

**Position at Jan-Mar 2009**

***A few Boards have high recording levels; however, the level across All Scotland remains low***

**Background**

Addressing ethnic inequalities in health requires accurate and complete information to support monitoring and health improvement. Data is required to: monitor the impact of NHS services and policies on different ethnic groups; better understand the health needs of different ethnic groups; and to check that NHS Scotland is making progress towards meeting its targets on tackling racism and discrimination and promoting equality. Ethnic group is recorded in hospital discharge data in England in over 90% of episodes; however the levels in Scotland remain low for many Boards.

**Inpatient and daycase discharges (SMR01)**

The completeness for ethnic group recording was 23.7% for Scotland as a whole for the quarter ending March 2009 (Figure 1). This has been driven by a small number of Boards: the highest level of recording for this quarter was Lanarkshire (80.9%), followed by GJNH (76.6%) and Borders (66.8%). Six Boards were recording some level of ethnicity coding. However, six Boards had recording levels below 1%.

**New outpatient appointments (SMR00)**

The completeness for ethnic group recording was 14.7% for Scotland as a whole for the quarter ending March 2009 (Figure 2). As with SMR01, this has been driven by a small number of Boards: the highest level of recording for this quarter was Lanarkshire (65%), followed by Borders (39.7%). Four Boards were recording some level of ethnicity coding. However, eight Boards and GJNH had recording levels below 1%.

**Driving change**

Boards that have made significant progress in ethnicity coding have cited a number of actions that have contributed to improvements. These include:

- a commitment by senior managers to introduce ethnicity monitoring
- training of identified staff who will be asking patients about their ethnic group
- mandatory data collection by asking all service users the question and recording their answers.

For further support with ethnicity monitoring, please contact: [joan.jamieson@nhs.net](mailto:joan.jamieson@nhs.net)

Figure 1: Percentage of discharge episode records (SMR01) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment; Jan-Mar 2009

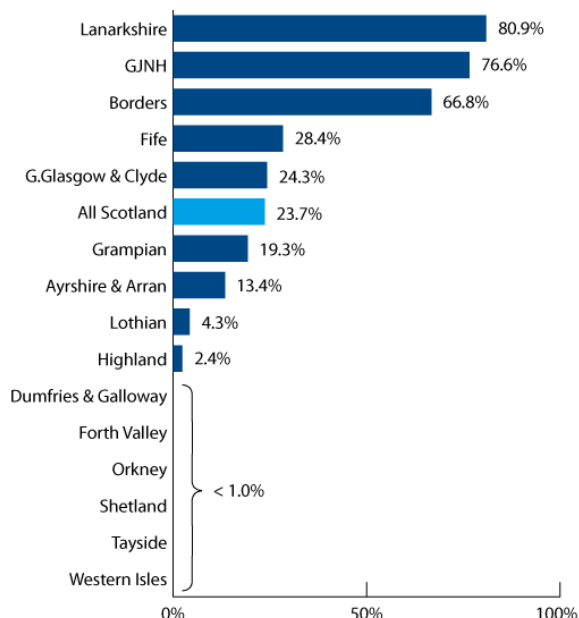
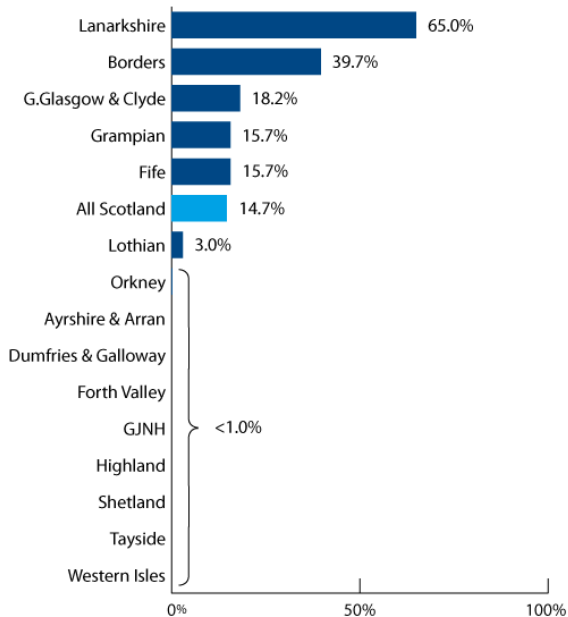


Figure 2: Percentage of new outpatient appointment records (SMR00) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment; Jan-Mar 2009



**Inpatient and daycase discharges (SMR01)**

The overall level of completeness for Scotland has risen from 5.8% in Apr-Jun 2007 to 23.7% in Jan-Mar 2009 (Figure 3). This has been driven by a number of Boards that have made significant progress over a relatively short period of time. During this period, Lanarkshire increased levels of recording from 6.8% to 80.9%. In four quarters, GJNH increased recording from less than 1% to 76.6%. Borders continues to increase completeness. More modest improvements have been made in other Boards. However, six Boards had recording levels persistently below 1% throughout the period April 2007 to March 2009 and are therefore not included in Figure 3.

**New outpatient appointments (SMR00)**

Improvements have been made in recording on SMR00, although the levels remain lower than for SMR01. The overall level of completeness for Scotland has risen from 3.7% in Apr-Jun 2007 to 14.7% in Jan-Mar 2009 (see Figure 4). As with SMR01, this has been driven by a small number of Boards making significant progress. During this period, Lanarkshire increased levels of recording from 9.1% to 65%; Borders increased from 23.5% to 39.7%. More modest improvements have been made in other Boards. However, seven Boards had recording levels persistently below 1% throughout the period April 2007 to March 2009 and are therefore not included in Figure 4.

**Further information and resources**

**Data on ethnicity completeness** is provided to each Board each quarter, and is published each twice-yearly by ISD.  
[www.isdscotland.org/isd/5826.html](http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/5826.html)

**An Ethnic Monitoring Toolkit** has been developed, providing guidelines and training resources to support the planning and implementation of patient ethnicity data collection within NHS Scotland.  
[www.isdscotland.org/isd/5875.html](http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/5875.html)

**A training DVD "Happy to Ask, Happy to Tell"** has been developed to increase understanding of diversity monitoring amongst frontline staff. Main contact:  
[christopher.homfray@health.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:christopher.homfray@health.scot.nhs.uk)

Figure 1: Percentage of discharge episode records (SMR01) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment and quarter; Apr 2007 to Mar 2009

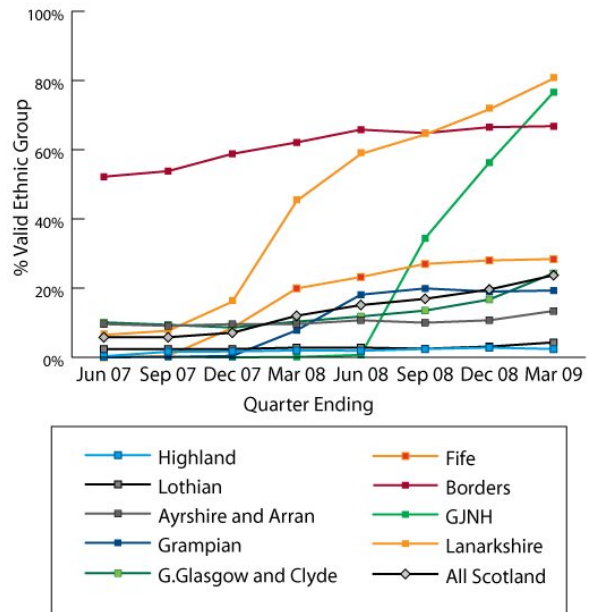


Figure 2: Percentage of new outpatient appointment records (SMR00) with a valid ethnic group by Health Board of Treatment and quarter; Apr 2007 to Mar 2009

