

Family Practitioner Services

General Medical Services

for Northern Ireland, Annual Statistics 2020/2021



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We want your feedback	We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics, which can be provided by email to: Info.BSO@hscni.net

Additional information about these statistics is located at the back of this publication.

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Introduction

This annual report contains high level summary information in relation to General Practitioners (GPs), GP Practices and Registered Patients including registration activity and payments processed by BSO towards the overall cost of GP Services in Northern Ireland. A number of United Kingdom (UK) comparisons are also included. The report does not contain data on the treatment of patients as individual GPs maintain their own clinical information systems.

Headline results, supported by relevant charts, infographics, commentary, and user guidance are included in the main body of the report. The detailed tables which underpin each of the sections, and which provide further trend, demographic and regional breakdowns at Local Government District (LGD), Local Commissioning Group (Health Trust) and GP Federation level, are included as [Annex Tables](#).

This publication has been produced by independent statisticians within the FPS Information Unit. They are on secondment from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). It has been compiled in accordance with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Further information about the work of FPS and the manner in which these statistics were produced can be found at the back of this publication.

User Engagement

Statisticians in the Information Unit are regularly in contact with key users of the statistics. While previously readership surveys were used to provide an overall assessment of whether user needs were being met, the current approach employed is to undertake focused consultations with key users on a rolling basis.

This approach helps to gain greater insight into how the statistics are used and to identify additional specific requirements. In addition, any ad hoc requests for information are recorded centrally in a database and these records are used to provide intelligence from a wider set of users in relation to changing requirements.

An outline of future developments as a result of user engagement is provided in the [General Medical Services Statistics User Engagement Action Plan](#).

New Developments

Following engagement with users, key tables and analyses broken down by GP Federation are provided for the first time in this publication.

GP Federations have been established in Northern Ireland to support and protect GP Practices and to deliver the transformation agenda in Health and Social care. There are currently 17 fully incorporated GP Federations covering all areas of Northern Ireland, all of which are owned entirely by GPs.

Key Facts



- **Northern Ireland had 321 active GP practices**
This was a reduction of two compared to 2020 and a reduction of 29 (8%) since 2014.
- **There were 1,410 GPs (excluding locums)**
Of these, 58% were female and 42% were male, a notable shift in gender profile since 2014 (46% female, 54% male).
- **A total of 2,007,000 individuals were registered with a GP practice**
During 2020/2021, there were almost 44,000 new patient registrations and approximately 40,000 patients deducted.
- **BSO processed £316.9m of payments for GP services in Northern Ireland**
This was an average payment of £158 per registered patient.

1. GP Practice Statistics

This section contains basic summary statistics on GP Practices including number of practices and their distribution geographically and proximity for patients. Where a practice is split over more than one site the location of the Primary Practice is used for analysis.

1.1 Number of GP Practices

There were 321 GP Practices in Northern Ireland on 31st March 2021. This is a reduction of 2 practices since 2020 and a reduction of 29 (8%) since 2014. The change in the number of practices is as a result of closures, as well as mergers (where practices have combined).

Belfast Local Government District (LGD) has the largest number of GP Practices (76) while Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD has the smallest number (15).

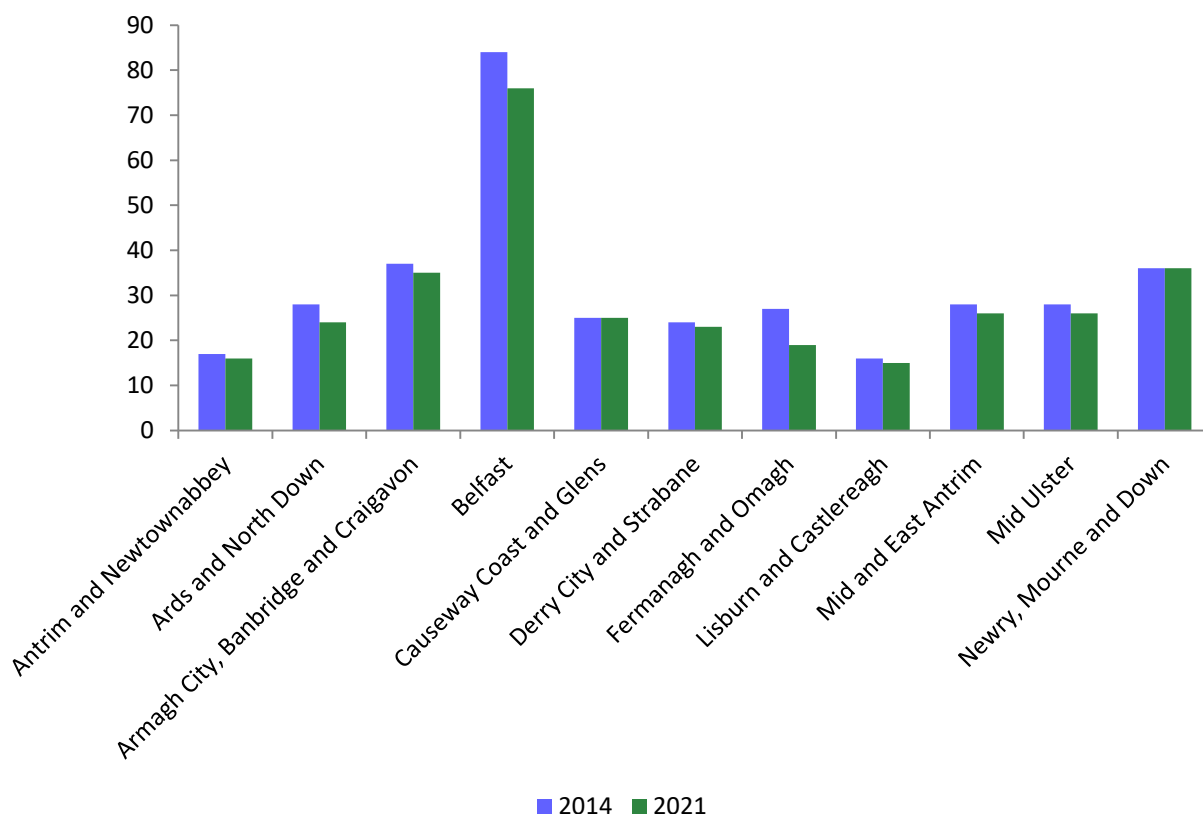


Figure 1.1: Number of GP Practices by Local Government District, 31st March 2014 and 31st March 2021

[See Annex Table 1.3b](#)

Only 2 LGDs have maintained their number of GP Practices since 2014 (Causeway Coast & Glens and Newry, Mourne & Down). The rest have shown a proportionate decrease ranging from 4% in Derry City & Strabane to 30% in Fermanagh & Omagh.

At Local Commissioning Group (Health Trust) level, Western shows the largest proportionate decrease in GP Practices between 2014 and 2021 (16%). The smallest decrease in GP Practices during this period is in the Southern LCG (4%). For further information see [Annex Table 1.3a](#)

1.2 GP Practices per 100,000 population

Clearly the size of the registered population in any given LGD will have an influence on the service required. Fig 1.2 presents the number of GP Practices per 100,000 registered patients in order to provide a better indication of service provision. Note, however, this does not take account of the different age profiles or levels of morbidity across areas which will also impact on service requirements. It should also be noted that GP Practices vary in size and number of live GP contracts associated with them.

Local Government District	GP Practices per 100,000 population
Newry, Mourne & Down	18.8
Mid & East Antrim	18.1
Belfast	17.7
Causeway Coast & Glens	16.7
Mid Ulster	16.6
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	15.6
Fermanagh & Omagh	15.4
Ards & North Down	14.7
Derry City & Strabane	13.2
Lisburn & Castlereagh	12.6
Antrim & Newtownabbey	12.1
Northern Ireland	16.0

Figure 1.2: GP Practices per 100,000 registered patients, by Local Government District, 31st March 2021

Newry, Mourne & Down LGD has the highest number of GP Practices per 100,000 registered population (18.8), more than one and a half times the number in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD (12.1). However, when considering number of GPs per 100,000 registered patients Newry, Mourne & Down has 64.3 compared with 67.5 in Antrim & Newtownabbey meaning that, in general, GP Practices in Antrim & Newtownabbey are larger and have more GPs operating out of them. For further information on the number of GP Practices per 100,000 see [Annex Table 1.5b](#)

At GP Federation level, North Belfast has the highest number of GP Practices per 100,000 population (20.4), closely followed by Antrim Ballymena and Newry & District (both 19.6) and East Belfast (19.4). The number of GP Practices per 100,000 population has decreased across all GP Federations since 2017 with a reduction of 7.5% at Northern Ireland level during this time. This decrease across GP Federations ranges from 27.1% in Ards to 1.2% in Causeway. For further information see [Annex Table 1.5c](#)

1.3 Distance to nearest GP Practice

At Northern Ireland level, 98% of the population¹ live within five miles of a GP Practice. At least 88% of the population live within a three mile radius of a GP Practice; with the more urban LGDs (Belfast, Antrim & Newtownabbey, Lisburn & Castlereagh and Ards & North Down) showing upwards of 92%.



Figure 1.3: Average Distance to nearest GP Practice by Local Government District, 31st March 2021

¹ Population is defined as active GP registration person counts at postcode level at October 2021. Distance is calculated as the straight line distance between the centroids of the population home postcode to the postcode of the nearest GP Practice.

GP registration data were analysed using Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) quintiles where 1 represents the most deprived areas and 5 represents the least deprived areas.

Figure 1.4 shows that patients from the most deprived (0.8 miles) and least deprived (0.9 miles) deprivation quintiles lived closest to a GP Practice on average, while those in the middle quintile (1.8 miles) lived furthest away on average. These findings may be influenced by the often urban location of GP Practices typically characterised by areas of high and low deprivation.

Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017	Average Distance (miles)
Most Deprived	0.8
	1.5
	1.8
	1.5
Least Deprived	0.9
Northern Ireland	1.3

Figure 1.4: Population weighted average distance to nearest GP Practice, by Deprivation Quintile, 2021

For average distances to nearest GP Practice by Local Commissioning Group (Health Trust), Local Government District, and, Deprivation Quintile detail refer to [Annex Tables 1.7a, 1.7b and 1.7c](#)

2. GP Workforce

This section contains basic summary statistics on GP Practitioners (GP) (excluding Locums) including number, age and gender and patients per GP Practitioner. GP figures presented are headcount and do not reflect different working patterns individual GPs may operate.

2.1 GPs by Gender and Age Profile

There were 1,410 active GPs (headcount) across Northern Ireland at 31st March 2021. This is a 3% increase in the number of GPs since 2020 and a 19% increase since 2014. It should be noted that not all GPs work full-time hours so changes in headcount may not always reflect the change in full time equivalent GPs.

In terms of gender profile of GPs, 58% are female and 42% are male. Fig 2.1 shows there has been a general downward trend in the number of male GPs and a corresponding increase in the number of female GPs. However between 2020 and 2021 the number of male GPs has increased for the first time since 2006.

Despite the recent rise, the number of male GPs has decreased by 9% since 2014, while the number of female GPs has increased by more than half (53%) during the same period.

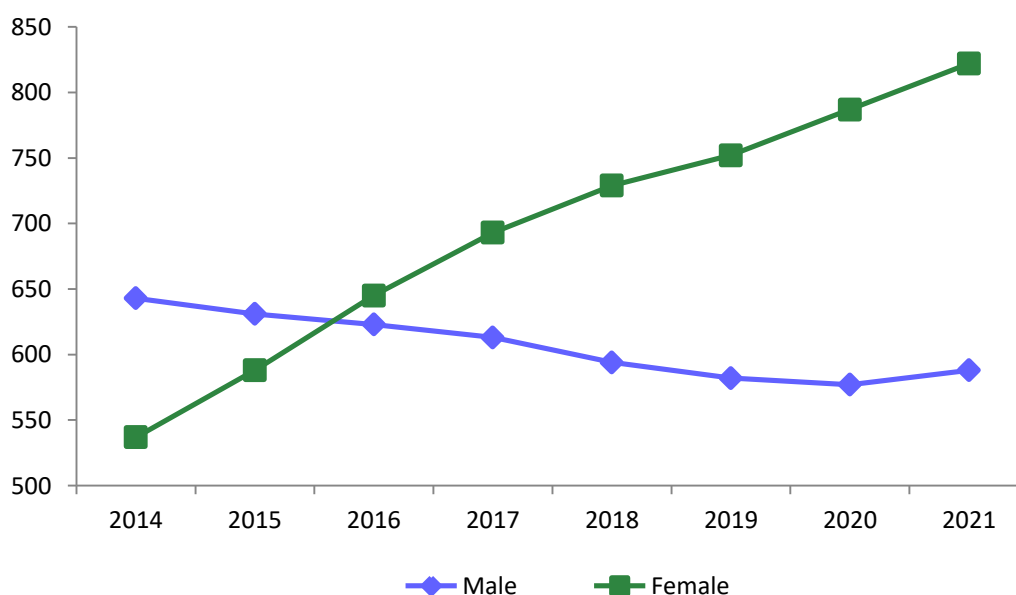


Figure 2.1: Number of GPs in NI by gender, 2014 to 2021

[See Annex Table 1.2d](#)

The changing demographics of the GP workforce are reflected in Fig 2.2. Over half of GPs in the 55-59 and 60+ age-groups are male, while there are more female GPs in the younger age groups.

Almost two fifths of female GPs (39%) are in the 25-39 age band compared to just under a quarter of male GPs (23%). Conversely only 5% of female GPs are aged 60 and over compared to 13% of male GPs.

The 25-39 age band is made up of 30% male and 70% female GPs. As age increases, so does the percentage of male GPs until the oldest age bracket (60+) where the figures are almost reversed at 68% male and 32% female.

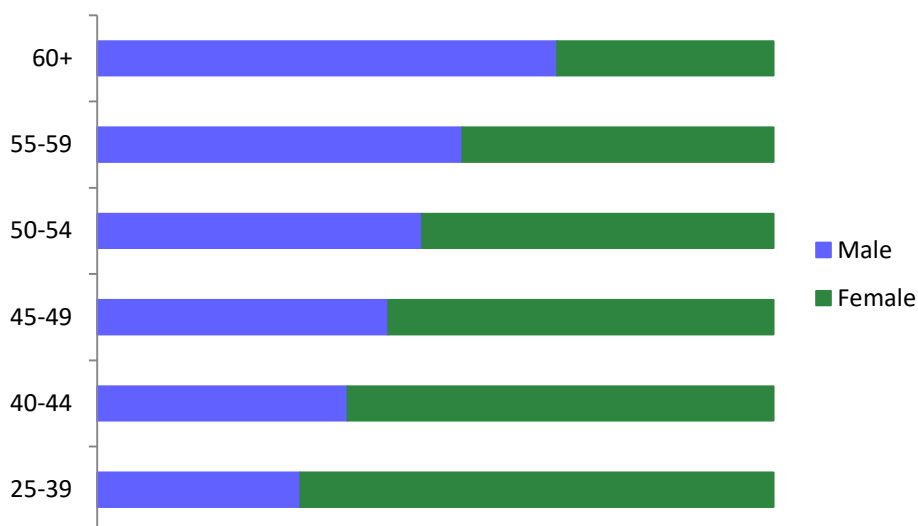


Figure 2.2: GPs in Northern Ireland by age and gender, 31st March 2021

[See Annex Table 1.2a](#)

The average age of Northern Ireland GPs is 45 years old. At GP Federation level average age ranges from 43 years old in East Antrim and Craigavon to 49 years old in West Belfast.

The GP Federations with the highest proportion of GPs aged 55 and over are West Belfast and Down where almost one third (31%) of GPs are in this age group. Derry and Newry & District have the next highest proportion of GPs aged 55 and over (both 28%).

East Antrim, Ards, Craigavon, East Belfast, North Belfast, Lisburn, North Down, Causeway and Mid-Ulster GP Federations have a lower proportion of GPs aged 55 and over than the Northern Ireland average of 21%.

GP Federation	No. of GPs	Average age of GPs	% of GPs aged 55+
West Belfast	61	49	31%
South West	83	48	25%
Antrim Ballymena	91	47	22%
Down	48	47	31%
Newry & District	103	47	28%
Armagh & Dungannon	78	46	26%
Causeway	77	46	19%
North Down	56	46	16%
South Belfast	86	46	23%
Derry	140	45	28%
Lisburn	69	45	16%
Mid-Ulster	50	45	20%
Ards	56	44	14%
East Belfast	92	44	15%
North Belfast	97	44	15%
Craigavon	111	43	14%
East Antrim	112	43	13%
Northern Ireland	1,410	45	21%

Figure 2.3: Age of GPs in Northern Ireland, by GP Federation, 31st March 2021

2.2 GPs per head of population

Belfast LGD has the largest number of GPs (327) and registered patients² (429,000). Fermanagh & Omagh LGD has the smallest number of GPs (82) while Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD has the fewest registered patients (119,000). Fig 2.3 presents the number of GPs per 100,000 registered patients.

Belfast LGD has the highest number of GPs per 100,000 registered population (76.1), more than one third higher than the number in Mid Ulster LGD (56.3) which had the lowest. The Northern Ireland average is 70.3 GPs per 100,000 registered population (or 1 GP for every 1,423 registered patients).

Local Government District	GPs per 100,000 population
Belfast	76.1
Mid & East Antrim	75.7
Lisburn & Castlereagh	74.9
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	74.6
Causeway Coast & Glens	69.4
Ards & North Down	68.8
Derry City & Strabane	68.4
Antrim & Newtownabbey	67.5
Fermanagh & Omagh	66.4
Newry, Mourne & Down	64.3
Mid Ulster	56.3
Northern Ireland	70.3

Figure 2.4: GPs per 100,000 registered patients, by Local Government District, 31st March 2021

² Patients may not necessarily reside in the same LGD as the GP Practice to which they are registered.

3. Registered Patients

This section contains basic summary statistics on Registered Patients including new patient registrations during 2020/2021.

3.1 Total Registered Patients³

There were just under 2,007,000 individuals on the index of patients registered with a GP Practice at 31st March 2021.

At 31st March 2021, Belfast Local Government District⁴ had the highest number of patients registered with GP Practices within its boundary (429,426) and is over 90% higher than the next highest LGD (Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon: 225,076). Lisburn & Castlereagh had the smallest number of GP Registered Patients (118,904).

Local Government District	Registered Patients
Belfast	429,426
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	225,076
Newry, Mourne & Down	191,251
Derry City & Strabane	173,897
Ards & North Down	162,856
Mid Ulster	156,183
Causeway Coast & Glens	149,888
Mid & East Antrim	143,982
Antrim & Newtownabbey	131,947
Fermanagh & Omagh	123,527
Lisburn & Castlereagh	118,904
Northern Ireland	2,006,937

Figure 3.1: GP Registered Patients, by Local Government District, 31st March 2021

³ There are differences between the figures for GP Registered Patients and the NI residential population. For more detail see Data Quality Summary in the Technical Notes section on page 23 of this report.

⁴ Patients may not necessarily reside in the same LGD as the GP Practice to which they are registered.

At GP federation level, Derry has, by a considerable margin, the highest number of registered patients (205,485), while Down (77,297), Mid-Ulster (79,242) and Ards (79,631) have the smallest numbers. The number of registered patients in each GP federation is within 1% of the number in 2020. For further information see [Annex Table 1.1c](#)

GP Federation	Registered Patients
Derry	205,485
Newry & District	158,563
East Antrim	149,851
Armagh & Dungannon	136,639
Craigavon	136,526
Antrim Ballymena	132,495
South West	126,885
South Belfast	119,701
East Belfast	113,528
North Belfast	112,476
Causeway	108,525
Lisburn	94,088
West Belfast	92,780
North Down	83,225
Ards	79,631
Mid-Ulster	79,242
Down	77,297
Northern Ireland	2,006,937

Figure 3.2: GP Registered Patients, by GP Federation, 2020/2021

3.2 Patients Registering with a GP Practice during 2020/2021

During 2020/2021, GP Practices in Northern Ireland registered 73,000 patients. This comprised 44,000 new patients (first time registrations in NI) and 29,000 patients transferring from another Northern Ireland GP Practice.

Fig 3.2 shows the trend in registrations over the last five financial years. While registrations dropped in 2017/2018 before increasing again in 2018/2019, this may be explained by the introduction of a new registration form. Issues with this new form resulted in a backlog building up in 2017/2018 that was relieved in 2018/2019. A further significant drop can be observed during 2020/2021, in large part driven by the impact of Covid-19 on registration services and population movement.

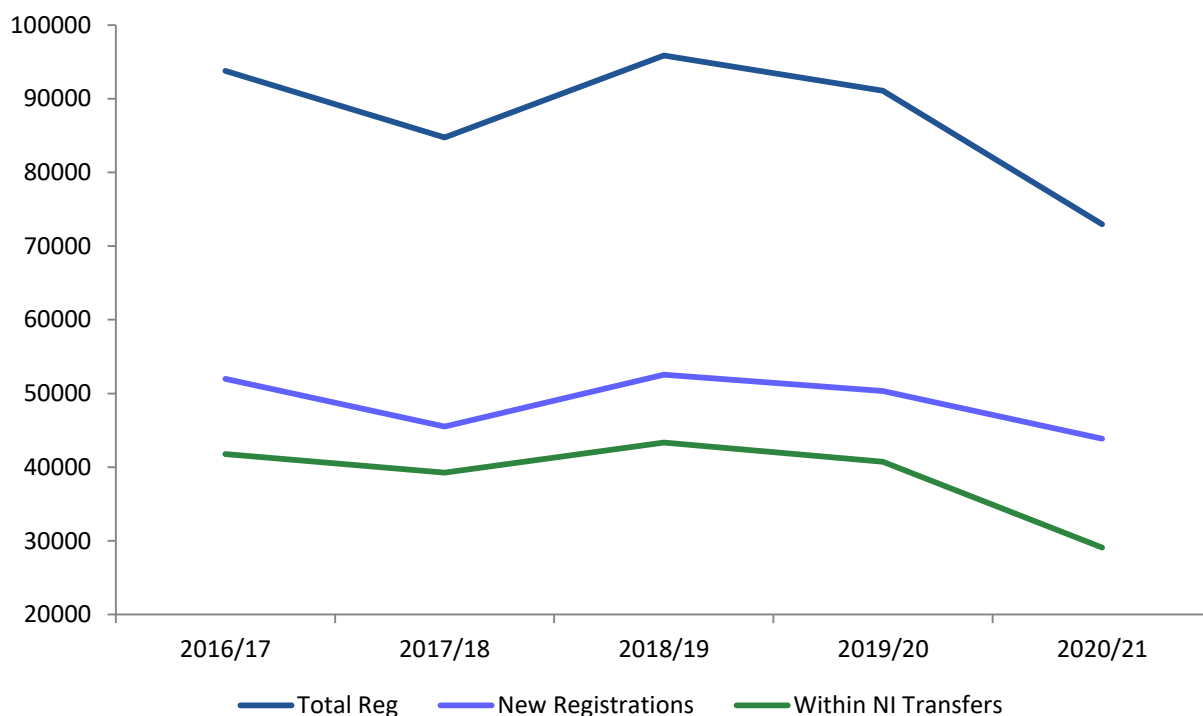


Figure 3.3: Total GP Registrations (new and within Northern Ireland transfers), 5 year trend

[See Annex Table 1.1d](#)

Practices in the South Belfast GP Federation registered the largest number of patients (7,947) during 2020/2021. This is despite South Belfast being only the 8th largest GP Federation in terms of patient numbers. However, this may in part be explained by registration of students who moved address, with much student accommodation being located in the area served by this GP Federation. With the exception of South Belfast, the number of registered patients in the GP Federation broadly reflects the number of patients registering with a GP Practice during 2020/2021.

Derry, the largest GP federation in terms of patient numbers, registered the second largest number of patients (5,449). Meanwhile West Belfast (2,163) and Mid-Ulster (2,340) registered the smallest number of patients during 2020/2021. These are also two of the smallest GP federations when considering patient numbers.

GP Federation	Patients registering with a GP Practice
South Belfast	7,947
Derry	5,449
East Antrim	5,339
East Belfast	5,302
Craigavon	5,263
Newry & District	4,914
Antrim Ballymena	4,860
Armagh & Dungannon	4,609
South West	3,808
Lisburn	3,794
Causeway	3,743
North Belfast	3,534
Ards	3,351
North Down	3,172
Down	3,032
Mid-Ulster	2,340
West Belfast	2,163
Northern Ireland	72,950

Figure 3.4: Total GP Registrations (new and within Northern Ireland transfers), by GP Federation, 2020/2021

3.3 Non UK Nationals Registering with a GP Practice during 2020/2021

At Northern Ireland level, more than one fifth (22%) of first time GP registrations in 2020/2021 were Non-UK Nationals. This is a reduction compared to both 2019/2020 and 2018/2019 when 28% of first time GP registrations were Non-UK Nationals.

At Local Government District level, the proportion of Non-UK National first time registrations ranged from 36% in Belfast to 10% in Causeway Coast and Glens.

The only local Government Districts that were above the overall Northern Ireland proportion of Non-UK National first time registrations were Belfast and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon.

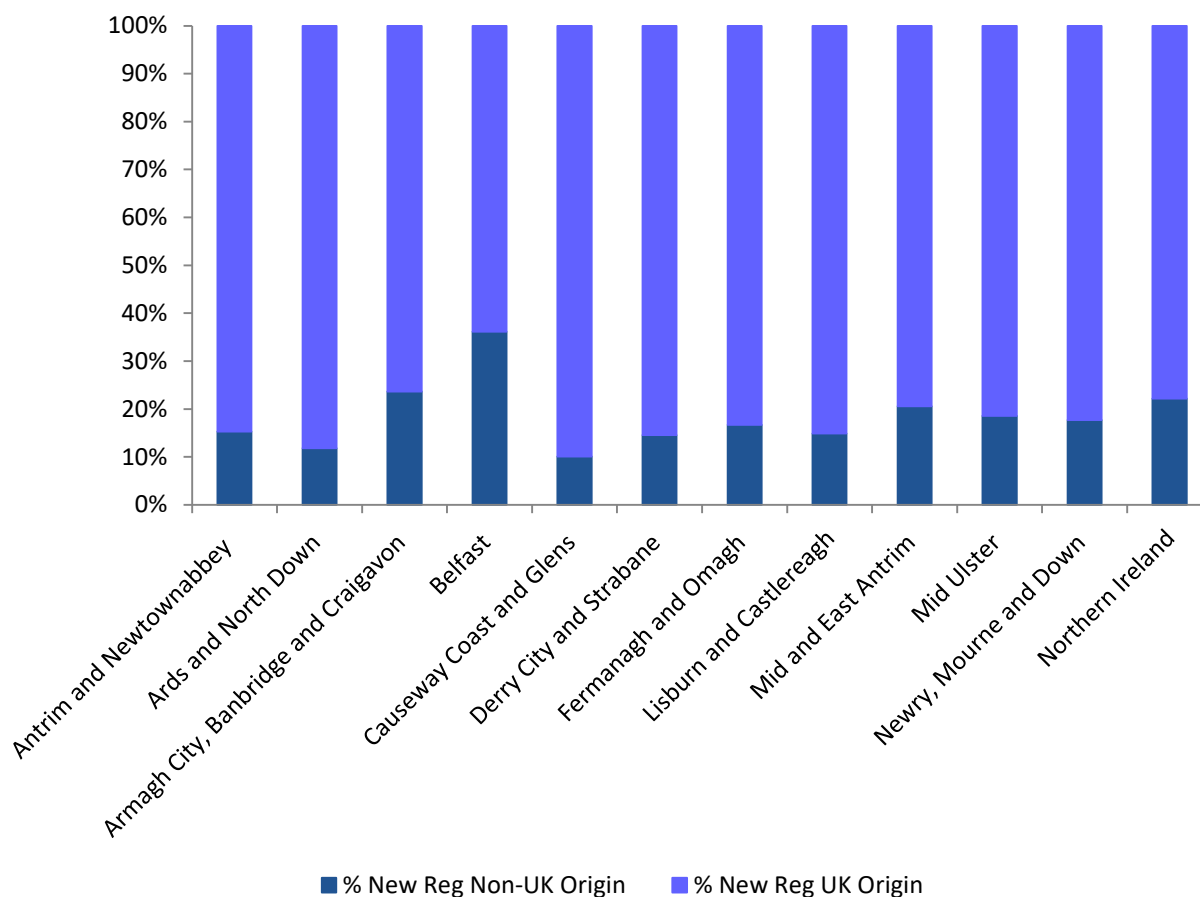


Figure 3.5: New (first time in NI) GP Registrations by UK Nationals and non-UK Nationals, by Local Government District, 2020/2021

[See Annex Tables 1.1e and 1.1h](#)

4. BSO Payments towards GP Services

This section contains basic summary statistics on payments processed by BSO towards the overall cost of GP Services in Northern Ireland.

4.1 BSO Payments by Local Commissioning group (Health Trust)

During 2020/2021, BSO processed £316.9m of payments towards the overall cost of GP services in Northern Ireland.

Fig 4.1 presents BSO payment towards GP services by Local Commissioning Group (Health Trust). At £73.9 million, GP Practices located in the Northern Local Commissioning Group received the highest payment towards GP services. GP Practices located in South Eastern received the lowest payment towards GP services (£50.7 million).

The average BSO payment towards GP services per registered patient for 2020/2021 was £158, an increase of £15 per patient since 2019/2020. This increase can be attributed to factors such as annual uplifts to Global Sum and GP Federation Payments as well as additional payments made due to Covid-19 e.g. Covid-19 sessional payments, Covid-19 related enhancements to practices etc.

At Local Commissioning Group (Health Trust) level, the highest average payment towards GP services per registered patient was £174 in Western while the lowest was £150 in Southern.

Local Commissioning Group (Health Trust)	Payment towards GP services (£ m)	Average payment per patient (£)
Northern	73.9	155
Belfast	70.7	161
Southern	63.9	150
Western	57.7	174
South Eastern	50.7	152
Northern Ireland	316.9	158

Figure 4.1: BSO payments towards GP services, by Local Commissioning Group (Health Trust) of GP Practice in receipt of payment, 2020/2021

Factors that can influence variation in payment towards GP services per patient include age profile of patients, additional services available, level of deprivation, rent and rates variation, locum use, trial programs etc.

4.2 BSO Payments by Local Government District

Fig 4.2 presents BSO payment towards GP services by Local Government District (LGD). GP Practices located in the Belfast LGD, which contains more than one fifth of Northern Ireland's registered population, received the highest payment towards GP services (£69.3 million), more than twice the amount received by the next highest recipients (GP Practices located in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon: £33.0m). At £17.0m, practices located in Lisburn & Castlereagh, the LGD with the smallest number of registered patients, received the lowest payment towards GP services.

In terms of payment per registered patient, the highest amount was £182 per registered patient in Derry City & Strabane while the lowest was £143 in Lisburn & Castlereagh. GP Practices located in Antrim & Newtownabbey also saw the largest increase in payment per patient from 2019/2020 (14.1%) while those in Belfast had the smallest increase (9.5%).

Local Government District	Payment towards GP services (£ m)	Average payment per patient (£)
Belfast	69.3	161
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	33.0	147
Derry City & Strabane	31.6	182
Newry, Mourne & Down	31.6	165
Causeway Coast & Glens	25.0	167
Ards & North Down	23.8	146
Mid Ulster	23.5	150
Mid & East Antrim	22.6	157
Fermanagh & Omagh	20.1	163
Antrim & Newtownabbey	19.3	146
Lisburn & Castlereagh	17.0	143
Northern Ireland	316.9	158

Figure 4.2: BSO payments towards GP services, by Local Government District of GP Practice in receipt of payment, 2020/2021

4.3 BSO Payments by GP Federation

Fig 4.3 presents BSO payment towards GP services by GP Federation. Given Derry has the largest number of registered patients it is unsurprising that GP Practices located here also recorded the highest total payment towards GP services (£36.9m). However, at £180 Derry also records the highest average payment per registered patient, followed by the Down GP Federation (£176).

GP Practices located in Ards, Mid-Ulster and North Down received the lowest total BSO payment towards GP services during 2020/2021. GP Practices located in Craigavon and Lisburn (both £141) followed by those in North Down and South Belfast (both £143) recorded the lowest average payment per registered patient during the financial year.

GP Federation	Payment towards GP services (£ m)	Average payment per patient (£)
Derry	36.9	180
Newry & District	24.8	156
East Antrim	22.4	149
South West	20.8	164
Antrim Ballymena	20.8	157
Armagh & Dungannon	20.8	152
Craigavon	19.2	141
North Belfast	18.9	168
East Belfast	18.6	164
Causeway	17.8	164
South Belfast	17.1	143
West Belfast	16.1	174
Down	13.6	176
Lisburn	13.3	141
Mid-Ulster	11.9	150
Ards	11.9	149
North Down	11.9	143
Northern Ireland	316.9	158

Figure 4.3: BSO payments towards GP services, by GP Federation of GP Practice in receipt of payment, 2020/2021

5. General Medical Services UK Comparisons

This section contains General Medical Services comparisons with other UK nations. Data for GPs reflect what is reported at Northern Ireland level i.e. headcount and includes Unrestricted Principals or Equivalent (UPEs), Salaried GPs and Retainers.

5.1 GPs by Gender UK Comparisons

Like Northern Ireland, the gender profile of GPs in England, Scotland and Wales are majority female. The proportion of GPs that are female ranges from 62% in Scotland to 57% in England and Wales. It should be noted that proportions are calculated using headcount meaning individual work patterns are not reflected.

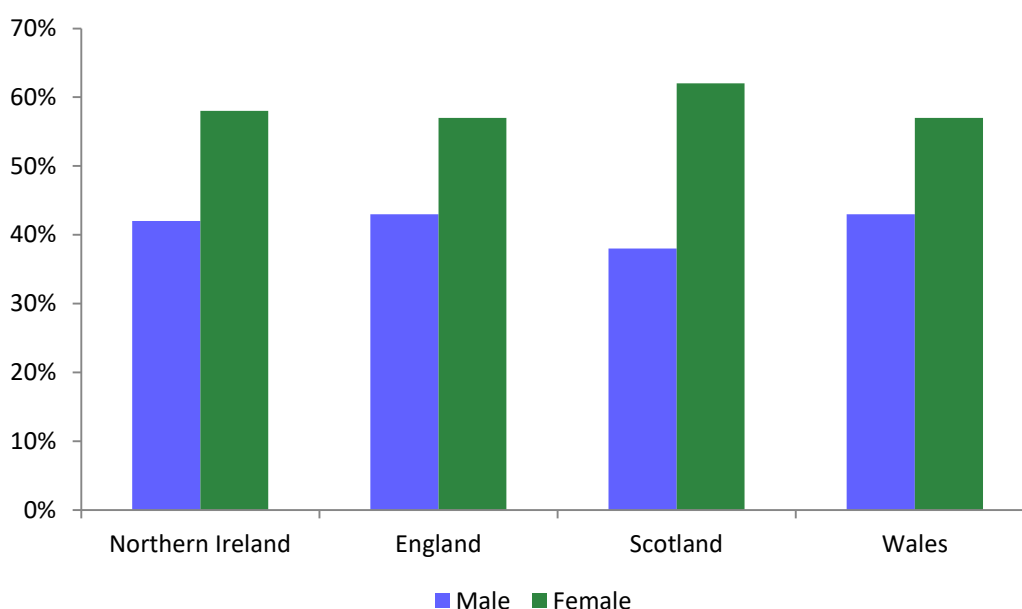


Figure 5.1: GPs by Gender, 2020/2021* (*data for Wales relates to 2019/2020)

[See Annex Table 1.8a](#)

5.2 GPs per head of population UK Comparisons

Scotland has the highest number of GPs per 100,000 registered population (77.0) followed by Northern Ireland (70.3). Wales and England each have just under 60 GPs per 100,000 registered population.

	GPs per 100,000 population
Scotland	77.0
Northern Ireland	70.3
Wales	59.5
England	59.2

Figure 5.2: GPs per 100,000 registered patients, 2020/2021* (*data for Wales relates to 2019/2020)

5.3 GP Practices per head of population UK Comparisons

Scotland and Northern Ireland (both 16.0) have more GP Practices per 100,000 registered population than Wales (12.1) and England (10.8). GP Practices vary in size and number of live GP contracts associated with them. This means comparisons have to be treated with a degree of caution.

	GPs per 100,000 population
Scotland	16.0
Northern Ireland	16.0
Wales	12.1
England	10.8

Figure 5.3: GP Practices per 100,000 registered patients, 2020/2021* (*data for Wales relates to 2019/2020)

Publication Notes

Family Practitioner Services

Family Practitioner Services (FPS) is part of the BSO's Operations Directorate. It provides a range of essential services to Health and Social Care organisations, primary care contractors and patients.

FPS calculates payments to health professionals in the dental, pharmacy, general practice and ophthalmic sectors through Northern Ireland. It also maintains the central register of patients registered with GP Practices in Northern Ireland, issuing medical cards and processing changes such as name, address and doctor.

It provides professional advice, support and information to customers and members of the public and maintains the pharmaceutical, dental and the Northern Ireland Primary Medical Performers lists. FPS also provides the call and recall services for breast, cervical and bowel cancer screening in Northern Ireland.

Next edition

This publication is issued annually. It is expected that the next edition shall be published in June 2022. In the interim, quarterly tables are published separately [here](#). The quarterly figures are provisional until the annual publication for that year issues, at which point they are finalised. The release calendar for future statistical publications is available on the [BSO website](#).

Technical Notes

Target Audience

The target audience for this publication has been defined as: the Department of Health, HSC Board and Trusts in Northern Ireland, health professionals, academics, HSC Stakeholders, the media and the general public.

Main usages

This publication contains official statistics on General Medical Services for the most recent financial year (and earlier years where available on a comparable basis).

They can be used to monitor trends in General Medical Services over time and across Northern Ireland.

The information can be used to support decision making, inform policy, provide advice to ministers, answer a wide range of Assembly Questions and Freedom of Information requests, for national and local press articles and, where appropriate, for international comparison.

Data Quality Summary

Figures presented for GPs refer to Unrestricted Principals or Equivalent (UPEs) and Salaried GPs and do not include Locums. GP numbers are based on headcount and do not therefore reflect changes in working patterns. GP Practice characteristics vary in terms of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) number of GPs assigned to a practice, number of sites a practice operates from, and number of patients registered to a practice.

GP Registered Population is based on live registrations at the 31st March each year. There may be a lag between a patient presenting themselves at a GP Practice and completion of registration. This lag may be

greater for patients who have to provide additional documentation as proof of entitlement to services. Similarly for deductions, there may be a lag in removing individuals from the index of registered patients.

There are differences between the figures for GP Registered Patients and residential population. At 30th June 2019, the number of individuals on the index of registered patients was approximately 5% higher than the June 2019 Northern Ireland mid-year population estimate.

This discrepancy can arise from a number of factors, for example, time lags in removing patients from GP lists following death or emigration, Cross Border Workers registered with a Northern Ireland GP, or registered patients not completing the 2011 Census.

GP Registered Patient counts by Local Commissioning Group (Health Trust), Local Government District and GP Federation are based on the location of the practice the patient is registered to as opposed to the patient's home address.

In cases where a GP Practice is split over more than one site it is only counted as one practice and data presented including average patient counts per practice and distance to nearest practice are based on the Primary Practice.

BSO Payment towards GP Services presented in this report refers to the payments that BSO has processed on behalf of Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) towards the overall cost of GP Services in Northern Ireland. This expenditure relates to payments processed in a given year and not the cost of the service provided in that year.

Further details relating to Data Quality are provided [here](#) in the Background Quality Report and the FPS Quality Assurance of Administrative Data Report.

National/International comparisons

This publication contains comparisons between General Medical Services in Northern Ireland and other regions of the United Kingdom. The comparative data is available from the following sources:

England

[Statistics on General Medical Services](#)

Wales

[Statistics on General Medical Services](#)

Scotland

[Statistics on General Medical Services](#)

Further Information

Further information about Northern Ireland and its health services, which may assist readers in interpreting this publication, is available from the following sources:

[BSO GP Prescribing data](#)

[BSO data on HSC Pharmacy Services](#)

[Department of Health information relating to Community Pharmacists](#)

[BSO Quarterly GP Practice List Sizes](#)

[NISRA demographic statistics on the population of Northern Ireland, including mid-year estimates and population projections](#)

[The Honest Broker Service \(Providing Access to Health Care Data to internal HSCNI and External Researchers\)](#)