

SDR 90/2013

5 June 2013

Eye Care Statistics for Wales, 2012-13

This Release, formerly titled "Ophthalmic Statistics for Wales" has been expanded this year to include statistics for other parts of the eye care service in Wales as well as information on the General Ophthalmic Service (GOS) and workforce data as previously. It aims to provide a summary of currently provided eye care services in the context of poor eye health being a common and growing problem in Wales and to present data which is available from a routine administrative source. These statistics will help monitor delivery of current services and shape future plans for improving services nationally and locally. More specifically they will provide much of the evidence from which a new Eye Health Care Plan for Wales is being developed and will be monitored and evaluated.

The release has been arranged to describe statistics in the following order: primary care eye services (including the GOS data and targeted Welsh eye care services such as the Eye Health Examination and the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service), the Hospital Eye Service, sight impairment registration and certification and the Low Vision Service Wales. Details of all the services described here are provided in the [Key Quality Information](#) and Notes pages and in an associated Quality Report.

Key Facts 2012-13

Primary eye care services

- 767,996 General Ophthalmic Service sight tests were paid for by the NHS, a 0.1 per cent increase on the previous year.
- 57,993 examination were carried out under Eye Health Examinations Wales during the year.
- Of the 111,110 patients screened by the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service, 29.5 per cent were found to have diabetic retinopathy.

Hospital Eye services

- There were 326,218 attendances to ophthalmology outpatient appointments in Welsh hospitals, 10.5 per cent of all attendances in Welsh hospitals (2011-12).

Rehabilitation

Low Vision Service:

- 6,851 assessments were carried out by the Low Vision Service Wales.

People newly certified and/or registered as severely sight impaired and sight impaired

- At 31 March 2012, almost 16,500 people were registered with a visual impairment, of whom around half were registered as severely sight impaired and half as sight impaired.
- 1,463 people were newly certified as sight impaired in 2011-12; over 75 per cent of these were aged 65 years or over.

Workforce

- There were 809 practitioners carrying out sight tests paid for by the NHS at 31 December 2012, 41 more than the previous year and a 35.1 per cent increase since December 2002.
- At 30 September 2011 there were 135 whole time equivalent ophthalmology doctors directly employed by the NHS in Wales.

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Additional details including analysis by Health Board can be found on the StatsWales service (www.statswales.wales.gov.uk).

Primary Eye Care services

General Ophthalmic Service: Sight Tests and Optical Vouchers

Having a sight test with an optometrist at least once every two years is recommended as part of everyone's health care routine as this may reduce preventable sight loss. A sight test can also detect other general health problems such as high blood pressure. Annual sight tests are recommended for children up to the age of sixteen, at least every two years from the age of 16–69 years and then annually for people aged 70 years and over unless advised otherwise by their optometrist. People with diabetes or a family history of glaucoma are advised to have their eyes checked every year.

Many people qualify for a free NHS General Ophthalmic Service (GOS) sight test, including:

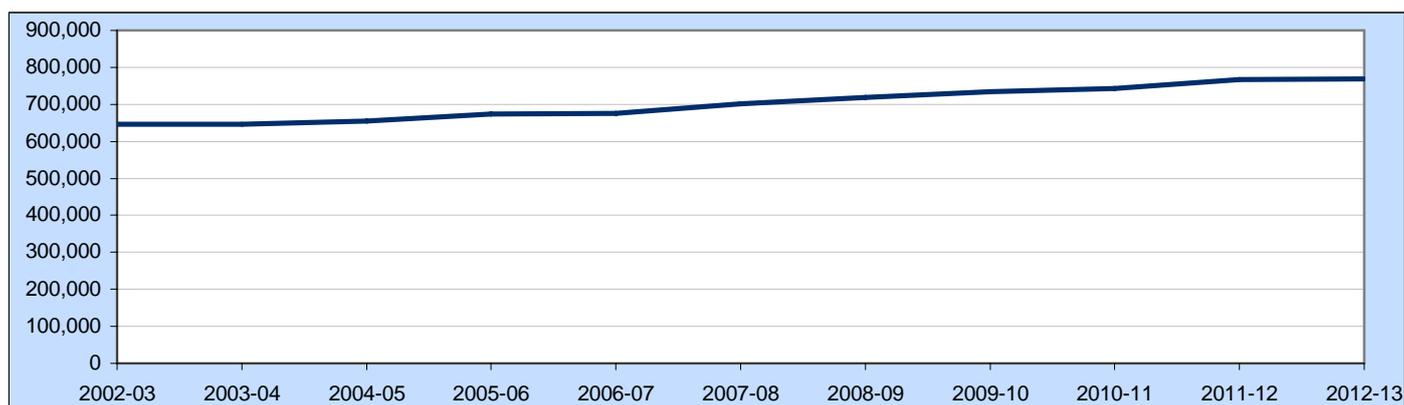
- ◆ people aged 60 and over
- ◆ children under 16 (or under 19 and in full-time education)
- ◆ people with diabetes
- ◆ people aged 40 and older who have an immediate family member with glaucoma
- ◆ people eligible for certain benefits

For more detail about the General Ophthalmic Service see the [Key Quality Information](#).

Charts 1 to 6 show trends in the main statistics for GOS sight tests and vouchers. (see [note](#)).

For tables relating to the GOS see the [Annex](#).

Chart 1: Number of sight tests paid for by the NHS, by year

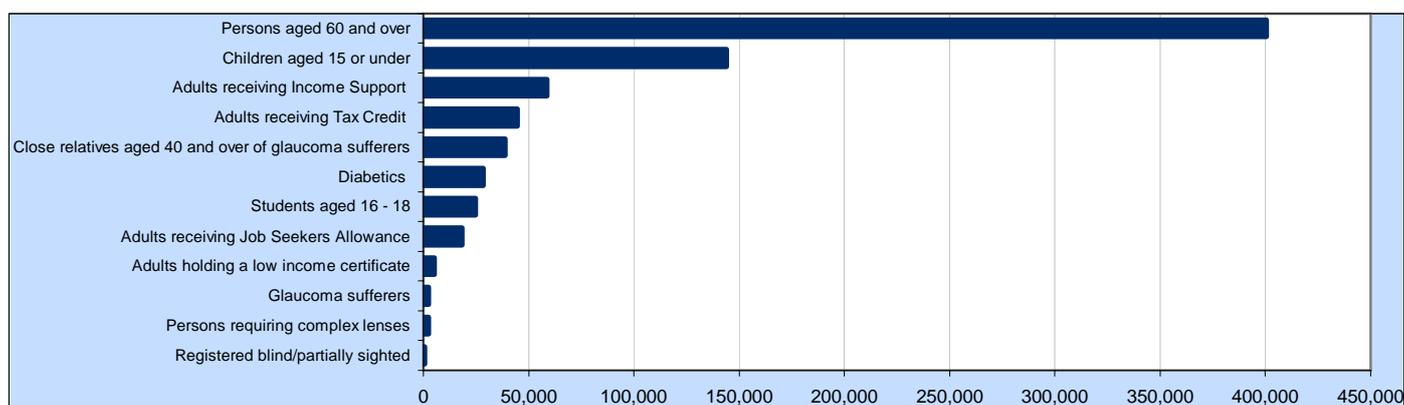


Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

- ◆ 767,996 sight tests were paid for by the NHS in 2012-13. This was an increase of 0.1 per cent between 2011-12 and 2012-13 and of 18.8 per cent in the decade since 2002-03.

Note: for clinical reasons, people may have more than one sight test a year

Chart 2: Number of sight tests paid for by the NHS, by eligibility ^(a)



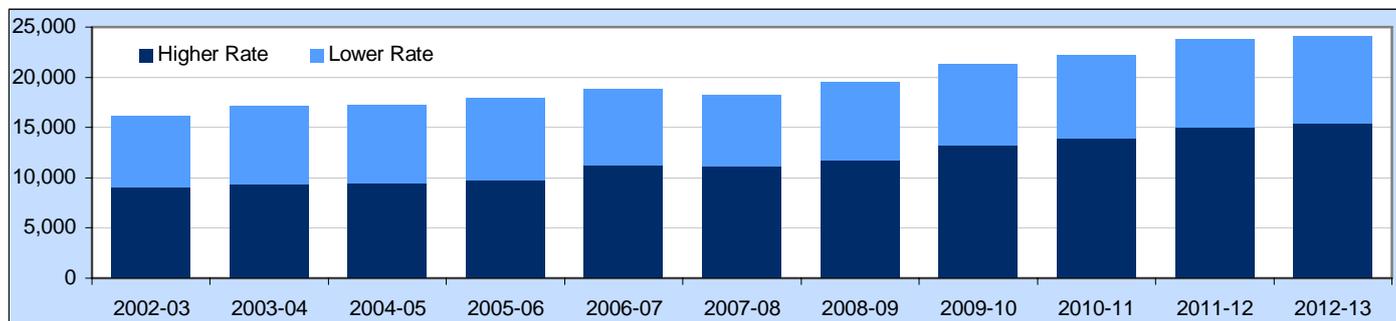
Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) See footnotes to Annex Table 1 for inclusions in each category.

- ◆ Sight tests for people aged over sixty accounted for over half (52.1 per cent) of sight tests paid for by the NHS in 2012-13.

Note: people may qualify for a sight test paid for by the NHS on more than one criterion although they would only be recorded against one criterion on the GOS form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60, with glaucoma is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate.

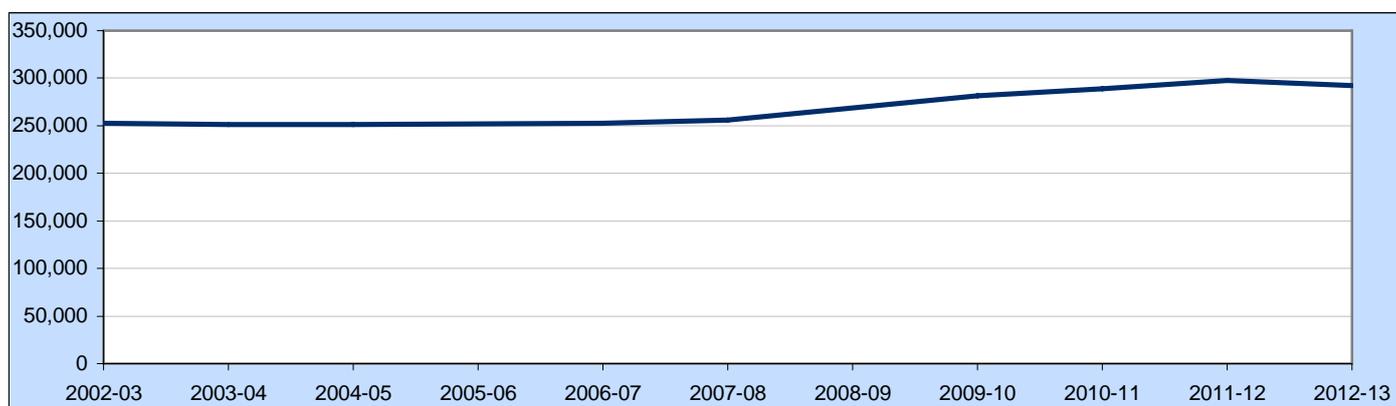
Chart 3: Number of domiciliary sight tests, by rate and year



Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

- ◆ The majority of sight tests paid for by the NHS are conducted at practitioners' premises however a small proportion are conducted away from ophthalmic premises (including people's homes and residential homes). In 2012-13, 24,139 domiciliary sight tests were paid for by the NHS, an increase of 1.4 per cent over the previous year. Of these 64.1 per cent were paid at the higher rate (where the patient is the first or second to be seen at an address) and 35.9 per cent at the lower rate (third and subsequent patients visited at the same address).

Chart 4: Number of NHS optical vouchers processed, by year

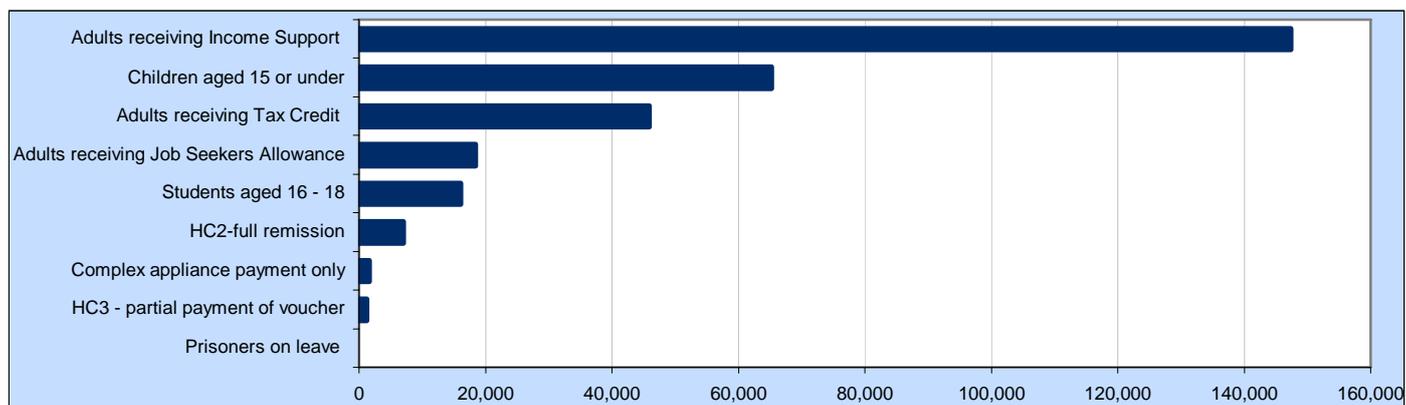


Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

- ◆ 292,114 optical vouchers were processed in 2012-13. This was a decrease of 1.9 per cent between 2010-11 and 2011-12 and an increase of 15.7 per cent in the decade since 2002-03.

Note: The NHS optical voucher scheme was introduced in July 1986. Under the scheme, people who had previously been eligible to have NHS spectacles were given NHS optical vouchers to put towards buying their own choice of spectacles, or having new lenses fitted to their existing frames. From April 1988, the vouchers could also be put towards the cost of contact lenses. Patients may receive a voucher for more than one pair of spectacles.

Chart 5: NHS optical vouchers processed, by eligibility ^(a)

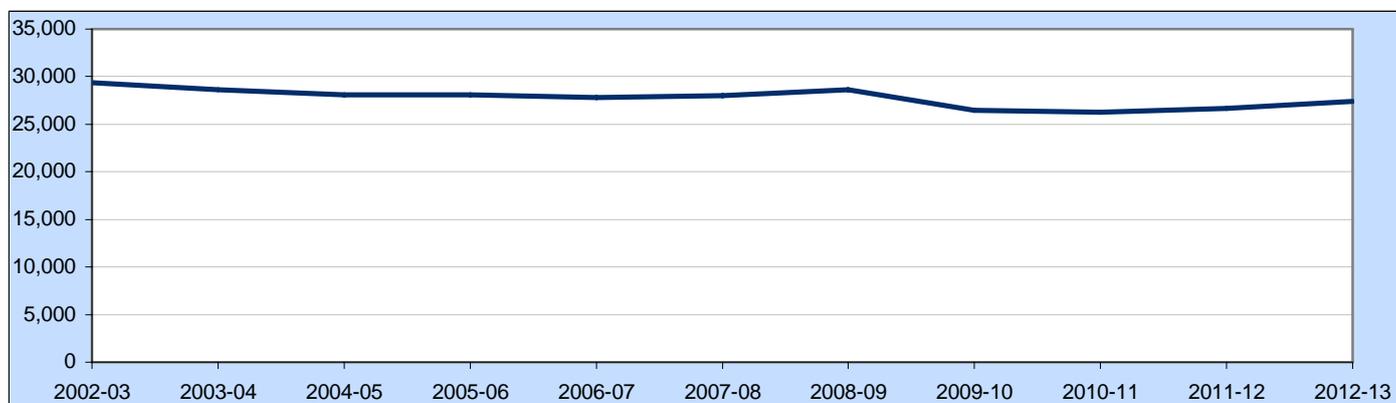


Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) See footnotes to Annex Table 3 for inclusions in each category.

- ◆ Adults receiving Income Support accounted for nearly half (47.9 per cent) of NHS optical vouchers processed in 2012-13.

Chart 6: Claims for repair or replacement to spectacles

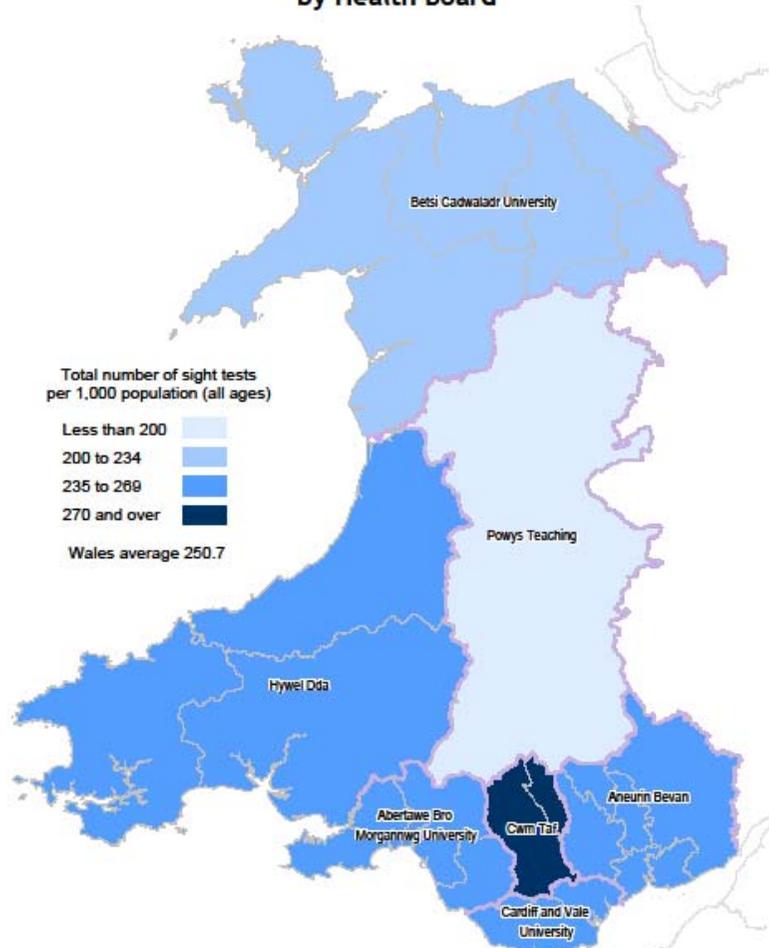


Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

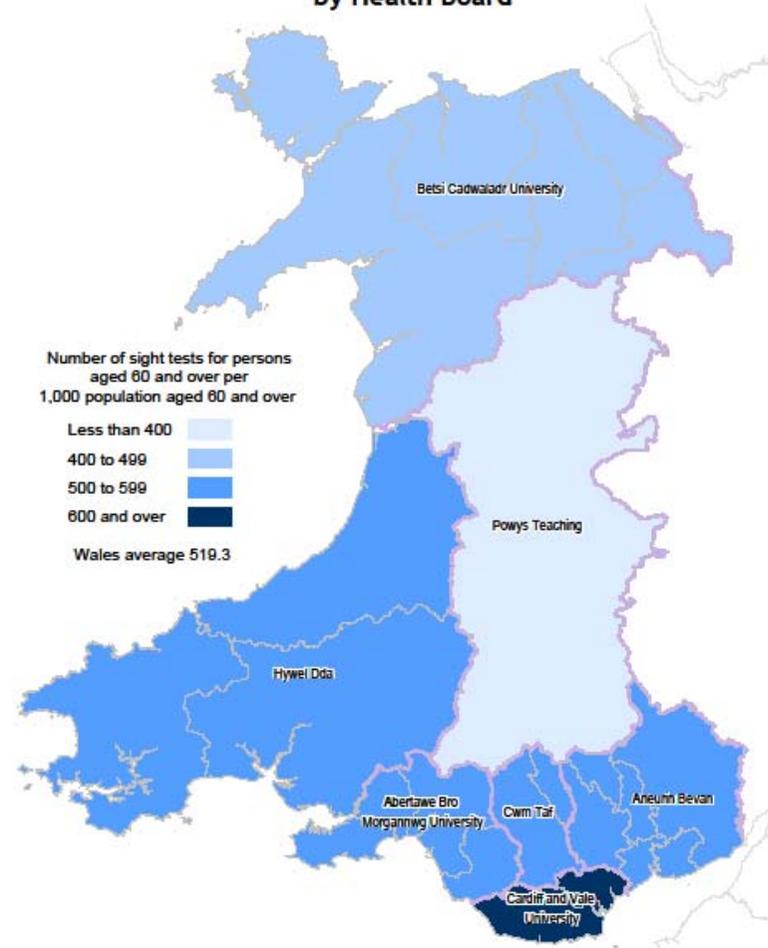
- ◆ The number of claims for repair or replacement was 27,409 in 2012-13. This was an increase of 2.9 per cent between 2011-12 and 2012-13 and a decrease of 6.6 per cent in the decade since 2002-03.

Maps 1 to 4 show the numbers of sight tests paid for by the NHS for selected groups as a rate of the relevant resident Health Board population. See also Annex Table 7 for the numbers and rates.

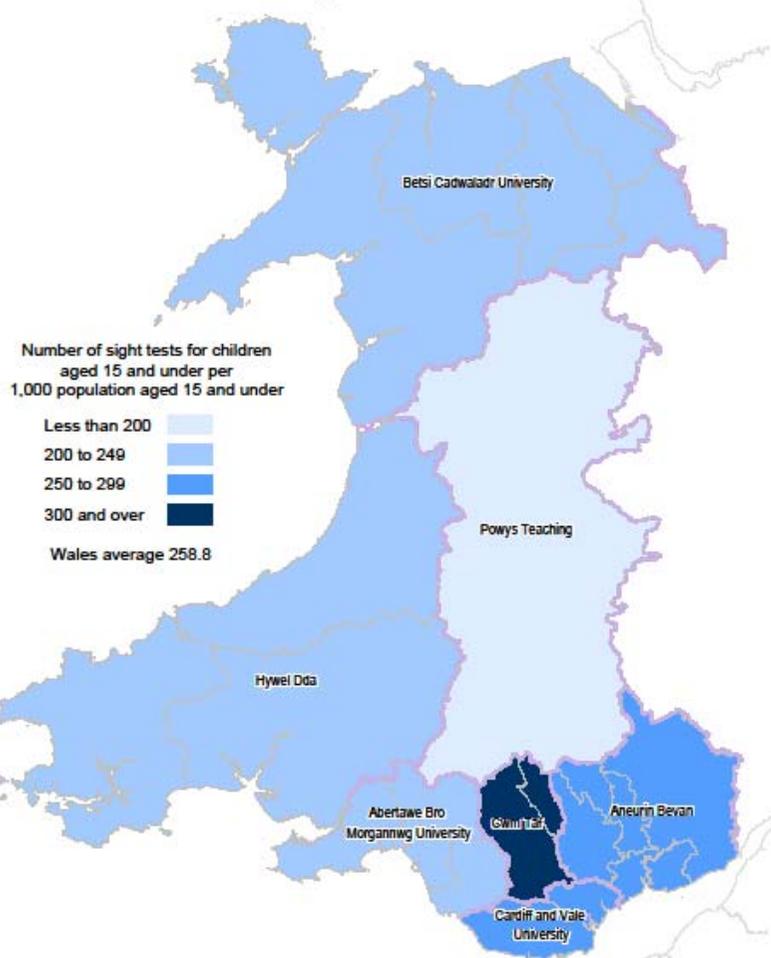
Total number of NHS sight tests per 1,000 population (all ages) by Health Board



Number of NHS sight tests for persons aged 60 and over per 1,000 population aged 60 and over by Health Board

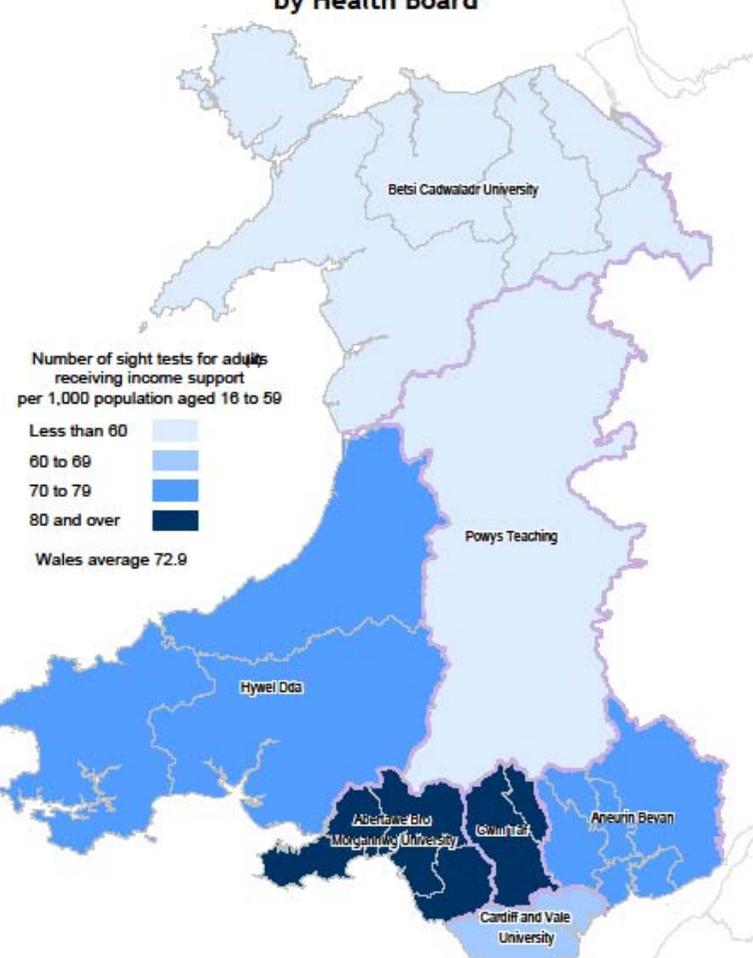


Number of NHS sight tests for children aged 15 and under per 1,000 population by Health Board



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Number of NHS sight tests for adults receiving income support (a) per 1,000 population aged 16 to 59 by Health Board



(a) Income support includes: Adults receiving Income Support, Pension Credit Guarantee Credit, Income related Employment and Support allowance, Tax Credit or Job Seekers Allowance and adults holding a low income certificate



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Eye Health Examination Wales

The Eye Health Examination Wales (EHEW) scheme offers extended free eye examinations to groups of the population that are at greater risk of certain eye diseases and to those that may find losing their sight particularly disabling, such as people who are already blind in one eye.

Optometrists provide EHEW eye examinations for people who:

- ◆ have sight in one eye only (uniocular)
- ◆ have a hearing impairment or are profoundly deaf or blind
- ◆ have retinitis pigmentosa
- ◆ are from an ethnic group that is Black (which includes African/Caribbean/Black British or other Black) or Asian (which includes Indian/Pakistani/Chinese/Bangladeshi/Asian British or other Asian)
- ◆ are at risk of eye disease because of a family history
- ◆ are experiencing eye problems that need urgent attention

For more detail about the EHEW see the [Key Quality Information](#).

A list of EHEW accredited optometrists can be found on: www.eyecarewales.nhs.uk

Tables 1 and 2 and Chart 7 show the numbers of examinations carried out under the EHEW scheme during 2012-13 by entitlement, outcome and Health Board.

- ◆ During 2012-13, 57,993 examinations were carried out under the EHEW, amounting to 189.3 examinations per 10,000 resident population;
- ◆ Nearly three quarters of these were as a result of acute eye problems;
- ◆ the number of examinations per 10,000 Health Board population ranged from 83.7 in Betsi Cadwaladr to 301.8 in Cardiff and Vale, the reasons, whether reflecting relative need or supply are not yet clear;
- ◆ in 38.8 per cent of examinations the patient was found to have ocular pathology to be monitored by the community practitioner, and after 15.0 per cent of examinations the patient was referred to the Hospital Eye Service.

Table 1: Number of examinations claimed for under the Eye Health Examination Wales scheme by entitlement and Health Board, 2012-13

	Health Board						Cardiff & Vale	Wales
	Betsi Cadwaladr	Powys Teaching	Hywel Dda	Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	Cwm Taf	Aneurin Bevan		
Welsh Eye Care Examination:								
Uniocular	194	65	183	404	263	408	708	2,225
Deaf/Blind	20	1	7	21	19	54	77	199
Hearing Impaired	4	0	5	36	15	10	186	256
Retinitis pigmentosa	6	2	8	5	6	11	20	58
Risk of eye disease (a)	215	265	219	729	500	1,668	2,109	5,705
Ethnic background	9	1	4	23	4	40	859	940
Referred by GP	655	254	797	950	635	1,377	1,147	5,815
Primary Eyecare Acute Referral Scheme - acute eye problems:								
Referral by GP	632	159	248	518	314	891	1,622	4,384
Self referral	4,025	1,570	4,594	6,406	5,380	8,916	7,520	38,411
Total	5,760	2,317	6,065	9,092	7,136	13,375	14,248	57,993

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) Risk of eye disease by reason of ethnicity or family history

Chart 7: Percentage of examinations claimed for under the Eye Health Examination Wales scheme by entitlement, Wales 2012-13

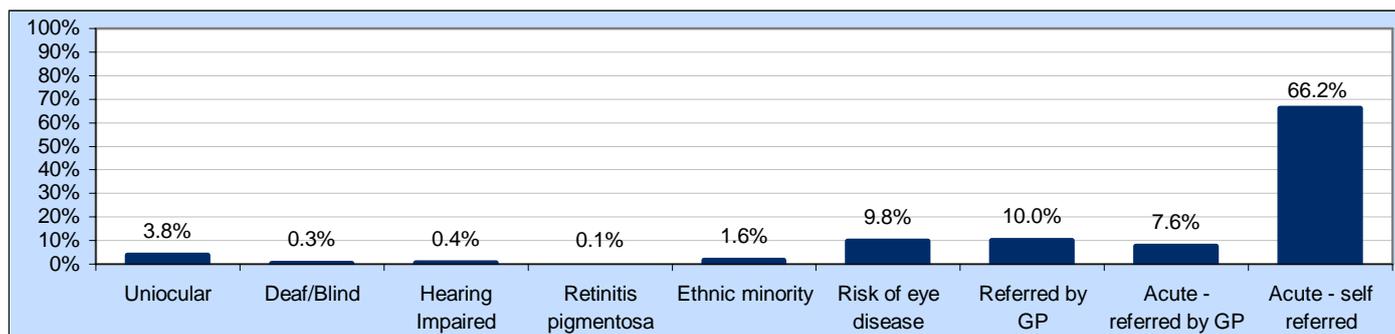


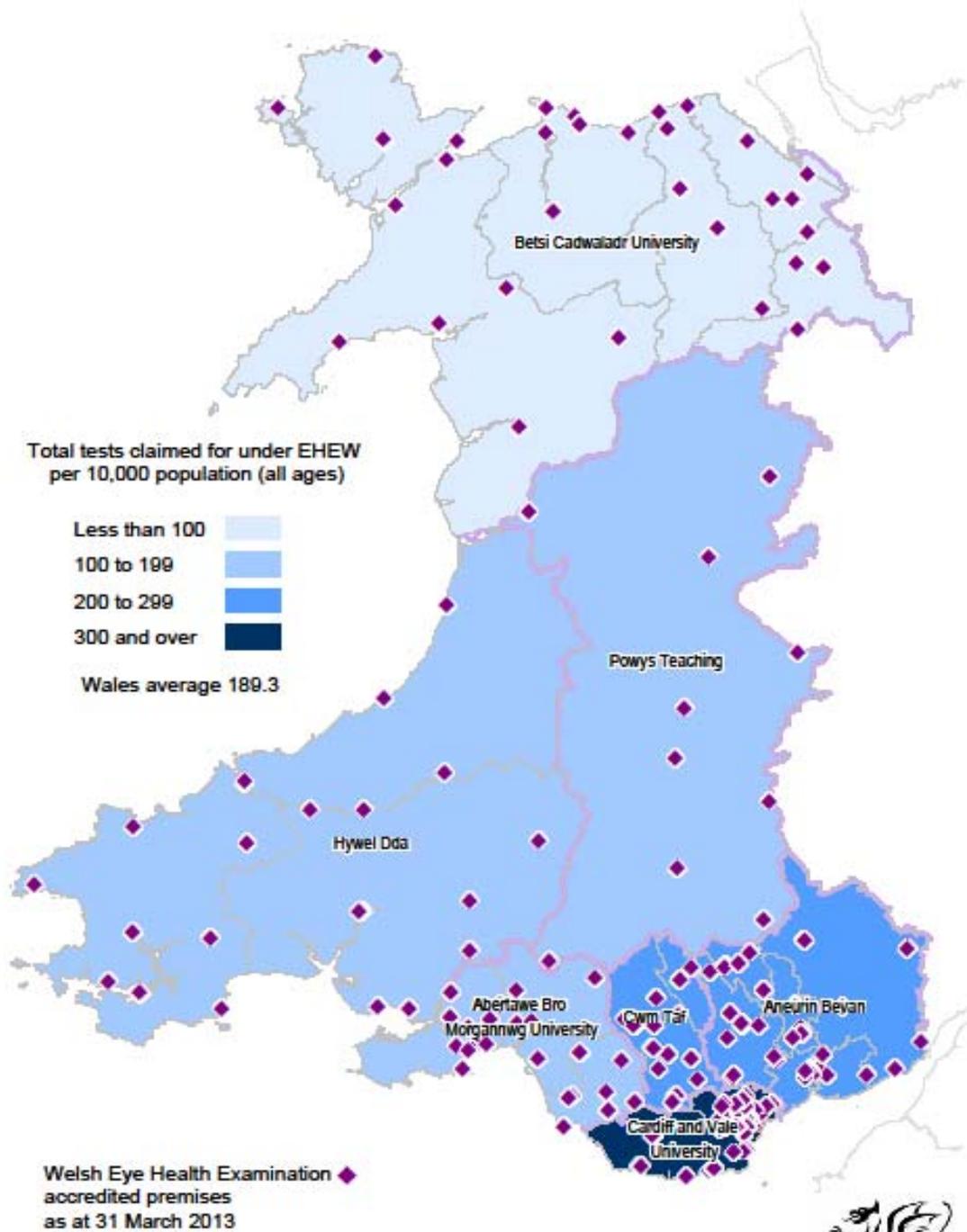
Table 2: Number of examinations claimed for under the Eye Health Examination Wales scheme by outcome and Health Board, 2012-13

Outcome	Health Board							Wales
	Betsi Cadwaladr	Powys Teaching	Hywel Dda	Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	Cwm Taf	Aneurin Bevan	Cardiff & Vale	
Number:								
No clinical abnormalities found	1,172	527	796	1,938	1,851	3,705	4,331	14,320
Patient has ocular pathology to monitor	1,764	906	1,778	2,628	3,273	5,866	6,309	22,524
Patient referred to Hospital Eye Service	1,122	250	867	1,211	1,139	1,979	2,107	8,675
Information or referral to patient's GP	1,702	634	2,624	3,315	873	1,825	1,501	12,474
Total	5,760	2,317	6,065	9,092	7,136	13,375	14,248	57,993
Number per 10,000 population:								
No clinical abnormalities found	17.0	39.6	20.8	37.4	63.1	64.2	91.7	46.7
Patient has ocular pathology to monitor	25.6	68.1	46.6	50.7	111.6	101.7	133.6	73.5
Patient referred to Hospital Eye Service	16.3	18.8	22.7	23.4	38.8	34.3	44.6	28.3
Information or referral to patient's GP	24.7	47.6	68.7	64.0	29.8	31.6	31.8	40.7
Total	83.7	174.1	158.8	175.5	243.4	231.8	301.8	189.3

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

Map 5 shows the location of EHEW accredited practitioners together with the numbers of EHEW examinations carried out as a rate per 10,000 resident population for each Health Board.

Eye Health Examinations Wales per 10,000 population (all ages) by Health Board



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Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service for Wales

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service for Wales (DRSSW) is provided for every eligible person 12 years and over of age with diabetes who is registered with a GP in Wales. The service makes use of mobile screening units, which visit the various Health Board areas.

For more detail about the DRSSW see the [Key Quality Information](#).

Tables 3 and 4 and Chart 8 show key statistics for the DRSSW for 2012-13.

- ◆ During 2012-13, 168,551 patients were eligible for the service of which 12,794 were new referrals during the year;
- ◆ of the 111,110 patients screened during the year, 29.5 per cent were found to have some degree of diabetic retinopathy;
- ◆ in 3.0 per cent of cases, potential sight threatening retinopathy was found and the patients were referred to Hospital Eye Services;
- ◆ around 20 per cent of those aged 19 and under that were screened were found to have diabetic retinopathy, but this was higher in older age groups;
- ◆ 61.3 per cent of patients screened with Type 1 diabetes were found to have some degree of diabetic retinopathy, compared with 27.6 per cent of patients who had Type 2 diabetes.

Table 3: Summary of key statistics, Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service by Health Board, 2012-13

								<i>Number</i>
	Betsi Cadwaladr	Powys	Hywel Dda	Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	Cwm Taf	Aneurin Bevan	Cardiff and Vale	Wales (a)
Eligible patients	35,616	7,427	21,085	30,840	16,417	35,298	21,407	168,551
of which: New referrals	2,788	635	1,665	2,124	1,252	2,489	1,764	12,794
Invitations	27,228	6,440	17,246	25,608	13,912	27,584	18,101	136,649
Patients screened (b)	22,324	5,307	13,725	20,928	11,650	22,318	14,598	111,110
All referrals to Hospital Eye Service	654	152	373	610	334	685	444	3,265
Urgent referrals to Hospital Eye Service	104	22	69	101	57	141	72	568
No retinopathy	15,783	3,692	9,686	14,736	8,151	15,834	10,115	78,157
Any retinopathy	6,508	1,605	4,005	6,166	3,478	6,441	4,449	32,745
Sight threatening Retinopathy/Maculopathy (c)	599	152	393	620	359	710	437	3,284
Severe Retinopathy/Maculopathy (c)	90	16	61	77	51	120	65	482

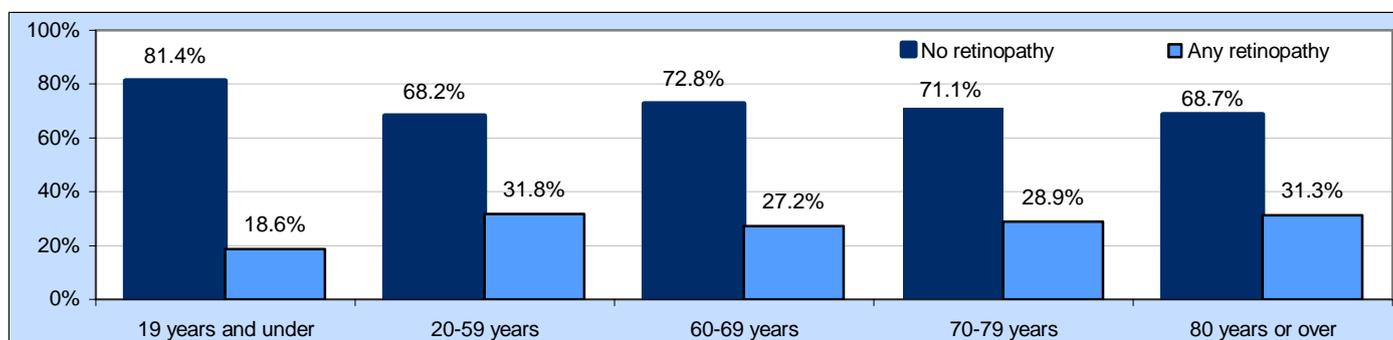
Source: Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service Wales (DRSSW)

(a) Wales totals includes a small number of patients where the HB is not recorded

(b) Some patients may have been screened more than once in the year

(c) See notes for outcome gradings

Chart 8: Screening outcomes by age of patient, 2012-13 (a)



Source: Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service Wales (DRSSW)

(a) Some patients may have been screened more than once in the year

Table 4: Diabetic retinopathy screening outcomes by patient characteristics, 2012-13

Patient characteristics	Patients screened (a)	Urgent referrals	No retinopathy	Any retinopathy	Sight threatening Retinopathy/ Maculopathy (b)	Severe Retinopathy/ Maculopathy (b)
Number						
Gender:						
Male	61,175	315	42,015	19,043	1,987	296
Female	45,969	229	32,906	12,979	1,235	175
Total (c)	111,110	568	78,157	32,745	3,284	482
Type of diabetes:						
Type 1	6,301	109	2,430	3,856	716	166
Type 2	104,594	457	75,571	28,836	2,560	312
MODY (d)	20	0	14	6	0	0
Total (e)	111,110	568	78,157	32,745	3,284	482
Age:						
19 years and under	806	1	655	150	5	0
20-59 years	29,998	187	20,440	9,532	1,339	217
60-69 years	31,326	110	22,778	8,525	795	122
70-79 years	31,317	132	22,218	9,042	733	86
80 years or over	17,663	138	12,066	5,496	412	57
All (f)	111,110	568	78,157	32,745	3,284	482
Percentage of screened (g)						
Gender:						
Male		0.5	68.8	31.2	3.3	0.5
Female		0.5	71.7	28.3	2.7	0.4
Total (c)		0.5	70.5	29.5	3.0	0.4
Type of diabetes:						
Type 1		1.7	38.7	61.3	11.4	2.6
Type 2		0.4	72.4	27.6	2.5	0.3
MODY (d)		0.0	70.0	30.0	0.0	0.0
Total (e)		0.5	70.5	29.5	3.0	0.4
Age:						
19 years and under		0.1	81.4	18.6	0.6	0.0
20-59 years		0.6	68.2	31.8	4.5	0.7
60-69 years		0.4	72.8	27.2	2.5	0.4
70-79 years		0.4	71.1	28.9	2.3	0.3
80 years or over		0.8	68.7	31.3	2.3	0.3
All (f)		0.5	70.5	29.5	3.0	0.4

Source: Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service Wales (DRSSW)

(a) Some patients may have been screened more than once in the year

(b) See notes for outcome gradings

(c) Total includes unspecified gender figures - around 4000 patients screened

(d) See notes for definition

(e) Total includes a small number of other types of diabetes and unspecified types - around 200 patients screened

(f) Total includes a small number of patients where the characteristic is not recorded

(g) A small number of outcomes are ungradeable; percentages are calculated of (total-ungradeable)

Hospital Eye Service

Ophthalmologists are medically trained doctors with specialist skills in the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases. Ophthalmologists work predominantly in Ophthalmology Departments in hospitals (the Hospital Eye Service). Common conditions are cataracts, glaucoma, diabetes and Macula Degeneration (Wet and Dry). All Ophthalmology Departments include outpatient clinics and many also have eye casualty departments, operating theatres and laser eye surgery workstations.

For more detail about the Hospital Eye Service see the [Key Quality Information](#).

Referrals:

- ◆ GPs referred around 52,000 patients for ophthalmology first outpatient appointments between April 2012 and March 2013.

For further information see:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2013/nhs-gp-referrals-first-out-patient-appointments-march-2013/?lang=en>

and

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Activity/GP-Referrals/Referrals-by-Specialty-Month>

Waiting times:

Statistics about referral to treatment times (RTT) for patients waiting to have ophthalmology treatment are available at the links below. The Referral to treatment time is the period of time from referral by a GP or other medical practitioner to hospital for treatment in the NHS in Wales. A referral to treatment pathway covers the time waited from referral to hospital for treatment in the NHS in Wales and includes time spent waiting for any hospital appointments, tests, scans or other procedures that may be needed before being treated.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2013/referral-treatment-times-march-2013/?lang=en>

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Waiting-Times/Referral-to-Treatment/PatientsWaitingToStartTreatment-by-Month-GroupedWeeks>

Table 5 to 7 and Chart 9 show key statistics for the Hospital Eye Service for recent years.

- ◆ During 2011-12, there were 16,848 hospital admissions for cataracts and 7,325 for age-related macula degeneration;
- ◆ although numbers of cataract admissions have fluctuated, the numbers of admissions for age related macula degeneration have grown steadily over the previous five years. Note that Lucentis treatment of wet macula degeneration was introduced in 2008;
- ◆ in 2011-12, there were 326,218 attendances to ophthalmology outpatient appointments in Welsh hospitals, this amounted to 10.5 per cent of all specialities outpatient appointments in Welsh hospitals;
- ◆ of these, 81,253 were new appointments and 244,965 were follow up appointments.

Table 5: Number of admissions (inpatient and day case) for hospital eye care in Wales, by principle diagnosis and year

Principle Diagnosis	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	<i>Number</i> 2011-12
Age-related macular degeneration	692	1,615	3,864	6,205	7,325
Cataract	19,619	20,953	19,608	17,423	16,848
Glaucoma	794	740	710	762	762
Diabetic retinopathy	487	385	166	152	145

Source: Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW)

Table 6: Number of Hospital admissions for cataract procedures (1st and 2nd eye), by year and Health Board ^(a)

Health Board	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Number 2011-12
Betsi Cadwaladr	2,036	2,860	4,392	4,414	4,949
Powys	356	387	392	374	328
Hywel Dda	2,200	2,844	2,860	2,037	1,250
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	4,482	4,558	4,395	3,721	3,525
Cwm Taf	1,956	2,099	1,756	1,709	1,565
Aneurin Bevan	2,425	2,754	2,479	2,277	2,375
Cardiff and Vale	2,412	2,238	2,294	1,886	2,145
Wales	15,867	17,740	18,568	16,418	16,137

Source: Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW)

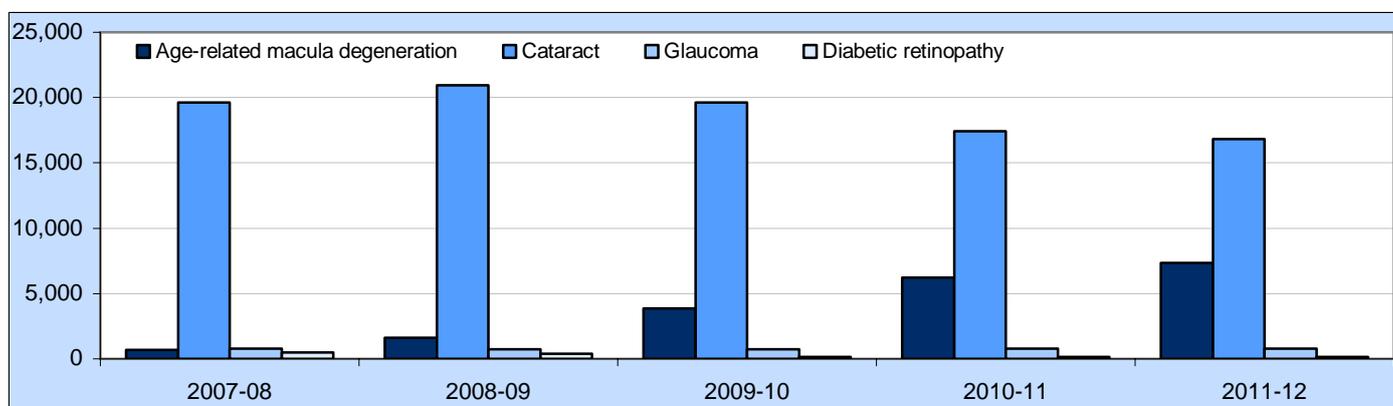
(a) Principle procedures

Table 7: Number of outpatient appointments (new and follow up) for ophthalmology by year and Health Board

Health Board	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Number 2011-12
New appointments:					
Betsi Cadwaladr	21,852	23,219	21,943	22,864	22,875
Powys	1,684	1,962	1,971	1,965	1,847
Hywel Dda	12,905	12,567	10,509	11,793	9,836
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	18,294	17,329	16,284	17,249	15,488
Cwm Taf	8,877	10,045	8,972	6,788	8,656
Aneurin Bevan	10,141	11,185	11,404	10,253	10,487
Cardiff and Vale	13,517	12,740	16,630	14,005	12,064
Wales	87,270	89,047	87,713	84,917	81,253
Follow up appointments:					
Betsi Cadwaladr	54,981	54,858	56,357	57,919	61,760
Powys	2,422	2,574	2,546	2,564	2,343
Hywel Dda	29,311	30,355	32,019	36,178	38,171
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	48,259	47,491	50,036	49,873	53,819
Cwm Taf	25,016	26,543	25,579	23,216	29,366
Aneurin Bevan	23,252	21,996	22,987	22,385	25,115
Cardiff and Vale	28,099	29,021	36,947	38,588	34,391
Wales	211,340	212,838	226,471	230,723	244,965

Source: QS1

Chart 9: Number of admissions for hospital eye care in Wales, by principle diagnosis and year



Source: Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW)

Low Vision Service

The Low Vision Service Wales (LVS) aims to help people with visual impairment to remain independent by providing low vision aids such as magnifiers, and by appropriate education, referral, and rehabilitation training. Low Vision is a term used to describe a sight problem that cannot be corrected by glasses, contact lenses, or medical treatment. Over 190 practitioners are accredited and provide the service in optometry practices in Wales. Referrals are from a range of professionals and from individuals themselves.

For more detail about the Low Vision Service Wales see the [Key Quality Information](#).

Tables 8 and 9 and Charts 10 and 11 show key statistics for the Low Vision Service for 2012-13.

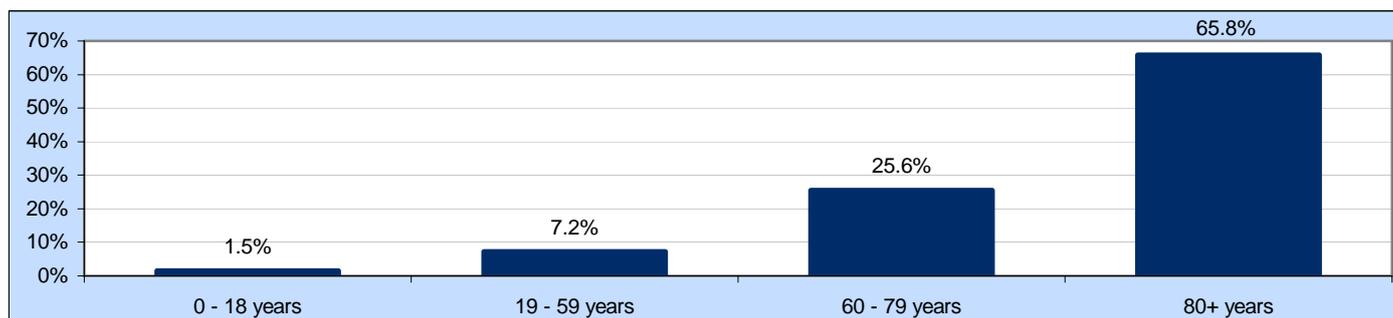
- ◆ A total of 6,851 assessments were carried out by the service during 2012-13;
- ◆ around two thirds (65.8 per cent) of these were for patients aged 80 or over.

Table 8: Low vision service assessments by age group of patient, 2012-13

Health Board					<i>Number</i>
	under 19 years	19 - 59 years	60 - 79 years	80 years or over	Total Assessments
Betsi Cadwaladr	24	67	246	775	1,112
Powys	2	22	67	152	243
Hywel Dda	14	70	255	718	1,057
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	20	99	383	945	1,447
Cwm Taf	8	52	188	407	655
Aneurin Bevan	10	97	338	804	1,249
Cardiff and Vale	25	83	275	705	1,088
Wales	103	490	1,752	4,506	6,851

Source: Low Vision Service

Chart 10: Low vision service assessments by age group of patient (percentage), 2012-13



Source: Low Vision Service

- ◆ Patients reported dry age related macula degeneration (AMD) in more than half of assessments, cataracts in just under one third of assessments and hearing problems and wet AMD in more than a fifth.
- ◆ Additional data from the LVS database (and not presented in tables) shows that:
 - 44.1 per cent of assessments were for patients who lived alone;
 - 21.8 per cent of assessments were domiciliary visits;
 - 65.9 per cent of assessments were for female patients.

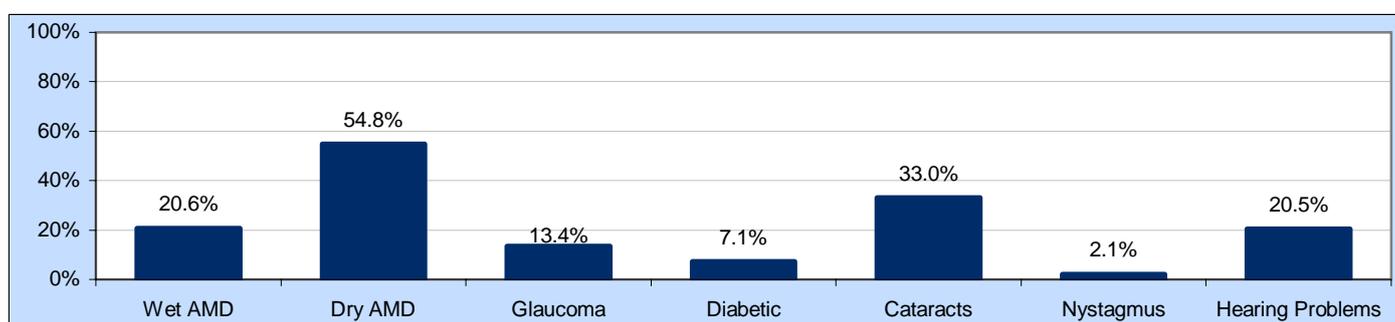
Table 9: Number of patients reporting following conditions by Health Board, 2012-13 ^(a)

Health Board	Wet AMD	Dry AMD	Glaucoma	Diabetic	Cataracts	Nystagmus	Number Hearing Problems
Betsi Cadwaladr	258	653	155	52	323	23	331
Powys	59	141	35	19	45	7	23
Hywel Dda	160	585	140	94	431	21	137
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	249	795	202	117	451	29	371
Cwm Taf	145	346	90	57	221	12	117
Aneurin Bevan	256	690	157	88	466	23	245
Cardiff and Vale	283	543	139	61	323	26	183
Wales	1,410	3,753	918	488	2,260	141	1,407

Source: Low Vision Service

(a) Multiple conditions can be reported each assessment. See notes for further information on eye conditions.

Chart 11: Patients reporting following conditions as a percentage of all assessments, 2012-13 ^(a)

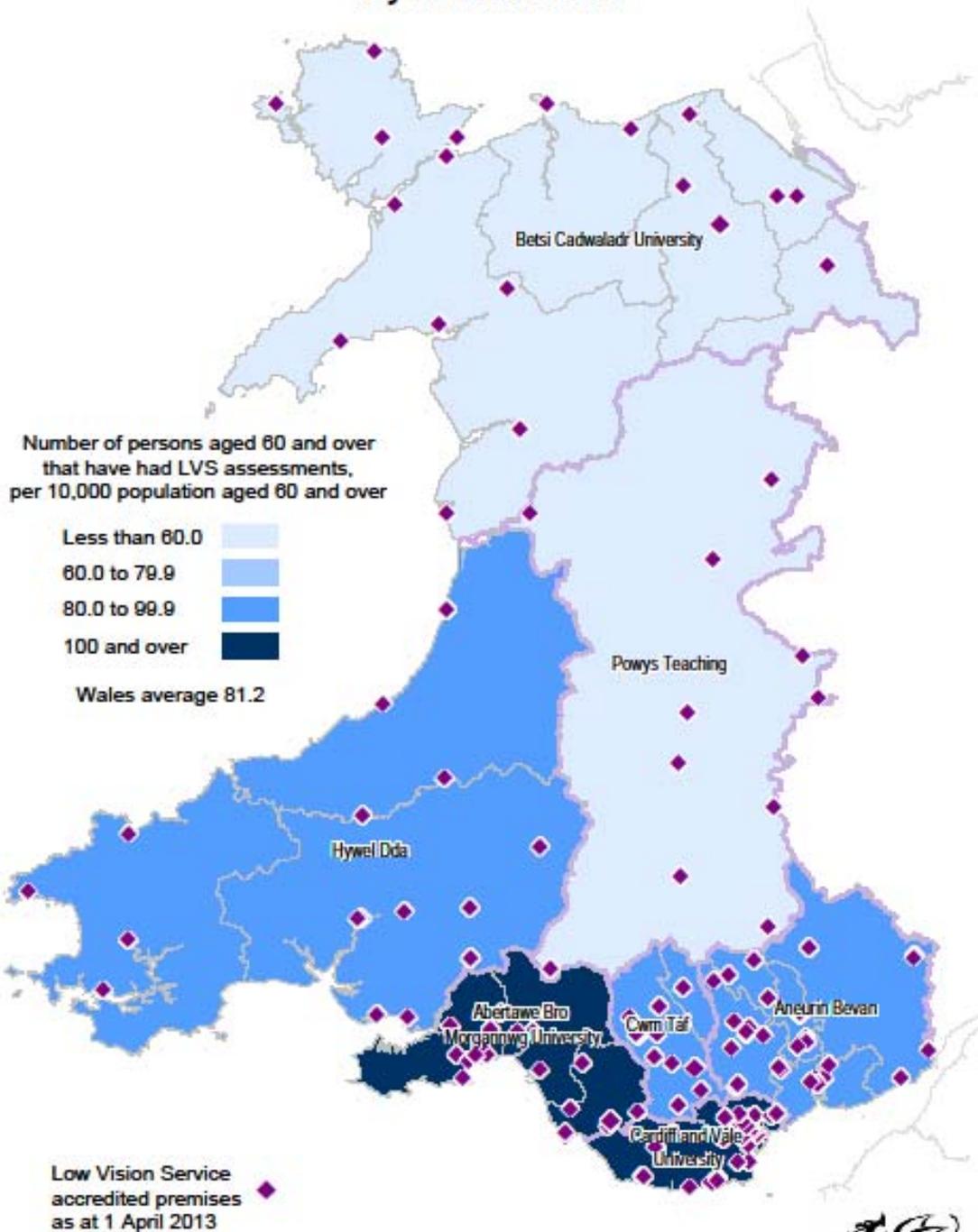


Source: Low Vision Service

(a) Multiple conditions can be reported each assessment – the total may be greater than 100 per cent. See notes for further information on eye conditions.

Map 6 shows the numbers of LVSU assessments carried out on patients aged 60 or over as a rate of the relevant resident Health Board population and the location of LVSU accredited premises.

Number of Low Vision Service assessments of people aged 60 or over, per 10,000 relevant population by Health Board



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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Sight impairment

Registers of severely sight impaired and sight impaired people

People with sight impairment are registered by local authorities following certification of their sight impairment by a consultant ophthalmologist. The Certificate of Vision Impairment (Wales) formally certifies someone as 'sight impaired' or 'severely sight impaired', so that the Local Authority can register him or her.

For more detail about the sight impairment registration see the [Key Quality Information](#).

Table 10 shows summary statistics for sight impairment registrations for 2011-12.

- ◆ At 31 March 2012, almost 16,500 people were registered with a visual impairment, of whom around half were registered as severely sight impaired and half as sight impaired;
- ◆ Nearly 8,000 people were registered as severely sight impaired; about 4 per cent of these people also had a hearing impairment. Nearly three-quarters (73 per cent) of people on the register with severe sight impairment were aged 65 or older.

Table 10: Number of people registered with a visual impairment by Health Board, at 31 March 2012 ^(a)

Health Board	Sight impaired			Severely sight impaired			Total sight impaired
	Not hearing impaired	Hearing impaired ^(b)	Total	Not hearing impaired	Hearing impaired	Total	
	<i>Number</i>						
Betsi Cadwaladr	1,245	91	1,336	1,154	178	1,332	2,668
Powys	262	31	293	323	63	386	679
Hywel Dda	1,178	131	1,309	1,091	76	1,167	2,476
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	1,272	181	1,453	1,346	175	1,521	2,974
Cwm Taf	783	15	798	833	18	851	1,649
Aneurin Bevan	1,837	107	1,944	1,136	108	1,244	3,188
Cardiff and Vale	1,316	75	1,391	1,352	119	1,471	2,862
Wales ^(c)	7,893	631	8,524	7,235	737	7,972	16,496

Source: Local Authorities (Form SSDA900)

(a) Health Boards are aggregated from Local Authority registers. No data from Denbigshire was received for 2011-12.

(b) Includes hard of hearing and deaf. There is evidence to suggest the deaf-blind component of these figures are underestimated.

Further detail of this data is published annually together with data on local authority registers of people with learning disabilities as "[Local Authority Registers of People with Disabilities, Wales](#)". The data relates to the total numbers of people on the registers; information on new registrations is not included.

Certificates of Vision Impairment (CVI)

A copy of each CVI completed in Wales, containing information about the eye condition causing the sight impairment, is also sent to Moorfield's Eye Hospital who collate and analyse the data for new registrations each year. The same data in England is being used as a public health indicator.

Tables 11 and 12 and **Chart 12** shows summary statistics for new CVIs for 2011-12.

- ◆ Of 1,463 new CVIs for 2011-12 received by Moorfield's hospital, over 75 per cent were aged 65 years or over;
- ◆ 61.2 per cent of new registers aged 65 or over were diagnosed with age related macula degeneration as the cause of sight impairment;
- ◆ 18.4 per cent aged 40 or over were diagnosed with glaucoma as the cause;
- ◆ 6.8 per cent aged 12 or over were diagnosed with diabetic eye disease as the cause.

Table 11: Number of people newly certified Severely Sight Impaired and Sight Impaired by age group and Health Board, 2011-12

Health Board	Number				Total (a)
	11 years and under	12-39 years	40-64 years	65 years or over	
Betsi Cadwaladr	8	22	47	349	426
Powys	*	8	7	64	81
Hywel Dda	7	*	28	78	117
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	14	14	52	216	297
Cwm Taf	6	*	21	84	114
Aneurin Bevan	7	18	40	178	243
Cardiff and Vale	9	8	25	125	167
Wales (a)	53	77	223	1,107	1,463

Source: Moorfields Eye Hospital

(a) Wales total includes area unknown and disclosive figures

(b) Total includes age not stated and disclosive figures

* The data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication

Table 12: Number of people newly certified Severely Sight Impaired and Sight Impaired by cause and Health Board, 2011-12

Local Health Board	Number		
	Age related macula degeneration (AMD) ^(b)	Glaucoma ^(c)	Diabetic eye disease ^(d)
Betsi Cadwaladr	206	106	23
Powys	33	14	7
Hywel Dda	51	16	14
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	139	36	18
Cwm Taf	64	12	6
Aneurin Bevan	108	35	14
Cardiff and Vale	72	22	11
Wales (a)	678	245	95

Source: Moorfields Eye Hospital

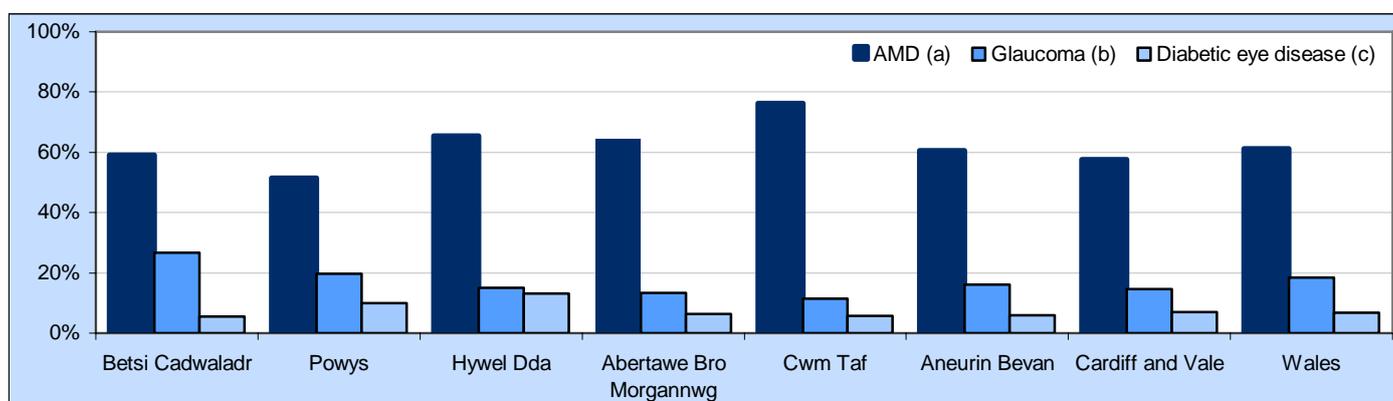
(a) Wales total includes area unknown

(b) In persons aged 65 or over

(c) In persons aged 40 or over

(d) In persons aged 12 or over

Chart 12: New certifications of Severely Sight Impaired or Sight Impaired: percentage within each age group by cause and Health Board, 2011-12



Source: Moorfields Eye Hospital

(a) In persons aged 65 or over

(b) In persons aged 40 or over

(c) In persons aged 12 or over

Workforce

Numbers of **primary care practitioners** are obtained from the Performers Lists, as at 31 December each year. This data is published annually by the Information Centre and re-used in Welsh Government statistics: [General Ophthalmic Services, Workforce Statistics for England and Wales 31 December 2012](#).

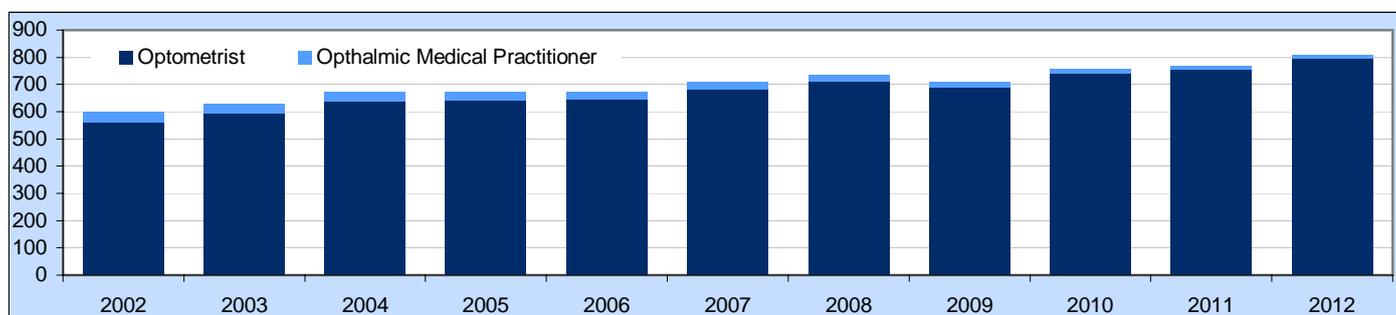
Statistics relating to the **hospital eye care workforce** are sourced from an annual extract relating to 30 September each year from the HR/payroll system for the NHS called the Electronic Staff Record (ESR), which covers all NHS organisations in England and Wales. For further information about NHS workforce data see: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/health/nhsworkforce/staff-employed/?lang=en>

For more detail about eye care workforce data see the [Key Quality Information](#).

Primary care workforce

Chart 13 shows trends over the last decade in the numbers of ophthalmic practitioners. **Charts 14 and 15** show how the numbers of practitioners per population and the numbers of GOS sight tests per practitioner varied across the Health Boards in 2012-13.

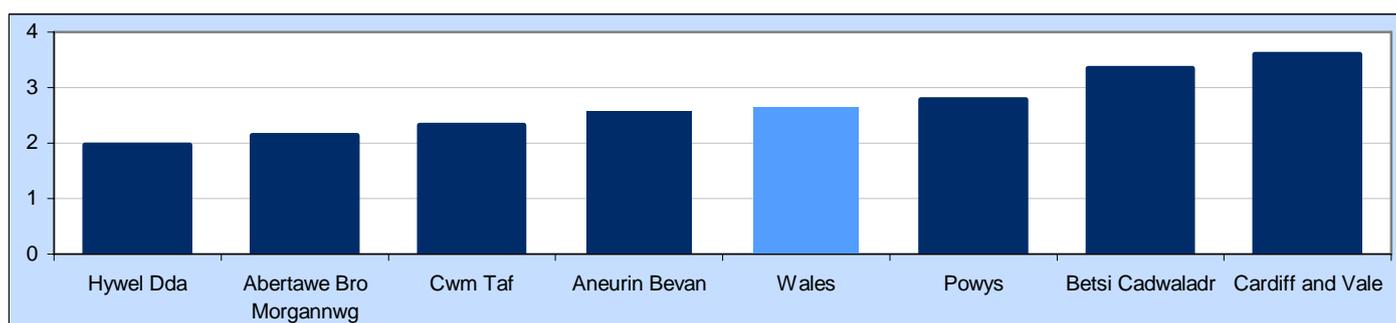
Chart 13: Number of practitioners



Source: Information Centre publication; General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales

- ◆ At 31 December 2012 there were 809 practitioners recorded on the Health Board's Performers List, 210 (35.1 per cent) more than in 2002. Not all practitioners recorded on the List will have carried out sight tests paid for by the NHS.
- ◆ The majority of practitioners were Optometrists; 98.3 per cent in 2012.

Chart 14: Number of practitioners per 10,000 population, by Health Board - 2012 ^(a)

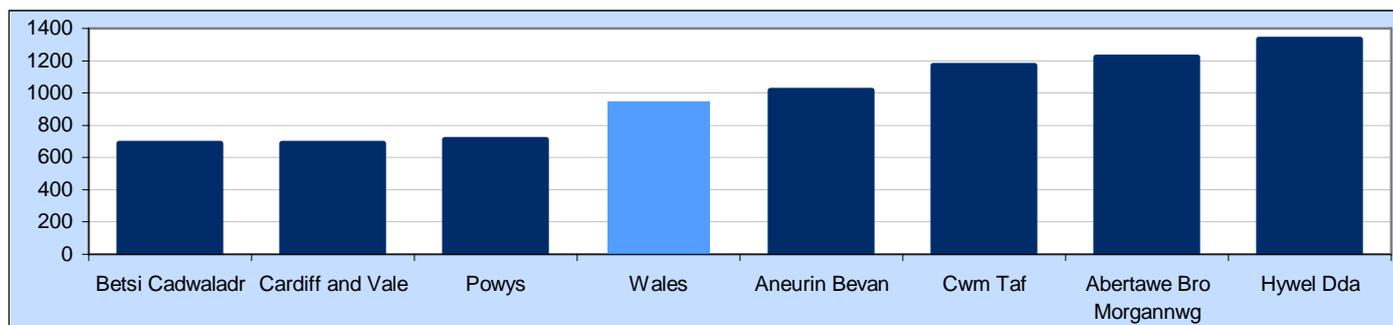


Source: Information Centre publication; General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales; ONS: mid year estimates 2011

- ◆ Cardiff and Vale Health Board had the highest number of practitioners per 10,000 population (3.6) and Hywel Dda Health Board the lowest (2.0).

Note: In order to carry out an NHS sight test, an ophthalmic practitioner has to be registered on a Local Health Board list. Under the GOS regulations 2005, there are two types of lists that have to be maintained: the Ophthalmic Lists (OL) and the Supplementary Lists (SOL) (see notes for further explanation). Contractors have to be recorded on the Ophthalmic List for each HB in which they provide GOS services, and so can appear more than once on the Ophthalmic Lists, although the contractor will only be counted once in the national figures shown in this release.

Chart 15: Number of sight tests per practitioners, by Health Board – 2012



Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

- ◆ More sight tests per practitioner were carried out (paid for by the NHS) in Hywel Dda Health Board (1,333) than in any other Health Board, Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board had the lowest number (687).

Hospital workforce

Table 13 shows trends from 2008 to 2012 in the numbers of ophthalmology doctors working in Welsh hospitals.

Table 13: Ophthalmology doctors directly employed by the NHS (whole time equivalent numbers), by year ^(a)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Ophthalmology doctors					
Number	130.9	131.8	136.5	137.7	135.2
Number per 10,000 population	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4

Source: Electronic Staff Record

(a) Data are as at 30 September each year

- ◆ As at 30 September 2011 there were 135 whole time equivalent ophthalmology doctors directly employed by the NHS in Wales.

Annex

Annex Table 1: Sight tests paid for by the NHS by eligibility ^(a)

Eligibility ^(b)	2002-03 ^(c)	2003-04 ^(c)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Number 2012-13
Persons aged 60 and over	273,660	279,230	295,752	312,452	287,446	290,890	335,541	380,671	371,326	373,819	400,324
Children aged 15 or under	158,660	141,680	136,825	137,201	148,516	153,670	150,735	133,379	134,928	147,128	143,878
Students aged 16 - 18	29,540	27,020	24,042	26,273	31,542	33,232	26,630	25,755	24,305	25,604	24,705
Adults receiving Income Support ^(d)	70,380	65,760	69,568	79,232	64,564	63,773	61,166	58,532	57,311	57,010	58,562
Adults receiving Tax Credit ^(e)	31,110	34,750	35,756	25,617	45,822	49,180	47,127	41,537	45,309	48,708	44,558
Adults receiving Job Seekers Allowance	10,330	10,540	10,355	10,617	13,161	15,340	14,576	19,622	20,454	18,453	18,303
Adults holding a low income certificate	9,380	9,780	8,654	6,878	7,334	6,803	4,890	4,443	4,551	3,151	5,151
Registered blind/partially sighted	680	700	1,403	1,346	1,462	1,561	505	923	900	1,150	600
Diabetics	32,350	37,400	36,433	37,065	32,062	40,455	33,662	30,772	40,558	43,257	28,356
Glaucoma sufferers ^(g)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,501
Persons requiring complex lenses	2,180	6,310	4,188	3,561	3,367	3,175	2,568	2,270	2,200	3,151	2,350
Close relatives aged 40 and over of glaucoma sufferers	28,200	32,550	32,575	33,275	40,436	42,660	41,404	36,914	40,658	45,456	38,708
Prisoners on leave ^(f)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	50	50	0
Total sight tests for eligible patients	646,470	645,720	655,552	673,518	675,712	700,738	718,802	734,818	742,550	766,936	767,996

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) Data based on a 2% sample of sight tests by patient eligibility are grossed up to sum to the known total.

(b) People may qualify for a sight test paid for by the NHS on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60, with glaucoma is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate.

(c) Data rounded to nearest 10.

(d) Income Support includes people receiving Pension Credit Guarantee Credit (PCGC) and also Income-related Employment and Support allowance (ESA), which was introduced in October 2008.

(e) Working Families Tax Credit / Disabled Persons Tax Credit in 2000-01 to 2002-03. Adults receiving Tax Credit for following years.

(f) Prisoner on Leave was introduced in October 2008.

(g) Separation of figures for diabetics and glaucoma sufferers was introduced in 2013.

.. Not Applicable

Annex Table 2: Sight tests paid for by the NHS

	2002-03 ^(a)	2003-04 ^(a)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Number
By practitioner type ^(b):												
Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners	16,090	12,190	11,206	6,671	3,767	3,097	2,031	2,274	1,633	1,194	1,520	
Ophthalmic Opticians	630,390	633,520	644,346	666,848	671,945	697,641	716,771	732,544	740,917	765,742	766,476	
Total	646,470	645,720	655,552	673,518	675,712	700,738	718,802	734,818	742,550	766,936	767,996	
Domiciliary sight tests:												
At higher rate	9,019	9,431	9,501	9,764	11,201	11,147	11,743	13,246	13,899	14,970	15,467	
At lower rate	7,100	7,773	7,745	8,152	7,618	7,132	7,765	8,069	8,294	8,847	8,672	
Total	16,119	17,204	17,246	17,916	18,819	18,279	19,508	21,315	22,193	23,817	24,139	
Private sight tests partially NHS funded	1,300	925	520	315	307	258	227	200	211	192	118	
Private domiciliary visit partially NHS funded	0	0	71	2	3	9	20	8	0	0	0	

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) Data rounded to nearest 10.

(b) Data based on a 2% sample of sight tests by patient eligibility are grossed up to sum to the known total.

Annex Table 3: NHS optical vouchers processed, by eligibility

Eligibility	2002-03 ^(a)	2003-04 ^(a)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	<i>Number</i>
Children aged 15 or under	69,290	63,830	59,288	57,964	58,017	58,937	61,090	59,974	60,879	63,957	64,436	
Students aged 16 - 18	17,000	14,930	13,576	14,106	14,520	14,652	14,785	14,315	14,373	15,175	15,779	
Adults receiving Income Support ^(b)	109,990	114,890	118,627	120,841	123,360	125,066	130,680	137,529	142,264	144,810	139,781	
Adults receiving Tax Credit ^(c)	24,180	28,470	34,684	37,345	36,740	38,006	40,903	43,344	45,283	46,556	44,648	
Adults receiving Job Seekers Allowance	9,940	8,320	7,495	8,014	8,378	8,210	10,760	16,433	16,300	17,526	17,979	
HC2-full remission	16,510	15,900	12,632	10,268	8,725	7,865	7,424	7,416	7,154	7,143	6,694	
Complex appliance payment only	1,170	1,500	1,662	1,622	1,598	1,604	1,694	1,606	1,683	1,523	1,638	
Prisoners on leave ^(d)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	5	5	0	
Total full payment vouchers reimbursed	251,200	247,840	247,964	250,160	251,338	254,340	267,336	280,622	287,941	296,695	290,955	
HC3 - partial payment of voucher	4,300	3,640	2,972	1,916	1,556	1,347	1,218	1,112	1,181	1,106	1,159	
HC3 - complex appliance payment	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Total vouchers reimbursed	252,380	251,480	250,936	252,076	252,894	255,687	268,555	281,734	289,122	297,801	292,114	

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) Data rounded to nearest 10.

(b) Income Support includes people receiving Pension Credit Guarantee Credit (PCGC) and also Income-related Employment and Support allowance (ESA), which was introduced in October 2008.

(c) Working Families Tax Credit / Disabled Persons Tax Credit in 2000-01 to 2002-03. Adults receiving Tax Credit for following years.

(d) .. Not applicable. Prisoner on Leave was introduced in October 2008.

Annex Table 4: NHS optical vouchers processed, by voucher type

	2002-03 ^(a)	2003-04 ^(a)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	<i>Number</i>
Voucher type:												
Voucher type A	183,350	181,030	179,075	180,074	179,654	182,520	191,524	200,817	205,632	212,574	209,816	
Voucher type B	28,760	27,660	28,647	28,751	29,408	29,227	30,636	32,407	34,155	35,413	34,483	
Voucher type C	1,990	1,700	1,689	1,633	1,600	1,565	1,625	1,700	1,659	1,650	1,606	
Voucher type D	910	830	974	855	975	873	982	1,046	1,061	1,072	1,011	
Voucher type E	31,720	34,060	33,821	33,768	34,066	33,989	35,746	37,445	37,771	38,214	36,451	
Voucher type F	4,190	4,510	4,862	5,163	5,351	5,659	6,094	6,445	6,886	7,078	6,833	
Voucher type G	150	110	119	118	147	151	144	154	149	153	167	
Voucher type H	120	80	87	92	95	99	109	114	126	124	109	
Voucher for single complex appliance	870	1,120	1,260	1,244	1,175	1,206	1,286	1,172	1,233	1,124	1,228	
Vouchers reimbursed for bifocal complex appliance	300	380	402	378	423	398	409	430	450	399	410	
Total vouchers reimbursed	252,380	251,480	250,936	252,076	252,894	255,687	268,555	281,734	289,122	297,801	292,114	
Vouchers reimbursed for prisms	4,300	4,930	5,374	5,423	5,221	5,119	5,350	5,700	6,011	6,288	5,862	
Vouchers reimbursed for tints	14,510	12,460	11,428	9,298	7,521	6,766	6,334	6,298	6,101	5,343	4,650	
Vouchers reimbursed for small frame supplements	180	150	138	128	78	87	80	119	132	149	176	

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) Data rounded to nearest 10.

Annex Table 5: Claims for repairs or replacements

	2002-03 ^(a)	2003-04 ^(a)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	<i>Number</i>
Eligibility												
Children aged 15 or under	29,090	28,310	27,676	27,763	27,555	27,681	28,339	26,164	25,760	26,237	27,054	
Students aged 16 - 18	270	300	392	328	281	300	276	310	498	401	355	
Total applications	29,360	28,620	28,068	28,091	27,836	27,981	28,615	26,474	26,258	26,638	27,409	

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) Data rounded to nearest 10 as based on sample.

Annex Table 6: Sight tests paid for by the NHS and vouchers reimbursed by Health Board, 2012-13

	Health Board							Wales
	Betsi Cadwaladr	Powys Teaching	Hywel Dda	Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	Cwm Taf	Aneurin Bevan	Cardiff & Vale	
All sight tests	157,940	26,278	99,962	135,488	79,555	151,585	117,188	767,996
Domiciliary sight tests	5,833	950	2,958	4,036	2,329	4,832	3,201	24,139
Sight tests by eligibility (a):								
Persons aged 60 and over	79,020	14,987	56,707	72,520	38,402	80,669	58,019	400,324
Children aged 15 or under	26,407	4,346	15,952	20,856	19,101	31,457	25,758	143,878
Students aged 16 - 18	6,452	1,049	2,100	3,951	2,450	5,251	3,451	24,705
Adults receiving Income Support (b)	12,103	1,249	7,551	14,254	6,000	9,652	7,753	58,562
Adults receiving Tax Credit	7,052	1,449	5,451	7,402	5,700	9,302	8,203	44,558
Adults receiving Job Seekers Allowance	2,251	699	2,300	3,351	2,200	4,301	3,201	18,303
Adults holding a low income certificate	600	450	850	1,450	500	750	550	5,151
Registered blind/partially sighted	100	0	0	350	0	100	50	600
Diabetics	10,803	699	3,550	4,401	2,200	3,851	2,851	28,356
Glaucoma sufferers	850	50	300	500	300	150	350	2,501
Persons requiring complex lenses	600	50	450	450	100	300	400	2,350
Close relatives aged 40 and over of glaucoma sufferers	11,703	1,249	4,751	6,002	2,600	5,801	6,602	38,708
Prisoners on leave	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total sight tests for eligible patients	157,940	26,278	99,962	135,488	79,555	151,585	117,188	767,996
Private sight tests partially NHS funded	27	3	24	25	12	5	22	118
Private domiciliary visit partially NHS funded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vouchers reimbursed								
Children aged 15 or under	13,099	1,738	7,261	10,881	7,654	12,994	10,809	64,436
Students aged 16 - 18	3,448	447	1,958	2,643	1,593	3,171	2,519	15,779
Adults receiving Income Support (b)	26,173	2,855	15,304	27,279	17,884	29,604	20,682	139,781
Adults receiving Tax Credit	8,767	1,246	5,928	7,644	4,759	9,414	6,890	44,648
Adults receiving Job Seekers Allowance	3,145	231	1,440	2,616	2,508	4,556	3,483	17,979
HC2-full remission	1,081	168	837	1,200	762	1,679	967	6,694
Complex appliance payment only	328	48	300	292	109	312	249	1,638
Prisoners on leave	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total full payment vouchers reimbursed	56,041	6,733	33,028	52,555	35,269	61,730	45,599	290,955
HC3-partial payment of voucher	246	29	112	220	134	274	144	1,159
Total vouchers reimbursed	56,287	6,762	33,140	52,775	35,403	62,004	45,743	292,114
Claims for repairs or replacements								
Children aged 15 or under	5,330	667	2,181	4,815	3,339	5,626	5,096	27,054
Students aged 16 - 18	114	12	44	39	32	60	54	355
Total claims for repairs or replacements	5,444	679	2,225	4,854	3,371	5,686	5,150	27,409

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) Data based on a 2% sample; the number of sight tests by patient eligibility are grossed up to sum to the known LHB total. People may qualify for a sight test paid for by the NHS on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60, with glaucoma is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate.

(b) Income Support includes people receiving Pension Credit Guarantee Credit (PCGC) and also Income-related Employment and Support allowance (ESA), which was introduced in October 2008.

Annex Table 7: Sight tests paid for by the NHS and vouchers reimbursed by Health Board, 2012-13 - per 1,000 population

Per 1,000 relevant population

	Health Board							Wales
	Betsi Cadwaladr	Powys Teaching	Hywel Dda	Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	Cwm Taf	Aneurin Bevan	Cardiff & Vale	
All sight tests	229.4	197.5	261.8	261.6	271.3	262.7	248.2	250.7
Domiciliary sight tests	8.5	7.1	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.4	6.8	7.9
Sight tests by eligibility ^(a):								
Persons aged 60 and over	417.7	362.6	518.0	567.1	553.7	577.5	617.5	519.3
Children aged 15 or under	214.2	191.0	241.0	228.3	345.4	285.7	296.6	258.8
Adults receiving income support ^(b)	58.5	55.8	78.3	88.6	85.4	73.3	67.6	72.9
Total sight tests for eligible patients	229.4	197.5	261.8	261.6	271.3	262.7	248.2	250.7
Vouchers reimbursed								
Children aged 15 or under	106.3	76.4	109.7	119.1	138.4	118.0	124.5	115.9
Total vouchers reimbursed	81.8	50.8	86.8	101.9	120.7	107.4	96.9	95.3
Claims for repairs or replacements								
Children aged 15 or under	43.2	29.3	32.9	52.7	60.4	51.1	58.7	48.7
Total claims for repairs or replacements	7.9	5.1	5.8	9.4	11.5	9.9	10.9	8.9

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership; ONS mid year estimates 2011

(a) People may qualify for a sight test paid for by the NHS on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age.

(b) Denominator is resident population aged 16-59. Income support includes: Adults receiving Income Support, Pension Credit Guarantee Credit, Income related Employment and Support allowance, Tax Credit or Job Seekers Allowance and adults holding a low income certificate

Annex Table 8: Number of practitioners ^(a)

Type of practitioner	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Number
Optometrist	559	594	638	640	648	681	711	690	740	756	795	795
Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner	40	35	34	33	25	27	23	21	16	12	14	14
All practitioners												
Male	348	351	370	377	371	397	400	380	393	400	414	414
Female	251	278	302	296	302	311	334	331	363	368	395	395
Total	599	629	672	673	673	708	734	711	756	768	809	809

Information Centre publication; General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales, 31 December 2012

(a) At 31 December. See notes concerning counts of practitioners.

Annex Table 9: Number of practitioners by Health Board, 2012 ^(a)

Type of practitioner	Health Board							
	Betsi Cadwaladr	Powys Teaching	Hywel Dda	Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	Cwm Taf	Aneurin Bevan	Cardiff & Vale	Wales
All practitioners - number								
Male	135	24	40	44	38	76	79	414
Female	95	13	35	67	30	73	91	395
Total	230	37	75	111	68	149	170	809
All practitioners - per 10,000 population								
Male	2.0	1.8	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.4
Female	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.9	1.3
Total	3.3	2.8	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.6	3.6	2.6

Information Centre publication; General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales, 31 December 2012; ONS mid year estimates 2011

(a) At 31 December. See notes concerning counts of practitioners.

Key Quality information

Information on all our eye care related statistics is available from:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/health/primary-care/ophthalmic/?lang=en>

Please also see the [Eye Care Statistics Quality Report](#) at this link which provides further background and quality information. Before 2010-11 sight test and voucher statistics were published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care who still publish ophthalmic workforce statistics.

Throughout the release a number of eye related conditions are referred to. Background on these conditions is available from:

http://www.rnib.org.uk/eyehealth/eyeconditions/eyeconditionsdn/Pages/eye_conditions_dn.aspx

An introduction to Welsh Eye Care Services

Eye care services are available “on-demand”, largely in the community from the private sector. In Wales however a number of specialist services are also provided:

Primary eye care services - General Ophthalmic Services (GOS)

Having a sight test with an optometrist at least once every two years should be part of everyone’s health care routine as this may reduce preventable sight loss. A sight test can also detect other general health problems such as high blood pressure.

Annual sight tests are recommended for children up to the age of sixteen, at least every two years from the age of 16–69 years and then annually for people aged 70 years and over unless advised otherwise by their optometrist. People with diabetes or a family history of glaucoma are advised to have their eyes checked every year.

Many people qualify for a free NHS GOS sight test, including:

- people aged 60 and over
- children under 16 (or under 19 and in full-time education)
- people with diabetes
- people aged 40 and older who have an immediate family member with glaucoma
- people eligible for certain benefits

Primary eye care services - Eye Health Examination Wales

The Eye Health Examination Wales (EHEW) scheme offers extended free eye examinations to groups of the population that are at greater risk of certain eye diseases and to those that may find losing their sight particularly disabling, such as people who are already blind in one eye.

Optometrists who provide EHEW eye examinations for people who:

- have sight in one eye only (uniocular)
- have a hearing impairment or are profoundly deaf
- have retinitis pigmentosa
- are from an ethnic group that is Black (which includes African/Caribbean/Black British or other Black) or Asian (which includes Indian/Pakistani/Chinese/Bangladeshi/Asian British or other Asian)
- are at risk of eye disease because of a family history
- are experiencing eye problems that need urgent attention

A list of EHEW accredited optometrists can be found at: www.eyecarewales.nhs.uk

Primary eye care services - GPs

GPs refer a small proportion of people with eye problems to the hospital eye service.

Primary eye care services - Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service for Wales

This service is offered to every eligible person aged 12 and over with diabetes who is registered with a GP in Wales. The service makes use of mobile screening units, which visit the various Health Board areas.

The Hospital Eye Service

Ophthalmologists are medically trained doctors with specialist skills in the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases. Ophthalmologists work predominantly in Ophthalmology Departments in hospitals (the Hospital Eye Service). Common conditions are cataracts, glaucoma, diabetes and Macula Degeneration (Wet and Dry). All Ophthalmology Departments include outpatient clinics and many also have eye casualty departments, operating theatres and laser eye surgery workstations.

The Low Vision Service Wales

This service aims to help people with visual impairment to remain independent by providing low vision aids such as magnifiers, and by appropriate education, referral, and rehabilitation training. Low Vision is a term used to describe a sight problem that cannot be corrected by glasses, contact lenses, or medical treatment. Over 190 practitioners are accredited and provide the service in optometry practices in Wales. Referrals are from a range of professionals and from individuals themselves.

Certification and Registration as Sight Impaired and Severely Sight Impaired

The Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI) is used to record patients with sight impairment as severely sight impaired or sight impaired. With patient consent and when signed by a consultant ophthalmologist, the CVI is the formal notification to Local Authorities to assess the needs of the individual for services and register them as sight impaired or severely sight impaired. A copy of the CVI containing information about the eye condition causing the sight impairment is also sent to Moorfield's Eye Hospital who collate and analyse the data for new registrations each year.

Registering with a local council can make it easier to get practical support from a patient's social services department. It can also be a 'passport' to getting concessions and benefits, such as travel, parking and TV license concessions. For example, as well as helping to get support with doing everyday tasks, becoming registered as severely sight impaired or sight impaired entitles a patient to travel and other concessions such as the Disabled Person's Railcard and local travel schemes. If a patient is registered as severely sight impaired, they are also entitled to a tax allowance, free NHS sight tests, parking concessions and free postage on some items. People who are certified as having a sight impairment may choose not to be registered.

Data sources, definitions and quality information

General Ophthalmic Service (GOS) - Sight tests and vouchers

Activity data on **sight tests** paid for by the NHS, optical vouchers and repairs are collected via a series of General Ophthalmic Service (GOS) forms which are used in the ophthalmic service payment process:

- GOS1 - NHS sight tests, including information on patient eligibility status.
- GOS2 - The optical prescription or statement given to the patient. This form is not used as a basis for reporting.
- GOS3 - NHS optical vouchers - including information on patient eligibility status.
- GOS4 - NHS optical repair/replacement vouchers - including information on patient eligibility status and voucher type.
- GOS5 - Private sight tests with partial help towards the full cost.
- GOS6 - Domiciliary sight tests.

The data is obtained from Contractor Services, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership. Ophthalmic statistics relate to services provided by ophthalmic practitioners in contract to Health Boards (HBs).

The large majority of forms are sent as paper returns to Contractor Services who input all GOS 3, GOS 4, GOS 5, GOS 6 onto the payments system. The GOS 1 is the only form that is batch entered, however Contractor Services are currently using an electronic link facility where practices send GOS 1 forms directly to the payments system. There are presently 18 stores linked in Wales and more are timetabled to be linked. Contractor Services supply the aggregated activity (sight test and vouchers) data for each of the HBs for these

statistics to the Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical Service at the start of April after the end of the financial year.

The **Central Ophthalmic Payments System** records General Ophthalmic Service claims, automates the payment process, produces required statistical returns and provides fraud prevention and detection tools. More detailed information on the Central Ophthalmic Payments System is available on the following link: http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/ssd/products_and_services/vaprodoth

Note that although such data are not centrally collected, a large number of sight tests are delivered on an entirely private basis, with no support from Government funding.

Definitions

Sight test eligibility

Under current guidelines at the time of publishing, the following groups are eligible for an NHS sight test. Note that there have been some changes in sight test eligibility over the years, which would have an impact on total sight test time series figures:

- Patients aged 60 or over
- Children aged under 16
- Students in full time education aged 16-18
- Adults receiving Income Support and their partners
- Adults receiving income based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Adults receiving Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) *
- Adults receiving Pension Credits guarantee credit (PCGC) *
- Adults receiving Tax Credit
- Patients holding an HC2 certificate
- Patients registered blind or partially sighted
- Glaucoma and diabetes sufferers
- Patients who have been advised by an ophthalmologist that they are at risk of glaucoma
- Close relatives of a glaucoma sufferer over 40 years of age
- Prisoners on leave
- Patients requiring complex lenses

**Figures for PCGC and ESA are included within Income Support in our reports.*

It should be borne in mind that people may qualify for a sight test paid for by the NHS on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the GOS form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60, with glaucoma is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate.

Information on sight tests paid for by the NHS by patient eligibility is based on a 2 per cent sample for HBs who input batched or aggregated data into the Payments System. For these HBs the numbers of sight tests by patient eligibility are grossed up to sum to the total known HB total.

HC2 or HC3 Certificate

Some people on a low income may qualify for help towards NHS charges. Entitlement to help is based on circumstances such as level of income, savings, etc. A HC1 form 'Claim for Help with Health Costs' will need to be completed giving various details of circumstances. Those qualifying for help will be sent an HC2 or HC3 Certificate. An HC2 qualifies people for full costs. An HC3 qualifies people for partial help with health costs.

Domiciliary Sight Tests

The majority of sight tests paid for by the NHS are conducted at practitioners' premises. A small proportion of tests are conducted away from ophthalmic premises. These include sight tests carried out at people's homes and at residential homes. These data are collected via the GOS6 form.

Domiciliary sight tests are re-imbursed at two rates:

- Higher rate - where the patient is the first or second to be seen at an address
- Lower rate - third and subsequent patients visited at the same address.

Private sight tests and those with partial help

The number of people who pay in full for private sight tests in Wales is not collected by the NHS. Patients with HC3 certificates as part of the low-income scheme are entitled to varying degrees of financial help with private sight tests. Data are collected via the GOS5 form.

NHS optical vouchers

The NHS optical voucher scheme was introduced in July 1986. Under the scheme, patients who had previously been eligible to have NHS spectacles were given NHS optical vouchers to put towards buying their own choice of spectacles, or having new lenses fitted to their existing frames. From April 1988, NHS optical vouchers could also be put towards the cost of contact lenses. Patients may receive a voucher for more than one pair of spectacles. Optical voucher data are recorded via GOS3 forms which are fully input into the Payments System.

Eligibility for NHS optical vouchers differs to that for sight tests paid for by the NHS. The following groups are eligible for NHS optical vouchers. Note that there have been some changes in voucher eligibility over the years, which would have an impact on total voucher time series figures:

- Children aged under 16
- Students in full time education aged 16-18
- Adults receiving Income Support and their partners
- Adults receiving income based Job Seekers Allowance and their partners
- Adults receiving Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and their partners
- Adults receiving Pension Credits guarantee credit and their partners
- Adults receiving Tax Credit and their partners
- Patients on low income holding an HC2 or HC3 certificate
- Prisoners on leave
- Patients requiring complex lenses.

As GOS3 forms are fully input into the Payments System voucher eligibility statistics are more robust than the sample based sight test eligibility figures.

NHS vouchers for repair or replacement

Information on NHS vouchers for repairs or replacements are captured via GOS 4 forms which are fully input into the Payments System. Eligibility for vouchers for repair or replacements is the same as that for optical vouchers. However, patients must provide additional information on how the loss or damage happened.

Eye Health Examination Wales

This data is obtained from Contractor Services, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership who are responsible for administering the claims received from accredited practitioners carrying out examinations. Data is presented in terms of numbers of examinations claimed for according to the basis for entitlement, outcomes and Health Board of the optometrist delivering the service.

Definitions

Entitlement: Specific groups at greater risk of eye disease are entitled to an EHEW examination. In addition patients with acute eye problems are eligible under the Primary Eyecare Acute Referral Scheme (PEARS) where any patient presenting with acute symptoms requiring attention can have a PEARS eye examination at no charge to the patient. The patient can self-refer for a PEARS eye examination or may be referred by their general practitioner.

Examination outcomes: The outcomes of the EHEW examination currently recorded by the examining optometrist are:

- ◆ No clinical abnormalities found
- ◆ Patient has existing ocular pathology that I will monitor
- ◆ I am referring this patient to the Hospital Eye Service

- ◆ I am informing/referring to the patient's GP

Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service for Wales

Aggregated counts of patients are derived from patient records and used as information to manage the DRSSW and have been provided for this statistical release. No data relating to individual patients has been transferred in this process.

When a patient is diagnosed with diabetes by a GP a referral is sent to DRSSW and the patient is registered and invited for screening. Screening is carried out in a mobile unit or healthcare sites. Patient information, including retinal images, is stored on the DRSSW database.

DRSSW validates the database quarterly against the [Welsh Demographic Service](#) to ensure that it is aligned with living Welsh residents. Total counts are also routinely validated against GP diabetes disease registers.

Under the UK National Screening Committee (NSC) standards, new patients referred to the service must be offered a screening appointment within 13 weeks. If the result of screening is normal then the patients are recalled for further screening within 12 to 15 months.

Definitions

Background information about diabetes and about associated eye problems can be found at: <http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Guide-to-diabetes/Complications/Retinopathy/>

Types of diabetes: "MODY" is Maturity Onset Diabetes in the Young. This is a different form of diabetes from Type I/II : see http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Guide-to-diabetes/Introduction-to-diabetes/What_is_diabetes/mody/

Screening outcomes: The following outcomes are recorded on the DRSSW database and are summarised in these statistics:

Referrals: all referrals made to the Hospital Eye Service following screening.

Urgent referrals: all referrals made to the Hospital Eye Service following screening requiring a hospital appointment, 95 per cent of which should be within 14 days of referral.

Grading outcomes: a grading protocol is used which differentiates the presence of disease within the worst affected eye (s) in terms of retinopathy and maculopathy and their relative extent.

In these statistics the following outcomes are summarised:

No retinopathy: in grading terms this is R0M0.

Any retinopathy: in grading terms this refers to any outcome more serious than R0M0.

Sight threatening retinopathy / maculopathy: includes outcomes R1M2, R2, R2M0, R2M1, R2M2, R3, R3M0, R3M1, R3M2

Severe retinopathy / maculopathy: includes outcomes R3, R3M0, R3M1, R3M2

Note that not all patients with a screening outcome of sight threatening retinopathy may be included in the counts of referrals; some for example may be already under the care of the hospital eye service.

Data quality

Note that there are small amounts of missing data within some fields of the DRSSW statistics. Percentages are calculated of records with stated values. The outcomes of a small number of screenings were ungradeable; in 2012-13 this was around 200 out of 111,100 screenings.

Hospital Eye Service

In-patient and day case statistics: The source of the data is the Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW) which is a database of individual hospital patient records held by the NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS); the data was extracted at 25/03/2013. More information on this data source can be found from the [PEDW website](#).

An admission is defined as the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions are counted against the year in which they begin. Note that admissions do not represent the number of individual patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. The codes used in Tables 5 and 6 are as follows:

Diagnosis Codes for Eye related conditions

Age Related Macula Degeneration

Diagnosis_Code	Description
H353	Degeneration of macula and posterior pole

Cataract

Diagnosis_Code	Description
H25	Senile cataract
H26	Other cataract
H281	Cataract in other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic dis
H282	Cataract in other diseases classified elsewhere
Q120	Congenital cataract

Diabetic Retinopathy

Diagnosis_Code	Description
H360	Diabetic retinopathy

accompanied by one of the following codes...

Diagnosis_Code	Description
E103	Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus with ophthalmic comps
E113	Non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus with ophthalm comps
E123	Malnutrition-related diabetes mellitus with ophthalmic comps
E133	Other specified diabetes mellitus with ophthalmic comps
E143	Unspecified diabetes mellitus with ophthalmic complications

Glaucoma

Diagnosis_Code	Description
H40	Glaucoma
H42	Glaucoma in diseases classified elsewhere
Q150	Congenital glaucoma

Procedure Codes for cataract surgery

Cataract Surgery

Operation_Code	Description
C71	EXTRACAPSULAR EXTRACTION OF LENS
C72	INTRACAPSULAR EXTRACTION OF LENS
C73	INCISION OF CAPSULE OF LENS
C74	OTHER EXTRACTION OF LENS
C751	INSERTION OF PROSTHETIC REPLACEMENT FOR LENS NEC
C754	INSERTION OF PROSTHETIC REPLACEMENT FOR LENS USING SUTURE FI
C758	OTHER SPECIFIED
C759	UNSPECIFIED

Laterality of Operation

Operation_Code	Description
Z942	RIGHT SIDED OPERATION
Z943	LEFT SIDED OPERATION

Outpatient statistics: The source of the data for Table 7 is aggregated from the quarterly QS1 dataset which collects information about beds and patient attendances by specialty from NHS hospitals in Wales; see: <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Activity/Outpatient-Activity>

Low Vision Service

The LVS provides for an annual assessment by accredited practitioners in Wales. Aggregated counts of assessments carried out which are derived from the LVS' patient database are routinely used to manage the service and have been provided for the purposes of these statistics. Demographic information of patients together with self-reported conditions.

A number of conditions are referred to in statistics for the Low Vision Service data. Background on these conditions is available from:

http://www.rnib.org.uk/eyehealth/eyeconditions/eyeconditionsdn/Pages/eye_conditions_dn.aspx

Certification and Registration as Sight Impaired and Severely Sight Impaired

People with sight impairment are registered by local authorities following certification of their sight impairment by a consultant ophthalmologist. The Certificate of Vision Impairment (Wales) formally certifies someone as 'sight impaired' or 'severely sight impaired', so that the Local Authority can register him or her.

Data on these registrations were supplied to the Data Collection team within the Welsh Government by the 22 local authorities in Wales on form SSDA900 (Register of people with physical or sensory disabilities). The data is published annually together with data on local authority registers of people with learning disabilities as "[Local Authority Registers of People with Disabilities, Wales](#)". The data relates to the total numbers of people on the registers; information on new registrations is not included.

The form applies an extensive series of validation checks to ensure that the information provided is accurate and consistent. Further information on quality and methods can be found in the relevant Quality Report at: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/socialservicesquality/?lang=en>.

Some local authorities were unable to provide all the information requested. The registers of people with learning disabilities data may be an underestimate of the total number of people with learning disabilities as registration is voluntary. Local authorities submit numbers of all persons identified as having a learning disability currently known to the authority and included in a register of records for the purpose of planning or providing services.

The registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities include all persons registered under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948. However, registration is voluntary and figures may therefore be an underestimate of the numbers of people with physical or sensory disabilities. Registration of severe sight impairment is, however, a pre-condition for the receipt of certain financial benefits and the numbers of people in this category may therefore be more reliable than those for partial sight impairment or other disabilities. These factors alongside uncertainties about the regularity with which councils review and update their records, mean that the reliability of this information is difficult to determine and so it cannot be thought of as a definitive number of people with disabilities.

Registration is voluntary and access to various, or to some, benefits and social services is not dependent on registration. If the person is not known to social services as someone with needs arising from their visual impairment, registration also acts as a referral for a social care assessment.

CVIs: new registrations

Data on new registrations has been provided by Moorfield's Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust from the Database for Epidemiological data on Visual Impairment Certificates (DEVICE). The analysis is supported by RNIB, the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre for Ophthalmology and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

Counts of patients by age group, Health Board and reported cause of sight loss have been provided for these statistics. The counts relate to completions of CVI (all causes - preventable and non-preventable) by a consultant ophthalmologist.

Cause of sight loss: counts of CVIs are provided for the three main eye diseases, which can result in blindness or partial sight if not diagnosed and treated in time. These are age related macula degeneration (AMD), glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. For each cause the counts include sight loss due to each cause as the main

cause or if no main cause as a contributory cause, which could result in individuals being counted again under other conditions if more than one contributory cause. Note that for Diabetic retinopathy these are not counts of diabetics with visual impairments due to any cause.

As explained in relation to all registrations above, certification is voluntary so true rates may be higher than this analysis shows. Incidence may vary due to the risk of sight loss being influenced by health inequalities, including ethnic, deprivation and age profiles of the local population. There are also geographic variations in data collection and data collection levels may reflect non-completion of certification rather than just low incidence.

For further information about the CVI data, see: <http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

Workforce

Primary Care workforce

Numbers of **practitioners** are obtained from the Performers Lists, as at 31 December each year. This data is published annually by the Information Centre and re-used in Welsh Government statistics:

[General Ophthalmic Services, Workforce Statistics for England and Wales 31 December 2012.](#)

In order to carry out an NHS sight test, an ophthalmic practitioner has to be registered on a Health Board (HB) list. Under the GOS regulations 2005, there are two types of lists that have to be maintained: the Ophthalmic Lists (OL) and the Supplementary Lists (SOL).

Contractors have to be recorded on the Ophthalmic List for each HB in which they provide GOS services, and so can appear more than once on the Ophthalmic Lists, although the contractor will only be counted once in the national figures shown in this report.

Practitioners assisting in the provision of GOS are required to be recorded on the Supplementary List with a HB, and can only appear on the Supplementary List of one HB at a time. However, by being recorded on one HB Supplementary List, a practitioner can undertake sight tests paid for by the NHS anywhere in the country.

Where a HB determines in accordance with the regulations that a practitioner has not, during the preceding six month period provided General Ophthalmic Services for persons in its locality, they may remove that name from its lists. The procedure for removing inactive practitioners from both lists is through an agreement between the HB and the practitioner.

An ophthalmic practitioner may hold a contract with more than one HB, and would be required to be recorded on the OL for all HBs they hold a contract with. Practitioners holding contracts in more than one HB would only be counted once in the national figures shown in this report, but would be counted in each HB within which they held a contract for the purposes of the HB level data. A practitioner that holds a contract in both England and Wales would be counted in the national totals for each country.

Not all practitioners recorded on HB lists will have carried out sight tests paid for by the NHS. Further, data are not collected on the hours a practitioner works, nor the amount of time they devote to the NHS.

Hospital workforce

The source of these data is an annual extract relating to 30 September each year from the HR/payroll system for the NHS called the Electronic Staff Record (ESR), which covers all NHS organisations in England and Wales. For further information about NHS workforce data see:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/health/nhsworkforce/staff-employed/?lang=en>

Definitions:

Optometrist or Ophthalmic Optician (OO)

An Optometrist is qualified to test eyesight and to prescribe and dispense spectacles. Their training enables them to recognise abnormalities and diseases of the eye. They are registered with the General Ophthalmic Council (GOC).

Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner (OMP)

An Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner is a qualified doctor who specialises in eyes and eye care. In addition to their medical skills, they are qualified to test eyesight and prescribe spectacles. They are registered with the General Medical Council (GMC).

Health Boards

The data sources provide data by either Health Board of residence or treatment as follows:

General Ophthalmic Service: Health Board reimbursing the practitioner.

Eye Health examination: Health Board reimbursing the practitioner.

DRSSW: Health Board is based on the location of the patient's GP practice.

Low Vision Service: Practitioner Health Board.

Hospital Eye Service: Welsh provider-based figures include episodes of patient treatment in NHS hospitals in Wales and will include Welsh residents and also any non-Welsh residents treated in Wales.

CVIs: Registrations by local authority have been aggregated to the geographically relevant Health Board.

Workforce: Employing Health Board.

Coverage

In general the statistics included relate to the period 1 April to 31 March, for example, the numbers of sight tests relates to the number of tests paid for during the period 1 April to 31 March or the number of patients screened for diabetic retinopathy to the number screened during the period 1 April to 31 March. Primary care workforce counts are as at 31 December and hospital workforce as at 30 September each year.

Population

ONS mid year estimates of population are used in this release; for 2012-13 the 2011 mid year estimates have been used as estimates for 2012 were not available at the time of publication. These estimates are published on our StatsWales here:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates>

Users and uses of these statistics

These statistics aim to provide a summary of currently provided eye care services in the context of poor eye health being a common and growing problem in Wales. Their aim is to present data which is available from a routine administrative source in an accessible format providing a summary of the Welsh eye care services provided in terms of trends over time and patterns across Wales.

Some of the key potential users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Policy makers of the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments;
- National Health Service and Public Health Wales;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Professional bodies
- Individual citizens and private companies.

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

- Advice to Ministers;
- To inform debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond.

These statistics will be useful both within and outside the Welsh Government and will help monitor delivery of current services and shape future plans for improving services. More specifically they will provide much of the evidence from which a new Eye Health Care Plan for Wales is being developed and will be monitored and evaluated.

Similar information for the General Ophthalmic Service is available from other parts of the UK but entitlement and publication arrangements differ. Publication of statistics relating to other eye care services also varies.

Eye Care statistics for England are available from the [NHS Information Centre for health and social care](#) and data on CVIs for England can be found at: <http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

Eye care data for Scotland is available from [Information Services Division Scotland](#) and for Northern Ireland data is available from the [Business Services Organisation](#).

As we have extended the scope of this statistical release we would especially welcome comments from users on content and presentation. If you have any comments or require further information, please contact:

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