

General Medical Practitioners in Wales 2002 to 2012

This Statistical Release presents a summary of workforce data relating to General Medical Practitioners (GPs) in Wales and highlights trends over the last decade where possible. Information about the GP workforce in terms of age, gender, workforce flows, Welsh language ability and qualifications are presented in charts, tables and maps for Wales and its Health Boards. A summary of key figures by GP cluster are also provided in a separate spreadsheet. All data are at 30 September except 2009 which is at 1 October and where stated otherwise.

Data concerning locum staff is not available centrally so charts and tables in the Release do not include these staff. The data does not, therefore, reflect all GPs. Notes on types of practitioners are included in the Notes section.

The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care (IC) in England collect data for England and Wales using the Exeter database. This database is a computerised payment system of General Medical Practitioners (GMPs) who are in contract with Local Health Boards.

Key results:

- The number of practitioners in Wales (excluding registrars, retainers and locums) was 2,015 at 30 September 2012, 7 fewer than the previous year and an increase of 207 (11.4 per cent) since 2002.
- In 2012 there were 474 GP partnerships in Wales, 42 (8.1 per cent) fewer than in 2002.
- Since 2002 the number of registered patients per practitioner, based on the number of practitioners, has fallen from 1,679 to 1,575 (6.2 per cent).
- The age distribution has also changed since 2002. The workforce continues its trend to become older. Fewer practitioners are aged under 45 (863 to 804, down 6.8 per cent) while more are aged 55 or over (310 to 472, up 52.3 per cent).
- The percentage of GPs who are female has increased. In 2002 female GPs accounted for 30.4 per cent of the total, in 2012 they accounted for 44.1 per cent.

Additional detail including analysis by Local Health Board can be found in the tables on pages 17 to 21 of this release and on Statswales (<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/General-Medical-Services>)

Statistician: Kim Swain

Tel: 029 2082 5080

Email: stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Next Update: March 2014 (provisional)

Twitter: www.twitter.com/statisticswales | www.twitter.com/ystadegaucymru

Cyhoeddwyd gan Y Gwasanaethau Gwybodaeth a Dadansoddi

Llywodraeth Cymru, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd, CF10 3NQ

Ffôn – Swyddfa'r Wasg **029 2089 8099**, Ymholiadau Cyhoeddus **029 2082 3332**

www.cymru.gov.uk/ystadegau

Issued by Knowledge and Analytical Services

Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

Telephone – Press Office **029 2089 8099**, Public Enquiries **029 2082 5050**

www.wales.gov.uk/statistics

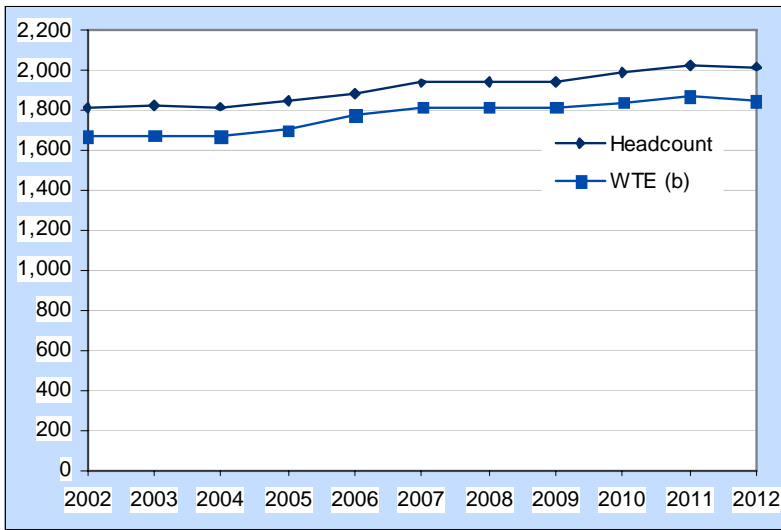


Table of Contents

Trends	3
UK Comparisons of GP Workforce Statistics	5
GP Workforce in Wales	6
GP Workforce by Local Health Board.....	7
GP Retainers.....	8
GP Registrars.....	9
Workforce Flows	10
GP Joiners in Wales.....	10
GP Leavers in Wales.....	10
Welsh Language	11
Qualifications.....	12
Dispensing Partnerships	12
Appendix 1 - Statswales tables views	26

Trends

Chart 1: Number of GP Practitioners at 30 September (a)



Source: GMS Census

(a) Except for 2009 which is at 1 October.

(b) Comparisons across years should be treated with caution due to changes in methodology. See definitions in the Notes section.

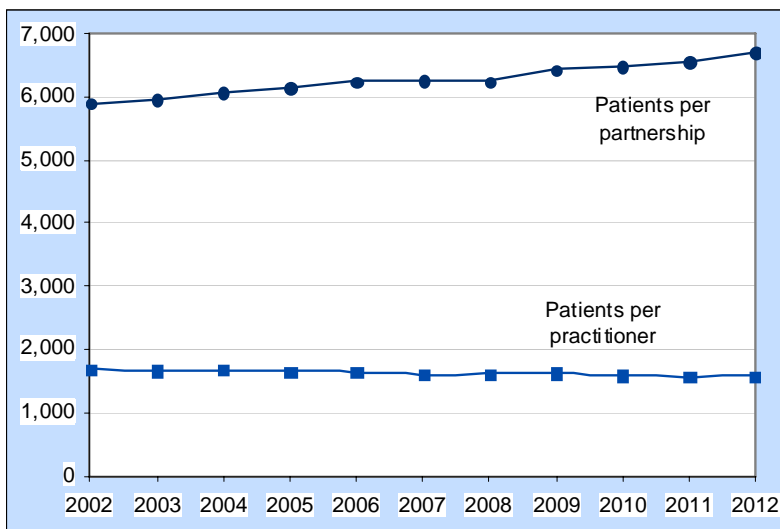
Since 2002 the number of GP practitioners has increased by 207 (11.4 per cent) to 2,015.

2012 saw the first fall in the number of GP practitioners in Wales following seven consecutive years in which the number has increased.

Over the same period the whole time equivalent number has increased by 176 (10.5 per cent) to 1,846. At 30 September 2012 the whole time equivalent number of GPs was 91.6 per cent of the headcount number of GPs.

Table 3 shows more trend data.

Chart 2: Registered patients per practitioner / partnership



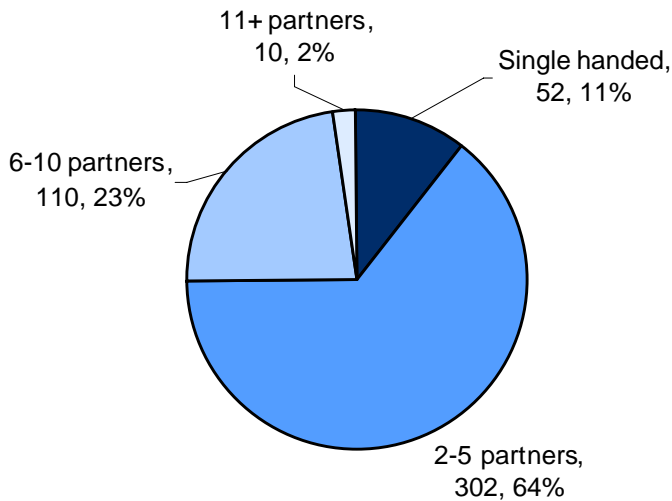
Source: GMS Census

Since 2002 the number of registered patients per practitioner has decreased by 105 (6.2 per cent) to 1,575.

The number of partnerships has decreased from 516 to 474 with a consequent increase in the number of registered patients per partnership from 5,885 in 2002 to 6,694 in 2012, an increase of 13.8 per cent over the last decade.

Table 3 shows more trend data.

Chart 3: Number and percentage of partnerships by number of partners for 2012



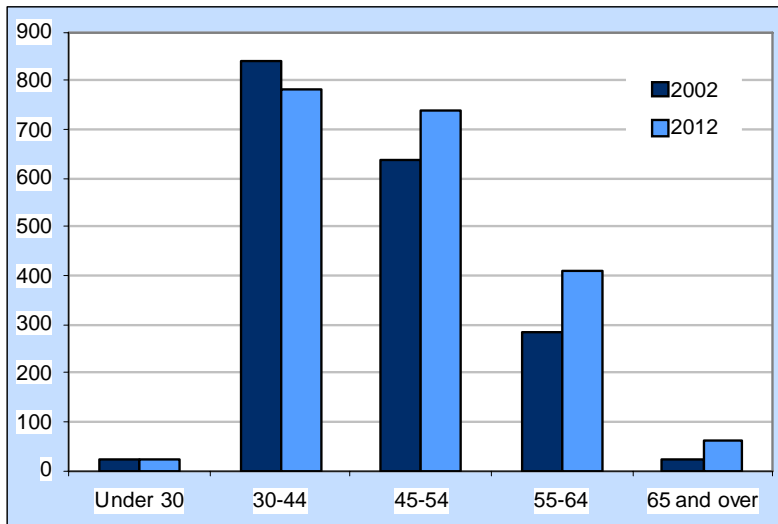
Source: GMS Census

A Partnership is a financial arrangement between two or more bodies of which one must be a practitioner.

In 2012 three quarters (354 practices) of all partnerships has 5 or fewer partners.

See Key Quality Section for further explanation on partnership size data quality.

Chart 4: Number of Practitioners by age group 10-year comparison



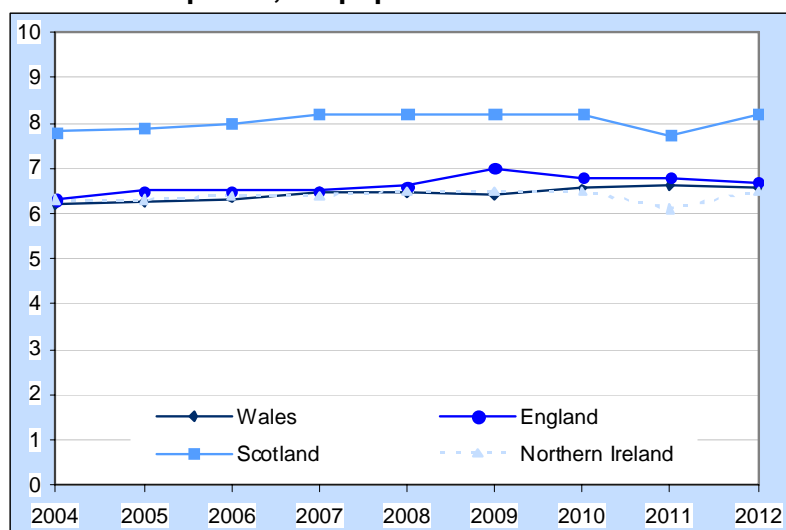
Source: GMS Census

The age distribution has changed since 2002. The workforce continues its trend to become older.

Fewer practitioners are aged under 45 (863 to 804) while more are aged 55 or over (310 to 472).

UK Comparisons of GP Workforce Statistics

Chart 5: GPs per 10,000 population ¹



Source: GMS Census; NHS Information Centre; ISD Scotland; HSC N. Ireland; ONS 2012 Census

Scotland continues to have the highest number of GPs per 10,000 population at 8.2.

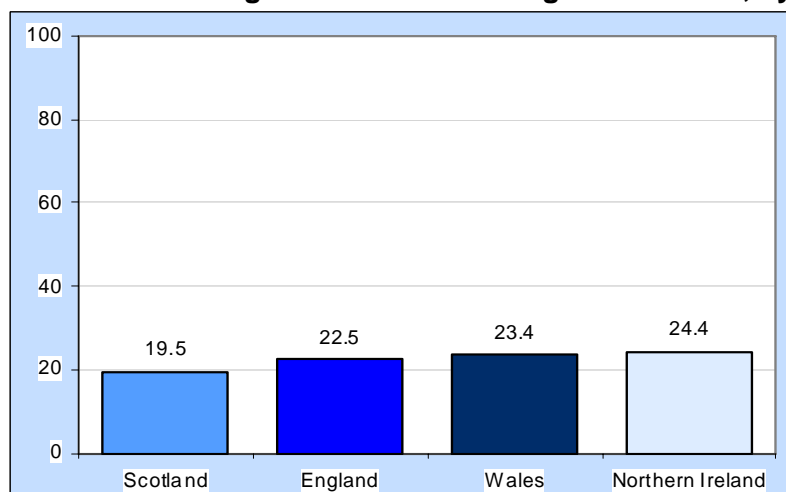
Northern Ireland has the lowest rate at 6.5 with Wales and England slightly higher than Northern Ireland at 6.6 and 6.7 respectively.

It should be noted that data prior to 2010 for England is not fully comparable with previous years. See footnote on Table 6.

Table 6 summarises UK country trends.

¹ The Wales' rates for previous years have been revised using the updated mid year population estimates for Wales (that now take account of the results of the 2011 Census).

Chart 6: Percentage of GP Workforce aged 55 or over, by UK country, 2012

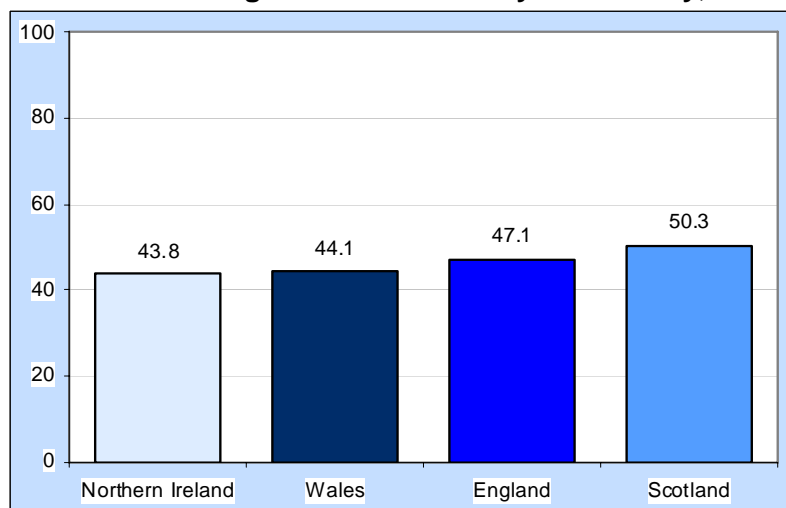


Source: GMS Census; NHS Information Centre; ISD Scotland; HSC N. Ireland

Scotland has the lowest percentage of its GP workforce aged 55 or over at 19.5 per cent.

Wales has the highest percentage at 23.4 per cent.

Chart 7: Percentage of Female GPs by UK country, 2012

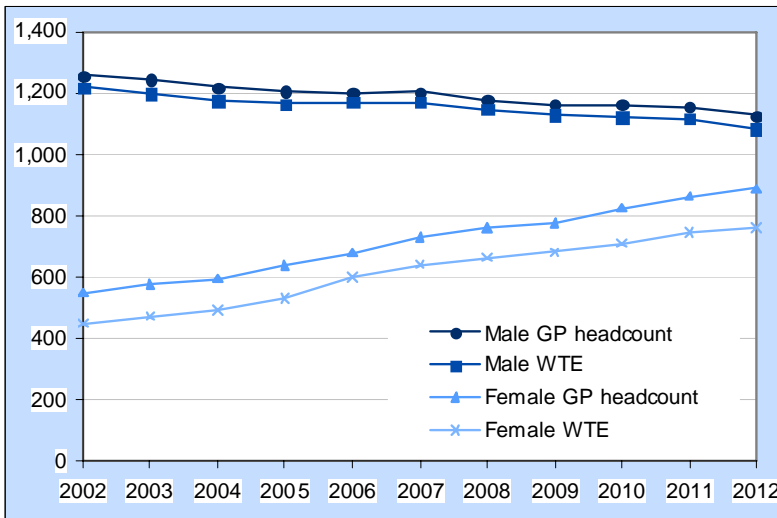


Source: GMS Census; NHS Information Centre; ISD Scotland; HSC N. Ireland

Northern Ireland has the lowest percentage of female GPs at 43.8 per cent while Scotland has the highest at 50.3 per cent.

GP Workforce in Wales

Chart 8: GP Headcount and Whole Time Equivalent (WTE)



Source: GMS Census

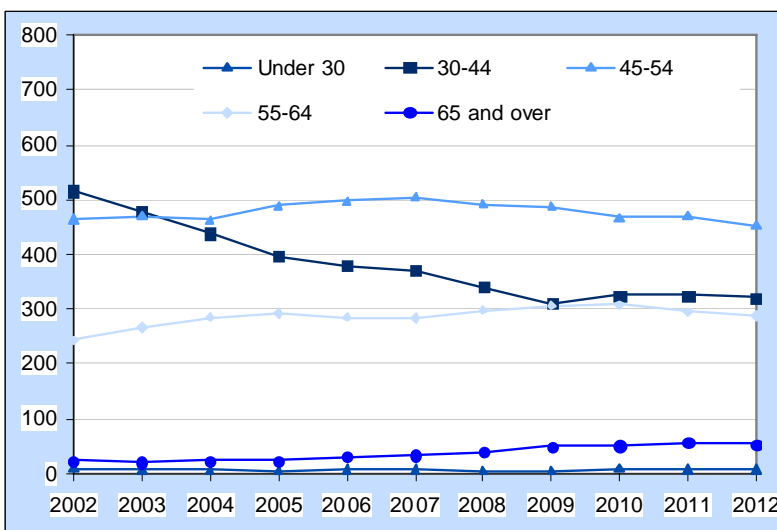
Since 2002 the number of male GPs has decreased by 132 (10.5 per cent) to 1,126 whilst the number of female GPs increased by 339 (61.6 per cent) to 889.

This trends are similar for the WTE counts where the number of WTE male GPs has decreased by 135 (11.1 per cent) to 1,084 and increased by 312 (69.4 per cent) to 763 for female GPs.

Table 3 shows more trend data.

(a) Comparisons across years should be treated with caution due to changes in methodology. See definitions in the Notes section.

Chart 9: Male GP numbers by age groups



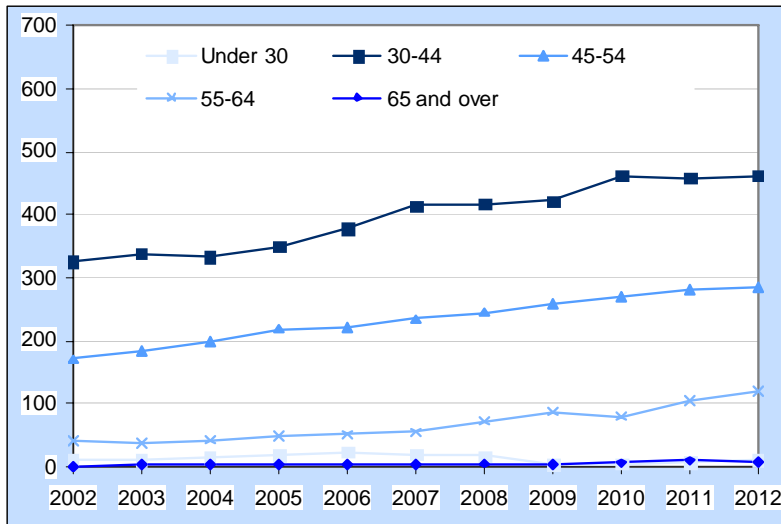
Source: GMS Census

There were 31 fewer male GPs compared with the previous year.

Since 2004 the largest groups of male GPs has been the 45-54 group (40.2 per cent in 2012). The age profile of male GPs continues to become older.

The number of male GPs in the 30-44 groups has declined over the last decade but increased slightly in the last 12 months from 28.1 per cent to 28.5 per cent.

Chart 10: Female GP numbers by age ¹



Source: GMS Census

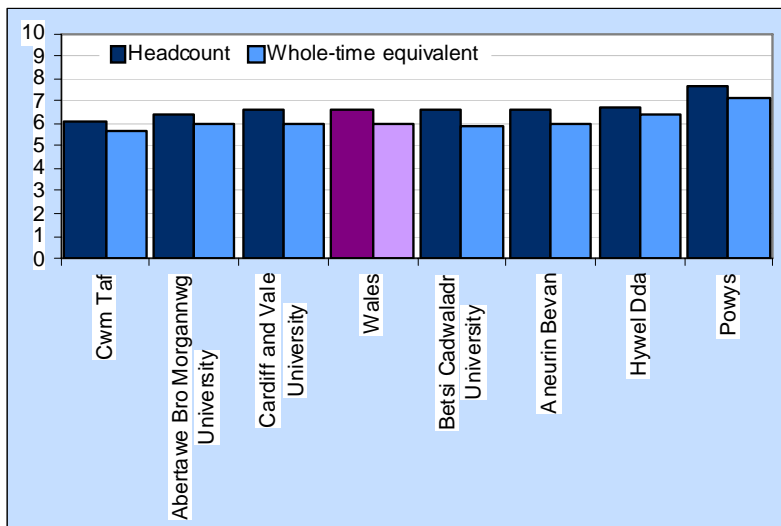
There were 25 more female GPs compared with the previous year. The largest increase was 55-64 group with an increase of 25.

In 2012 the largest group among female GPs remains the 30-44 group (52.0 per cent in 2011) which recorded a slight increase from last year, of 4 female GPs to 462.

¹ For 2012, there was a female GP Practitioner which age was not recorded

GP Workforce by Local Health Board

Chart 11: GPs per 10,000 population by LHB, 2012



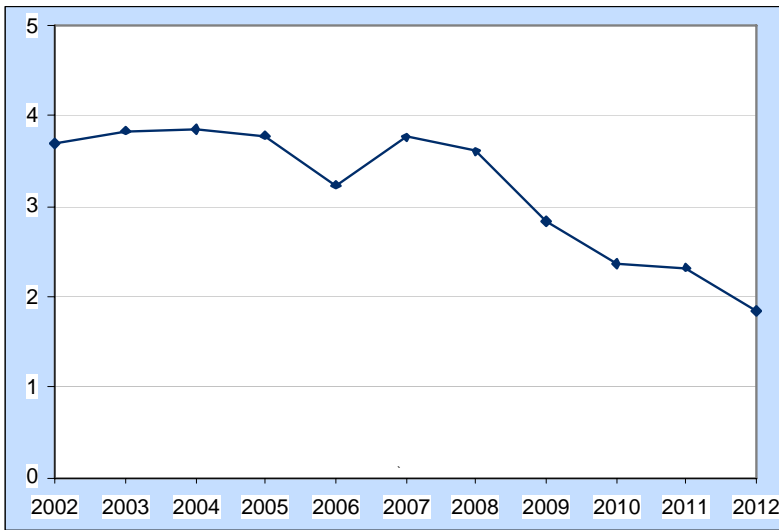
Source: GMS Census, ONS

Powys had the greatest number of GPs per 10,000 population at 7.7, while Cwm Taf had the lowest at 6.1. The average for Wales was 6.6 GPs per 10,000 population.

Powys also had the highest whole time equivalent (WTE) number of GPs per 10,000 population at 7.1 with Cwm Taf having the lowest figure at 5.6. The average for Wales was 6.0.

GP Retainers

Chart 12: GP Retainers per 100 GPs



Source: GMS Census

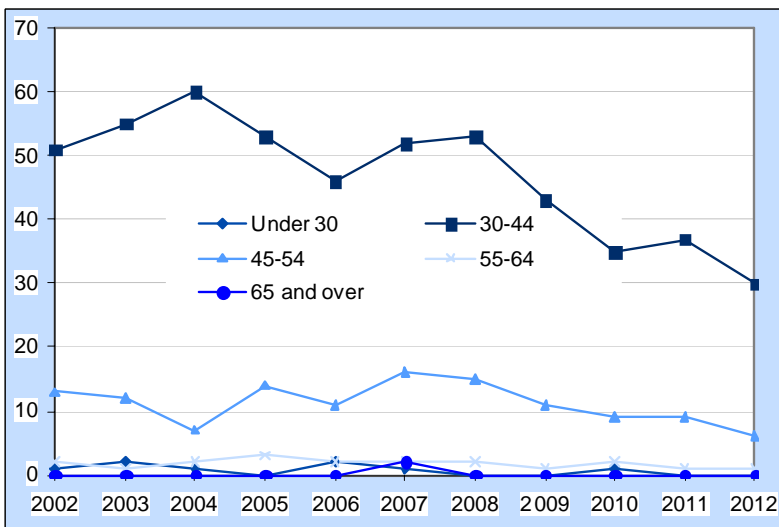
A **GP Retainer** is a practitioner who provides service sessions in general practice. See Notes section for a fuller explanation.

The number of GP retainers decreased by 30 over the last decade and by 10 over the last 12 months to 37.

The number of GP retainers per 100 GPs increased between 2001 and 2004. This was followed by a dip in 2005 and a rise in 2006.

Since 2007 the number of GP retainers per 100 GPs has continued to decrease and 2012 was the first time the rate of GP retainers per 100 GPs has dipped below 2.

Chart 13: GP Retainers by age



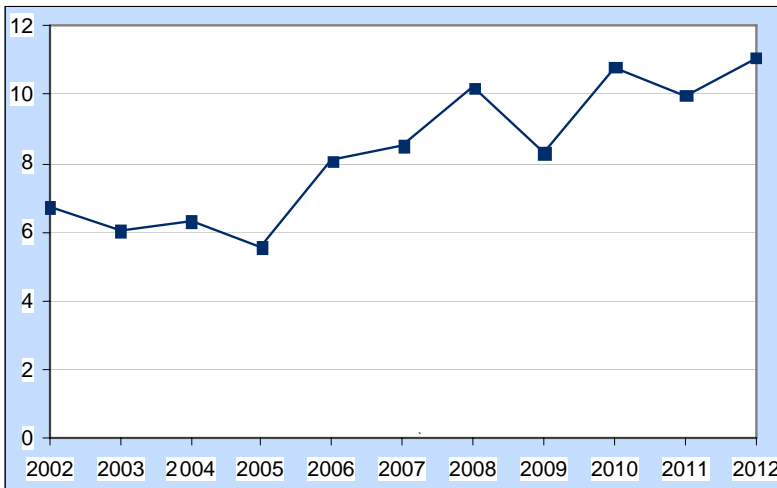
Source: GMS Census

The numbers of GP retainers reached a peak in 2007 at 73.

More than four-fifths (81.1 per cent) of GP Retainers are in the 30-44 age group. The number of GP retainers in this age group decreased by 7 over the last 12 months.

GP Registrars

Chart 14: GP Registrars per 100 GPs



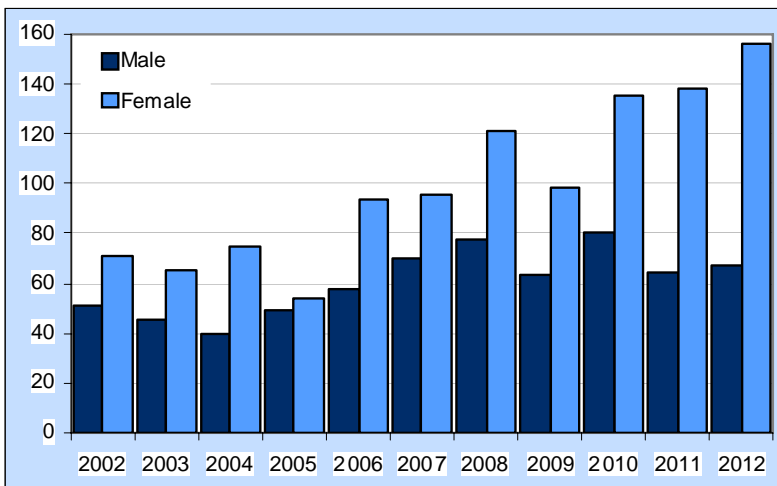
Source: GMS Census

A **GP registrar** is a practitioner employed for a maximum period of one year for the purpose of training in general practice and in respect of whom a training grant is paid.

The number of registrars has increased by 21 to 223 over the last 12 months. 223 is the largest number of GP registrars in the last decade.

In comparison to 2002 the number of GP registrars per 100 GPs has increased from 6.7 to 11.1.

Chart 15: GP Registrars by gender



Source: GMS Census

The number of male registrars has increased by 3 and the number of female registrars has increased by 18 over the last 12 months.

In every year over the last decade there have always been more females than males.

The gap between the number of male and female registrars has continued to widen in recent years. The proportionate difference in 2012 was the largest in the last decade where there were twice as many female registrars (70.0 per cent) than male registrars (30.0 per cent).

Workforce Flows

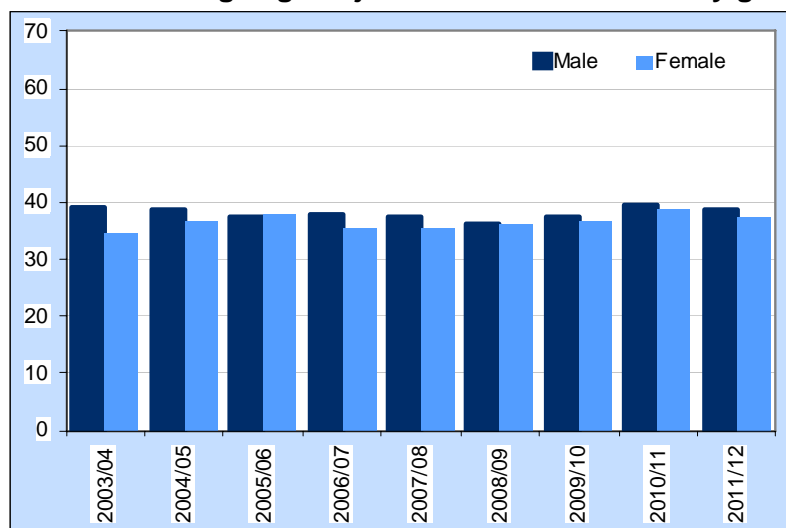
Workforce flows are estimated by comparing successive General Medical Services (GMS) censuses. A joiner is a GP reported as working in Wales in the census in one year but not the previous year. A leaver is a GP reported as working in Wales in the census in one year but not the next year.

These figures are snapshots from two specific points in time and only represent the national position at these times. They do not cover movement in and out of the GMS between these two points, nor do they relate to the local level turnover of staff between LHBs.

The workforce flow figures cover all GP types whereas the headcount of practitioners only includes certain types. Therefore the net effect of joiners and leavers will not necessarily align with the headcount of practitioners.

GP Joiners in Wales

Chart 16: Average age of joiners to GP workforce by gender



Source: GMS Census

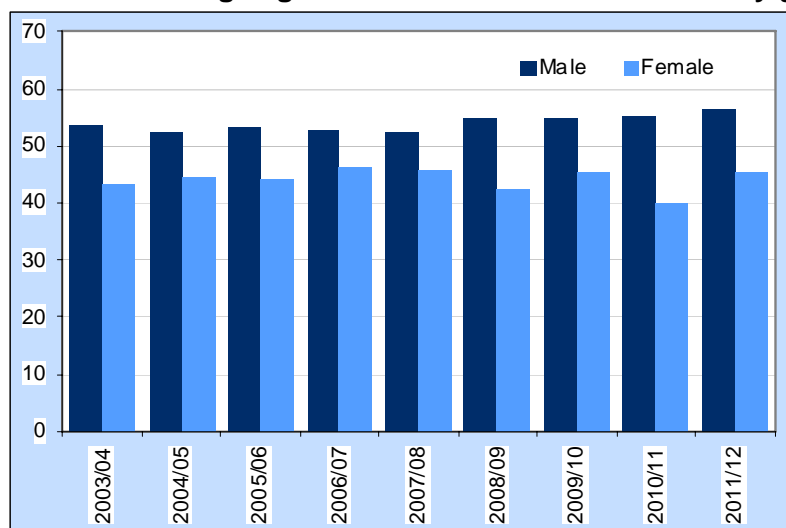
The average age of GPs joining has decreased for males by 0.7 and females 1.5 to 38.7 years and 37.4 years respectively compared to 12 months previously.

As in previous years there are more male joiners than female joiners.

Table 4 summarises workforce flow data.

GP Leavers in Wales

Chart 17: Average age of leavers from GP workforce by gender

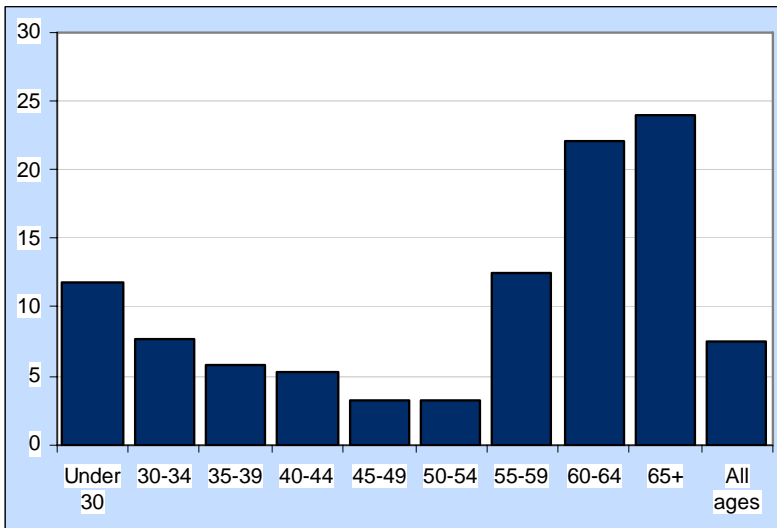


Source: GMS Census

The average age of GPs leaving has increased for males by 1.3 and females 5.6 to 56.7 years and 45.5 years respectively compared to 12 months previously.

As in previous years there are more male leavers than female leavers.

Chart 18: Percentage leaving General Practice at 30 September 2012, by age



Source: GMS Census

The age group with the largest proportion of leavers is the 65+ group with over a quarter (23.9 per cent) of GPs that age group leaving.

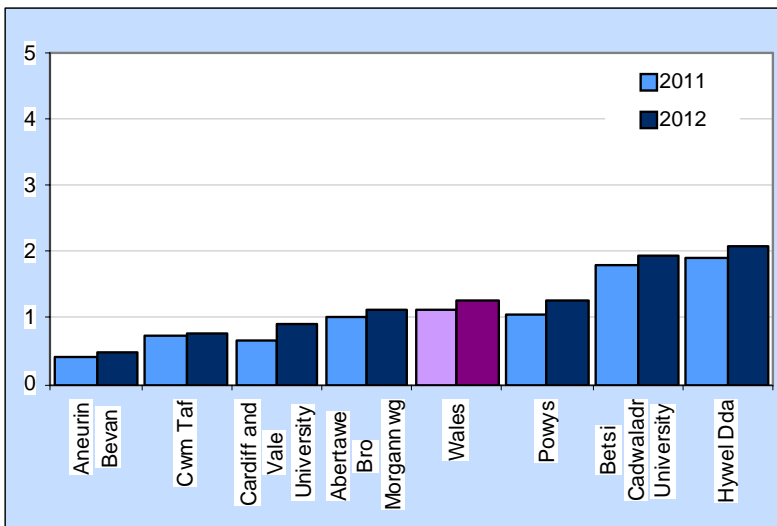
The groups with the smallest proportion of leavers are the 45-49 group and the 50-54 group which both recorded 3.2 per cent leaving.

Welsh Language

Data on the Welsh language ability of GPs represents the number of GPs on the Medical Performers' List who listed Welsh as a language they were able to speak. This includes all levels of fluency, from basic to fluent.

This data does not represent the number of GPs who currently consult in Welsh. Data does not include all GPs in Wales as, at the time of publishing the response rate of GPs could not be determined, but it is not thought to be less than 95 per cent.

Chart 19: Number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population



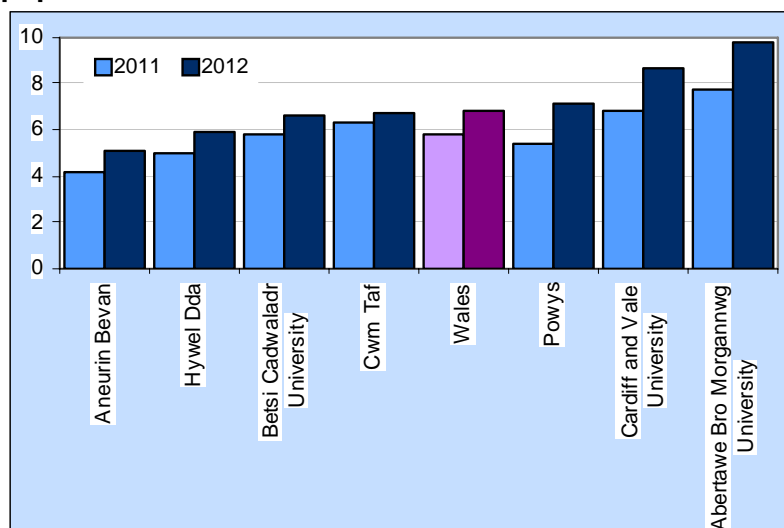
Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership; ONS

Hywel Dda has the largest number of GP with an ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population at 2.1 whilst Aneurin Bevan has the smallest with 0.5 GPs per 10,000 population in 2011.

The Wales average was 1.3, compared to 1.1 in the previous year.

Table 5 summarises Welsh language ability.

Chart 20: Number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population



Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University has the highest number of GPs able to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population at 9.8 whilst Aneurin Bevan has the smallest with 5.1 in 2012.

The Wales average was 6.8 GPs per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population, compared to 5.8 in 2011.

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership; ONS

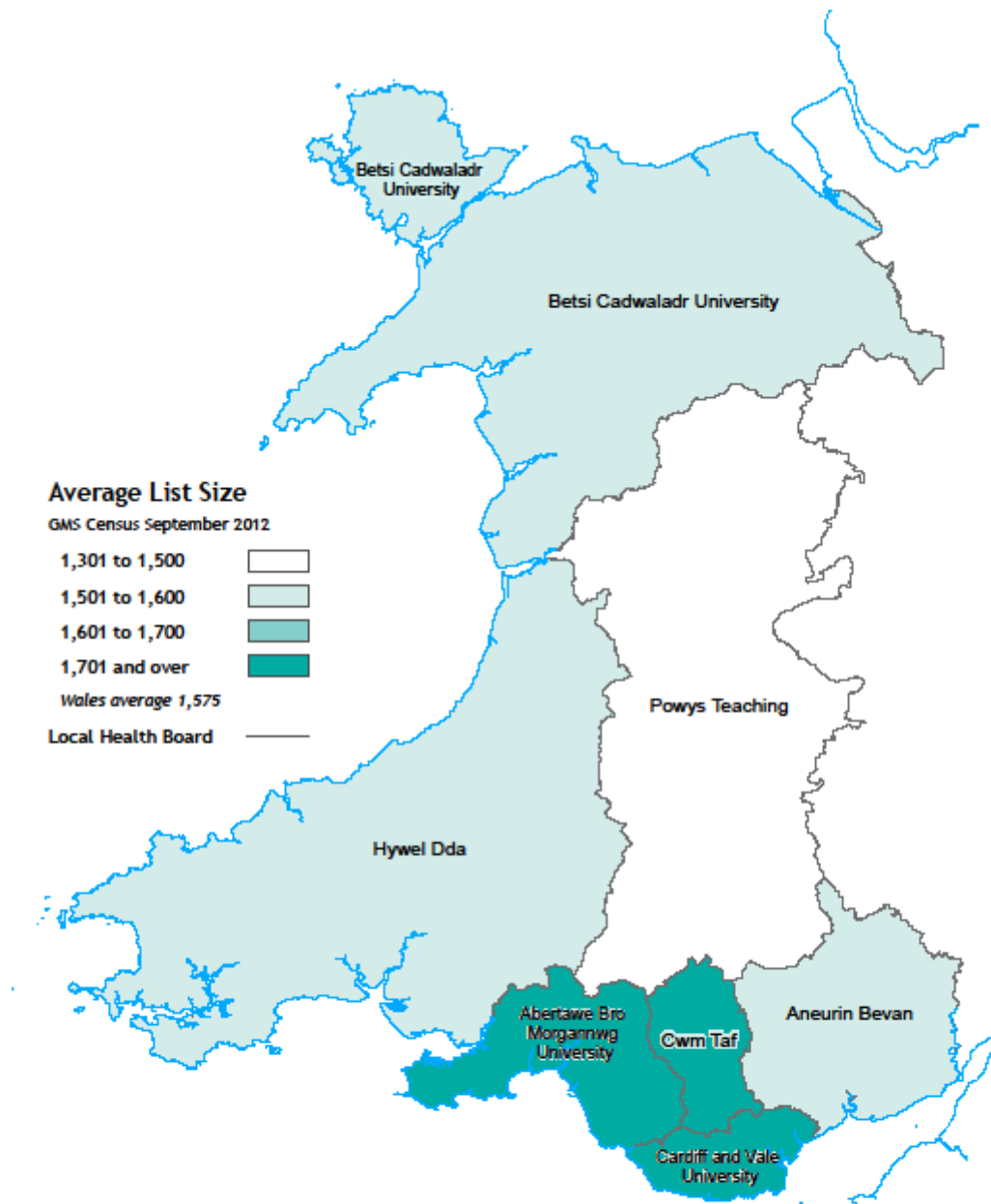
Qualifications

Table 7 shows the country of primary medical qualification for GPs. 81.7 per cent have a primary medical qualification from the UK, 4.2 per cent from the European Economic Area (EEA) (excluding the UK) and the rest (14.0 per cent) a qualification from elsewhere.

Dispensing Partnerships

As well as prescribing some GPs are also authorised to dispense prescriptions under the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 1992; a Local Health Board may authorise a GP to dispense to patients living in a 'controlled locality' like a rural area who would have difficulty reaching a chemist or pharmacy. Dispensing doctors are never found in areas defined as being non-rural (i.e. 'urban') where the proximity of pharmacies is guaranteed. The number of dispensing partnerships in Wales was 87 in 2012.

Map 1: Registered Patients per practitioners (average list size) by Local Health Board 2012



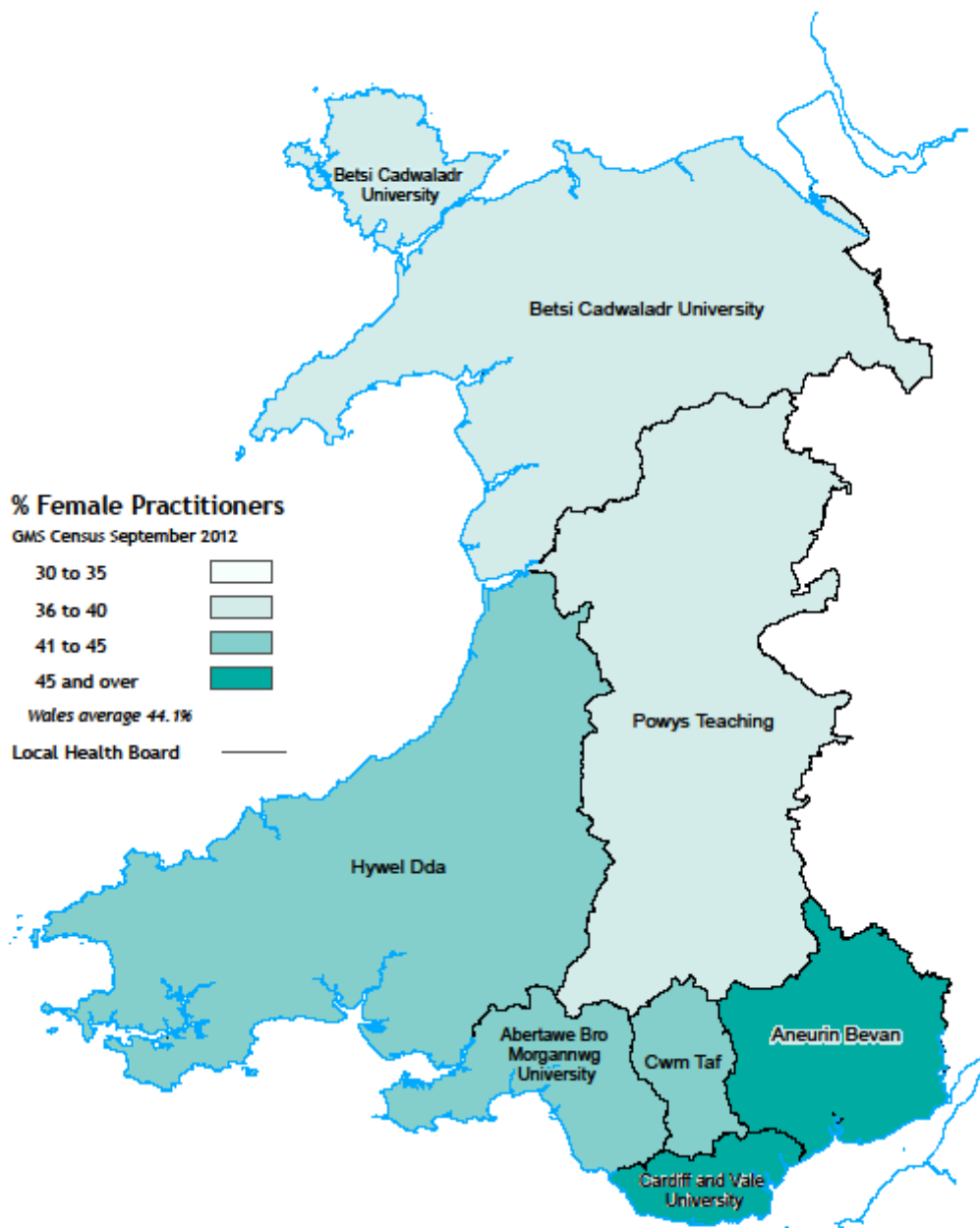
235.12-13

© Crown Copyright and database right [2013]. All rights reserved.
Welsh Government. Licence number 100021874.



The number of registered patients per practitioner tends to be greater in the south east with Cwm Taf having the largest list size of 1,697. Powys has the smallest average list size.

Map 2: Percentage of Female General Practitioners by Local Health Board 2012



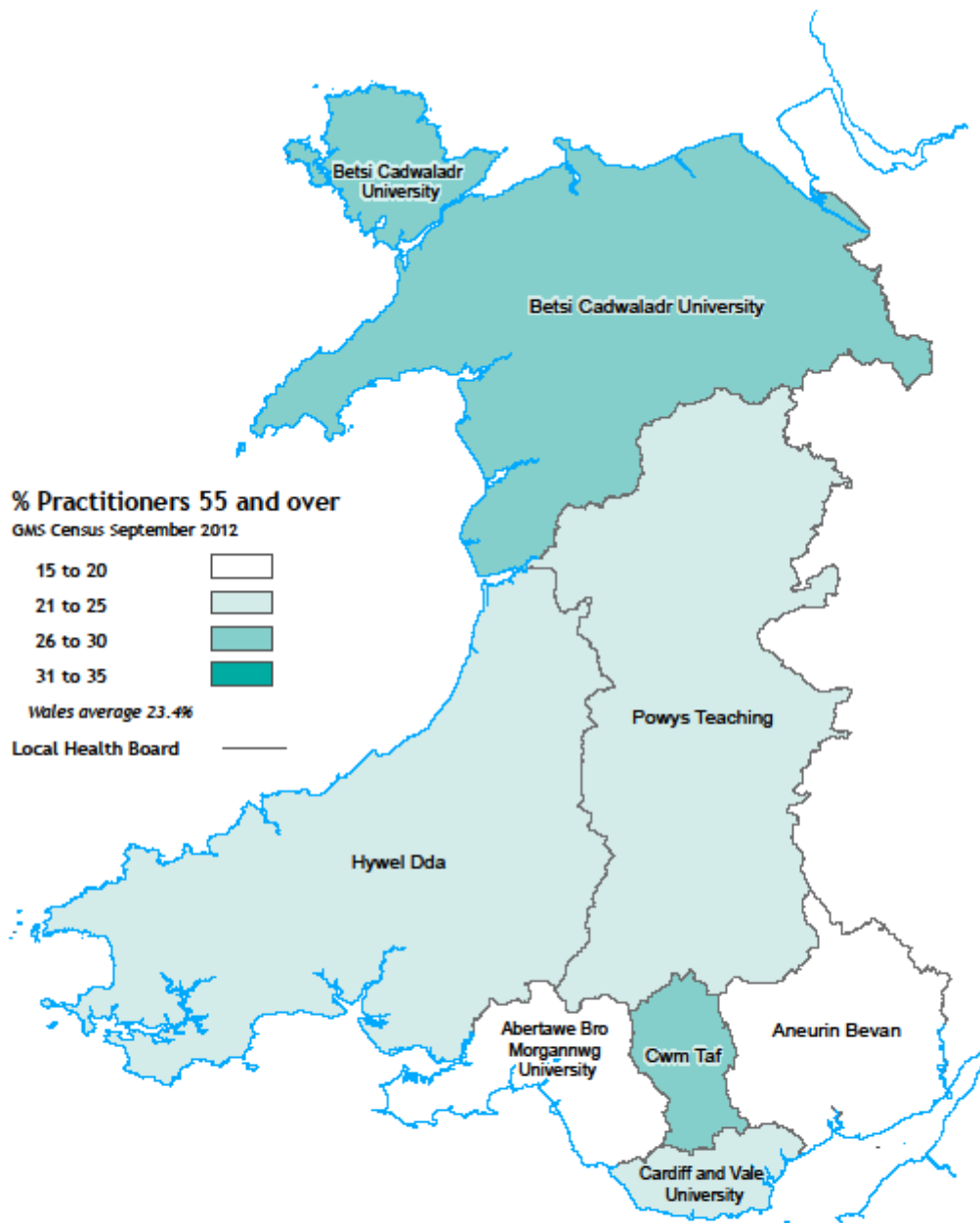
235.12-13

© Crown Copyright and database right [2013]. All rights reserved.
Welsh Government. Licence number 100021874.



The Local Health Boards with the highest proportions of female GPs are Cardiff and Vale and Aneurin Bevan with Betsi Cadwaladr University having the lowest proportion.

Map 3: Percentage of General Practitioners aged 55 and over by Local Health Board 2012



235.12-13

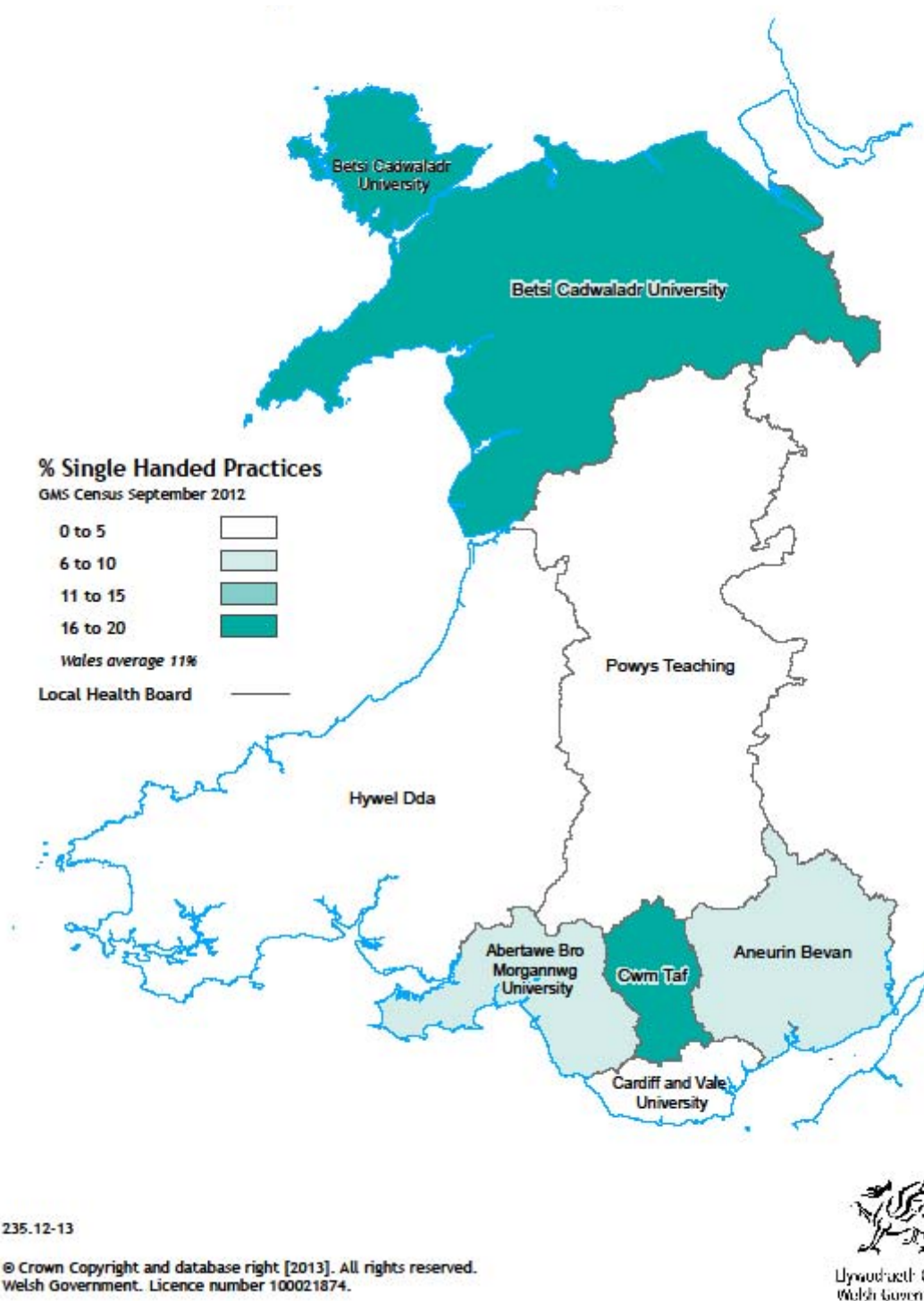
© Crown Copyright and database right [2013]. All rights reserved.
Welsh Government. Licence number 100021874.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Local Health Boards with the highest proportions of GPs aged 55 or over are Cwm Taf and Betsi Cadwaladr University with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University having the lowest proportion.

Map 4: Percentage of Partnerships with one partner by Local Health Board 2012



The proportion of single-handed practices is highest in Cwm Taf and lowest in Powys which did not have any partnerships with one partner.

Table 1: Local Health Boards at 30 September 2012

Local Health Board	All practitioners (excluding locums, GP Registrars and GP Retainers) - numbers									GP Registrars: Number	GP Retainers: Number	Registered patients (a)	Average list size (b)
	GP Providers			Other GP s			Total						
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total				
Betsi Cadwaladr University	270	149	419	8	26	34	278	175	453	42	7	704,229	1,555
Powys	59	32	91	3	8	11	62	40	102	6		138,625	1,359
Hywel Dda	135	83	218	9	31	40	144	114	258	35	6	390,701	1,514
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	181	122	303	5	24	29	186	146	332	48	9	542,073	1,633
Cwm Taf	88	41	129	17	33	50	105	74	179	25	5	303,794	1,697
Aneurin Bevan	182	147	329	12	40	52	194	187	381	37	2	595,684	1,563
Cardiff and Vale University	147	127	274	10	26	36	157	153	310	30	8	498,005	1,606
Wales	1,062	701	1,763	64	188	252	1,126	889	2,015	223	37	3,173,111	1,575

Source: GMS Census

(a) Patients registered with relevant GPs irrespective of where the patient lives.

(b) Number of registered patients divided by the number of 'all practitioners'

Table 2: Geography of General Medical Services 2012

Local Health Board	GPs per 10,000 population (a)	WTE GPs per 10,000 population (a)	Percentage of GP workforce who are female	Percentage of GP workforce aged 55 and over	Number of partnerships (b)	Partnerships with one partner	Percentage of partnerships with one partner
Betsi Cadwaladr University	6.6	5.9	38.6	27.6	119	21	17.6
Powys	7.7	7.1	39.2	21.6	17	0	0.0
Hywel Dda	6.8	6.4	44.2	23.3	55	3	5.5
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	6.4	6.0	44.0	18.1	77	6	7.8
Cwm Taf	6.1	5.6	41.3	29.6	49	10	20.4
Aneurin Bevan	6.6	5.9	49.1	20.5	89	9	10.1
Cardiff and Vale University	6.6	5.9	49.4	23.9	68	3	4.4
Wales	6.6	6.0	44.1	23.4	474	52	11.0

Source: GMS Census

(a) Patients registered with relevant GPs irrespective of where the patient lives. ONS mid year population estimate for 2011.

(b) Includes LHB employed Partnerships.

Table 3: Trends in the General Practice Workforce (a)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
GP Whole time equivalent (b)											
Male	1,219	1,199	1,176	1,165	1,173	1,172	1,148	1,131	1,123	1,118	1,084
Female	451	473	494	534	602	642	666	682	711	748	763
Persons	1,670	1,672	1,671	1,699	1,775	1,814	1,814	1,813	1,838	1,867	1,846
GP headcount											
Male	1,258	1,245	1,219	1,208	1,202	1,204	1,179	1,162	1,162	1,157	1,126
Female	550	577	597	641	680	732	761	778	827	864	889
Persons (c)	1,808	1,822	1,816	1,849	1,882	1,936	1,940	1,940	1,991	2,022	2,015
GPs by age (headcount)											
Male											
Under 30	10	7	7	6	8	9	6	6	10	9	9
30-44	516	479	439	397	380	371	342	311	325	325	321
45-54	464	471	463	489	497	505	492	488	467	471	453
55-64	244	267	286	292	286	284	299	307	308	295	288
65 and over	24	21	24	24	31	35	40	50	52	57	55
Total	1,258	1,245	1,219	1,208	1,202	1,204	1,179	1,162	1,162	1,157	1,126
Female											
Under 30	11	11	16	19	24	21	18	4	6	8	12
30-44	326	339	333	350	378	415	418	422	462	458	462
45-54	171	185	200	219	222	235	246	259	271	282	285
55-64	41	38	43	49	52	56	73	88	81	106	120
65 and over	1	4	5	4	4	5	6	5	7	10	9
Total	550	577	597	641	680	732	761	778	827	864	889
GP Registrars											
Male	51	45	40	49	58	70	77	63	80	64	67
Female	71	65	75	54	94	95	121	98	135	138	156
Persons	122	110	115	103	152	165	198	161	215	202	223
GP Retainers											
Male	3	2	3	6	4	6	5	4	4	3	3
Female	64	68	67	64	57	67	65	50	43	44	34
Persons	67	70	70	70	61	73	70	54	47	47	37
Registered patients per practitioner	1,679	1,659	1,674	1,650	1,644	1,598	1,605	1,616	1,584	1,564	1,575
Number of partnerships	516	508	501	497	496	495	499	488	487	483	474
Registered patients per partnership	5,885	5,949	6,069	6,140	6,236	6,250	6,242	6,424	6,474	6,549	6,694

Source: GMS Census

- (a) At 30 September except for 2009 which is at 1 October.
(b) See Notes section.
(c) May include GPs whose gender were not recorded.

Table 4: Workforce Flows (a) (b)

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Joiners									
Male	35	46	54	59	40	39	60	59	46
Female	53	82	87	82	64	54	91	83	95
Persons	88	128	141	141	104	93	151	142	141
Joiners to GP as a percentage of all GPs (r)	4.8	6.9	7.5	7.3	5.4	4.8	7.6	7.0	7.0
Average age of joiners (c)									
Male	39.1	38.6	37.6	37.7	37.5	36.1	37.4	39.4	38.7
Female	34.6	36.5	37.9	35.2	35.4	36.3	36.8	38.9	37.4
Persons	36.4	37.2	37.8	36.3	36.2	36.2	37.0	39.1	37.8
Leavers									
Male	61	57	59	58	64	56	57	78	82
Female	33	38	49	32	31	38	41	51	71
Persons	94	95	108	90	95	94	98	129	153
Leavers from GP as a percentage of all GPs (r)	4.9	5.2	5.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.1	6.4	7.6
Average age of leavers (c)									
Male	53.7	52.5	53.1	52.9	52.3	52.5	55.0	55.4	56.7
Female	43.1	44.6	44.1	46.2	45.9	41.1	45.5	39.9	45.5
Persons	50.0	49.3	49.0	50.5	50.2	47.9	51.0	49.2	51.4

Source: GMS Census

- (a) Workforce flows are estimated by comparing successive GMS censuses for all GP types. Therefore this table will not align with the headcount of practitioners. Joiners are those Practitioners reported in the census one year, but not reported as a Practitioner in the previous year. These figures are therefore snapshots from two specific points in time and only represent the national position at these times.
- (b) The years in this table denote a full year between each census. The census dates are 30 September except for 2009 which is at 1 October.
- (c) Average age of those whose age is 'known'
- (r) Some of the percentages have been revised due to change of numerator used. The number of headcounts has replaced the number of contracts in calculating the percentages of joiners and leavers.

Table 5: Welsh Language Ability amongst GPs in Wales 2012 (a)

Local Health Board and Local Authority Area	GPs who speak Welsh (b)	Population of LHB (c)	GPs per 10,000 population	Welsh-speaking population of LHB (d)	GPs per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population
Betsi Cadwaladr University	135	688,000	2.0	204,000	6.6
Isle of Anglesey	20	70,000	2.9	39,000	5.2
Gwynedd	55	122,000	4.5	77,000	7.1
Conwy	21	115,000	1.8	31,000	6.9
Denbighshire	21	94,000	2.2	22,000	9.4
Flintshire	7	153,000	0.5	19,000	3.6
Wrexham	11	135,000	0.8	17,000	6.6
Powys	17	133,000	1.3	24,000	7.1
Hywel Dda	80	382,000	2.1	136,000	5.9
Ceredigion	25	75,000	3.3	35,000	7.2
Pembrokeshire	13	123,000	1.1	23,000	5.7
Carmarthenshire	42	184,000	2.3	78,000	5.4
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	59	518,000	1.1	60,000	9.8
Swansea	35	239,000	1.5	26,000	13.3
Neath Port Talbot	15	140,000	1.1	21,000	7.2
Bridgend	9	139,000	0.6	13,000	6.9
Cwm Taf	22	293,000	0.8	33,000	6.7
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	20	234,000	0.9	28,000	7.2
Merthyr Tydfil	2	59,000	0.3	5,000	4.0
Aneurin Bevan	28	577,000	0.5	55,000	5.1
Caerphilly	10	179,000	0.6	19,000	5.2
Blaenau Gwent	3	70,000	0.4	5,000	5.7
Torfaen	7	91,000	0.8	9,000	8.1
Monmouthshire	1	92,000	0.1	9,000	1.1
Newport	7	146,000	0.5	13,000	5.4
Cardiff and Vale University	43	472,000	0.9	50,000	8.6
The Vale of Glamorgan	10	127,000	0.8	13,000	7.6
Cardiff	33	345,000	1.0	37,000	9.0
Wales	384	3,064,000	1.3	562,000	6.8

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

- (a) The GPs noted here are from the Medical Performers List. This is a list of all GPs able to practice in Wales, and includes principals, locums, salaried doctors, registrars and retainers.
- (b) Number of Welsh Speaking GPs on the All Wales Medical Performers List as at 27 February 2013
- (c) Office for National Statistics, mid year population estimates, 2011.
- (d) 2011 Census.

Table 6: UK Comparisons of GP workforce

	Wales (a) (b)	England (a, c)	Scotland (d)	Northern Ireland (e)
GP headcount (persons)				
2004	1,816	31,523	3,970	1,073
2005	1,849	32,738	4,033	1,084
2006	1,882	33,091	4,111	1,110
2007	1,936	33,364	4,195	1,128
2008	1,940	34,010	4,234	1,148
2009	1,940	35,917	4,269	1,156
2010	1,991	35,120	4,268	1,160
2011	2,022	35,415	4,278	1,160
2012	2,015	35,527	4,285	1,170
GPs per 10,000 population				
2004	6.2	6.3	7.8	6.3
2005	6.3	6.5	7.9	6.3
2006	6.3	6.5	8.0	6.4
2007	6.5	6.5	8.2	6.4
2008	6.5	6.6	8.2	6.5
2009	6.4	7.0	8.2	6.5
2010	6.6	6.8	8.2	6.5
2011	6.6	6.8	8.2	6.1
2012	6.6	6.7	8.2	6.5
Percentage of GPs aged 55 or over: 2012	23.4	22.5	19.5	24.4
Percentage of GPs that are female: 2012	44.1	47.1	50.3	43.8

Source: GMS Census; NHS Information Centre; ISD Scotland; HSC N.Ireland

- (a) At 30 September except 2009 which is at 1 October.
 (b) The Wales' rates for GPs per 10,000 population for previous years have been revised using the updated mid year population estimates for Wales (that now take account of the results of the 2011 Census).
 (c) New headcount methodology for 2010 is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute numbers. Previous years represent a count of contracts held by GPs. On a like for like basis the difference from 2010 to 2009 is 142, (35,120 in 2010 from 34,978 in 2009)
 (d) At 1 October. Comprises Performer, Performer Provider, Performer Salaried, Performer Locum Salaried, Performer Locum, Performer Rural Fellow and Performer Returner contracted GPs. Excludes Performer Registrars and Performer Retainees.
 (e) Data only includes what would have been Unrestricted Principals or Equivalent (UPEs) and Restricted GPs under the old contract.

GP workforce data for other UK countries can be found at the following links:

England:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/searchcatalogue?productid=4869&topics=2%2fWorkforce%2fStaff+numbers%2fGeneral+practice+staff&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1#top>

Scotland: http://www.isdscotland.org/general_practice/

Northern Ireland: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/1804.htm>

Table 7: General Practitioners by Country of Primary Medical Qualification Group, 2012

Local Health Board	All Practitioners (excluding Retainers, Registrars and locums) (a)	Numbers		
		UK	Rest of EEA (b)	Other
Betsi Cadwaladr University	453	358	30	65
Powys	102	88	6	8
Hywel Dda	258	213	15	30
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	332	291	7	34
Cwm Taf	179	113	9	56
Aneurin Bevan	381	299	13	69
Cardiff and Vale University	310	284	5	21
Wales	2,015	1,646	85	283

Source: GMS Census

- (a) Includes a GP whose country of primary medical qualification was not recorded.
 (b) The European Economic Area (EEA) (excluding the UK) includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Irish Republic, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland

Notes

All data relates to numbers as at 30 September except for 2009 which is at 1 October.

A **GP Provider** is a practitioner who has entered into a contract with a LHB to provide services to patients. These practitioners were formally known as Contracted and Salaried GPs.

Other GPs work within partnerships and were formerly known as GMS other.

The number of **Practitioners** is the sum of GP Providers and Other GPs.

A **GP registrar** is a practitioner employed for a maximum period of one year for the purpose of training in general practice and in respect of whom a training grant is paid.

A **GP Retainer** is a practitioner who provides service sessions in general practice. They undertake the sessions as an assistant employed by the practice and are allowed to work a maximum of 4 sessions each week.

Registered patients per practitioner - the number of registered patients divided by the number of 'all practitioners'.

Where tables refer to numbers, the figures represent a headcount of GPs. Some GPs may work in several partnerships/practices. Where this occurs the GP is only counted for the partnership/practice where the GP has the most senior position and/or spends most of their time as this will be their main place of work.

A **Partnership** is a financial arrangement between two or more bodies of which one must be a practitioner.

The **primary medical qualification** used to identify the country of qualification is based on information held on each individual doctor on the GMC register. The countries are grouped into UK, European Economic Area (EEA) and Elsewhere. Historical figures are based on the current EEA membership for comparability.

Key Quality information

Data Sources

1. The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care (IC) in England collect data for England and Wales using the Exeter database. This database is a computerised payment system of General Medical Practitioners (GMPs) who are in contract with Local Health Boards. Selected information is supplied by the IC via secure electronic data transfer. This represents the majority of data used in this release.
2. Additional sources used are:
 - Information Services Division Scotland, Business Services Organisation (Northern Ireland) and NHS Information Centre (England): The other UK countries provide data for the number of GPs (headcounts), the percentage of GPs aged 55 or over, the percentage of GPs who are female and GPs per 10,000 population.
 - Mid Year Estimates of the Population: Office for National Statistics' mid year estimates for 2011 are used to calculate the number of GPs per 10,000 population, WTE GPs per 10,000 population and the number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population. Mid year estimates of population can be found on our [Statswales](#) website (Click on the link to the Mid year estimates on Statswales).
 - 2011 Census: Welsh speaking population used to calculate the statistic "number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population" is derived from the 2011 Census of Population. In previous editions data from the 2001 Census was used.
 - Revision to Wales totals as a result of 2011 Census: In the GPs per 10,000 population chart (Chart 5), the previous years (i.e. 2002 to 2011) figures have been revised using the updated mid year population estimates (that now take account of the results of the 2011 Census). The other three nations have not revised their data.
 - Welsh speaking GPs: This data is derived from NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Contractor Services and used to calculate the number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population and the number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population. The counts are derived from the Medical Performers' List which lists all GPs able to practice in Wales.

Coverage

3. A full census of GPs was carried out as at 30 September 2012. Only practitioners whose 'Responsible Local Health Board' is within Wales have been included. The 'Responsible Local Health Board' is, in general, the Local Health Board area in which the majority of patients of the practice to which the practitioner belongs reside.
4. Information collected included details of each practitioner's name, age, sex, partnership details, country of primary medical qualification and whether certain allowances are payable (e.g. seniority). Also collected are details of partnership structure, patients, registrars, retainers and services offered by partnerships. Locum doctors are excluded.
5. This release covers the period 2002 to 2012. All data relates to numbers as at 30 September except for 2009 which is at 1 October.
6. Since the introduction of the new contract, it is no longer mandatory for GP practices to supply data on practice staff, so this is no longer included in this release.

7. Data on the Welsh language ability of GPs represents the number of GPs on the Medical Performers' List who listed Welsh as a language they were able to speak. This includes all levels of fluency, from basic to fluent. This data does not represent the number of GPs who currently consult in Welsh. Data does not include all GPs in Wales as, at the time of publishing the response rate of GPs could not be determined, but it is not thought to be less than 95 per cent.

Comparability – Whole-time equivalent (WTE)

8. Prior to 2004, weightings were used to calculate the whole time equivalent (WTE), based on detailed commitment data (i.e. full time, half time, three-quarter time) from the GMS Census. Weightings changed slightly in 2004 and 2005, reflecting whether GPs were full time or part time only.
9. From 2006 onwards, WTE calculations are based on the number of sessions a GP works during the week, up to a maximum of nine sessions. Therefore users should be cautious when comparing Wte for different years.

Revisions

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

Accessing the data electronically

10. The data behind the chart and tables in this release can be found on StatsWales (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables). Please select "Health and Care" at the navigation screen of the following site: <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue>.

What are the potential uses of these statistics?

11. These statistics will be used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:
 - advice to Ministers;
 - to inform debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond;
 - to make publically available data on GP services in Wales.

Who are the key potential users of this data?

12. These statistics will be useful both within and outside the Welsh Government. Some of the key potential users are:
 - Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
 - Local Health Boards;
 - Local Authorities;
 - GP Practices;
 - The Department for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government;
 - Other areas of the Welsh Government;
 - National Health Service and Public Health Wales;
 - The research community;
 - Students, academics and universities;
 - Individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics may also be useful for other UK governments

- The Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- The Scottish Government
- The Department of Health in England.

Symbols and rounding conventions

13. All the figures are rounded to the nearest 5 for confidentiality. Where figures have been rounded there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

The following symbols are used in the tables:

- the data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half the final digit shown.
- . the data item is not applicable.
- .. the data item is not available.
- * the data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication.

UK comparisons

The other UK countries also publish counts of GPs. Users should be aware of slight differences in definitions and methodologies; these are referred to in the footnotes to Table 6.

England

The Information Centre for health and Social Care: NHS Staff 2001 - 2011 (General Practice):

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/searchcatalogue?productid=4869&q=nhs+staff+numbers&topics=2%2fWorkforce%2fStaff+numbers%2fGeneral+practice+staff&sort=Most+recent&size=10&page=1#top>

Scotland

GPs and Other Practice Workforce:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/General-Practice/GPs-and-Other-Practice-Workforce/>

Northern Ireland

General Medical Statistics

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/1804.htm>

Feedback

We actively encourage feedback from our users. If you have any comments or require further information please contact us on the details below.

Kim Swain

Health Statistics and Analysis Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

Tel: (029) 2082 6186

Fax: (029) 2082 5350

Email: stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Copyright © 2011, The data in this release is re-used with the permission of The Health and Social Care Information Centre. All rights reserved.

Appendix 1 - Statswales tables views

General practitioners workforce headcounts and Whole Time Equivalents by local health board, gender and year:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/General-Medical-Services/GPWorkforceHeadcountsAndWholeTimeEquivalents-by-LocalHealthBoard-Gender-Year>

General practitioners, registrars, retainers and average list size by local health board and year:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/General-Medical-Services/GPPractitionersRegistrarsRetainersAndAverageListSize-by-LocalHealthBoard-Year>

General practitioners workforce trend by age and gender:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/General-Medical-Services/GPWorkforceTrend-by-Age-Gender->

General practitioners workforce flows by gender and year:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/General-Medical-Services/GPWorkforceFlows-by-Gender-Year>

Local health board comparisons of GP workforce by year:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/General-Medical-Services/LocalHealthBoardComparisonsOfGPWorkforce-by-Year>

UK comparisons of general practitioners workforce by year:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/General-Medical-Services/UKComparisonsOfGPWorkforce-by-Year>

General practitioners Welsh language ability by local health board and year:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/General-Medical-Services/GPWelshlanguageAbility-by-LocalHealthBoard-Year>