Remote Health Advice

Syndromic Surveillance System: England

Public Health England

13 March 2018

Year: 2018   **Week: 10**

Key messages

Data to: 11 March 2018

NHS 111 cold/flu calls remained above seasonally expected levels during week 10 (figure 2). Sore throat calls in 5-14 year olds increased during week 10 (figure 6a).

A Cold Watch System operates in England from 1 November to 31 March each year. As part of the Public Health England Cold Weather Plan for England the PHE Real-time Syndromic Surveillance Team will be monitoring the impact of cold weather on syndromic surveillance data during this period.
Cold weather alert level (current reporting week): **Level 1 - Winter preparedness / 2—Alert and readiness**
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/coldweatheralert/

Syndromic indicators at a glance:

| Indicator	Trend	Level *
Cold/flu	decreasing	above baseline levels
Fever	increasing	below baseline levels
Cough	no trend	below baseline levels
Difficulty breathing	no trend	similar to baseline levels
Sore throat	increasing	similar to baseline levels
Diarrhoea	no trend	below baseline levels
Vomiting	no trend	below baseline levels
Eye problems	no trend	below baseline levels

*Since week 47 2014 new baselines have been introduced for comparison with previous years. Baselines use historical data from the NHS Direct surveillance system to estimate seasonal trend but with levels adjusted to reflect changes since the switch to using NHS 111 data in September 2013.

Data summary:

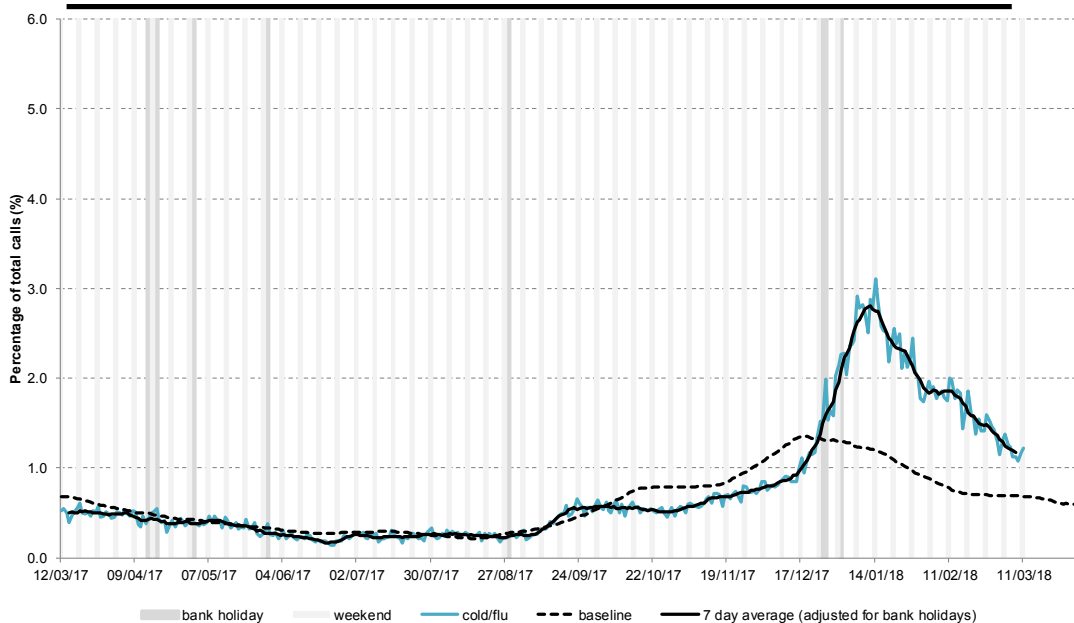| Year	Week	Total calls
2018	10	262,382

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1: Total calls.

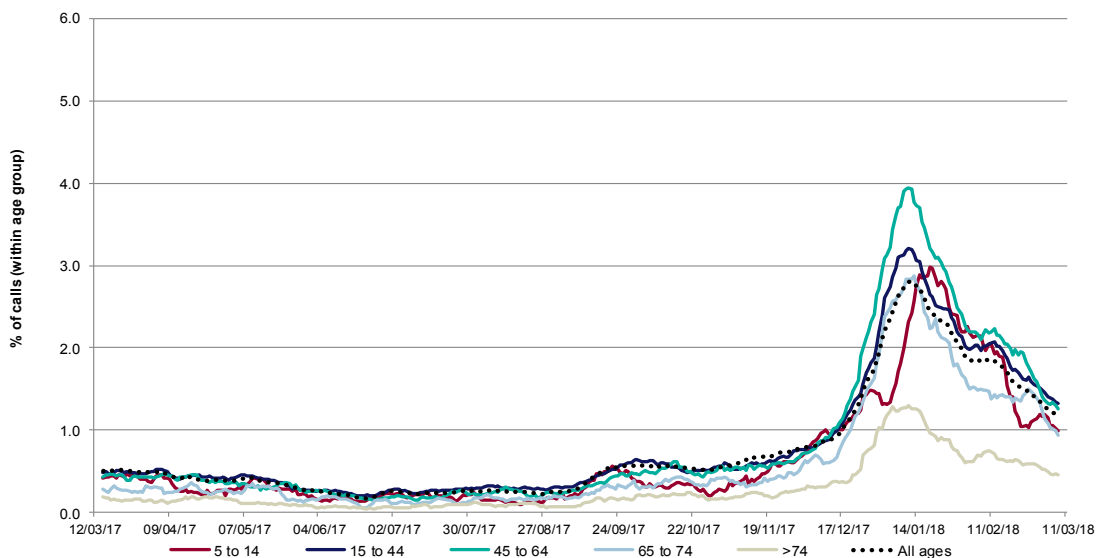The total number of syndromic calls recorded each day by NHS 111.
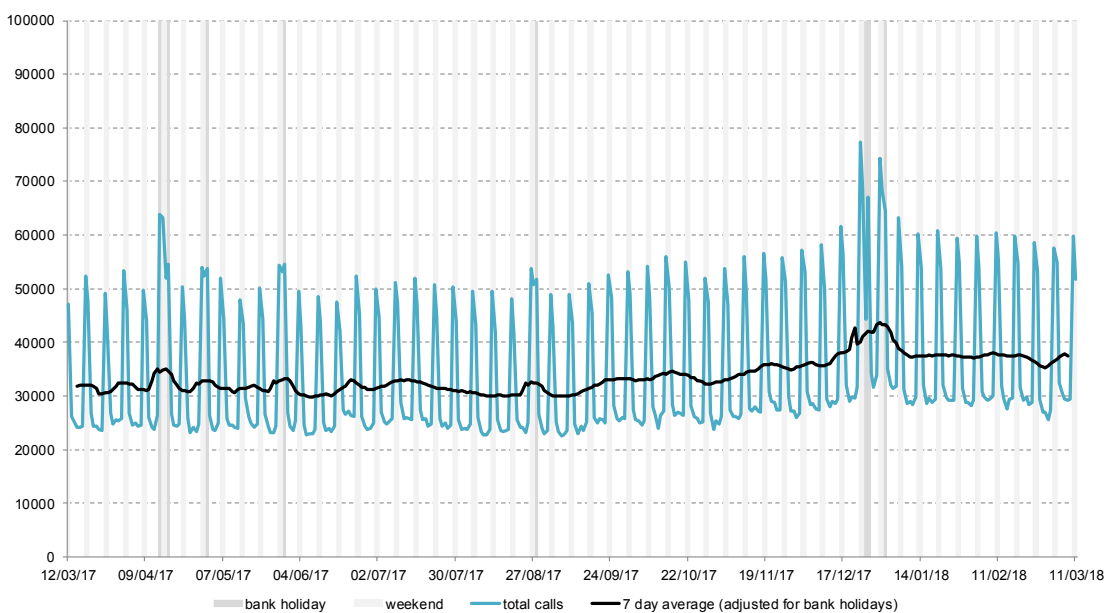
2: Cold/flu

Daily 'cold/flu' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.

2a: Cold/flu calls by age group

Cold/flu calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Age groups below 5 years old, not shown.
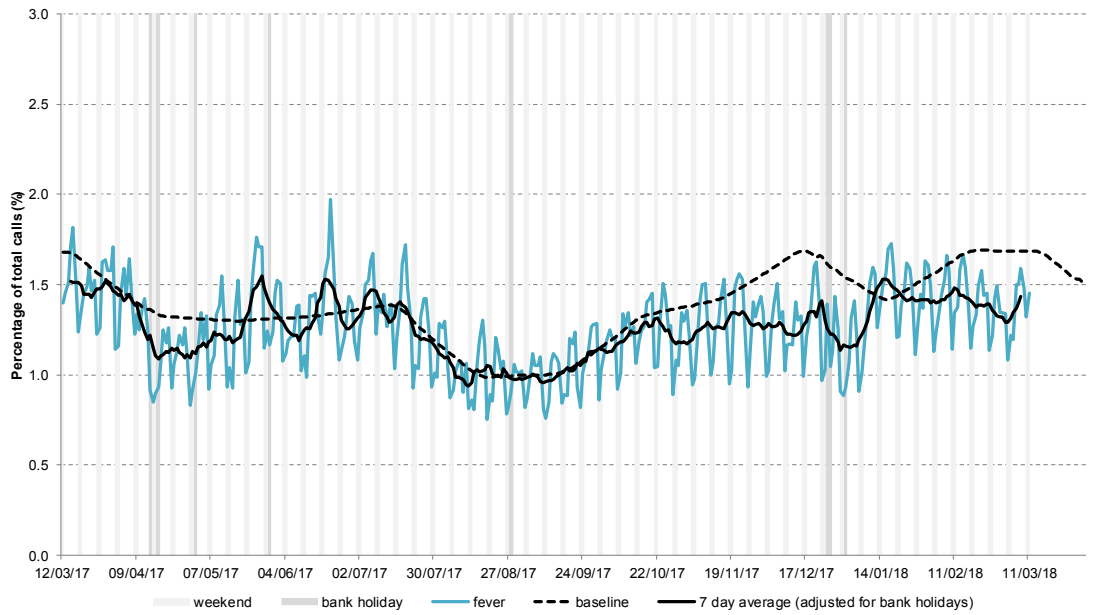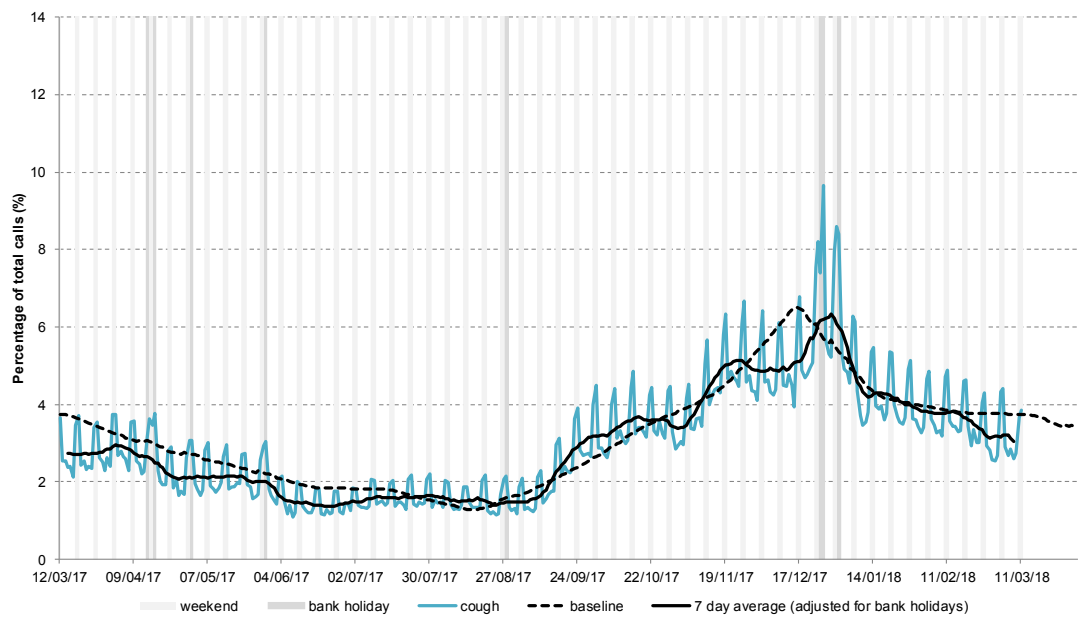
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3: Fever

Daily 'fever' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.
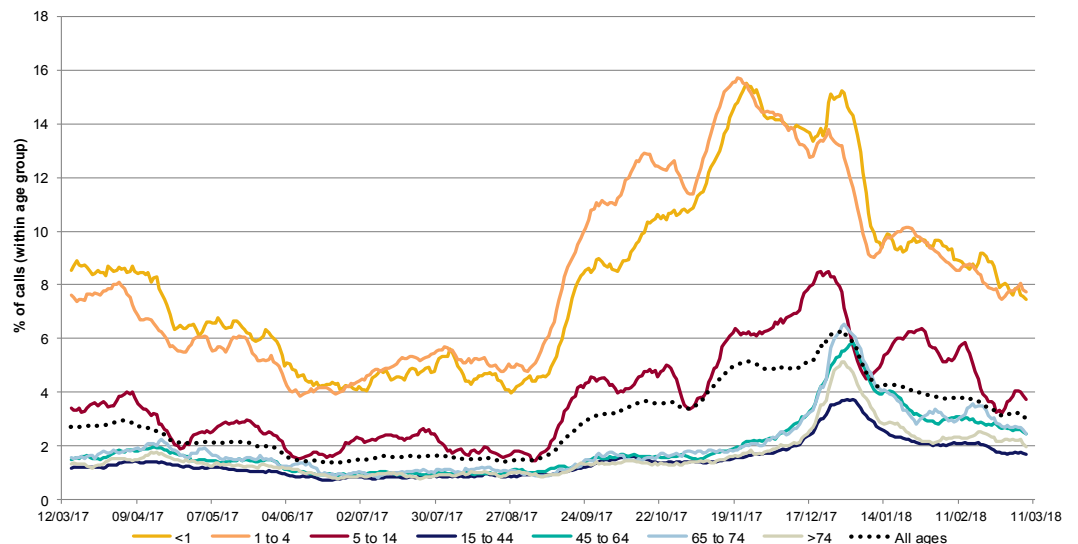

4: Cough

Daily 'cough' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.
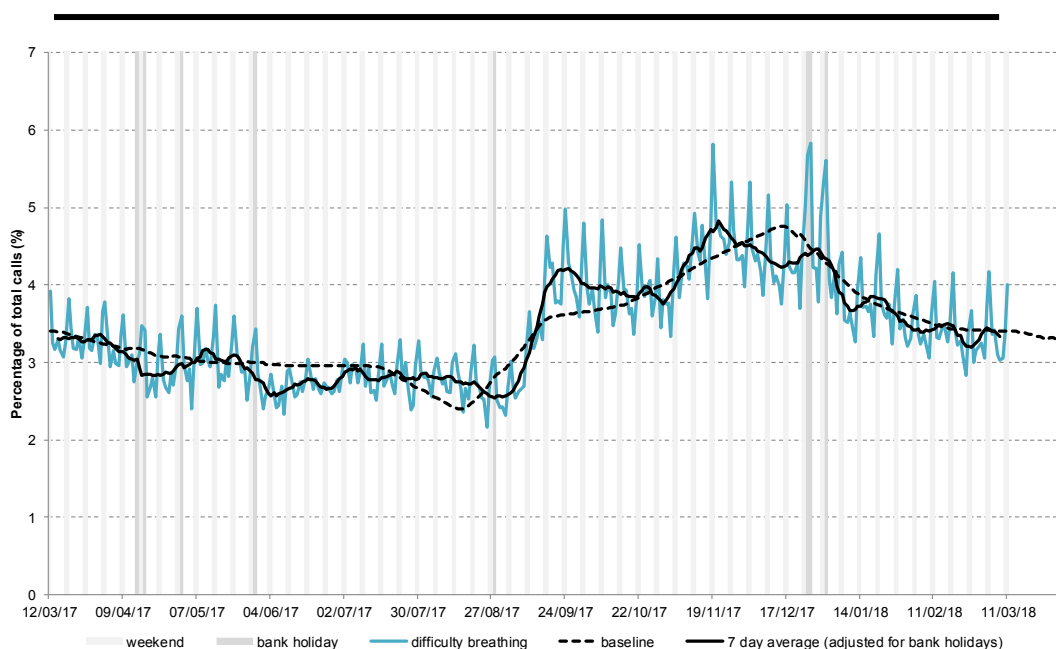

4a: Cough calls by age group

Cough calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

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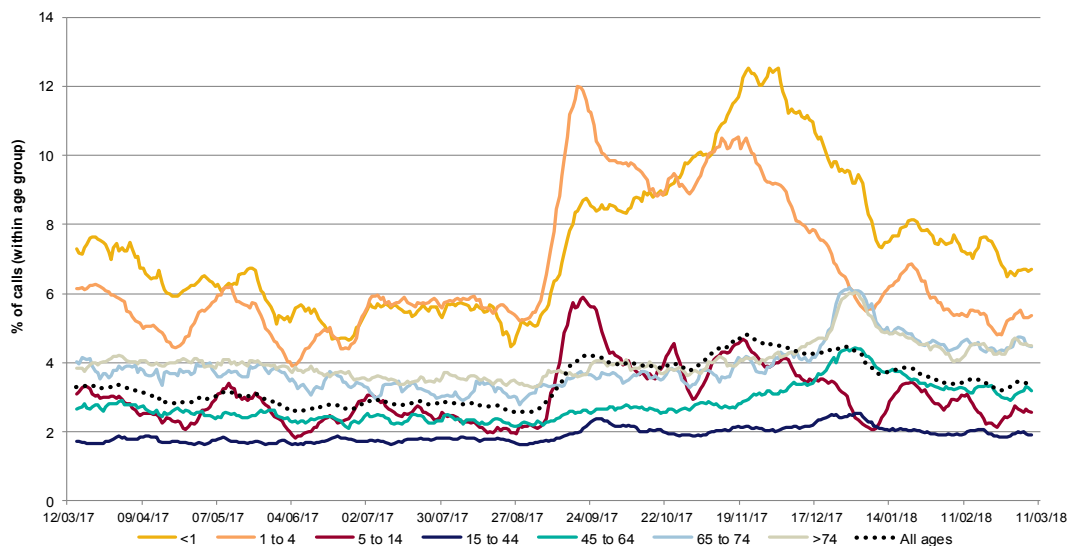
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5: Difficulty breathing

Daily 'difficulty breathing' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.

5a: Difficulty breathing calls by age group

Difficulty breathing calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
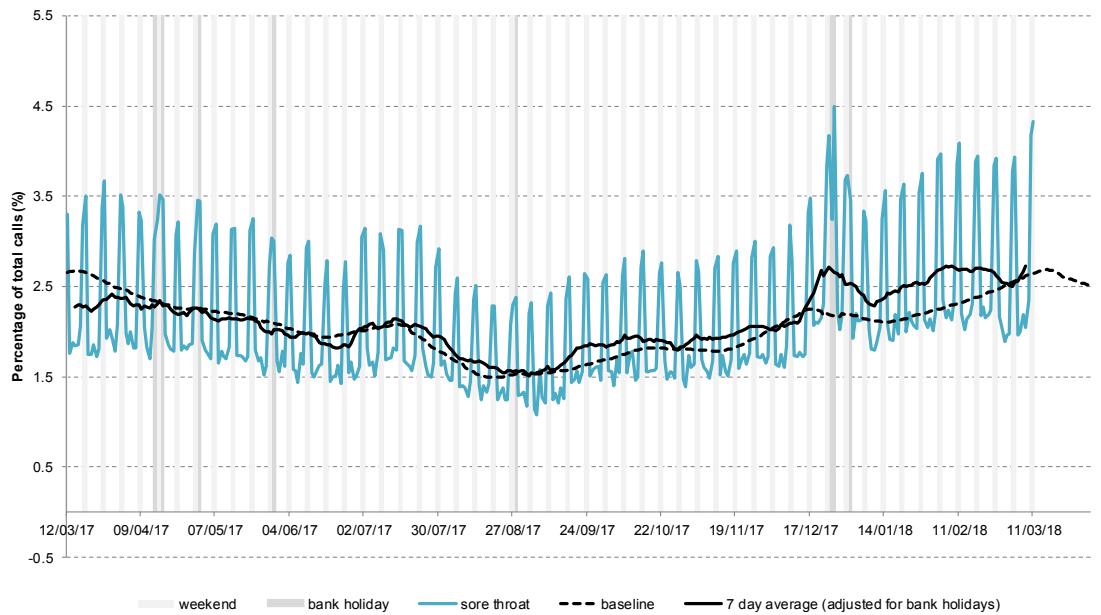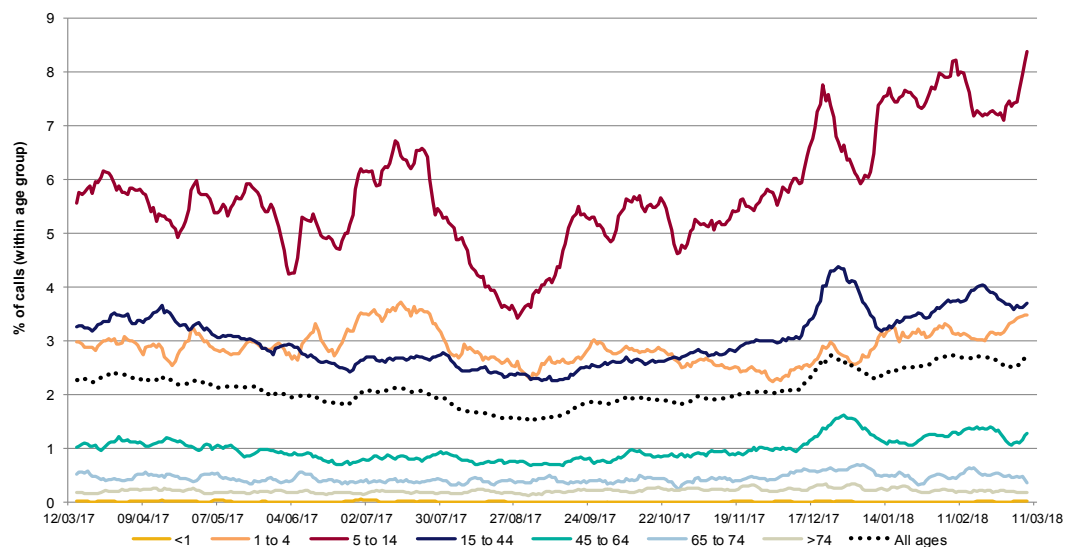
6: Sore throat

Daily 'sore throat' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.

6a: Sore throat calls by age group

Sore throat calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
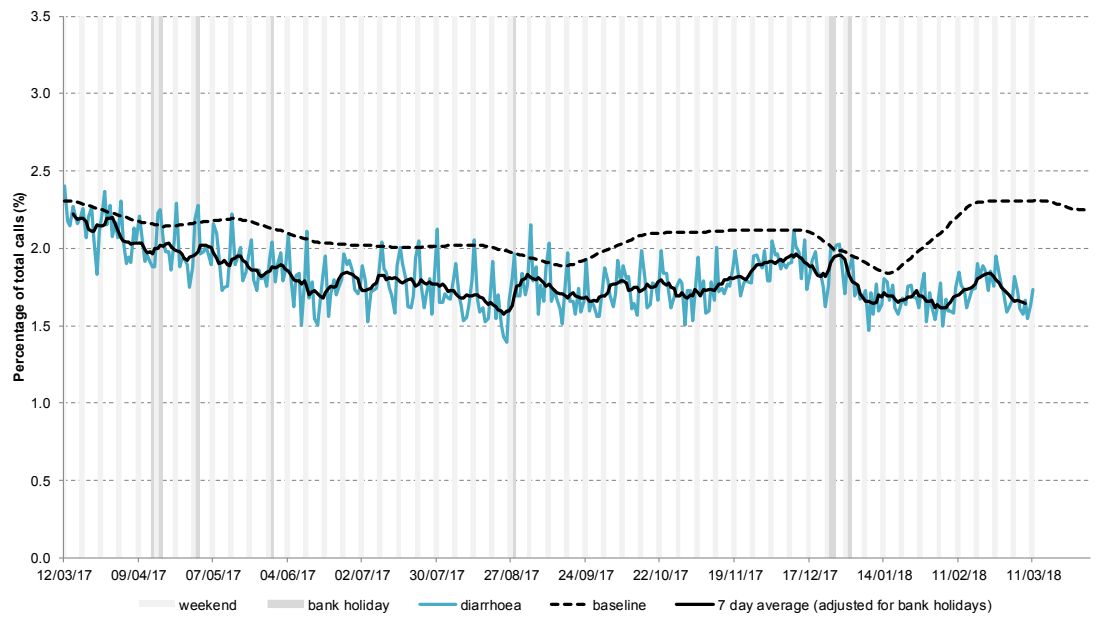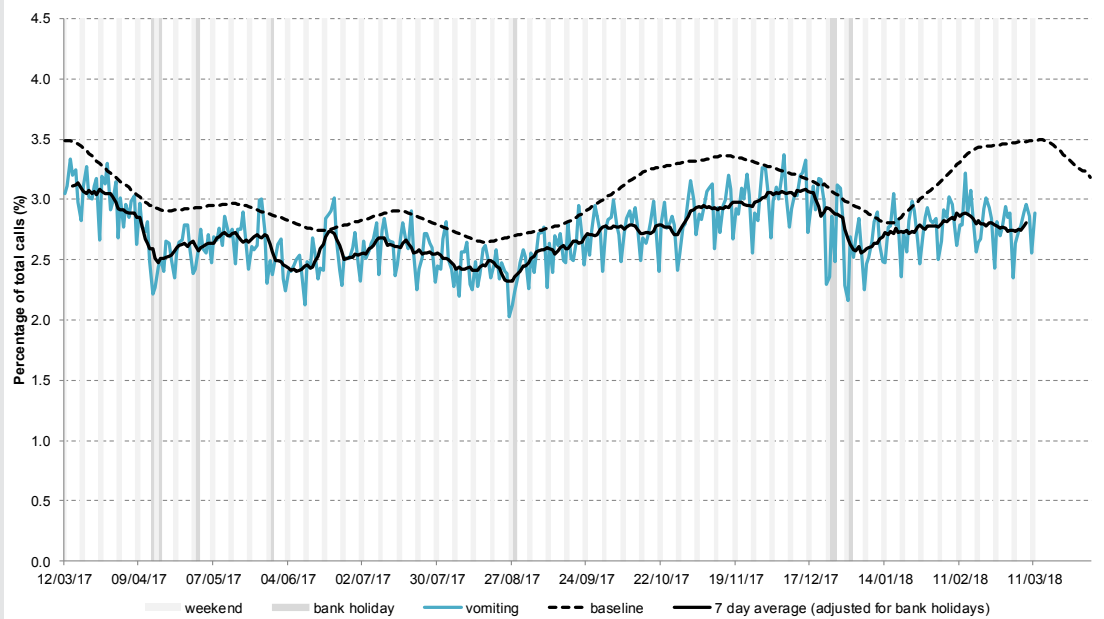

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7. Diarrhoea

Daily 'diarrhoea' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.
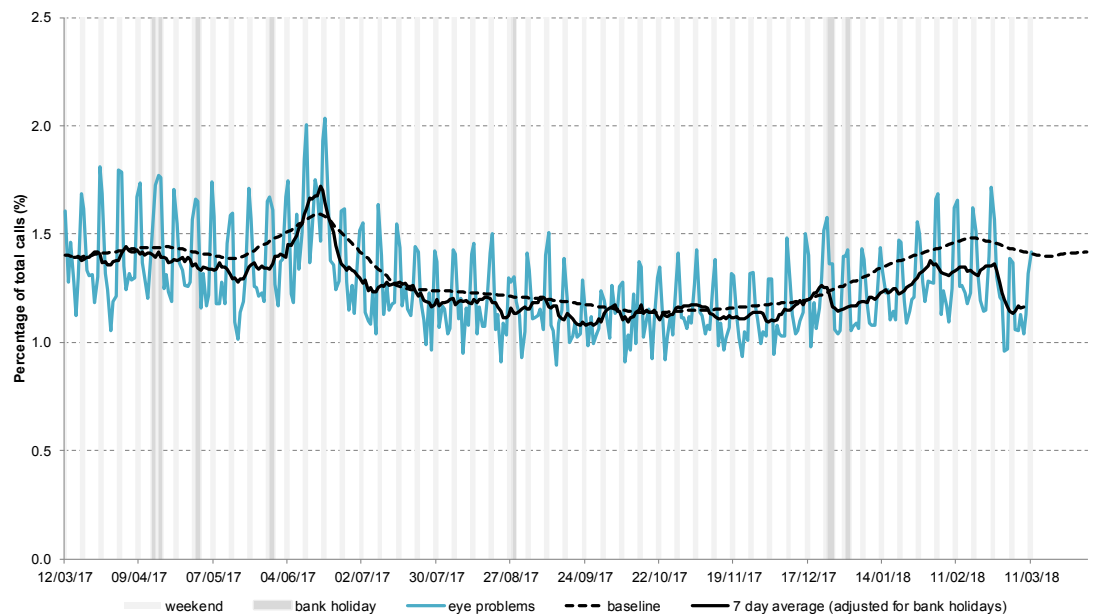

8: Vomiting

Daily 'vomiting' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.

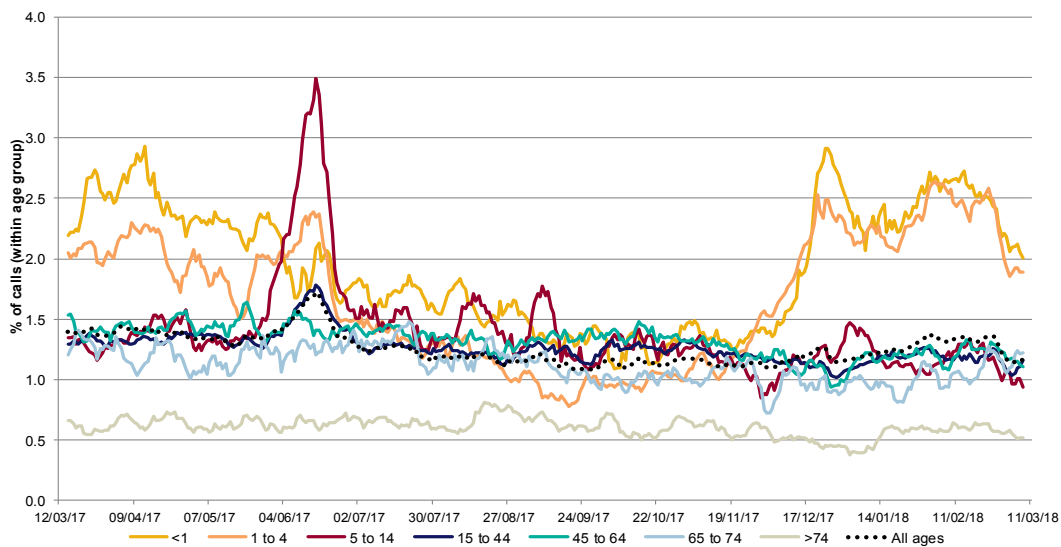## 9: Eye problems

Daily 'eye problems' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.

9a: Eye problems by age group

Eye problems calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

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Introduction to charts:

- Weekends and bank holidays are marked by vertical **grey** lines (bank holidays **darker grey**).
- A 7-day moving average (adjusted for bank holidays) is overlaid on the daily data reported in each chart, unless specified.
- Baselines represent seasonally expected levels of activity and are constructed from historical data. Furthermore, they take into account any known substantial changes in data collection, population coverage or reporting practices. Baselines are refreshed using the latest data on a regular basis.
- NHS 111 call data are analysed on a daily basis to identify national and regional trends. A statistical algorithm underpins each system, routinely identifying activity that has increased significantly or is statistically significantly high for the time of year. Results from these daily analyses are assessed by the ReSST, along with analysis by age group, and anything deemed of public health importance is alerted by the team.

Notes and further information:

Further information about NHS 111 can be found at:

http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/ Emergencyandurgentcareservices/Pages/NHS-111.aspx

The Remote Health Advice Syndromic Surveillance bulletin can also be downloaded from the PHE Real-time Syndromic Surveillance website which also contains more information about syndromic surveillance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/syndromic-surveillance-systems-and-analyses

Acknowledgements:

We are grateful to NHS 111 and to NHS Digital for their assistance and support in providing the anonymised call data that underpin the Remote Health Advice Syndromic Surveillance System.

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