sector • How much money is spent on home care • Number of social services staff employed by CSSRs • How much CSSRs spend on individual services • Number of new clients making contact with CSSRs • Number of new clients assessed by CSSRs • Number of new clients receiving services • Number of carers • Number of people registered as blind or partially sighted • Number of people registered as deaf or hard-of-hearing
<p>Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 NHS Staff Numbers (Annual Statistic – Spring) 📄 NHS Workforce Vacancies (Annual National Survey – Summer) 📄 GP Practice Vacancy Survey (Annual National Survey – Summer) 📄 NHS Staff Earnings (Quarterly Statistic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headcount and full time equivalent staff numbers by group • Number of job vacancies • Number of staff by speciality, area of work and pay grade • Estimates of staff earnings within The NHS

Contact us

We operate a 24 hour press office service. Journalists should initially direct their call to **0845 257 6990** to speak to the duty press officer.

During working hours, emails can also be directed to: mediaenquiries@ic.nhs.uk

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