GP Out-of-Hours Syndromic Surveillance System Bulletin (England)

2022 Week 18

Key messages

Data reported to: 08 May 2022

During week 18, GP out-of-hours contacts for gastroenteritis, diarrhoea and vomiting remained at seasonally expected levels, however increases were noted in children aged 5-14 years. There was also an increase in acute pharyngitis contacts in the 5-14 years age group.

Syndromic indicators at a glance

Table 1: The current trend (based on previous weeks, not only the current week) and the level (compared to the expected baseline), of each indicator included in this bulletin.

Indicator	Trend[1]	Level
Total contacts (**Figure 1**)	No trend	No baseline
Acute respiratory infections (**Figure 2**)	No trend	Below baseline
Influenza-like illness (**Figure 3**)	Decreasing	Above baseline
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis (**Figure 4**)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Difficulty breathing/wheeze/asthma (**Figure 5**)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Fever (**Figure 6**)	No trend	Similar baseline
Acute pharyngitis (**Figure 7**)	Increasing	Similar to baseline
Gastroenteritis (**Figure 8**)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Diarrhoea (**Figure 9**)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Vomiting (**Figure 10**)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Chest pain (inc. myocardial infarction) (**Figure 11**)	No trend	Similar to baseline

[1] Current trend reports on the trend seen over previous weeks

Contents

About this syndromic surveillance system

This bulletin presents data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) GP out-of-hours\ unscheduled care syndromic surveillance system.

Syndromic surveillance can be used to:
- assess current trends
- assess current trends and levels compared to historical baselines
- compare trends between age groups/areas

Syndromic surveillance should not be used to:
- estimate total burden or number of 'cases' of a condition (see **Notes and caveats**)
- compare levels between age groups/areas

Fully anonymised, daily GP out-of-hours (OOH) and unscheduled care service provider data are analysed and reported here, to identify and describe trends for a variety of syndromic indicators:
- syndromic indicators include groupings such as acute respiratory infections, fever and gastroenteritis
- syndromic indicators are based on:
    - diagnoses recorded during OOH patient contacts
    - diagnoses are based on signs/symptoms and not laboratory confirmed
    - not all contacts include a diagnosis
    - some contacts include more than one diagnosis, so may be included in more than one syndromic indicator
- **Key messages** describes any notable trends nationally (England), by age group and/or by geographical area (based on UKHSA Regions)
- the full list of syndromic indicators reported here, along with their current level and trend, are summarised in **Table 1**
- charts are provided for each syndromic indicator, on a national basis, by age group and by geographical area (UKHSA Region). Each chart includes a year of data with:
    - 7-day moving averages (adjusted for weekends and bank holidays) to aid in the identification of trend
    - statistical baselines (where available) to aid in the assessment of level compared to historical expectations

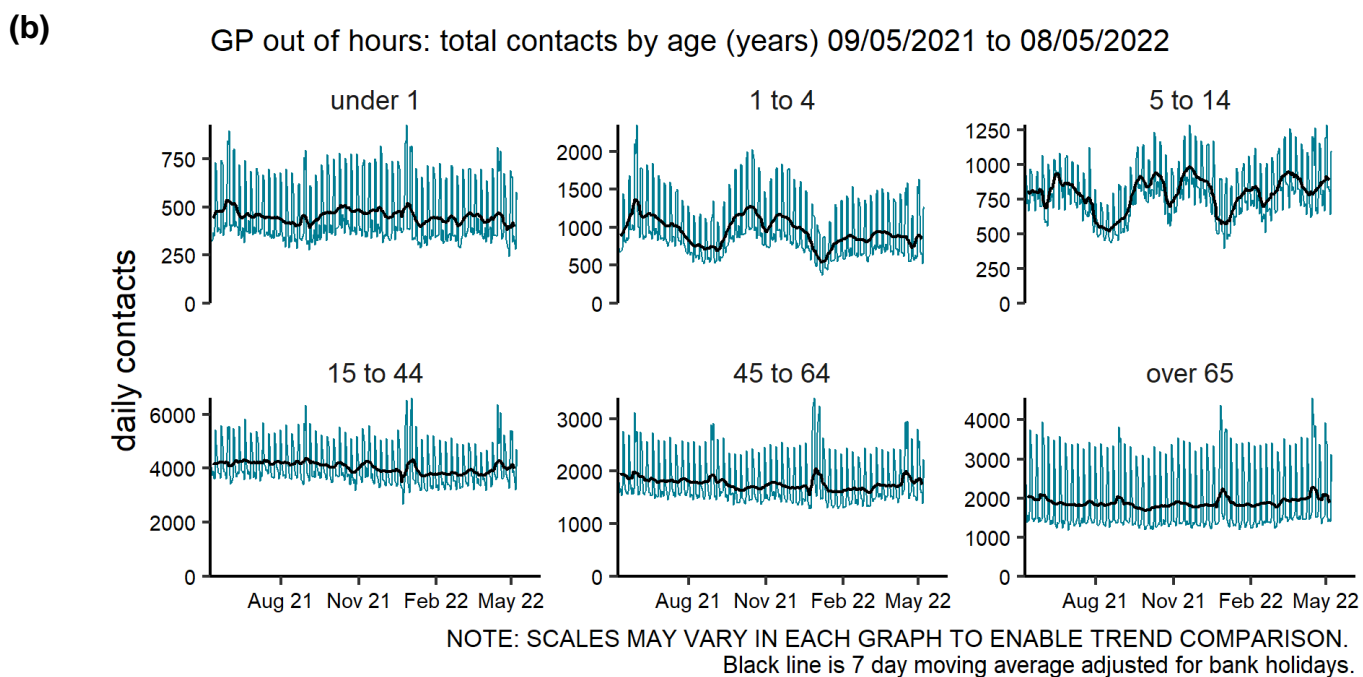For further information please see the **Notes and caveats** section.
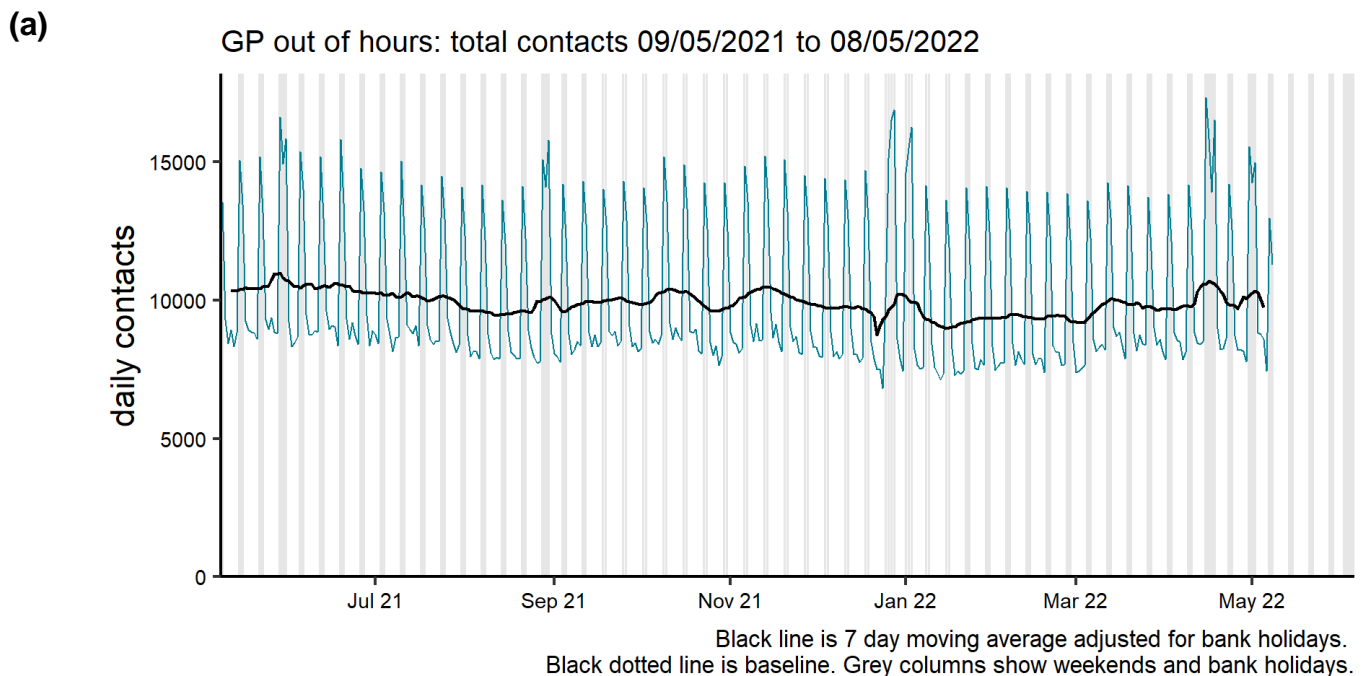
Previous weekly bulletins from this system are available here.

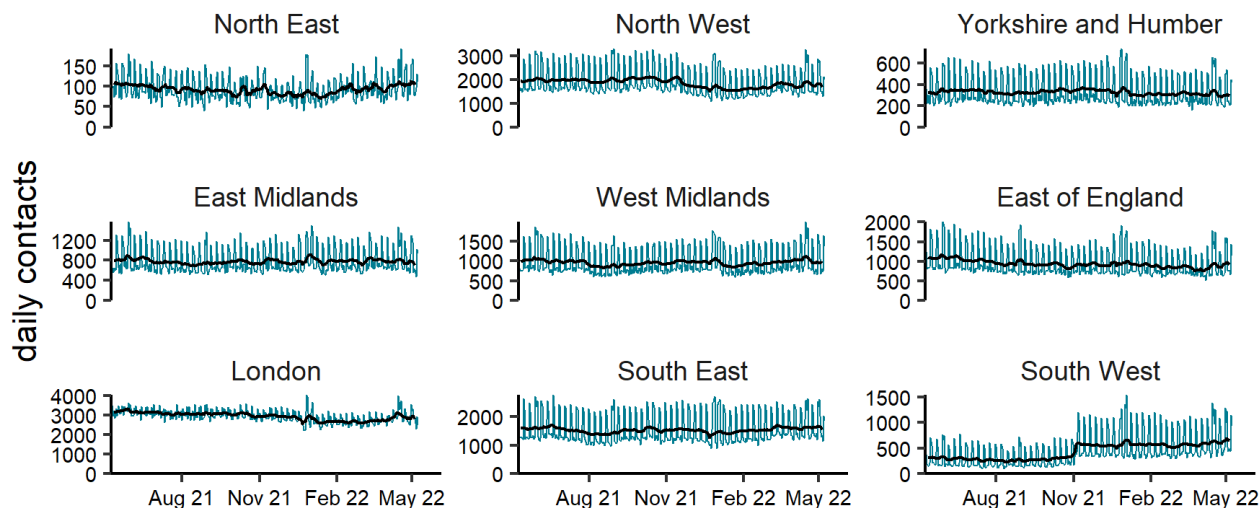**Data quality issues of note this week**

None.

Total contacts

Figure 1: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (with 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) recorded in this sentinel syndromic surveillance system in England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

GP out of hours: total contacts 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: total contacts by age (years) 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

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(c)

GP out of hours: total contacts by region 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
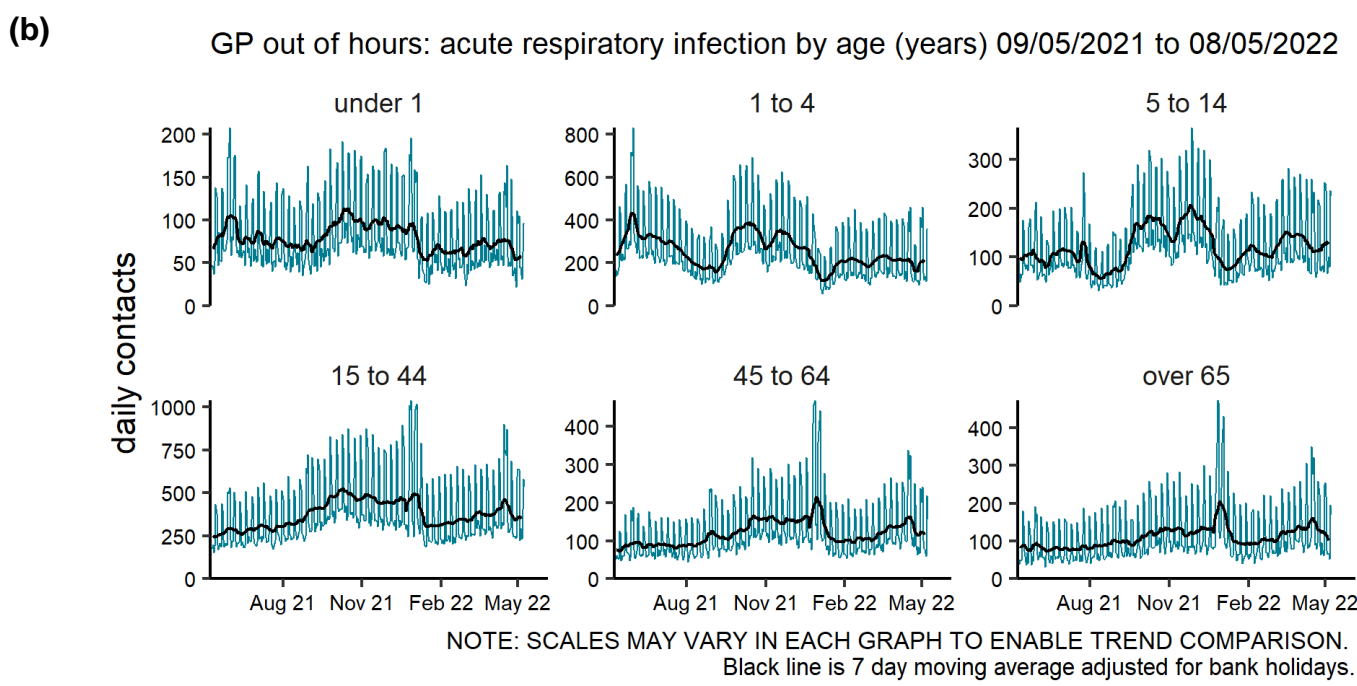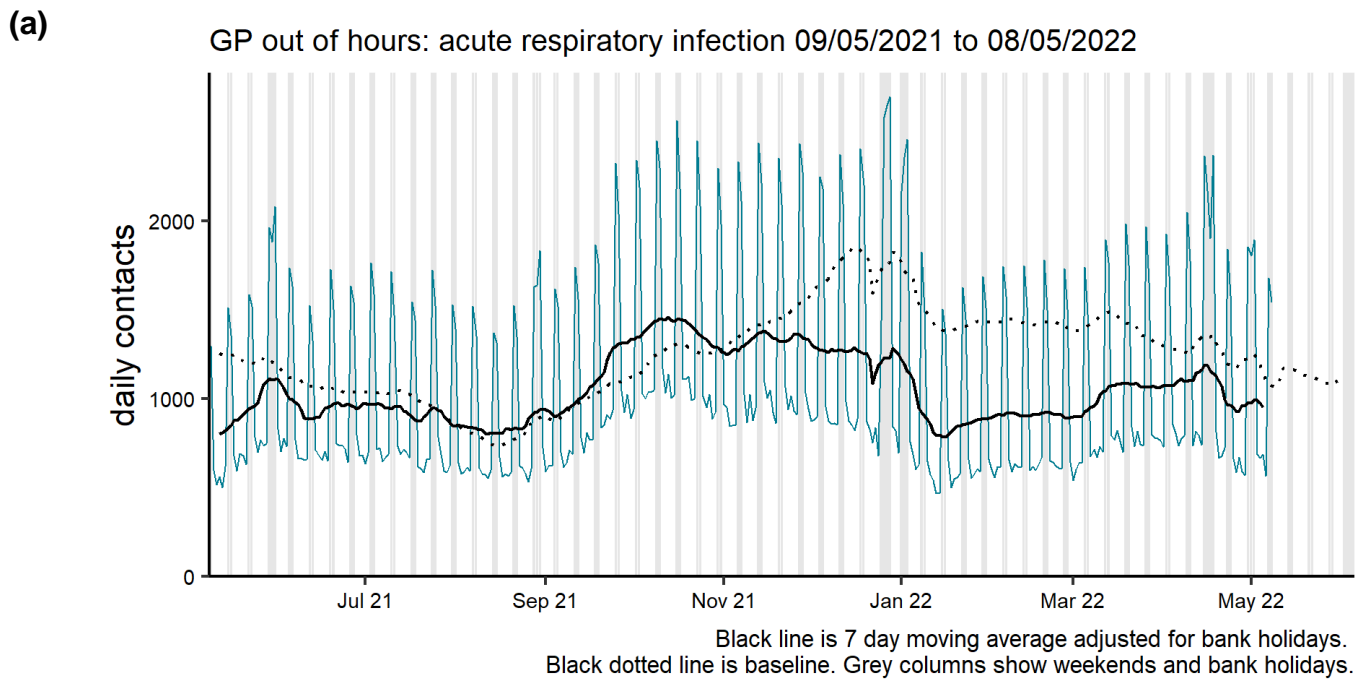Black dotted line is baseline.

Table 2: The number of GP out-of-hours contacts in England recorded each day in the most recent week.

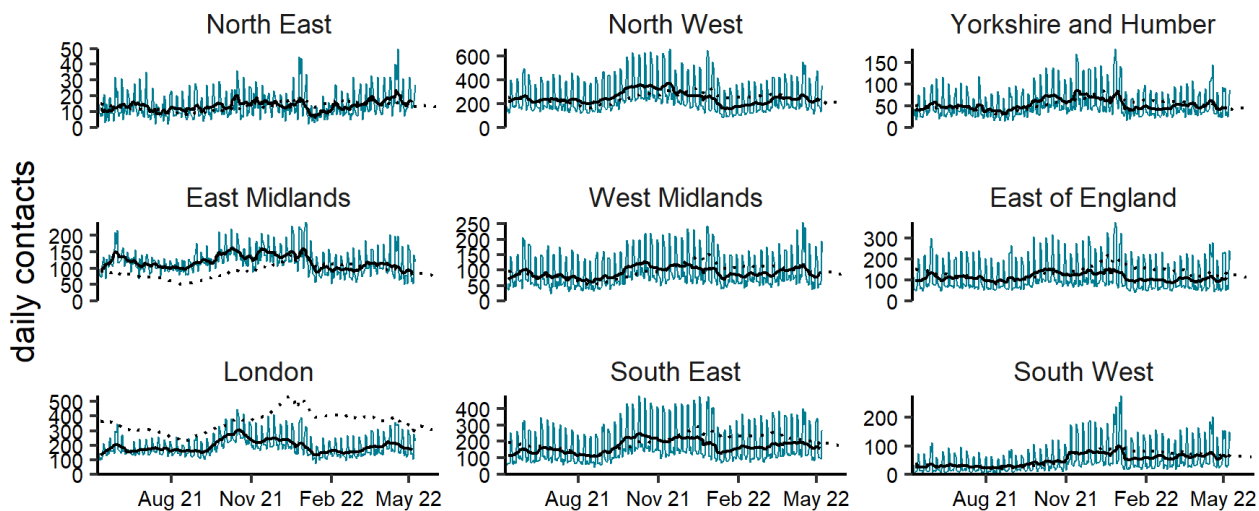| Date	Number of contacts
2 May 2022	37,723
3 May 2022	25,388
4 May 2022	23,553
5 May 2022	22,737
6 May 2022	21,871
7 May 2022	34,644
8 May 2022	29,325

Respiratory conditions

Acute respiratory infections

Figure 2: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for acute respiratory infections, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

GP out of hours: acute respiratory infection 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: acute respiratory infection by age (years) 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
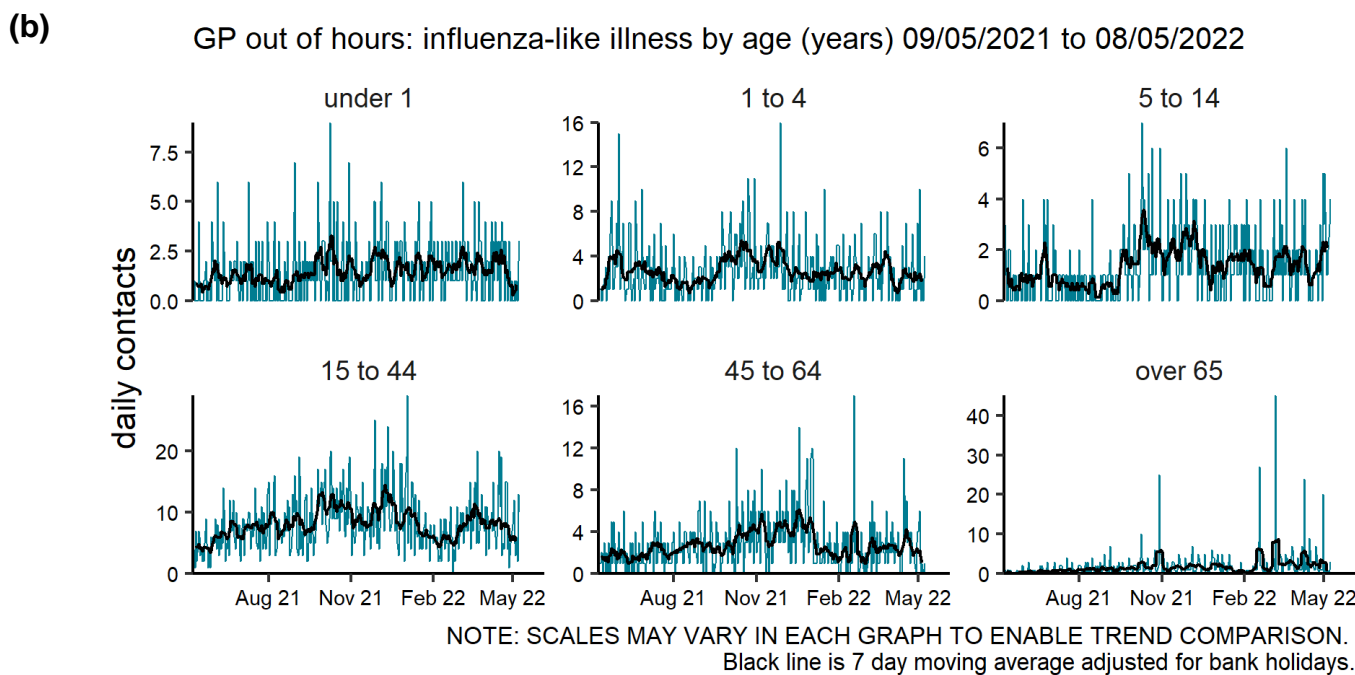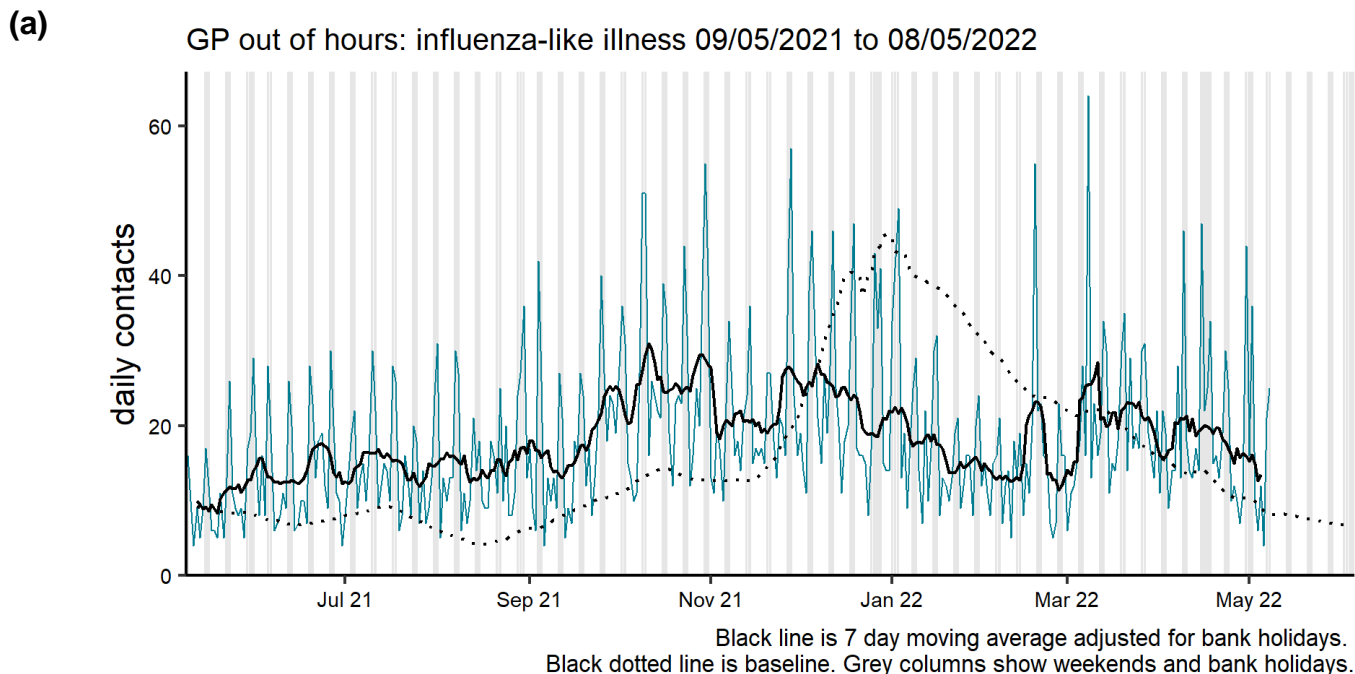Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

(c)

GP out of hours: acute respiratory infection by region 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline.

Influenza-like illness

Figure 3: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for influenza-like illness, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

GP out of hours: influenza-like illness 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: influenza-like illness by age (years) 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

(c)

GP out of hours: influenza-like illness by region 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
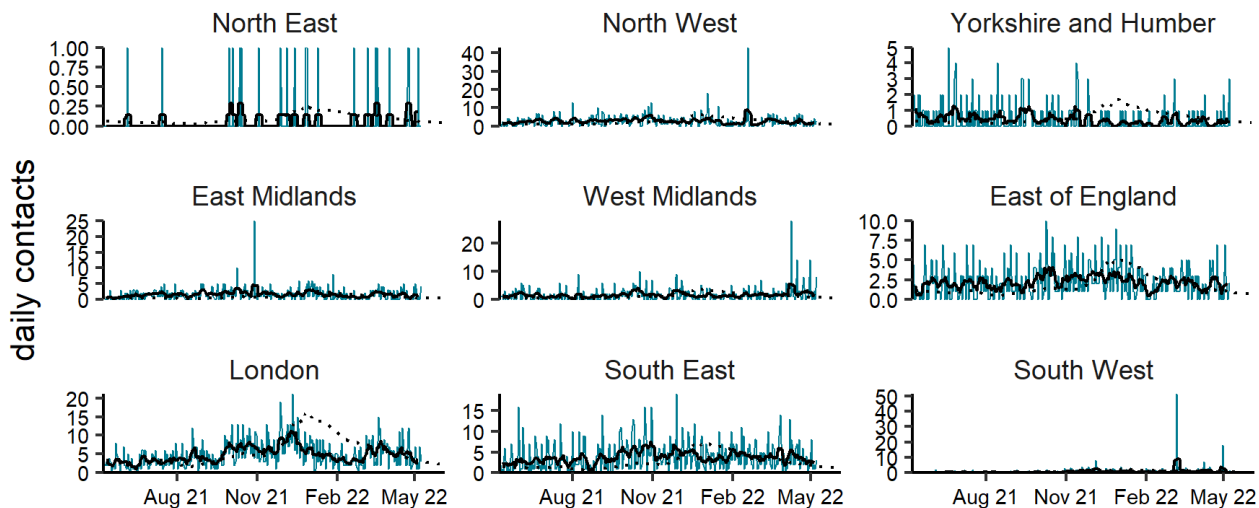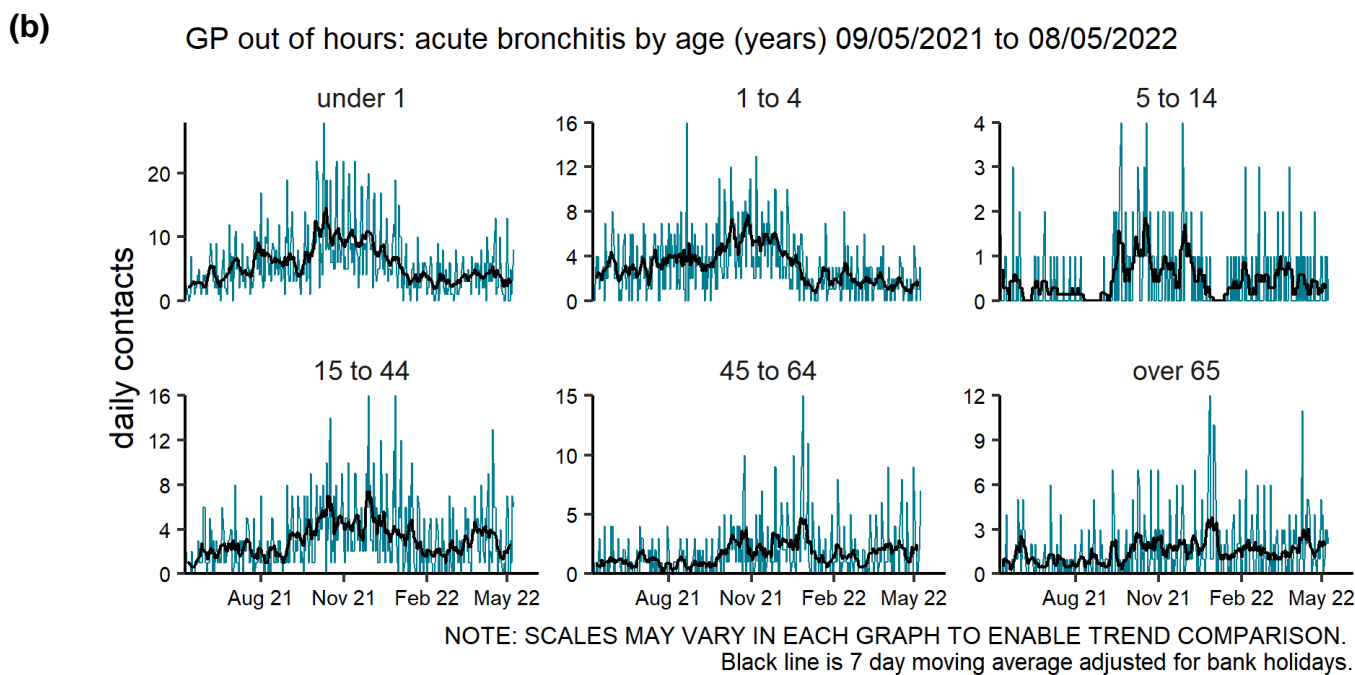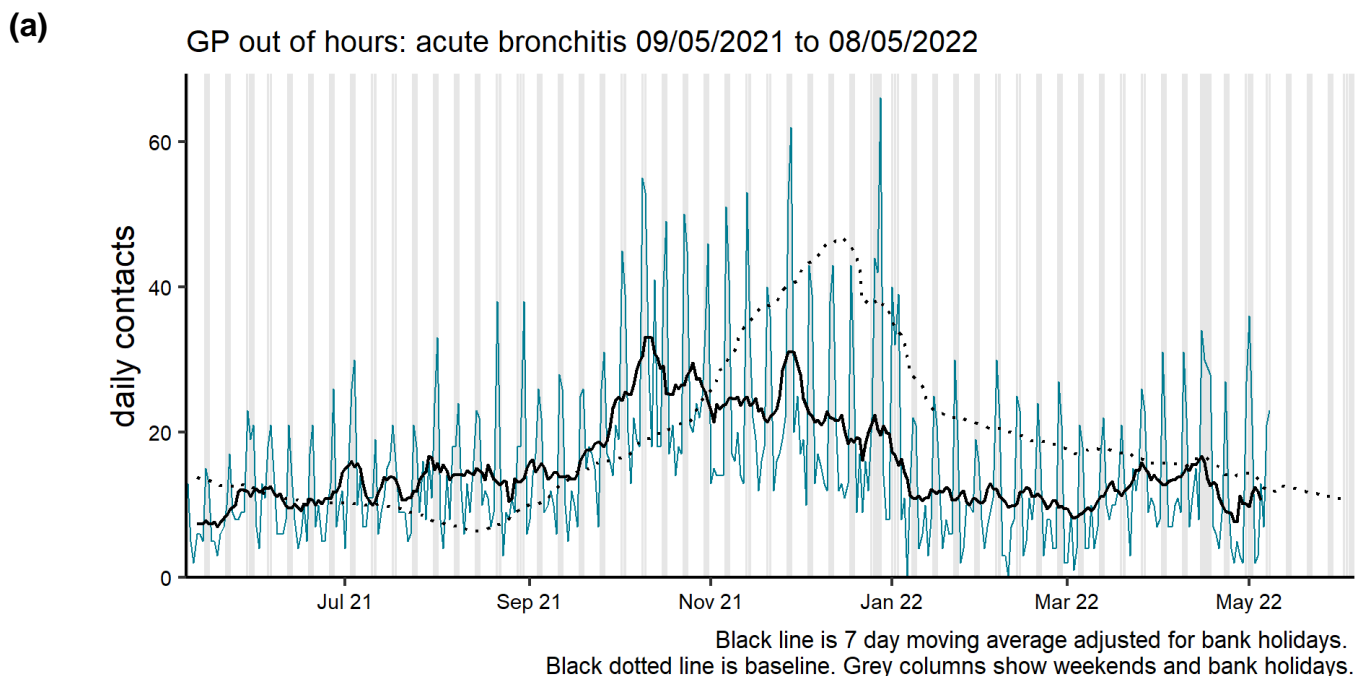Black dotted line is baseline.

Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis

Figure 4: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

GP out of hours: acute bronchitis 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: acute bronchitis by age (years) 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

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(c)

GP out of hours: acute bronchitis by region 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
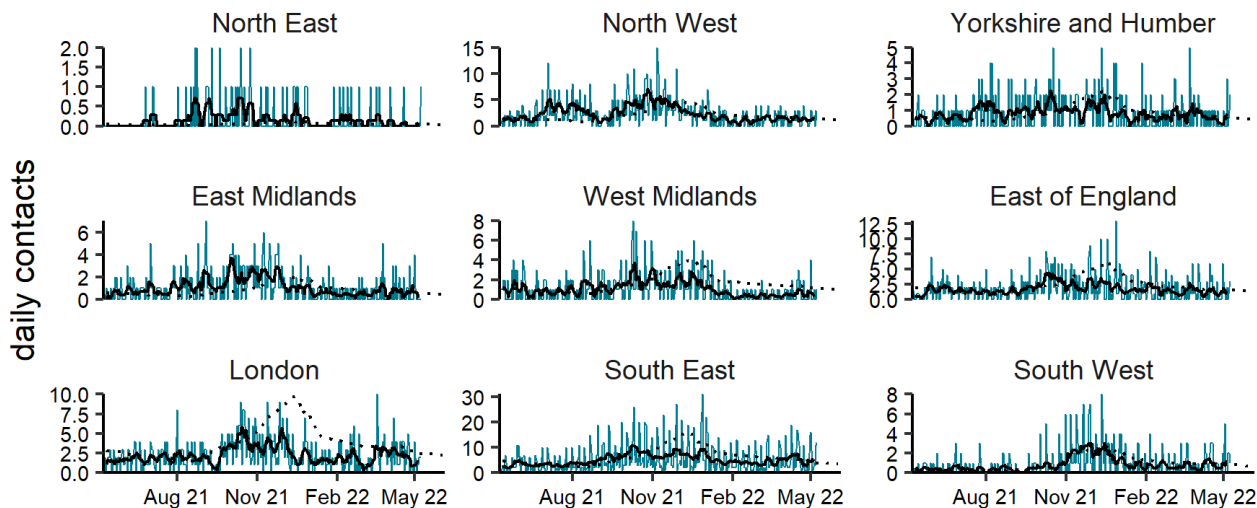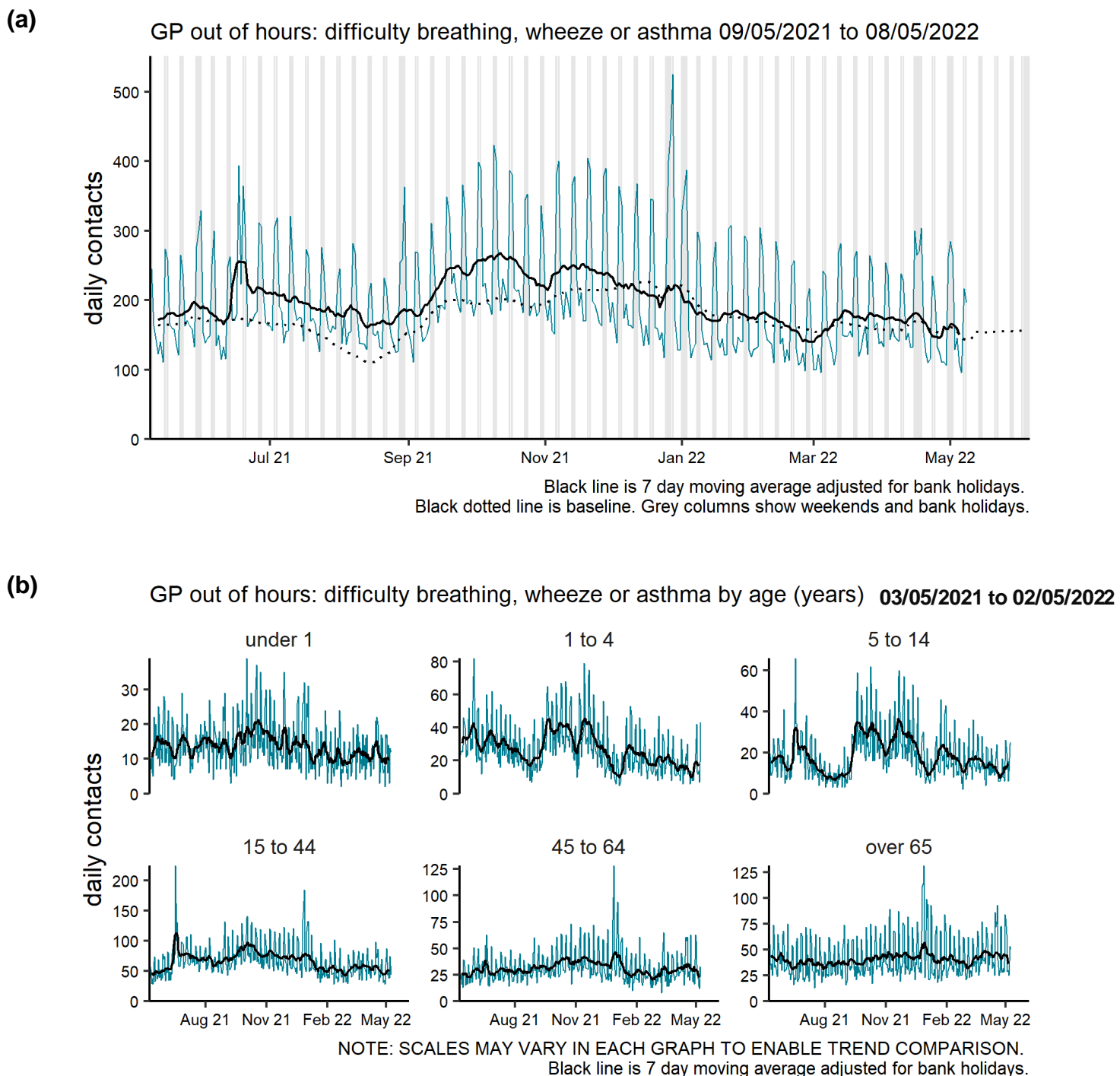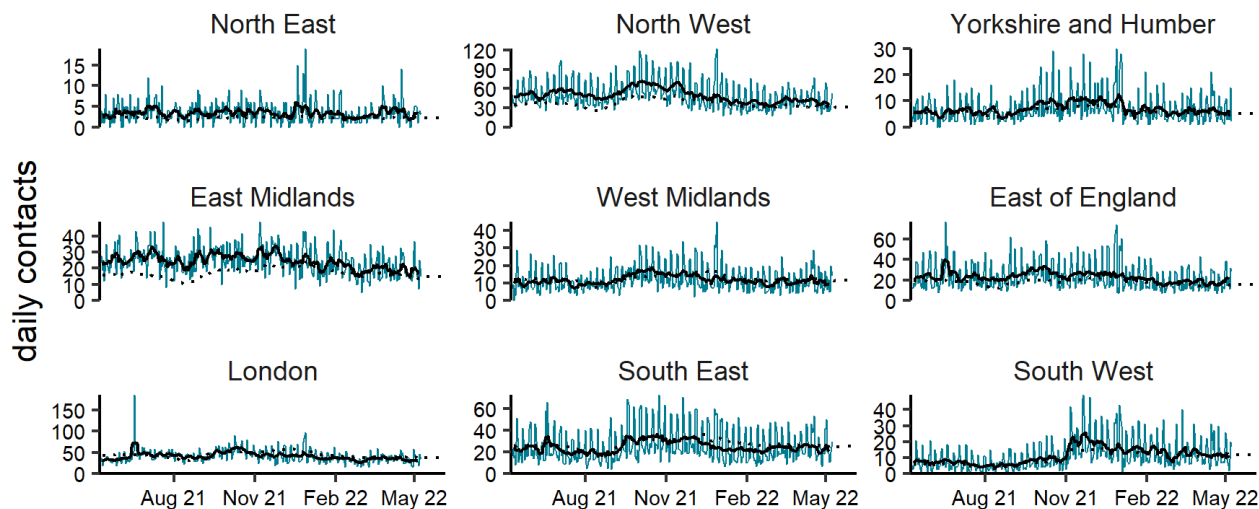Black dotted line is baseline.

Difficulty breathing, wheeze or asthma

Figure 5: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for difficulty breathing, wheeze or asthma, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.
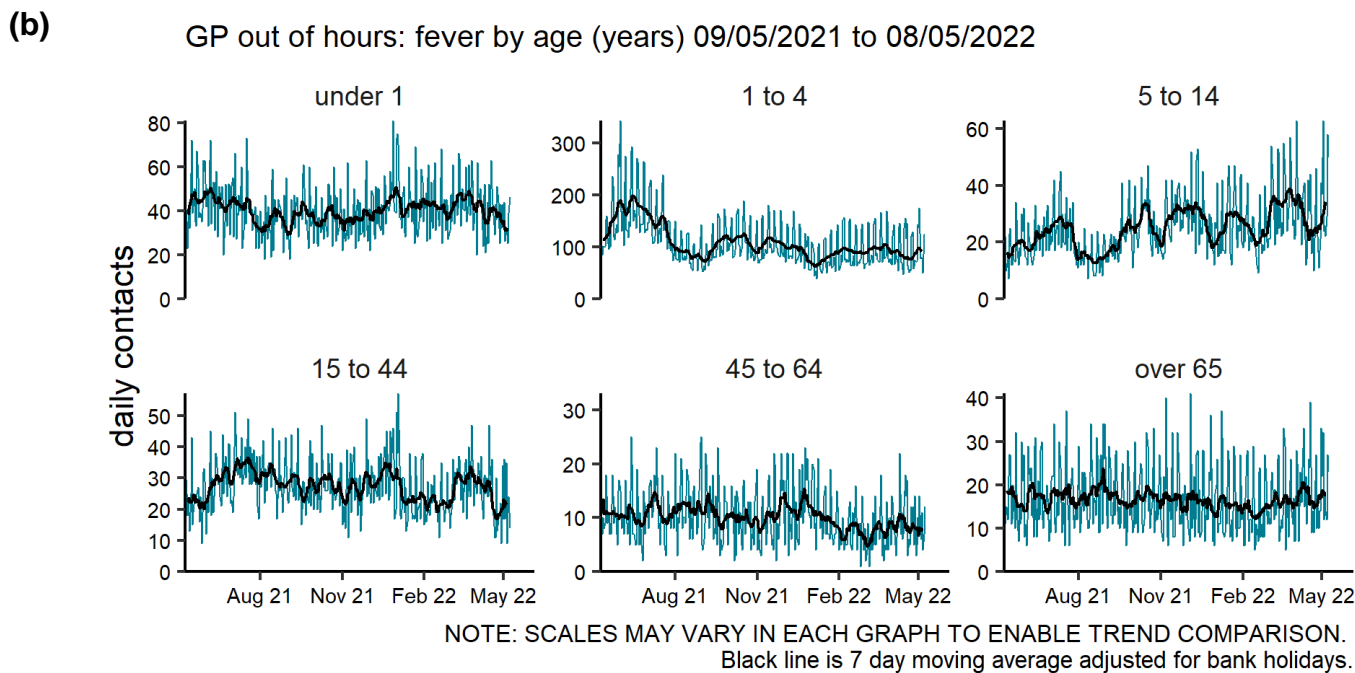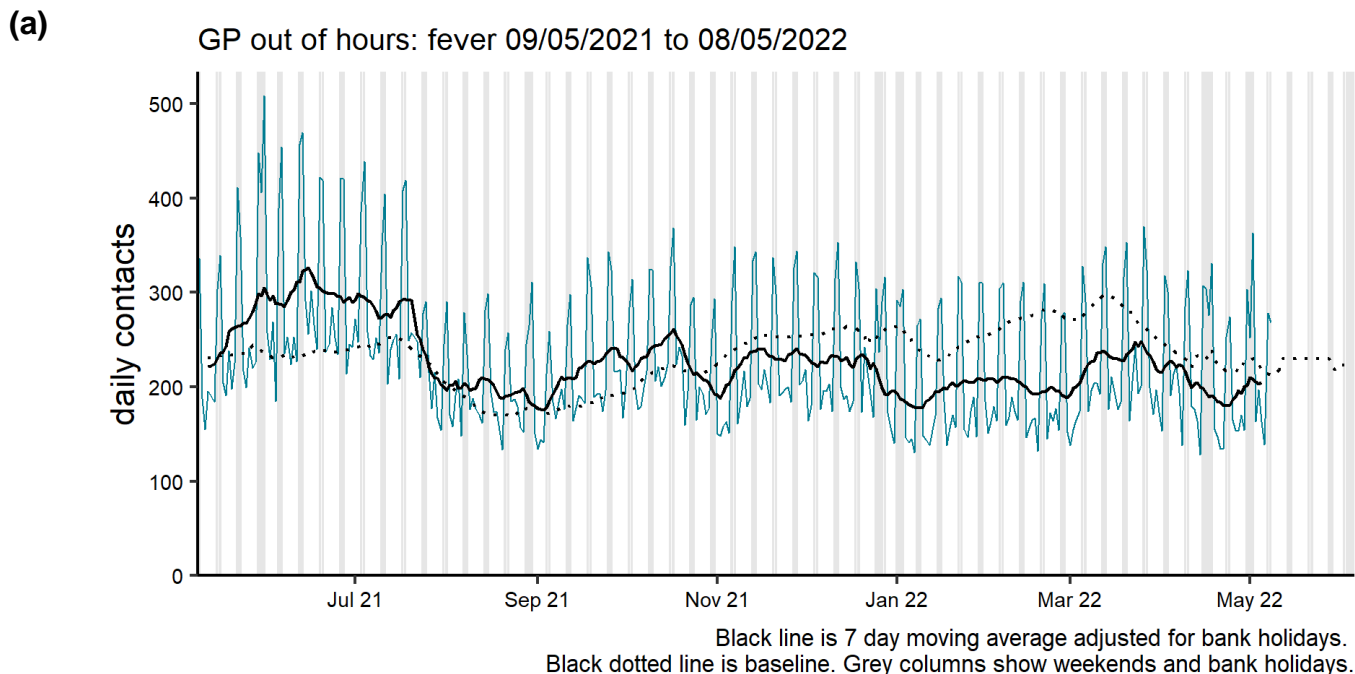
(a)

GP out of hours: difficulty breathing, wheeze or asthma 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: difficulty breathing, wheeze or asthma by age (years) **03/05/2021 to 02/05/2022**

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

(c)

GP out of hours: difficulty breathing, wheeze or asthma by region   **03/05/2021 to 02/05/2022**

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
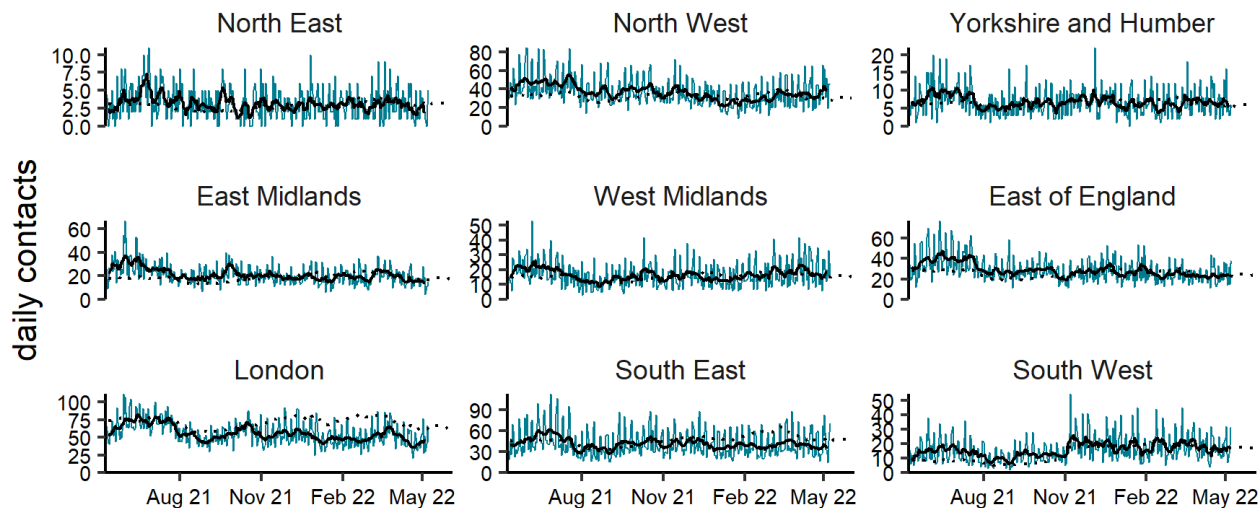Black dotted line is baseline.

Fever

Figure 6: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for fever, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

GP out of hours: fever 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: fever by age (years) 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
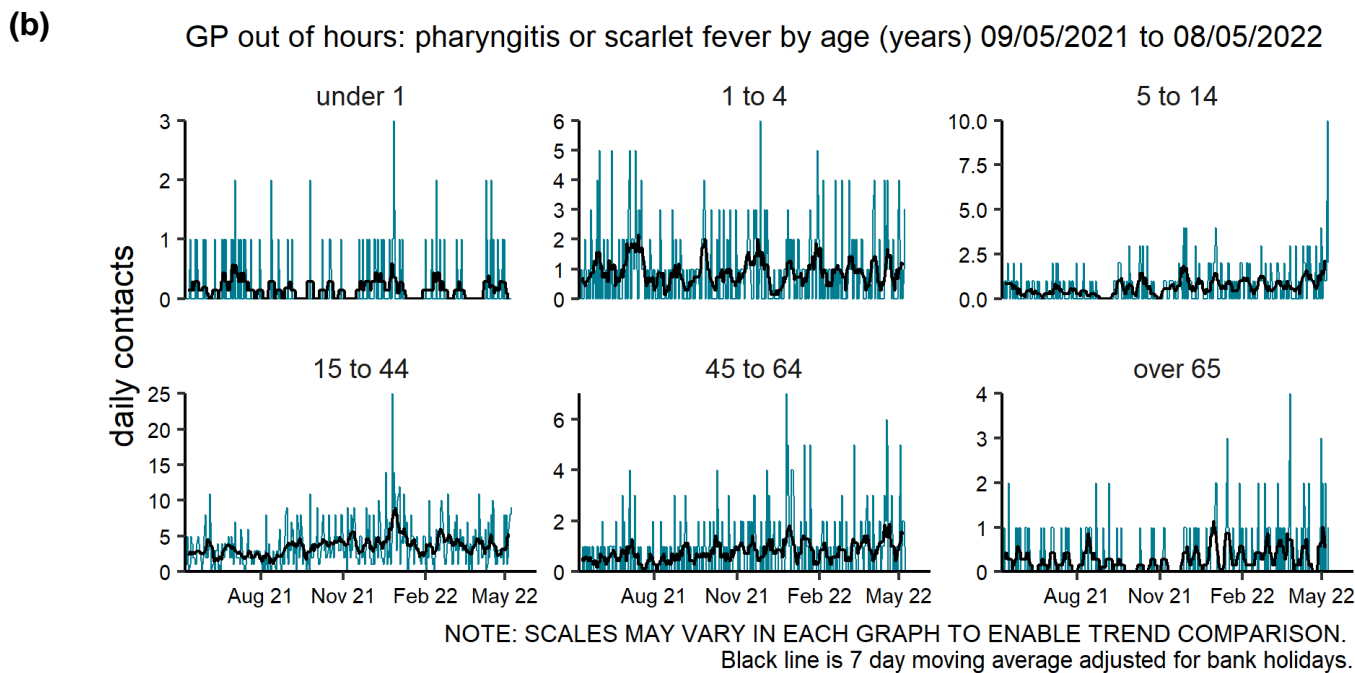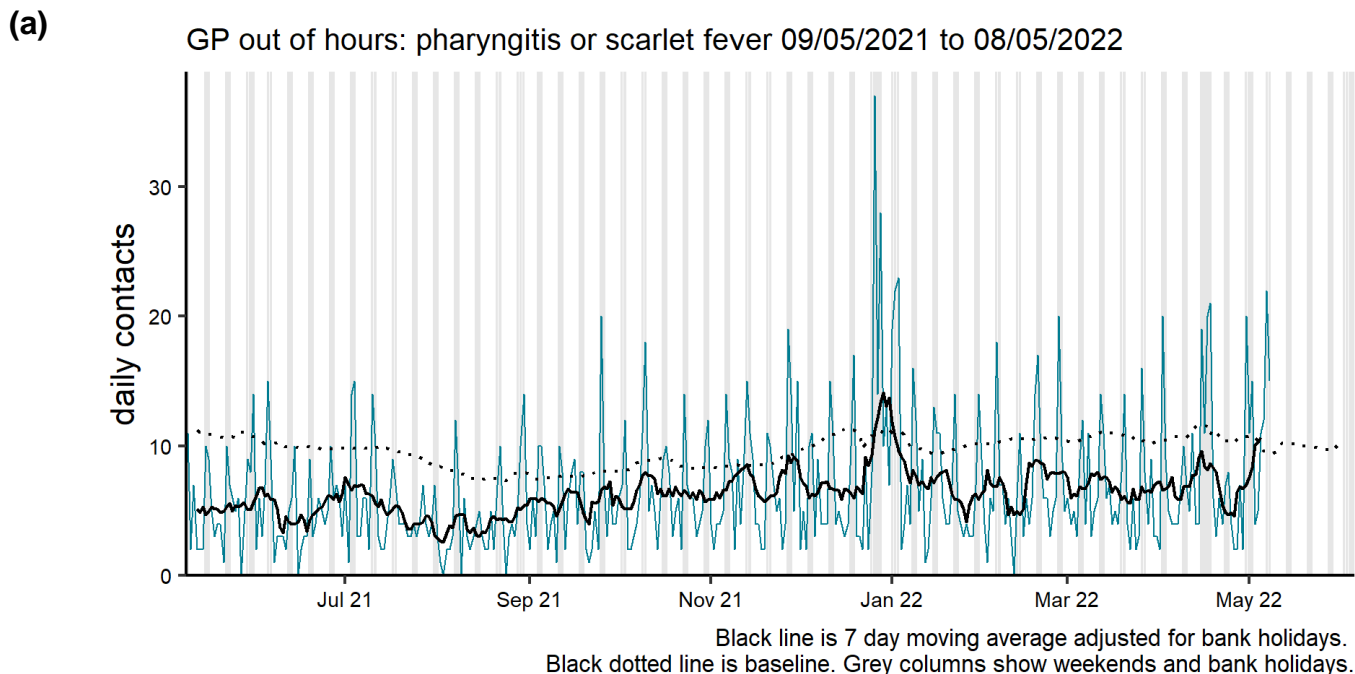
15

(c)

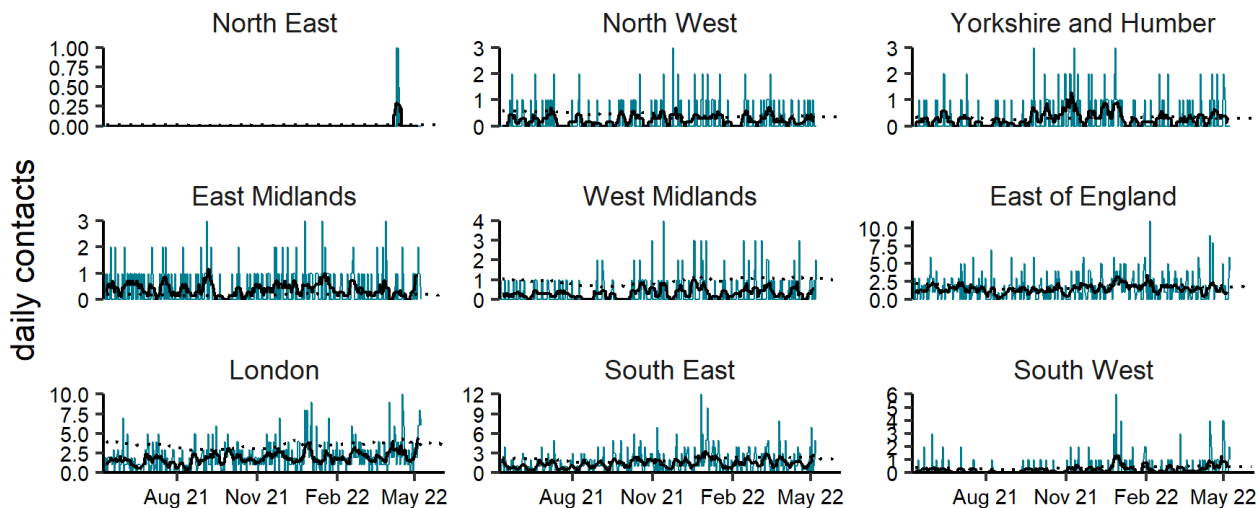## GP out of hours: fever by region 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline.

Acute pharyngitis

Figure 7: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays for acute pharyngitis, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

GP out of hours: pharyngitis or scarlet fever 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: pharyngitis or scarlet fever by age (years) 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

17

(c)

GP out of hours: pharyngitis or scarlet fever by region 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022
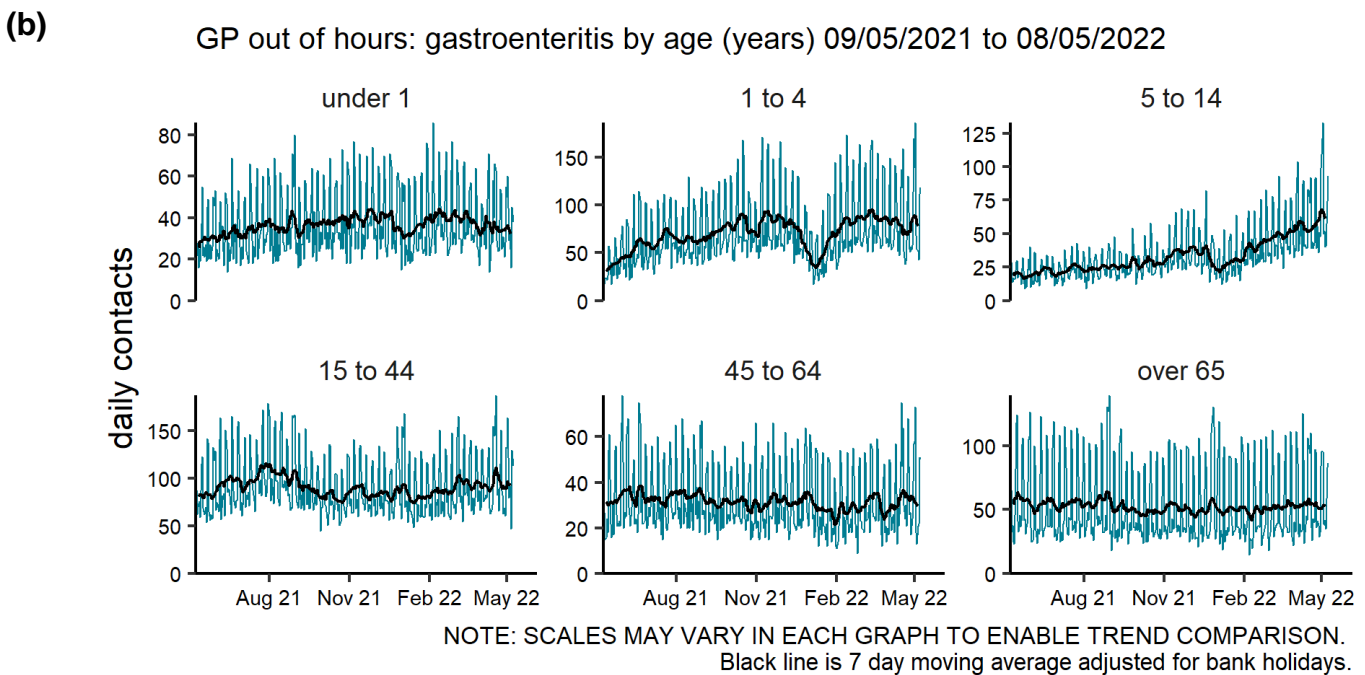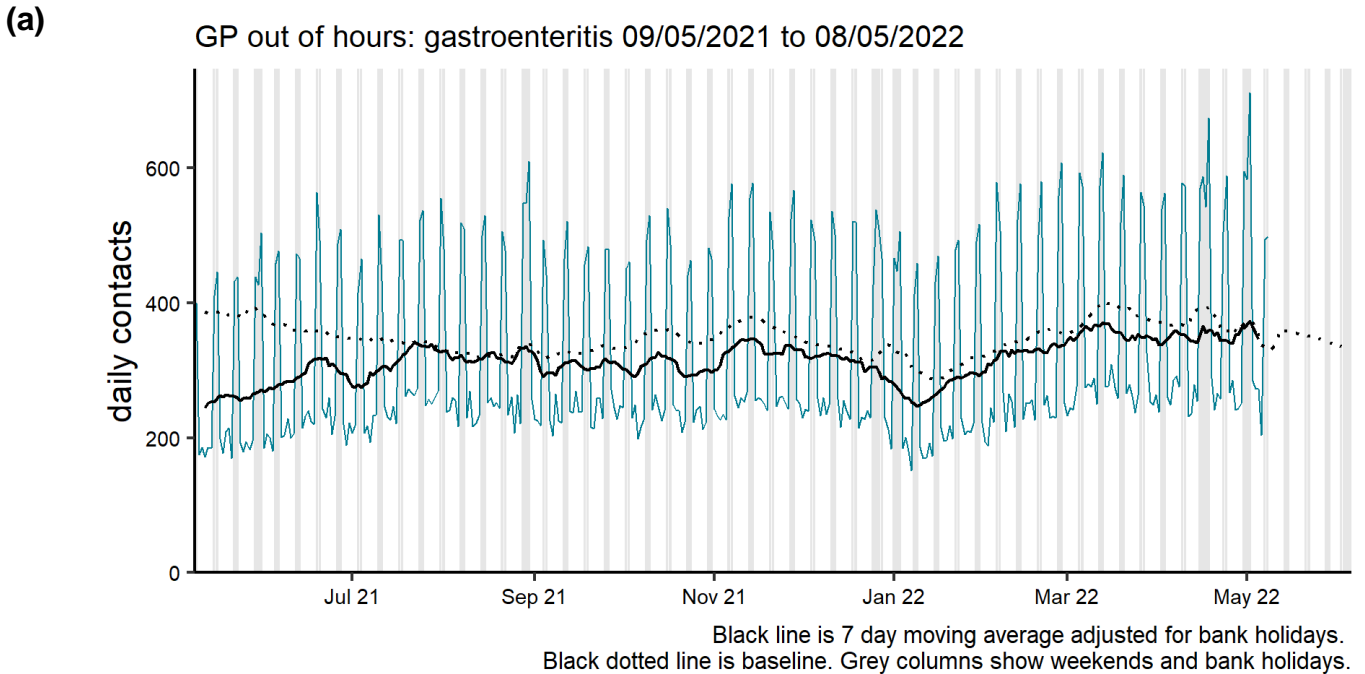

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline.
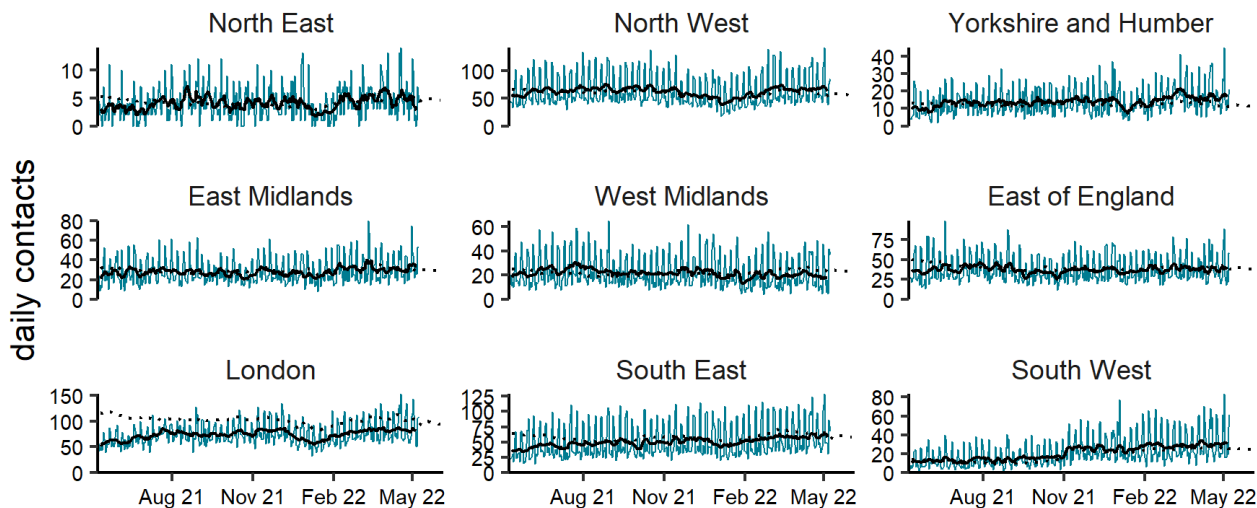
Gastrointestinal conditions

Gastroenteritis

Figure 8: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for gastroenteritis, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

GP out of hours: gastroenteritis 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: gastroenteritis by age (years) 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
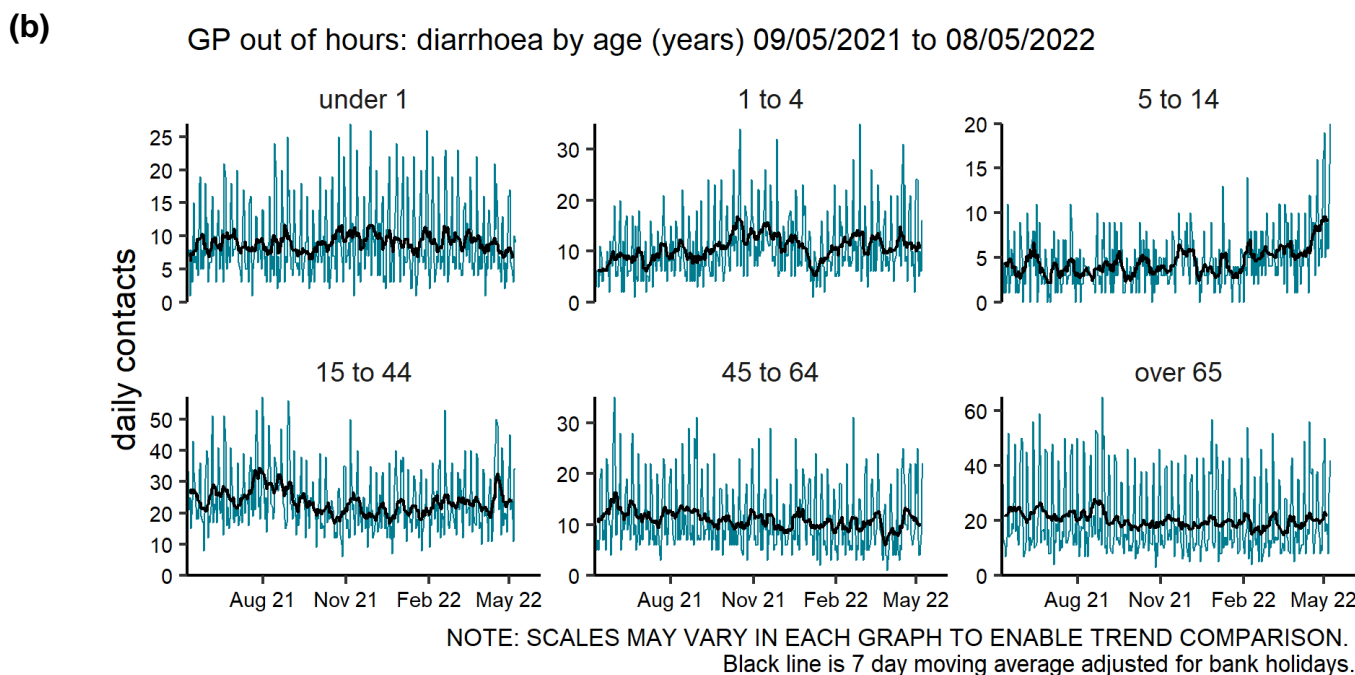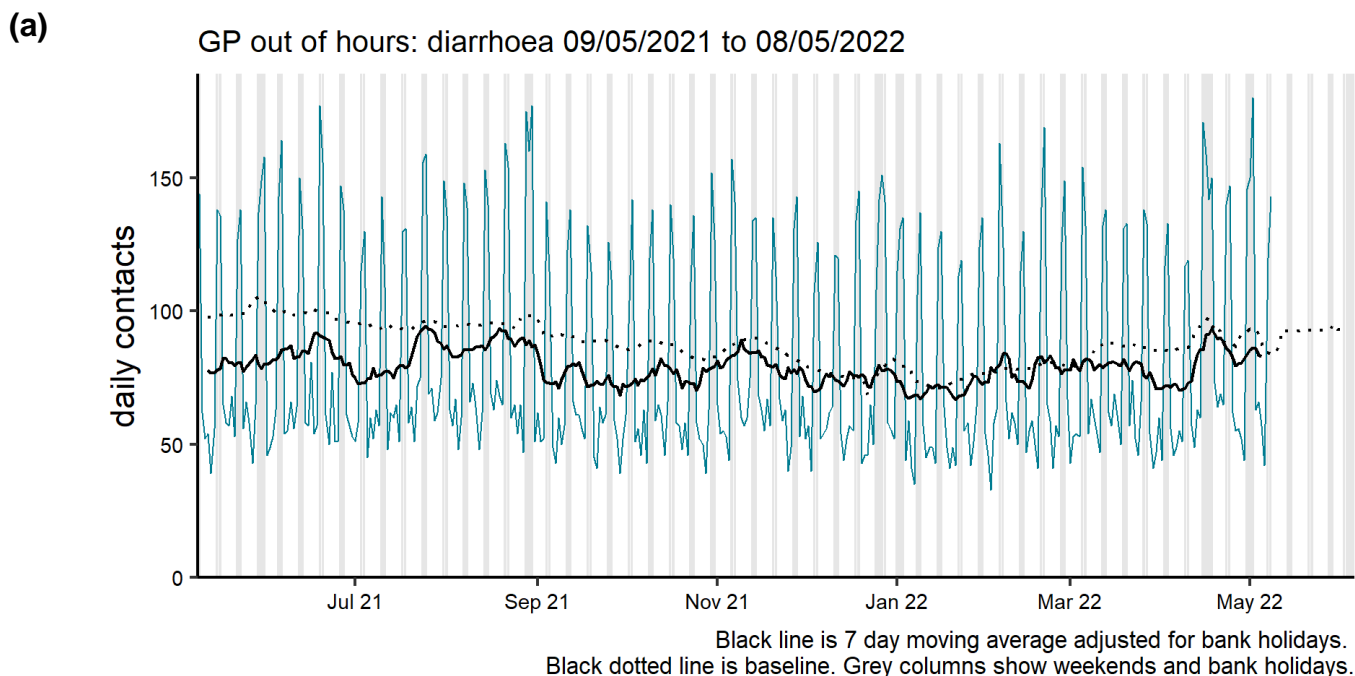
(c)

GP out of hours: gastroenteritis by region 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
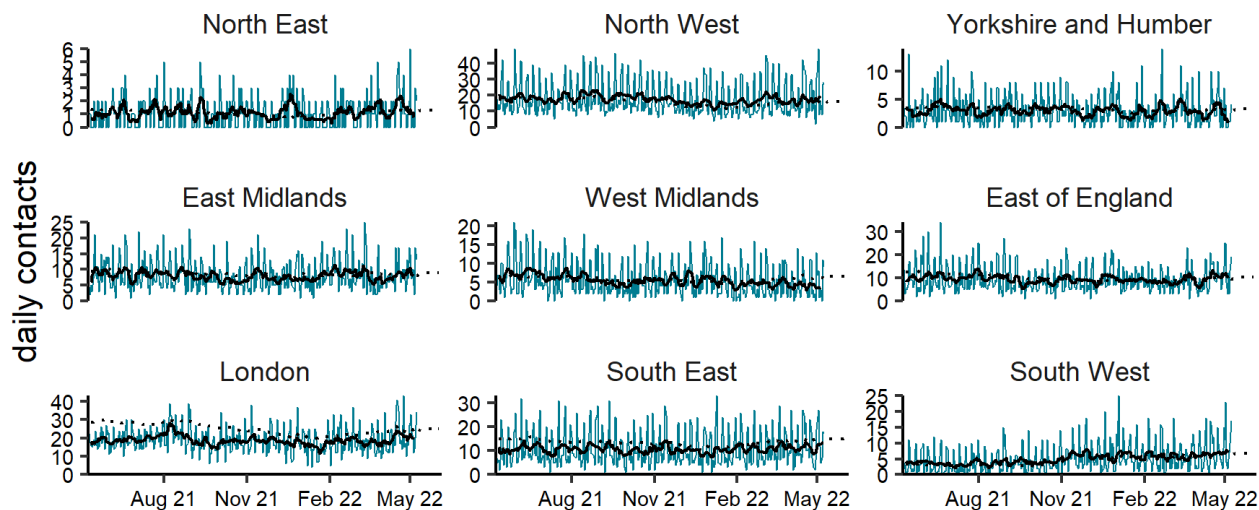Black dotted line is baseline.

Diarrhoea

Figure 9: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for diarrhoea, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

GP out of hours: diarrhoea 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: diarrhoea by age (years) 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
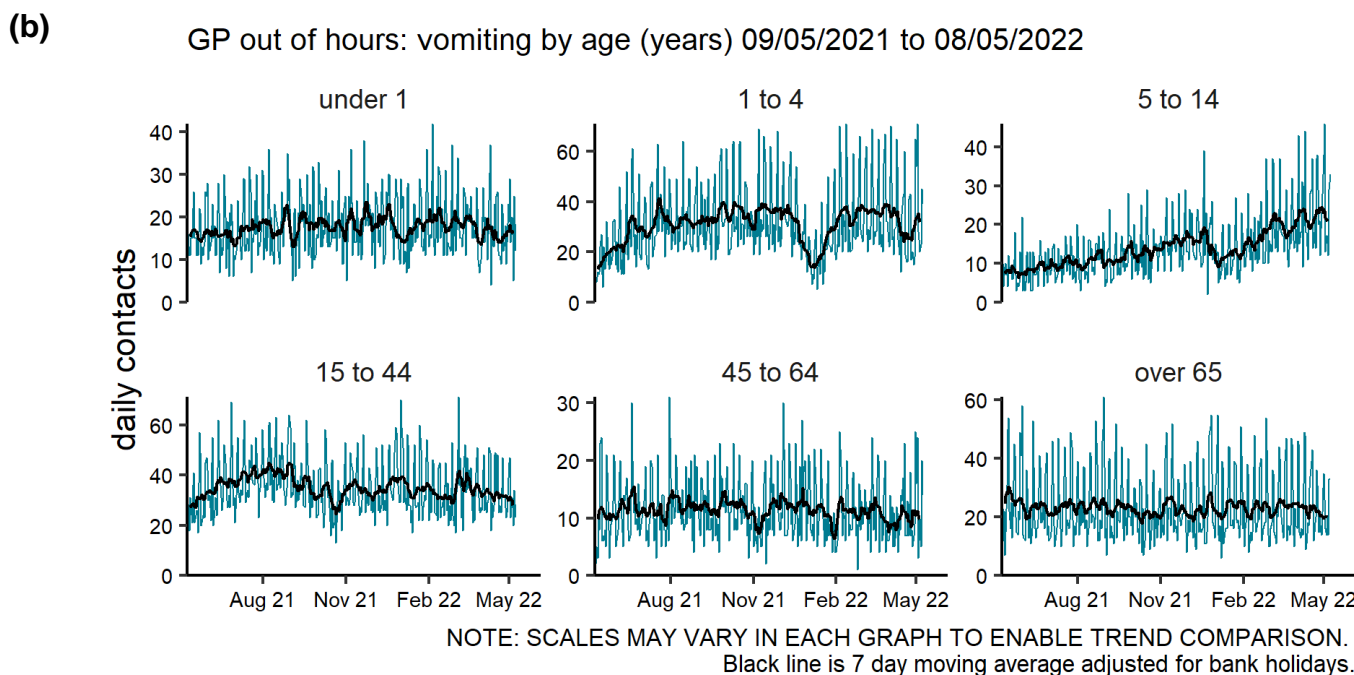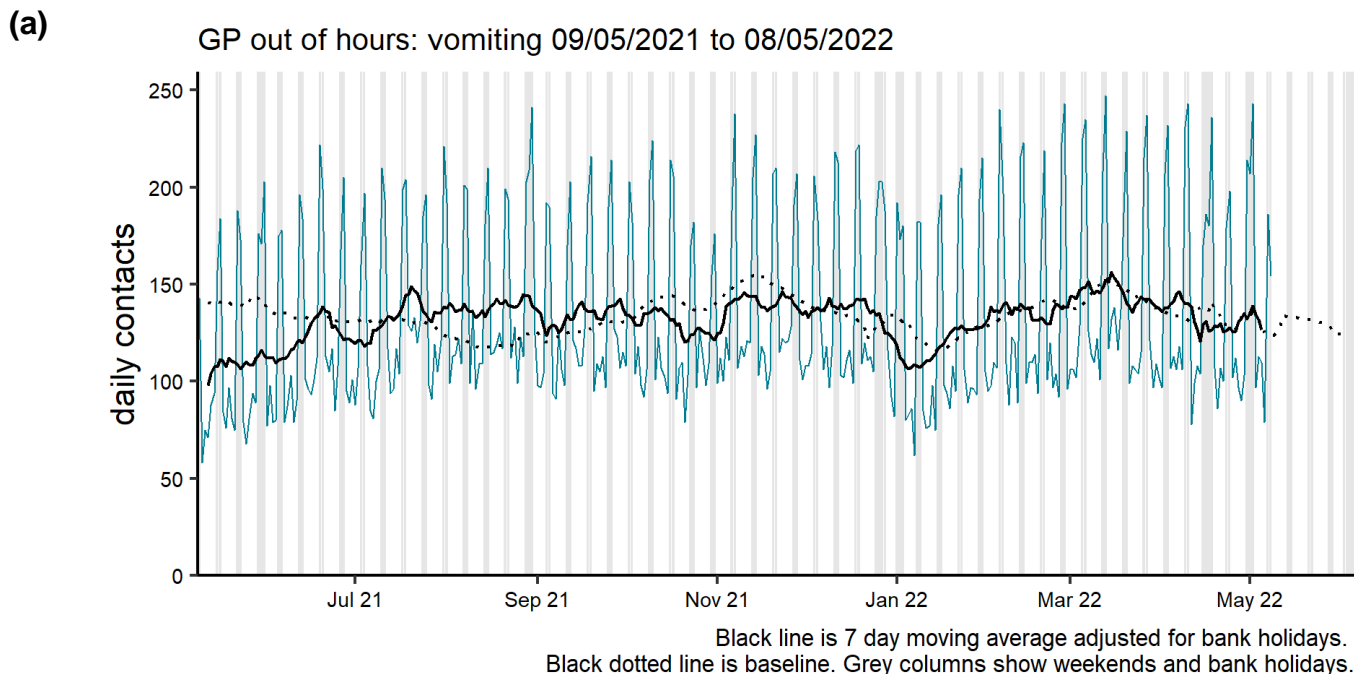
21

(c)

GP out of hours: diarrhoea by region 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
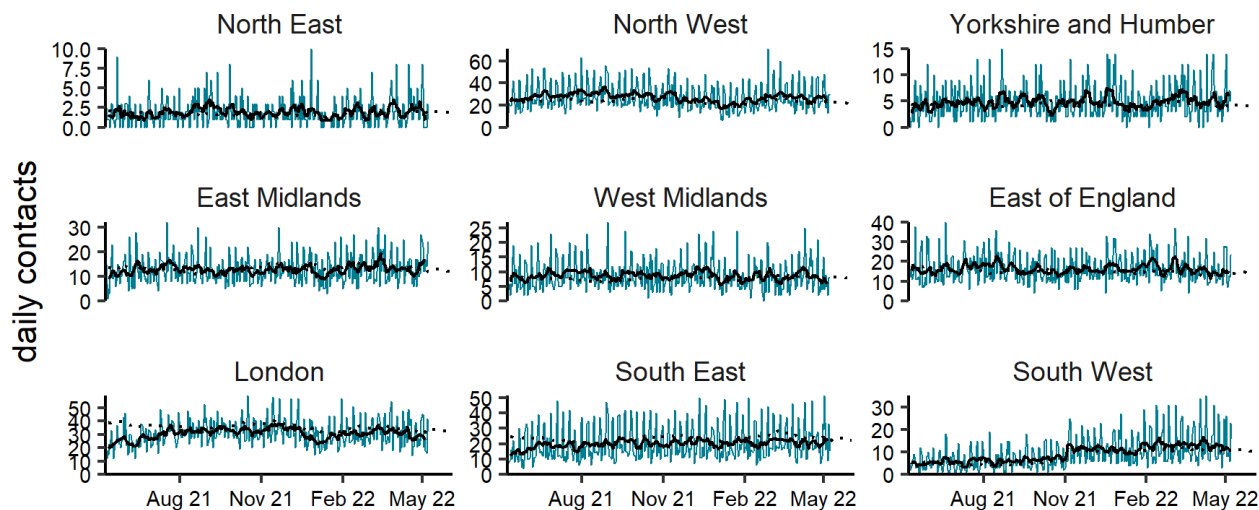Black dotted line is baseline.

Vomiting

Figure 10: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for vomiting, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

GP out of hours: vomiting 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: vomiting by age (years) 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

23

(c)

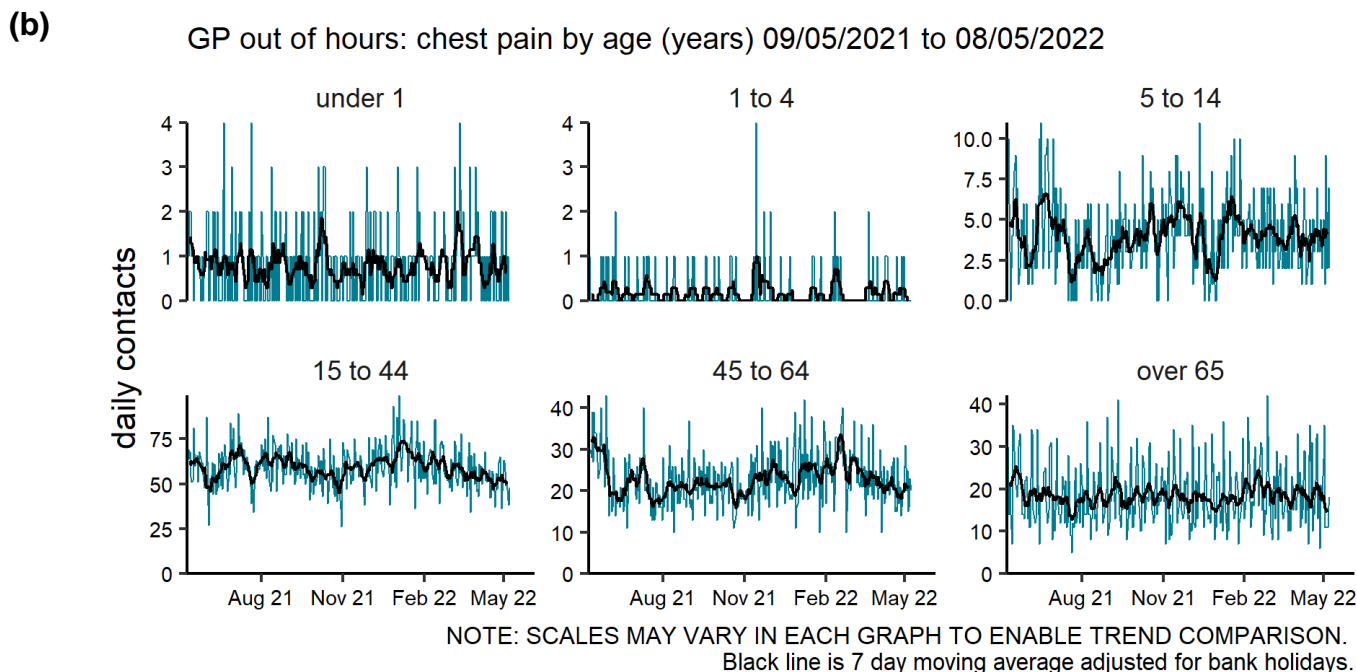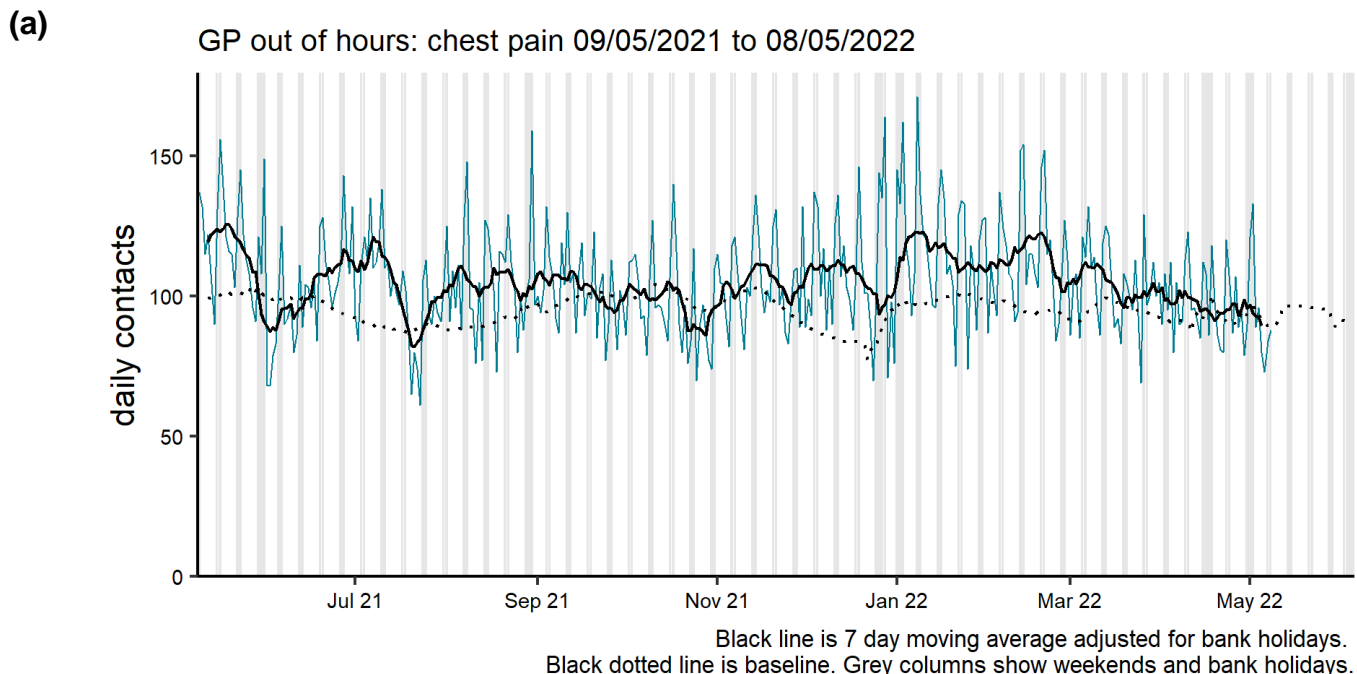## GP out of hours: vomiting by region 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
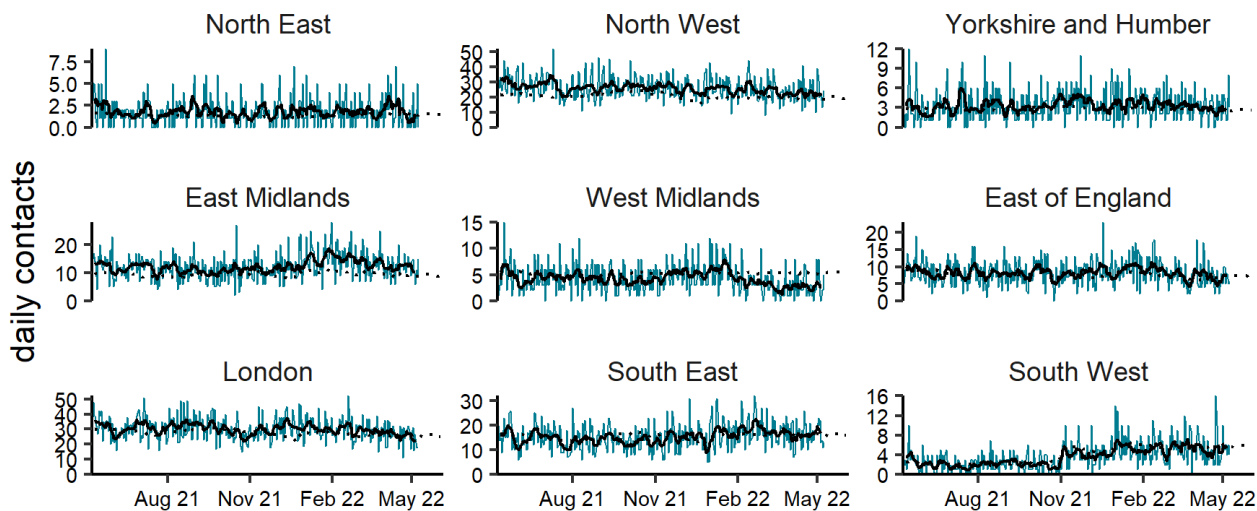Black dotted line is baseline.

Cardiac conditions

Chest pain (including myocardial infarction)

Figure 11: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for chest pain (including myocardial infarction), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

GP out of hours: chest pain 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

(b)

GP out of hours: chest pain by age (years) 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

25

(c)

GP out of hours: chest pain by region 09/05/2021 to 08/05/2022

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline.

Seasonal environmental conditions

During set periods of the year the Met Office operates both heat and cold weather watch systems, in association with UKHSA. Syndromic indicators are used to monitor the impact of both extreme hot and cold weather in England during these periods and will be included below (where an appropriate syndromic indicator is available).

Cold weather alert period: 1 November to 31 March

Heat-Health Alert period:1 June to 15 September

Highest weather alert level during the current reporting week:
Level 0 – Long-term planning

No weather watch in place

Notes and caveats

The following additional caveats apply to the UKHSA GP out-of-hours/unscheduled care syndromic surveillance system:

- the data presented should be used to monitor trends rather than numbers of 'cases':
    - this is a sentinel syndromic surveillance system; not all GP OOH service providers in England are included
    - coverage varies by location, as reflected in the numbers included in the total contacts by Region charts **above**
- some syndromic indicators are hierarchical:
    - acute respiratory infections includes:
        - influenza-like illness
        - acute bronchitis/ bronchiolitis
        - other and non-specific acute respiratory infections
    - gastroenteritis includes:
        - diarrhoea
        - vomiting
        - other and non-specific gastroenteritis
- baselines:
    - were last remodelled March 2021
    - are constructed from historical data since July 2009
    - represent seasonally expected levels of activity
    - take account of any known substantial changes in data collection, population coverage or reporting practices:
        - the COVID-19 pandemic period is excluded, to show seasonally expected levels if COVID-19 had not occurred
    - may be remodelled to include the impacts seen during periods of the COVID-19 pandemic if/when appropriate due to introduction of large scale public health interventions which affect GP OOH usage

Acknowledgements

About the UK Health Security Agency

UKHSA is responsible for protecting every member of every community from the impact of infectious diseases, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents and other health threats. We provide intellectual, scientific and operational leadership at national and local level, as well as on the global stage, to make the nation heath secure.

UKHSA is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care.

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency

OGL

Corporate member of
Plain English Campaign
Committed to clearer
communication
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UKHSA supports the UN
Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS