

General Medical Practitioners in Wales 2003 to 2013

This annual Statistical First Release presents a summary on workforce data relating to General Medical Practitioners (GP), and on new data relating to General Practice staff in Wales, as at the end of September 2013. The release highlights trends over the last decade where possible. The data is provided by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care (IC), who 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.

Information about the GP workforce in Wales, in terms of age, gender, workforce flows, Welsh language ability and qualifications are presented in charts, tables and maps. A summary of key figures by GP practices are also provided in separate spreadsheets. All data in the release relates to headcount numbers as at 30 September except for 2009 which is at 1 October. Administrative errors were identified relating to the headcount and WTE figures for 2012 and 2011. Revised figures have been marked with an "r", in Tables 3 and 6 and in the related text throughout.

Various types of medical practitioners work in General practice. 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.

For the purpose of the release the term 'General Practice' does not include Prisons, Army Bases, and Education Establishments. Notes on types of practitioners are included in the [Notes](#) section.

Key results:

- The number of GP practitioners in Wales (excluding registrars, retainers and locums) was 2,026 at 30 September 2013, 30 more (1.5 per cent) than the previous year and an increase of 204 (11.2 per cent) since 2003.
- There are fewer practices in Wales than a decade ago. In 2013 there were 7.5 per cent fewer GP partnerships in Wales than in 2003. The number of patients per practitioner has fallen by 5.4 per cent since 2003 but patients per practice have consequently risen.
- More GP practitioners are aged 55 or over (from 330 in 2003 to 469 in 2013, up 42.1 per cent), and more practitioners are aged under 45 (from 836 in 2003 to 846 in 2013, up 1.2 per cent).
- The percentage of GP practitioners who are female has increased over the last decade. In 2003 female GP practitioners accounted for 31.7 per cent of the total, in 2013 they accounted for 46.6 per cent.

Additional detail including analysis by Local Health Board can be found in the tables on pages 22 to 27 of this release and on [StatsWales](#).

Statistician: Michelle Morgan

Tel: 02920 826186

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

Next update: March 2015 (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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Table of Contents

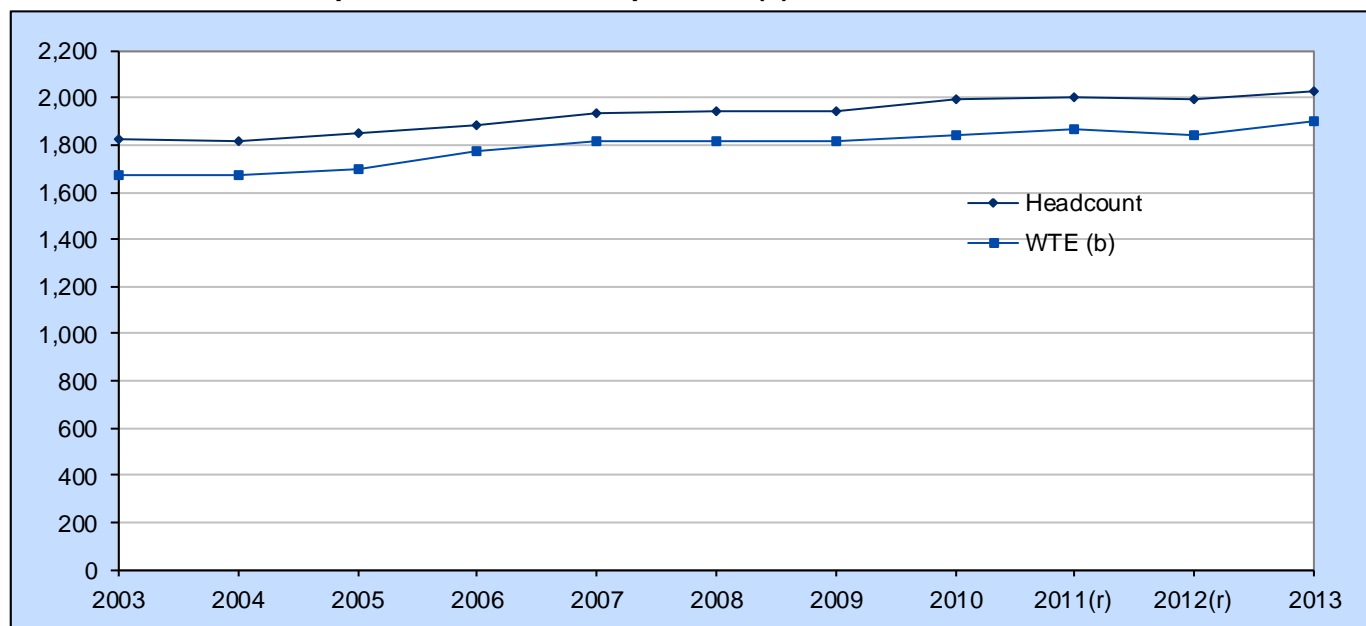
Trends	4
UK Comparisons of GP Workforce Statistics	6
GP Workforce in Wales	8
GP Workforce by Local Health Board.....	10
GP Retainers.....	11
GP Registrars.....	12
Workforce Flows.....	13
GP Joiners in Wales.....	13
GP Leavers in Wales.....	14
Welsh Language	15
Qualifications.....	16
Dispensing Partnerships	17
General Practice Staff by Health Board.....	17
Notes.....	28
Key Quality information	30
Appendix 1 - StatsWales tables	34

Charts and Tables

Chart 1: Number of GP practitioners at 30 September.....	4
Chart 2: Registered patients per GP practitioner / partnership.....	4
Chart 3: Percentage of partnerships by number of partners for 2013.....	5
Chart 4: Number of GP practitioners by age group, by 10-year comparison	5
Chart 5: GP practitioners per 10,000 population.....	6
Chart 6: Percentage of Practitioner Workforce aged 55 or over, by UK country, 2013	6
Chart 7: Percentage of Female Practitioners by UK country, 2013.....	7
Chart 8: GP practitioner Headcount and Whole Time Equivalent (WTE)	8
Chart 9: Male GP practitioner numbers by age groups	8
Chart 10: Female GP practitioner numbers by age	9
Chart 11: GP practitioners per 10,000 population by LHB, 2013	10
Chart 12: GP Retainers per 100 GPs.....	11
Chart 13: GP Retainers by age	11
Chart 14: GP Registrars per 100 GPs	12
Chart 15: GP Registrars by gender	12
Chart 16: Average age of joiners to GP workforce by gender	13
Chart 17: Average age of leavers from GP workforce by gender.....	14
Chart 18: Percentage leaving General Practice at 30 September 2013, by age	14
Chart 19: Number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population	15
Chart 20: Number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population.....	16
Chart 21: Country of qualification – Main groups at 30 September 2013	16
Chart 22: General Practice Staff by Health Board, at 30 September 2013	17
Map 1: Registered Patients per GP practitioners (average list size) by Local Health Board 2013	18
Map 3: Percentage of GP practitioners aged 55 and over by Local Health Board 2013.....	20
Map 4: Percentage of partnerships with one partner by Local Health Board 2013	21
Table 1: Local Health Boards at 30 September 2013.....	22
Table 2: Geography of General Medical Services 2013.....	22
Table 3: Trends in the GP Practitioner Workforce	23
Table 4: Workforce Flows	24
Table 5: Welsh Language Ability amongst GPs in Wales 2013	25
Table 6: UK Comparisons of GP workforce.....	26
Table 7: GP practitioners by Country of Primary Medical Qualification Group, 2013.....	26
Table 8: General Practice staff by type and Health Board, at 30 September 2013.....	27

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.

(r) Administrative errors have been identified relating to the 2011 and 2012 WTE and Headcount figures for Wales; these have been revised.

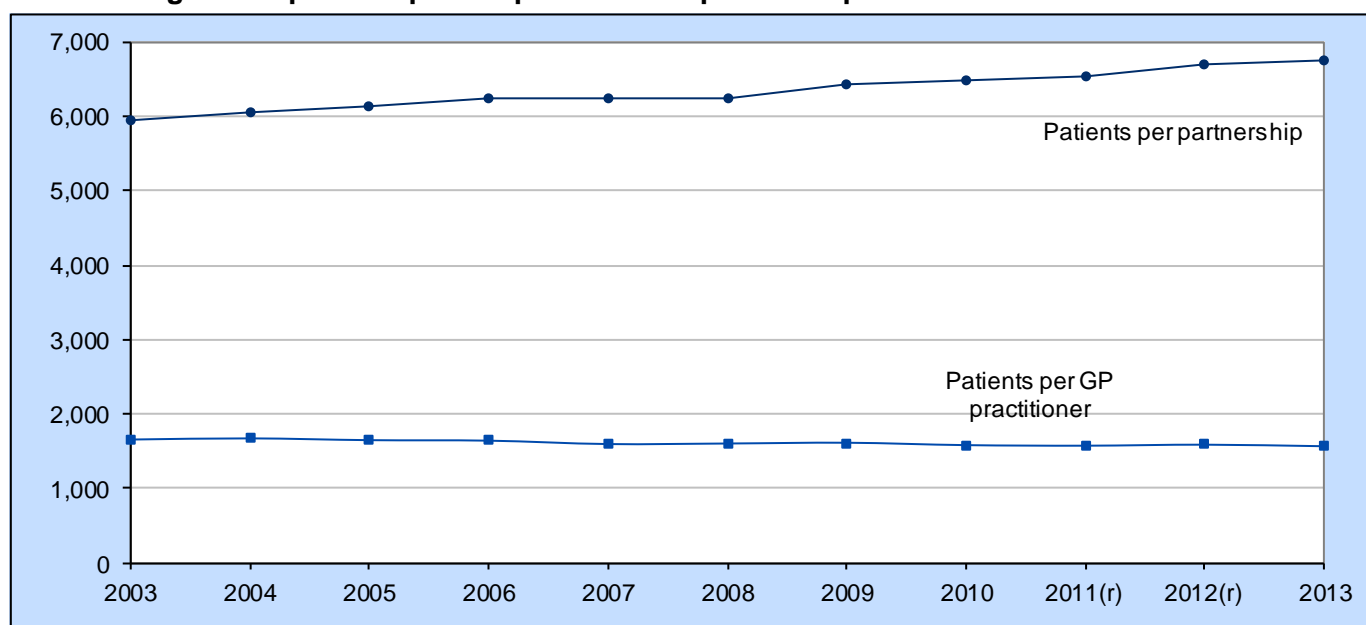
A **GP practitioner** includes GP providers and other GPs. See [Notes](#) section for detailed explanation.

The number of GP practitioners in Wales (excluding registrars, retainers and locums) was 2,026 at 30 September 2013, 30 more (1.5 per cent) than the previous year and an increase of 204 (11.2 per cent) since 2003.

Of the 2,026 GP practitioners, 27 were working in more than one practice in Wales. However these GP practitioners are only counted once in the headcount figure in all of the tables and charts in the release.

Since 2003, the whole time equivalent number has increased by 230 (13.7 per cent) to 1,901. At 30 September 2013 the whole time equivalent number of GP practitioners was 93.8 per cent of the headcount number (refer to [Table 3](#) for trend data).

Chart 2: Registered patients per GP practitioner / partnership



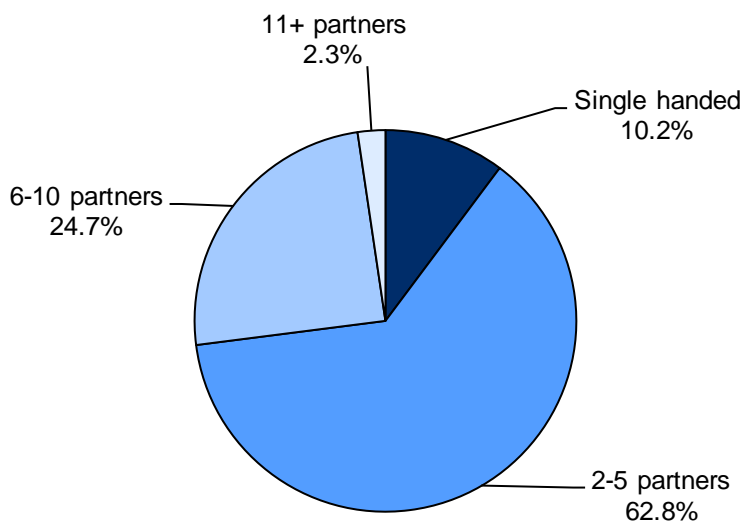
Source: GMS Census

(r) Administrative errors have been identified relating to the 2011 and 2012 Headcount figures for Wales; these have been revised.

In 2013 there are 470 general practices in Wales, a decrease of 4 Practices (0.8 per cent) on last year.

Since 2003 the number of registered patients per GP practitioner has decreased by 90 (5.4 per cent) to 1,569. The number of partnerships has decreased from 508 to 470 with a consequent increase in the number of registered patients per partnership from 5,949 in 2003 to 6,762 in 2013, an increase of 813 (13.7 per cent) over the last decade.

Chart 3: Percentage of partnerships by number of partners for 2013

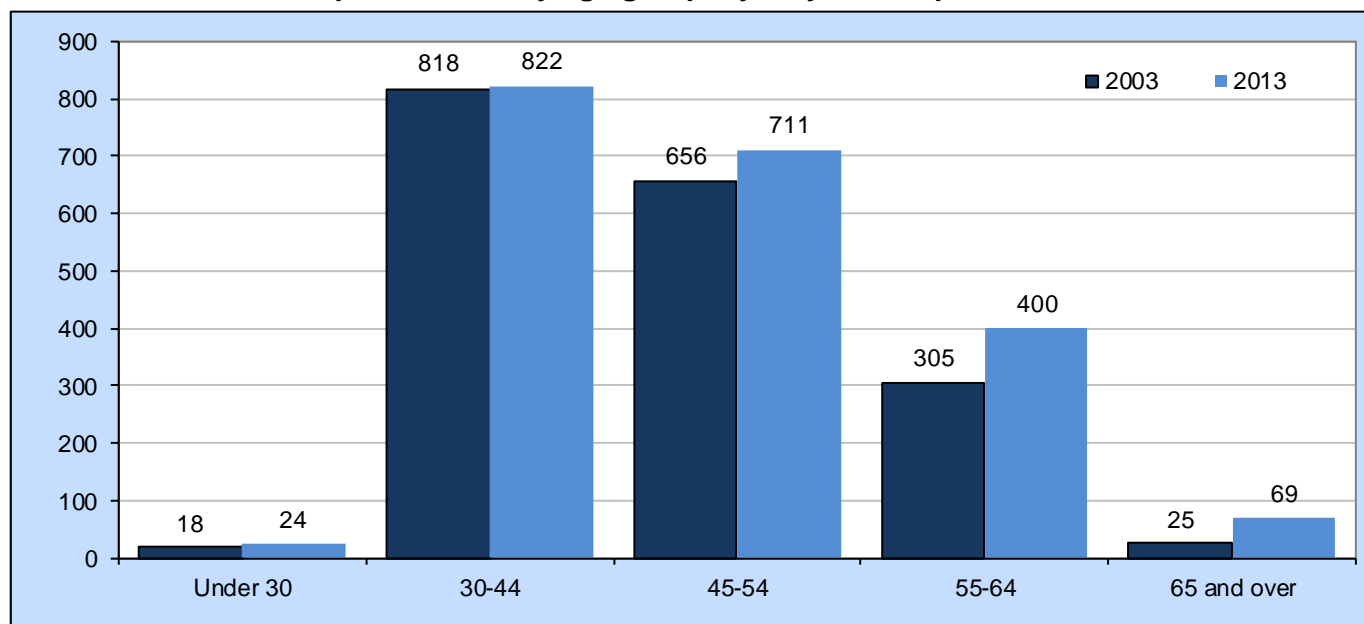


Source: GMS Census

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

In 2013 there are 48 single-handed partnerships, a fall of 4 from 2012 and a fall of 57 since 2003. Just under three quarters (343 practices) of all partnerships has 5 or fewer partners.

Chart 4: Number of GP practitioners by age group, by 10-year comparison



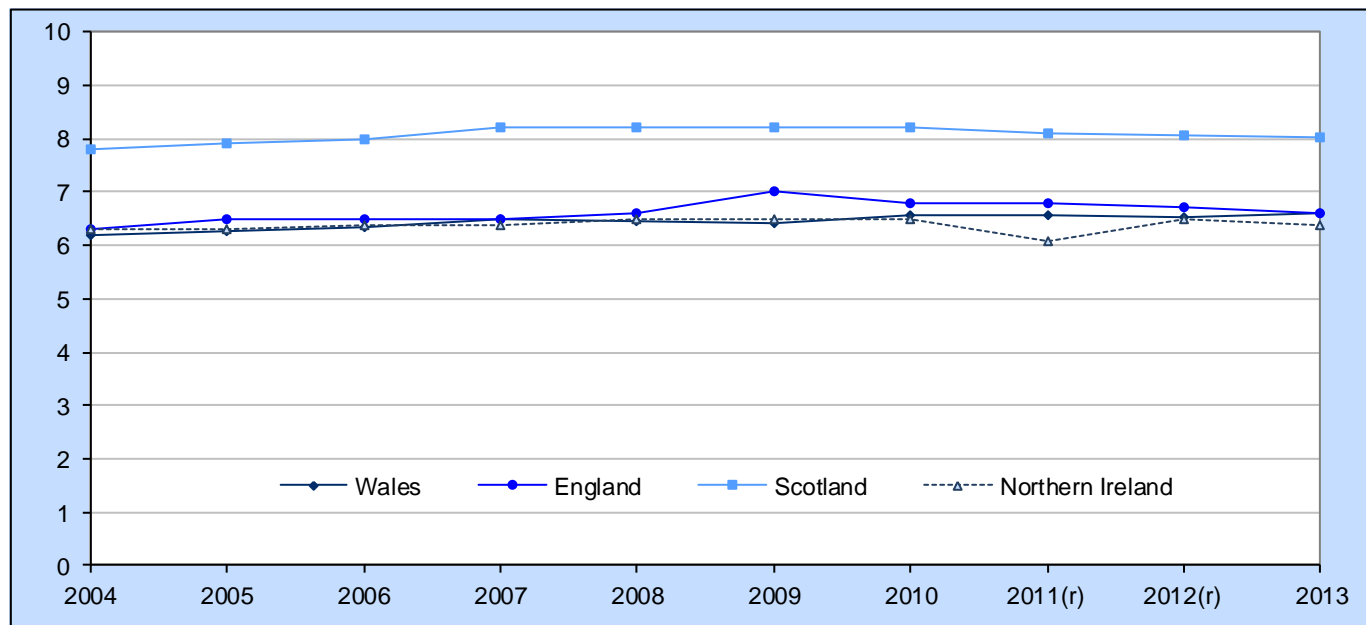
Source: GMS Census

The number of GP practitioners aged 55 and above has increased from 330 in 2003 to 469 in 2013, indicating that the workforce continues its trend to become older. Cwm Taf Health Board has the highest proportion of GP practitioners aged over 55, accounting for 31.1 per cent of its workforce (refer to [Table 2](#)).

There number of GP practitioners aged under 45 has increased slightly from 836 in 2003 to 846 in 2013, a 1.2 per cent increase.

UK Comparisons of GP Workforce Statistics

Chart 5: GP practitioners per 10,000 population



Source: GMS Census; HSCIC; ISD Scotland; HSC N. Ireland; ONS 2012 Census

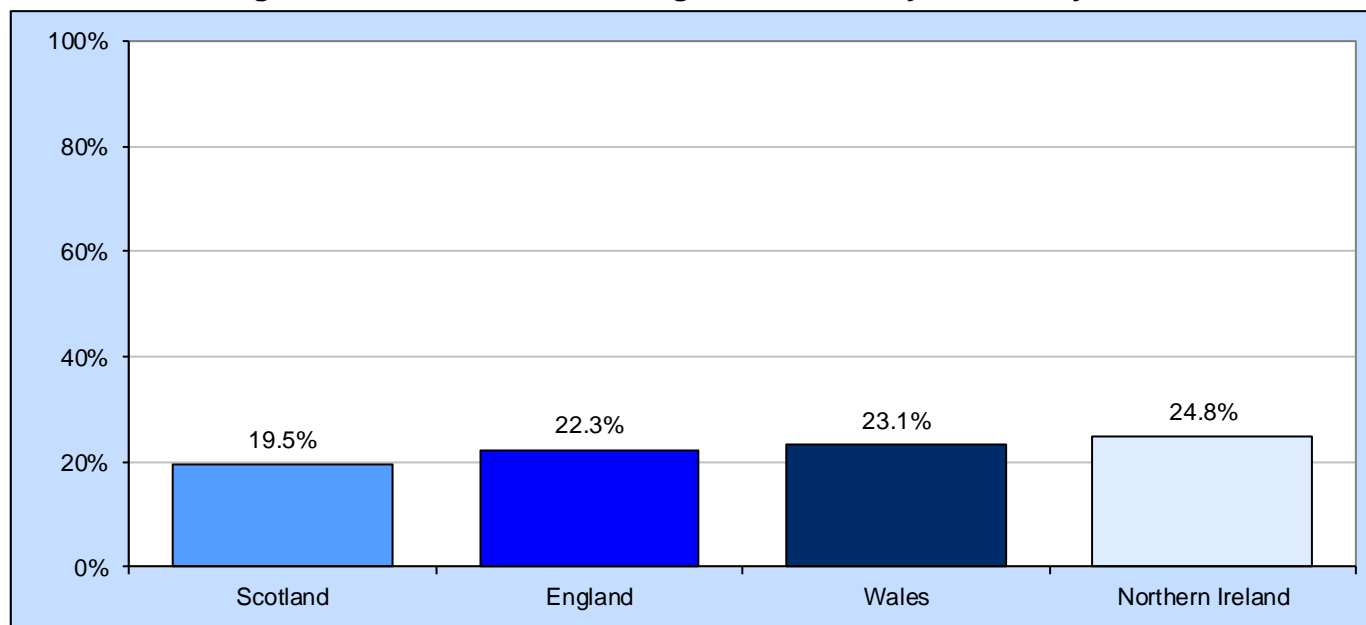
(r) Administrative errors have been identified relating to the 2011 and 2012 Wales' Headcount figures for Wales; these have been revised.

Scotland continues to have the highest number of GPs per 10,000 population at 8.0.

Northern Ireland has the lowest rate at 6.4 with Wales and England slightly higher than Northern Ireland at 6.6 respectively.

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

Chart 6: Percentage of Practitioner Workforce aged 55 or over, by UK country, 2013

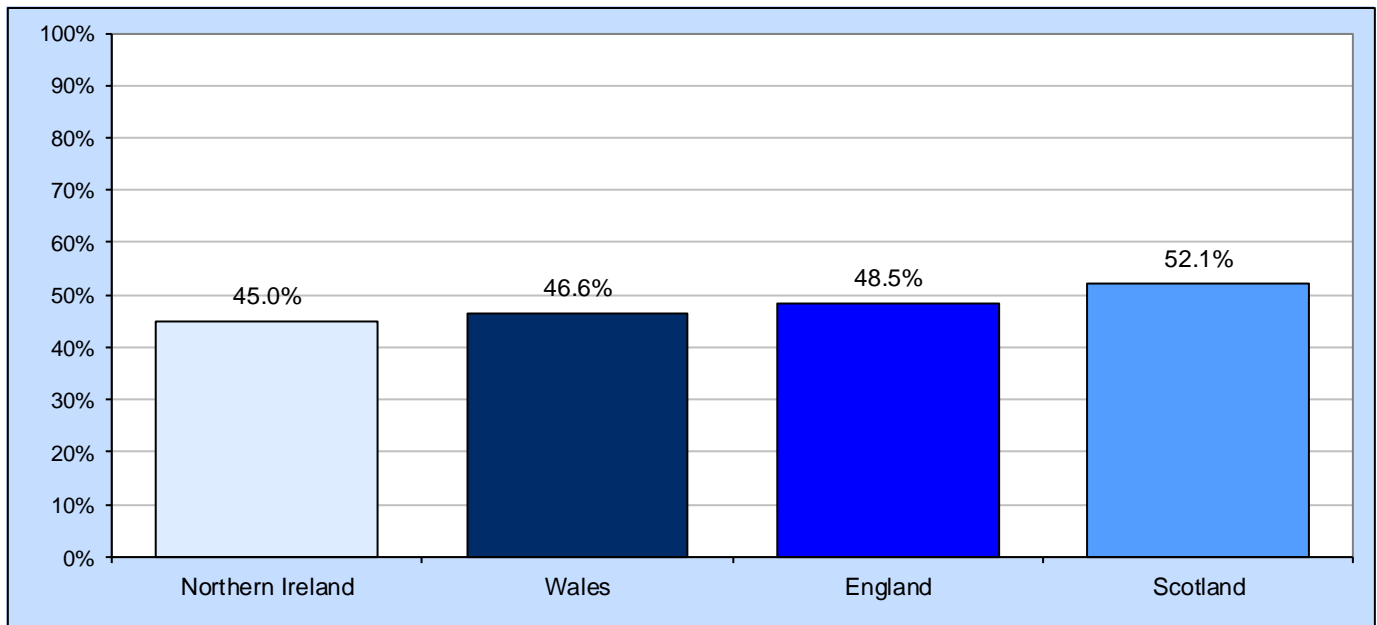


Source: GMS Census; HSCIC; ISD Scotland; HSC N. Ireland

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

Northern Ireland has the highest percentage at 24.8 per cent.

Chart 7: Percentage of Female Practitioners by UK country, 2013

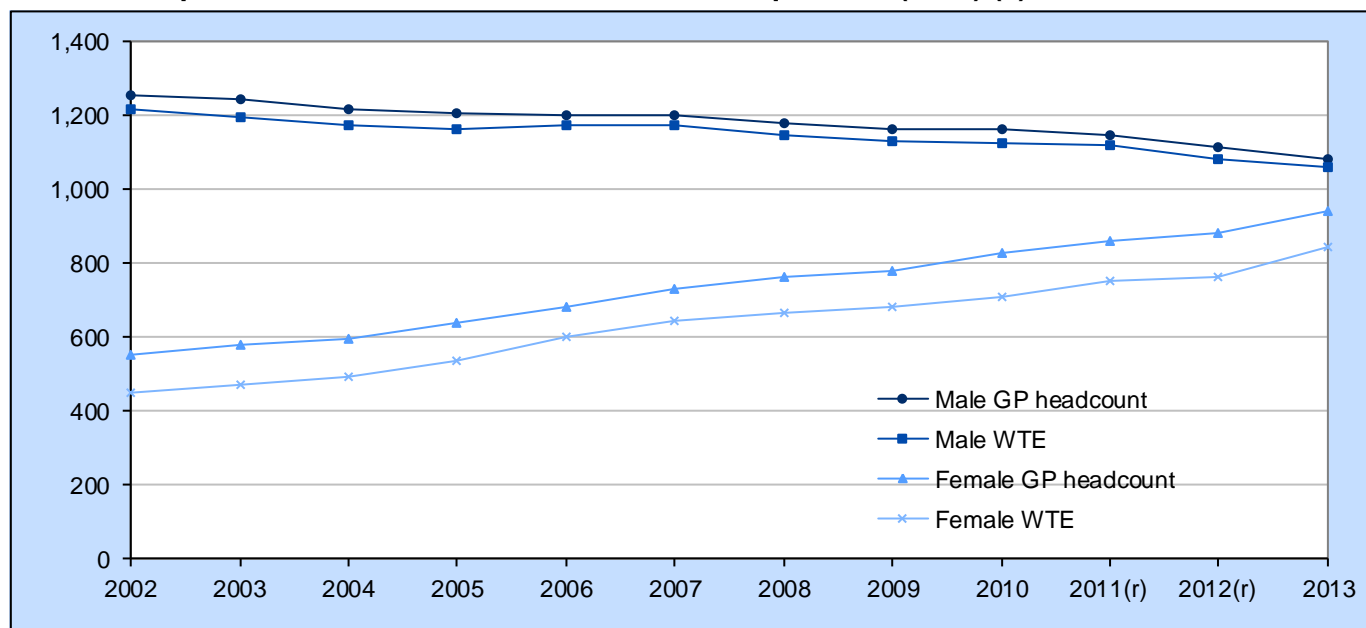


Source: GMS Census; HSCIC; ISD Scotland; HSC N. Ireland

Northern Ireland has the lowest percentage of female GPs at 45.0 per cent while Scotland has the highest at 52.1 per cent.

GP Workforce in Wales

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



Source: GMS Census

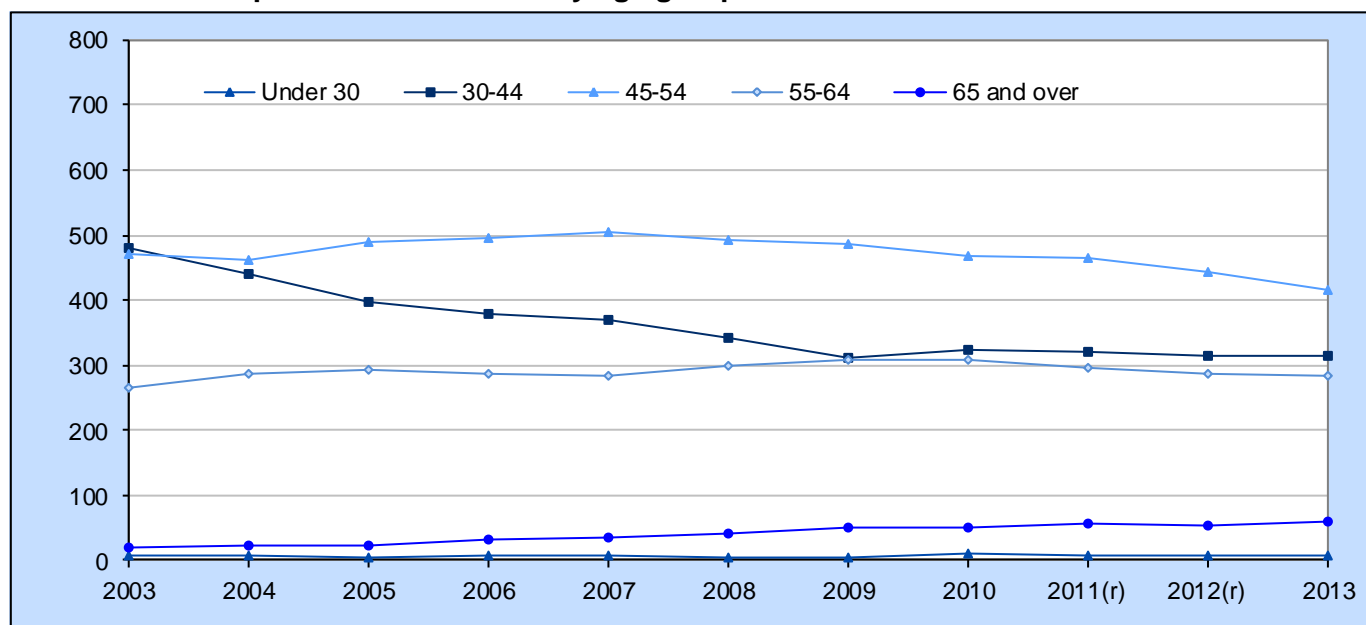
(a) Comparisons across years should be treated with caution due to changes in methodology. See definitions in the [Notes](#) section.

(r) Administrative errors have been identified relating to the 2011 and 2012 WTE and Headcount figures for Wales; these have been revised.

Since 2003 the number (headcount) of male GP practitioners has decreased by 163 (13.1 per cent) to 1,082 whilst the number of female GP practitioners increased by 367 (63.6 per cent) to 944.

This trend is similar for the WTE counts where the number of WTE male GP practitioners has decreased by 140 (11.7 per cent) to 1,059 and increased by 369 (78.1 per cent) to 842 for female GP practitioners (Refer to [Table 3](#)).

Chart 9: Male GP practitioner numbers by age groups



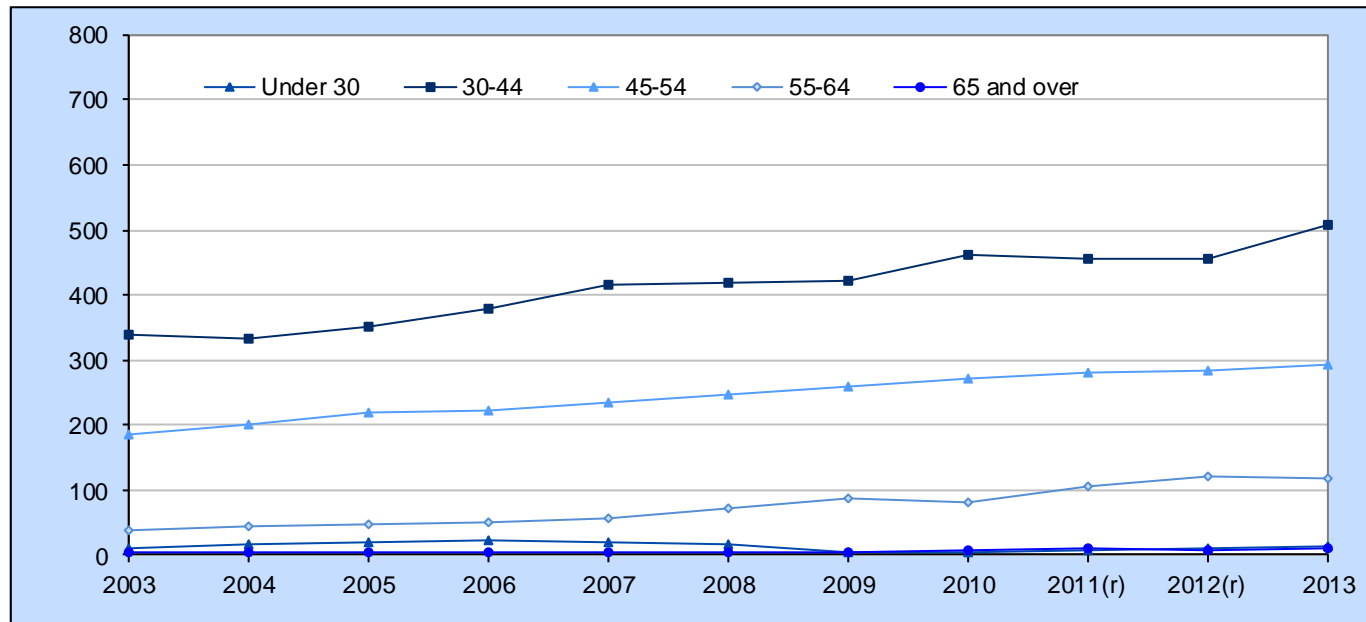
Source: GMS Census

(r) Administrative errors have been identified relating to the 2011 and 2012 Headcount figures for Wales; these have been revised.

Since 2004 the largest group of male GP practitioners has been the 45-54 group (38.5 per cent in 2013). The age profile of male GP practitioners continues to become older.

The number of male GP practitioners in the 30-44 groups has declined over the last decade but has increased slightly from 28.4 per cent in the last 12 months, to 29.0 per cent.

Chart 10: Female GP practitioner numbers by age



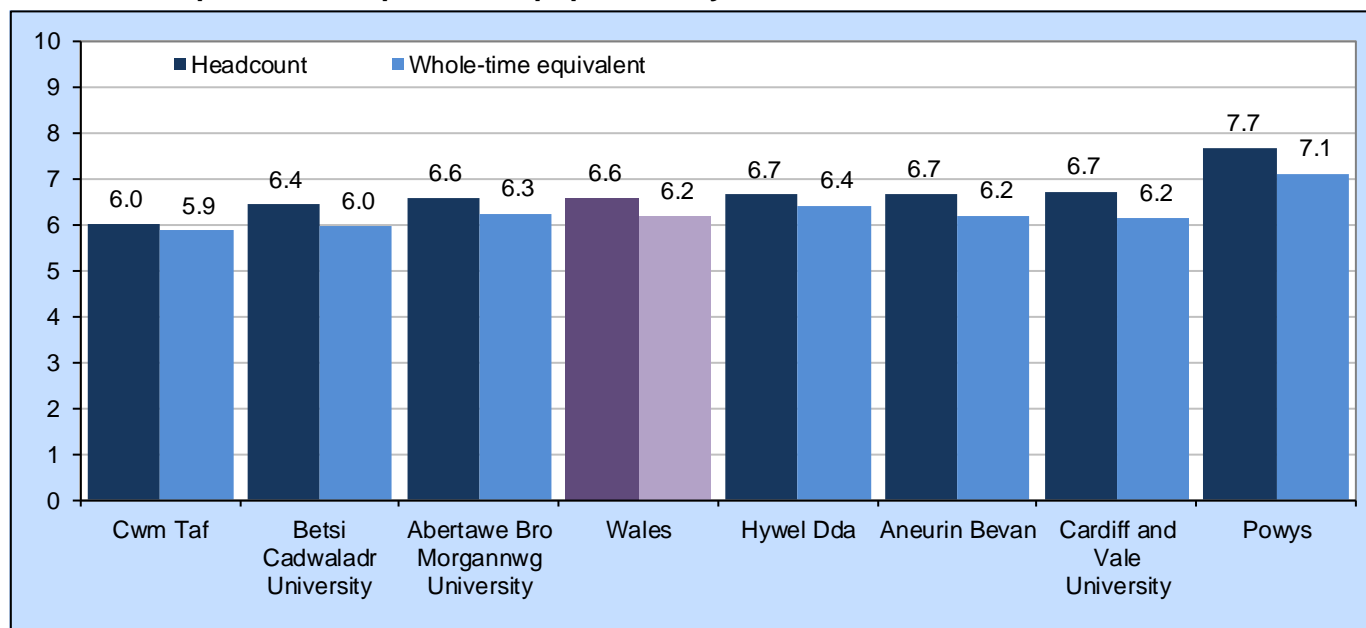
Source: GMS Census

(r) Administrative errors have been identified relating to the 2011 and 2012 Headcount figures for Wales; these have been revised.

The largest group among female GP practitioners remains the 30-44 group (53.8 per cent in 2013) which recorded an increase from last year of 51 female GP practitioners to 508.

GP Workforce by Local Health Board

Chart 11: GP practitioners per 10,000 population by LHB, 2013



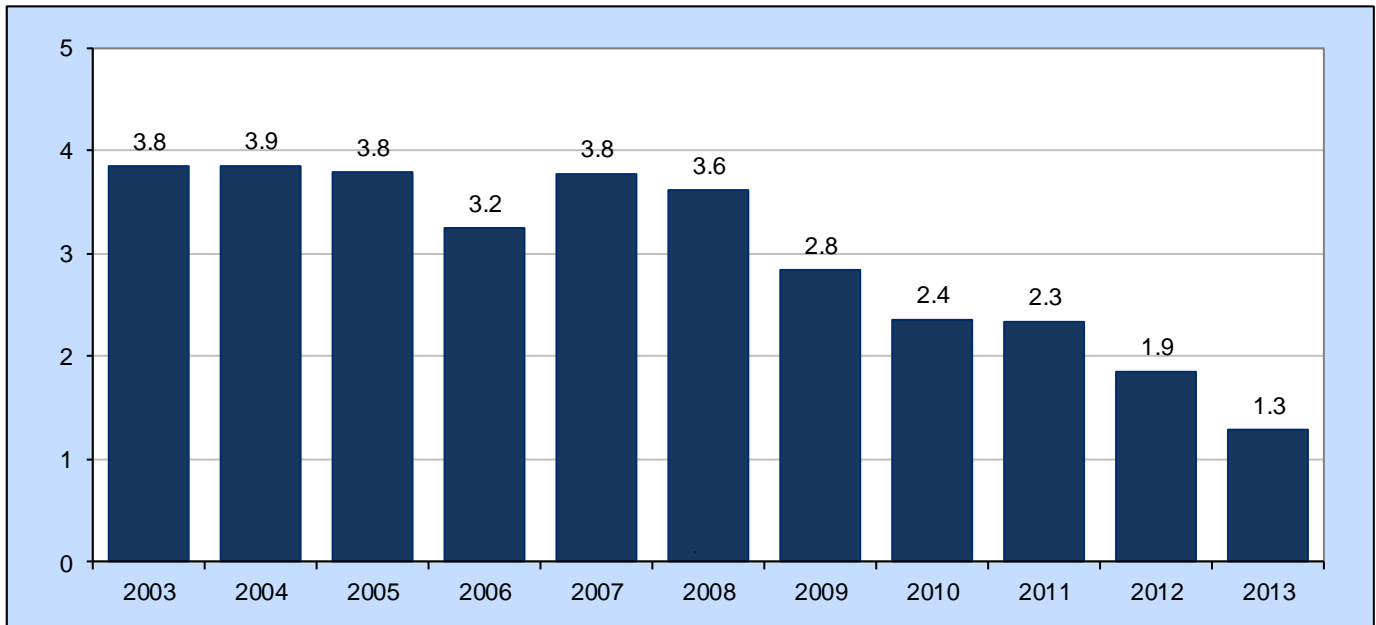
Source: GMS Census, ONS

At 30 September 2013, Powys had the greatest number of GP practitioners per 10,000 population at 7.7, while Cwm Taf had the lowest at 6.0. The average for Wales was 6.6 GP practitioners per 10,000 population.

Powys also had the highest whole time equivalent (WTE) number of GP practitioners per 10,000 population at 7.1 with Cwm Taf having the lowest figure at 5.9. The average for Wales was 6.2 GP practitioners per 10,000 population.

GP Retainers

Chart 12: GP Retainers per 100 GPs



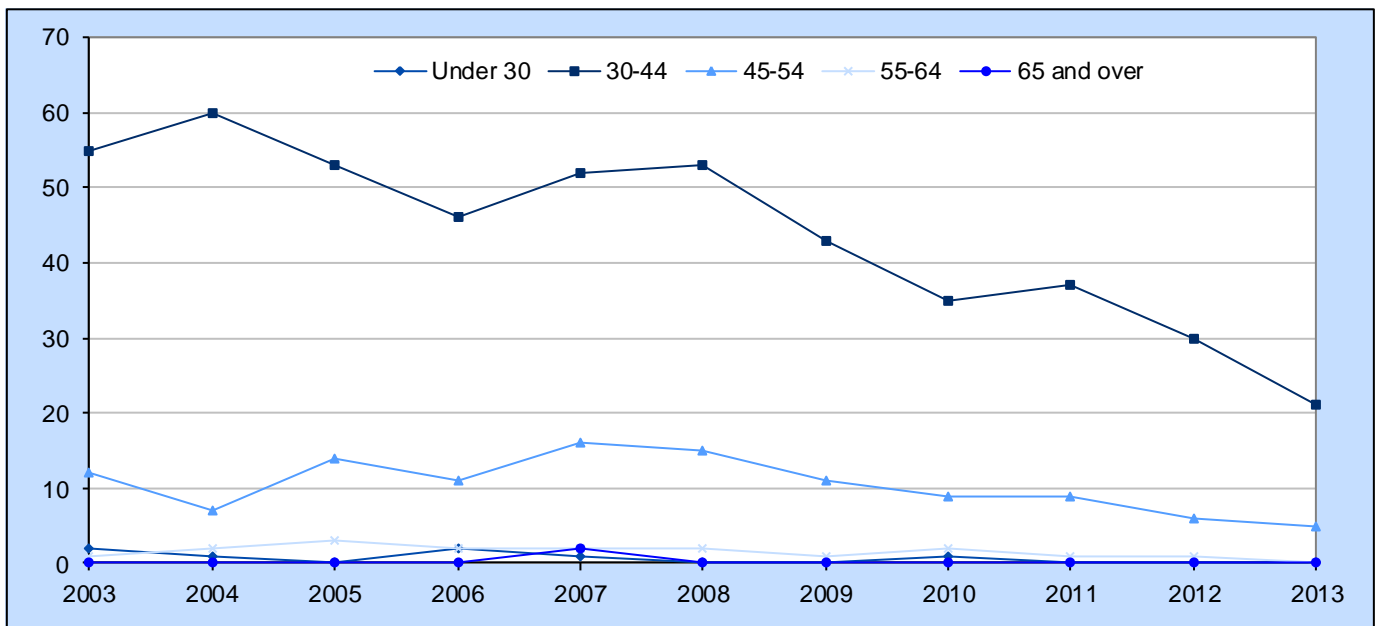
Source: GMS Census

A **GP Retainer** is a practitioner who provides service sessions in general practice. See [Notes](#) section for a detailed explanation.

The number of GP retainers decreased by 44 (62.9 per cent) over the last decade and by 11 (29.7 per cent) over the last 12 months to 26.

The number of GP retainers per 100 GPs increased between 2003 and 2004. This was followed by a dip in 2005 and 2006, and then a rise in 2007. Since 2007 the number of GP retainers per 100 GPs has continued to decrease. In 2013 there are 1.3 GP retainers per 100 GPs.

Chart 13: GP Retainers by age

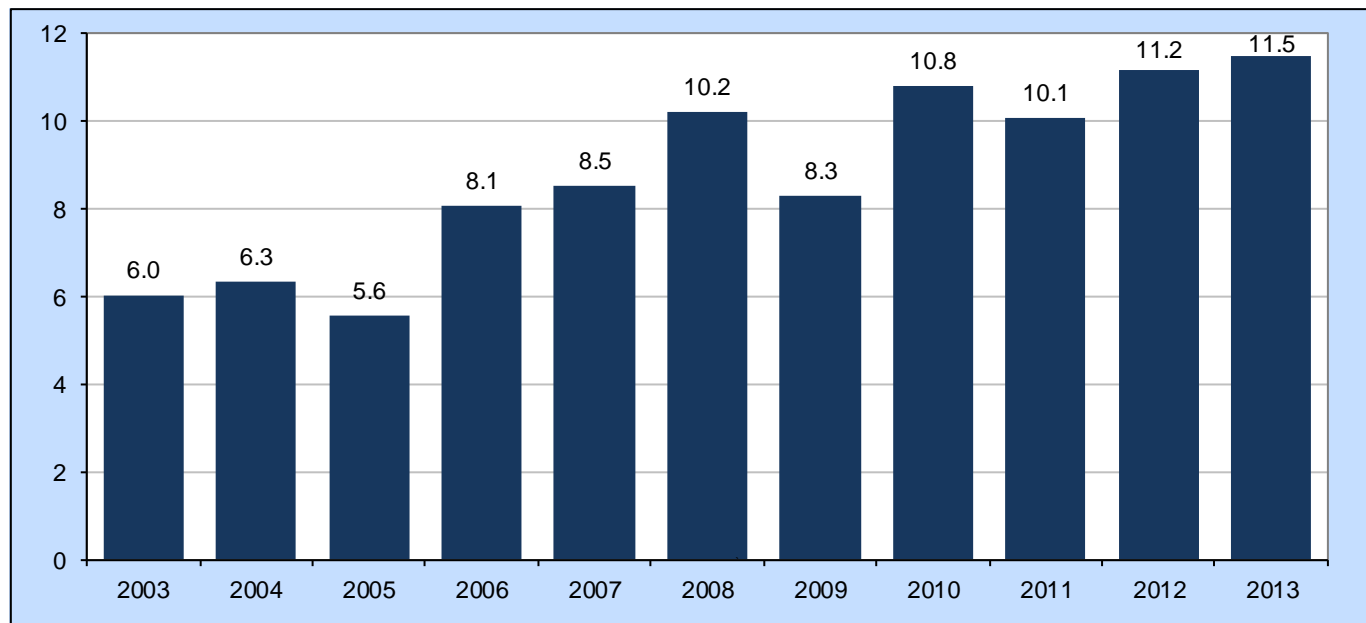


Source: GMS Census

In 2013, four-fifths (80.8 per cent) of GP Retainers are in the 30-44 age group. The number of GP retainers in this age group has decreased by 34 (61.8 per cent) over the last decade.

GP Registrars

Chart 14: GP Registrars per 100 GPs



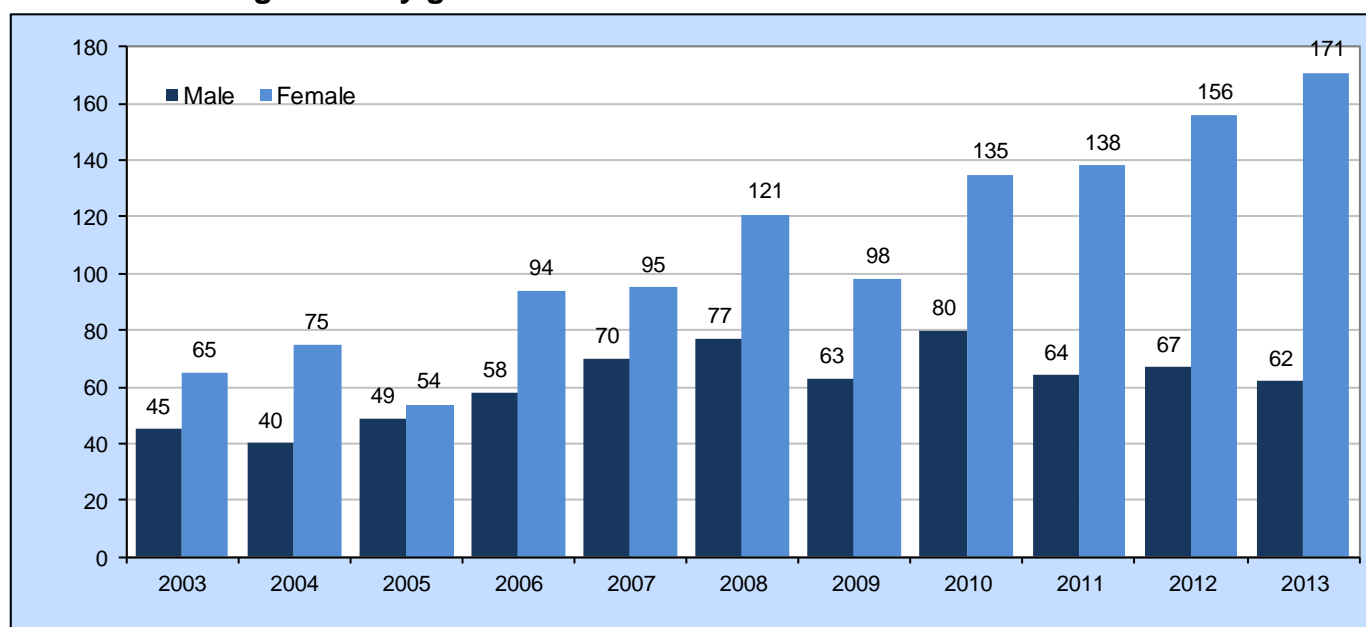
Source: GMS Census

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.

Since 2003 the number of GP registrars has increased by 123 (111.8 per cent) to 233. 233 is the largest number of GP registrars in the last decade.

In comparison to 2003 the number of GP registrars per 100 GPs has increased from 6.0 to 11.5.

Chart 15: GP Registrars by gender



Source: GMS Census

In 2013 the number of male GP registrars has decreased by 5 (7.5 per cent) and the number of female registrars has increased by 15 (9.6 per cent) 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 2013 was the largest in the last decade where there were twice as many female registrars (73.4 per cent) than male registrars (26.6 per cent).

Workforce Flows

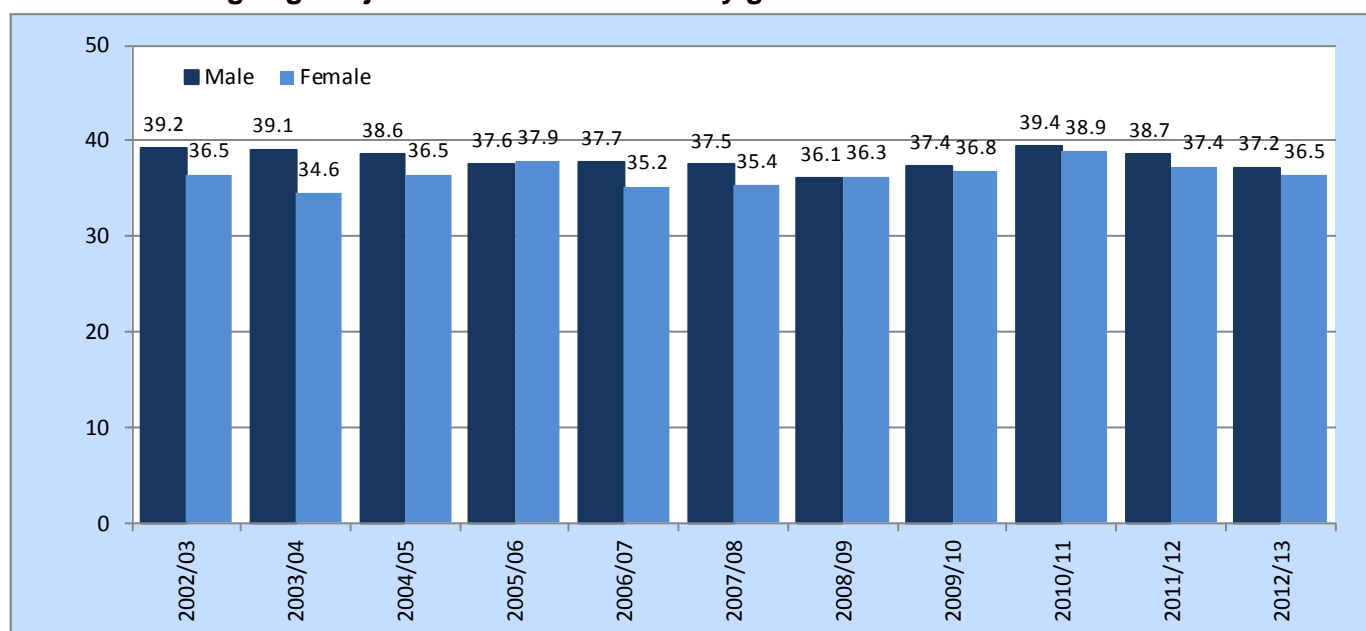
Workforce flows are estimated by comparing successive General Medical Services (GMS) censuses. A joiner is a GP reported as working in Wales in the census in one year but not the previous year. A leaver is a GP reported as working in Wales in the census in one year but not the next year.

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

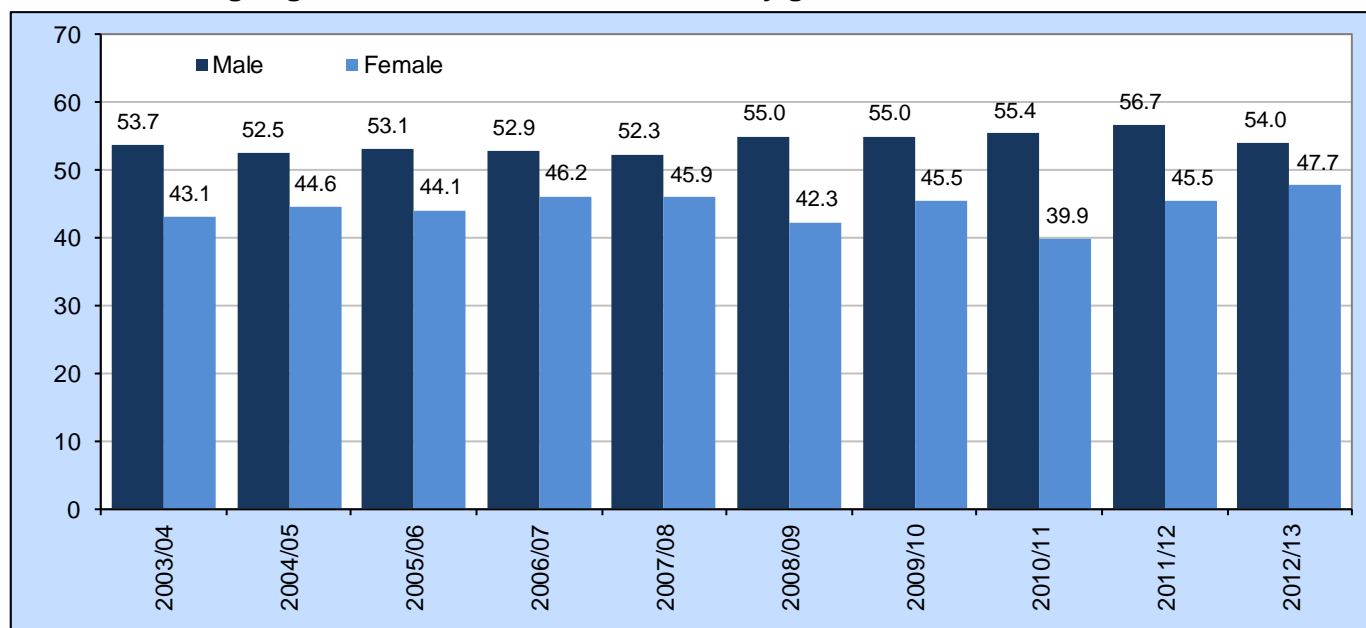
Between 2012 and 2013, 175 Practitioners (8.6 per cent of the 2013 workforce) joined the profession; 121 of joiners were female and 54 were male.

The average age of GPs joining has decreased for males from 38.7 to 37.2 years, and for females from 37.4 to 36.5 years, compared to 12 months previously.

As in previous years there are more female joiners than male joiners (refer to [Table 4](#)).

GP Leavers in Wales

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



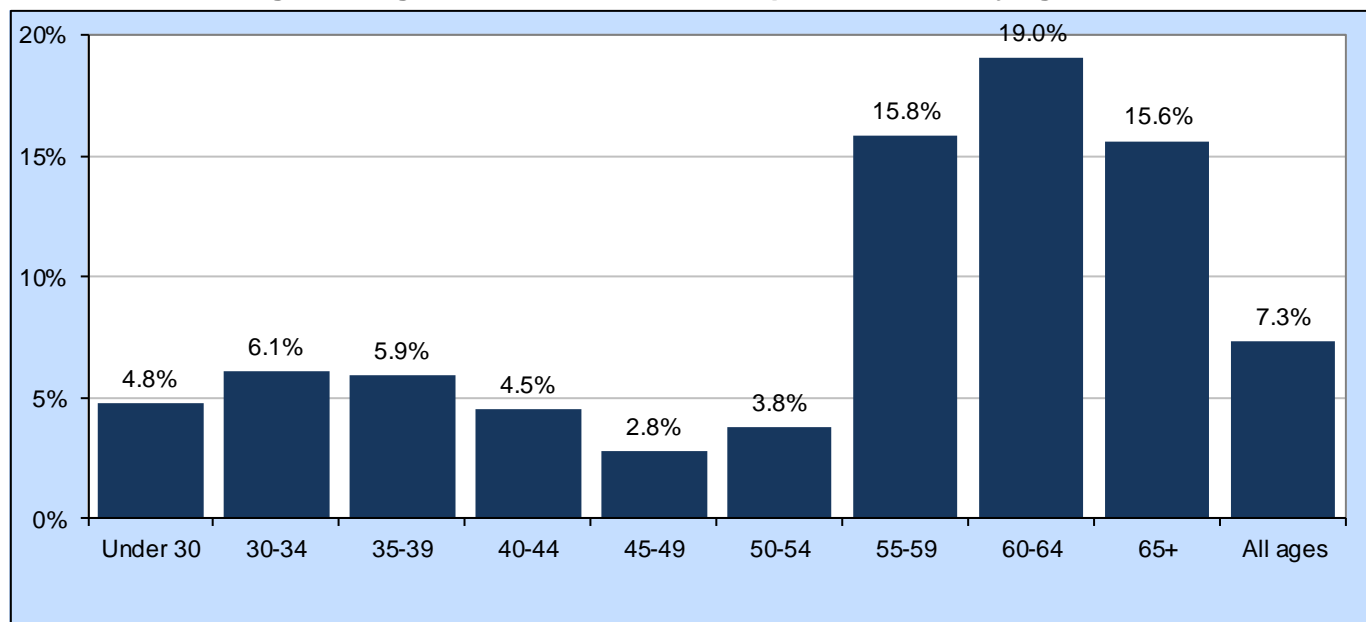
Source: GMS Census

Between 2012 and 2013, 146 Practitioners (7.3 per cent of the 2012 workforce) left the profession: 86 of leavers were male and 60 were female.

The average age of GPs leaving has decreased for males from 56.7 to 54.0 years, and has increased for females from 45.5 to 47.7 years, 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 2013, by age



Source: GMS Census

(r) Administrative errors have been identified relating to the 2012 Headcount figures for Wales; therefore the denominator for 2012 has changed.

The group with the largest proportion of leavers is the 60-64 age group, with just under one-fifth (19.0 per cent) leaving the profession.

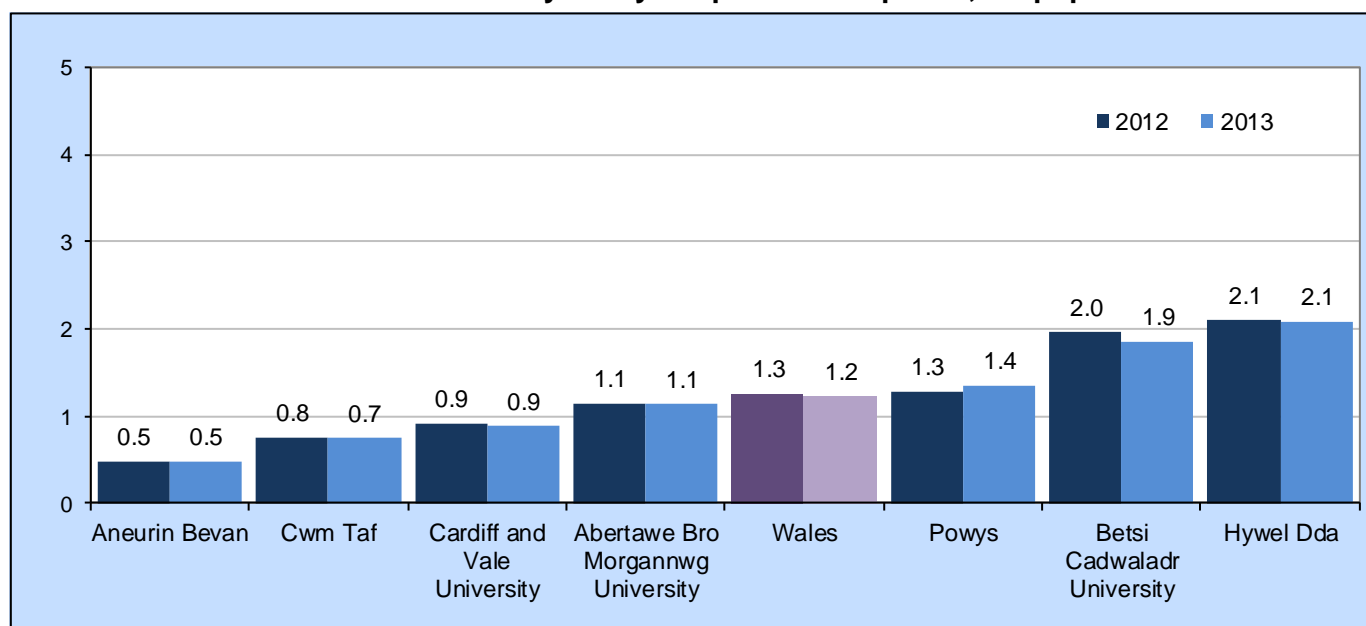
The group with the smallest proportion of leavers is the 45-49 age group, accounting for 2.8 per cent of practitioners leaving.

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



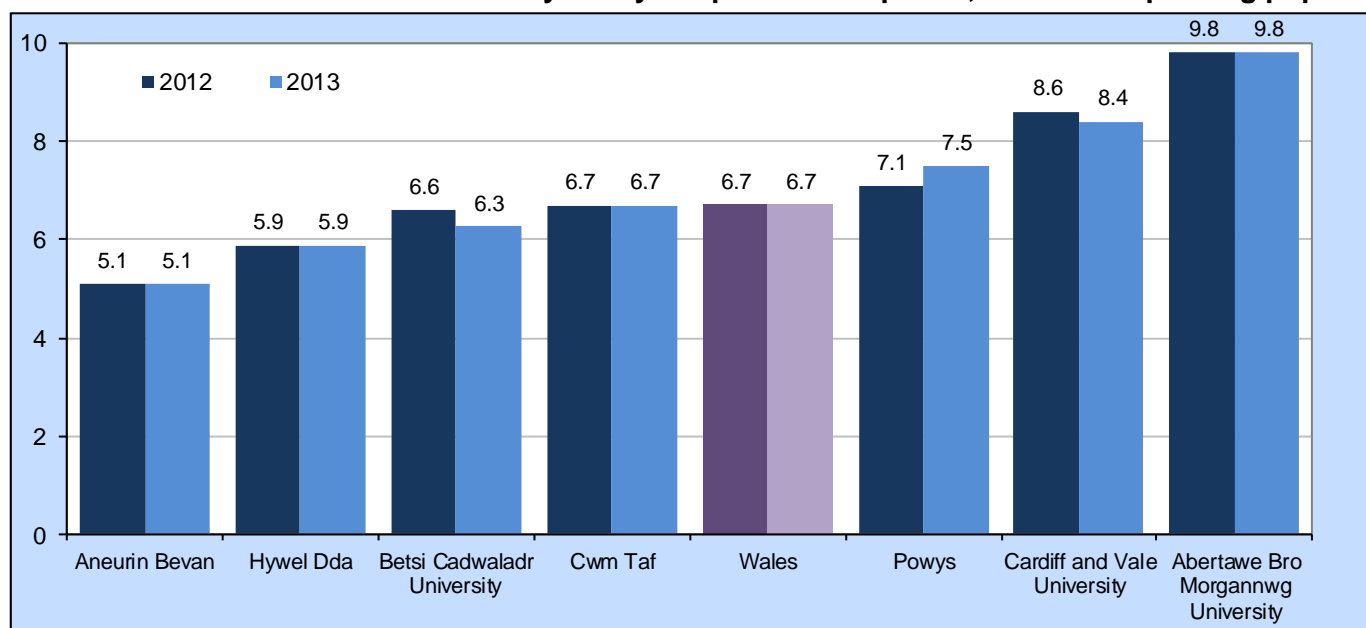
Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership; ONS

In 2013, 377 practitioners have the ability to speak Welsh.

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 2013.

In 2013, the Wales average was 1.2 per 10,000 population, the same as in 2012. [Table 5](#) summarises Welsh language ability for Local Health Boards.

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



Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership; ONS

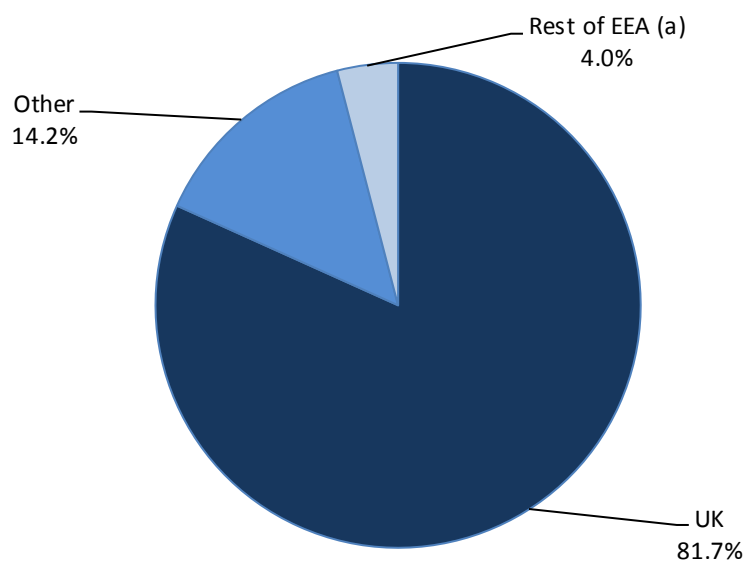
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University has the highest number of GPs able to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population at 9.8 whilst Aneurin Bevan has the smallest with 5.1 in 2013.

The Wales average was 6.7 GPs per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population, the same as in 2012.

Qualifications

[Table 7](#) shows the country of primary medical qualification for GP practitioners. 81.7 per cent have a primary medical qualification from the UK, 4.0 per cent from the European Economic Area (EEA) (excluding the UK) and the rest (14.2 per cent) a qualification from elsewhere.

Chart 21: Country of qualification – Main groups at 30 September 2013



Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) 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.

Dispensing Partnerships

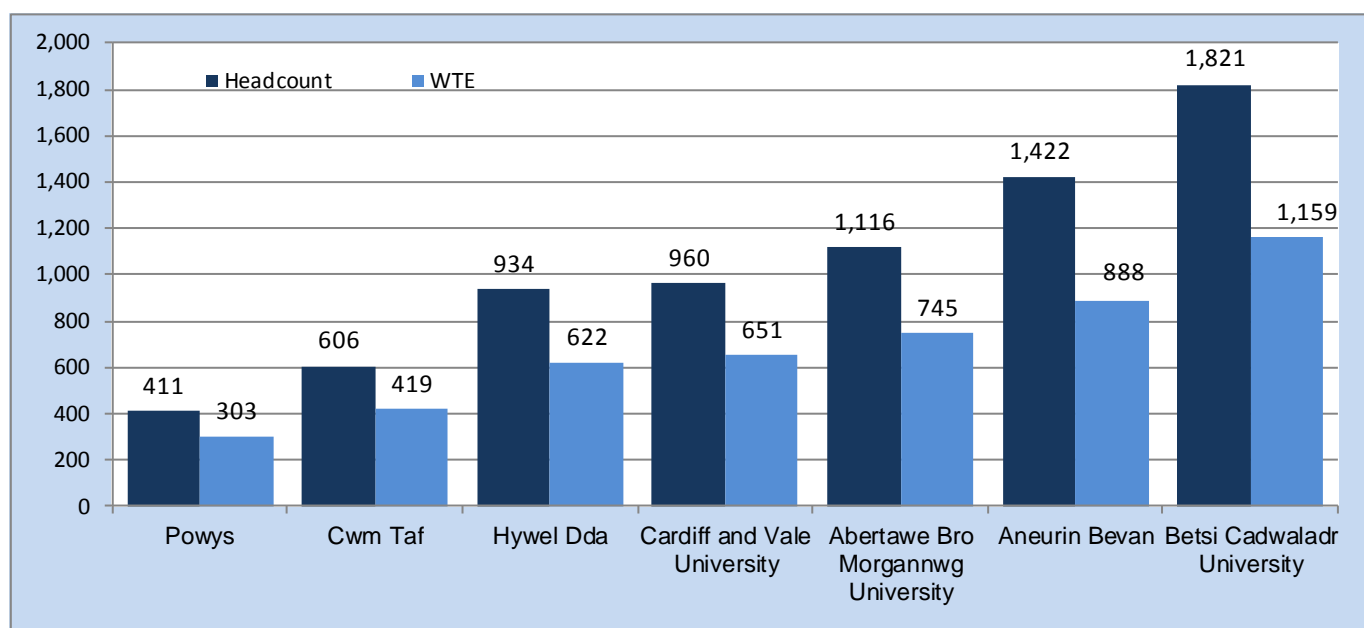
As well as prescribing some Practitioners are also authorised to dispense prescriptions under the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 1992; a Local Health Board may authorise a GP to dispense to patients living in a 'controlled locality' like a rural area who would have difficulty 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 86 in 2013.

General Practice Staff by Health Board

To deliver primary care, practitioners work closely with their practice staff including nurses, midwives health visitors, managers, administrators and others involved in direct patient care (e.g. physiotherapists, chiropodists); this release details only those staff employed by the practice.

The LHBs returned data for 466 individual practices (99% of all Welsh Practices). For practices where no data was supplied an estimate of their figures has been made (Details of the estimation methodology can be found in the [Key Quality information](#) section).

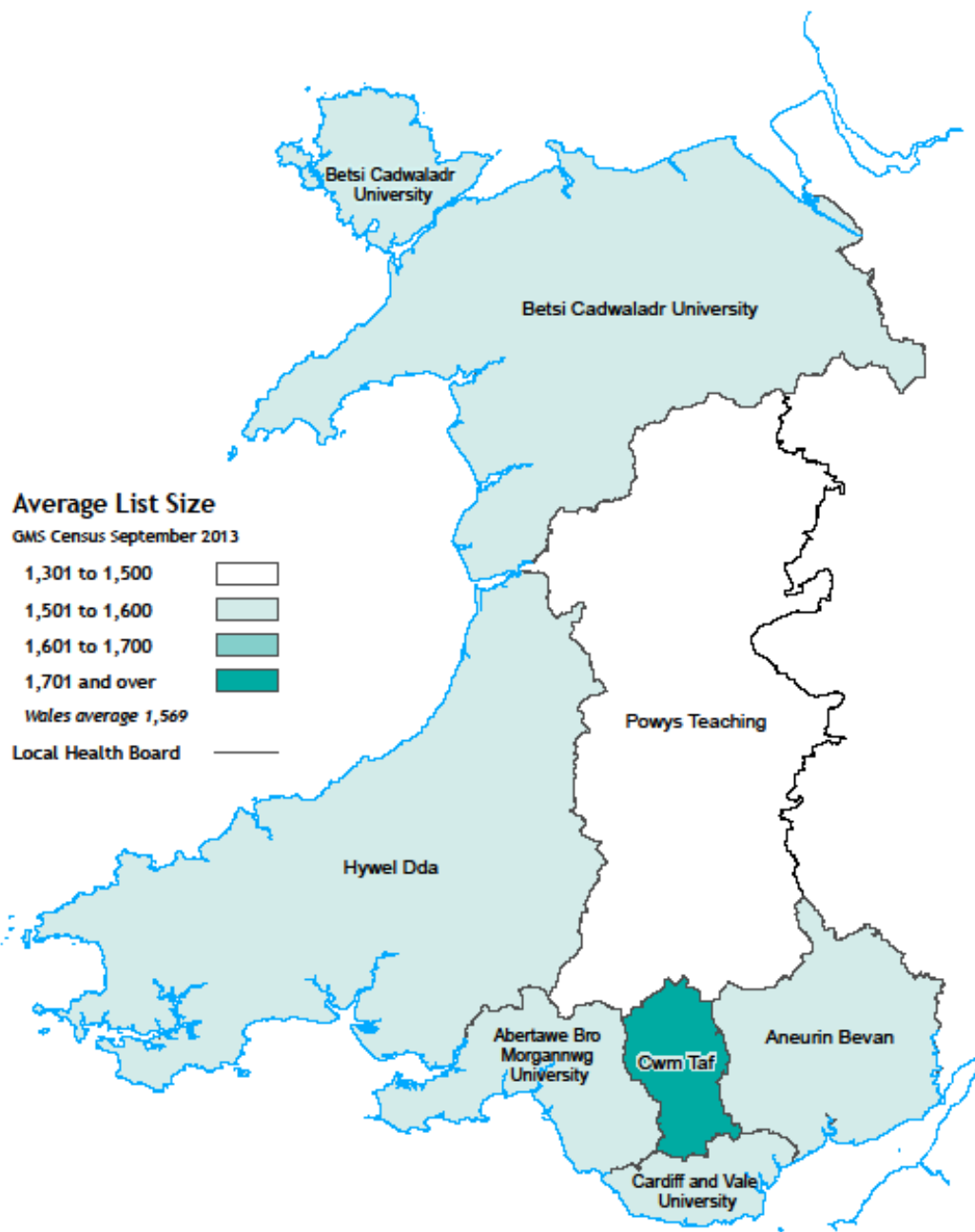
Chart 22: General Practice Staff by Health Board, at 30 September 2013



Source: NHS Information Centre

The number of recorded practice staff in Wales was 7,270 at 30 September 2013. The whole time equivalent number of practice staff represents 65.8 per cent of the headcount number (refer to [Table 8](#) for more information).

Map 1: Registered Patients per GP practitioners (average list size) by Local Health Board 2013



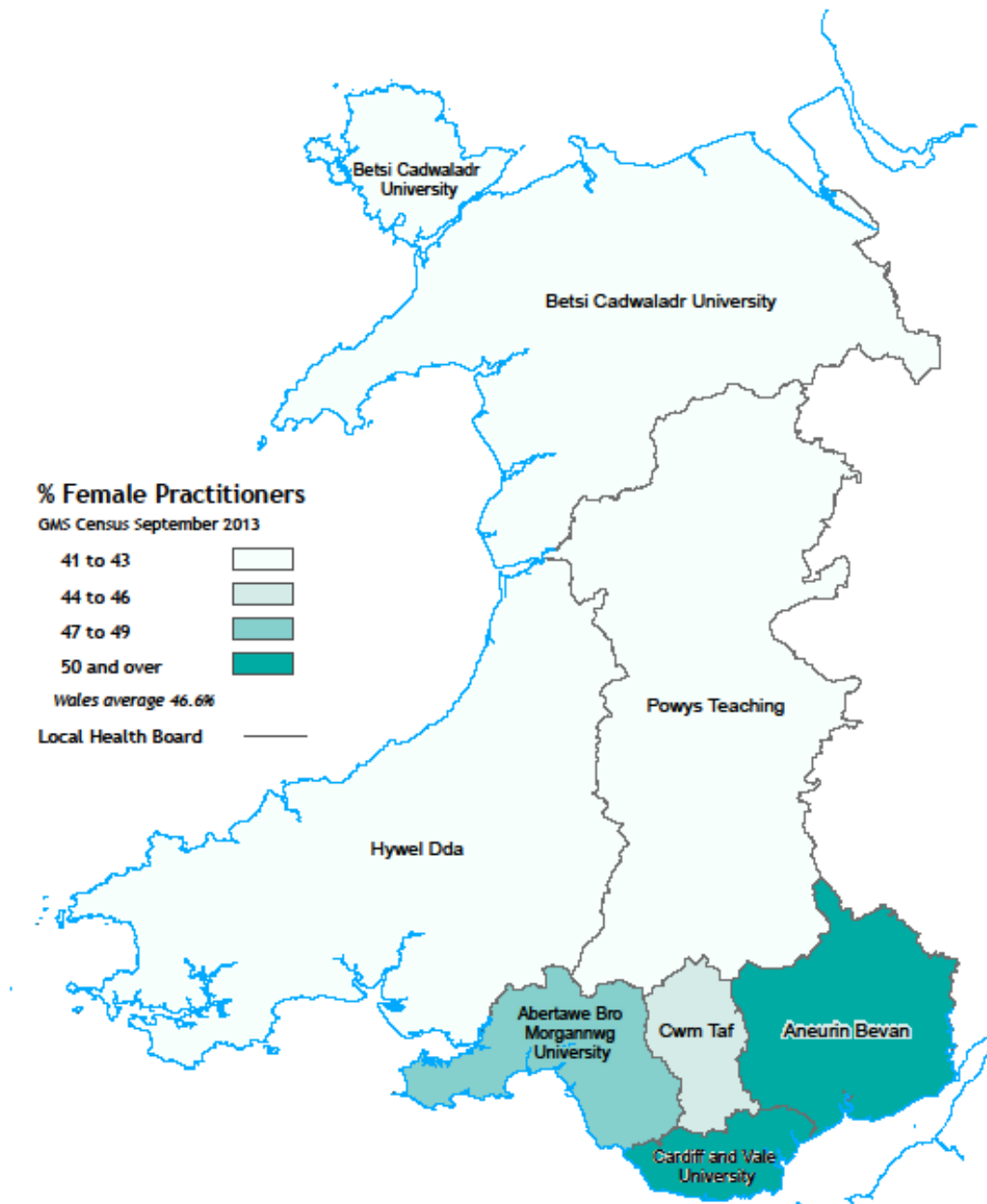
278.13-14

© Crown Copyright and database right [2014]. 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 University having the largest list size of 1,714. Powys has the smallest average list size of 1,357.

Map 2: Percentage of female GP practitioners by Local Health Board 2013



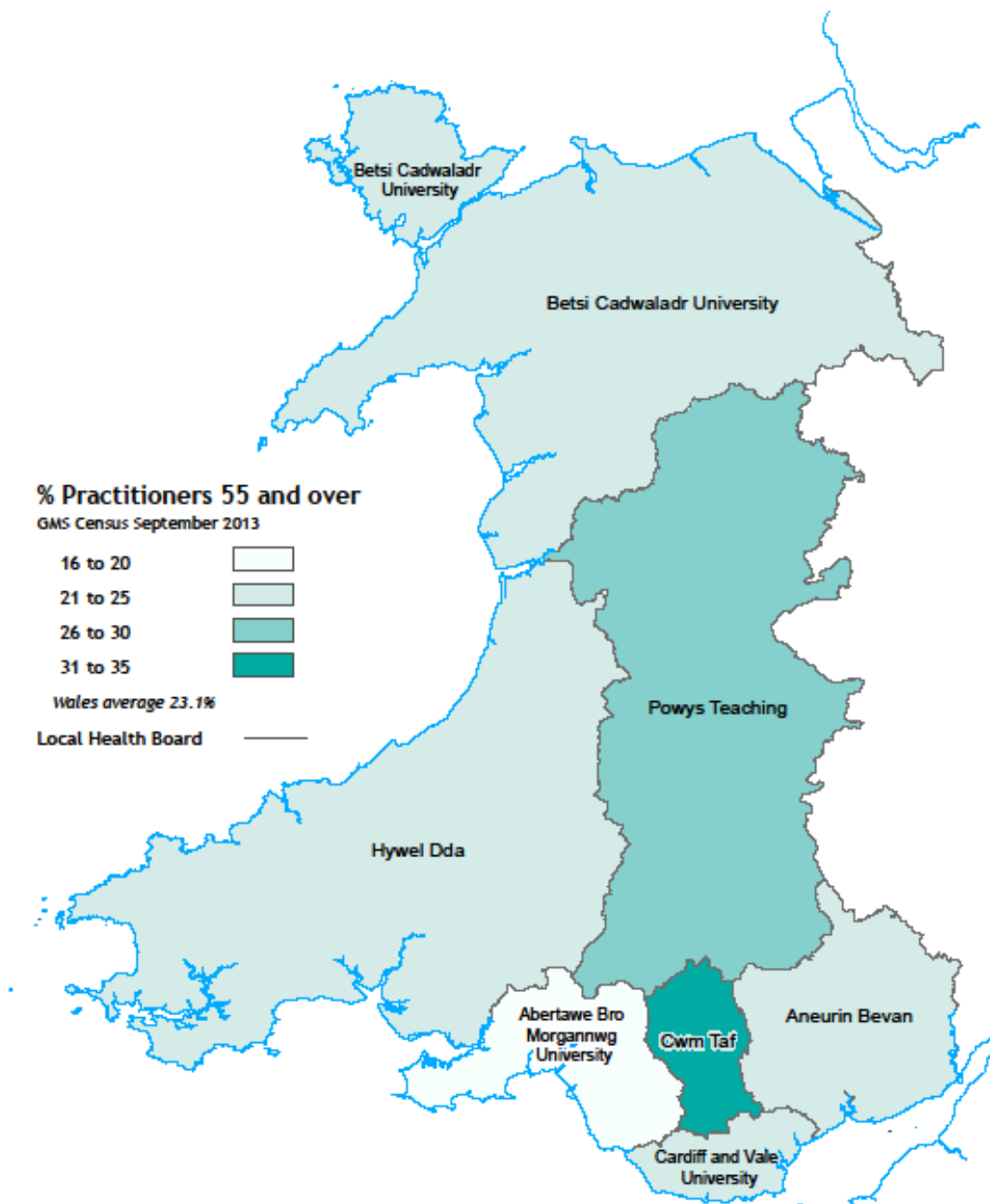
278.13-14

© Crown Copyright and database right [2014]. All rights reserved.
Welsh Government. Licence number 100021874.



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

Map 3: Percentage of GP practitioners aged 55 and over by Local Health Board 2013



278.13-14

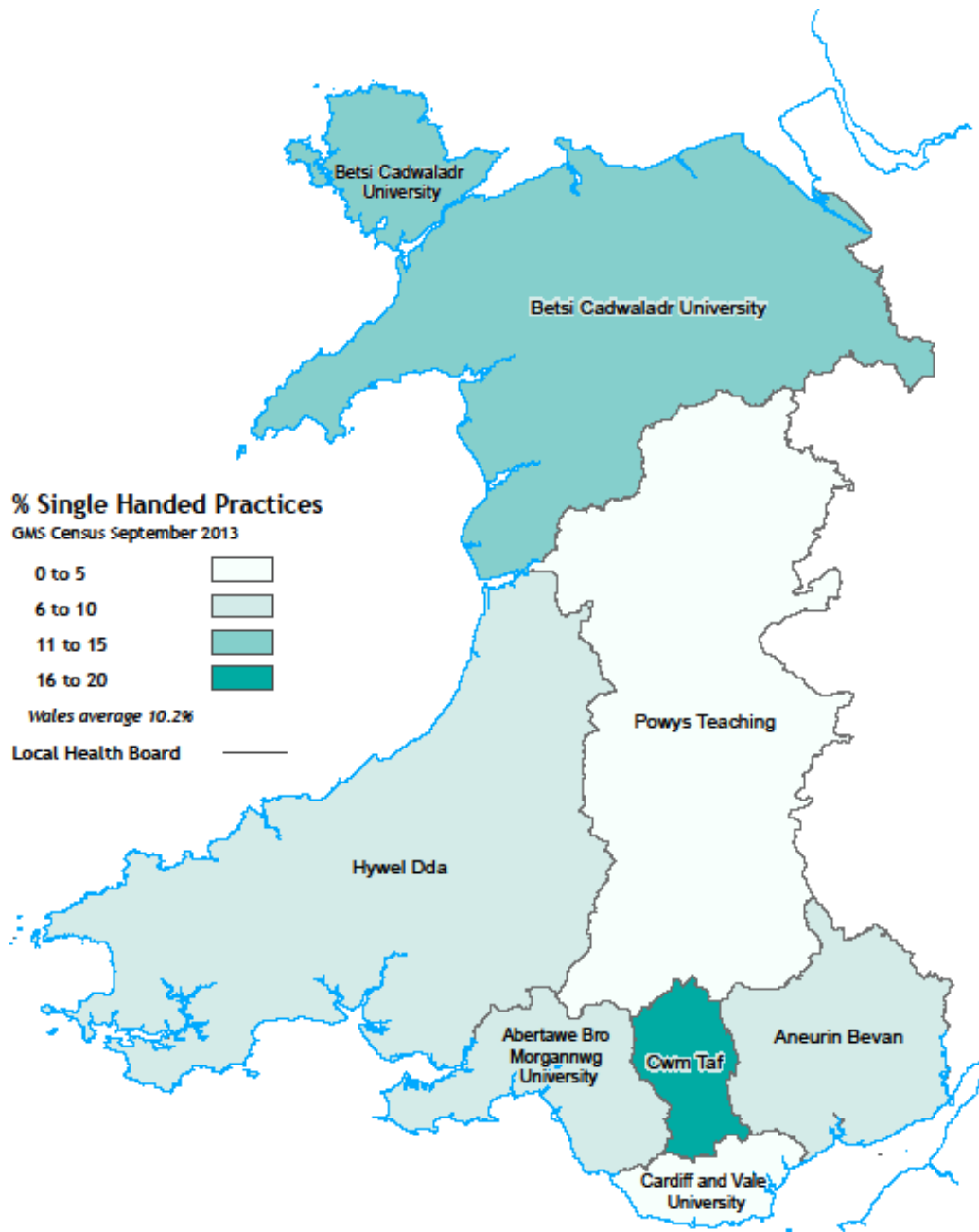
© Crown Copyright and database right [2014]. All rights reserved.
Welsh Government. Licence number 100021874.



Uywdueth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

Map 4: Percentage of partnerships with one partner by Local Health Board 2013



278.13-14

© Crown Copyright and database right [2014]. All rights reserved.
Welsh Government. Licence number 100021874.



Uywduddeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

Table 1: Local Health Boards at 30 September 2013

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 GPs			Total						
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total				
Betsi Cadwaladr University	250	149	399	11	34	45	261	183	444	37	5	704,897	1,588
Powys	58	31	89	2	11	13	60	42	102	4	0	138,447	1,357
Hywel Dda	130	86	216	13	26	39	143	112	255	24	3	390,354	1,531
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	174	129	303	7	32	39	181	161	342	64	7	542,420	1,586
Cwm Taf	90	45	135	9	33	42	99	78	177	36	4	303,441	1,714
Aneurin Bevan	166	158	324	14	48	62	180	206	386	35	2	598,018	1,549
Cardiff and Vale University	146	128	274	12	34	46	158	162	320	33	5	500,555	1,564
Wales	1,014	726	1,740	68	218	286	1,082	944	2,026	233	26	3,178,132	1,569

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 2013

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	6.4	6.0	41.2	24.8	115	17	14.8
Powys	7.7	7.1	41.2	25.5	17	0	0.0
Hywel Dda	6.7	6.4	43.9	23.5	56	4	7.1
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	6.6	6.3	47.1	16.4	77	7	9.1
Cwm Taf	6.0	5.9	44.1	31.1	48	9	18.8
Aneurin Bevan	6.7	6.2	53.4	21.8	89	8	9.0
Cardiff and Vale University	6.7	6.2	50.6	24.4	68	3	4.4
Wales	6.6	6.2	46.6	23.1	470	48	10.2

Source: GMS Census

- (a) Patients registered with relevant GPs irrespective of where the patient lives. ONS mid year population estimate for 2012.
 (b) Includes LHB employed Partnerships.

Table 3: Trends in the GP Practitioner Workforce (a)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
GP Whole time equivalent (b)											
Male	1,199	1,176	1,165	1,173	1,172	1,148	1,131	1,123	1,119 r	1,084 r	1,059
Female	473	494	534	602	642	666	682	711	750 r	762 r	842
Persons (c)	1,672	1,671	1,699	1,775	1,814	1,814	1,813	1,838	1,870 r	1,846 r	1,901
GP headcount											
Male	1,245	1,219	1,208	1,202	1,204	1,179	1,162	1,162	1,147 r	1,113 r	1,082
Female	577	597	641	680	732	761	778	827	859 r	883 r	944
Persons (c)	1,822	1,816	1,849	1,882	1,936	1,940	1,940	1,991	2,007 r	1,996 r	2,026
GPs by age (headcount)											
Male											
Under 30	7	7	6	8	9	6	6	10	9 r	9 r	9
30-44	479	439	397	380	371	342	311	325	320 r	316 r	314
45-54	471	463	489	497	505	492	488	467	466 r	445 r	417
55-64	267	286	292	286	284	299	307	308	295 r	288 r	283
65 and over	21	24	24	31	35	40	50	52	57 r	55 r	59
Total	1,245	1,219	1,208	1,202	1,204	1,179	1,162	1,162	1,147 r	1,113 r	1,082
Female											
Under 30	11	16	19	24	21	18	4	6	8 r	12 r	15
30-44	339	333	350	378	415	418	422	462	455 r	457 r	508
45-54	185	200	219	222	235	246	259	271	280 r	284 r	294
55-64	38	43	49	52	56	73	88	81	106 r	120 r	117
65 and over	4	5	4	4	5	6	5	7	10 r	9 r	10
Total	577	597	641	680	732	761	778	827	859 r	882 r	944
GP Registrars											
Male	45	40	49	58	70	77	63	80	64	67	62
Female	65	75	54	94	95	121	98	135	138	156	171
Persons	110	115	103	152	165	198	161	215	202	223	233
GP Retainers											
Male	2	3	6	4	6	5	4	4	3	3	1
Female	68	67	64	57	67	65	50	43	44	34	25
Persons	70	70	70	61	73	70	54	47	47	37	26
Registered patients per practitioner	1,659	1,674	1,650	1,644	1,598	1,605	1,616	1,584	1,576 r	1,590 r	1,569
Number of partnerships	508	501	497	496	495	499	488	487	483	474	470
Registered patients per partnership	5,949	6,069	6,140	6,236	6,250	6,242	6,424	6,474	6,549 r	6,694 r	6,762

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.

(r) Administrative errors have been identified relating to the 2011 and 2012 WTE and Headcount figures for Wales. Revised figures have been marked with a 'r'.

Table 4: Workforce Flows (a) (b)

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Joiners										
Male	35	46	54	59	40	39	60	59	46	54
Female	53	82	87	82	64	54	91	83	95	121
Persons	88	128	141	141	104	93	151	142	141	175
Joiners to GP as a percentage of all GPs	4.8	6.9	7.5	7.3	5.4	4.8	7.6	7.1 <i>r</i>	7.1 <i>r</i>	8.6
Average age of joiners (c)										
Male	39.1	38.6	37.6	37.7	37.5	36.1	37.4	39.4	38.7	37.2
Female	34.6	36.5	37.9	35.2	35.4	36.3	36.8	38.9	37.4	36.5
Persons	36.4	37.2	37.8	36.3	36.2	36.2	37.0	39.1	37.8	36.7
Leavers										
Male	61	57	59	58	64	56	57	78	82	86
Female	33	38	49	32	31	38	41	51	71	60
Persons	94	95	108	90	95	94	98	129	153	146
Leavers from GP as a percentage of all GPs	4.9	5.2	5.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.1	6.5	7.6 <i>r</i>	7.3
Average age of leavers (c)										
Male	53.7	52.5	53.1	52.9	52.3	52.5	55.0	55.4	56.7	54.0
Female	43.1	44.6	44.1	46.2	45.9	41.1	45.5	39.9	45.5	47.7
Persons	50.0	49.3	49.0	50.5	50.2	47.9	51.0	49.2	51.4	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) Administrative errors have been identified relating to the 2011 and 2012 Headcount figures for Wales; therefore the denominator for 2011 and 2012 has changed. Revised figures have been marked with an 'r'.

Table 5: Welsh Language Ability amongst GPs in Wales 2013 (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	128	690,434	1.9	204,406	6.3
Isle of Anglesey	21	70,049	3.0	38,568	5.4
Gwynedd	51	122,142	4.2	77,000	6.6
Conwy	20	115,515	1.7	30,600	6.5
Denbighshire	21	94,066	2.2	22,236	9.4
Flintshire	6	152,743	0.4	19,343	3.1
Wrexham	9	135,919	0.7	16,659	5.4
Powys	18	132,952	1.4	23,990	7.5
Hywel Dda	80	383,398	2.1	135,798	5.9
Ceredigion	25	76,046	3.3	34,964	7.2
Pembrokeshire	14	123,035	1.1	22,786	6.1
Carmarthenshire	41	184,317	2.2	78,048	5.3
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	59	519,481	1.1	60,133	9.8
Swansea	37	239,633	1.5	26,332	14.1
Neath Port Talbot	14	140,108	1.0	20,698	6.8
Bridgend	8	139,740	0.6	13,103	6.1
Cwm Taf (e)	22	294,497	0.7	32,807	6.7
Aneurin Bevan (e)	28	577,981	0.5	54,958	5.1
Cardiff and Vale University	42	475,324	0.9	49,924	8.4
The Vale of Glamorgan	8	126,831	0.6	13,189	6.1
Cardiff	34	348,493	1.0	36,735	9.3
Wales	377	3,074,067	1.2	562,016	6.7

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 30 September 2013
- (c) Office for National Statistics, mid year population estimates, 2012.
- (d) 2011 Census.
- (e) Due to low numbers in some local authorities only Local Health Boards are shown.

Table 6: UK Comparisons of GP workforce

	Wales (a,c,f)	England (b,c)	Scotland (d, f)	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	2,007 r	35,415	4,278	1,160
2012	1,996 r	35,527	4,285	1,170
2013	2,026	35,561	4,257	1,171
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 r	6.8	8.1	6.1
2012	6.5 r	6.7	8.1	6.5
2013	6.6	6.6	8.0	6.4
Percentage of GPs aged 55 or over: 2013	23.1	22.3	19.5	24.8
Percentage of GPs that are female: 2013	46.6	48.5	52.1	45.0

Source: GMS Census; HSCIC ; ISD Scotland; HSC N.Ireland

- (a) At 30 September except 2009 which is at 1 October.
- (b) New headcount methodology for 2010 onwards 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.
- (c) GPs excluding registrars and retainers.
- (d) At 1 October: comprising Performer, Performer Provider, Performer Salaried, Performer Locum Salaried, Performer Locum, Performer Rural
- (e) Data only includes what would have been Unrestricted Principals or Equivalents (UPEs) and Restricted GPs under the old contract.
- (f) Rate per 10,000 population updated to reflect the most up to date population estimates.
- (r) Administrative errors have been identified relating to the 2011 and 2012 headcount figures for Wales. Figures have been revised.

Table 7: GP practitioners by Country of Primary Medical Qualification Group, 2013

Local Health Board	All Practitioners (excluding Retainers, Registrars and locums)	UK	Rest of EEA (a)	Other
Betsi Cadwaladr University	444	348	30	66
Powys	102	90	5	7
Hywel Dda	255	209	14	32
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	342	299	8	35
Cwm Taf	177	117	9	51
Aneurin Bevan	386	302	12	72
Cardiff and Vale University	320	291	4	25
Wales	2,026	1,656	82	288

Source: GMS Census

- (a) 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.

Table 8: General Practice staff by type and Health Board, at 30 September 2013

Local Health Board	Nurses				Direct Patient Care (d)	Admin and clerical (e)	Other (f)
	Advanced (a)	Extended (b)	Practice (c)	Total			
Headcount							
Betsi Cadwaladr University	47	47	221	315	292	1,086	128
Powys	3	18	43	64	76	244	27
Hywel Dda	23	43	139	205	104	577	48
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	16	41	153	210	91	781	34
Cwm Taf	12	13	75	100	65	405	36
Aneurin Bevan	23	0	192	215	213	918	76
Cardiff and Vale University	2	1	184	187	44	729	0
Wales	126	163	1,007	1,296	885	4,740	349
WTE							
Betsi Cadwaladr University	38	33	140	211	157	753	39
Powys	3	12	31	46	56	188	14
Hywel Dda	17	25	81	123	66	418	15
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	13	27	88	128	48	559	11
Cwm Taf	10	9	54	74	35	297	12
Aneurin Bevan	19	0	136	155	109	602	23
Cardiff and Vale University	1	1	116	118	23	510	0
Wales	100	109	645	854	494	3,325	113

Source: GMS Census

- (a) Include: Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Practitioner, Prescribing Nurse, Nurse Clinician, Nurse Manager, Practice Development Nurse, Physician Associate, Assistant Practitioner. These nurses have high levels of clinical skill, competence and autonomous decision-making.
- (b) Extended Role Nurses and practice nurses who have received additional training in a specialist area such as Diabetes, Asthma, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Sexual Health. Only include Community Nurses or Midwives, Health Visitors, School Nurses if they are directly employed by the practice.
- (c) Include all other qualified nurses employed by the practice. Do not include Health Care Assistants here (they are in the Direct Patient Care category).
- (d) Anyone who is directly involved in delivering patient care but who is not a nurse or GP. This includes Health Care Assistants (HCAs), Physiotherapists, Pharmacist, Phlebotomist, Chiropodists, Dispensers, Counsellors, Complementary Therapists.
- (e) Anyone who is involved in the administration or organisation of the GP Practice. This includes Practice Managers, Receptionists, Secretaries, IT/Computing Specialists, Link worker, Interpreter, General Office Staff etc.
- (f) Any paid/employed member of practice staff who is not included in any other staff group. For example Gardeners, Cleaners etc.

Notes

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

Administrative errors were identified relating to the headcount and WTE figures for 2012 and 2011. Revised figures have been marked with an "r", in the relevant tables and in the related text throughout.

General Medical Practitioner Definitions:

A **General Medical Practitioner** is a medical practitioner who treats all illnesses and provides preventative care and health education for patients of all ages.

A **General Practice** is an organisation which offers Primary Care medical services by a qualified General Medical Practitioner who is able to prescribe medicine where patients can be registered and held on a list. For the purpose of this release the term General Practice excludes Prisons, Army Bases, Education Establishments, Specialist Care Centres and Walk in Centres.

A **GP practitioner** includes GP providers and Other GPs only (excludes GP Registrars and GP Retainers).

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.

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.

General Medical Services (GMS) is the contract which most GPs are employed.

Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) is a standardised measure of the workload of an employee. A WTE of 1.0 means that a person is equivalent to a full time worker, an FTE of 0.5 signals that the worker is half (part) time. Note: 1 FTE is equivalent to 37.5 hours. This measure allows for the work of part-time staff to be converted into an equivalent number of full time staff.

Joiners and Leavers

A leaver is a GP who was working (as a GP practitioner) at a Welsh practice in one census but was not a GP practitioner at a Welsh practice the following year.

A joiner is a GP who was working (as a GP practitioner) at a Welsh practice in one Census but was not a GP practitioner at a Welsh practice the previous year. i.e. If a GP was working as a registrar at the 2012 census and then took up a position as a GP practitioner they will be counted as a joiner.

General Practice Staff Definitions

Advanced Level Nurses: Include advanced nurse practitioner, nurse practitioner, prescribing nurse, nurse clinician, nurse manager, practice development nurse, physician associate, assistant practitioner. These nurses have high levels of clinical skill, competence and autonomous decision-making.

Extended Role Nurses: Extended role nurses and practice nurses who have received additional training in a specialist area such as Diabetes, Asthma, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Sexual Health. Only include Community Nurses or Midwives, Health Visitors, School Nurses if they are directly employed by the Practice.

Practice Nurses: Include all other qualified nurses employed by the practice. Do not include Health Care Assistants here (they are in the Direct Patient Care category.)

Direct Patient Care: Anyone who is directly involved in delivering patient care but who is not a nurse or GP. This includes Health Care Assistants (HCAs), Physiotherapists, Pharmacist, Phlebotomist, Chiropodists, Dispensers, Counsellors, Complementary Therapists etc.

Administrative/Clerical: Anyone who is involved in the administration or organisation of the GP Practice. This includes Practice Managers, Receptionists, Secretaries, IT/Computing Specialists, Link worker, Interpreter, General Office Staff etc.

Other: Include any paid/employed member of practice staff who is not included in any other staff group. For example Gardeners, Cleaners etc.

Key Quality information

Data Sources

General Medical Practitioners:

1. The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) 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.

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 2012 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.

General Practice Staff

- The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) compile the data from the ANC4 forms returned to the HSCIC by the seven Welsh Local Health Boards (LHBs). Information is collected from General Practices as at the 30 September 2013.

Coverage

2. A full census of GPs was carried out as at 30 September 2013. 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.
3. 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.
4. This release covers the period 2003 to 2013. All data relates to headcount numbers as at 30 September except for 2009 which is at 1 October.
5. There were 25 GP practitioners working in more than one practice at the 30 September 2013.
6. 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.
7. Prior to 2010 General Practice staff information was collected at an aggregated Local Health Board level with the completeness of such returns at practice level being unknown. In 2010 the method of collecting the information changed to individual practice level submission. Data prior to 2010 may not be directly comparable. In 2012, improvements were made to the data collection form and Data Quality process. 99 per cent of practices provided a return in 2013. Figures for the remaining practices were estimated to give a full census figure.

Estimated figures are based upon the average Headcount/Hours for Practices with a similar number of patients or per FTE General Practitioners. All practices (for which data had been returned) in Wales are grouped according to their Patient Numbers and the average Hours and Headcounts per patient calculated. These averages are then used to calculate estimates for practices for which ANC4 data was not available, based on their number of registered patients. Where patient numbers are unavailable an estimate is based on the number of FTE General Practitioners (excluding Registrars and Retainers).

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

Administrative errors were identified relating to the headcount and WTE figures for 2012 and 2011. Revised figures have been marked with an "r", in the relevant tables and in the related text throughout

Accessing and Clarity

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.

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 2003 - 2013 (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>

Related links

Official statistics for the number of serving UK Armed Forces personnel and civilian personnel with a Defence Medical Services (DMS) registration can be accessed on the National Archive website:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140116142443/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/medical/quarterly-NHS-commissioning-population-statistics>

Feedback

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

Michelle Morgan
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

Appendix 1 - StatsWales tables

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>

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/Health-Topics/General-Practice/Publications/data-tables.asp?id=1191#1191>

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