

Position at
Jul – Sep 2010

Data capture and recording improvements have been made in some Boards. However, the level across Scotland remains low.

Background

Addressing ethnic inequalities in health requires accurate and complete information to support monitoring and health improvement. Data are required to:

- Monitor the impact of NHS services and policies on different ethnic groups;
- Better understand the health needs of different ethnic groups; and
- To check that NHS Scotland is making progress towards meeting its targets on tackling racism and discrimination and promoting equality.

For Scotland as a whole there have been substantial improvements in the recording of ethnic group. Completeness of recording has more than doubled over the last two years for both acute hospital discharges and new outpatient appointments. However, some NHS Boards continue to show little or no improvement in recording.

Inpatient and day case discharges (SMR01)

The completeness for ethnic group recording was 41.8% for NHS Scotland for the quarter ending September 2010 (see Figure 1). The highest levels of recording for this quarter were seen at the Golden Jubilee National Hospital (98.0%), Lanarkshire (86.8%) and Borders (65.2%). Dumfries and Galloway (60.2%), Greater Glasgow and Clyde (53.4%) and Ayrshire and Arran (46.6%) were all above the national average. One Board has recording levels below 1% in the quarter ending September 2010

New outpatient appointments (SMR00)

The level of completeness for ethnic group recording was 27.4% for Scotland as a whole for the quarter ending September 2010 (see Figure 2). The highest levels of recording for this quarter were seen at the Golden Jubilee National Hospital (99.5%), Lanarkshire (71.6%) and Greater Glasgow and Clyde (44.1%), Borders (42.7%) and Grampian (36.8%) were above the national average. All other Boards had recording levels above 1% in the quarter ending September 2010, except Tayside which shows persistently level below 1%

Driving change

Boards that have made significant progress in ethnicity coding have cited a number of actions that have contributed to improvements. These include:

- a commitment by senior managers to introduce ethnicity monitoring
- training of identified staff who ask patients about their ethnic group
- mandatory data collection by asking all service users the question and recording their answers.

For further support with ethnicity monitoring, please contact: joan.jamieson@nhs.net

Figure 1: Percentage of discharge episode records (SMR01) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment; July-September 2010

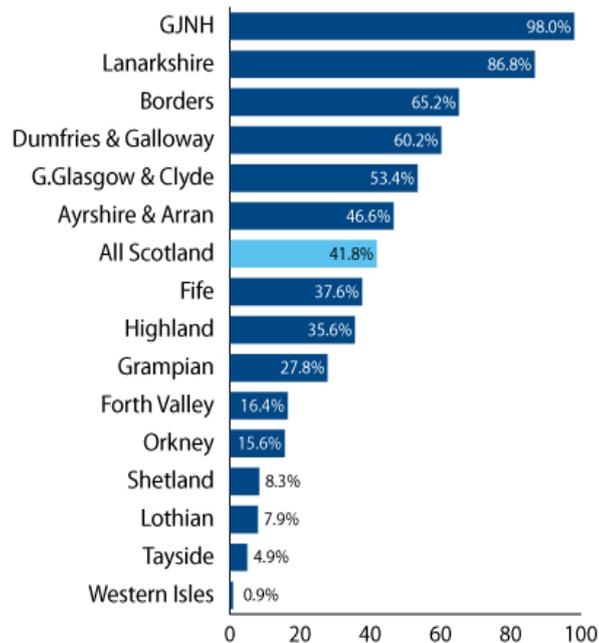
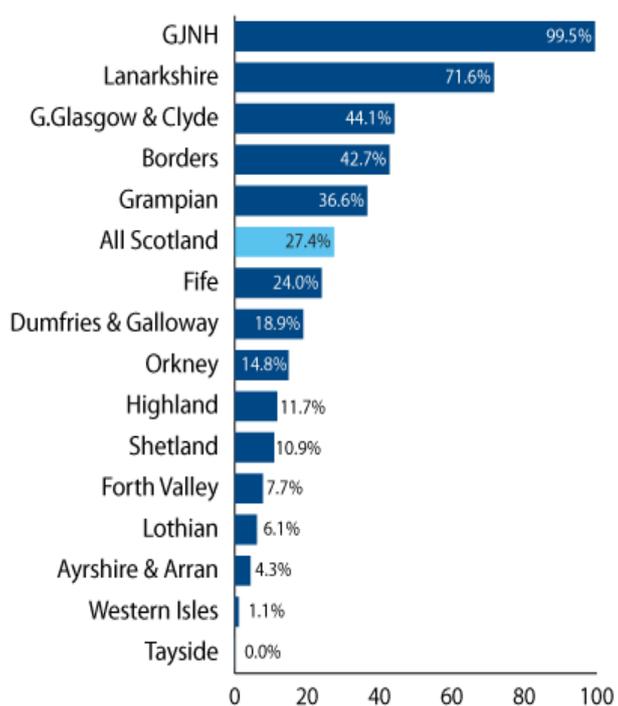


Figure 2: Percentage of new outpatient appointment records (SMR00) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment; July-September 2010



Inpatient and day case discharges (SMR01)

The overall level of completeness for Scotland has risen from 19.6% in the quarter October-December 2008 to 41.8% in July-September 2010 (see Figure 3). This increase has been driven by several Boards that have made significant progress during the past two years.

Golden Jubilee National Hospital has achieved a significant improvement in the level of recording, increasing from 56.5% to 98.0% during this period, as has Dumfries and Galloway, (rising from 0.1% to 60.2%) and Highland (increasing from 2.8% to 37.6%). Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Ayrshire and Arran and Lanarkshire have also seen notable increases between October 2008 and September 2010.

All Boards now had recording levels above 1% throughout the period (October 2008 to September 2010) and are included in Figure 3.

New outpatient appointments (SMR00)

Improvements have been made in recording on SMR00, although the levels remain lower than for SMR01. The overall level of completeness for Scotland has risen from 13.0% in the quarter October-December 2008 to 27.4% in July-September 2010 (see Figure 4). As with SMR01, this increase has been driven by several Boards that have made significant progress during the past two years.

Golden Jubilee National Hospital has achieved a significant improvement in the level of recording, increasing from 0.4% to 99.5% during this period, as has Greater Glasgow and Clyde (rising from 13.7% to 44.1%) and Grampian (increasing from 15.6% to 36.6%). Lanarkshire has also shown a notable increase during this period.

One Health Board who had recording level persistently below 1% throughout the period (October 2008 to September 2010) is not included in Figure 4.

Further information and resources

Data on ethnicity completeness is provided to each Board each quarter, and is published each twice-yearly by ISD. www.isdscotland.org/isd/5826.html

An Ethnic Monitoring Toolkit has been developed, providing guidelines and training resources to support the planning and implementation of patient ethnicity data collection within NHS Scotland. www.isdscotland.org/isd/5875.html

A training DVD "Happy to Ask, Happy to Tell" has been developed to increase understanding of diversity monitoring amongst frontline staff. Main contact: michael.tornow@nhs.net

Update Note:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/253579/0075142.pdf>

As from 1st April 2011 NHS Boards will change over to Census 2011 Ethnic Classifications for Scotland and this will be reflected in the next Statistical Publication at the end of August 2011.

Figure 3 Percentage of discharge episode records (SMR01) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment and quarter; October 2008-September 2010

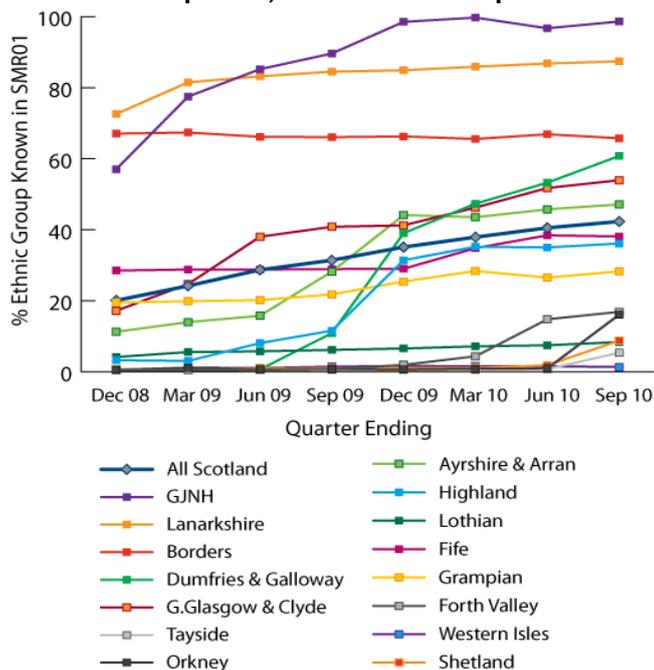


Figure 4 Percentage of new outpatient appointment records (SMR00) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment and quarter; October 2008-September 2010

