

Remote Health Advice Syndromic Surveillance System Bulletin (England) 2022 Week 22

Key messages

Data reported to: 05 June 2022

During week 22, NHS 111 sore throat calls continued to increase and remain above seasonally expected levels. Please note that week 22 includes a bank holiday weekend (with two public holiday days) when NHS 111 call and online assessment numbers are traditionally higher thereby making assessment of recent trend difficult.

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 NHS 111 calls (Figure 1)	No trend	No baseline
Total NHS 111 online (Figure 2)	No trend	No baseline
Cold/flu NHS 111 calls (Figure 3)	Increasing	Above baseline
Cold/flu NHS 111 online (Figure 4)	No trend	Below baseline
Fever NHS 111 calls (Figure 5)	Decreasing	Below baseline
Fever NHS 111 online (Figure 6)	No trend	Below baseline
Cough NHS 111 calls (Figure 7)	Increasing	Similar to baseline
Cough NHS 111 online (Figure 8)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Difficulty breathing NHS 111 calls (Figure 9)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Difficulty breathing NHS 111 online (Figure 10)	No trend	Below baseline
Sore throat NHS 111 calls (Figure 11)	Increasing	Above baseline
Sore throat NHS 111 online (Figure 12)	Increasing	Above baseline
Potential COVID-19 NHS 111 calls (Figure 13)	No trend	No baseline
Potential COVID-19 NHS 111 online (Figure 14)	No trend	No baseline
Diarrhoea NHS 111 calls (Figure 15)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Diarrhoea NHS 111 online (Figure 16)	No trend	Above baseline
Vomiting NHS 111 calls (Figure 17)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Vomiting NHS 111 online (Figure 18)	No trend	Above baseline
Eye problems NHS 111 calls (Figure 19)	No trend	Below baseline
Eye problems NHS 111 online (Figure 20)	No trend	Above baseline
Insect bites NHS 111 calls (Figure 21)	No trend	Below baseline
Insect bites NHS 111 online (Figure 22)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Heat exposure or sunburn NHS 111 calls (Figure 23)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Heat exposure or sunburn NHS 111 online (Figure 24)	No trend	Similar to baseline

¹ trend reports on the trend seen over most recent and earlier weeks

Contents

Key messages	2
Syndromic indicators at a glance	2
Contents	3
About this syndromic surveillance system	5
Total contacts	6
NHS 111 calls	6
NHS 111 online	8
Respiratory conditions	10
Cold/flu NHS 111 calls	10
Cold/flu NHS 111 online	12
Fever NHS 111 calls	14
Fever NHS 111 online	16
Cough NHS 111 calls	18
Cough NHS 111 online	20
Difficulty breathing NHS 111 calls	22
Difficulty breathing NHS 111 online	24
Sore throat NHS 111 calls	26
Sore throat NHS 111 online	28
Potential COVID-19 NHS 111 calls	30
Potential COVID-19 NHS 111 online	32
Gastrointestinal conditions	34
Diarrhoea NHS 111 calls	34
Diarrhoea NHS 111 online	36
Vomiting NHS 111 calls	38
Vomiting NHS 111 online	40
Seasonal environmental conditions	42
Eye problems NHS 111 calls	43
Eye problems NHS 111 online	45
Insect bites NHS 111 calls	47

Remote health advice syndromic surveillance system (England) bulletin

Insect bites NHS 111 online	49
Heat exposure or sunburn impact NHS 111 calls	51
Heat exposure or sunburn NHS 111 online	53
Notes and caveats	55
COVID-19 syndromic surveillance	55
Acknowledgements	57
About the UK Health Security Agency	58

About this syndromic surveillance system

This bulletin presents data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) remote health advice 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 NHS 111 call and NHS 111 online assessment data are analysed and reported here, to identify and describe trends for a variety of syndromic indicators:

- syndromic indicators include groupings such as cold/flu, fever and diarrhoea
- syndromic indicators are based on:
 - symptoms (known as the Pathway) identified from both NHS 111 calls and NHS 111 online assessments
 - the potential COVID-19 syndromic indicator is based on the outcome (known as the Disposition), rather than the Pathway
- **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.

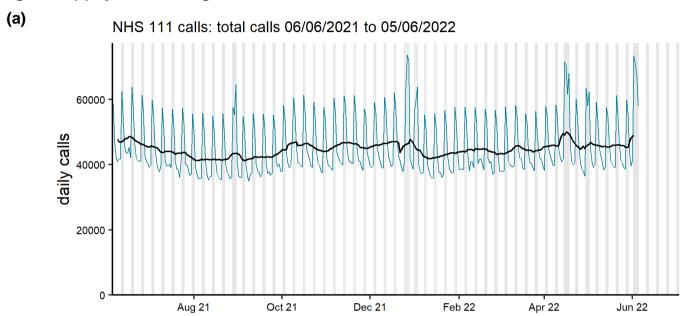
Data quality issues of note this week

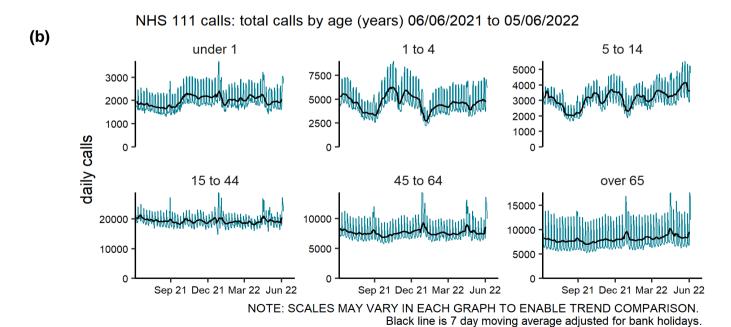
Nothing of note.

Total contacts

NHS 111 calls

Figure 1: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (with 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) recorded in this syndromic surveillance system in England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.





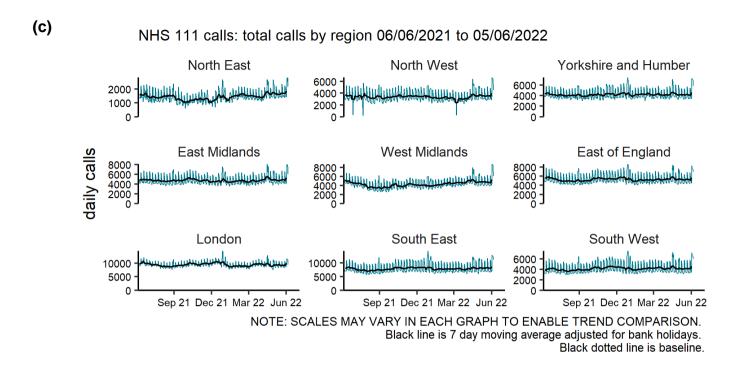
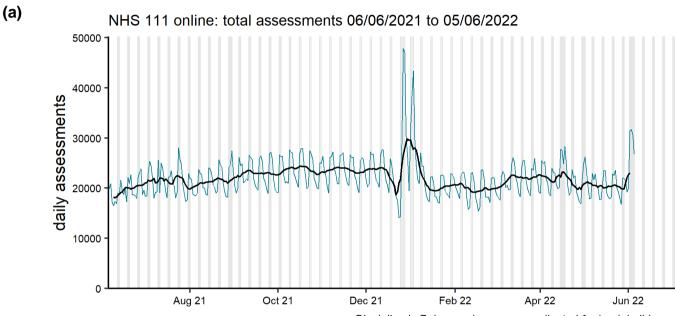


Table 2: The number of NHS 111 calls in England recorded each day in the most recent week.

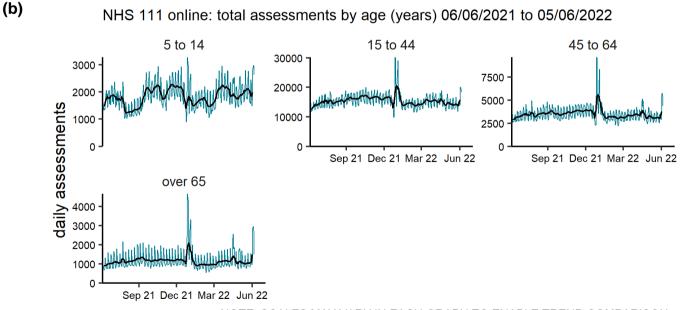
Date	Number of calls
23 May 2022	45,937
24 May 2022	41,174
25 May 2022	40,231
26 May 2022	39,128
27 May 2022	38,334
28 May 2022	59,834
29 May 2022	55,112

NHS 111 online

Figure 2: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (with 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) recorded in this syndromic surveillance system in England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.



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



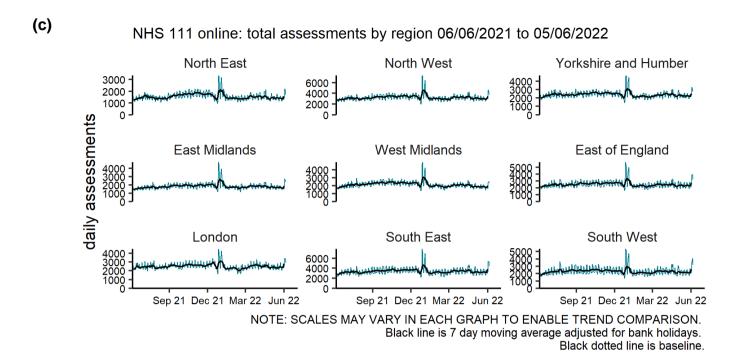


Table 3: The number of completed NHS 111 online assessments in England recorded each day in the most recent week.

Date	Number of completed assessments
23 May 2022	23,168
24 May 2022	19,662
25 May 2022	18,932
26 May 2022	17,648
27 May 2022	16,519
28 May 2022	21,659
29 May 2022	21,709

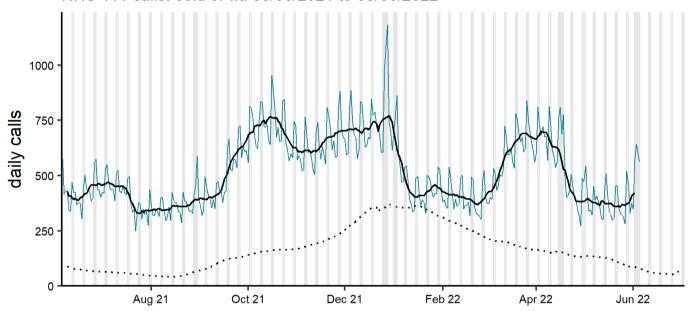
Respiratory conditions

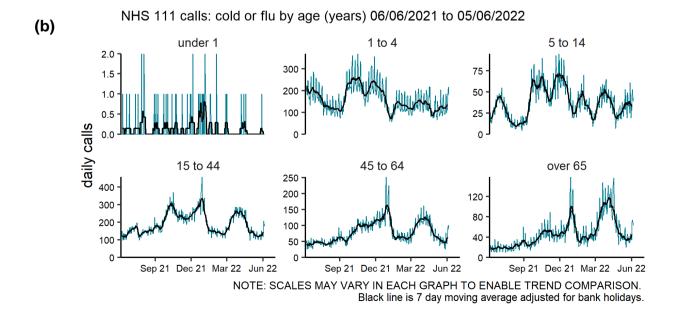
Cold/flu NHS 111 calls

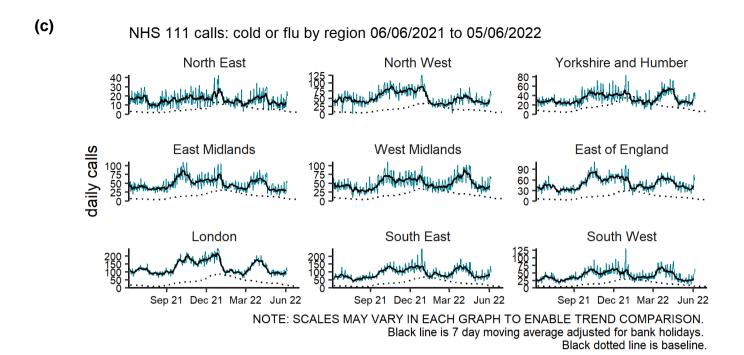
Figure 3: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for cold/flu, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

NHS 111 calls: cold or flu 06/06/2021 to 05/06/2022

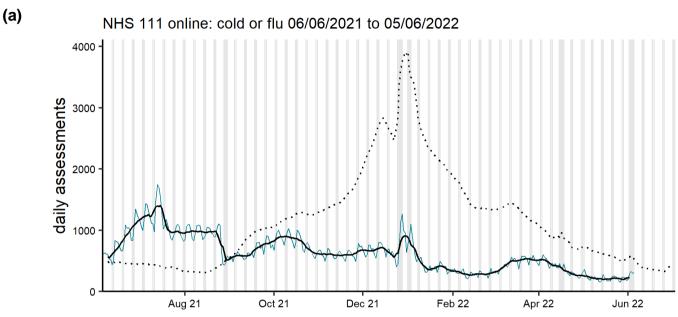




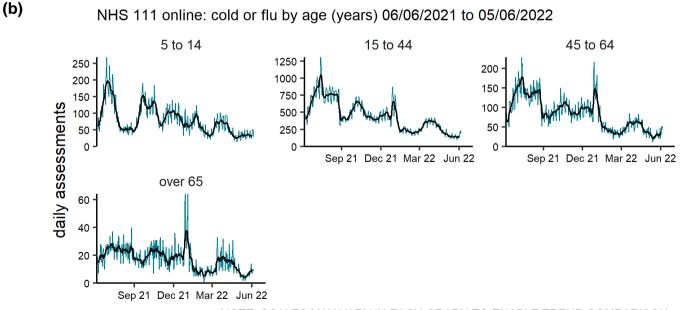


Cold/flu NHS 111 online

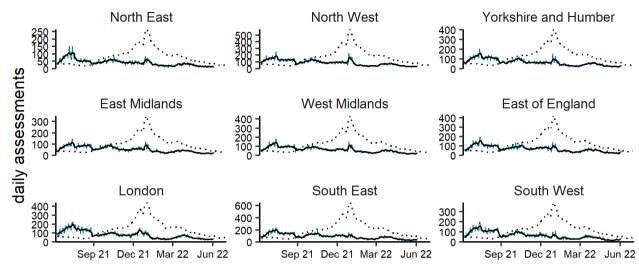
Figure 4: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for cold/flu, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.



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



(c) NHS 111 online: cold or flu by region 06/06/2021 to 05/06/2022



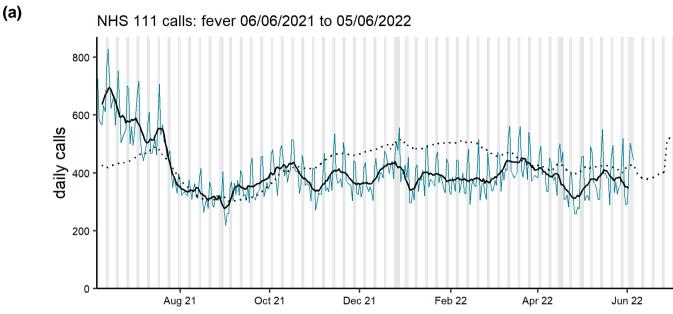
NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.

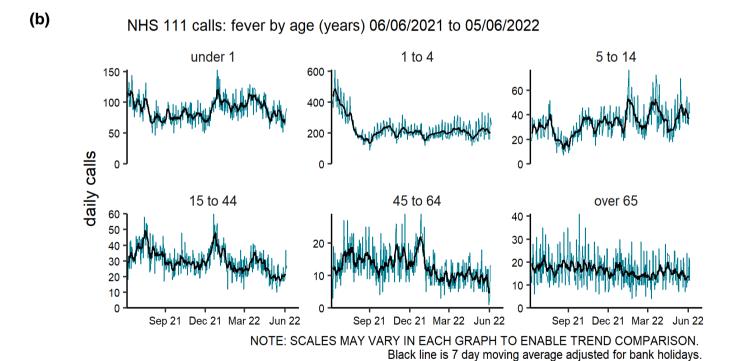
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

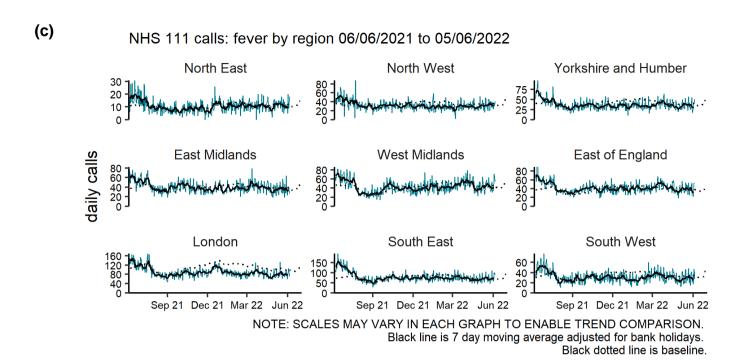
Black dotted line is baseline.

Fever NHS 111 calls

Figure 5: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for fever, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.



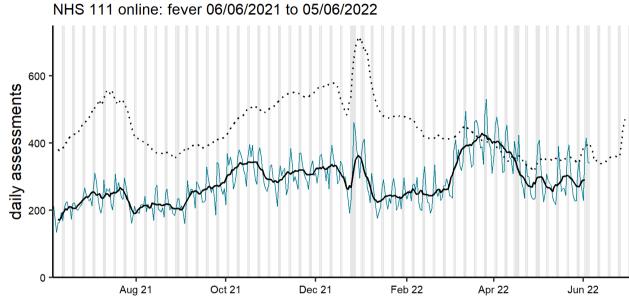




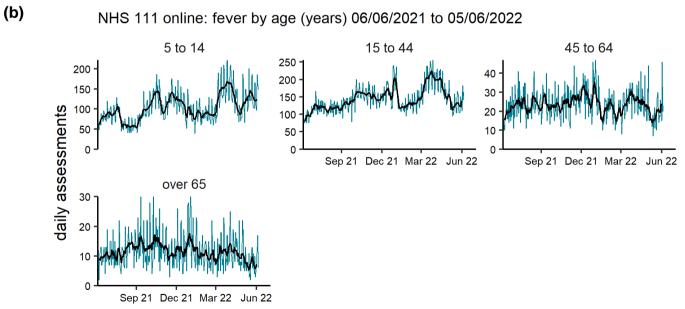
Fever NHS 111 online

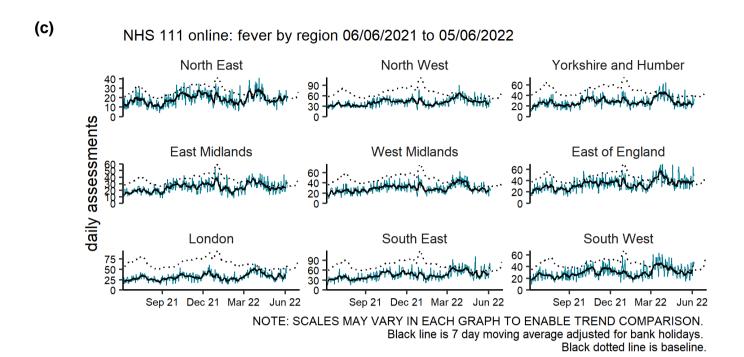
Figure 6: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for fever, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c)

by UKHSA Region. (a)



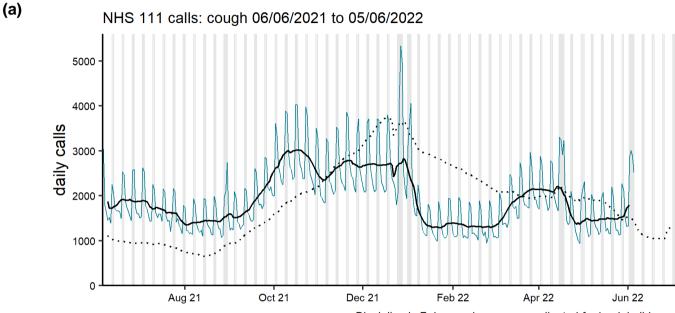
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

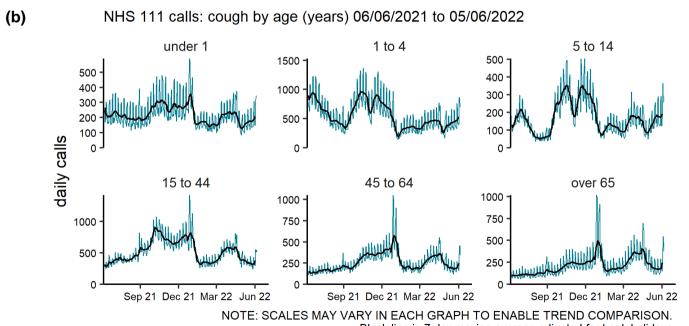


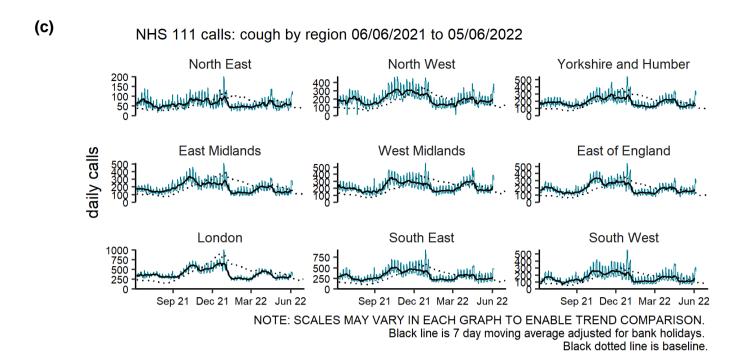


Cough NHS 111 calls

Figure 7: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for cough, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.





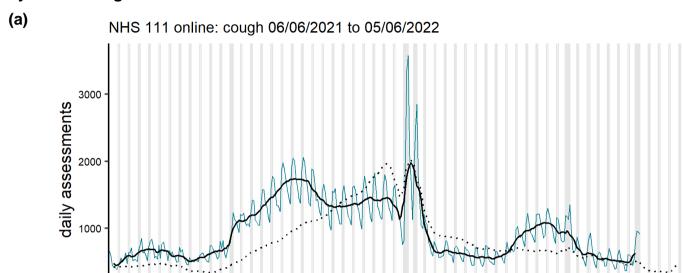


Cough NHS 111 online

Aug 21

Oct 21

Figure 8: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for cough, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.



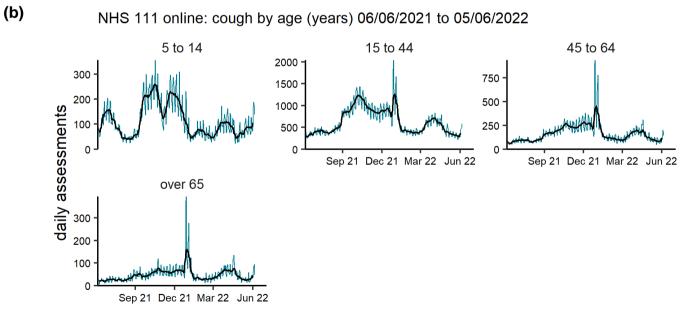
Dec 21

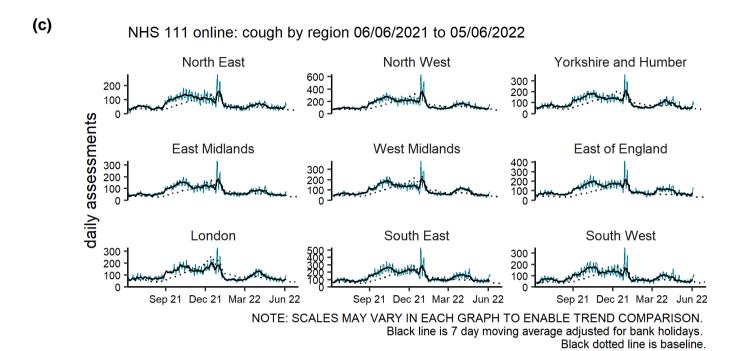
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

Apr 22

Jun 22

Feb 22



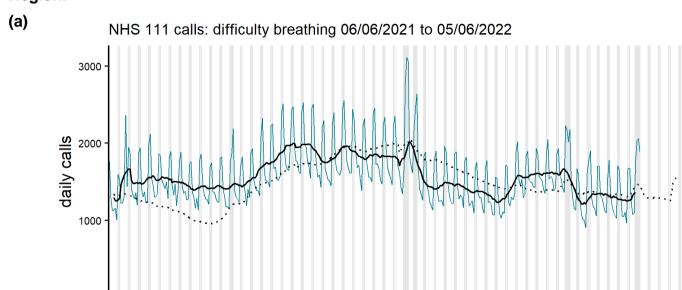


Difficulty breathing NHS 111 calls

Aug 21

Oct 21

Figure 9: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for difficulty breathing, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

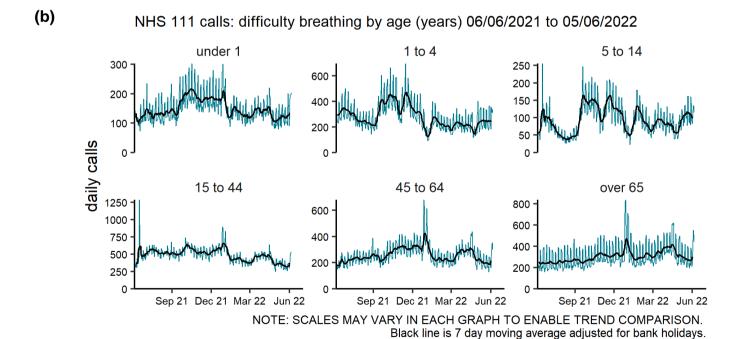


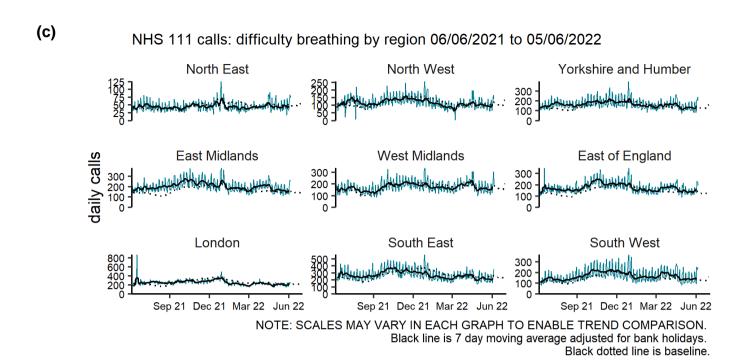
Dec 21

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

Apr 22

Feb 22





Aug 21

Oct 21

Difficulty breathing NHS 111 online

Figure 10: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for difficulty breathing, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

NHS 111 online: difficulty breathing 06/06/2021 to 05/06/2022

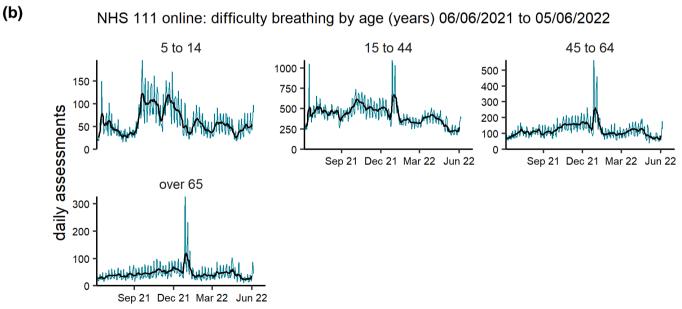
Dec 21

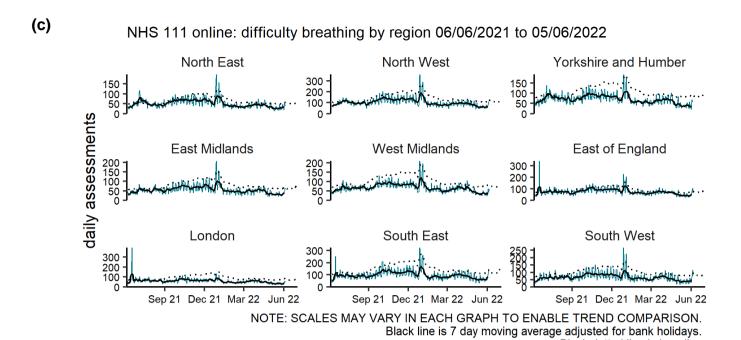
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

Apr 22

Jun 22

Feb 22

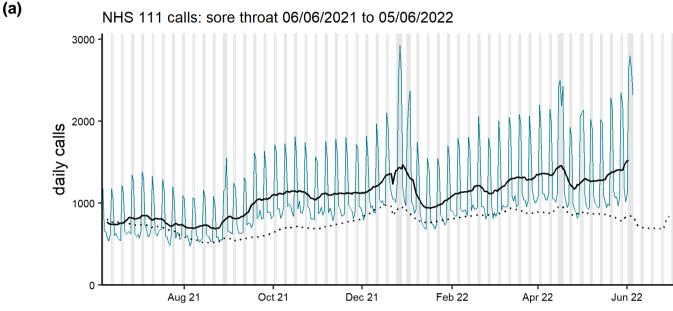


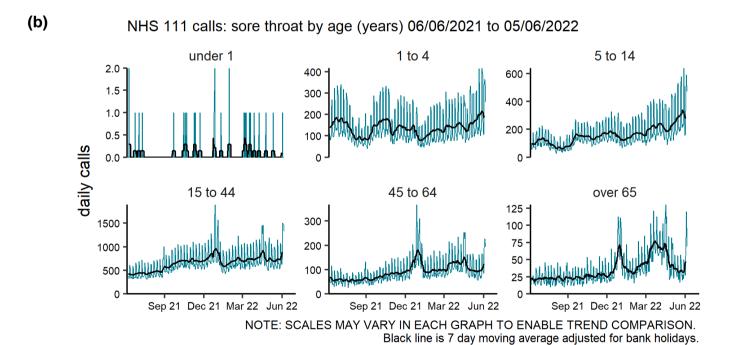


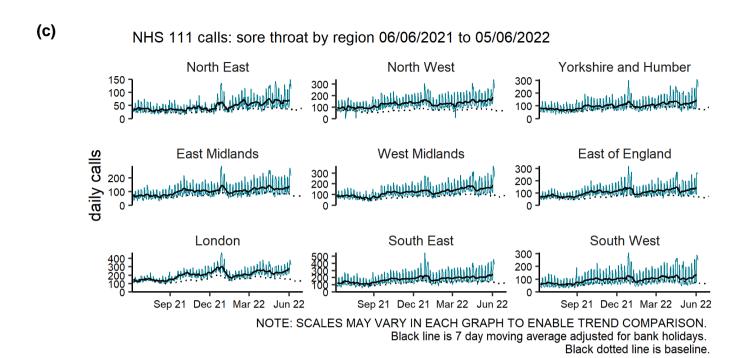
Black dotted line is baseline.

Sore throat NHS 111 calls

Figure 11: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for sore throat, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

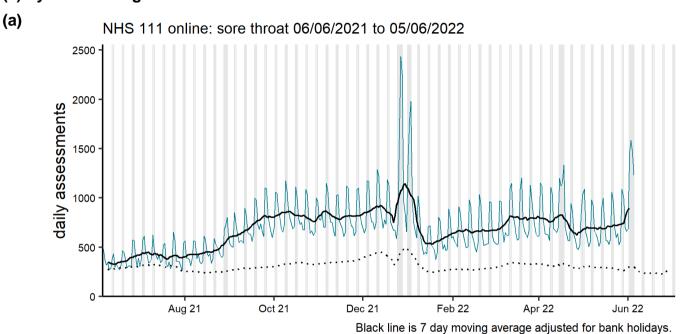






Sore throat NHS 111 online

Figure 12: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for sore throat, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

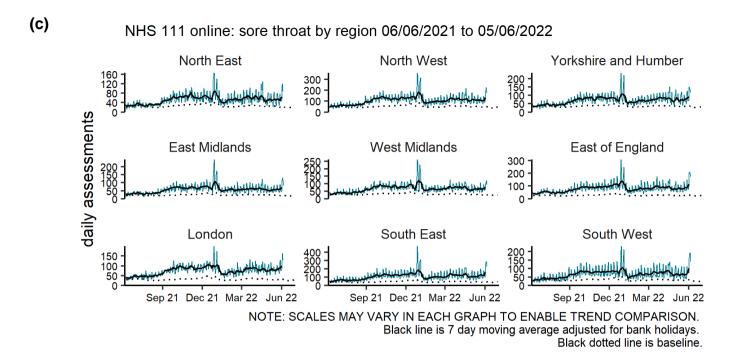


Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.

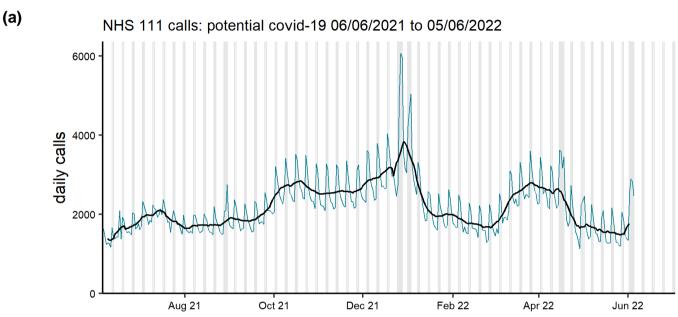
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

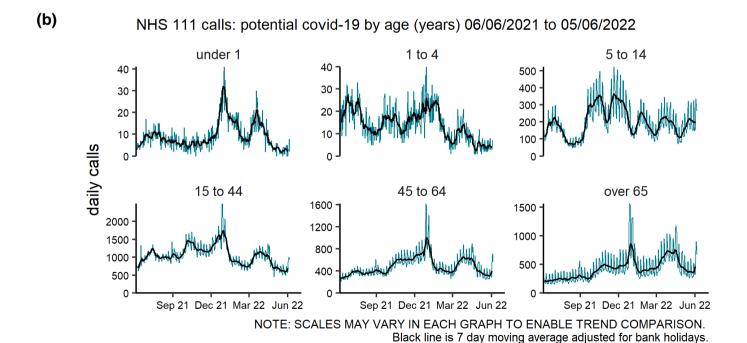
(b) NHS 111 online: sore throat by age (years) 06/06/2021 to 05/06/2022 15 to 44 5 to 14 45 to 64 250 1500 200 200 150 1000 daily assessments 100 100 500 50 0 0 Sep 21 Dec 21 Mar 22 Jun 22 Sep 21 Dec 21 Mar 22 Jun 22 over 65 40 30 20 Sep 21 Dec 21 Mar 22

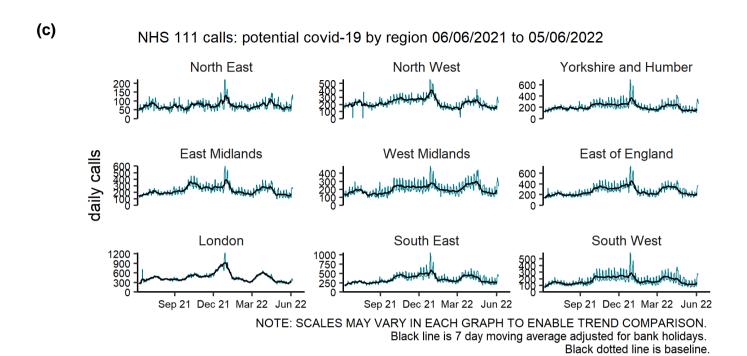


Potential COVID-19 NHS 111 calls

Figure 13: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for potential COVID-19, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.







Aug 21

Oct 21

Potential COVID-19 NHS 111 online

Figure 14: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for potential COVID-19, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

NHS 111 online: potential covid-19 06/06/2021 to 05/06/2022

| Source | Sou

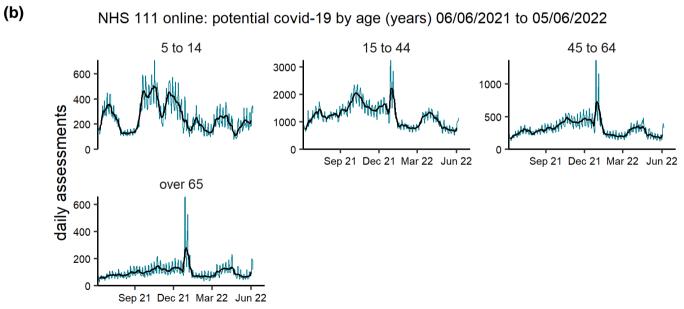
Dec 21

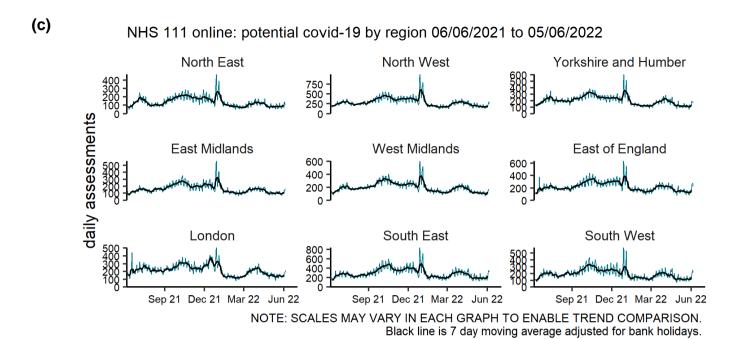
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

Apr 22

Jun 22

Feb 22



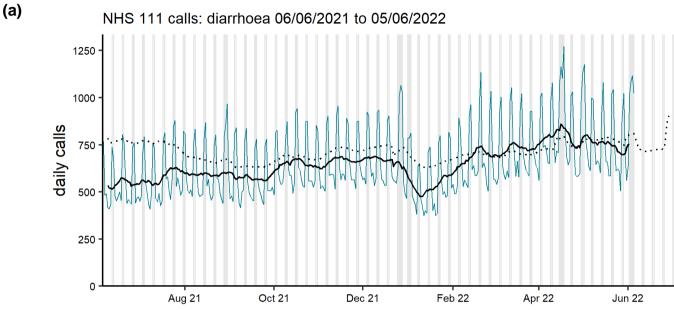


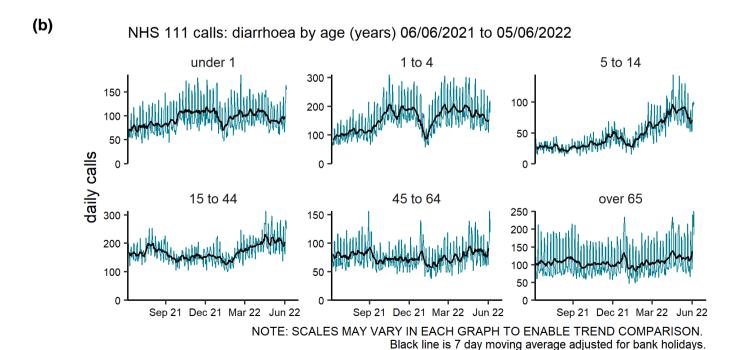
Black dotted line is baseline.

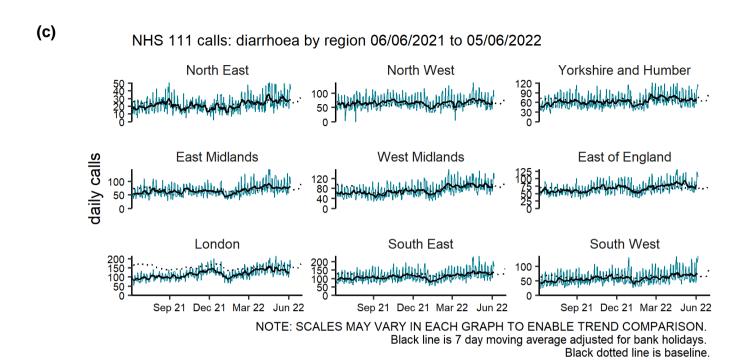
Gastrointestinal conditions

Diarrhoea NHS 111 calls

Figure 15: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for diarrhoea, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.



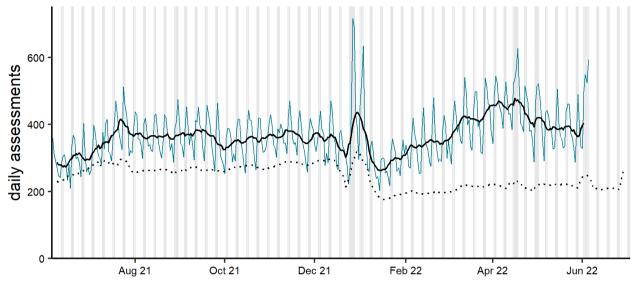




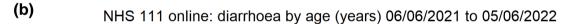
Diarrhoea NHS 111 online

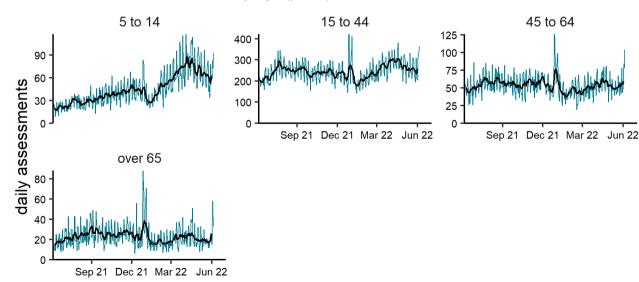
Figure 16: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for diarrhoea, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.





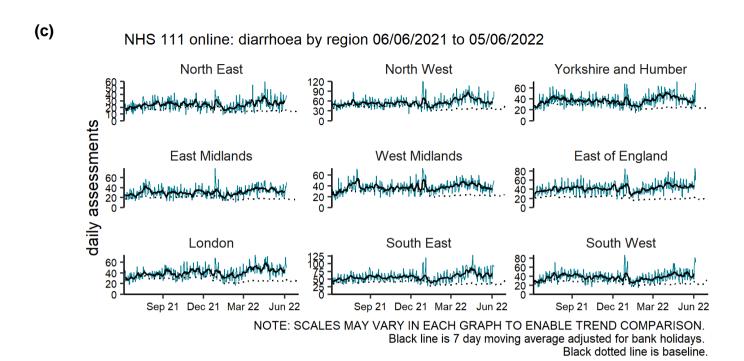
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.





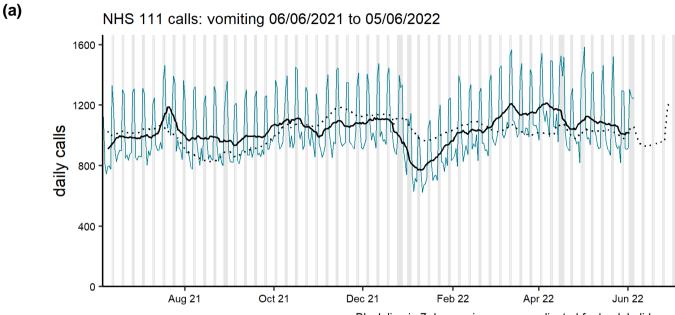
NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.

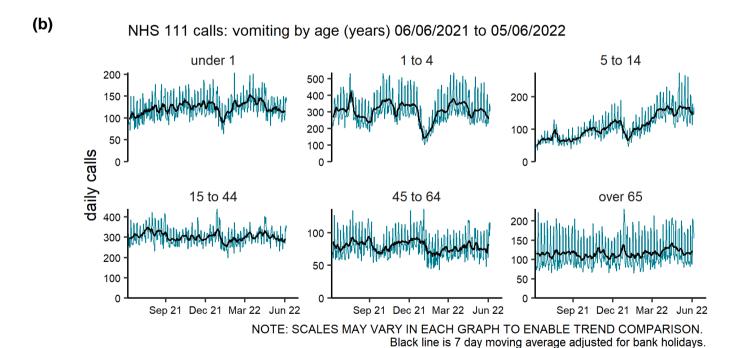
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

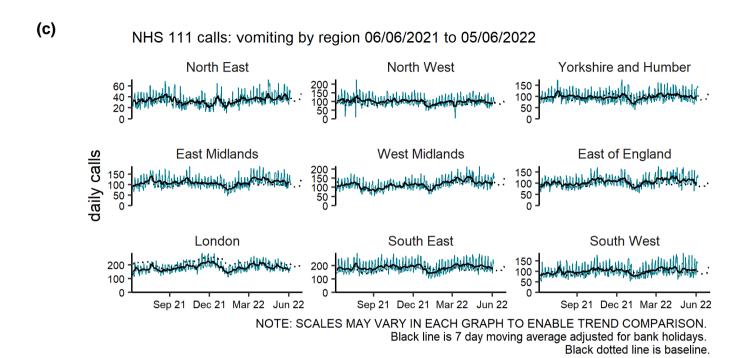


Vomiting NHS 111 calls

Figure 17: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for vomiting, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.







Vomiting NHS 111 online

Aug 21

Oct 21

Figure 18: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for vomiting, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

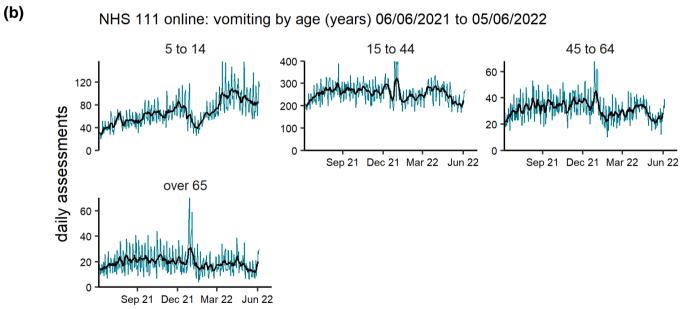
NHS 111 online: vomiting 06/06/2021 to 05/06/2022

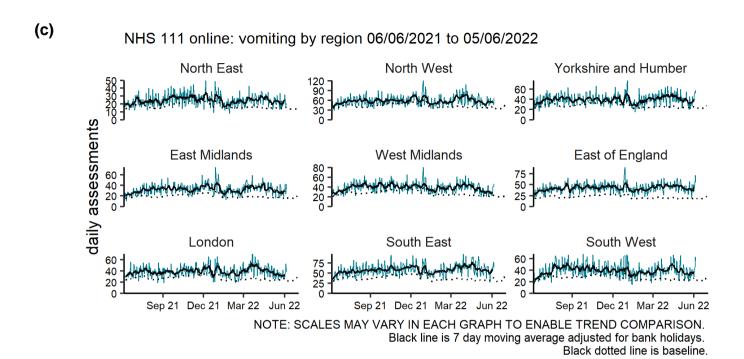
Dec 21

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

Apr 22

Feb 22





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

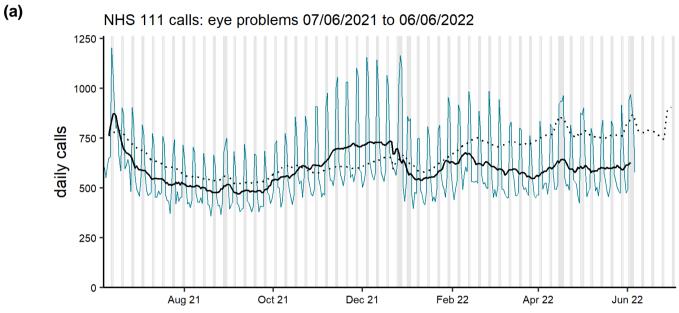
Heat-Health Alert period:1 June to 15 September

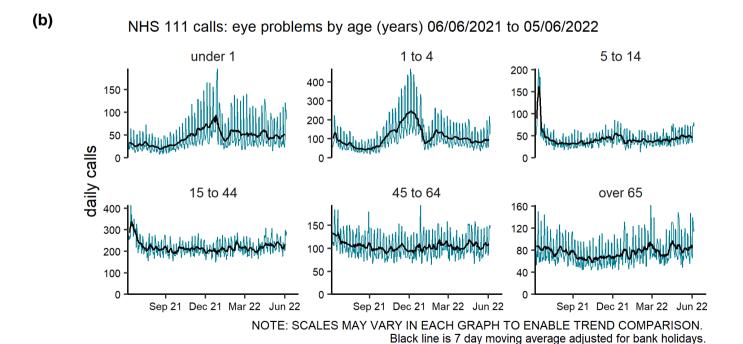
Highest weather alert level duing the current reporting week:

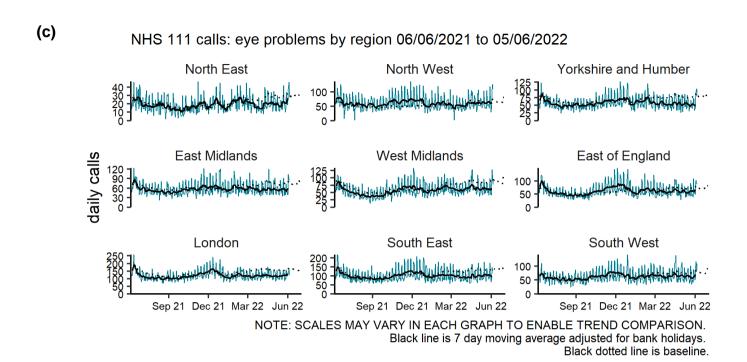
Level 1 - Summer Preparedness

Eye problems NHS 111 calls

Figure 19: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for eye problems, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

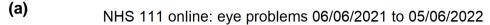


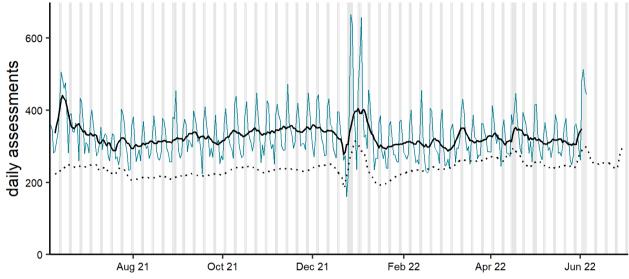




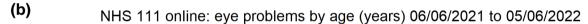
Eye problems NHS 111 online

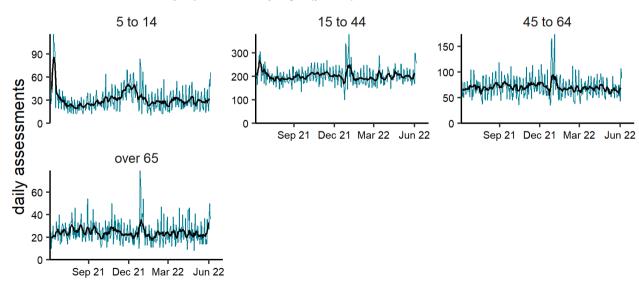
Figure 20: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for eye problems, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

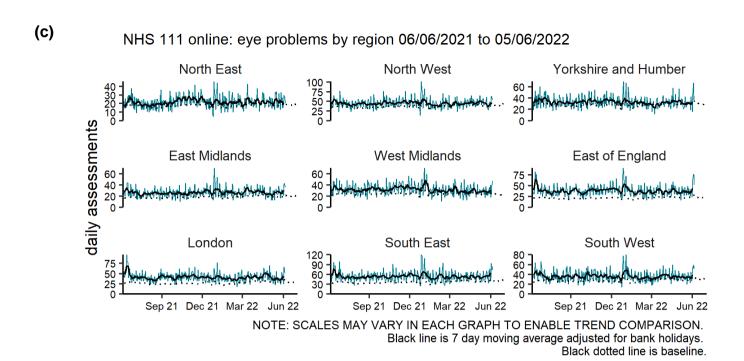




Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.





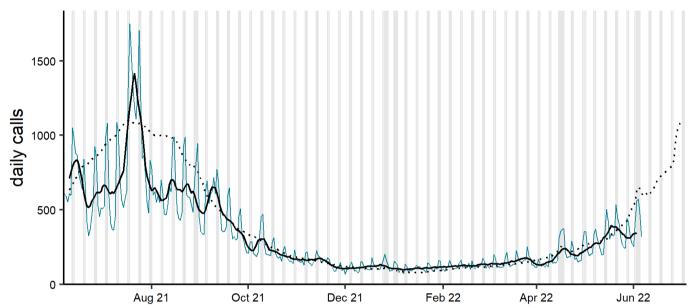


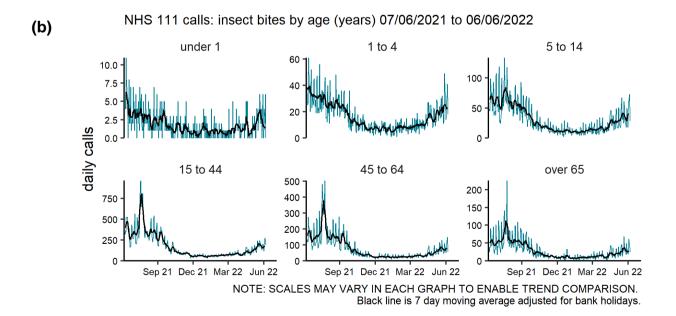
Insect bites NHS 111 calls

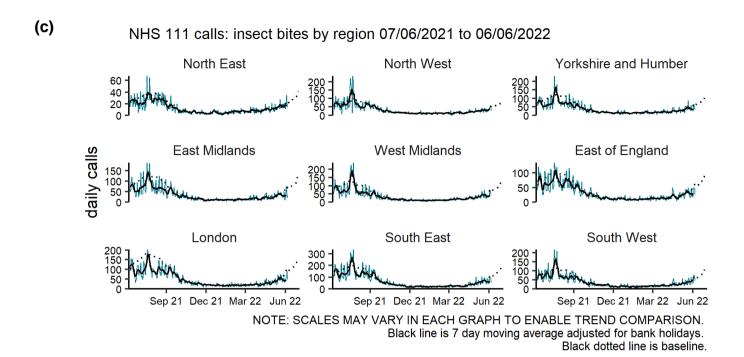
Figure 21: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for insect bites, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

NHS 111 calls: insect bites 07/06/2021 to 06/06/2022



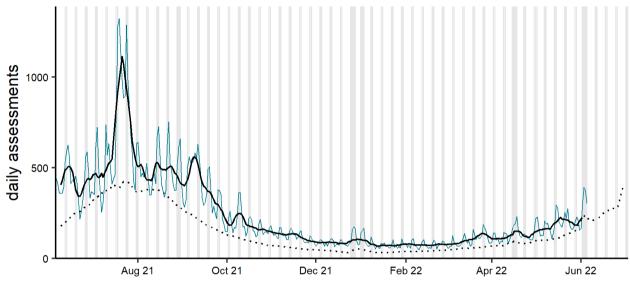




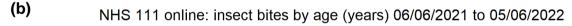
Insect bites NHS 111 online

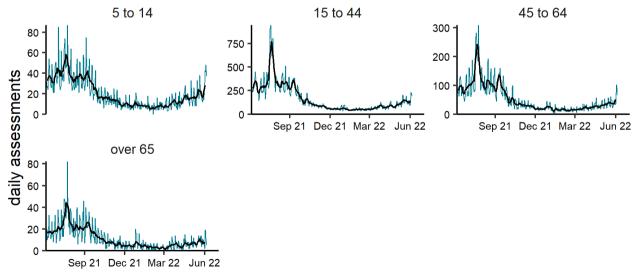
Figure 22: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for insect bites, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

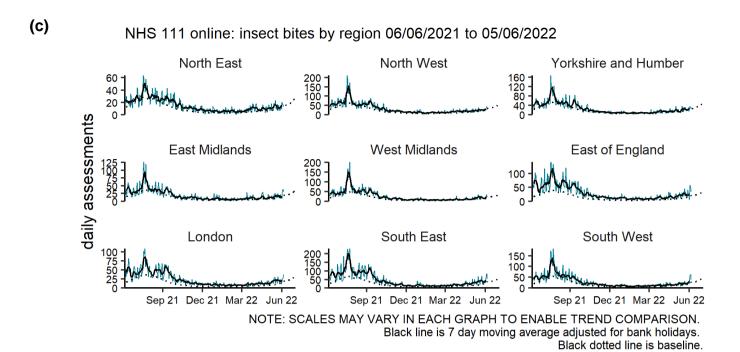
(a) NHS 111 online: insect bites 06/06/2021 to 05/06/2022



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





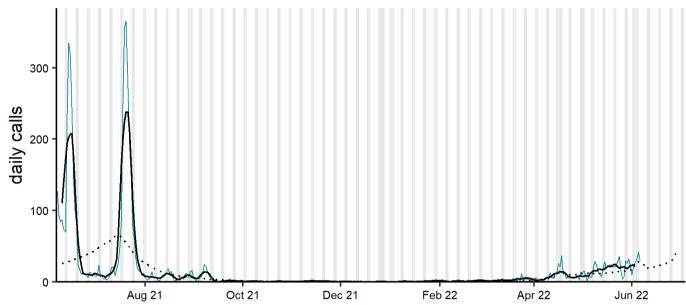


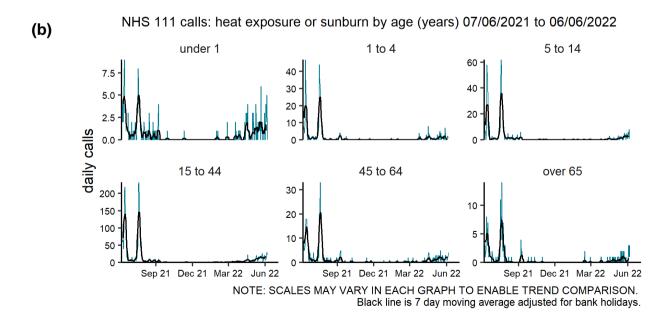
Heat exposure or sunburn NHS 111 calls

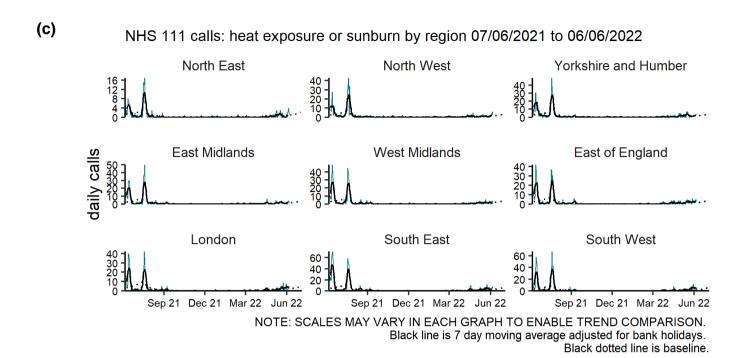
Figure 23: Daily number of NHS 111 calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for heat exposure or sunburn, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

(a)

NHS 111 calls: heat exposure or sunburn 07/06/2021 to 06/06/2022

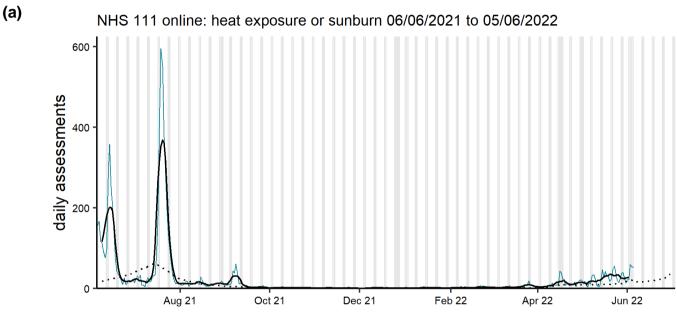




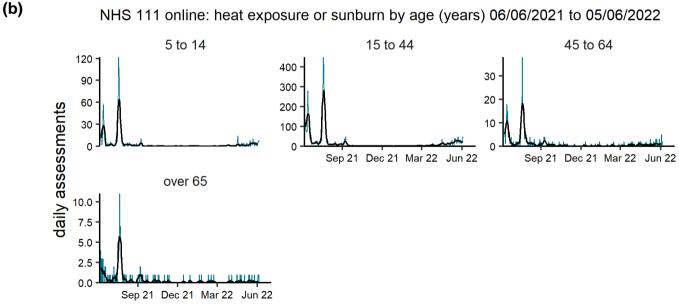


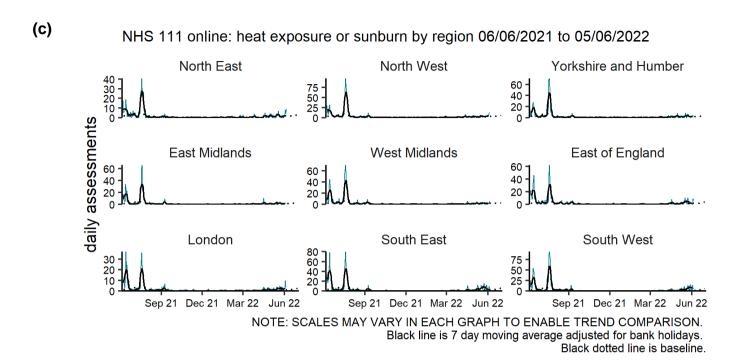
Heat exposure or sunburn NHS 111 online

Figure 24: Daily number of completed NHS 111 online assessments (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for heat exposure or sunburn, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.



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





Notes and caveats

The following additional caveats apply to the UKHSA remote health advice syndromic surveillance system:

- all NHS 111 syndromic trends should be interpreted with caution due to changes in national advice and guidance regarding access to health care services as well as updates and changes to service provision during the COVID-19 pandemic
- data presented should be used to monitor trends rather than numbers of 'cases':
 - NHS 111 calls data may not include the most urgent calls which are rapidly redirected to ambulance services
 - any user that launches an online assessment may access the service multiple times and can change their answers and follow multiple journeys through the online system: only complete assessments are included here
 - an individual may use both the NHS 111 online and NHS 111 telephony services; counts from the two services cannot be considered as distinct counts of individuals
 - NHS 111 online assessment data does not include children under 5 years of age

baselines:

- were last remodelled May 2021
- are constructed from historical data since January 2018
- 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 NHS 111 usage
- as NHS 111 systems evolve to meet service needs, we continue to work with NHS 111 and NHS England to ensure that:
 - changes impacting on syndromic indicators reported in this bulletin are identified and accounted for as far as possible
 - o changes are described in: Data quality issues of note this week
- further information about NHS 111 can be found here

COVID-19 syndromic surveillance

The 'potential COVID-19' syndromic indicator reported here for all NHS 111 data is based on the outcome of each call or online assessment (known as the disposition), not the symptom (Pathway) selected:

- potential COVID-19 is the only syndromic indicator which is based on disposition
- potential COVID-19 calls and online assessments may therefore also appear in other syndromic indicators based on the Pathway of each call or online assessment
- these data are based on potential COVID-19 symptoms reported and are not based on outcomes of tests for coronavirus

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to NHS 111 and to NHS Digital for their assistance and support in providing the anonymised data that underpin this system.

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

© Crown copyright 2022

Version: RHA-2

Prepared by: Real-time Syndromic Surveillance Team

For queries relating to this document, please contact: syndromic.surveillance@phe.gov.uk

Published: June 2022



You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit <u>OGL</u>. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.



UKHSA supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals

