

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3630

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Service Centre
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

09 December 2016

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to attendances at A&E by people suffering with mental health related issues 2012-2016.

How many attendances have there been at A&E by people suffering with mental health related issues (for example, categories including, psychiatric conditions, social problems, self-harm) over the last five calendar years (2012/2013/2014/2015/ January 1st – September 30th 2016)?

Please give the breakdown for under 18s and over 18s attendances (and if possible a further breakdown of ages for under 18s).

If possible, for each year, please state how many people waited longer than the four hour waiting target?

If the trust is in charge of more than one hospital, please give separate information per hospital please.

Please note that there are limitations in the supplied data as we are replying on the A&E diagnosis codes most appropriate. This will not pick up everything requested and may include some data that has not been requested. The most appropriate codes to use are 35 which is Psychiatric conditions and 37 which is social problems. However, due to changes in the way coding is being done in the A&E dept. code 37 ceased to be used from July this year. Therefore we have only included all data up to end of June 2016 to get complete months. There are however, still limitations in the data as coding practices and level/detail changes in A&E dept. as can be seen from the fluctuations in numbers each year. What is not Tunbridge Wells Hospital used to be Kent and Sussex hospital until part of 2012, so what is shown here will be for that when it existed instead back then.

It should also be noted that even using these codes, this would still potentially undercount the problem as the main problem will be put as the diagnosis. So if a person comes in with a physical problem, that will be treated and will be the diagnosis, however there can be underlying mental health issues which caused the physical problem, but these would not be captured. Similarly, overdoses will not be captured as these would come under the physical problem of poisoning by a substance, however if we use the poisoning diagnosis code we would capture all sorts of other poisoning which are not mental health or social problem related.

Attached are the numbers of diagnosis 35 and 37 (combined) for each hospital for under and over 18 year olds and the total, as well as the number who breached the four hour target.

Maidstone	A&E Diagnosis code of 35 or 37			Of which, waited longer than four hours
	<18	18+	Total	
2012	94	2743	2837	42
2013	101	3370	3471	130
2014	73	1451	1524	88
2015	95	1047	1142	99
2016 to end June	57	580	637	115

Tunbridge Wells (Kent & Sussex Hospital in 2012)	A&E Diagnosis code of 35 or 37			Of which, waited longer than four hours
	<18	18+	Total	
2012	239	3267	3506	400
2013	306	3164	3470	371
2014	173	1380	1553	287
2015	150	926	1076	327
2016 to end June	83	463	546	220

Diagnosis code 35 is Psychiatric Conditions

Diagnosis code 37 is Social Problem

Overdoses will not be included as would be within poisoning

Many self-harm cases would not be captured as treated for the physical problem so diagnosis would reflect the physical problem first