

Statistics Release



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

December 2009

Time Spent in Northern Ireland Accident and Emergency Departments: November 2009

This release is the twenty-first of a monthly series and presents information on the time spent in Accident and Emergency (A&E) at Health and Social Care Trusts within Northern Ireland. This release reports on Trust performance across A&E Departments for the month of November, 2009.

Background

The Priorities for Action (PfA) target for Northern Ireland for 2009-10 requires that, *'from April 2009, 95% of patients attending any A&E department should be either treated and discharged home, or admitted within four hours of their arrival in the department.'*

In addition, no patient should wait longer than 12 hours in A&E.

Overall results for November

At Northern Ireland level, 83.5% of patients were either treated and discharged or admitted within four hours of their arrival in the department. 236 patients waited longer than 12 hours across all of the Trusts, out of a total of 55,290 attendances in November. This is in comparison to October 2009, where 85.1% of patients were either treated and discharged or admitted within four hours of their arrival and 46 patients waited longer than 12 hours across all the Trusts out of a total of 58,192 attendances.

Results at Trust Level for November 2009

Table 1: Time spent in an A&E Department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge by Trust, October 2009 & November 2009.

Health & Social Care Trust	October 2009		November 2009	
	Percentage Spending 4 Hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 Hours in A&E	Percentage Spending 4 Hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 Hours in A&E
Belfast	83.2%	7	78.3%	37
Northern	84.4%	3	80.5%	53
South Eastern	84.9%	28	84.8%	124
Southern	92.0%	0	93.0%	0
Western	80.9%	8	83.4%	22
Northern Ireland	85.1%	46	83.5%	236

Results by Emergency Care/A&E Department Type¹ for November 2009

Table 2: Time spent in an A&E Department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge by Type, October 2009 & November 2009.

A&E Department Type	October 2009		November 2009	
	Percentage Spending 4 Hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 Hours in A&E	Percentage Spending 4 Hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 Hours in A&E
Type 1	82.1%	41	80.2%	229
Type 2 ²	94.2%	5	93.8%	7
Type 3 ²	100.0%	0	100.0%	0
Northern Ireland	85.1%	46	83.5%	236

¹ See Note 10 for list of Department Types.

² See Note 11.

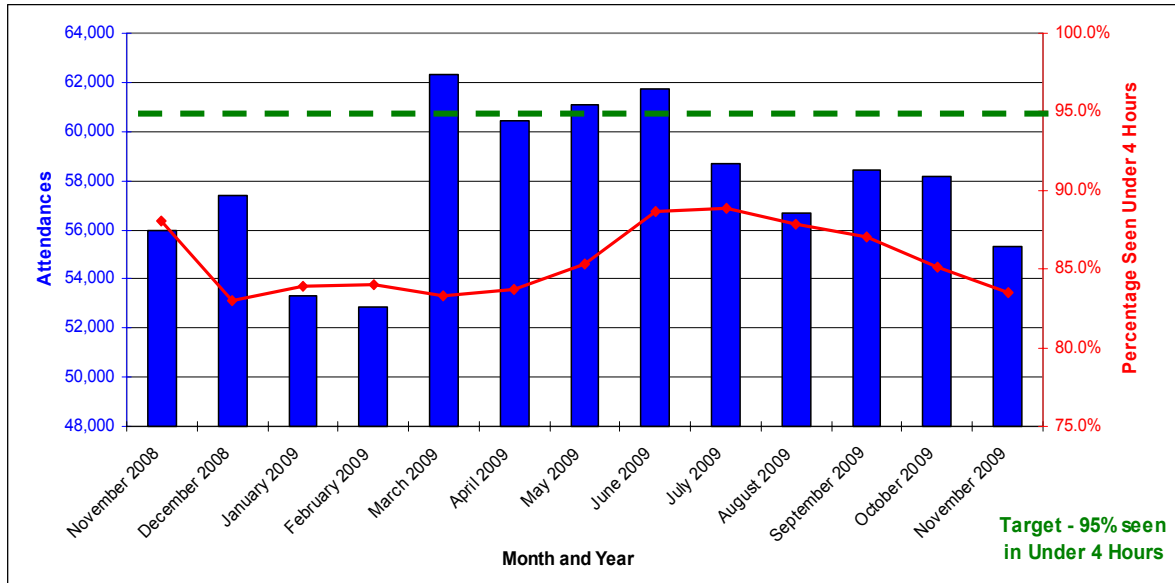
Table 3: Time spent in an A&E Department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge by Hospital, November 2009.

	Percentage Spending 4 hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 hours in A&E	Total Attendances
Belfast City Hospital	72.7%	9	3,580
Mater Hospital	80.5%	10	3,187
Royal Hospital	79.2%	17	5,710
RBHSC	81.3%	1	2,602
Belfast Trust	78.3%	37	15,079
Antrim	64.8%	44	5,276
Whiteabbey	99.0%	0	1,425
Mid Ulster	97.9%	0	1,285
Causeway	91.2%	9	3,156
Northern Trust	80.5%	53	11,142
Ulster Hospital	76.2%	117	5,855
Ards MIU	100.0%	0	655
Bangor MIU	100.0%	0	910
Lagan Valley Hospital	88.2%	7	2,559
Downe Hospital	94.7%	0	1,821
South Eastern Trust	84.8%	124	11,800
Craigavon Hospital	89.2%	0	5,711
Daisyhill Hospital	96.8%	0	2,648
South Tyrone Hospital	100.0%	0	1,141
Armagh/Mullinure	100.0%	0	514
Southern Trust	93.0%	0	10,014
Altnagelvin	74.9%	22	4,182
Erne Hospital	92.5%	0	2,040
Tyrone County	100.0%	0	1,033
Western Trust	83.4%	22	7,255
Northern Ireland	83.5%	236	55,290

Table 4: Time spent in an A&E Department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge, November 2008 - November 2009, Northern Ireland.

Month	Percentage Spending 4 hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 hours in A&E	Total Attendances
November 2008	88.1%	122	55,978
December 2008	83.0%	253	57,412
January 2009	83.9%	734	53,313
February 2009	84.1%	461	52,889
March 2009	83.3%	623	62,342
April 2009	83.7%	309	60,421
May 2009	85.3%	169	61,114
June 2009	88.7%	30	61,716
July 2009	88.9%	23	58,707
August 2009	87.9%	20	56,711
September 2009	87.1%	48	58,429
October 2009	85.1%	46	58,192
November 2009	83.5%	236	55,290

Figure 1: Number of Attendances at A&E Departments and Percentage that had Waits of Under 4 Hours, November 2008 - November 2009, Northern Ireland.



Waiting Time by Emergency Care/A&E Department TypeTable 5: Time spent in a **Type 1** A&E Department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge by Hospital, November 2009.

	Percentage Spending 4 hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 hours in A&E	Total Attendances
Altnagelvin	74.9%	22	4,182
Erne Hospital	92.5%	0	2,040
Antrim	64.8%	44	5,276
Causeway	91.2%	9	3,156
Craigavon Hospital	89.2%	0	5,711
Daisyhill Hospital	96.8%	0	2,648
Belfast City Hospital	72.7%	9	3,580
Royal Hospital	79.2%	17	5,710
Mater Hospital	80.5%	10	3,187
RBHSC	81.3%	1	2,602
Ulster Hospital	76.2%	117	5,855
All Type 1 A&E Depts	80.2%	229	43,947

Table 6: Time spent in a **Type 1** A&E Department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge, November 2008 - November 2009.

Month	Percentage Spending 4 hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 hours in A&E	Total Attendances
November 2008	85.2%	122	43,454
December 2008	79.3%	250	45,206
January 2009	80.4%	728	41,488
February 2009	80.6%	456	41,254
March 2009	79.7%	573	49,047
April 2009	80.3%	277	47,451
May 2009	82.0%	164	47,662
June 2009	85.9%	29	47,110
July 2009	86.3%	22	45,545
August 2009	85.3%	20	44,145
September 2009	84.4%	45	45,558
October 2009	82.1%	41	45,872
November 2009	80.2%	229	43,947

Figure 2: Number of Attendances at **Type 1** A&E Departments and Percentage that had Waits of Under 4 Hours, November 2008 - November 2009, Northern Ireland.

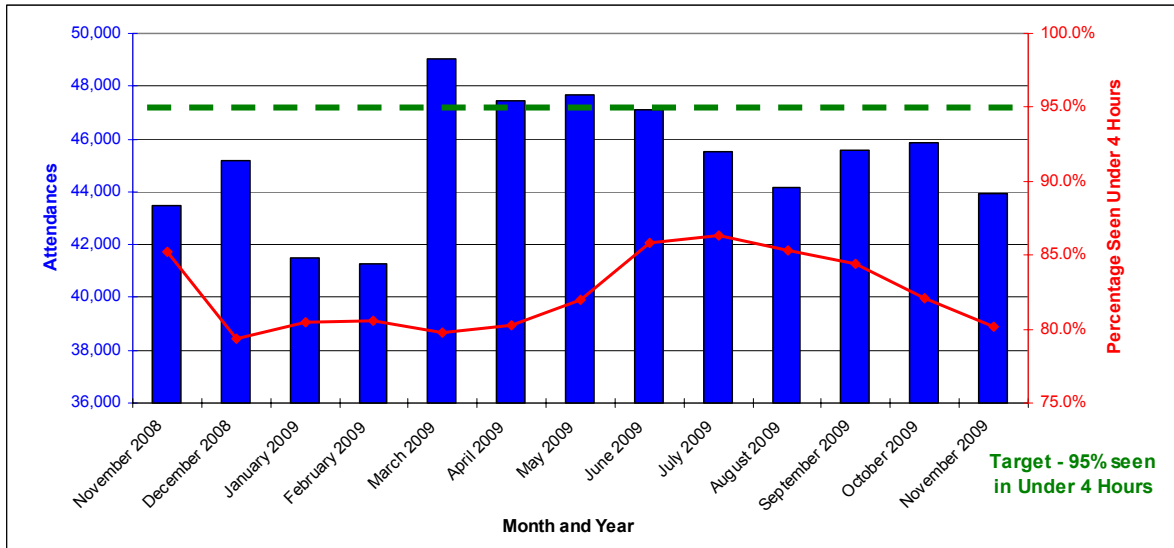


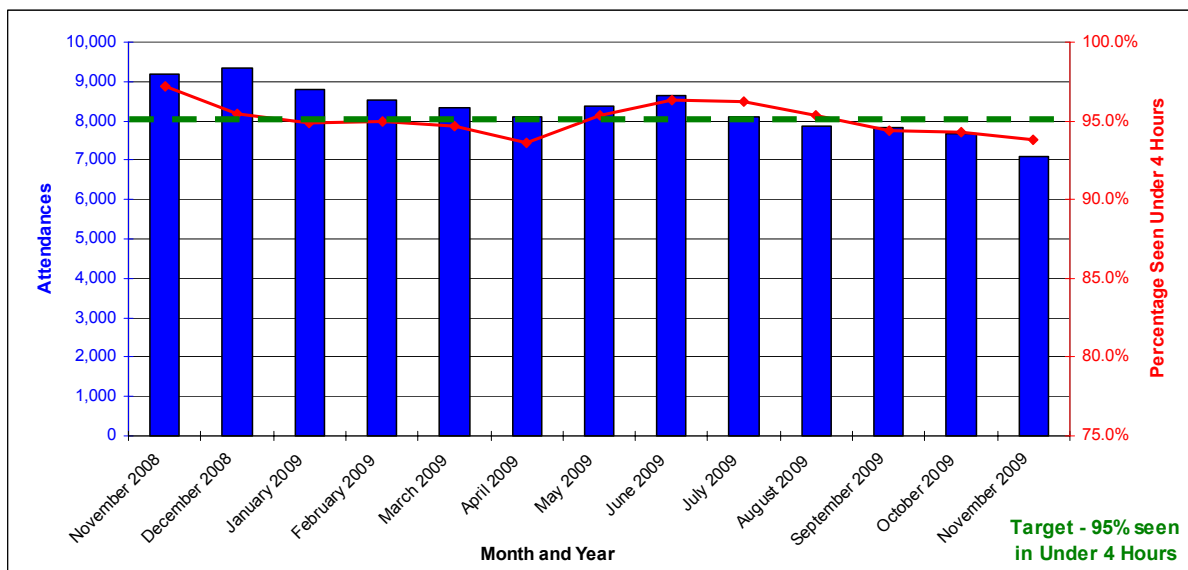
Table 7: Time spent in a **Type 2²** A&E Department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge by Hospital, November 2009.

	Percentage Spending 4 hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 hours in A&E	Total Attendances
Whiteabbey	99.0%	0	1,425
Mid Ulster	97.9%	0	1,285
Lagan Valley Hospital	88.2%	7	2,559
Downe Hospital	94.7%	0	1,821
All Type 2 A&E Depts	93.8%	7	7,090

Table 8: Time spent in a **Type 2²** A&E Department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge, November 2008 - November 2009.

Month	Percentage Spending 4 hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 hours in A&E	Total Attendances
November 2008	97.2%	0	9,181
December 2008	95.4%	3	9,344
January 2009	94.9%	6	8,810
February 2009	95.0%	5	8,509
March 2009	94.7%	50	8,320
April 2009	93.6%	32	8,085
May 2009	95.3%	5	8,357
June 2009	96.3%	1	8,630
July 2009	96.2%	1	8,101
August 2009	95.3%	0	7,855
September 2009	94.4%	3	7,827
October 2009	94.2%	5	7,667
November 2009	93.8%	7	7,090

Figure 3: Number of Attendances at **Type 2²** A&E Departments and Percentage that had Waits of Under 4 Hours, November 2008 - November 2009, Northern Ireland.



² See Note 11.

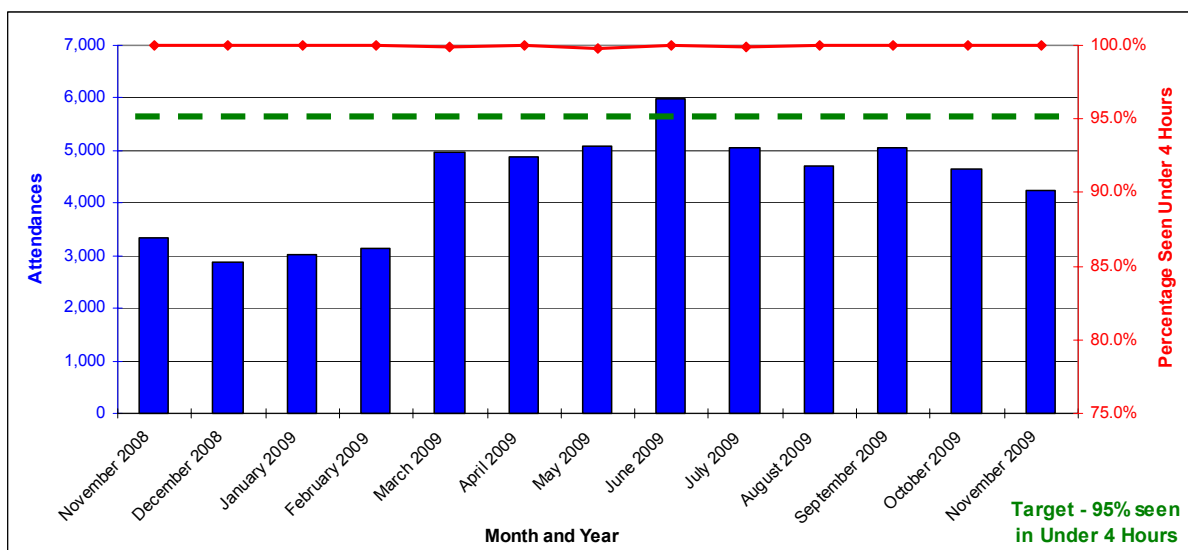
Table 9: Time spent in a **Type 3²** A&E Department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge by Hospital, November 2009.

	Percentage Spending 4 hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 hours in A&E	Total Attendances
Tyrone County	100.0%	0	1,033
South Tyrone Hospital	100.0%	0	1,141
Armagh/Mullinure	100.0%	0	514
Ards MIU	100.0%	0	655
Bangor MIU	100.0%	0	910
All Type 3 A&E Depts	100.0%	0	4,253

Table 10: Time spent in a **Type 3²** A&E Department from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge, November 2008 - November 2009.

Month	Percentage Spending 4 hours and Under in A&E	Number Spending Over 12 hours in A&E	Total Attendances
November 2008	100.0%	0	3,343
December 2008	100.0%	0	2,862
January 2009	100.0%	0	3,015
February 2009	100.0%	0	3,126
March 2009	99.9%	0	4,975
April 2009	100.0%	0	4,885
May 2009	99.8%	0	5,095
June 2009	100.0%	0	5,976
July 2009	99.9%	0	5,061
August 2009	100.0%	0	4,711
September 2009	100.0%	0	5,044
October 2009	100.0%	0	4,653
November 2009	100.0%	0	4,253

Figure 4: Number of Attendances at **Type 3²** A&E Departments and Percentage that had Waits of Under 4 Hours, November 2008 - November 2009, Northern Ireland.



² See Note 11.

Notes

1. Information is collected monthly in the form of an Emergency Care (EC1) return. The EC1 return records every New Attendance and every Unplanned Re-Attendance in each A&E Department across Northern Ireland.
2. The EC1 return was introduced in April 2007 in order to measure a new Priorities for Action (PfA) target which states that: *'From April 2007, no patient should wait longer than 12 hours in A&E and, by March 2008, 95% of patients who attend A&E should be either treated and discharged home, or admitted within four hours of their arrival in the department'*. The most recent version of this target relates to the Priorities for Action (PfA) for 2009-10 states that *'from April 2009, 95% of patients attending any A&E department should be either treated and discharged home, or admitted within four hours of their arrival in the department.'*
In addition, no patient should wait longer than 12 hours in A&E.
3. Achievement of Targets:
At least 95% of 'New Attendances' and all 'Unplanned Re-Attendances' waiting no longer than 4 hours from time of arrival to time of departure from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010.
4. The EC1 return was set up as an interim measure until such time as a functional patient level dataset becomes available.
5. The information contained in this publication is not governed by National Statistics.
6. The figures in this release represent the total time spent in a hospital emergency care facility from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge. All 'New Attendances' and all 'Unplanned Re-Attendances' at Emergency Care Departments with a departure time, per calendar month are included. They do not include follow-up attendances.
7. Time is measured from when a patient arrives into the Emergency Care site; the time of arrival is recorded at registration or triage whichever is earlier (clock starts). The 'clock stops' when the patient departs from the Emergency Care Department. The time of departure is defined as when the patient's clinical care episode is completed within the Emergency Care Department.
8. The figures in this release relate to all patients, including paediatric patients.

9. In accordance with the Review of Public Administration, with effect from the 1st April 2007, five new integrated Health and Social Care Trusts (Belfast, Northern, South Eastern, Southern and Western) replaced the previous eighteen provider Trusts in Northern Ireland. Where appropriate figures have been presented based on the new Trust Areas.

10. There are three separate categories of emergency care facility included in this publication:

Type 1 Emergency Care Department - A consultant-led service with designated accommodation for the reception of emergency care patients, providing both emergency medicine and emergency surgical services on a round the clock basis.

Type 2 Emergency Care Department - A consultant-led service with designated accommodation for the reception of emergency care patients, but which does not provide both emergency medicine and emergency surgical services and/or has time-limited opening hours.

Type 3 Emergency Care Department - A minor injury unit with designated accommodation for the reception of patients with a minor injury and/or illness. It may be doctor-led or nurse-led. A defining characteristic of this service is that it treats at least minor injuries and/or illnesses and can be routinely accessed without appointment.

Categorisation of A&E Departments

	Emergency Care Department		
Trust	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
Western Trust	Altnagelvin		Tyrone County
	Erne Hospital		
Northern Trust	Antrim	Whiteabbey	
	Causeway	Mid Ulster	
Southern Trust	Craigavon Hospital		South Tyrone Hospital
	Daisyhill Hospital		Armagh/Mullinure
Belfast Trust	Belfast City Hospital		
	Royal Hospital		
	Mater Hospital		
	RBHSC		
South Eastern Trust	Ulster Hospital	Lagan Valley Hospital	Ards MIU
		Downe Hospital	Bangor MIU

11. Note that Tyrone County Hospital was previously categorised as a Type 2 Emergency Care Department. As of March 2nd 2009, Tyrone County Hospital has been re-categorised as a Type 3 Emergency Care Department as it reconfigured its urgent care treatment service to a nurse led minor injuries service. This should be taken into consideration when drawing historic comparisons between Type 2 and Type 3 Emergency Care Departments.

Additional Information

Further information on waiting Accident and Emergency waiting times in Northern Ireland is available from:

Office Information Manager
Hospital Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3SQ

E-mail: statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Internet address: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/emergency_care.htm