

## Patients in mental health hospitals and units in Wales, at 31 March 2016

31 August 2016  
SFR 109/2016

### Hospitals and units for people with a mental illness in Wales

#### At 31 March 2016:

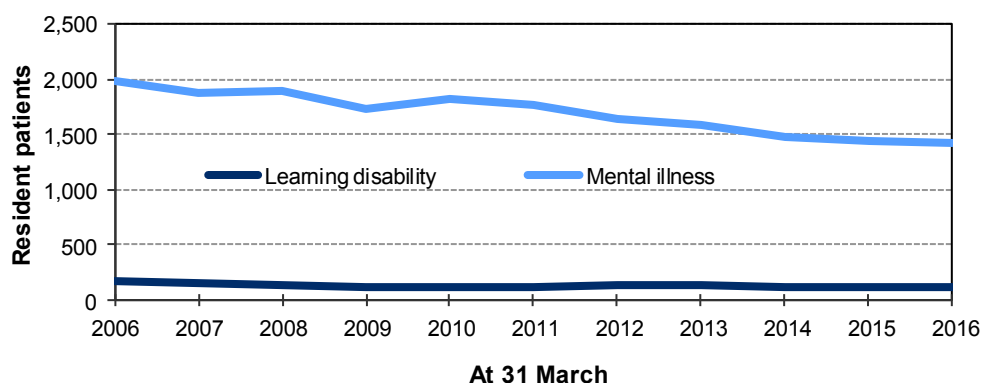
- there were 1,430 resident patients (*chart 1*).
- the number of patients had fallen by 560 (28%) since 2006 and by 11 (1%) since 2015 (*chart 1*).
- 741 patients (52%) had been resident for less than 3 months.
- 580 patients (41%) were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, an increase of 14 (2%) from 2015 and 52 (10%) from 2006 (*chart 3*).

### Hospitals and units for people with a learning disability in Wales

#### At 31 March 2016:

- there were 117 resident patients, 77 males (66% per cent of the total) and 40 females (*chart 1*). This was 8 (6%) fewer than 2015 and 53 (31%) fewer than 2006 (*chart 1 & chart 7*).
- 28 patients (24% of the total) were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, a decrease of 3 from 2015 but an increase of 11 from 2006 (*chart 8*).
- 74 patients (63%) had been resident for 2 years or more (*charts 9a and 9b*).

**Chart 1: Patients in hospitals and units for people with a mental illness or learning disability**



### About this release

This annual release presents summary results from the 2016 Psychiatric Census.

Each year, on 31 March, a census is taken of residents in NHS hospitals and units for people with a mental illness or a learning disability. It is a snapshot on that date.

This release includes data on patients who have been resident in hospitals and units for people with a mental illness and for people with a learning disability at 31 March for the years 2006 to 2016 and provides various breakdowns of the data.

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**Chart 1** on the front page shows the number of patients in hospitals and units for people with a mental illness or a learning disability at 31 March.

- Between 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2016, the number of patients resident in hospitals and units for people with a mental illness in Wales has fallen by 560 (28%) to 1,430.
- Between 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2016, the number of patients resident in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability in Wales has fallen by 53 (31%) to 117.

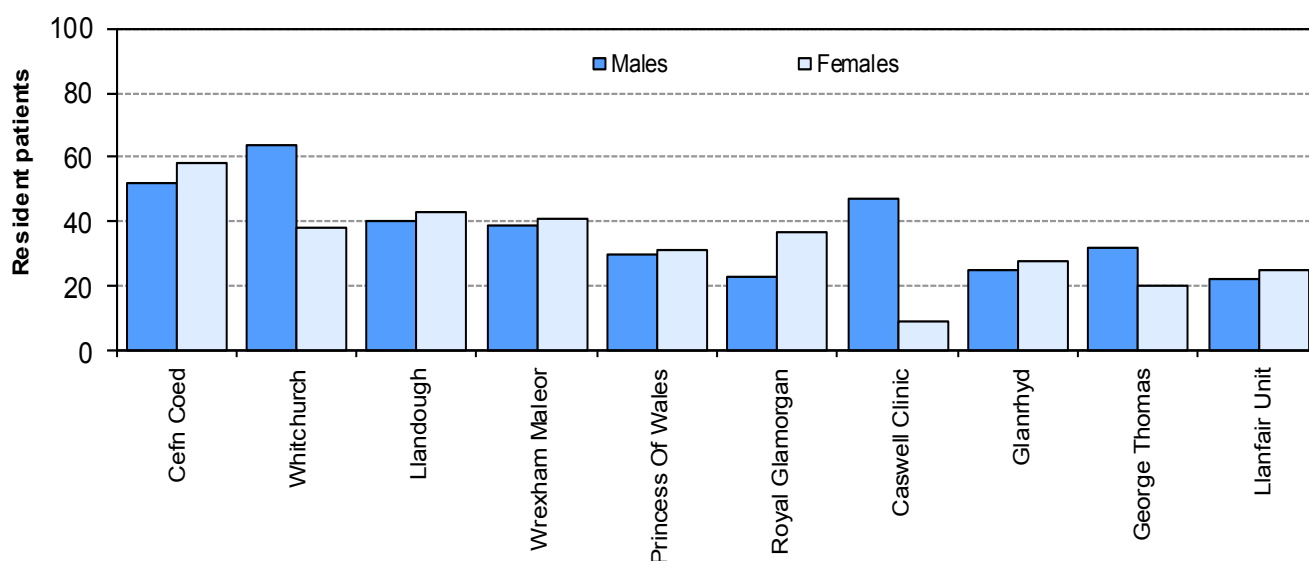
In recent years, many of the large psychiatric hospitals have reduced in size with patients either re-settled into the community or transferred to smaller units. People with a learning disability are also now more likely to be cared for in the community rather than being in hospital and those who are taken into hospital are subsequently being re-settled into the community.

## Patients in hospitals or units for people with a mental illness

**Chart 2** shows the number of patients by hospital and sex, in the 10 largest hospitals or units for people with a mental illness in Wales.

- On 31 March 2016, just under half of all residents with a mental illness were accommodated in the 10 largest hospitals or units in Wales for people with a mental illness.
- The largest four hospitals or units (Cefn Coed, Whitchurch, Llandough and Wrexham Maelor) accommodated 26% of all residents.

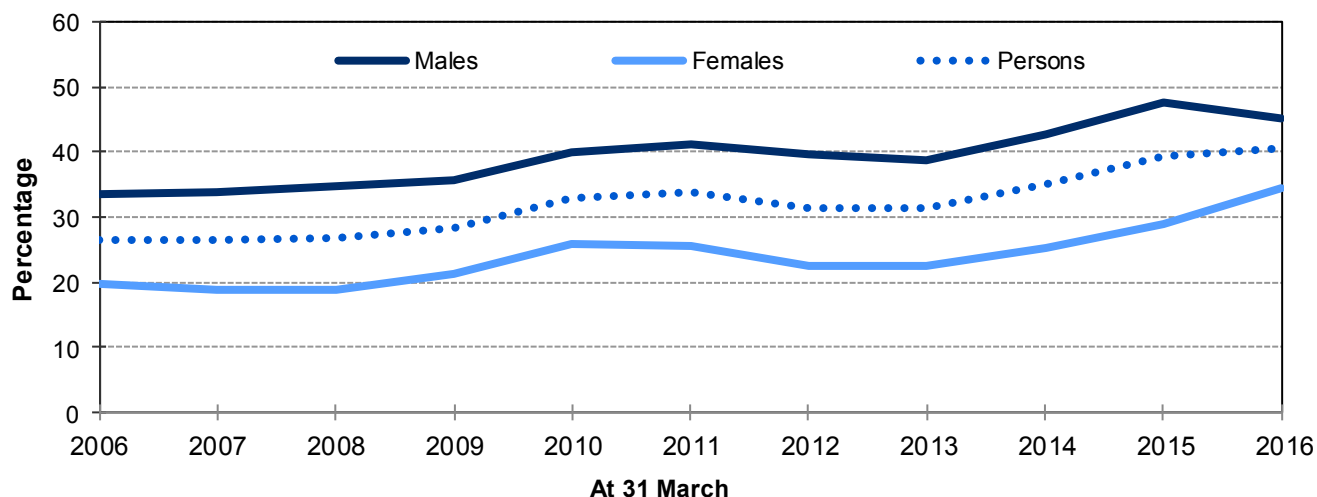
**Chart 2: Patients in hospitals or units for people with a mental illness, by sex, at 31 March 2016 in the 10 largest hospitals or units in Wales**



**Chart 3** shows the proportion of resident patients with a mental illness who were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, since 31 March 2006.

- Overall, the percentage of patients detained has risen from 27% on 31 March 2006 to 41% of the total residents on 31 March 2016.

**Chart 3: Percentage of patients with a mental illness detained under legislation**

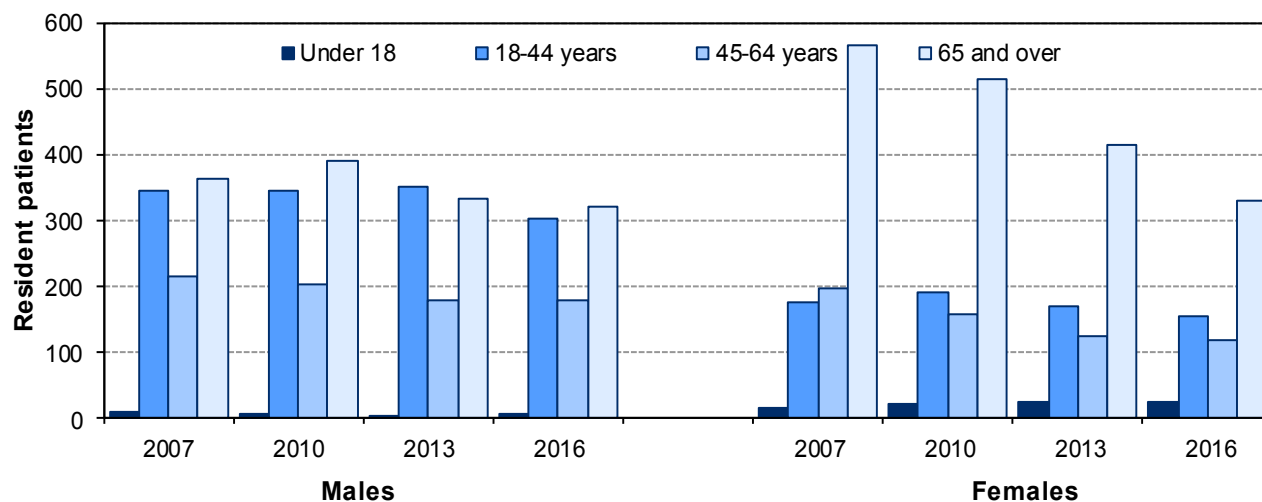


**Chart 4** shows the number of patients in hospitals and units for people with mental illness, by age and sex, on 31 March 2016 compared with 3, 6 and 9 years ago.

On 31 March 2016:

- 53% (329) of female patients were aged 65 and over compared with 40% (321) of males. Although the number of females aged 65 or over has decreased in the last ten years, the percentage has fluctuated. For males, the number and percentage aged 65 and over has tended to fluctuate over time. However, they have both increased in the most recent year.
- 4% (24) of the female patients and less than 1% (5) of the male patients were aged under 18.

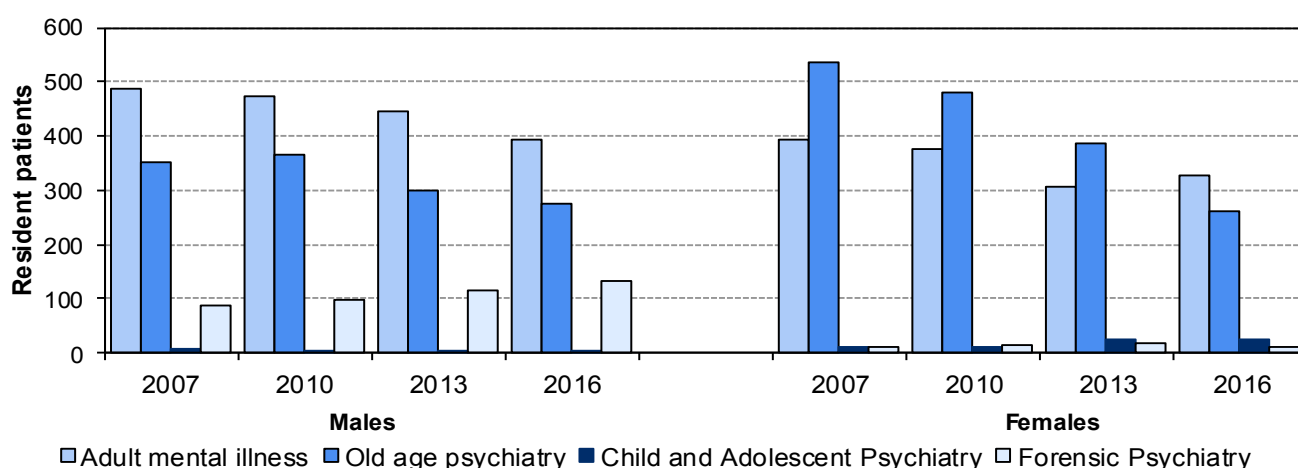
**Chart 4: Number of patients by age and sex, on 31 March 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016**



**Chart 5** shows the number of patients, in hospitals and units for people with mental illness, by specialty and sex, on 31 March 2016 compared with 3, 6 and 9 years ago.

- On 31 March 2016, 42% (262) of female patients were being treated by doctors who specialise in old age psychiatry compared with 34% (275) of males. Although the numbers of females under the old age psychiatry specialty has decreased over the last ten years, the percentage has generally remained fairly constant. However, it fell by 15 percentage points from 2015 to 2016 (57% to 42%). The number of males under the specialty of old age psychiatry has decreased to a lesser extent, and the percentage has remained fairly constant over the time period shown.

**Chart 5: Number of patients by sex and specialty, on 31 March 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016**

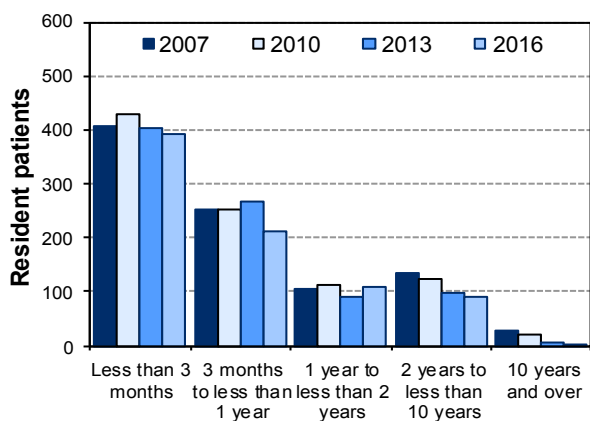


**Charts 6a and 6b** show the length of stay of patients resident in hospitals and units for people with mental illness on 31 March 2016 compared with 3, 6 and 9 years ago.

On 31 March 2016:

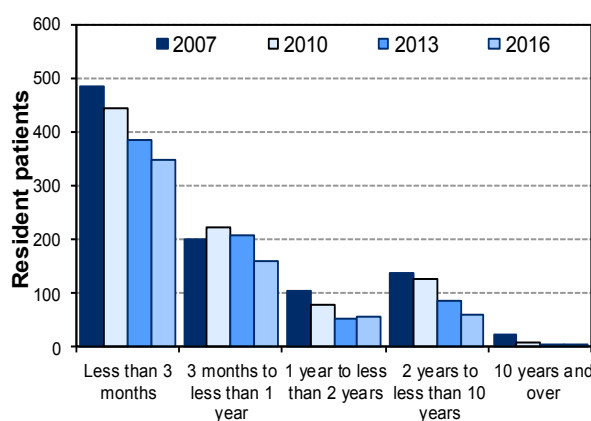
- 741 patients (52%) had been resident for less than 3 months.
- Only 2 males and 1 female had been resident for 10 years or over, down from 29 males and 22 females in 2007.
- Forensic psychiatry had the highest proportion of patients resident over 2 years (23%), followed by Old age psychiatry at 14% and Adult mental illness at 6%. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry had no resident patients with a duration of stay over 2 years

**Chart 6a: Male patients by length of stay, on 31 March 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016 (a)**



(a) 2007, 2010 and 2013 have a small number of patients with an unknown length of stay.

**Chart 6b: Female patients by length of stay, on 31 March 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016 (a)**



(a) 2007 and 2010 have a small number of patients with an unknown length of stay.

NOTE: the length of stay is calculated from the admission dates of patients taken from the hospital's patient administration systems. These admission dates can be affected by the creation of new trusts and health boards and temporary discharges to acute hospitals for treatment. This should be taken into account when making comparisons with earlier years. A major reorganisation of the NHS in Wales took place on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

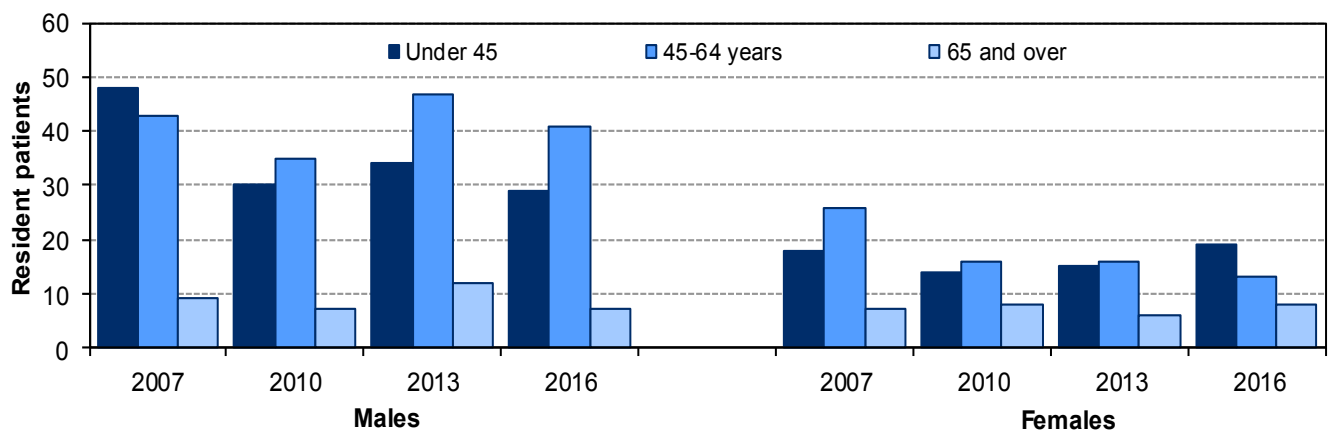
## Patients in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability

This section on learning disability is based on small numbers of patients; therefore care should be taken when interpreting the figures.

**Chart 7** shows the number of patients in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability, by age and sex, on 31 March 2016, compared with 3, 6 and 9 years ago.

- On 31 March 2016, resident males aged 45-64 made up 53% (41) of the total male residents, compared to 43% (43) in 2007.
- On 31 March 2007, 2010 and 2013, 45-64 year olds was the group with the largest percentage of female residents (51%, 42% and 43% respectively). However, on 31 March 2016, under 45s was the group with the largest percentage of female residents (48%).

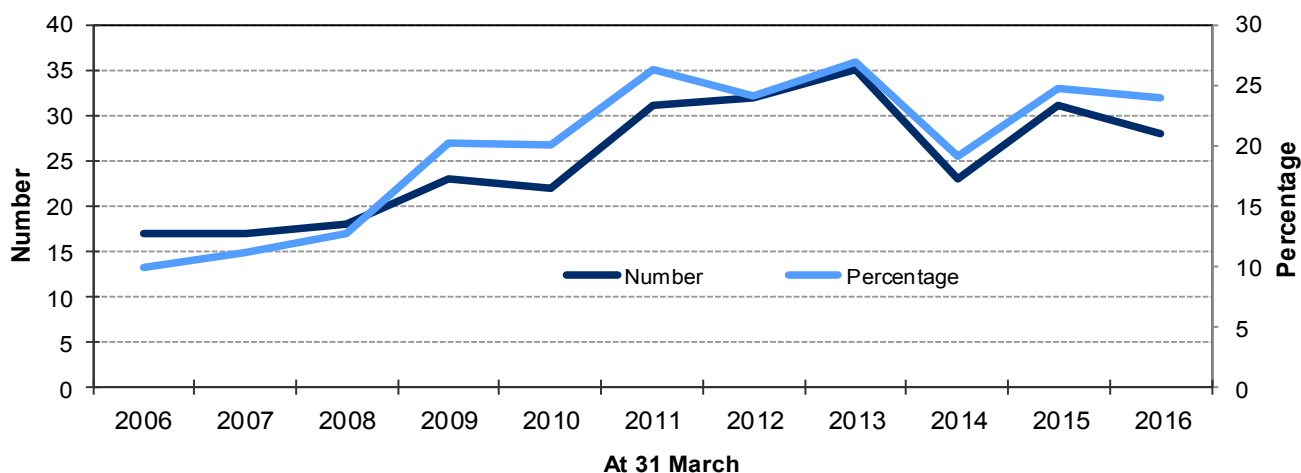
**Chart 7: Number of residents by age and sex, on 31 March 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016**



**Chart 8** shows the number and percentage of patients in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability, detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, from 31 March 2006.

- The number of detained patients has varied between 17 and 35 over the last 10 years, with the number at 31 March 2016 (28), falling from 31 on 31 March 2015.
- Detained patients as a percentage of all patients increased from 10% on 31 March 2006, to 24% on 31 March 2016.

**Chart 8: Number and percentage of patients in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation**

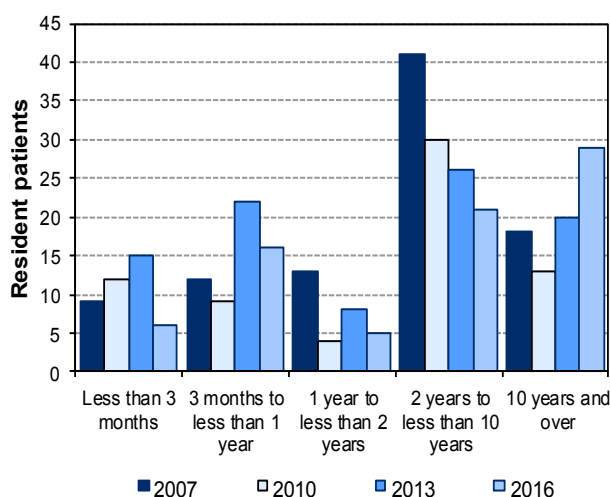




**Charts 9a and 9b** show how long patients had been resident in hospitals and units for people with a learning disability on 31 March 2016, compared with 3, 6 and 9 years ago.

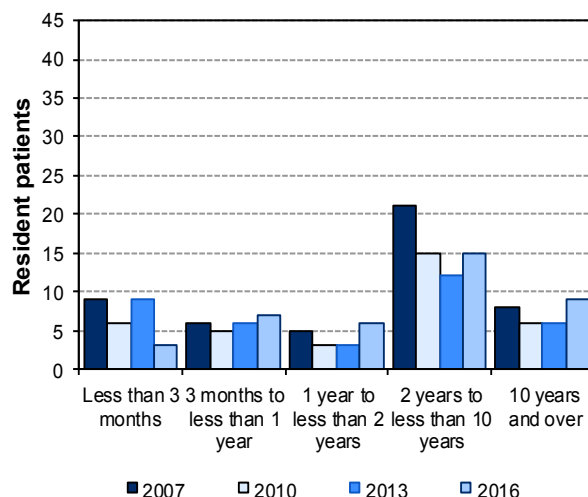
- On 31 March 2016, 29 males and 9 females had been residents for 10 years or more, compared to 18 males and 8 females in 2007. However, data for before 2016 contained some patients with an unknown duration of stay which is likely to have affected the figures for length of stay of 10 years or over.

**Chart 9a: Male patients by length of stay, on 31 March 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016 (a)**



(a) 2007, 2010 and 2013 have a small number of patients with an unknown length of stay.

**Chart 9b: Female patients by length of stay, on 31 March 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016 (a)**



(a) 2007, 2010 and 2013 have a small number of patients with an unknown length of stay.

NOTE: The length of stay is calculated from the admission dates of patients taken from the hospital's patient administration systems. These admission dates can be affected by the creation of new trusts and health boards and temporary discharges to acute hospitals for treatment. This should be taken into account when making comparisons with earlier years. A major reorganisation of the NHS in Wales took place on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

## Key quality information

### Relevance

This release provides data on the number of patients who are resident in hospitals and units for people with a mental illness and for people with a learning disability at 31 March 2016 – a snapshot on that date.

It is published on the same day as another release on mental health: [“Admission of patients to mental health facilities in Wales, 2015-16”](#) This provides data on the number of admissions to mental health facilities throughout the financial year by type of admission (e.g. formally or informally).

We consult with key users prior to making changes, and where possible publicise changes on the internet, at committees and other networks to consult with users more widely. We aim to respond quickly to policy changes to ensure our statistics remain relevant.

### Users and uses

We believe the key users of these statistics are:

- Ministers and their advisors;
- Assembly members and Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- policy makers of the Welsh Government;
- other government departments;
- NHS Wales;
- students, academics and universities;
- media; and
- Individual citizens.

The statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these include:

- to provide advice to Ministers;
- to inform debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond; and
- to help determine the service the public may receive from the relevant hospitals.

### Accuracy

Where possible, to reduce human error, the processes for producing the Statistical Release are automated. There are also quality assurance procedures in place to understand and explain movements in the data and to check that the computer system is calculating the published statistics correctly. These include making comparisons with previous year's data and checking the data for consistency.

We provide notes at the end of the release inform the users whether the outputs have been revised or not (denoted r). We will also give an indication of the size of the revision between the latest and previous release. There are not generally revisions to the data. However, if there are revisions they usually take place when we receive a resubmission from the LHB for previous year's data and the revisions will be published at the same time as the most recent year's data. There were no revisions to the data this year.

In the unlikely event of incorrect data being published, revisions to data would be made and users informed in conjunction with the Welsh Government's [Revisions, errors and postponements](#) arrangements.

## **Source**

Data are collected from individual Health Boards by NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS) and are subject to validation checks centrally prior to publication. For the data at 31 March 2013 onwards, further checks were introduced by NWIS to eliminate duplicate records. This has not been applied to historic data – the impact is expected to be minimal. It is the responsibility of Local Health Boards to ensure that the figures have been compiled correctly in accordance with central definitions and guidelines.

Agreed standards and definitions within Wales provide assurance that the data is consistent across as Local Health Boards. Every year the data are collected from the same sources and adhere to the national standard. Therefore, they should be coherent within and across organisations.

## **Coverage**

The census is taken at midnight on 31 March each year and covers patients in NHS mental health hospitals and mental health units in NHS hospitals in Wales which may have other specialties. Mental health hospitals and units include those patients with a learning disability as well as those with a mental illness. It does not include Welsh residents who are patients at hospitals in England.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, Powys Teaching LHB transferred mental health services to Aneurin Bevan LHB, Betsi Cadwaladr University LHB and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University LHB. These services were subsequently transferred back by Betsi Cadwaladr University LHB and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University LHB on the 31<sup>st</sup> November 2015. During this time there has been no change in the way that the figures have been published, as they have continued to be published under Powys.

## **Quality**

[Statement on confidentiality and data access.](#)

## **Timeliness and punctuality**

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice by pre-announcing the date of publication through the [Upcoming calendar](#) web pages. Furthermore, should the need arise to postpone an output this would follow the Welsh Government's [Revisions, errors and postponements](#) arrangements.

We publish releases as soon as practical after the relevant time period.

## **Accessibility and clarity**

The statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. An RSS feed alerts registered users to this publication. Simultaneously the releases are also published on the National Statistics Publication Hub. We also publicise our outputs on [Twitter](#). All releases are available to download for free.

We aim to use Plain English in our outputs and all outputs adhere to the Welsh Government's [accessibility policy](#). Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English.

Further information regarding the statistics can be obtained by contacting the relevant staff detailed on the release or via [stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

## **StatsWales**

More detailed tables are available via [StatsWales](#) (an interactive dissemination service). and this can be manipulated online or downloaded into spreadsheets for use offline.

## **Comparability and coherence**

Where there are changes to the data provided, this is shown clearly in the outputs. Where advance warning is known of future changes these will be pre-announced in accordance with Welsh Government arrangements.

## **Mental health data for other UK countries**

There is similar information available from other parts of the UK but the data is not exactly comparable due to local definitions and standards in each area.

Statistics on patients in mental health facilities in England and Wales by ethnicity are available from the Count Me In Census on the Care Quality Commission website. The final 'Count Me In' Census was in 2010. The results are not directly comparable with the [Psychiatric Census](#).

[Psychiatric hospital activity statistics for Scotland](#).

[Mental health and learning disability activity statistics for Northern Ireland](#).

## **Data on Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010:**

Data on the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010, which places duties on local health boards and local authorities about the assessment and treatment of mental health problems, can be found on the [My Local Health and Social Care website](#).

To access the data, follow the link to the [LHB indicator page](#) and click on the 'Individual Care' tab.

## **Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

### **Further details**

The document is available at

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/patients-mental-health-hospitals-units/?lang=en>

### **Next update**

August 2017, this will include data up to 31 March 2017.

### **We want your feedback**

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

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