



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# **Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance System Bulletin (England) 2023 Week 13**

# Key messages

Data reported to: 02 April 2023

During week 13, COVID-19-like ED attendances decreased nationally, and notably decreased in those over 65 years of age. Attendances for acute respiratory infection and influenza-like illness also decreased nationally, although influenza-like illness remains slightly above seasonally expected levels. Attendances for gastroenteritis decreased nationally. Scarlet fever attendances continued to decrease nationally, and particularly in those aged 1-4 years.

## 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 <sup>1</sup>	Level
Total attendances ( <b>Figure 1</b> )	No trend	No baseline
COVID-19-like ( <b>Figure 2</b> )	Decreasing	No baseline
Acute respiratory infections ( <b>Figure 3</b> )	Decreasing	Similar to baseline
Acute bronchiolitis or bronchitis ( <b>Figure 4</b> )	No trend	Similar to baseline
Influenza-like illness ( <b>Figure 5</b> )	Decreasing	Above baseline
Pneumonia ( <b>Figure 6</b> )	Decreasing	Above baseline
Asthma ( <b>Figure 7</b> )	Decreasing	Similar to baseline
Gastroenteritis ( <b>Figure 8</b> )	Decreasing	Below baseline
Cardiac ( <b>Figure 9</b> )	Increasing	Similar to baseline
Myocardial ischaemia ( <b>Figure 10</b> )	Increasing	Similar to baseline
Acute alcohol intoxication ( <b>Figure 11</b> )	No trend	Similar to baseline
Mental health ( <b>Figure 12</b> )	No trend	No baseline
Scarlet fever ( <b>Figure 13</b> )	Decreasing	Above baseline
Impact of cold ( <b>Figure 14</b> )	No trend	Below baseline

<sup>1</sup> 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 .....	4
Total attendances.....	5
Respiratory conditions .....	7
COVID-19-like .....	7
Acute respiratory infections .....	9
Acute bronchiolitis/bronchitis .....	11
Influenza-like illness .....	13
Pneumonia.....	15
Asthma.....	17
Gastrointestinal conditions .....	19
Gastroenteritis .....	19
Cardiac conditions.....	21
Cardiac.....	21
Myocardial ischaemia.....	23
Other conditions .....	25
Acute alcohol intoxication .....	25
Mental health .....	27
Scarlet fever.....	29
Seasonal environmental conditions .....	31
Impact of cold .....	32
Notes and caveats .....	34
Acknowledgements .....	35
About the UK Health Security Agency .....	36

## About this syndromic surveillance system

This bulletin presents data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) emergency department 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 ED 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 tract infections, gastroenteritis and myocardial ischaemia
- syndromic indicators are based on:
  - the primary diagnosis for each attendance
  - other diagnoses may be recorded, but are not used for indicator grouping
  - diagnoses are based on signs/symptoms (not laboratory confirmed)
- **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 **Notes and caveats**

Previous weekly bulletins from this system are available [here](#).

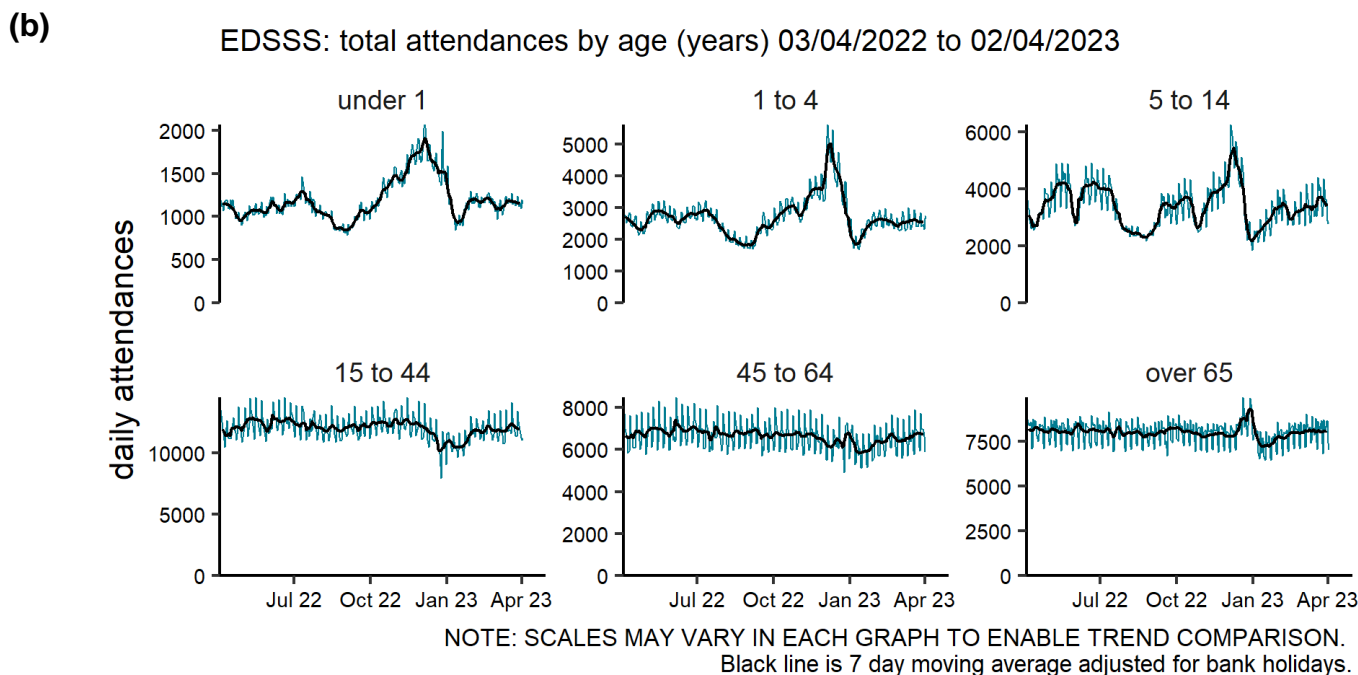
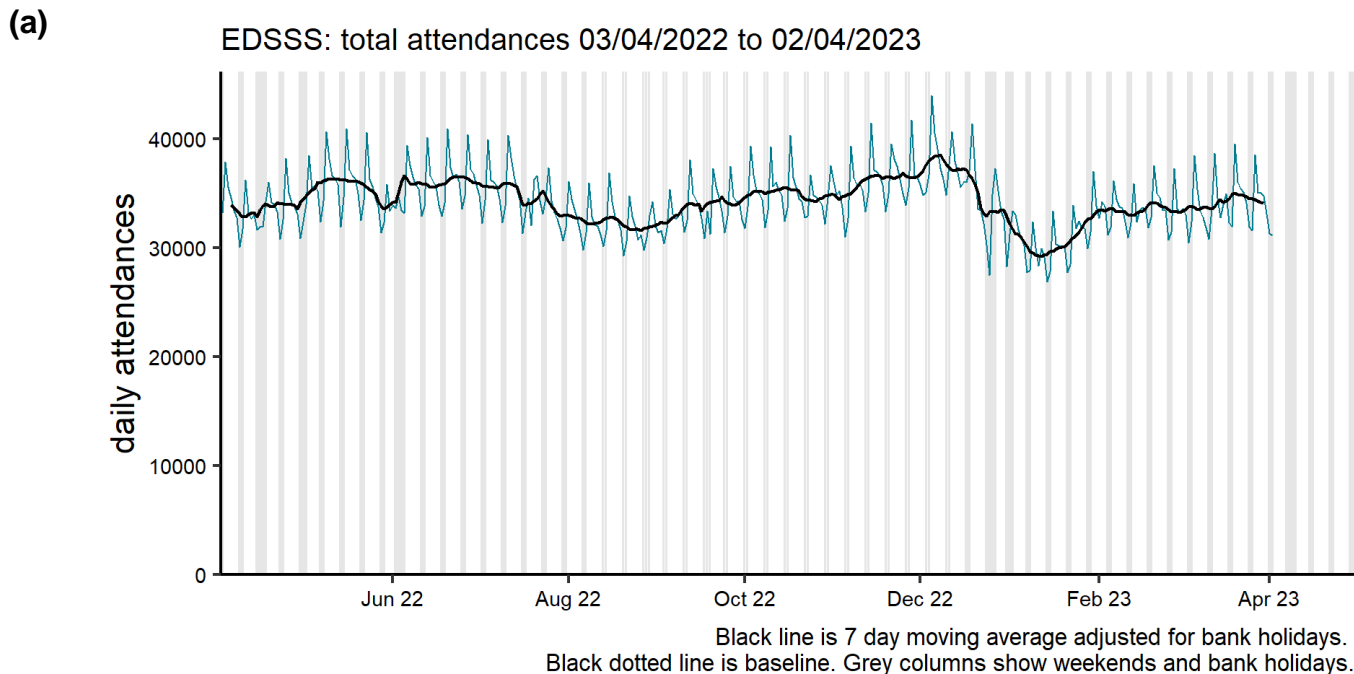
### Data quality issues of note this week

No issues identified. See **Table 2** and **Table 3** for the numbers of EDs included this week.

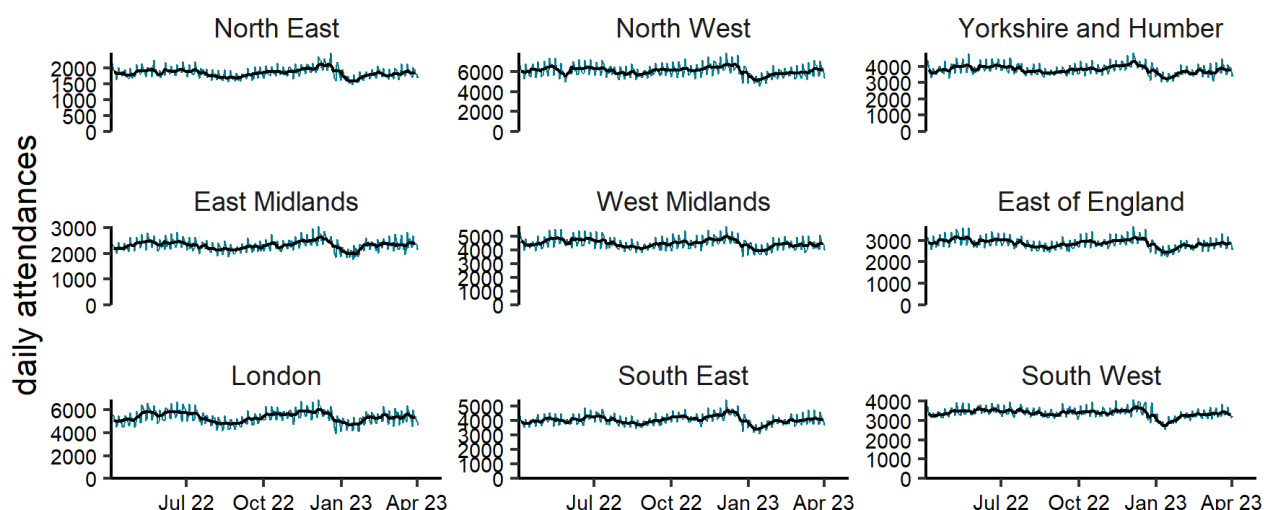
Remodelled EDSSS baselines have been refitted to surveillance data during week 6 to account for post-COVID-19 changes in health care seeking behaviour.

# Total attendances

**Figure 1: Daily number of ED attendances (and 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.**



(c) EDSSS: total attendances by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023



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 emergency department (ED) attendances and number with a diagnosis code included in surveillance each day during the most recent week.**

Date	Total attendances <sup>2</sup>	Diagnoses included <sup>2</sup>
27 March 2023	38,595	23,665
28 March 2023	35,062	21,864
29 March 2023	35,031	21,957
30 March 2023	34,804	21,715
31 March 2023	33,152	20,670
01 April 2023	31,322	19,045
02 April 2023	31,135	19,681

**Table 3: The number of EDs in total and in each UKHSA Region included in surveillance each day during the most recent week.**

UKHSA Region	Number of EDs <sup>2</sup>
North East	7
North West	29
Yorkshire and Humber	15
West Midlands	17
East Midlands	7
East of England	11
London	20
South West	17
South East	16
Total	139

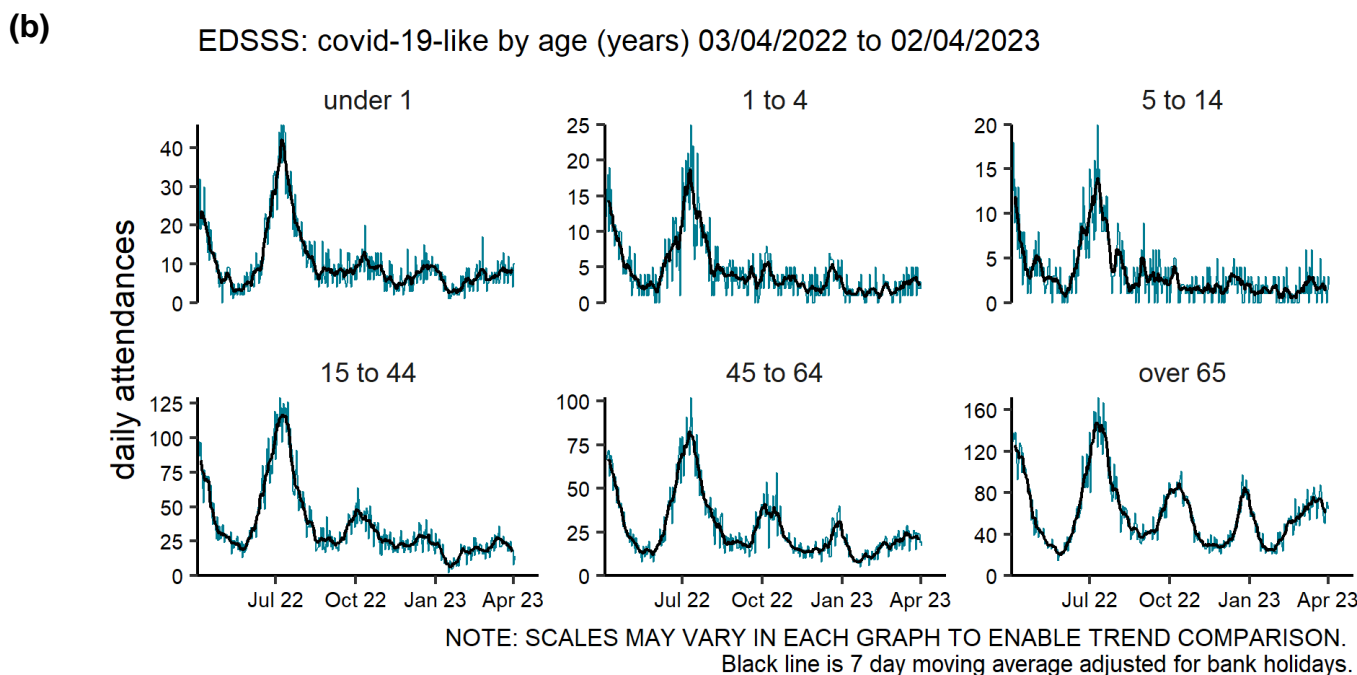
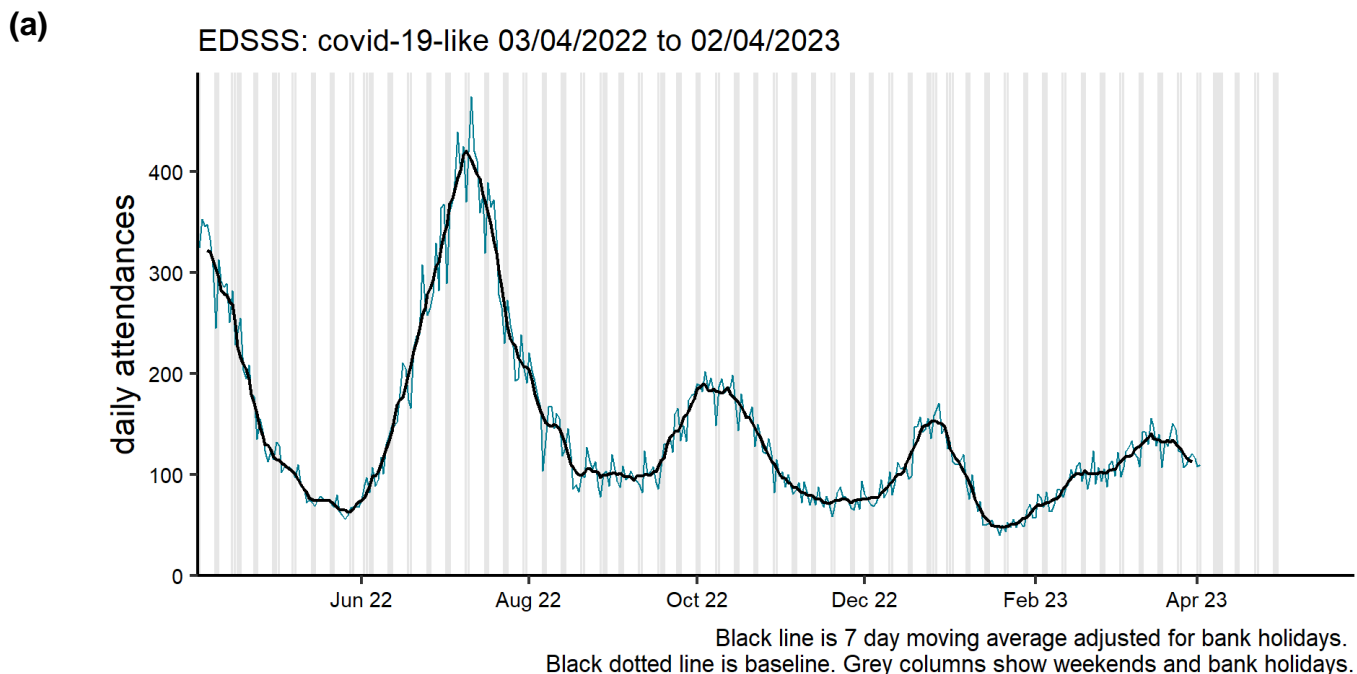
<sup>2</sup> only attendances from Type 01 EDs meeting the weekly reporting criteria are included in this report, see Notes and caveats

for further details

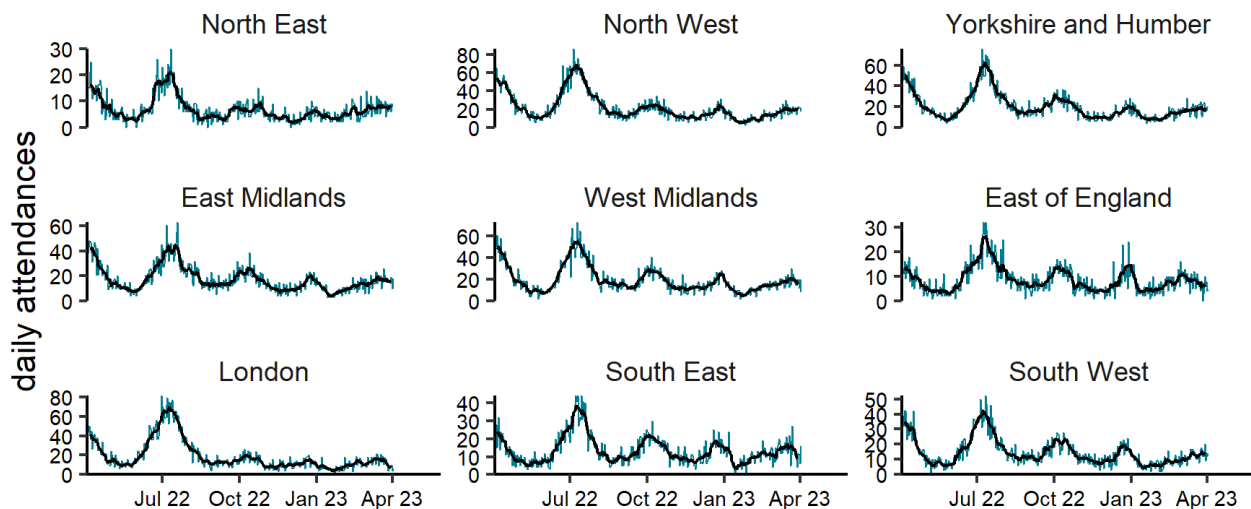
# Respiratory conditions

## COVID-19-like

**Figure 2: Daily number of COVID-19-like ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**



(c) EDSSS: covid-19-like by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023

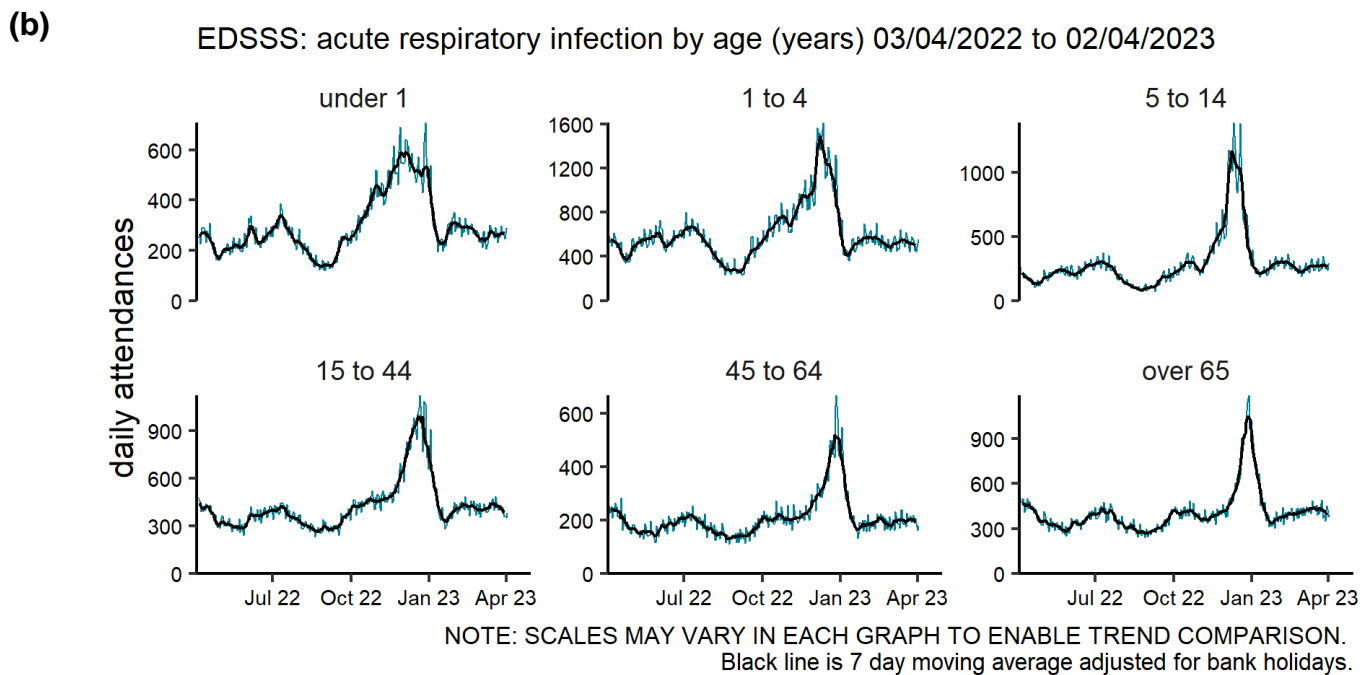
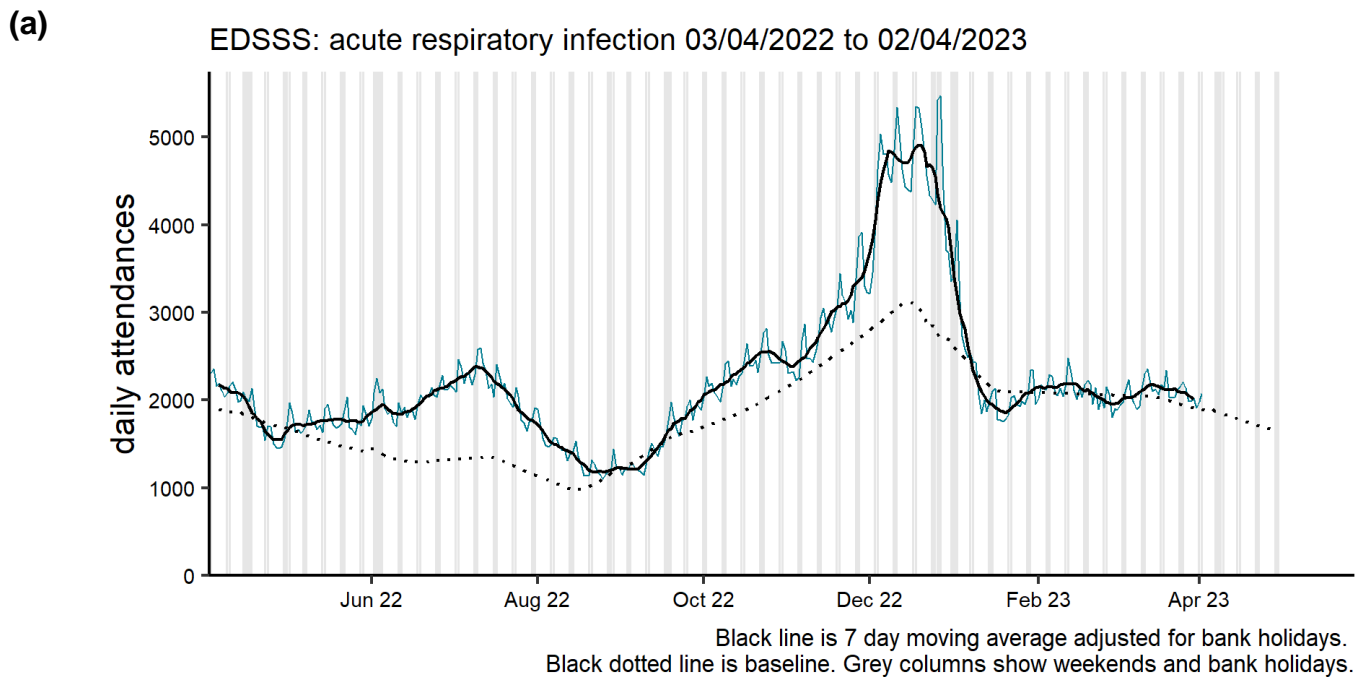


NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.  
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.  
Black dotted line is baseline.



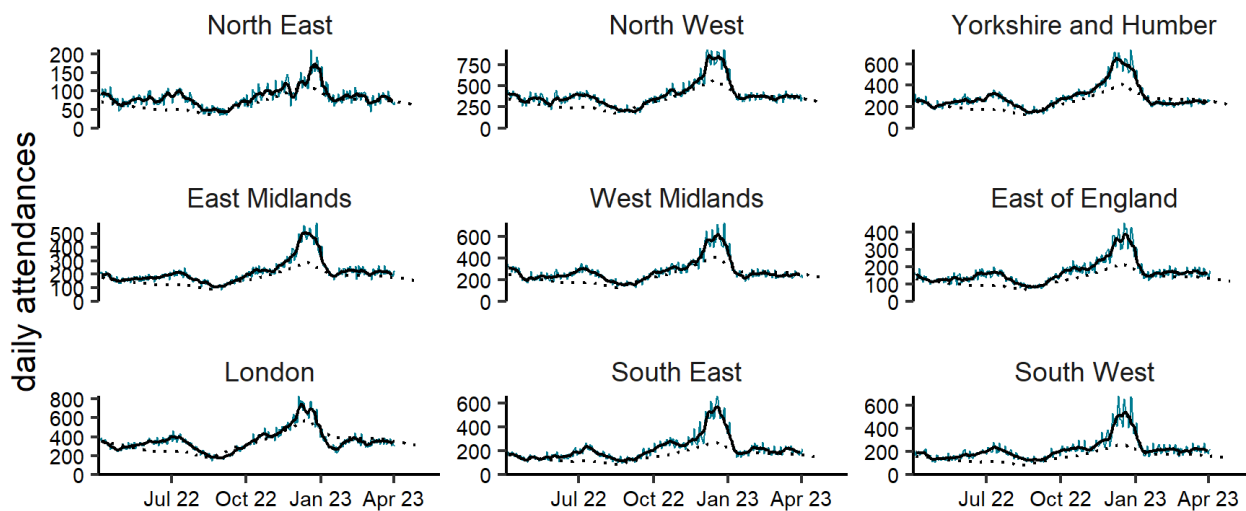
# Acute respiratory infections

**Figure 3: Daily number of acute respiratory infection ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**



(c)

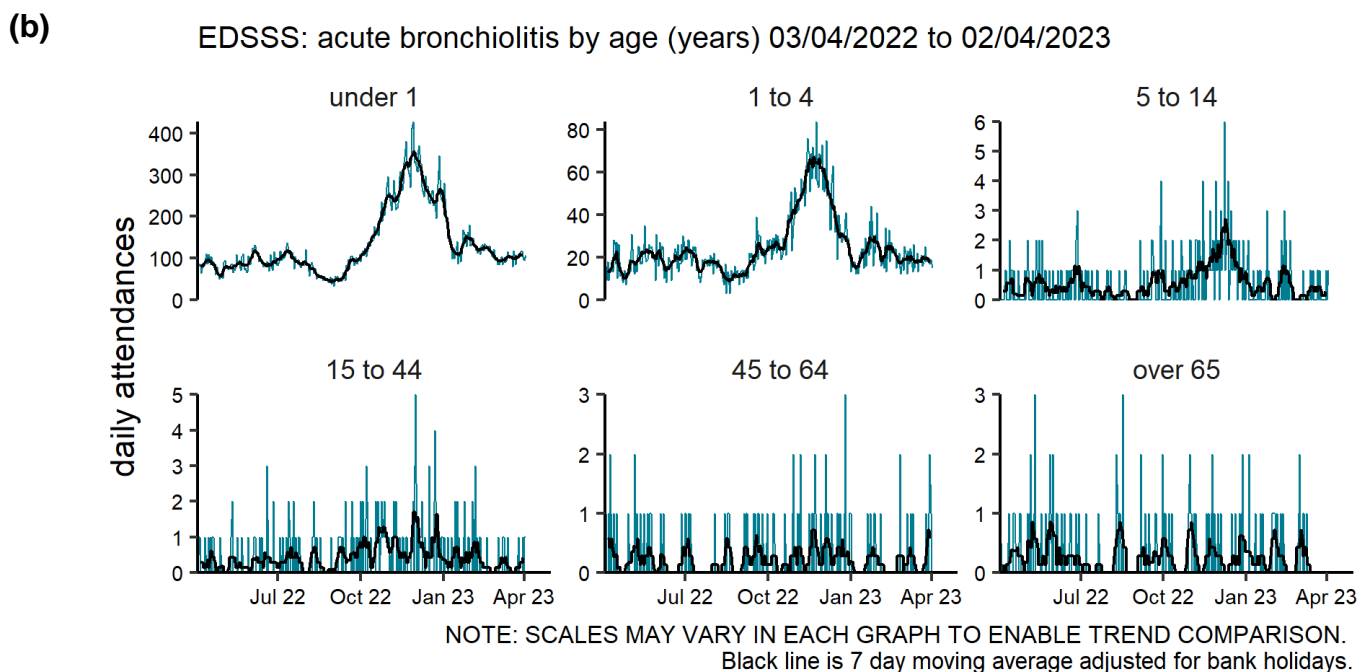
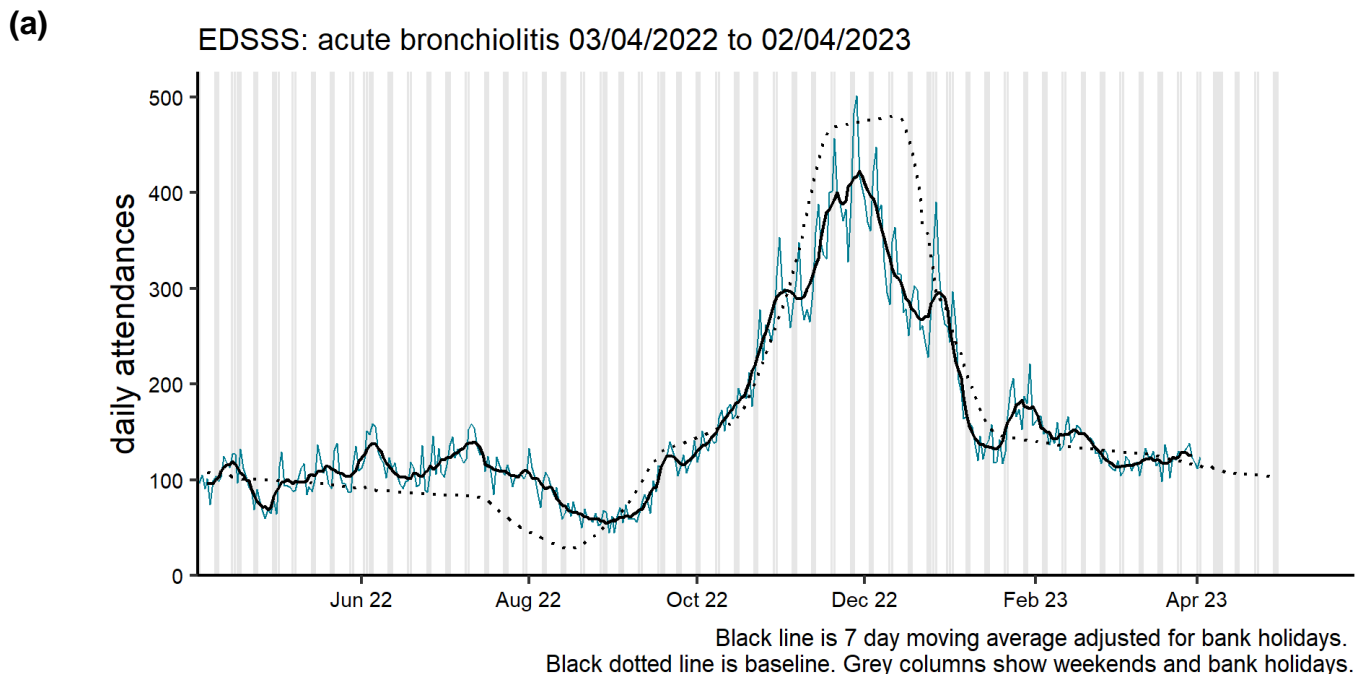
EDSSS: acute respiratory infection by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023

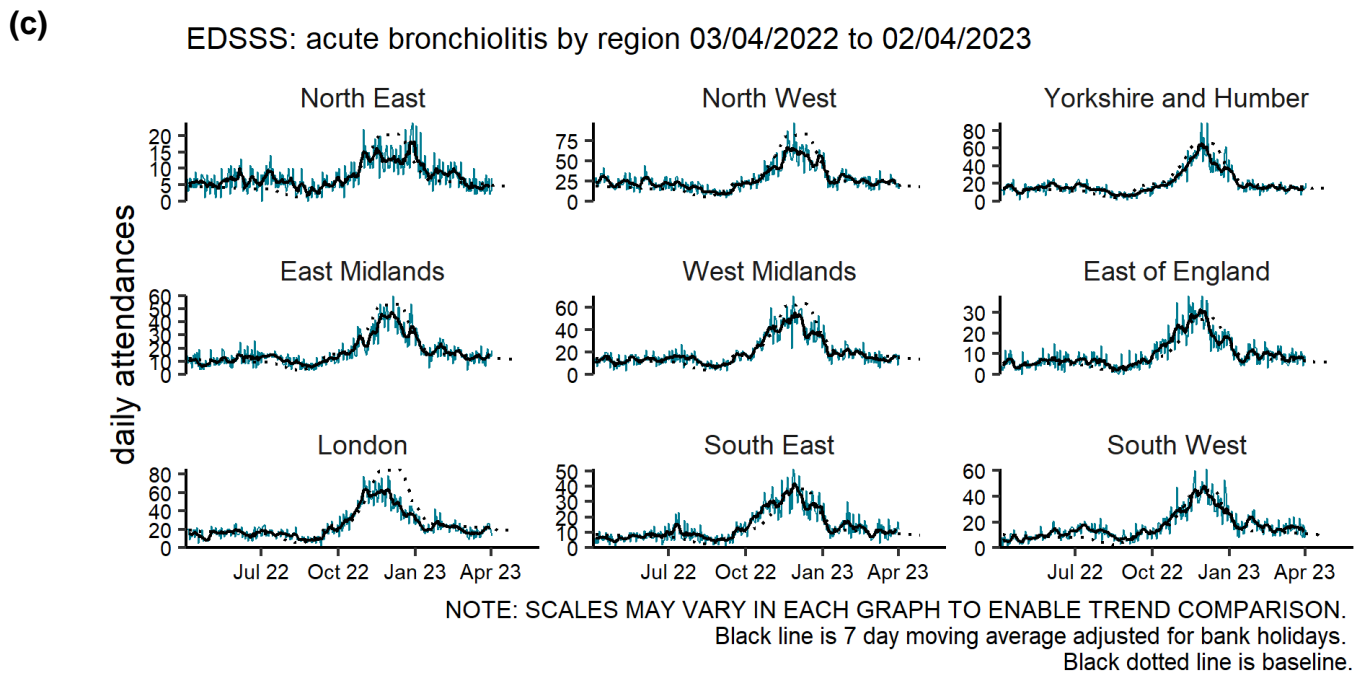


NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.  
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.  
Black dotted line is baseline.

## Acute bronchiolitis/bronchitis

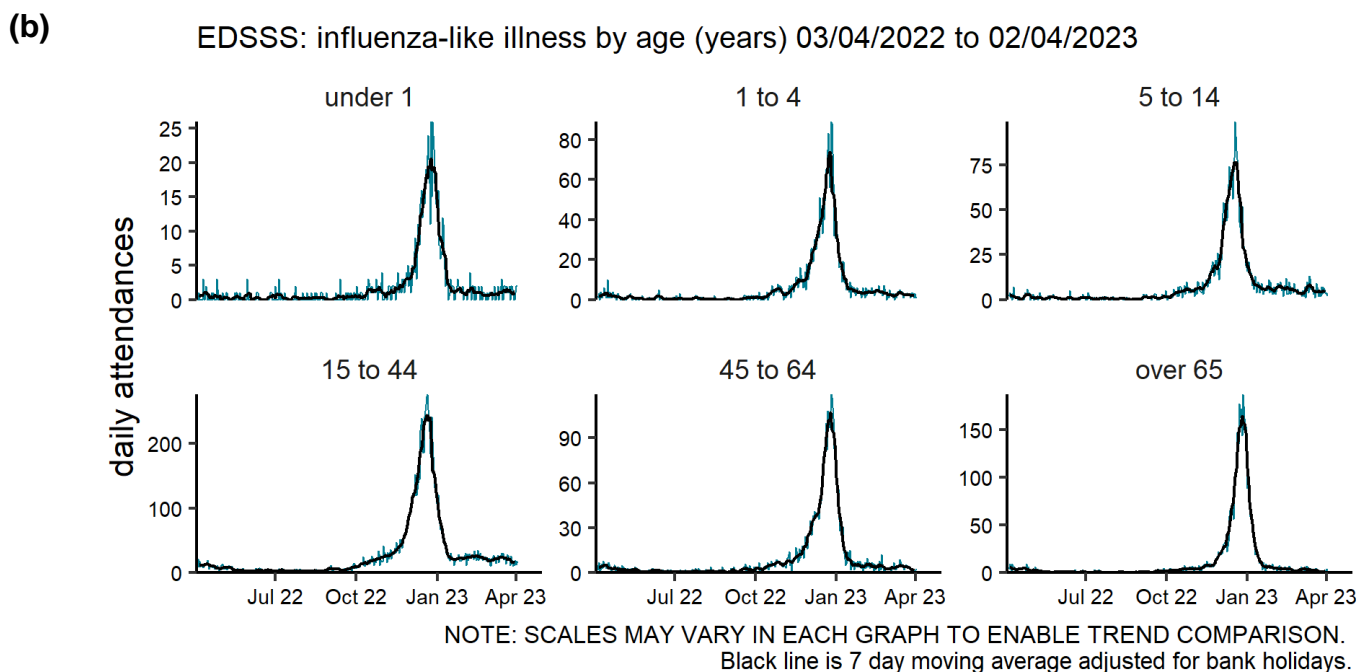
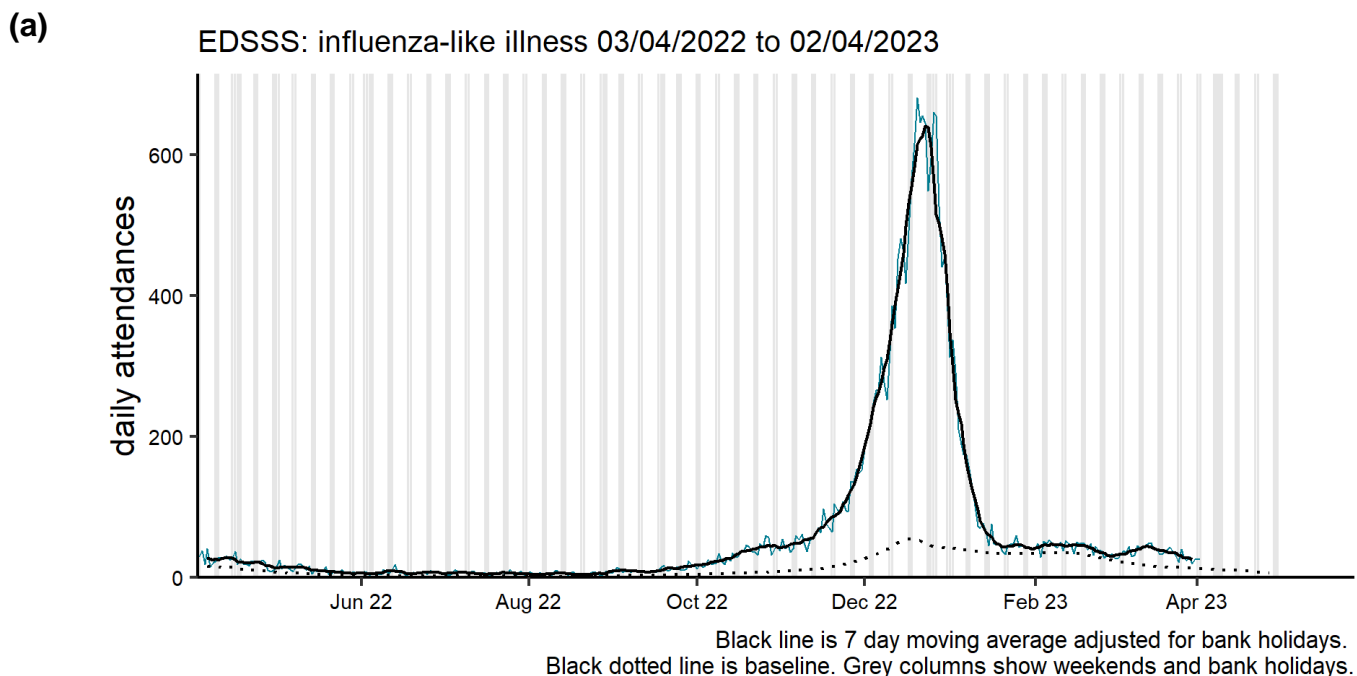
**Figure 4: Daily number of acute bronchiolitis/bronchitis ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**





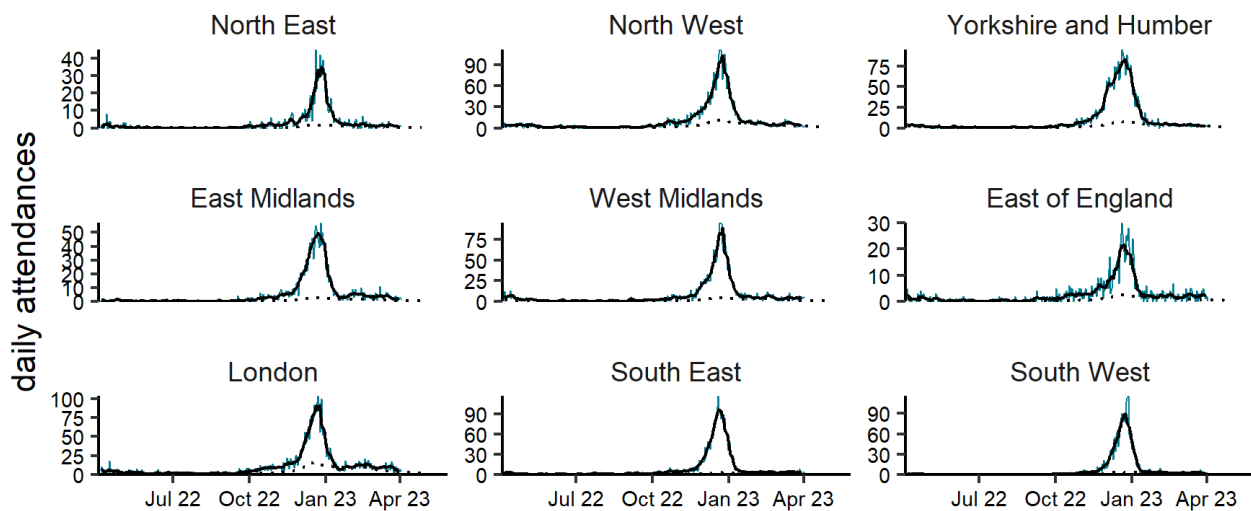
## Influenza-like illness

**Figure 5: Daily number of influenza-like illness ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**



(c)

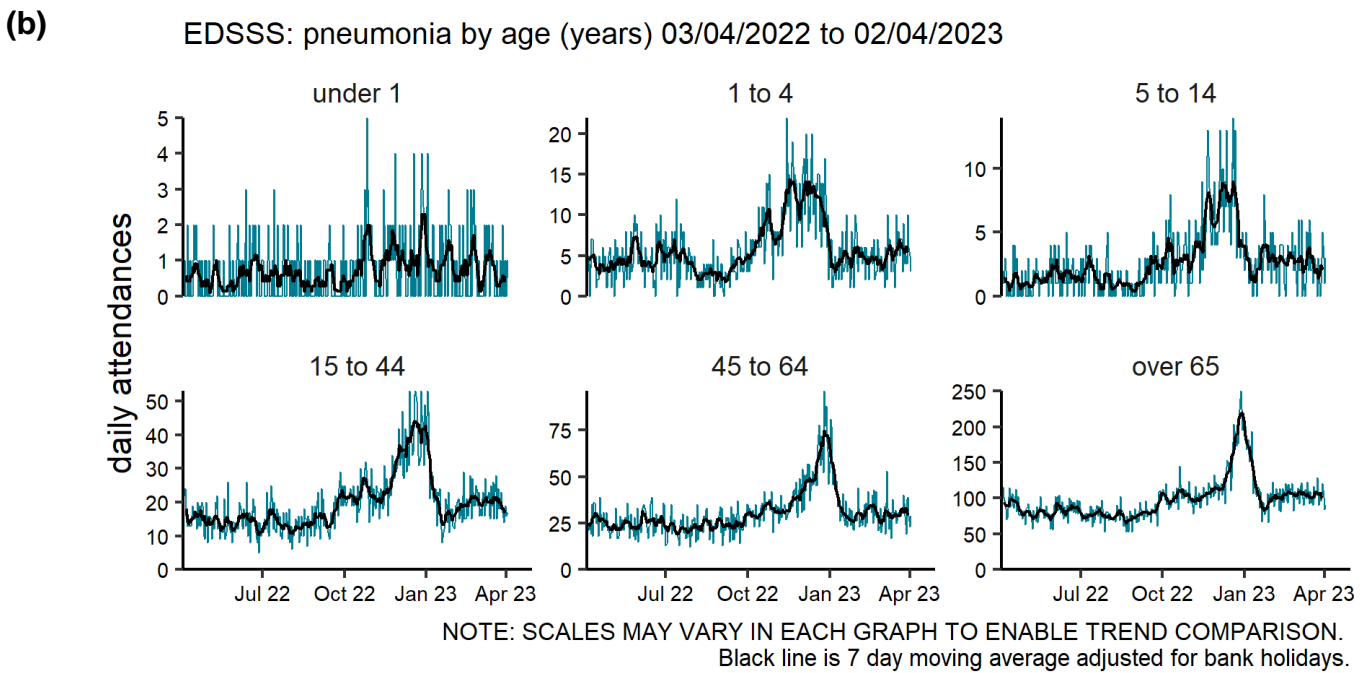
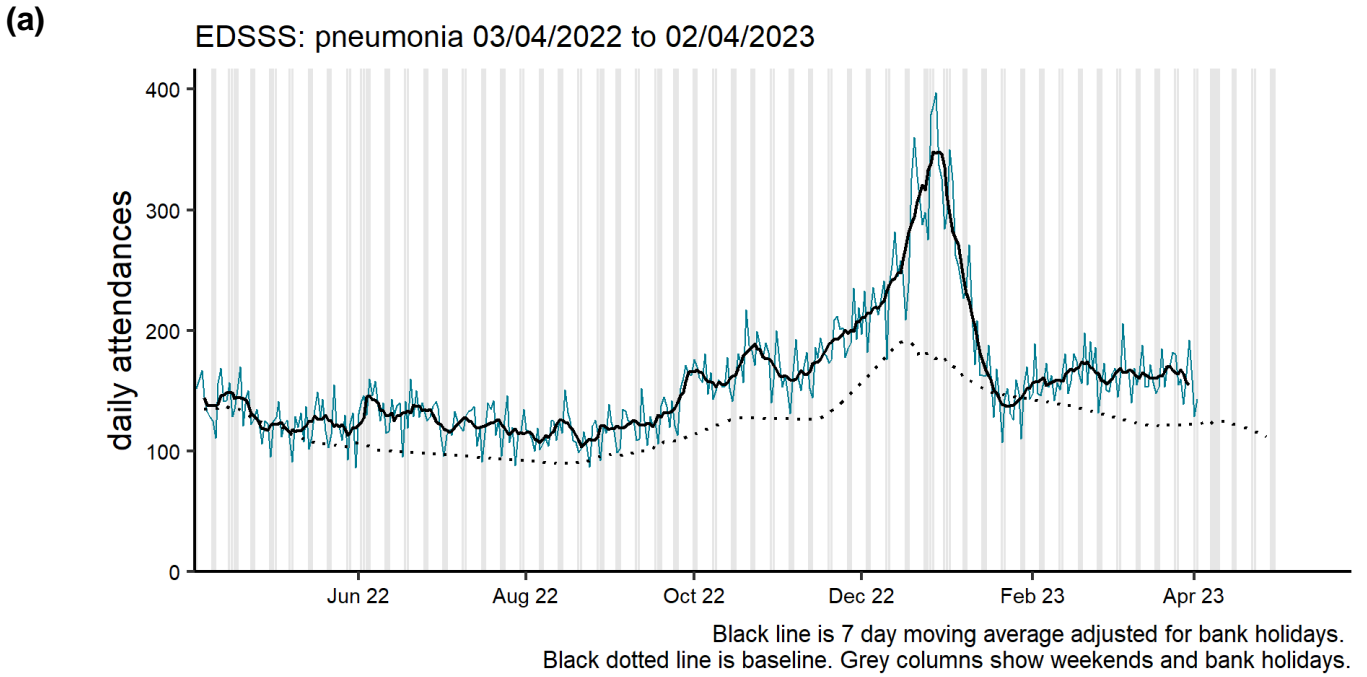
EDSSS: influenza-like illness by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023



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.

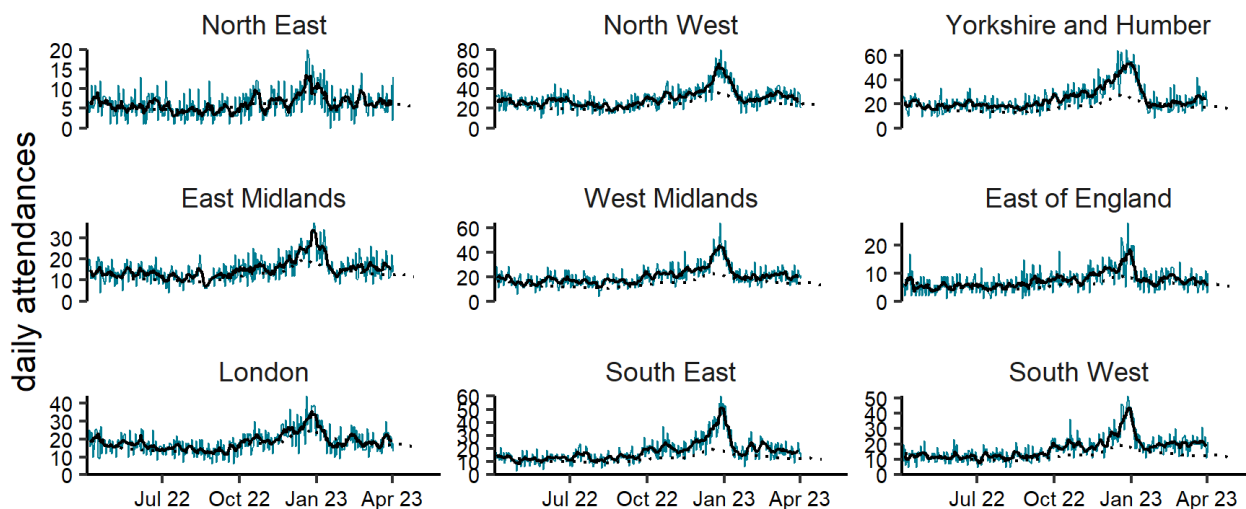
# Pneumonia

**Figure 6: Daily number of pneumonia ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**



(c)

EDSSS: pneumonia by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023

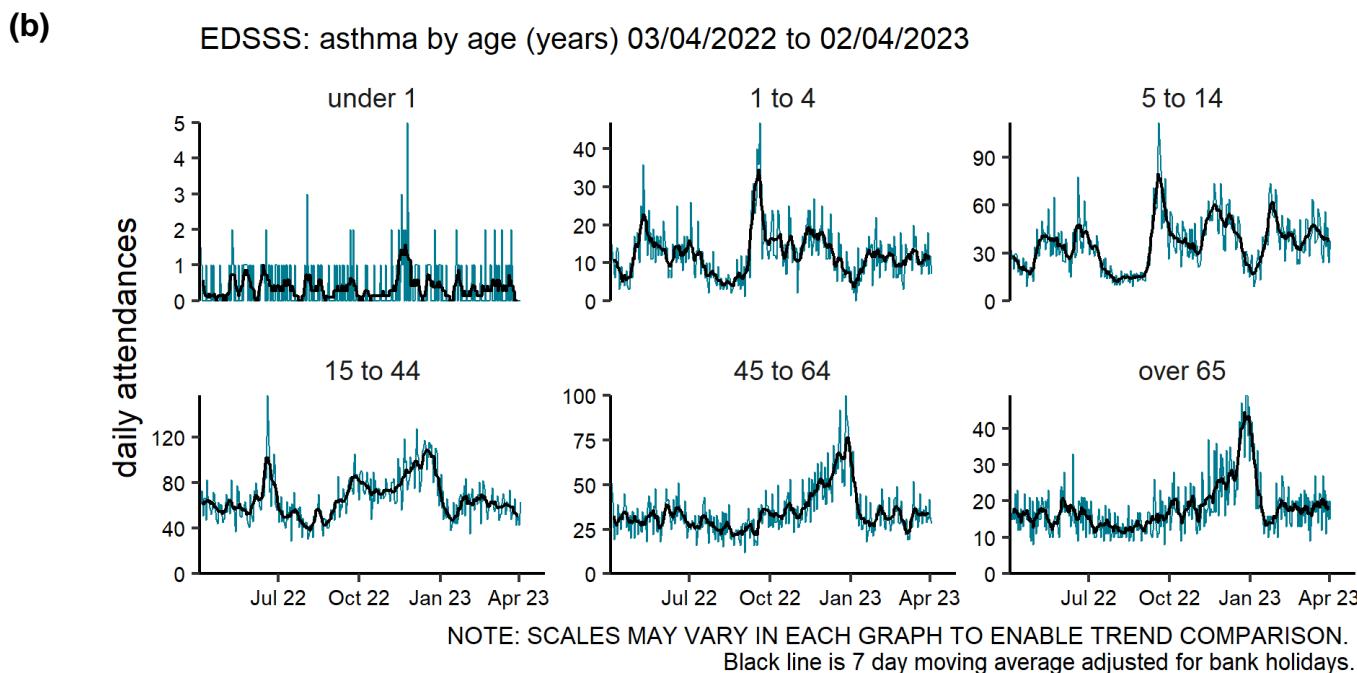
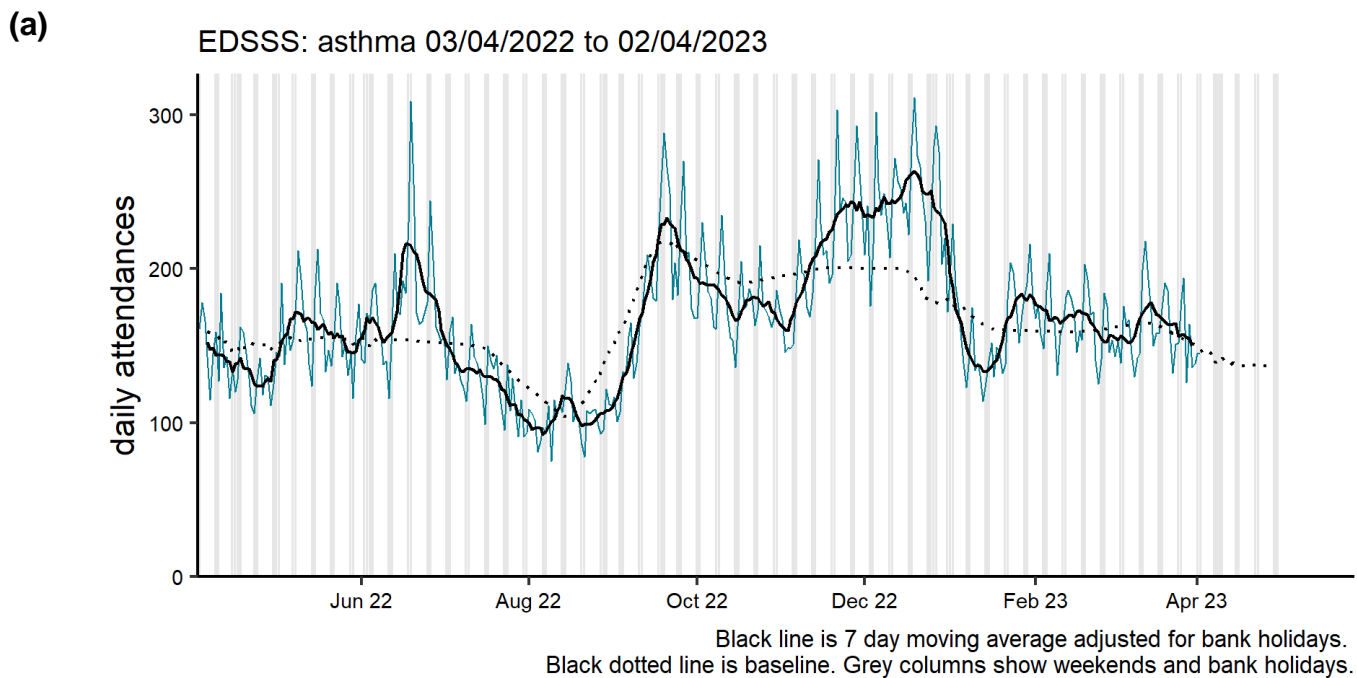


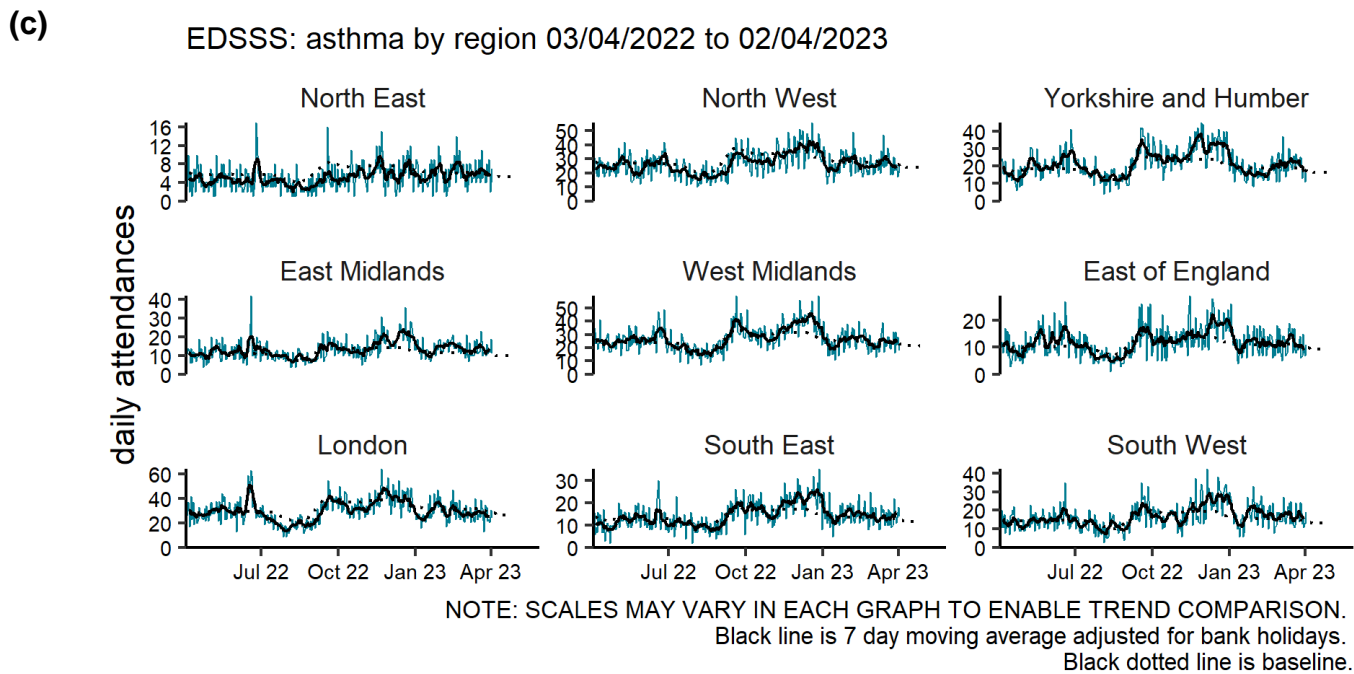
NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.  
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.  
Black dotted line is baseline.



# Asthma

**Figure 7: Daily number of asthma ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**

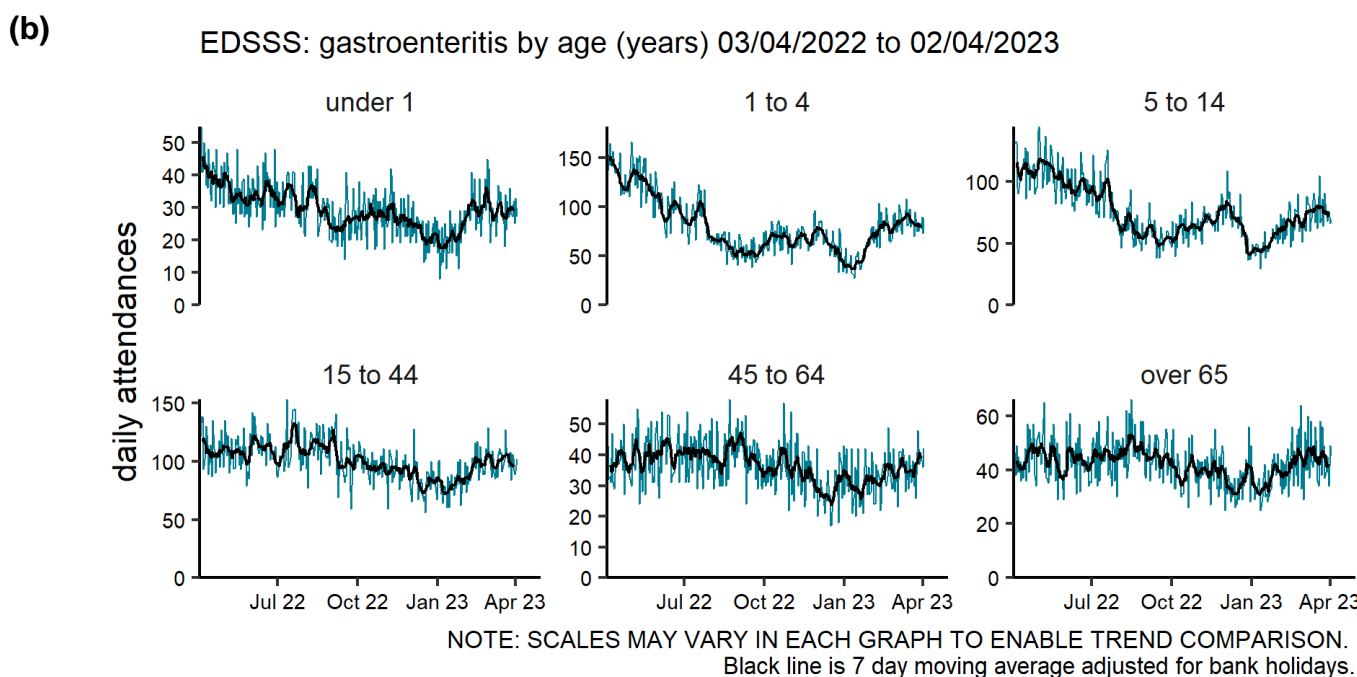
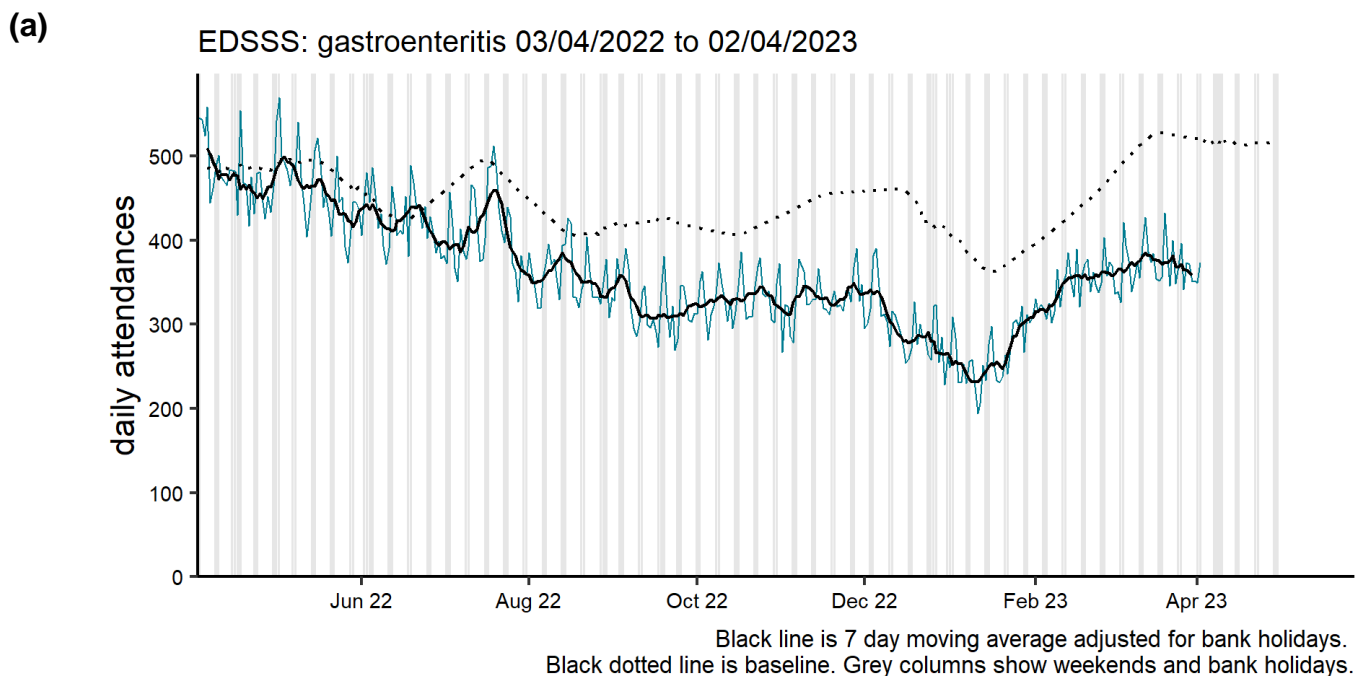




# Gastrointestinal conditions

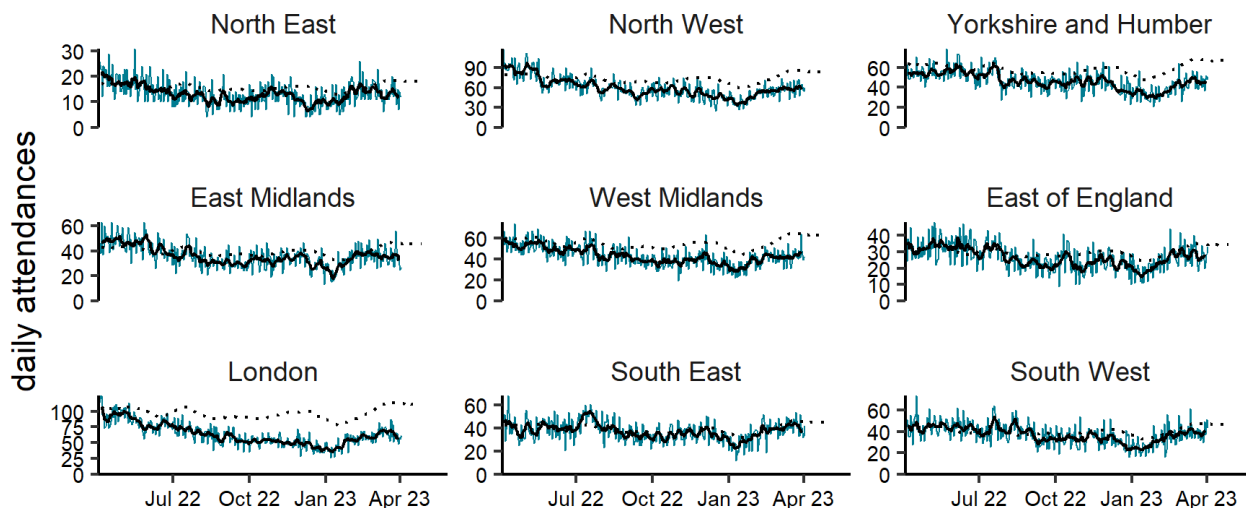
## Gastroenteritis

**Figure 8: Daily number of gastroenteritis ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**



(c)

EDSSS: gastroenteritis by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023

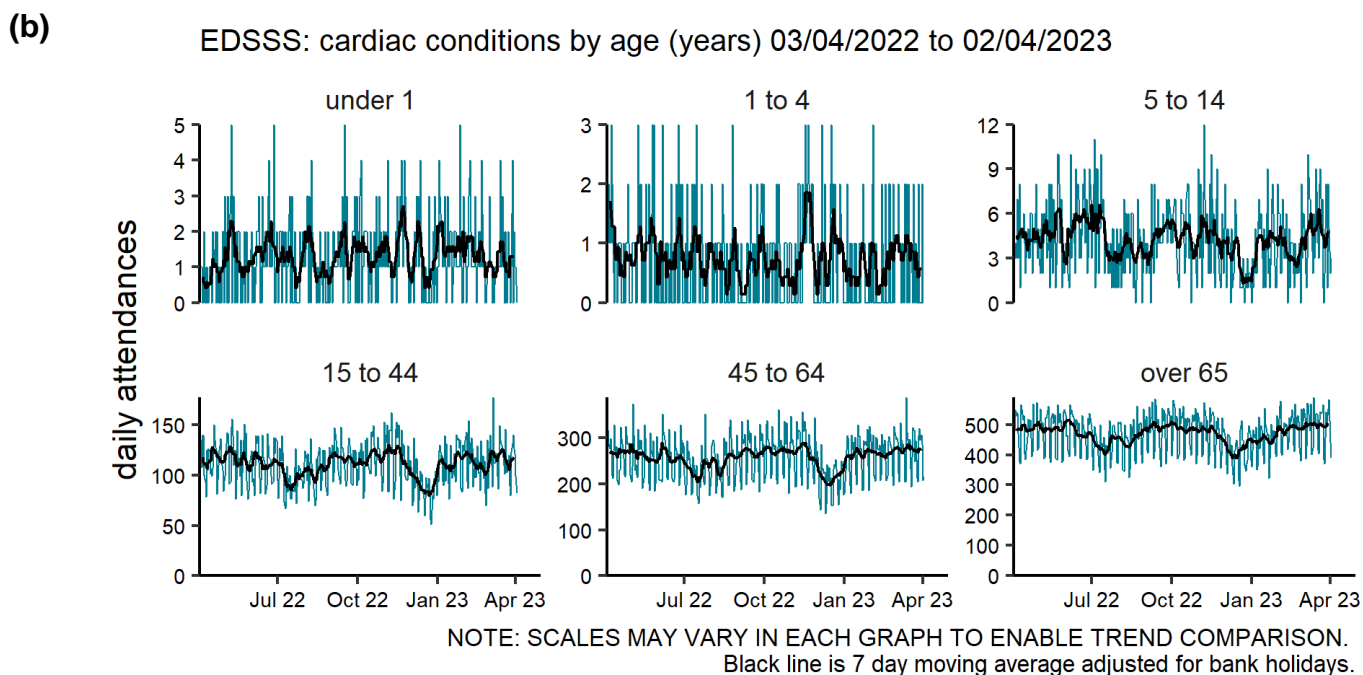
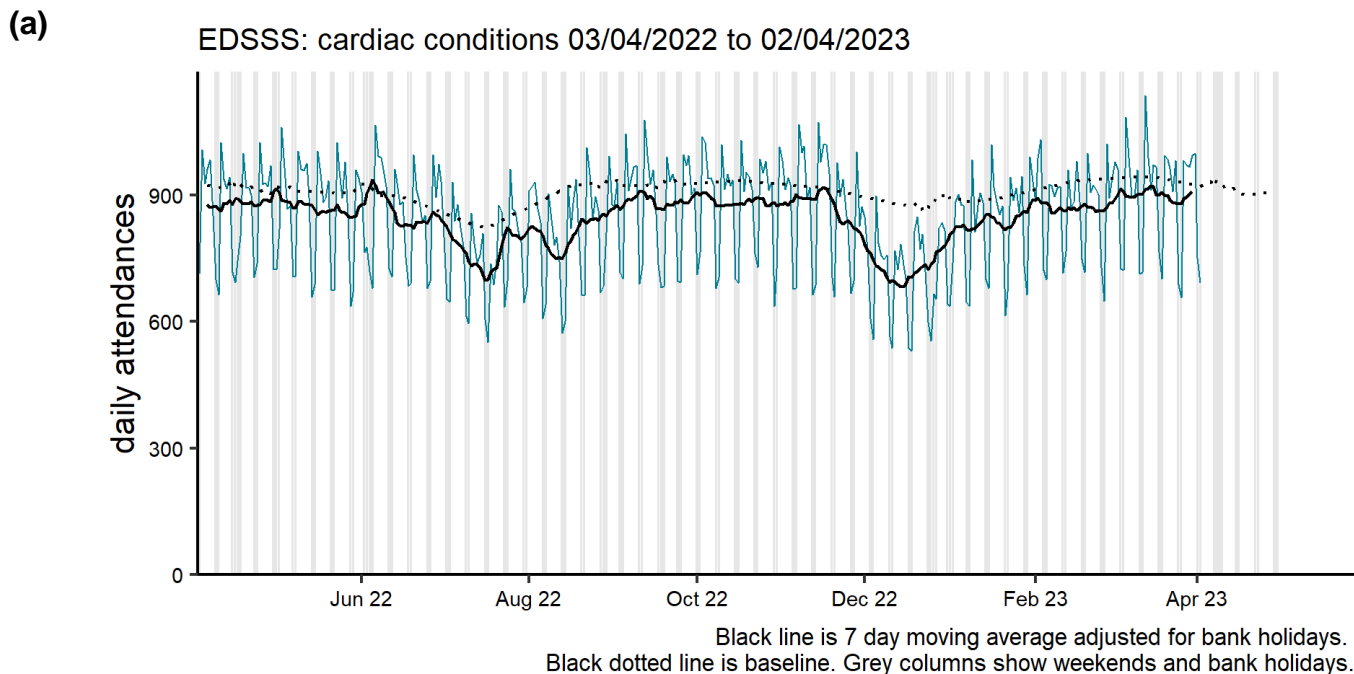


NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.  
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.  
Black dotted line is baseline.

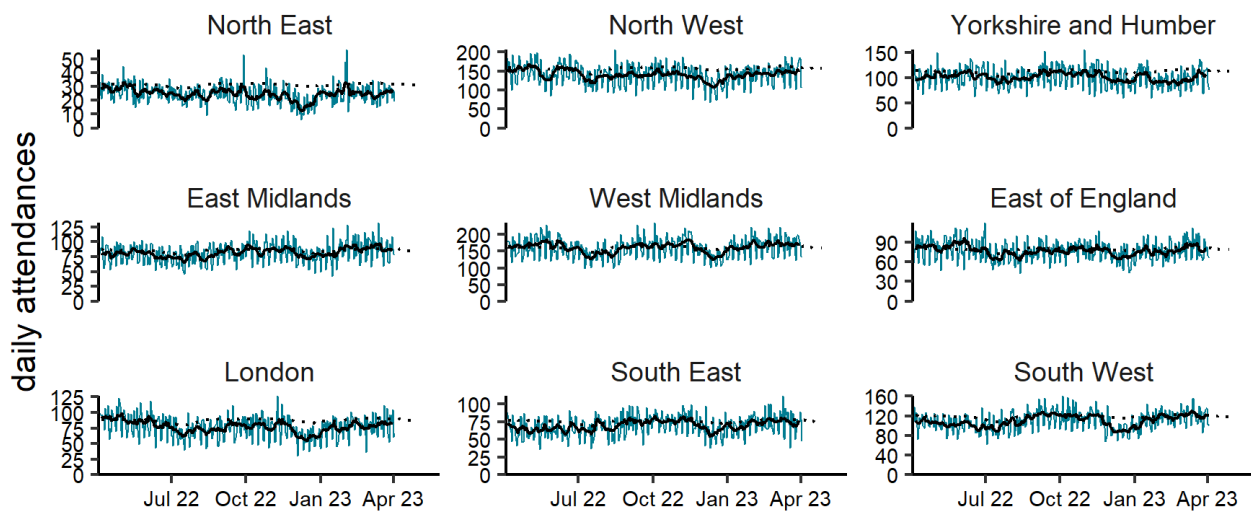
# Cardiac conditions

## Cardiac

**Figure 9: Daily number of cardiac ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**



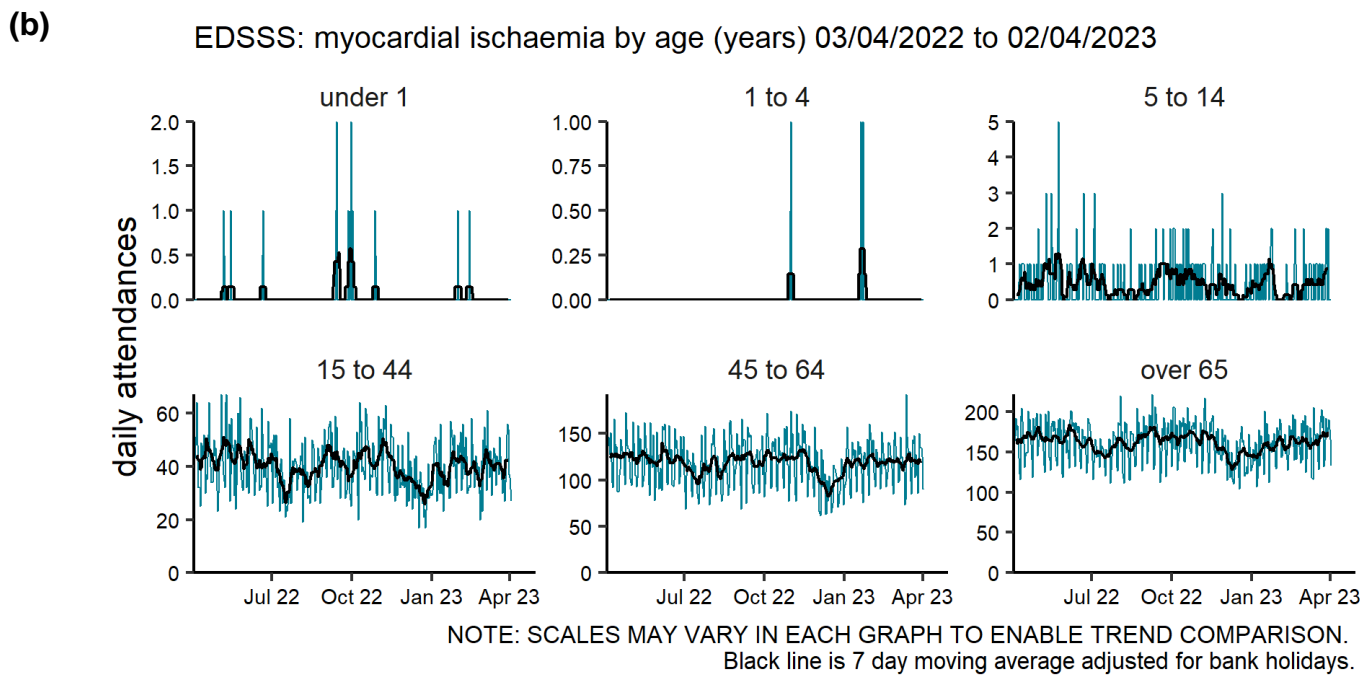
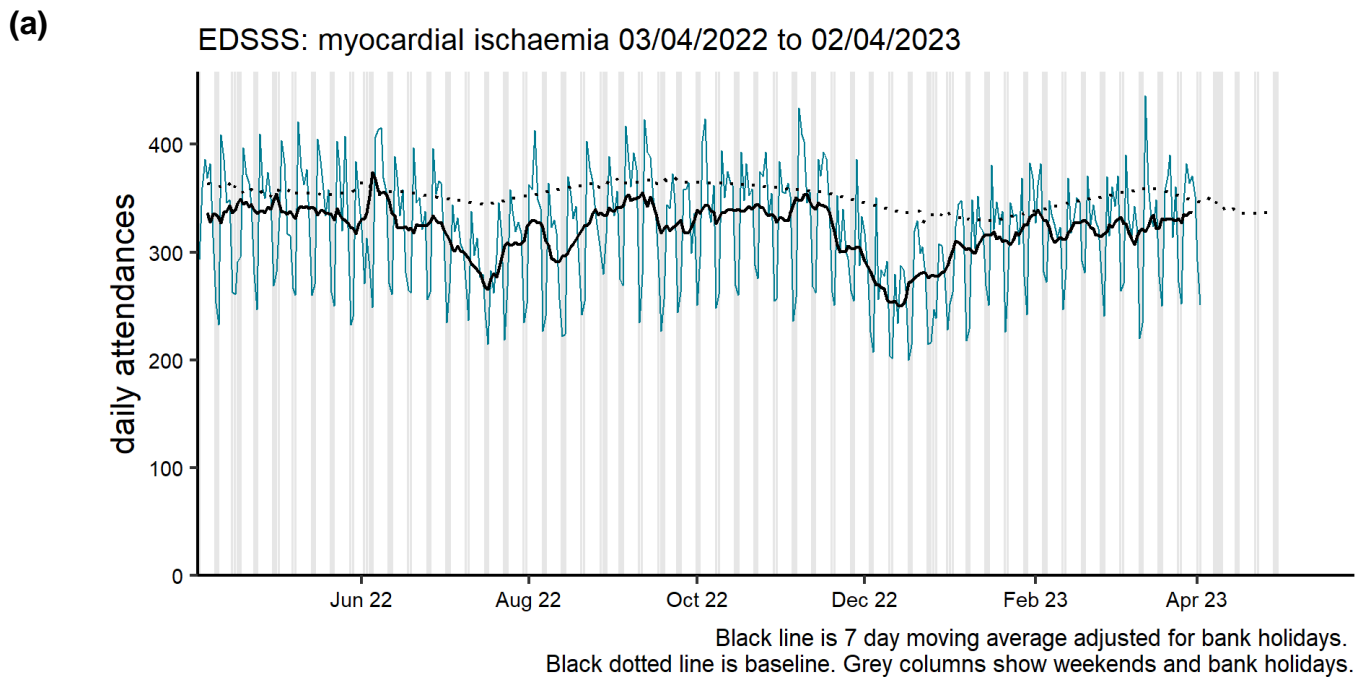
(c) EDSSS: cardiac conditions by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023

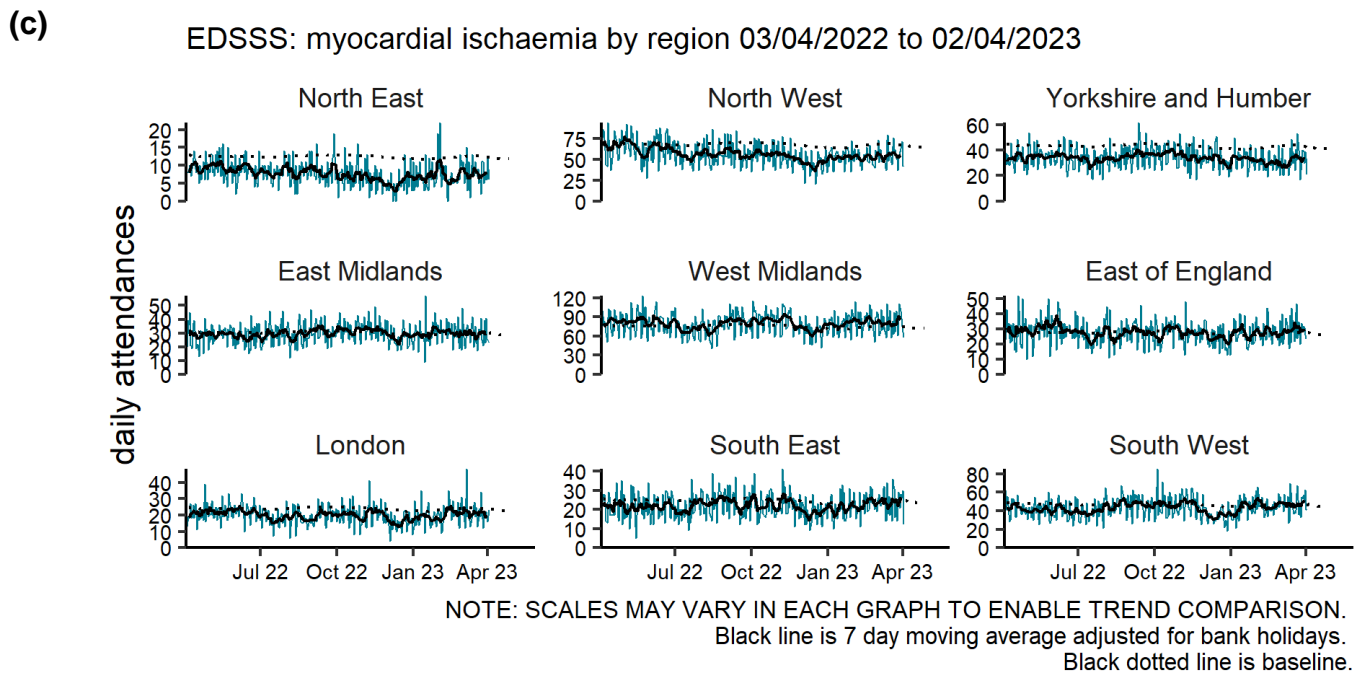


NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.  
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.  
Black dotted line is baseline.

# Myocardial ischaemia

**Figure 10: Daily number of myocardial ischaemia ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**



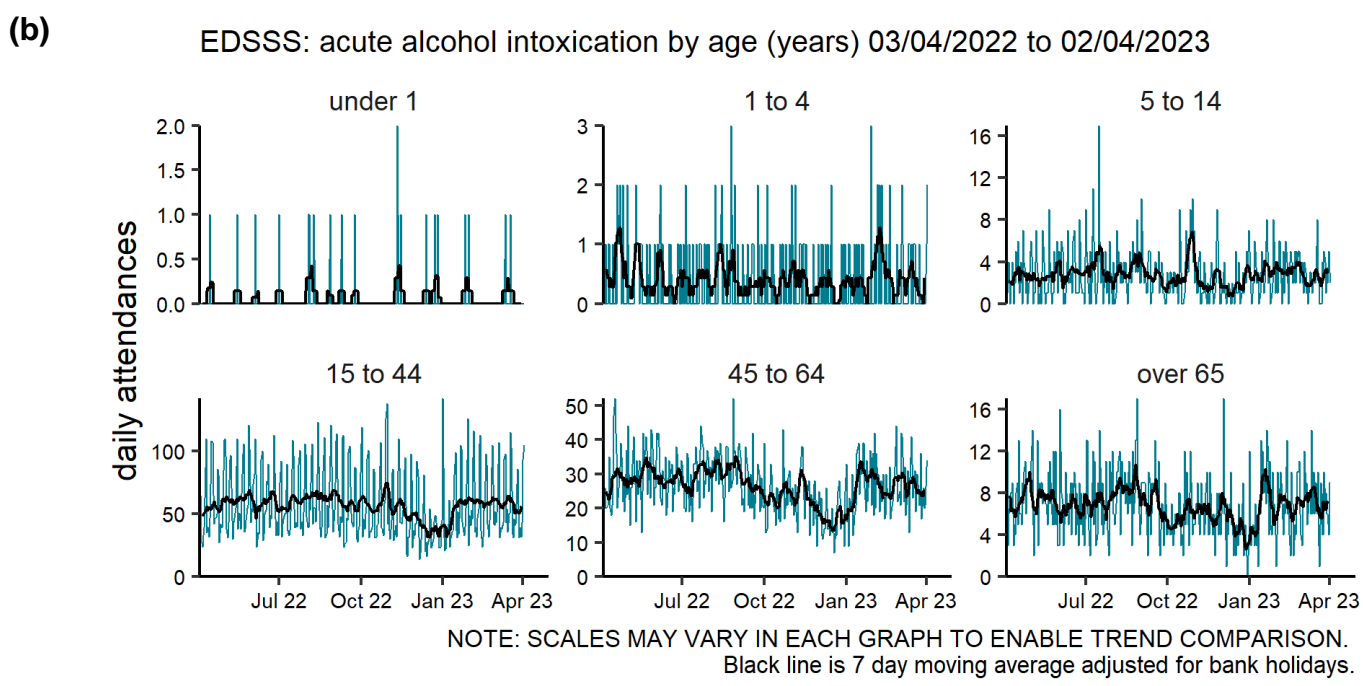
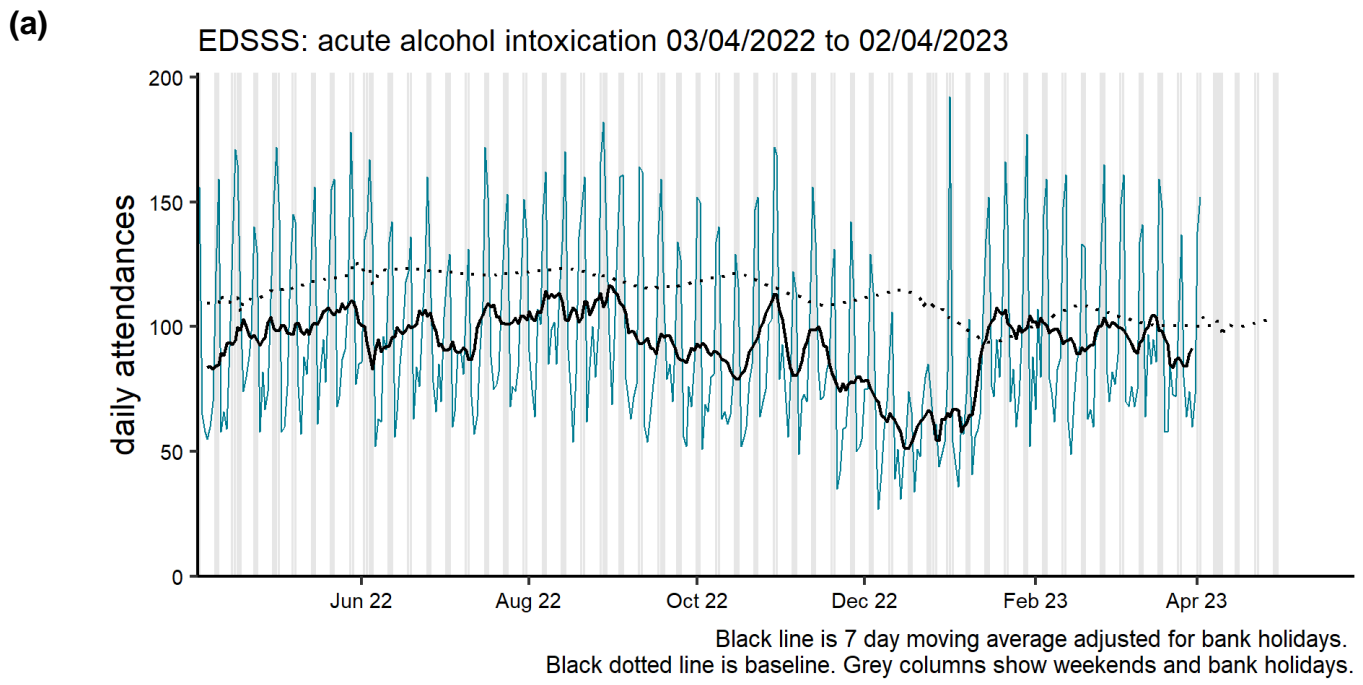




# Other conditions

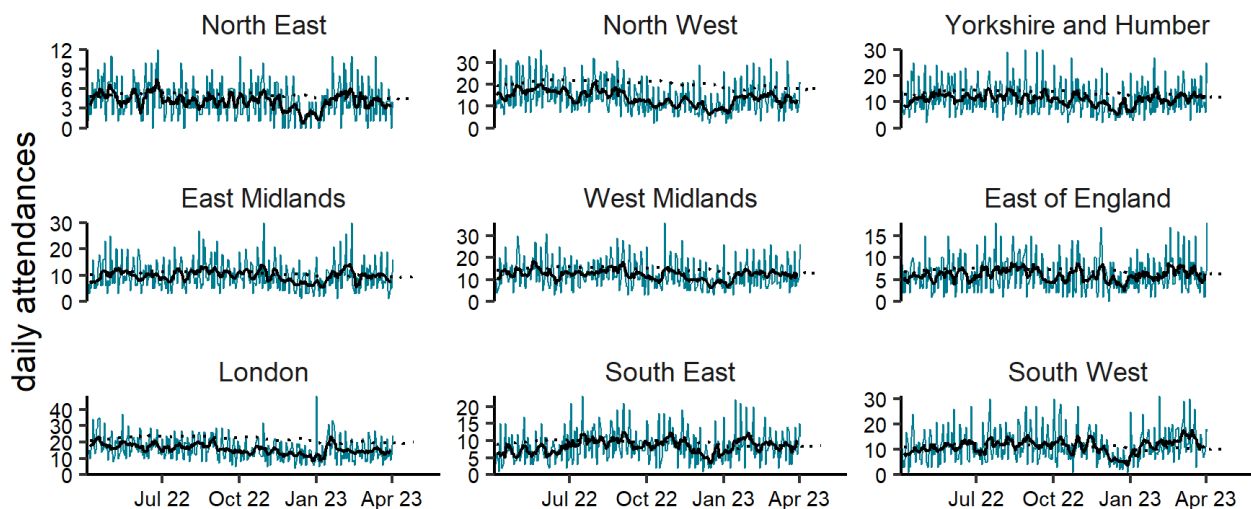
## Acute alcohol intoxication

**Figure 11: Daily number of acute alcohol intoxication ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**



(c)

EDSSS: acute alcohol intoxication by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023

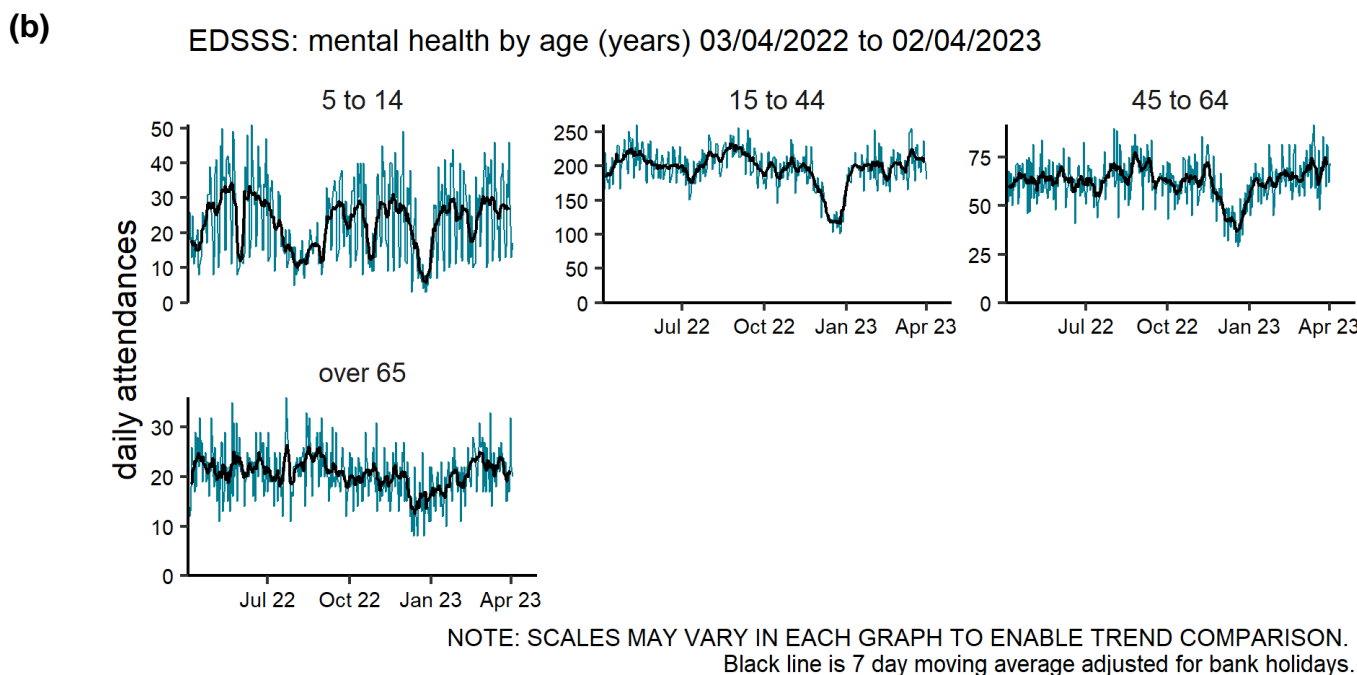
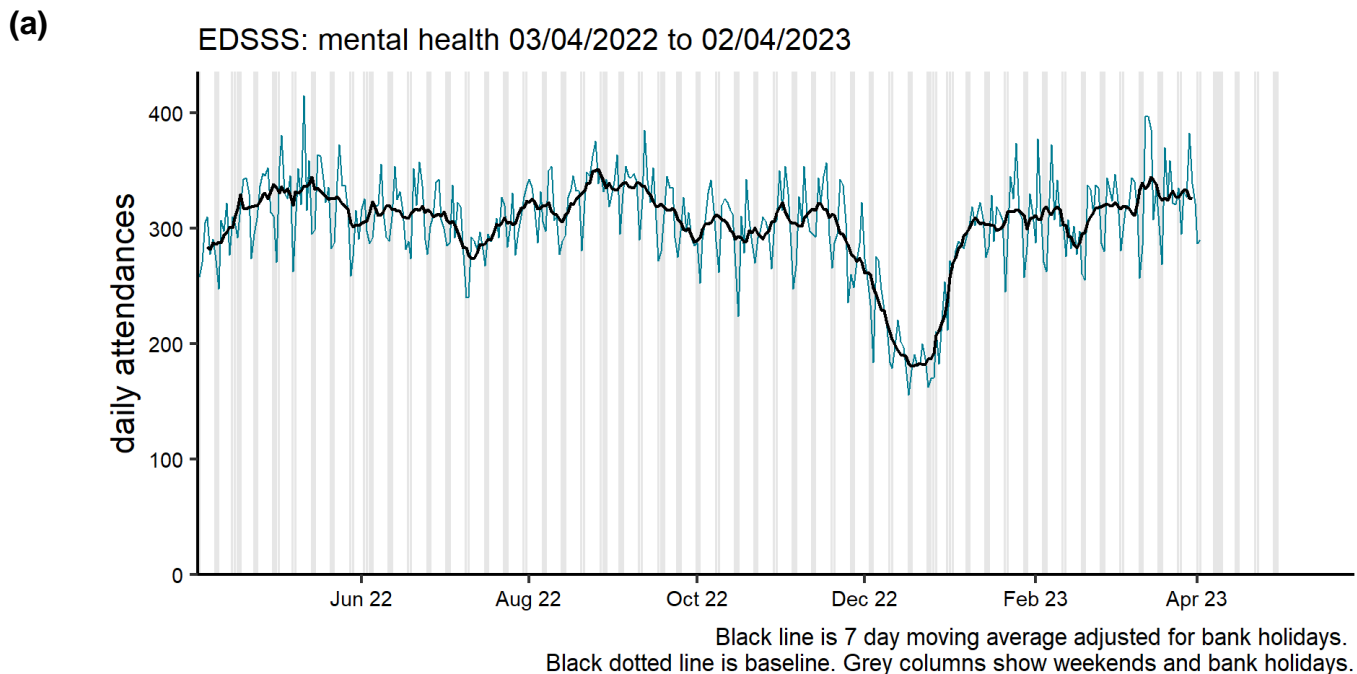


NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.  
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.  
Black dotted line is baseline.

## Mental health

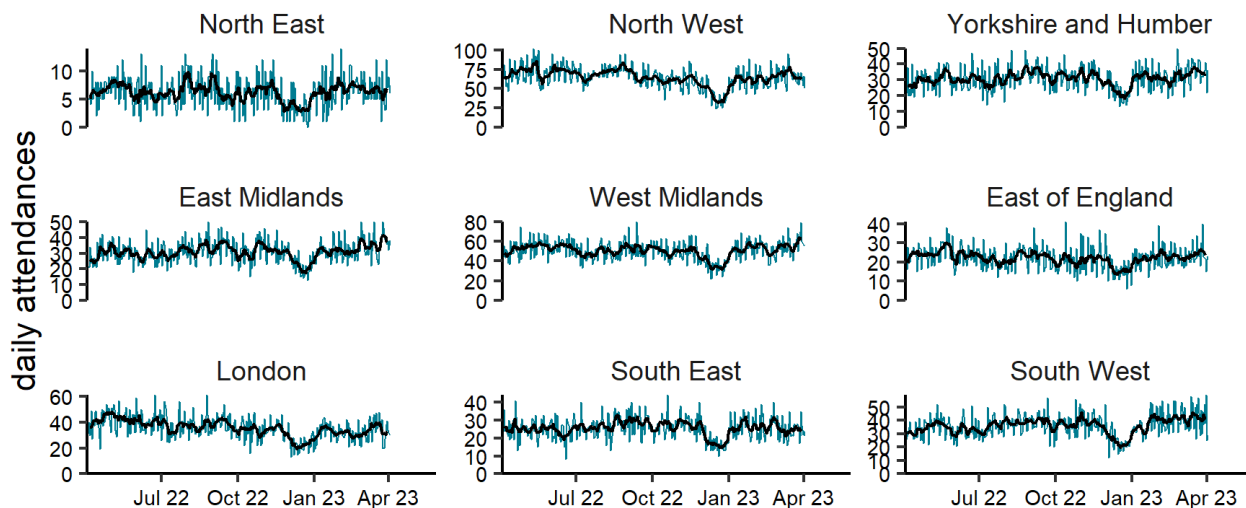
**Figure 12: Daily number of mental health<sup>3</sup> ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**

<sup>3</sup> mental health attendances reported here are those with a primary diagnosis in the ECDS mental health diagnosis grouping. Attendances where the primary diagnosis relates to overdose, alcohol use or self harm are not included.



(c)

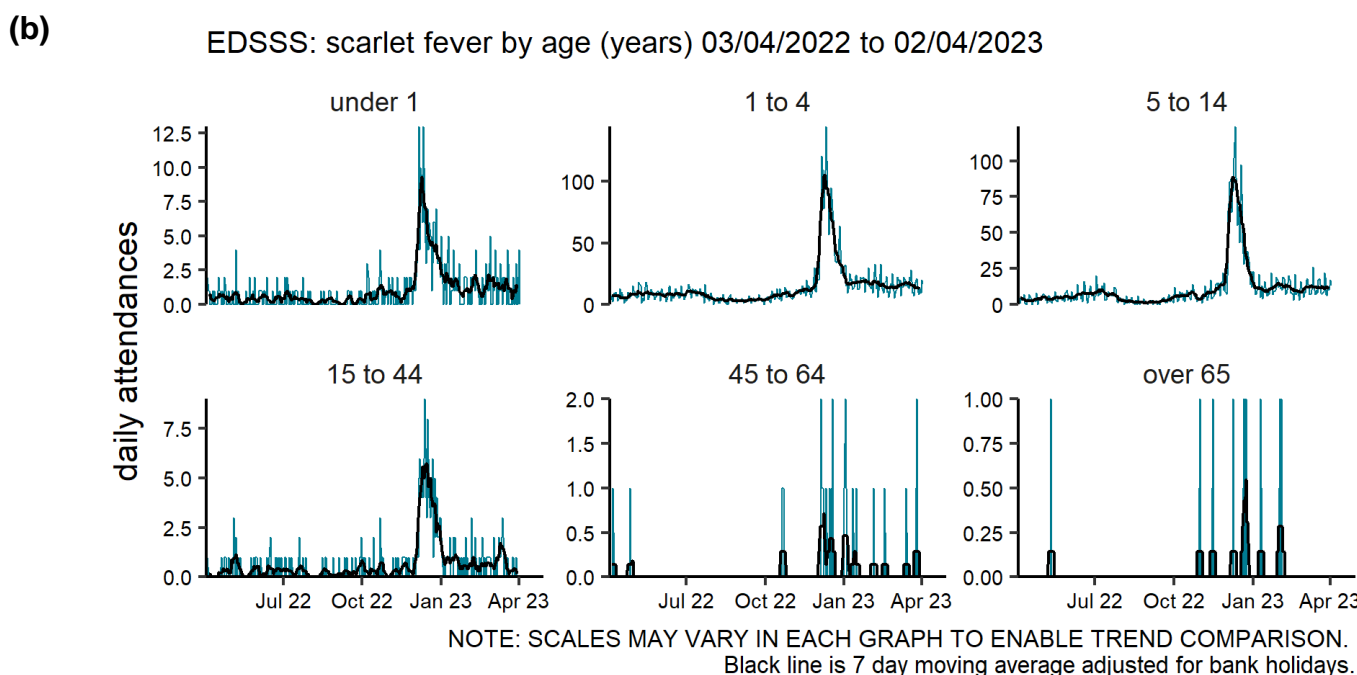
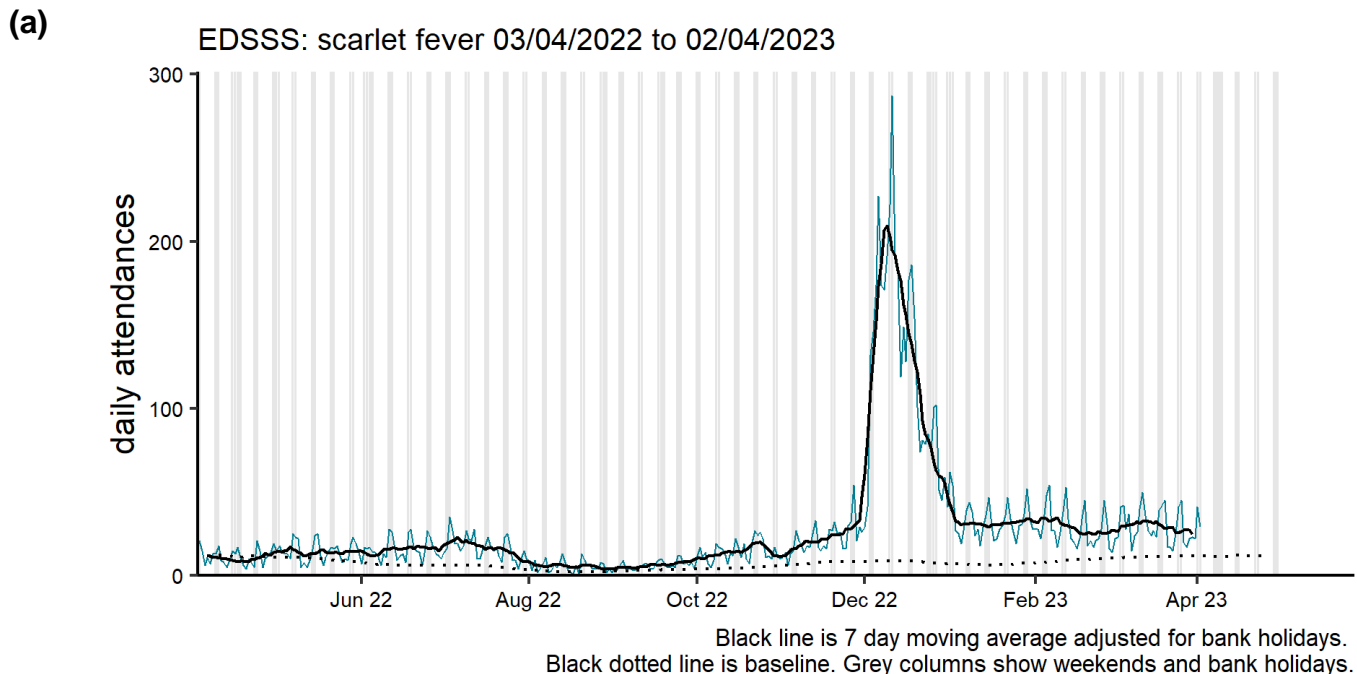
EDSSS: mental health by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023



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.

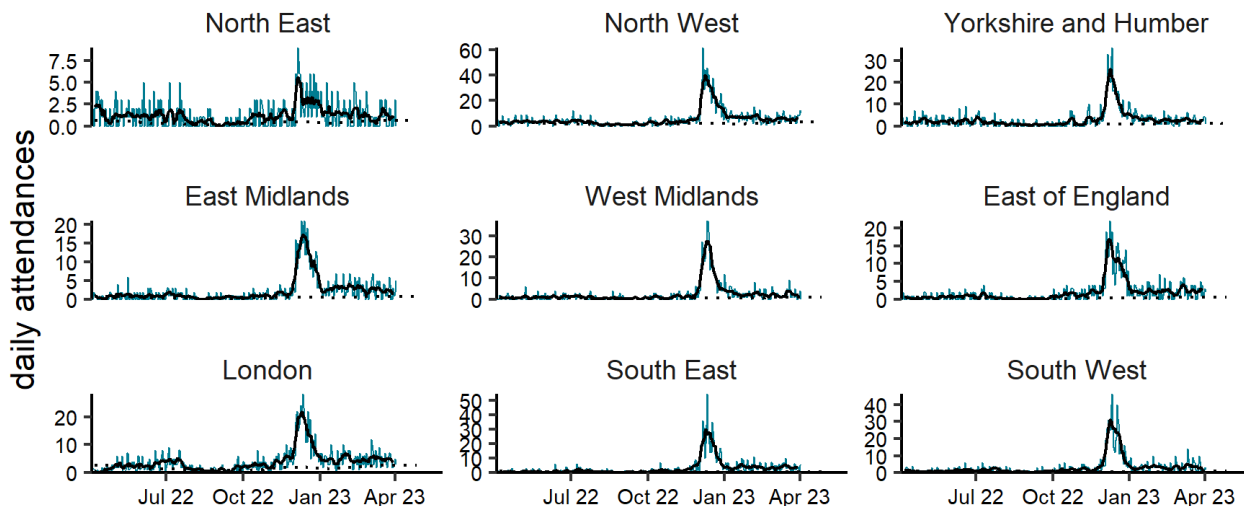
# Scarlet fever

**Figure 13: Daily number of scarlet fever ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**



(c)

EDSSS: scarlet fever by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023



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

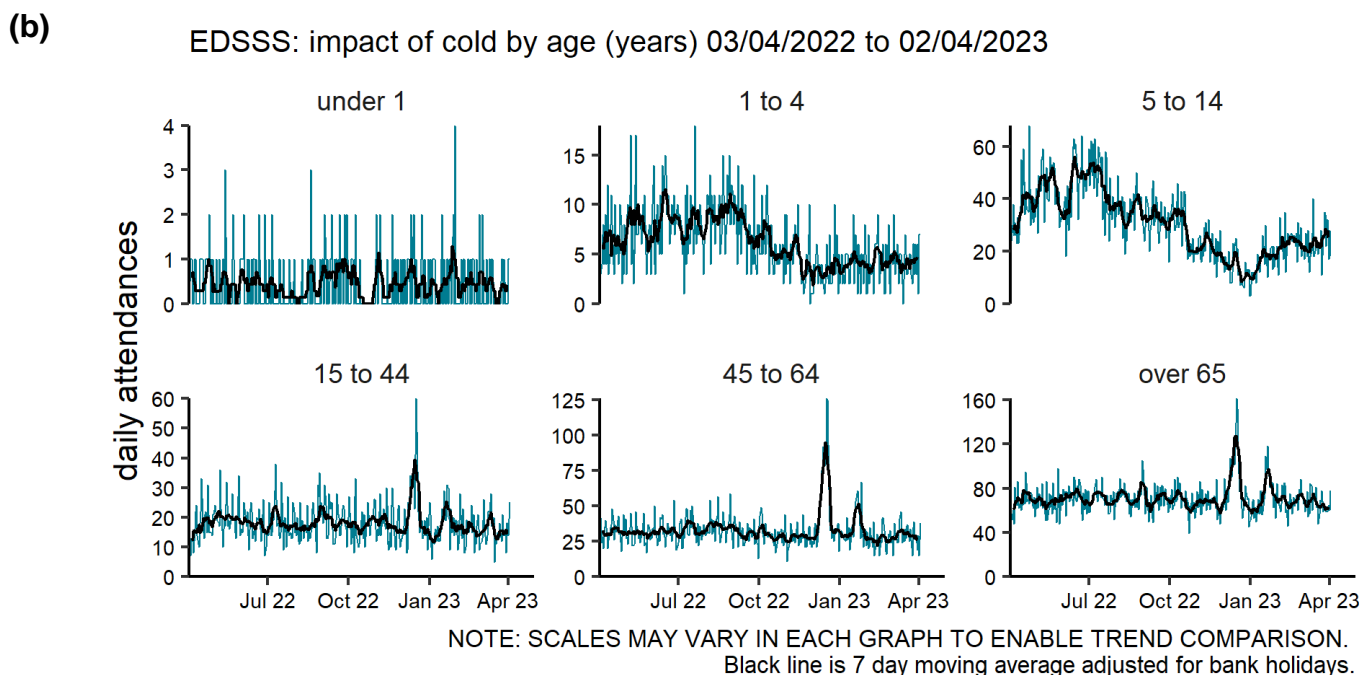
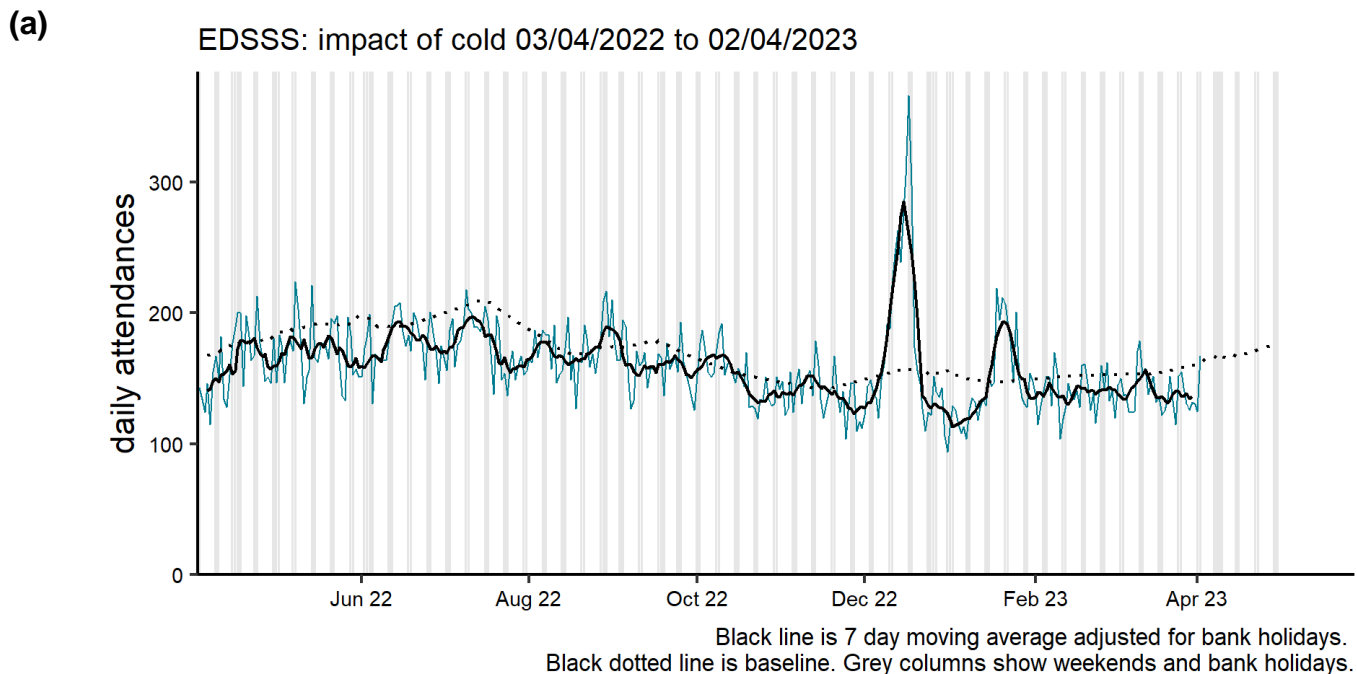
Highest weather alert level during the current reporting week:

***Level 1 – Winter preparedness and action***

## Impact of cold

**Figure 14: Daily number of impact of cold<sup>4</sup> ED attendances (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays), England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.**

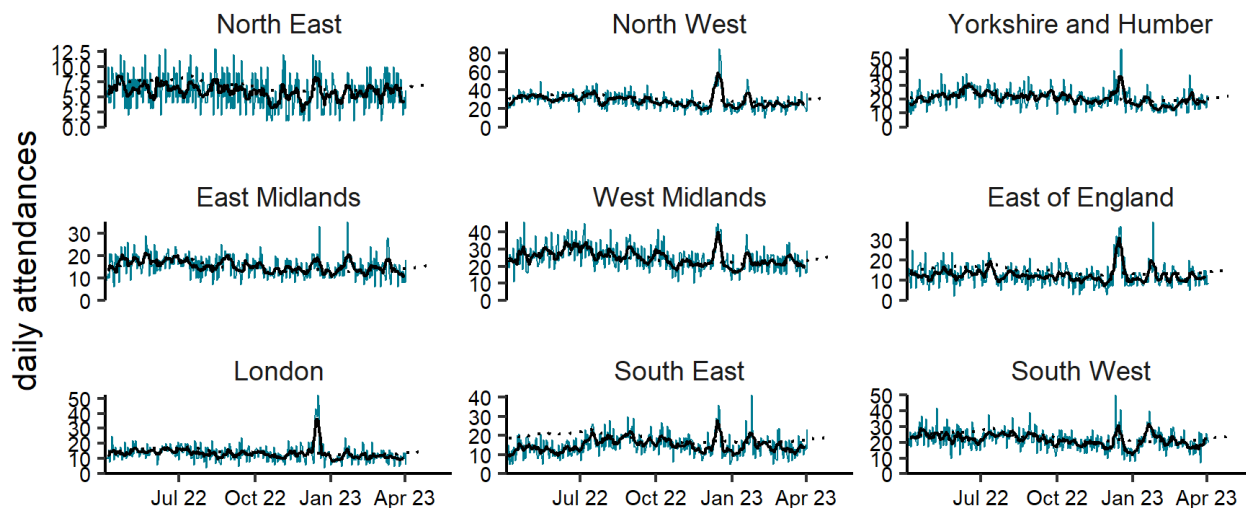
<sup>4</sup> impact of cold attendances reported here are restricted to female attendances, with a primary diagnosis of fracture of the femur/wrist/forearm plus cold specific diagnoses of hypothermia, or cold injuries.





(c)

EDSSS: impact of cold by region 03/04/2022 to 02/04/2023



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.

## Notes and caveats

The following additional caveats apply to the UKHSA emergency department syndromic surveillance system:

- the data presented are based on a national syndromic surveillance system:
  - should be used to monitor trends not to estimate numbers of ‘cases’
  - an automated daily transfer of anonymised ED data is received from NHS Digital, from the [Emergency Care Data Set](#) (ECDS)
  - not all EDs currently provide data on a daily basis, EDs are eligible for inclusion in this report only where:
    - data relates to attendances at a type 01 ED
    - data for 7 of the 7 most recent days was received
    - data for those days was received within 2 calendar days of the patient arrival
  - when an ED meets these criteria, all historical data from that ED is included
  - EDs included each week is likely to change, which will affect the historical data inclusion
  - national coverage each week is included in **Table 2**,
  - the number of EDs in each region area is described in **Table 3**
- individual EDs will not be identified in these bulletins
- some syndromic indicators are hierarchical:
  - acute respiratory infections includes:
    - COVID-19-like
    - acute bronchitis or bronchiolitis
    - other and non-specific acute respiratory infections
    - influenza-like illness
    - pneumonia
  - cardiac conditions includes:
    - myocardial ischaemia
    - other and non-specific cardiac conditions
- baselines:
  - were last remodelled January 2023
  - are constructed from historical data since April 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 may affect ED attendance levels

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the clinicians in each ED and other staff within each Trust for their continued involvement in the EDSSS.

We thank the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, NHS Digital and NHS England for their support in the development of national EDSSS, using anonymised data collection from ECDS.

# 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 health secure.

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

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency)

© Crown copyright 2023

Version: ED-2

Prepared by: Real-time Syndromic Surveillance Team

For queries relating to this document, please contact: [syndromic.surveillan@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:syndromic.surveillan@ukhsa.gov.uk)

Published: April 2023



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 [OGL](https://www.ogil.io). 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

