



UK Health
Security
Agency

GP in Hours Syndromic Surveillance System Bulletin (England)

2023 Week 51

Key messages

Data reported to: 22 December 2023

During week 51, GP in-hours consultation rates for upper and lower respiratory infections continued to increase, particularly in the 15+ years age groups. COVID-19-like consultations also continued to increase, in adults and in London, South East and East of England regions. Influenza-like illness activity increased during week 51, however rates remain below expected levels.

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
COVID-19-like (Figure 1)	Increasing	No baseline
Upper respiratory tract infections (Figure 2)	Increasing	Below baseline
Influenza-like illness (Figure 3)	Increasing	Below baseline
Pharyngitis (Figure 4)	No trend	Below baseline
Scarlet fever (Figure 5)	No trend	Below baseline
Lower respiratory tract infections (Figure 6)	Increasing	Below baseline
Pneumonia (Figure 7)	Increasing	Below baseline
Bronchiolitis (Figure 8)	Decreasing	Below baseline
Acute bronchitis (Figure 9)	No trend	Below baseline
Acute presenting asthma (Figure 10)	No trend	Below baseline
Gastroenteritis (Figure 11)	No trend	Above baseline
Diarrhoea (Figure 12)	Decreasing	Above baseline
Vomiting (Figure 13)	Decreasing	Above baseline
Measles (Figure 14)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Mumps (Figure 15)	No trend	Below baseline
Whooping cough (Figure 16)	No trend	Above baseline
Cellulitis (Figure 17)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Chickenpox (Figure 18)	No trend	Below baseline
Herpes zoster (Figure 19)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Impetigo (Figure 20)	Decreasing	Below baseline
Conjunctivitis (Figure 21)	Increasing	Below baseline

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

System coverage

Table 2: The number of GP practices, and number of registered patients included in surveillance during the most recent week.

Year	Week	GP practices reporting¹	Registered patients¹
2023	51	1858	19.0 million

¹ based on the average number of practices and registered patient population in the reporting week (Monday-Friday).

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About this syndromic surveillance system

This bulletin presents data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) GP in hours 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 in hours data from two sources, TPP and ORCHID (Oxford and Royal College of General Practitioners Clinical Informatics Digital Hub), are analysed and reported here, to identify and describe trends for a variety of syndromic indicators:

- syndromic indicators include groupings such as upper respiratory tract infections, acute presenting asthma and gastroenteritis
- syndromic indicators are based on:
 - diagnoses recorded during GP in hours patient consultations
 - diagnoses are based on signs/symptoms and may not be 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
 - denominators vary for individual indicators, and are provided in figure titles

For further information please see the **Notes and caveats** section.

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

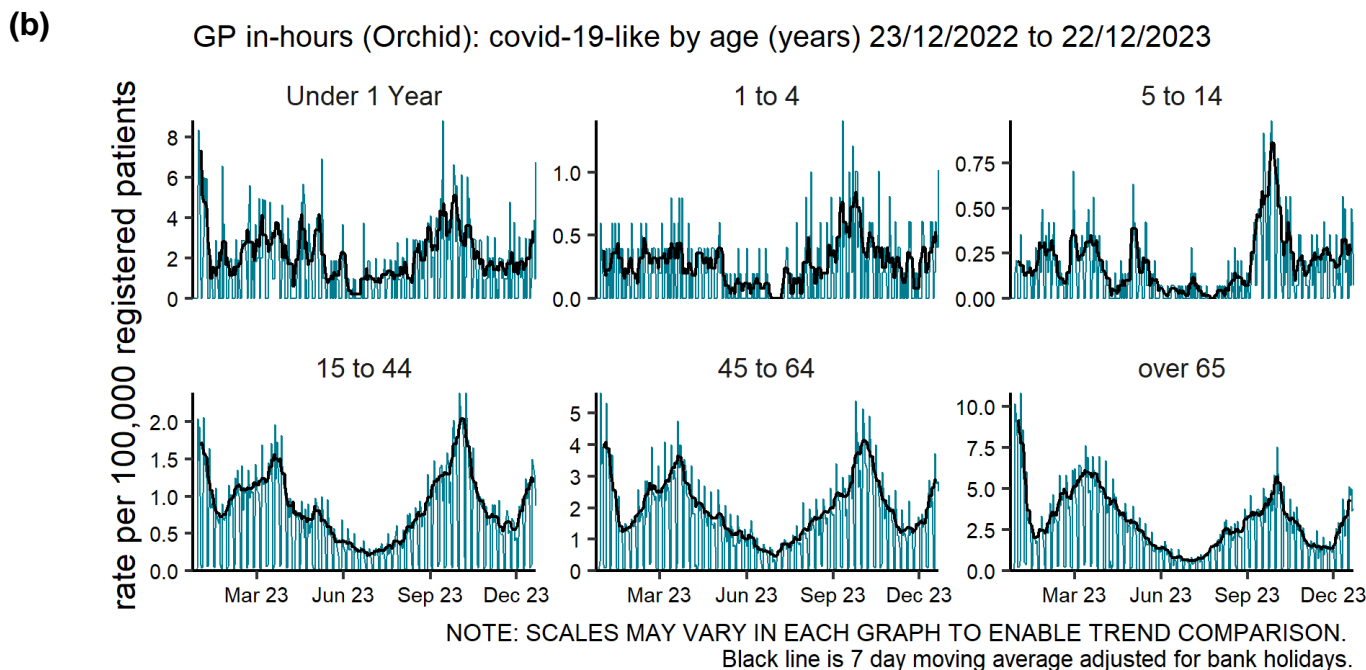
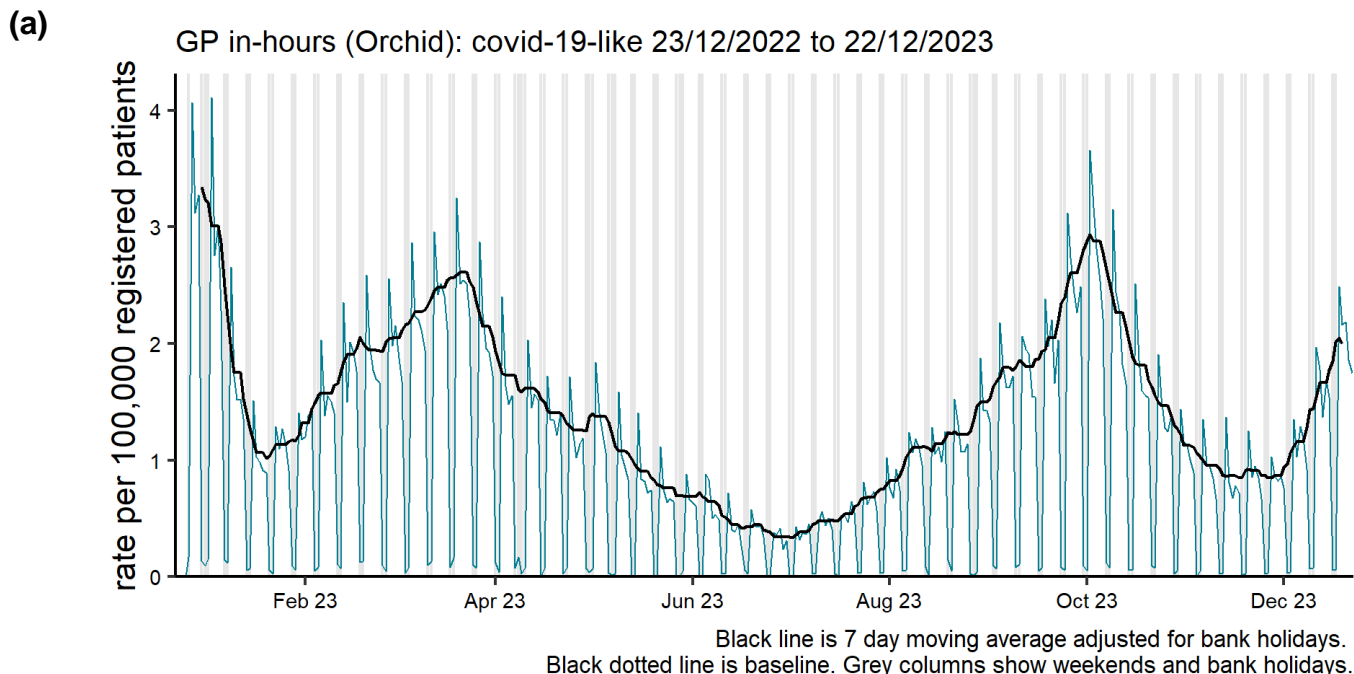
Data quality issues of note this week

No issues identified.

Respiratory conditions

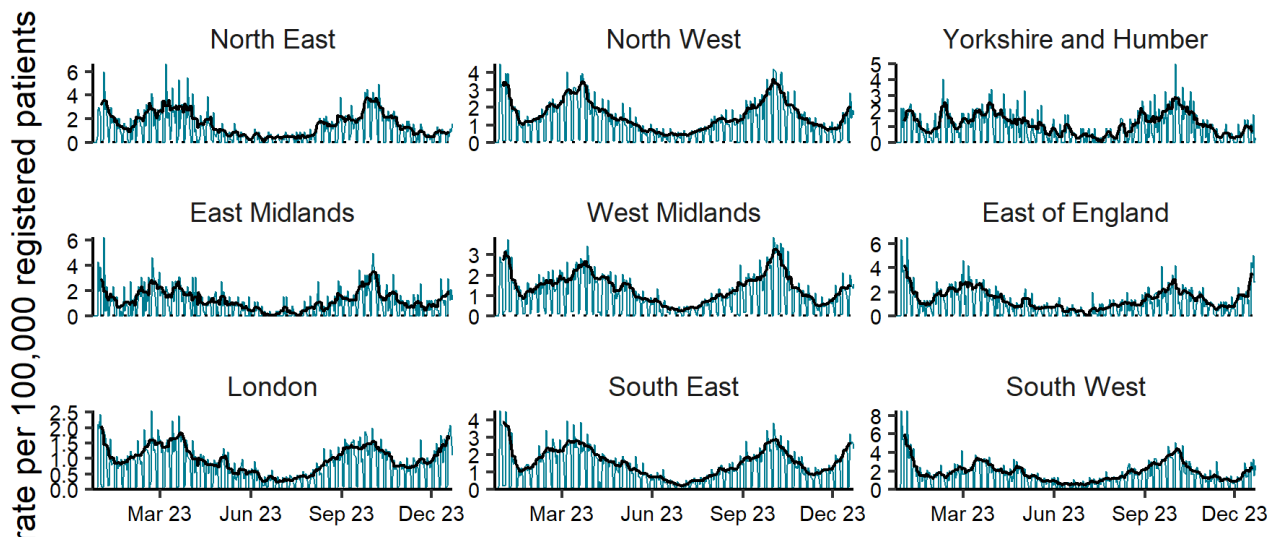
COVID-19-like

Figure 1: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for COVID-19-like GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 11.8 million patients).



(c)

GP in-hours (Orchid): covid-19-like by UKHSA region 23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023



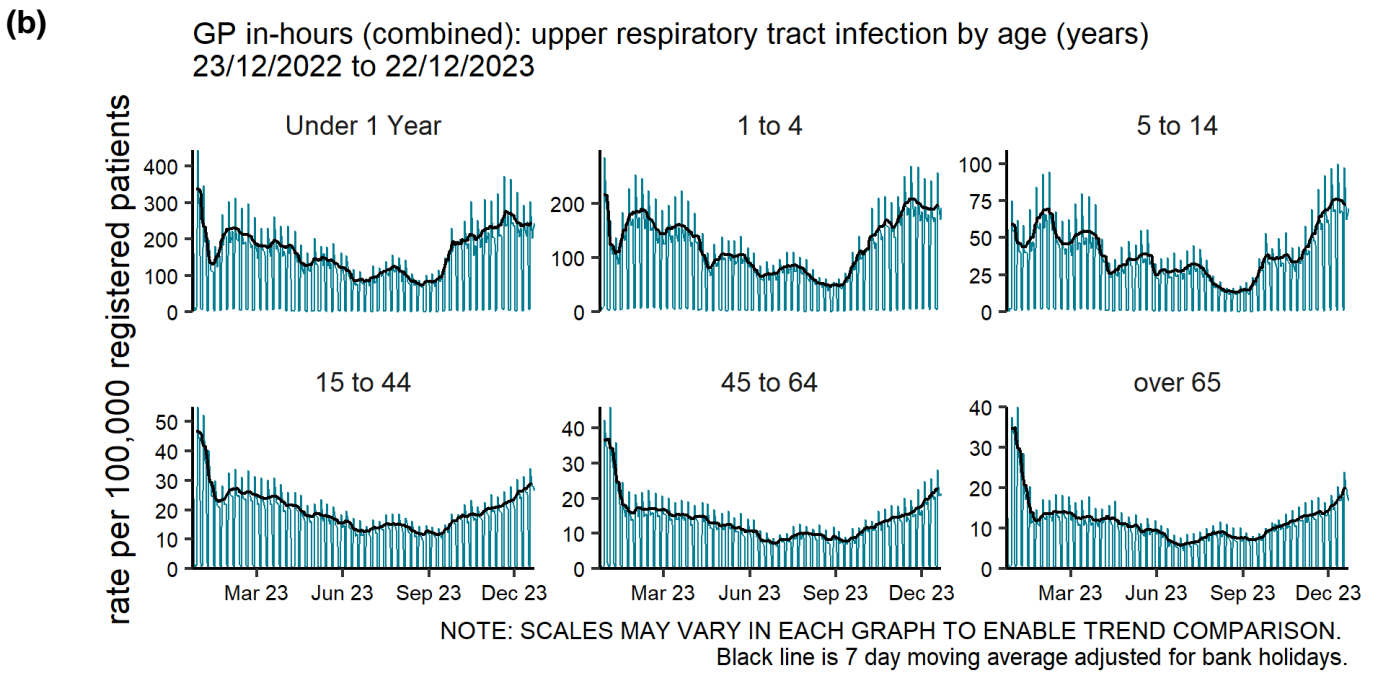
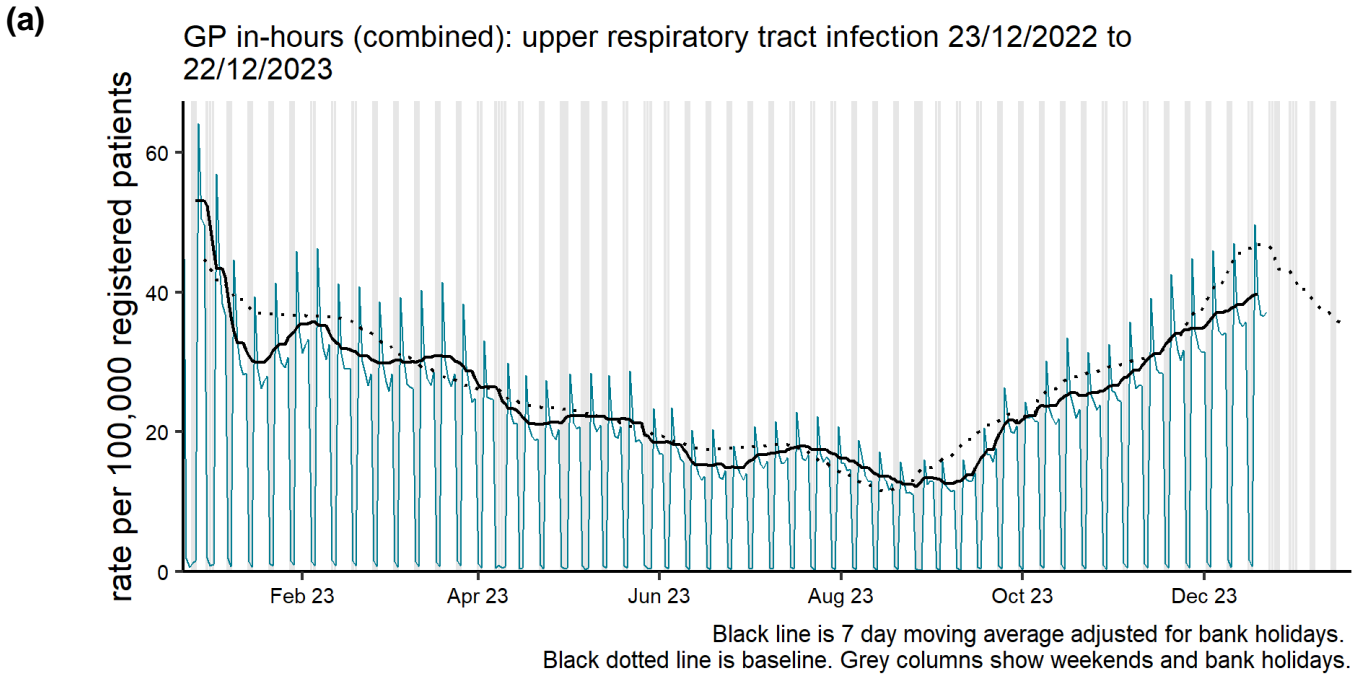
NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.

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

Black dotted line is baseline.

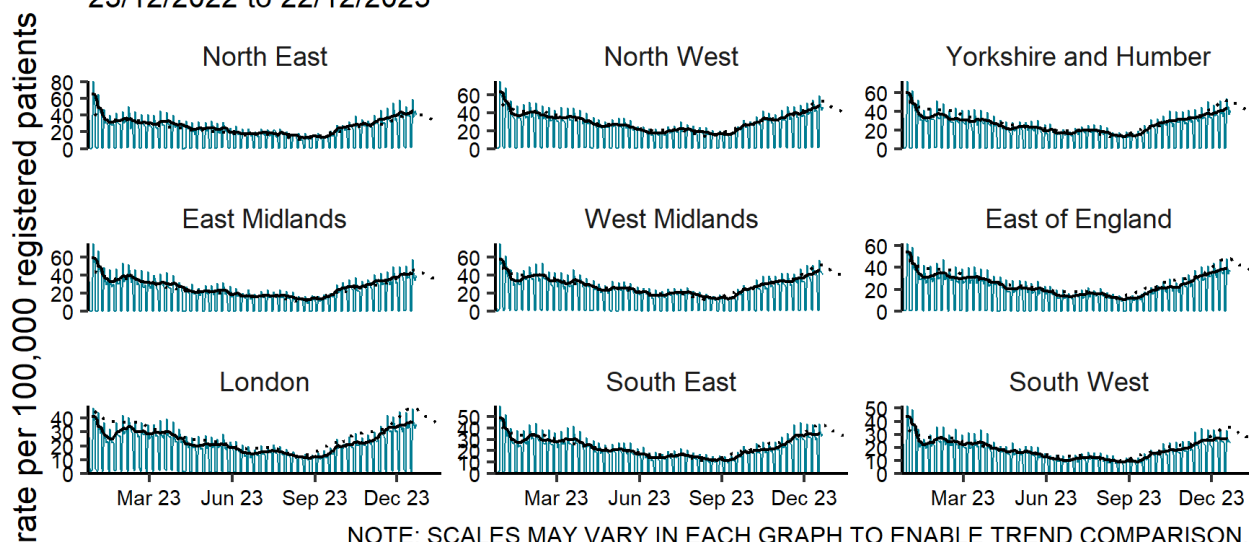
Upper respiratory tract infections

Figure 2: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for upper respiratory tract infections GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



(c)

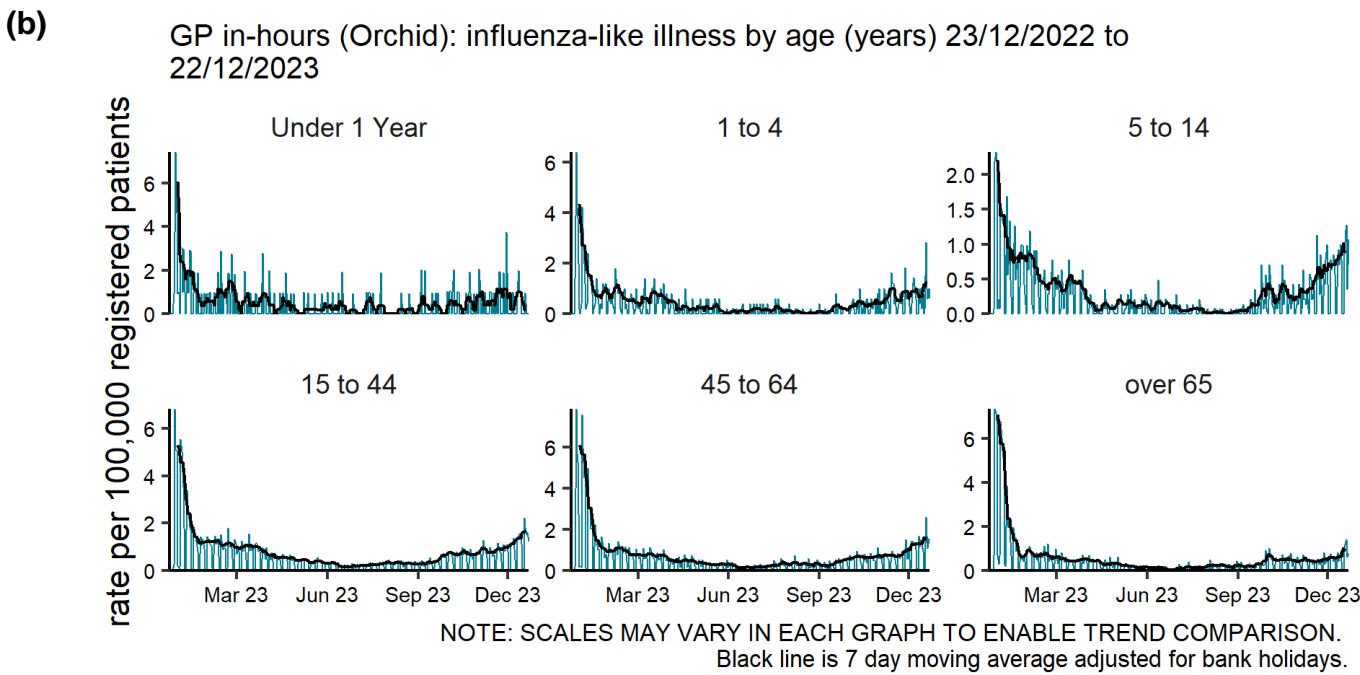
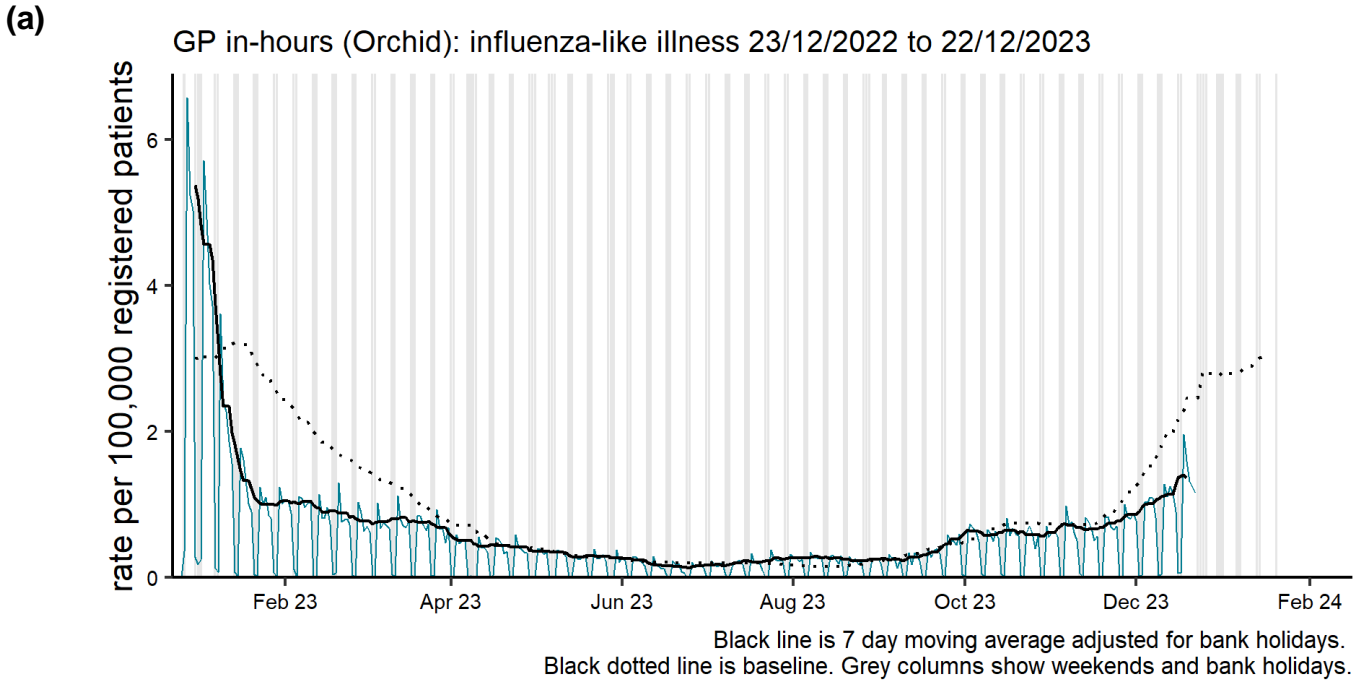
GP in-hours (combined): upper respiratory tract infection by UKHSA region
23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023

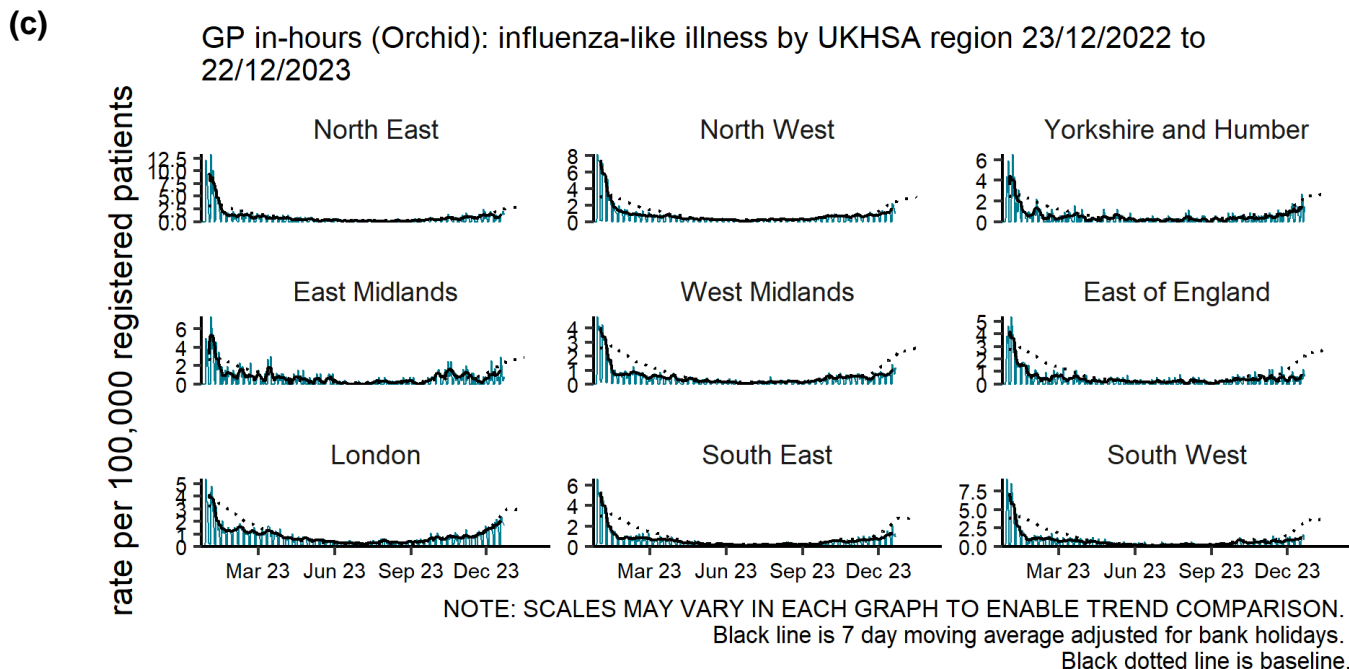


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Influenza-like illness

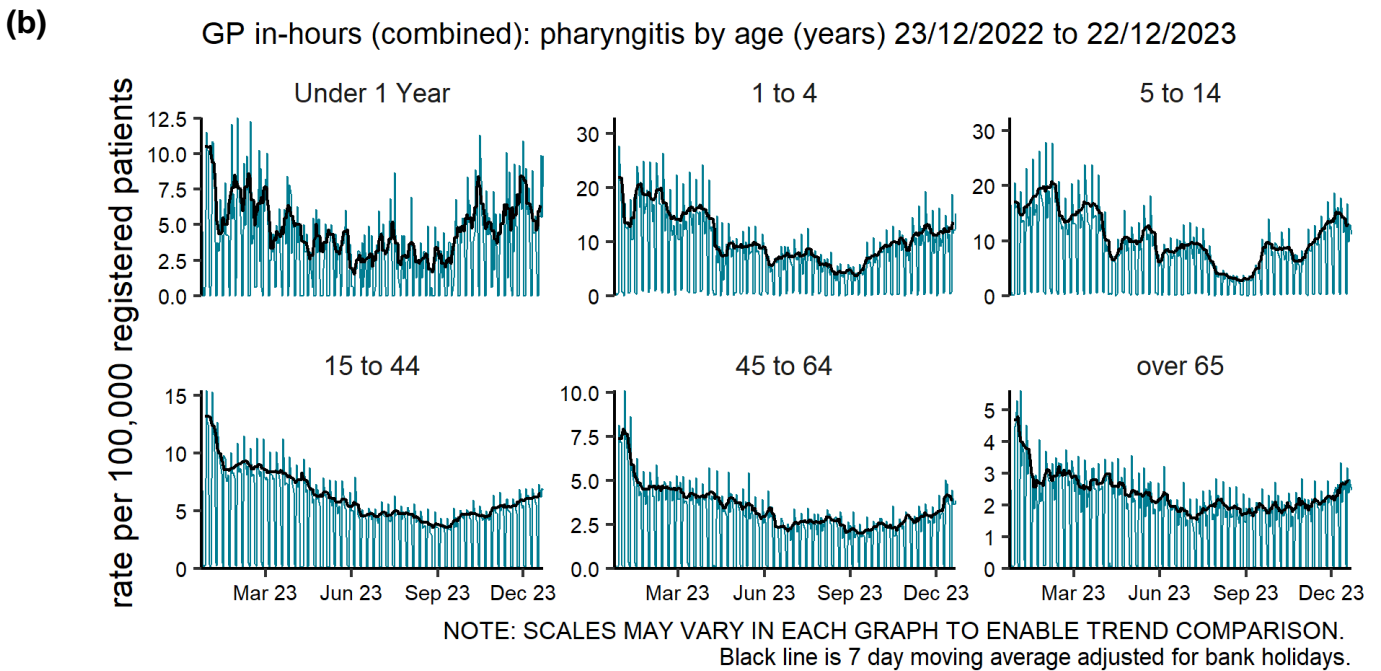
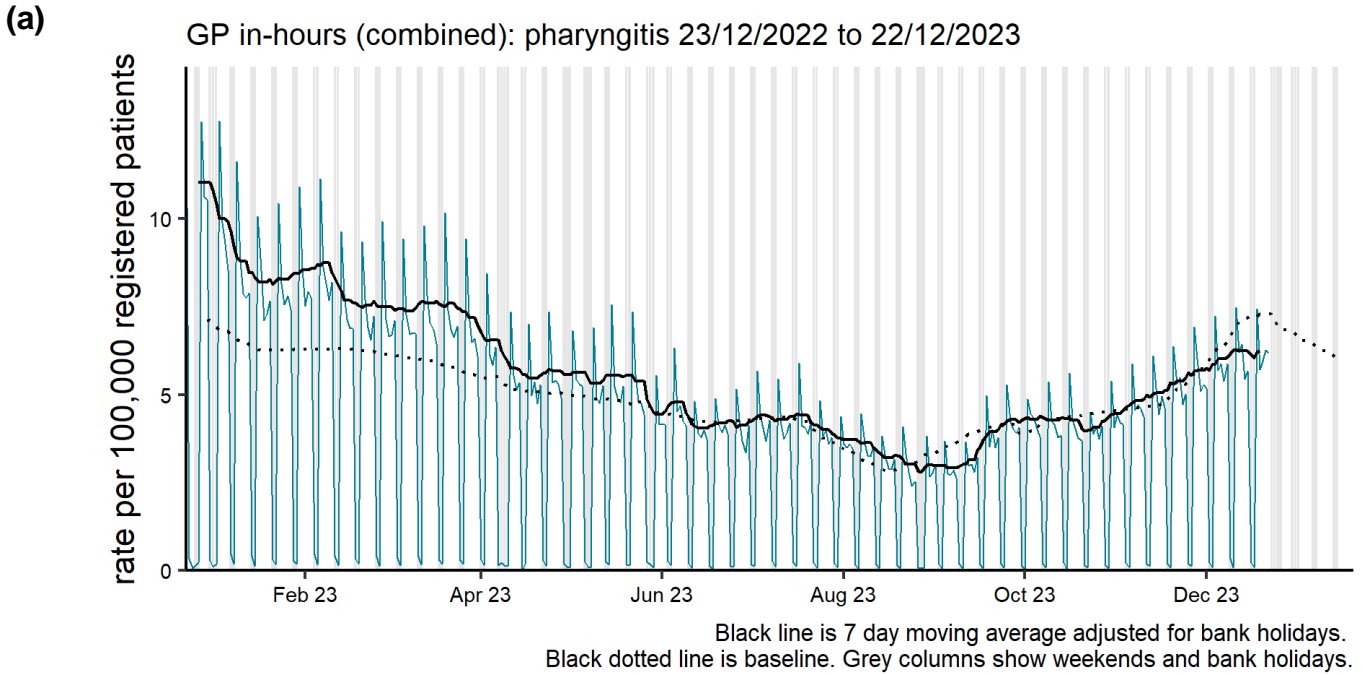
Figure 3: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for influenza-like illness GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 11.8 million patients).

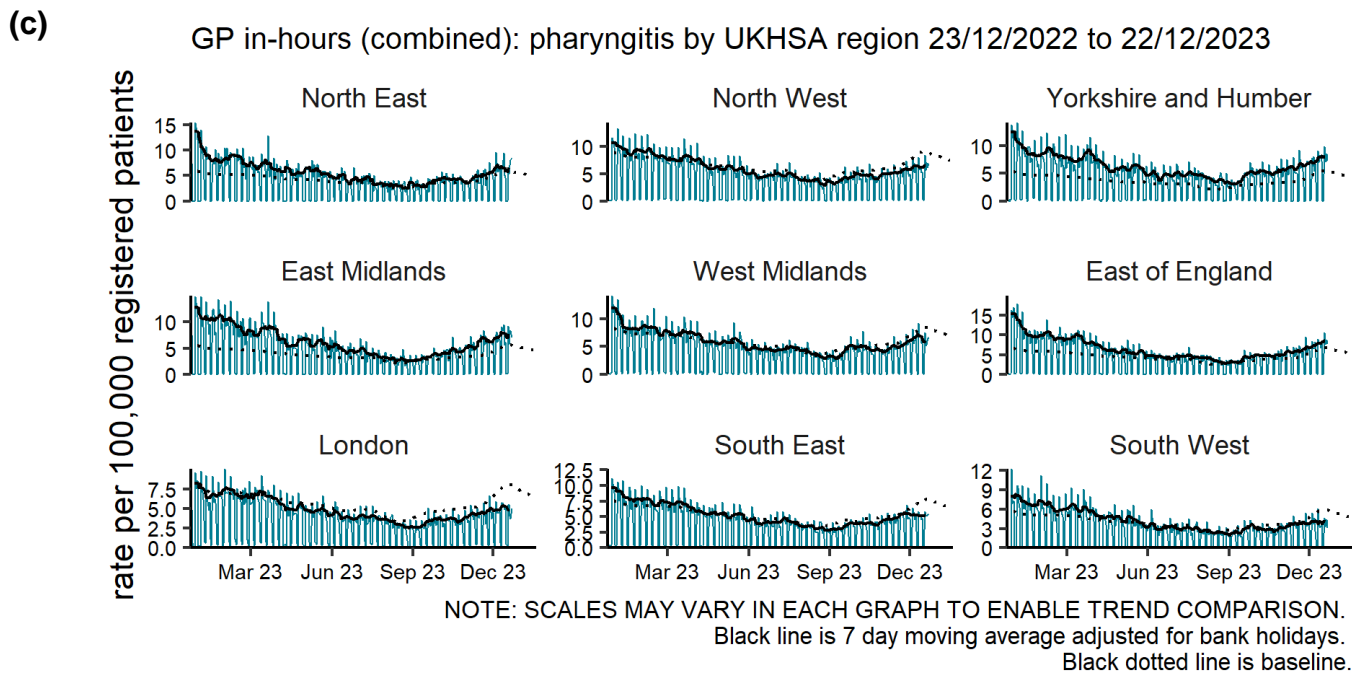




Pharyngitis

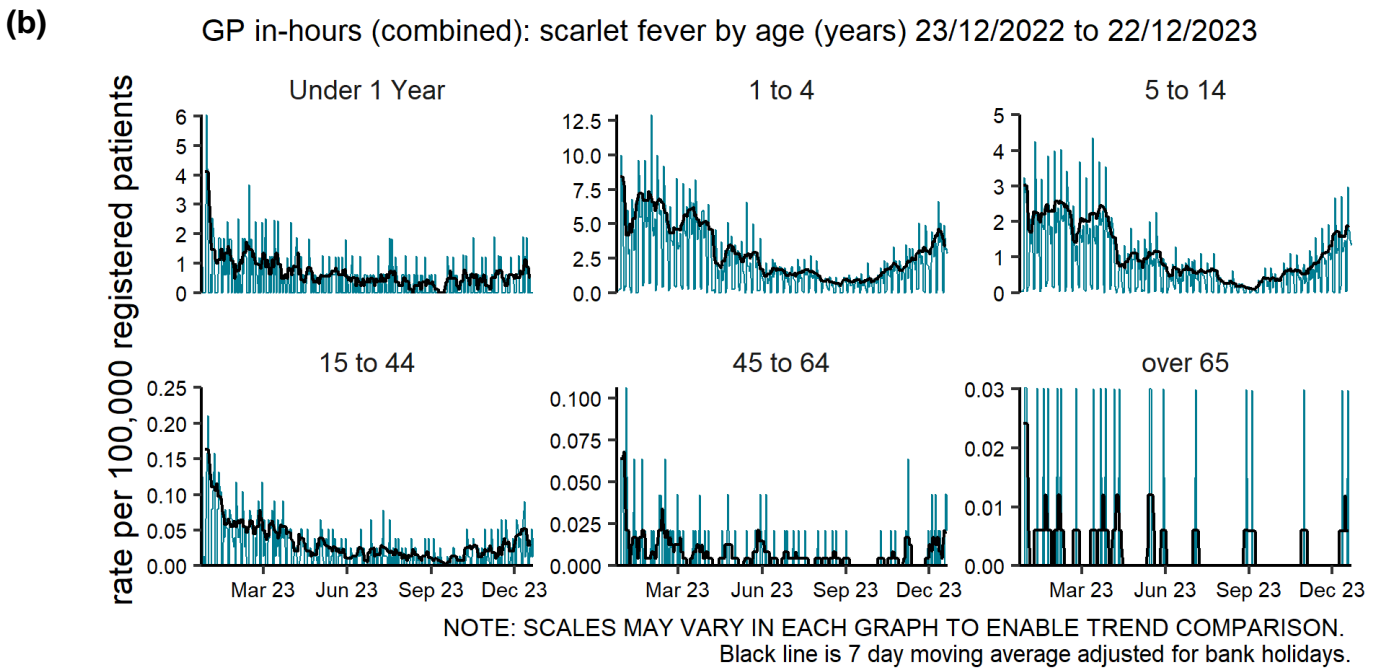
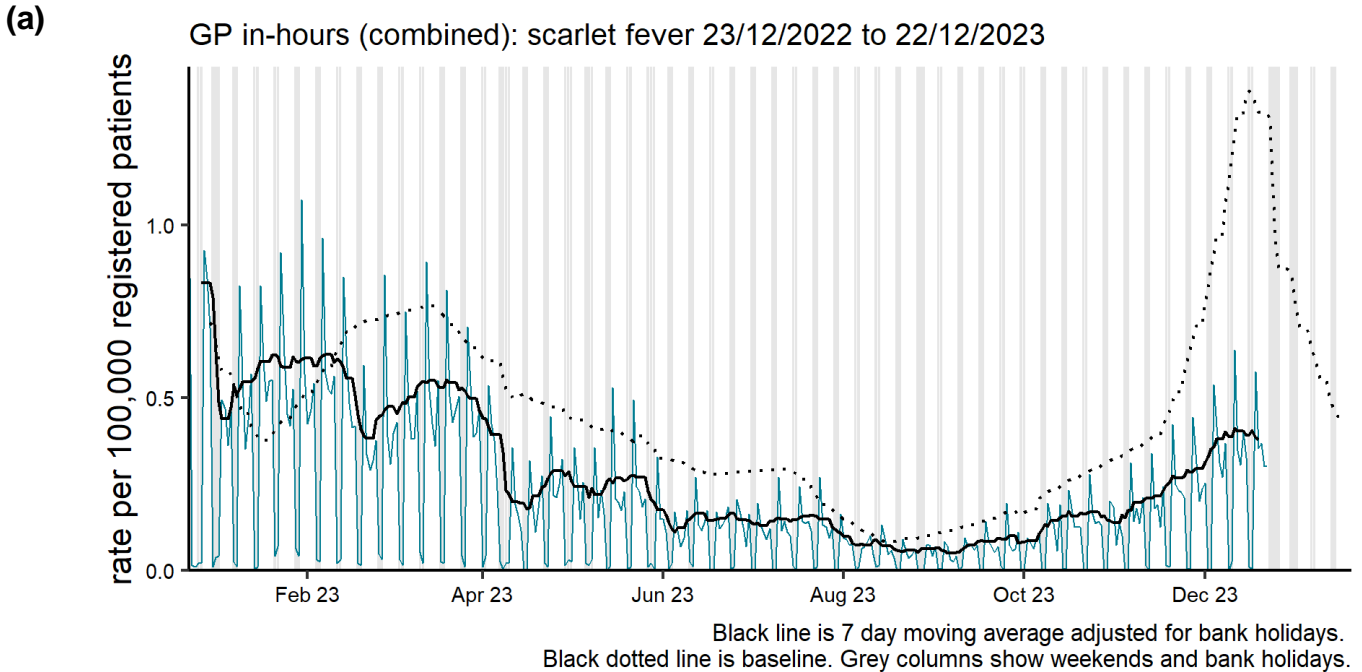
Figure 4: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for pharyngitis GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).





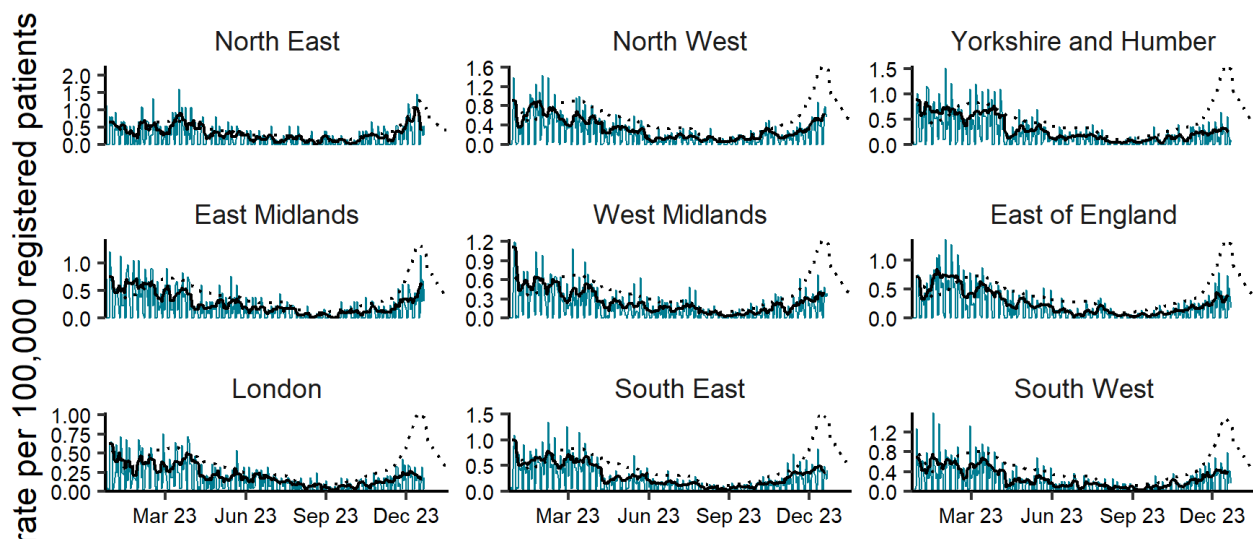
Scarlet fever

Figure 5: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for scarlet fever GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



(c)

GP in-hours (combined): scarlet fever by UKHSA region 23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023



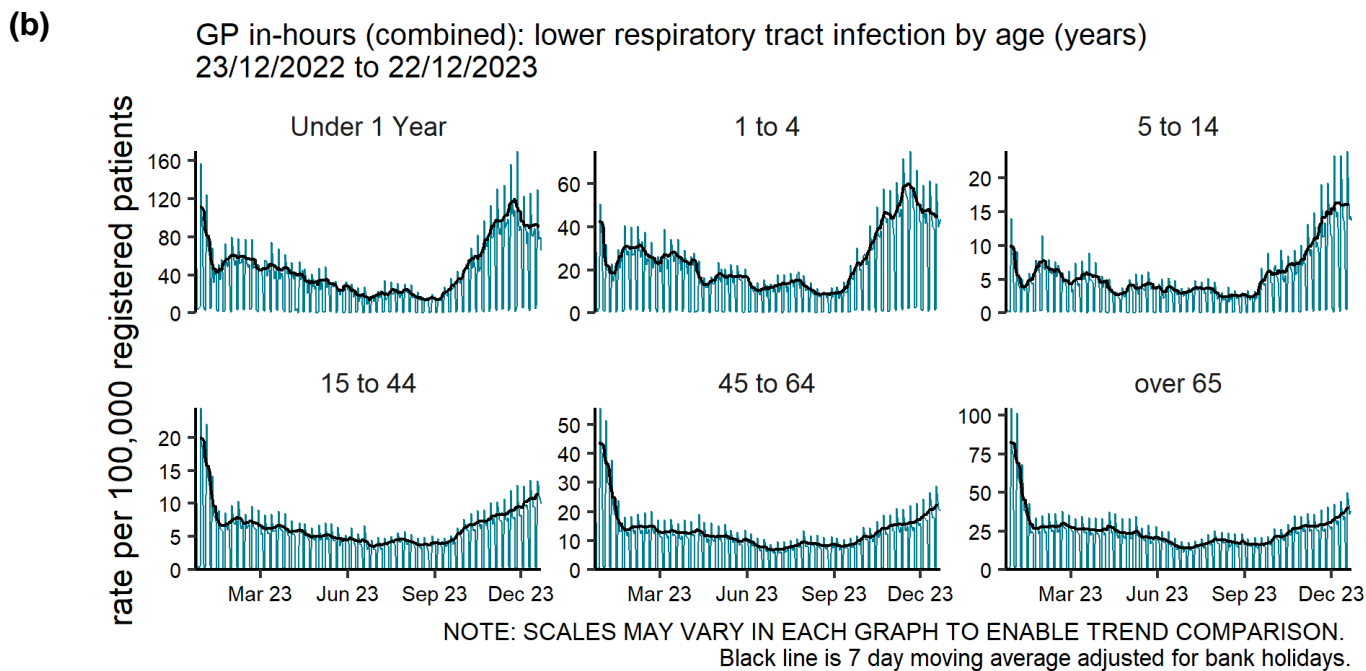
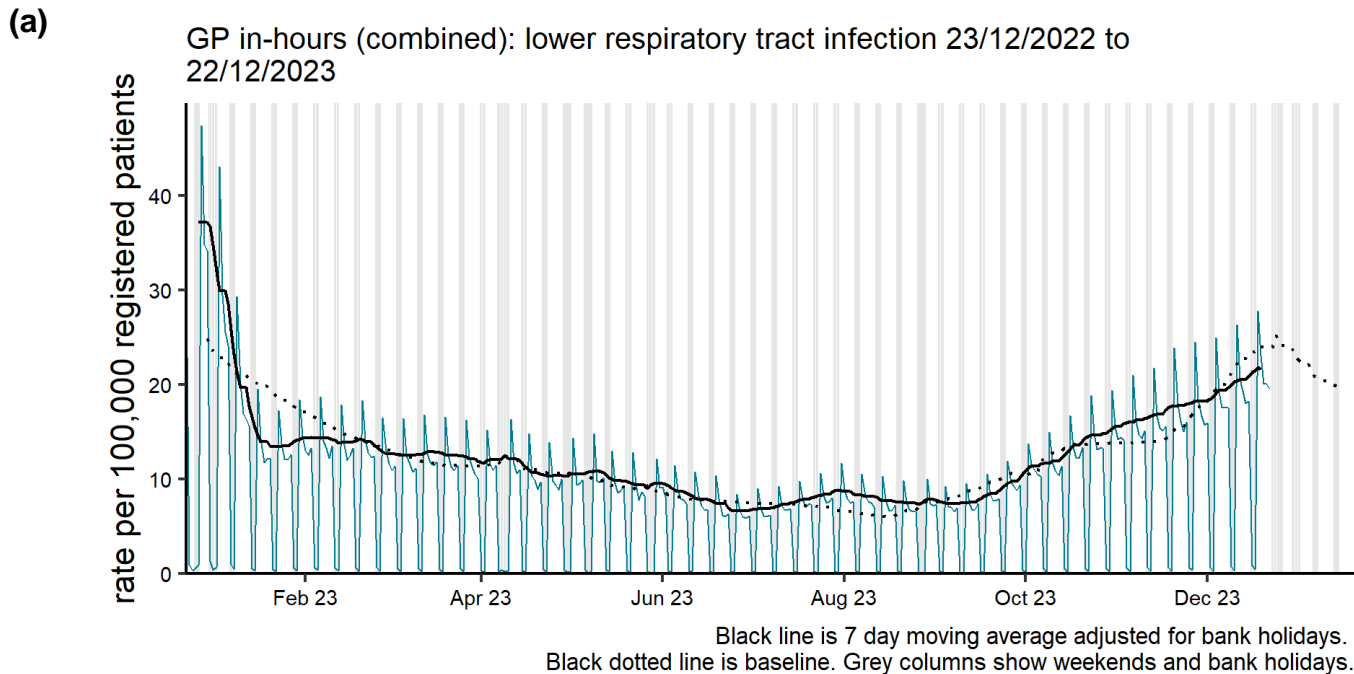
NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.

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

Black dotted line is baseline.

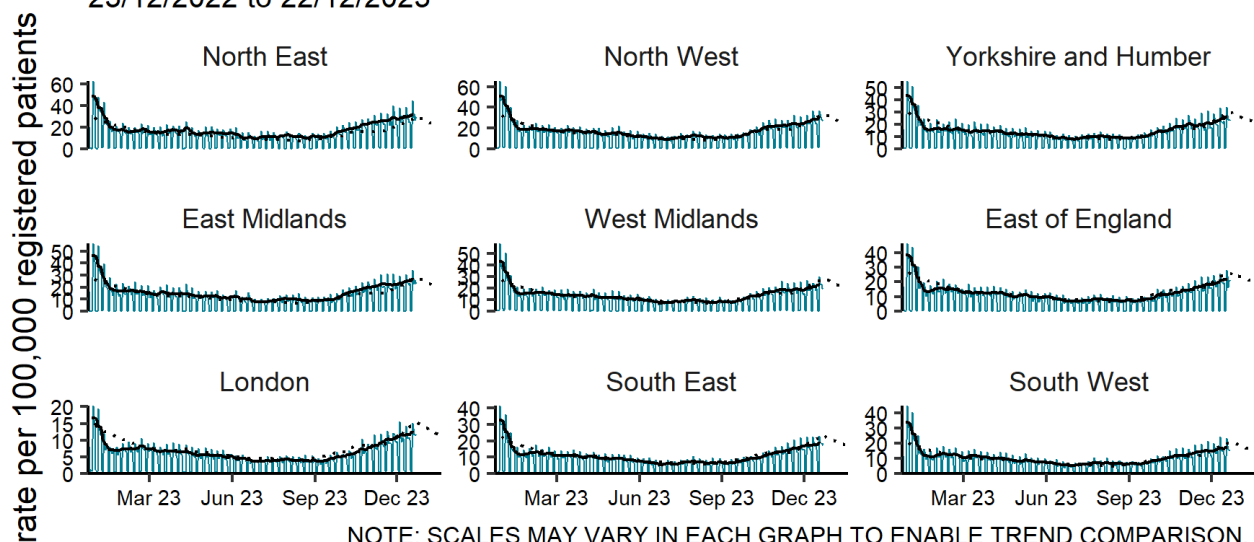
Lower respiratory tract infections

Figure 6: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for lower respiratory tract infections GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



(c)

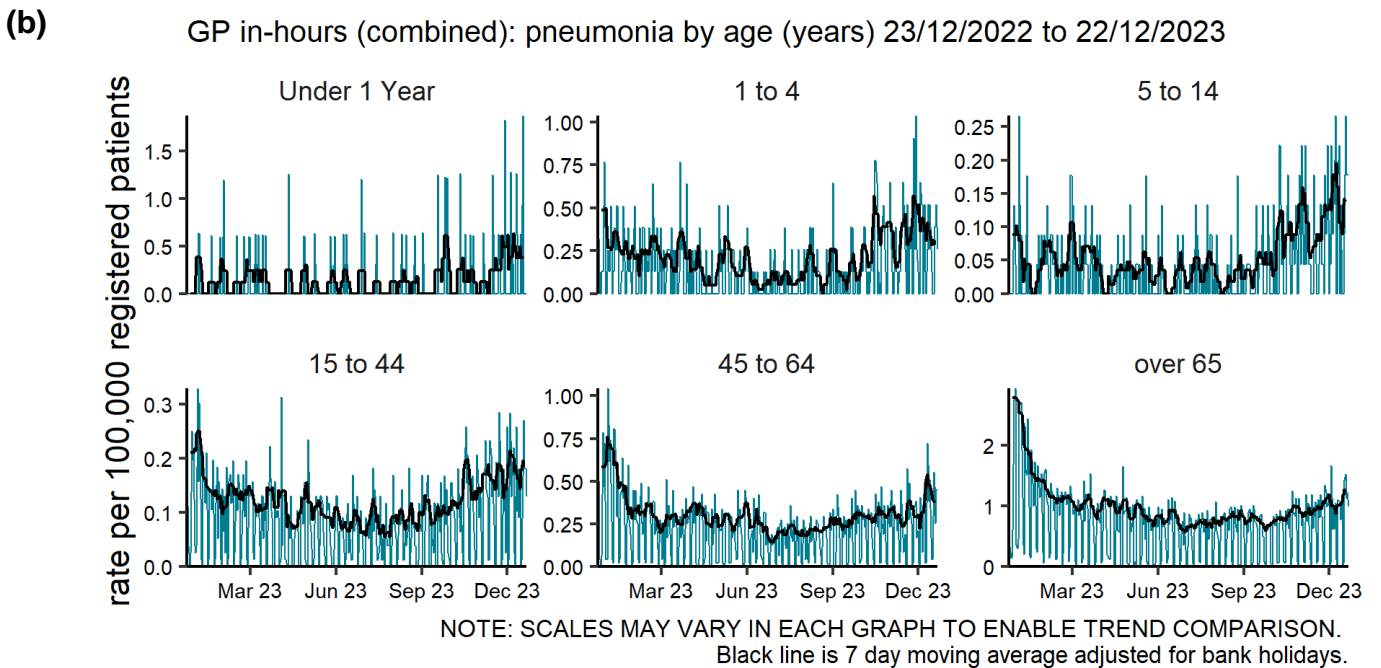
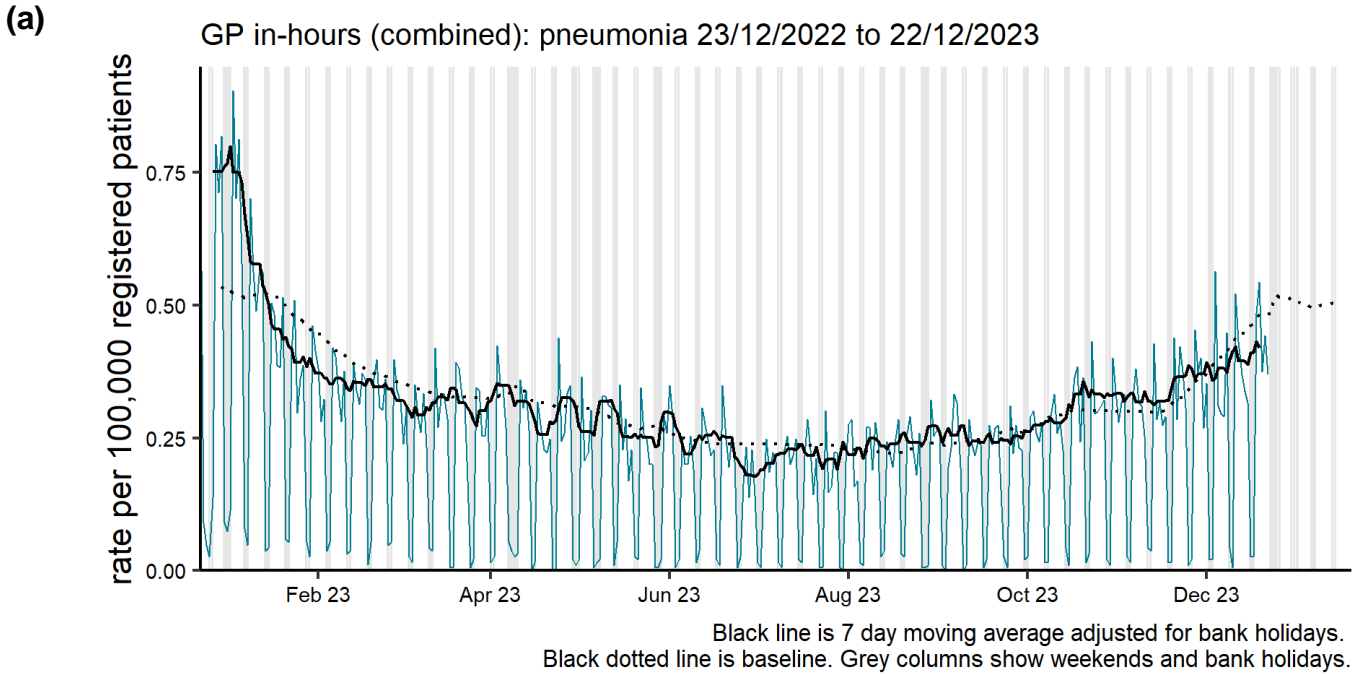
GP in-hours (combined): lower respiratory tract infection by UKHSA region
23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023



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.

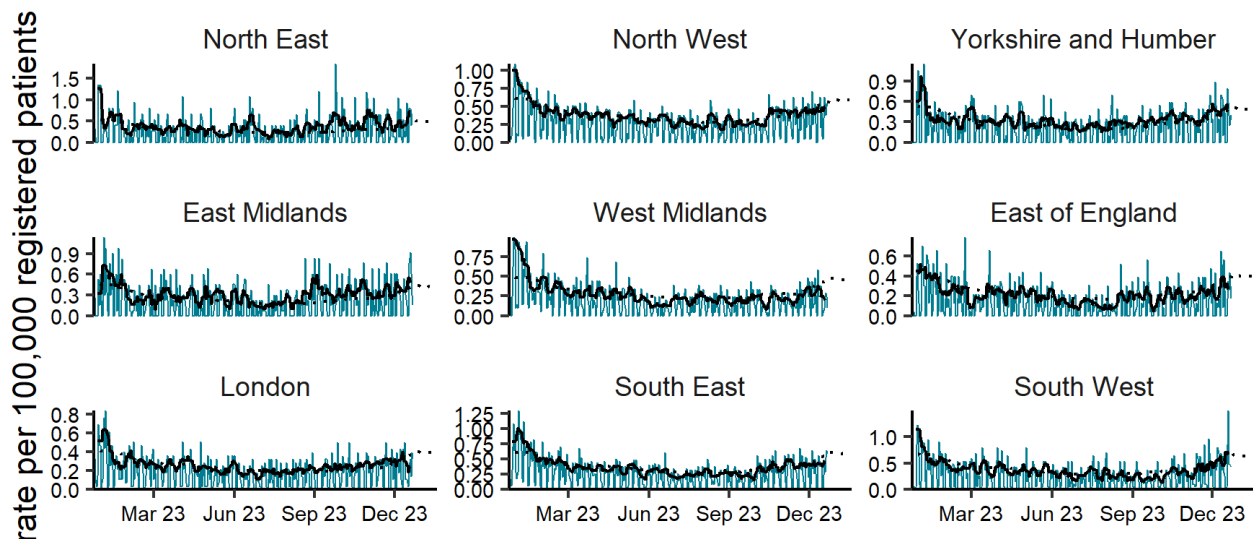
Pneumonia

Figure 7: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for pneumonia GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



(c)

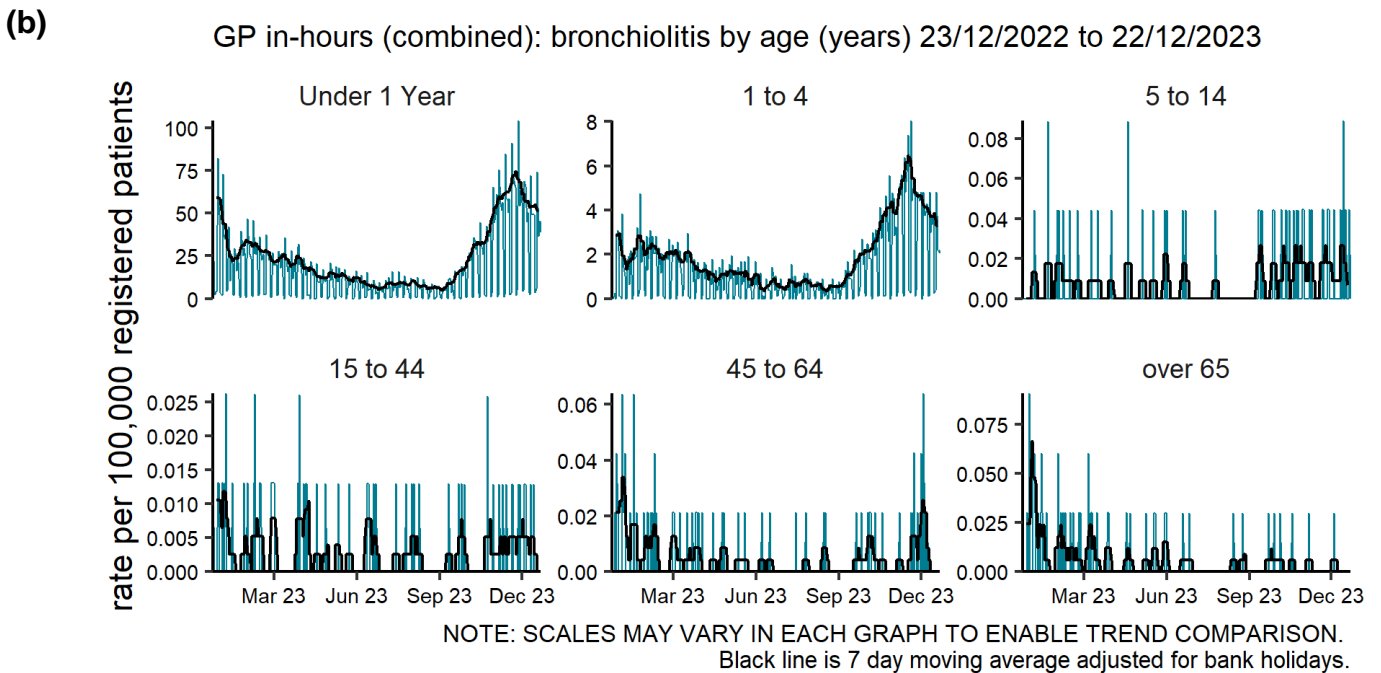
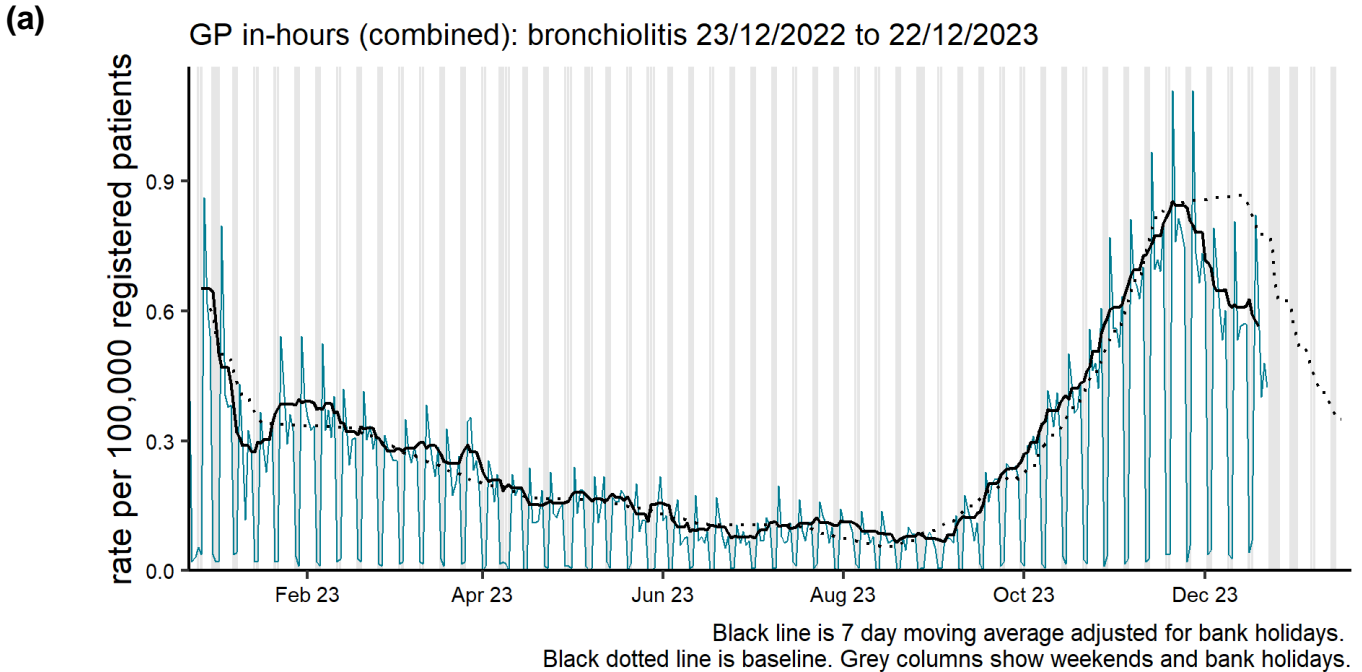
GP in-hours (combined): pneumonia by UKHSA region 23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023



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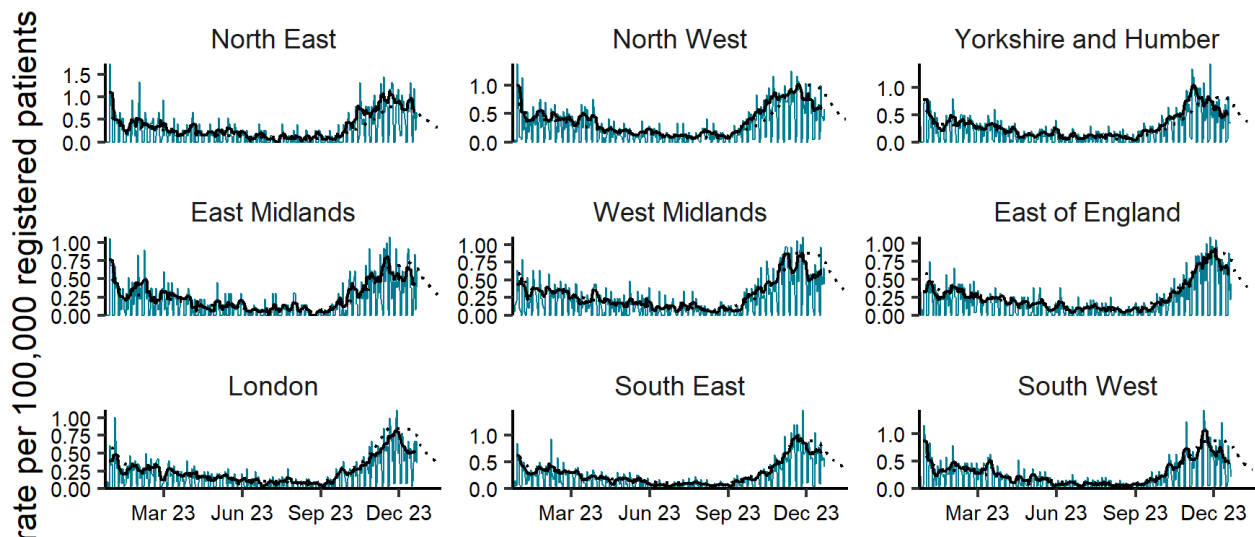
Bronchiolitis

Figure 8: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for bronchiolitis GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



(c)

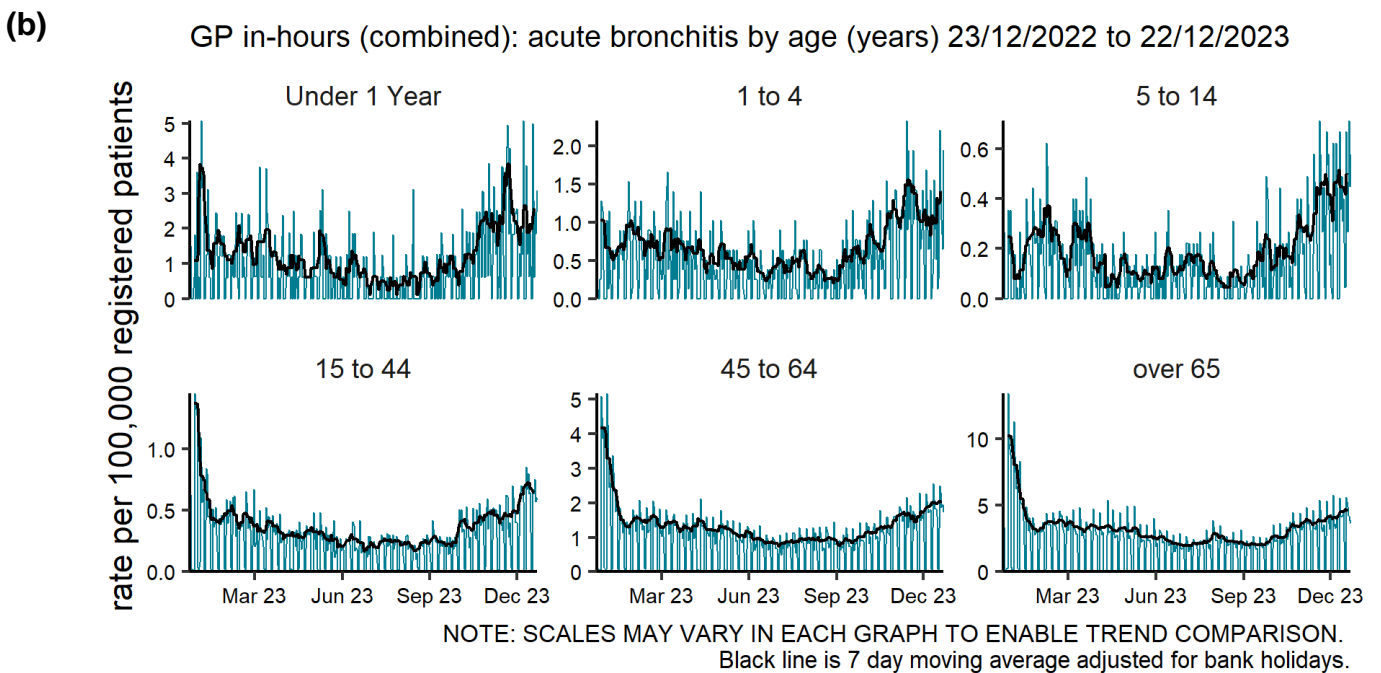
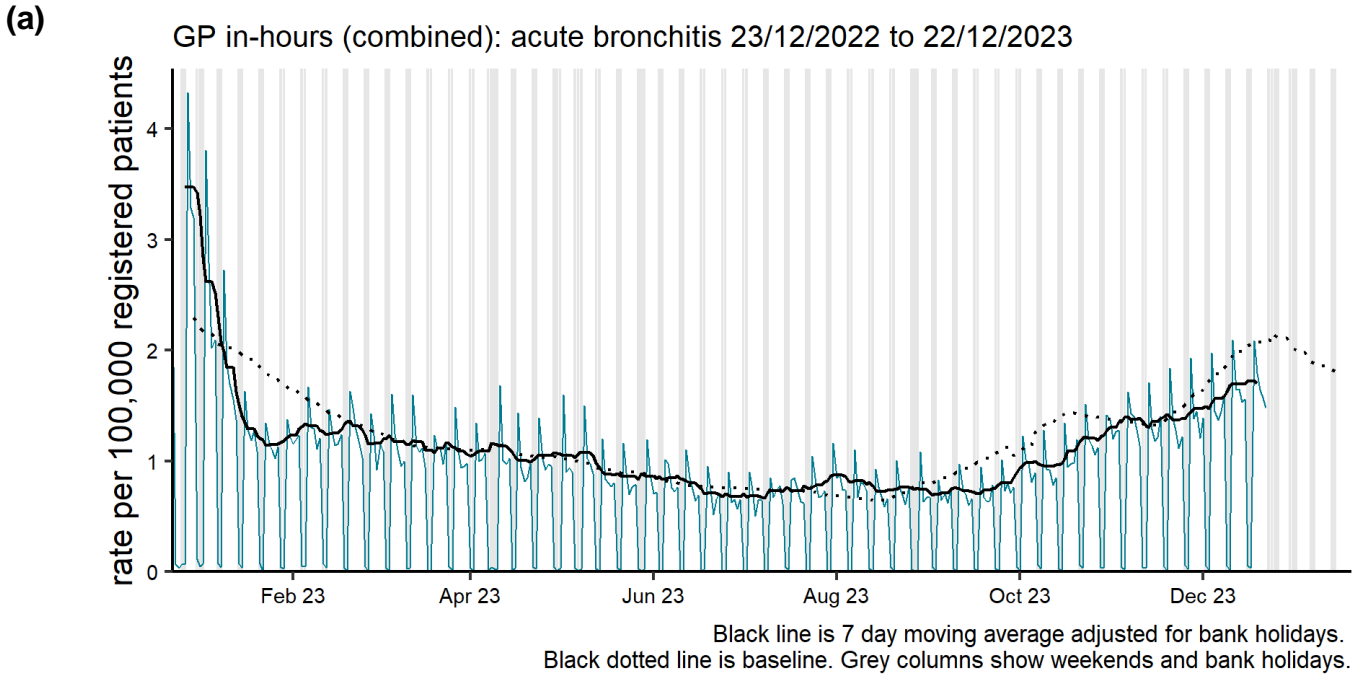
GP in-hours (combined): bronchiolitis by UKHSA region 23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023



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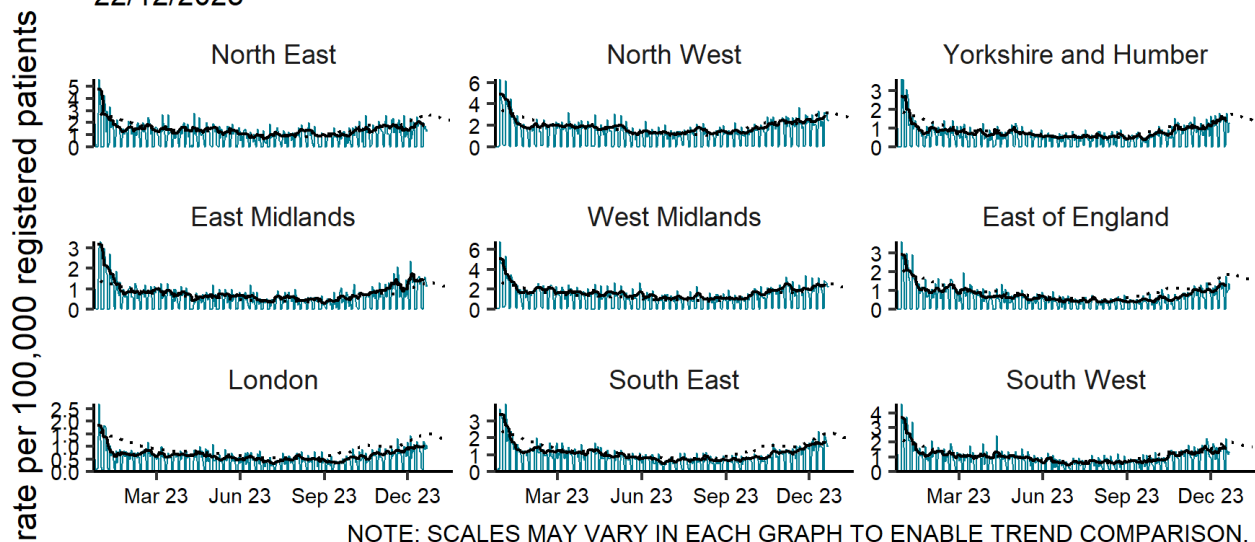
Acute bronchitis

Figure 9: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for acute bronchitis GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



(c)

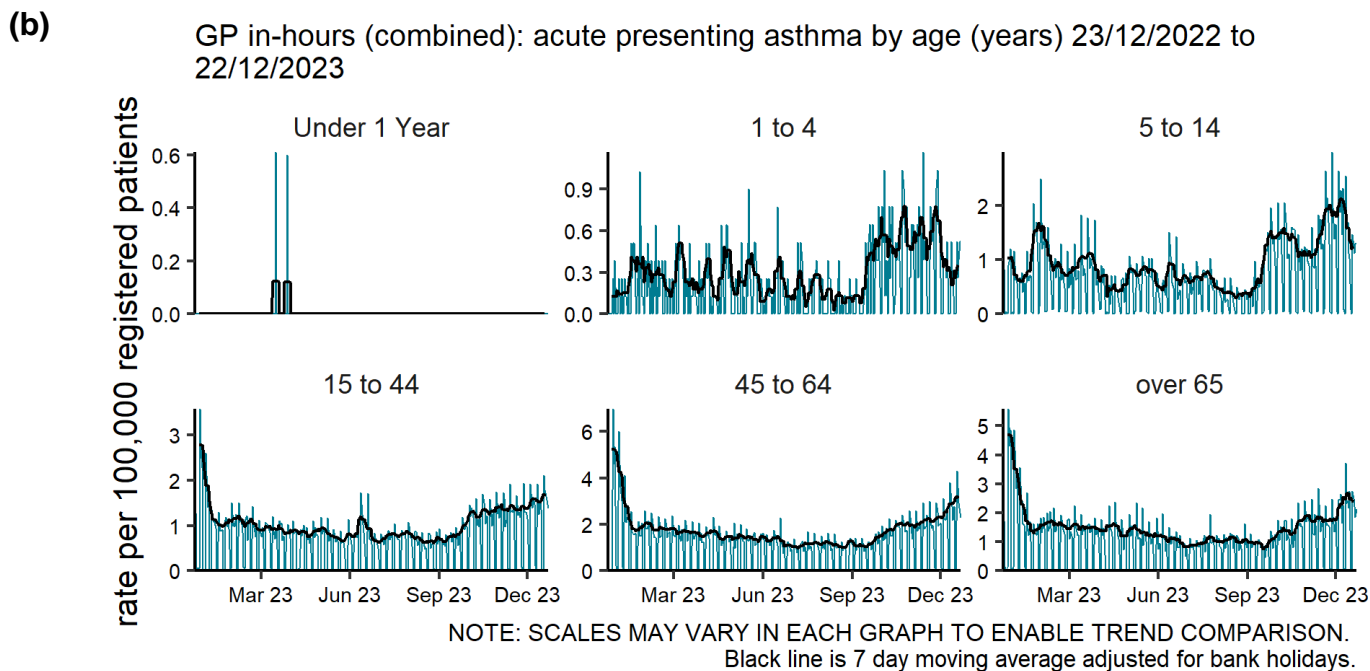
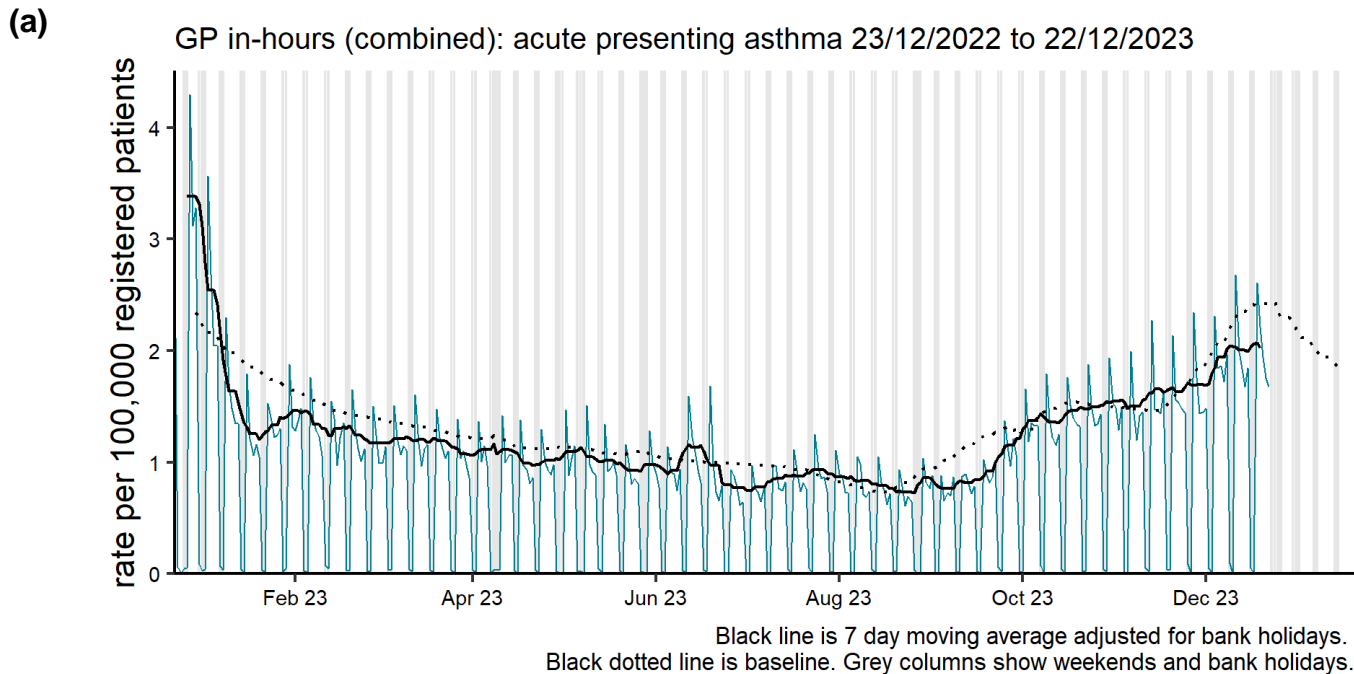
GP in-hours (combined): acute bronchitis by UKHSA region 23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023

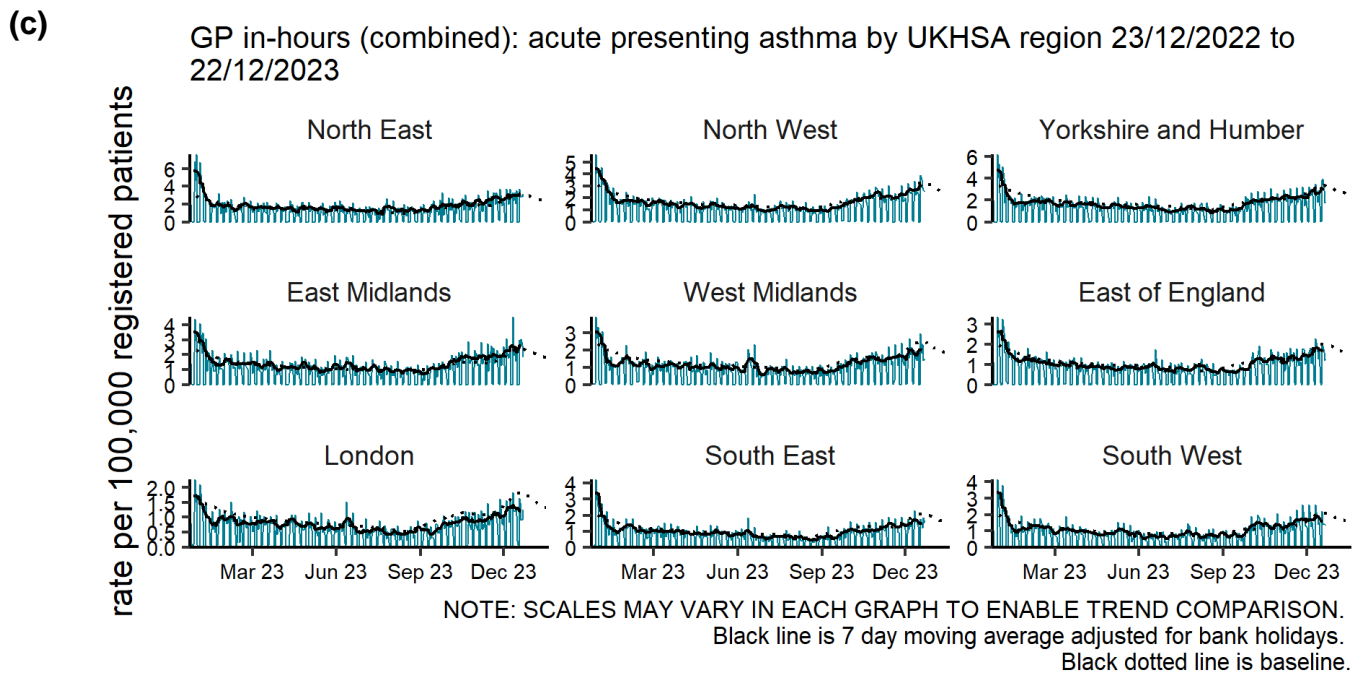


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Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
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Acute presenting asthma

Figure 10: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for acute presenting asthma GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients) .

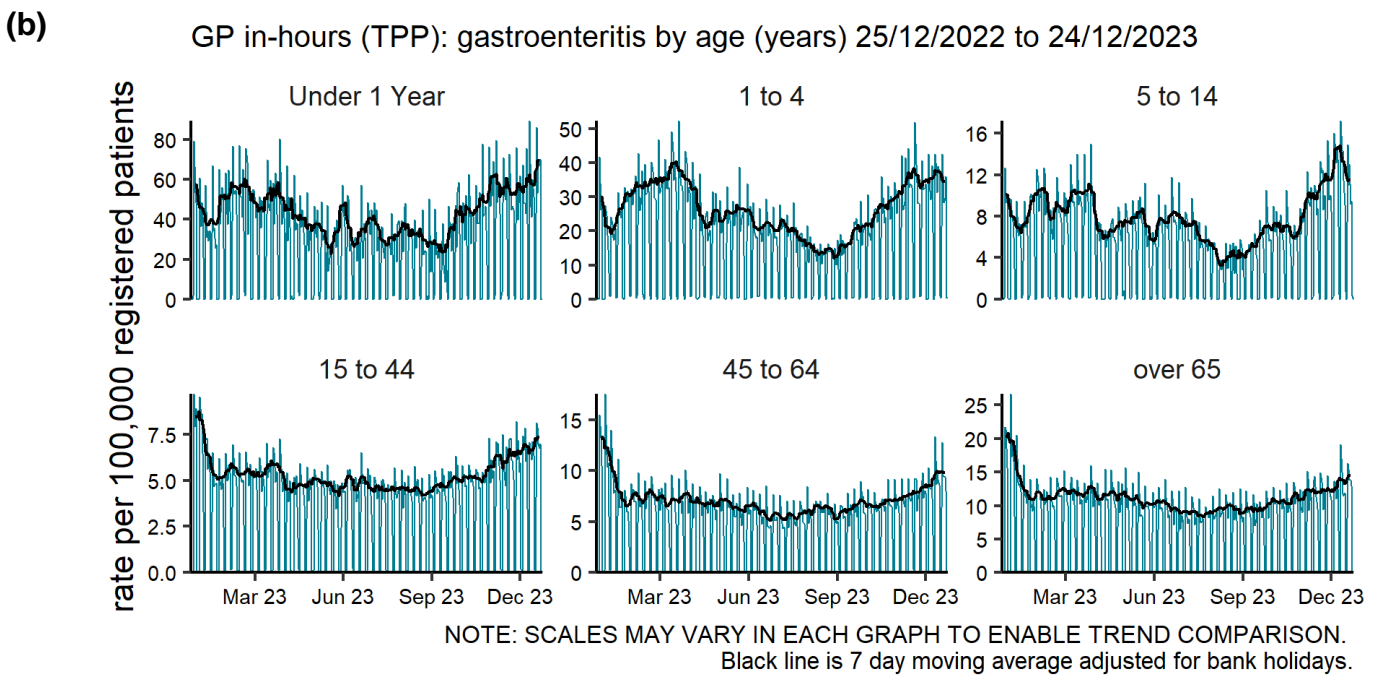
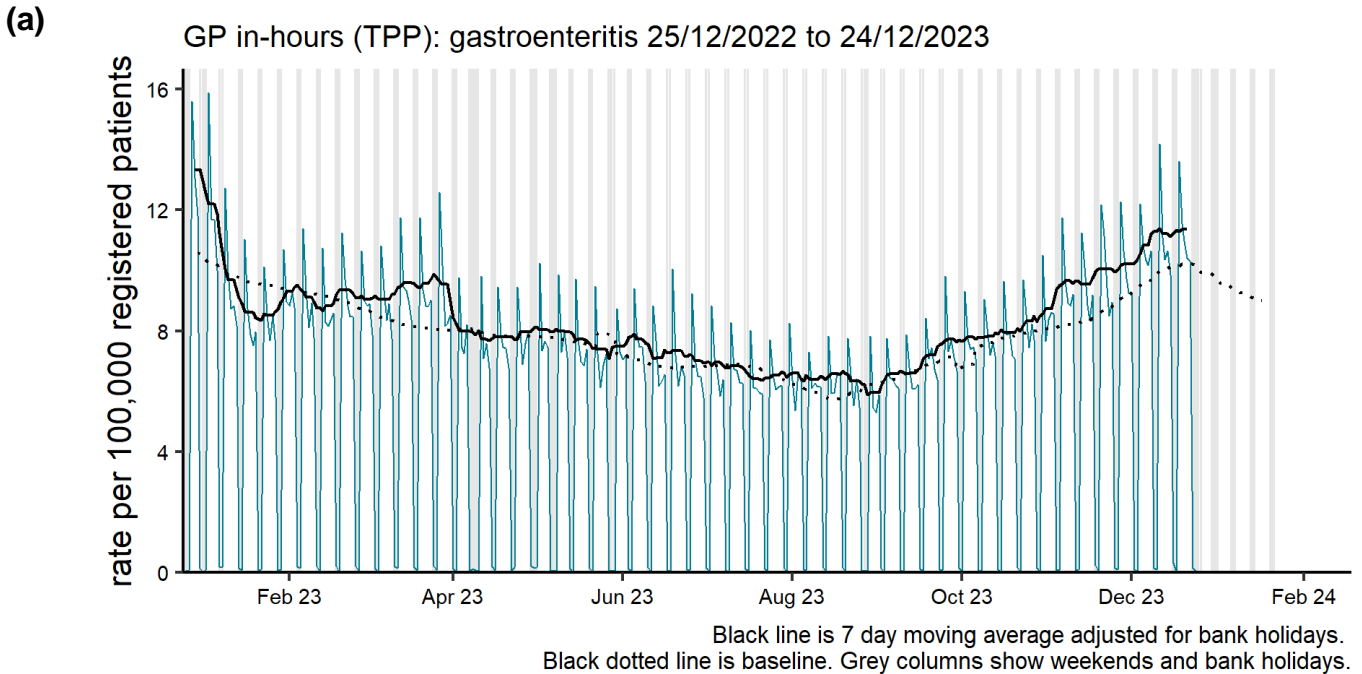




Gastrointestinal conditions

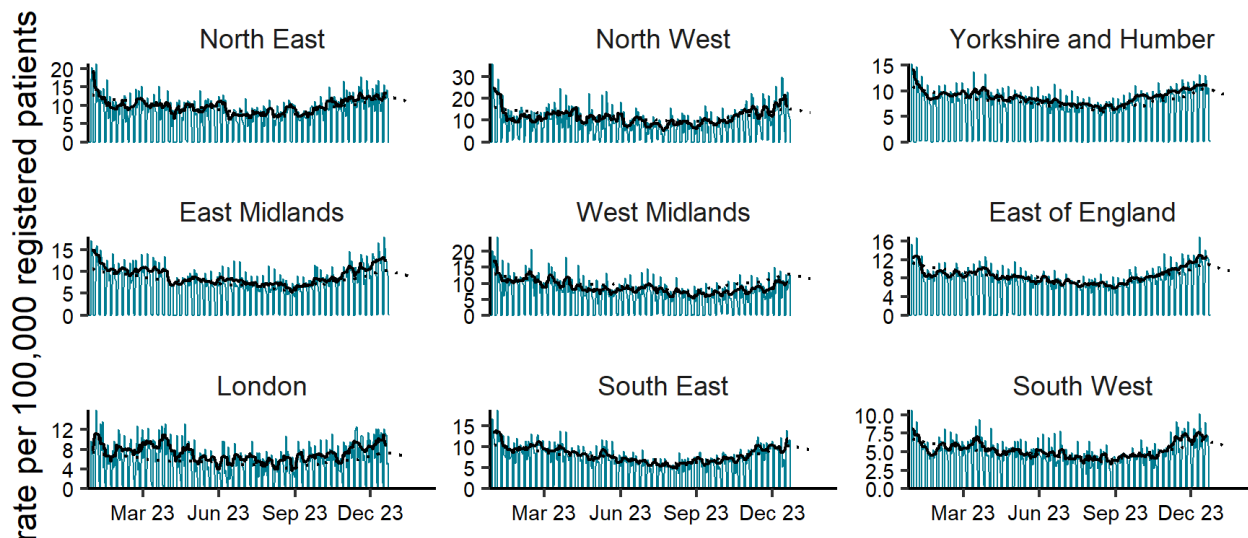
Gastroenteritis

Figure 11: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for gastroenteritis GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 7.0 million patients).



(c)

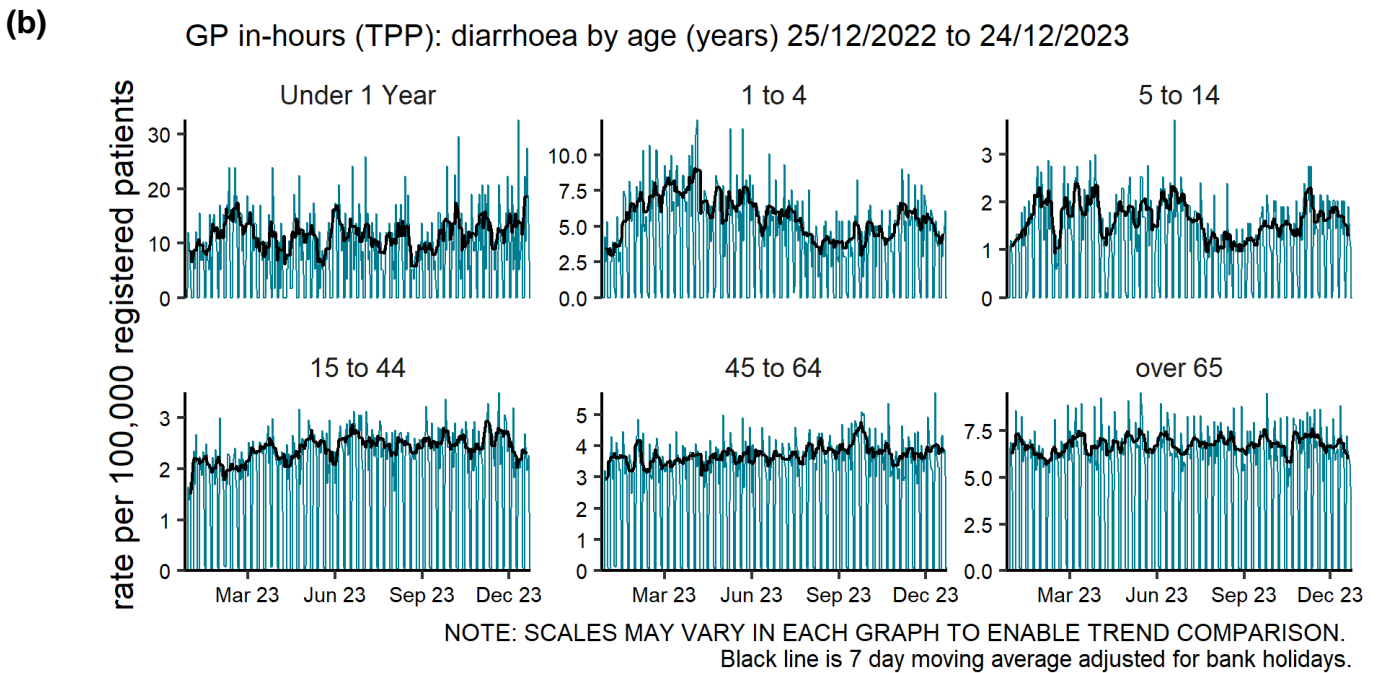
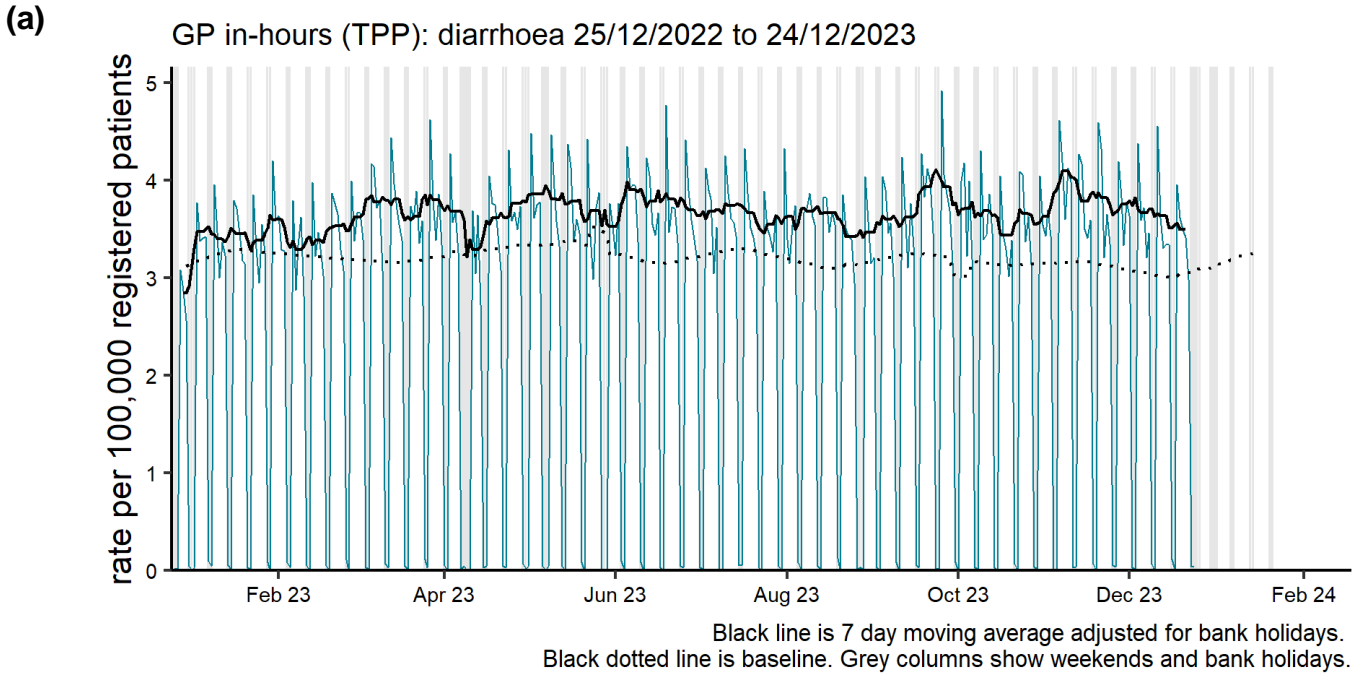
GP in-hours (TPP): gastroenteritis by UKHSA region 25/12/2022 to 24/12/2023



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

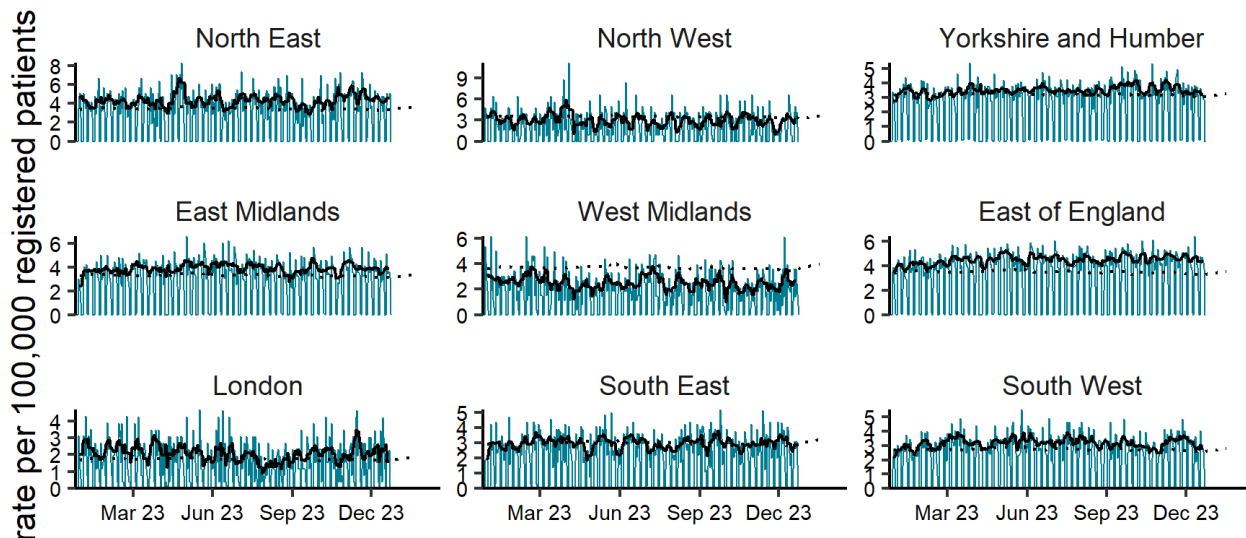
Diarrhoea

Figure 12: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for diarrhoea GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 7.0 million patients).



(c)

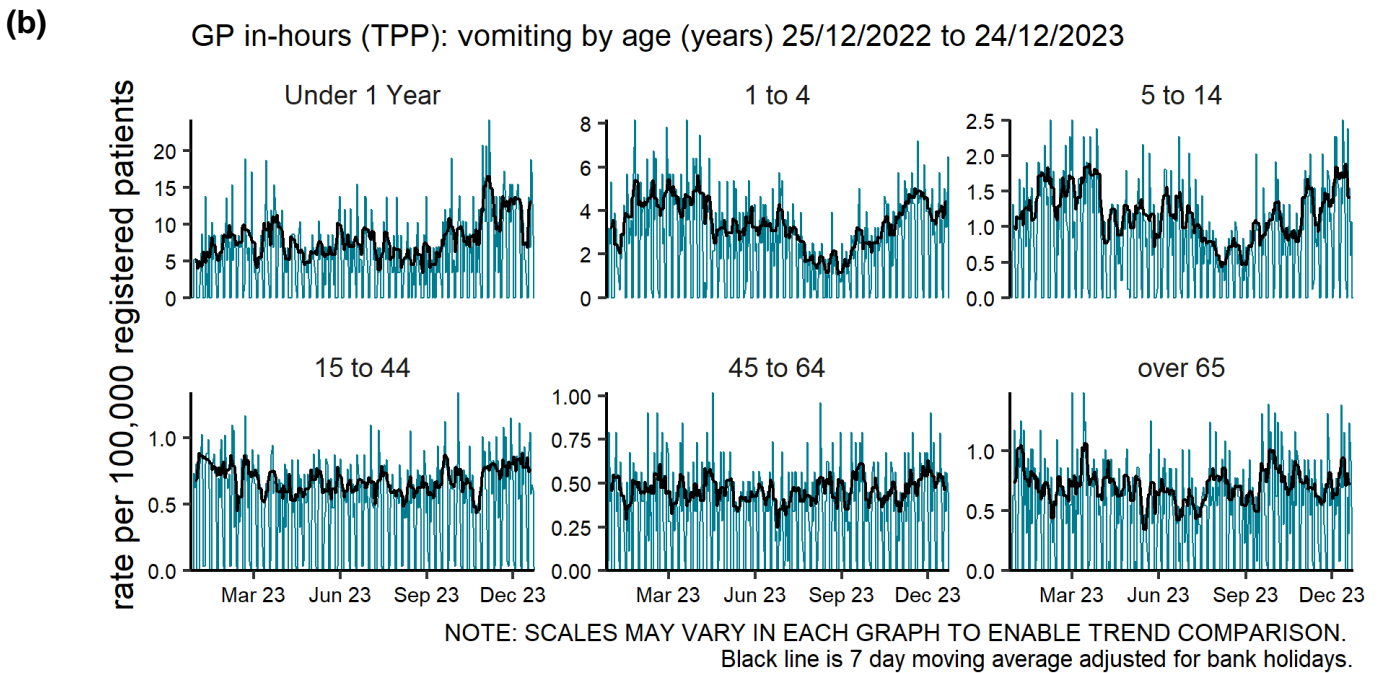
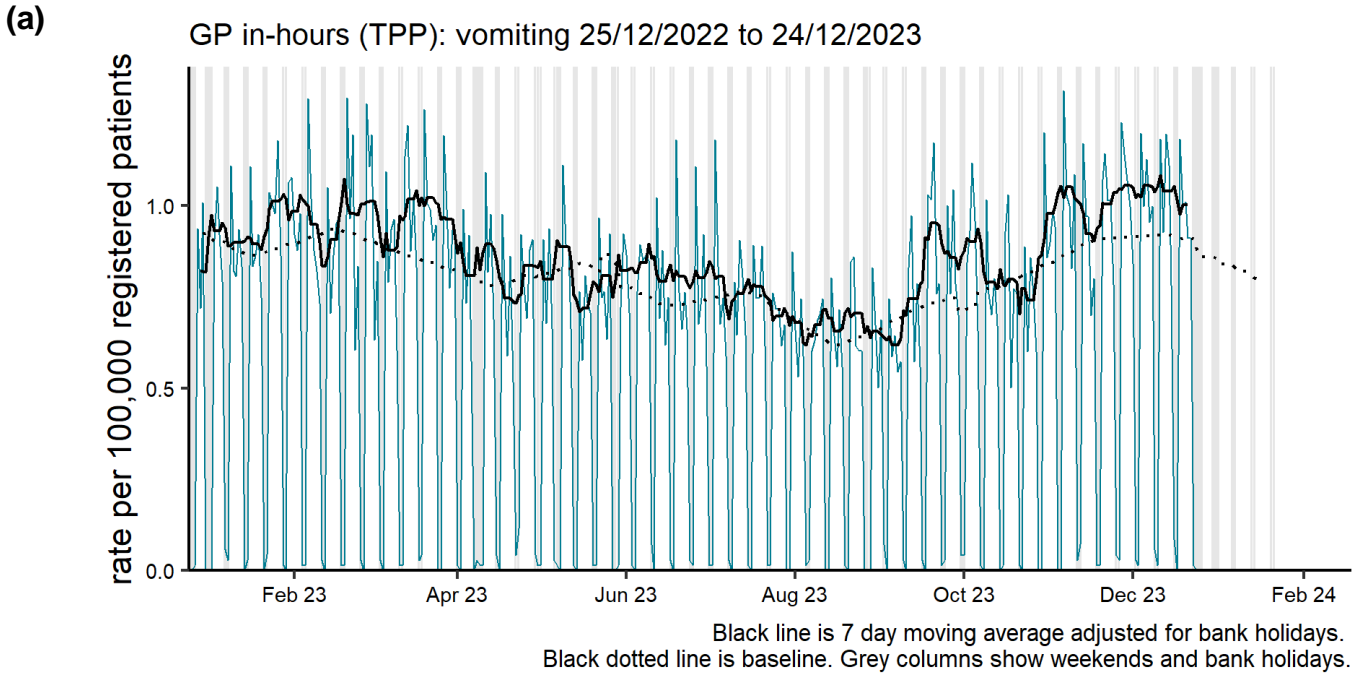
GP in-hours (TPP): diarrhoea by UKHSA region 25/12/2022 to 24/12/2023



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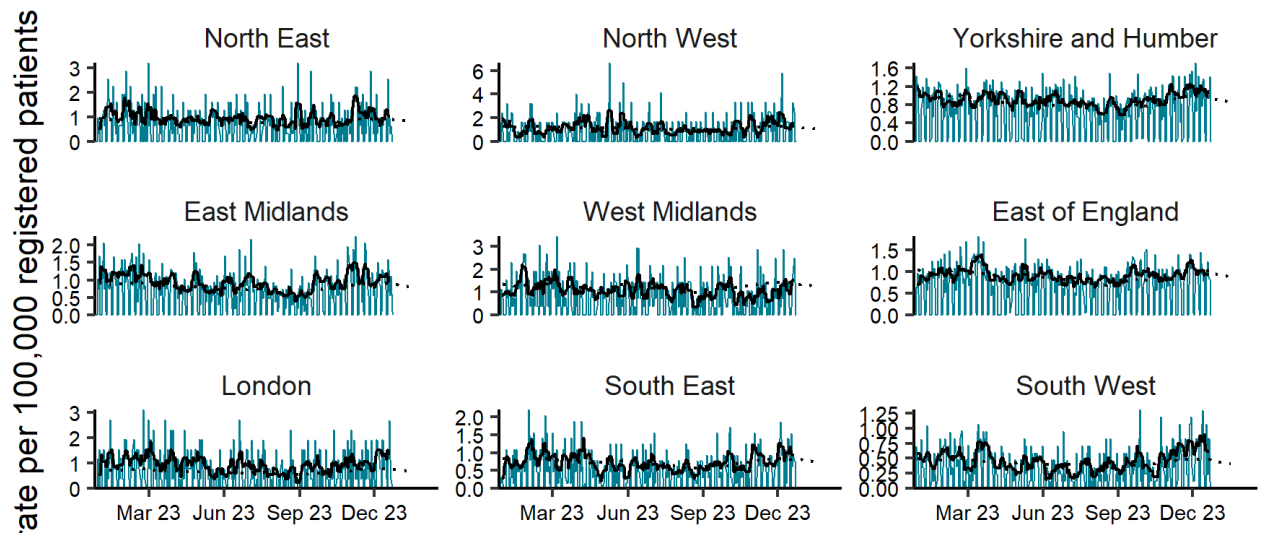
Vomiting

Figure 13: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for vomiting GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 7.0 million patients).



(c)

GP in-hours (TPP): vomiting by UKHSA region 25/12/2022 to 24/12/2023

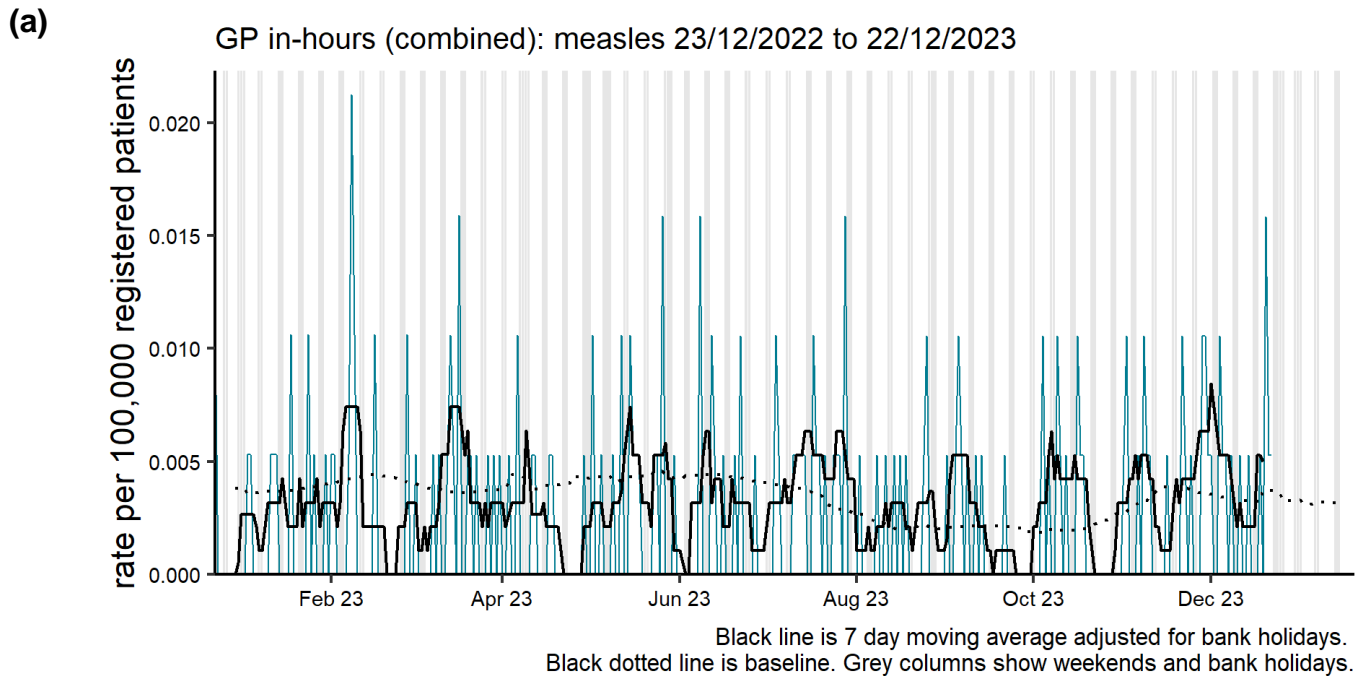


NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
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Vaccine preventable conditions

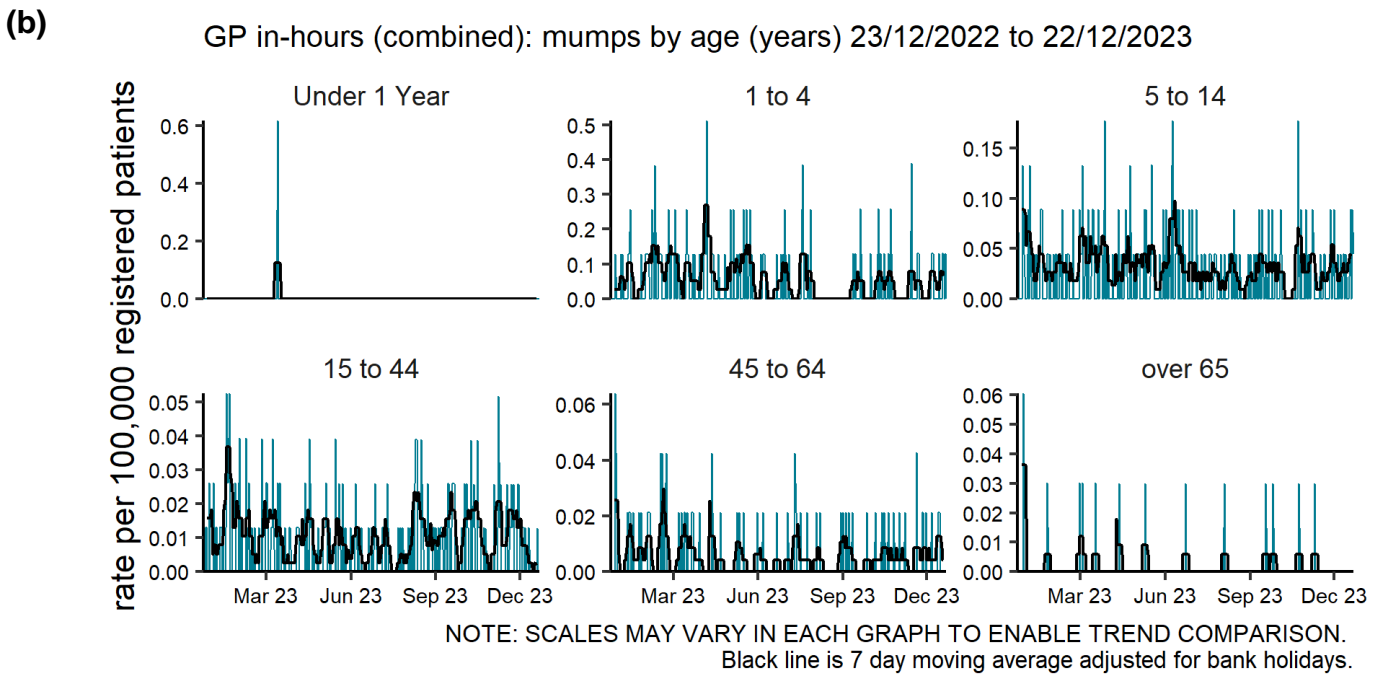
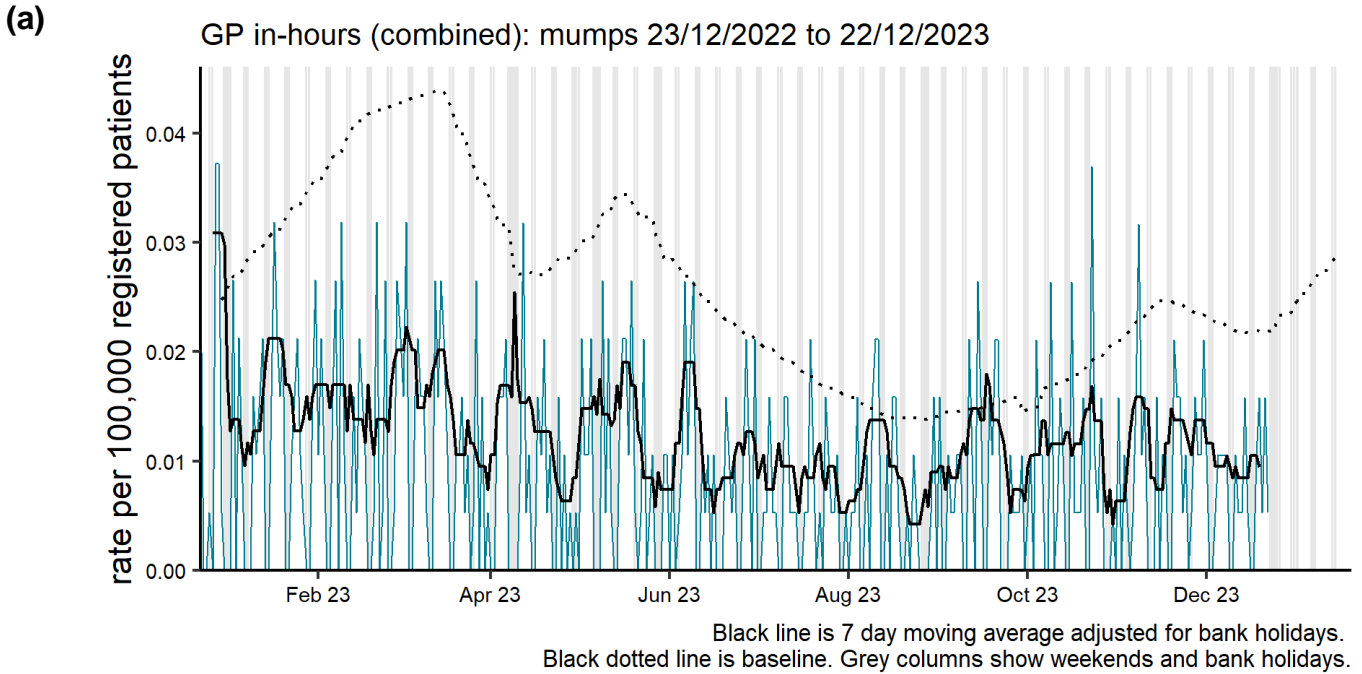
Measles

Figure 14: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for measles GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally (population 18.8 million patients).



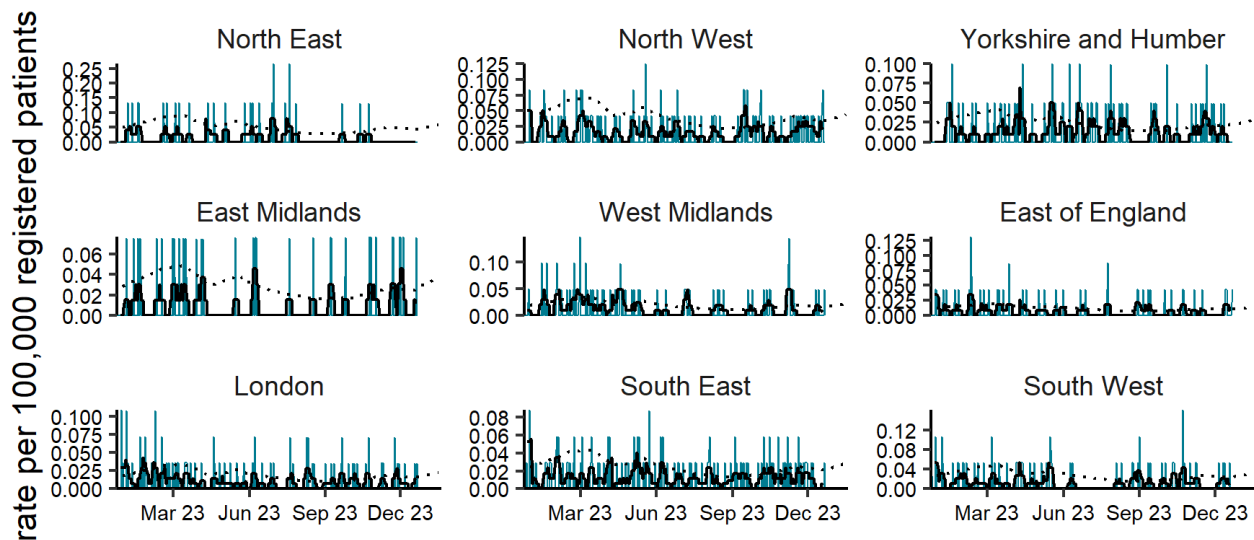
Mumps

Figure 15: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for mumps GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



(c)

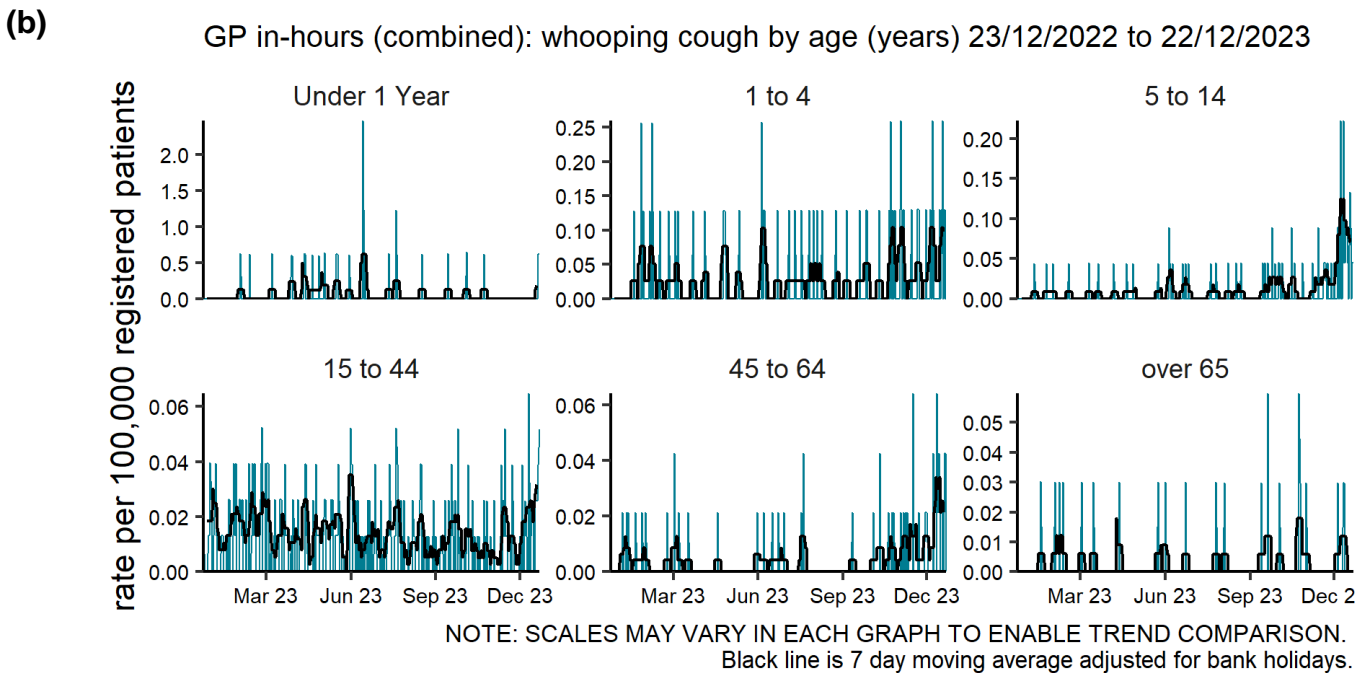
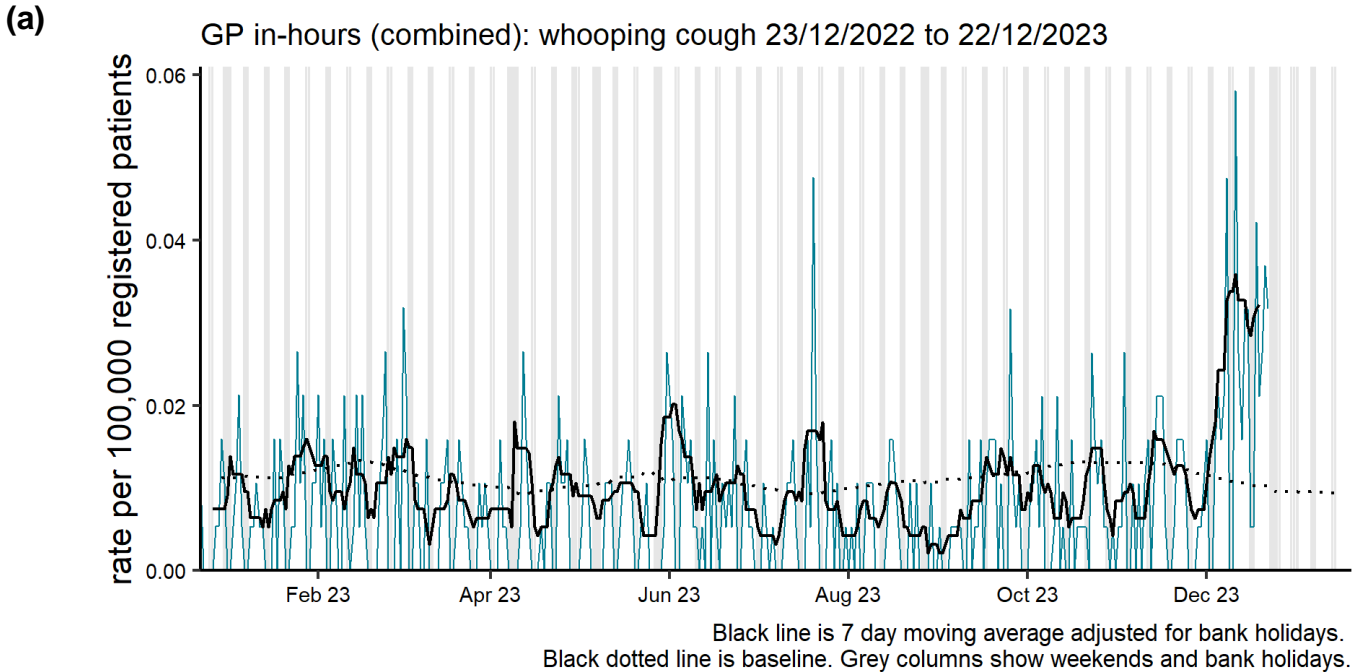
GP in-hours (combined): mumps by UKHSA region 23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023



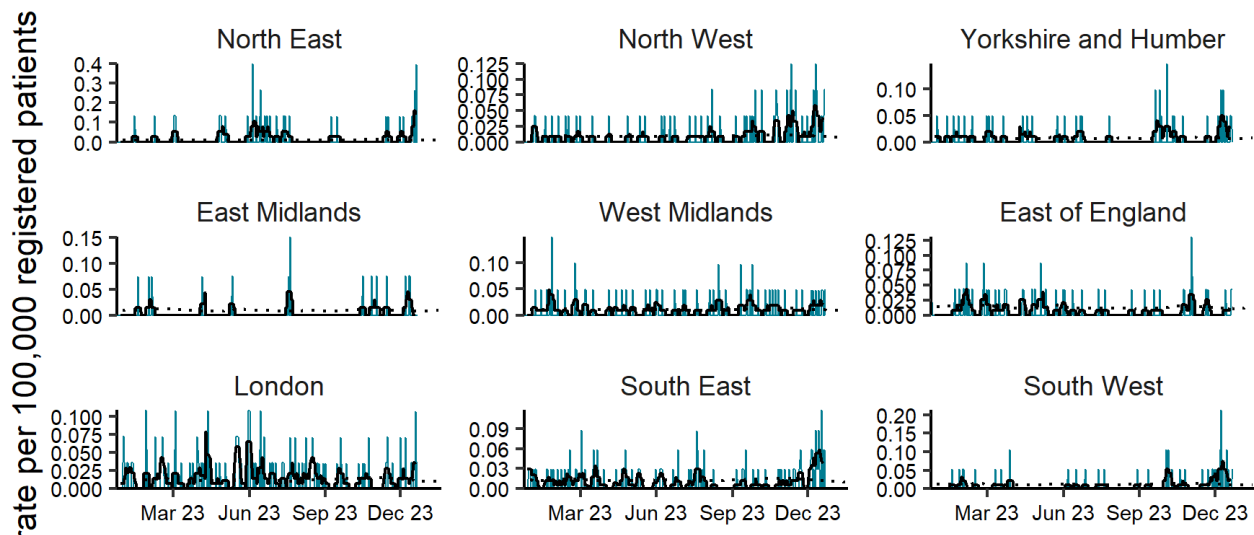
NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline.

Whooping cough

Figure 16: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for whooping cough GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



(c) GP in-hours (combined): whooping cough by UKHSA region 23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023

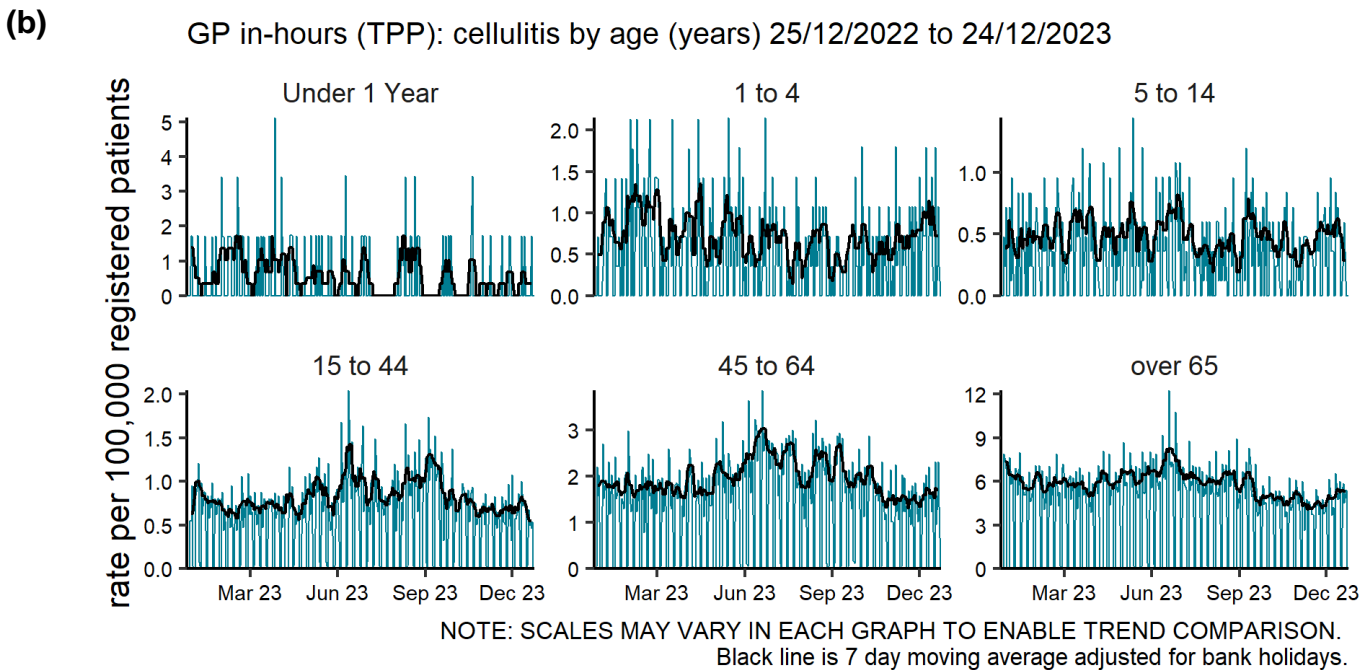
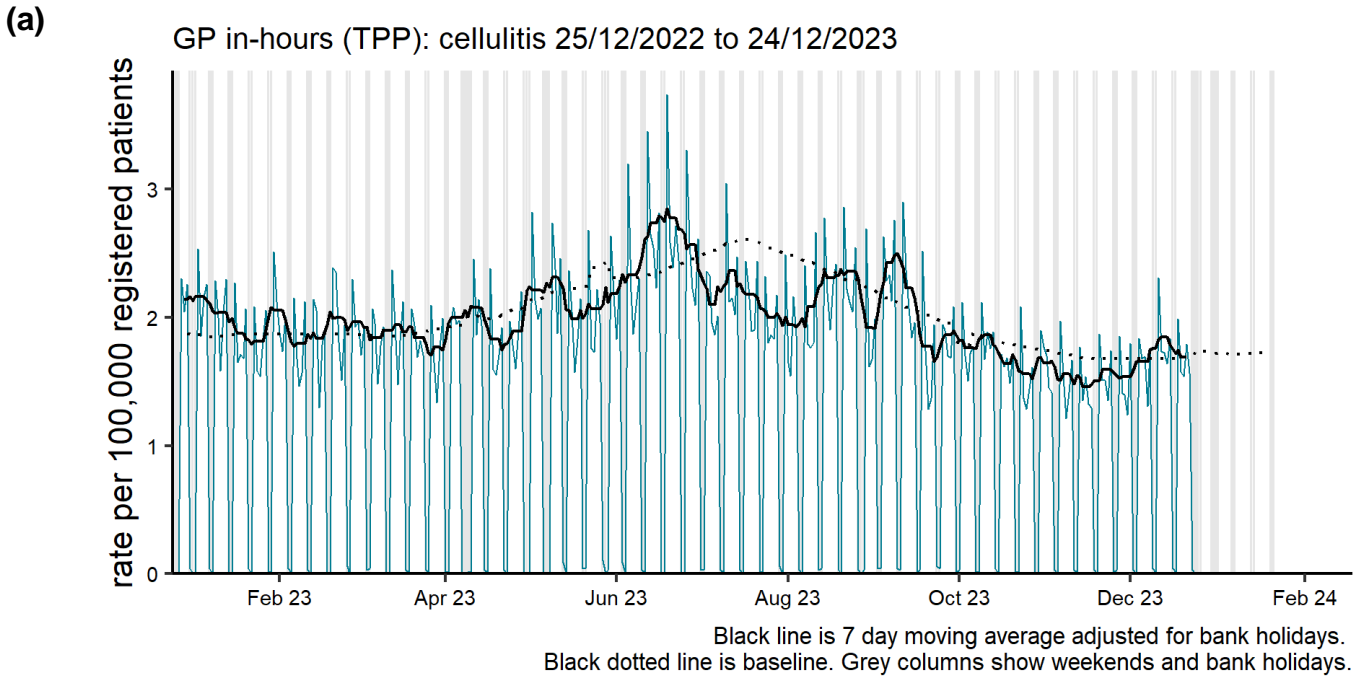


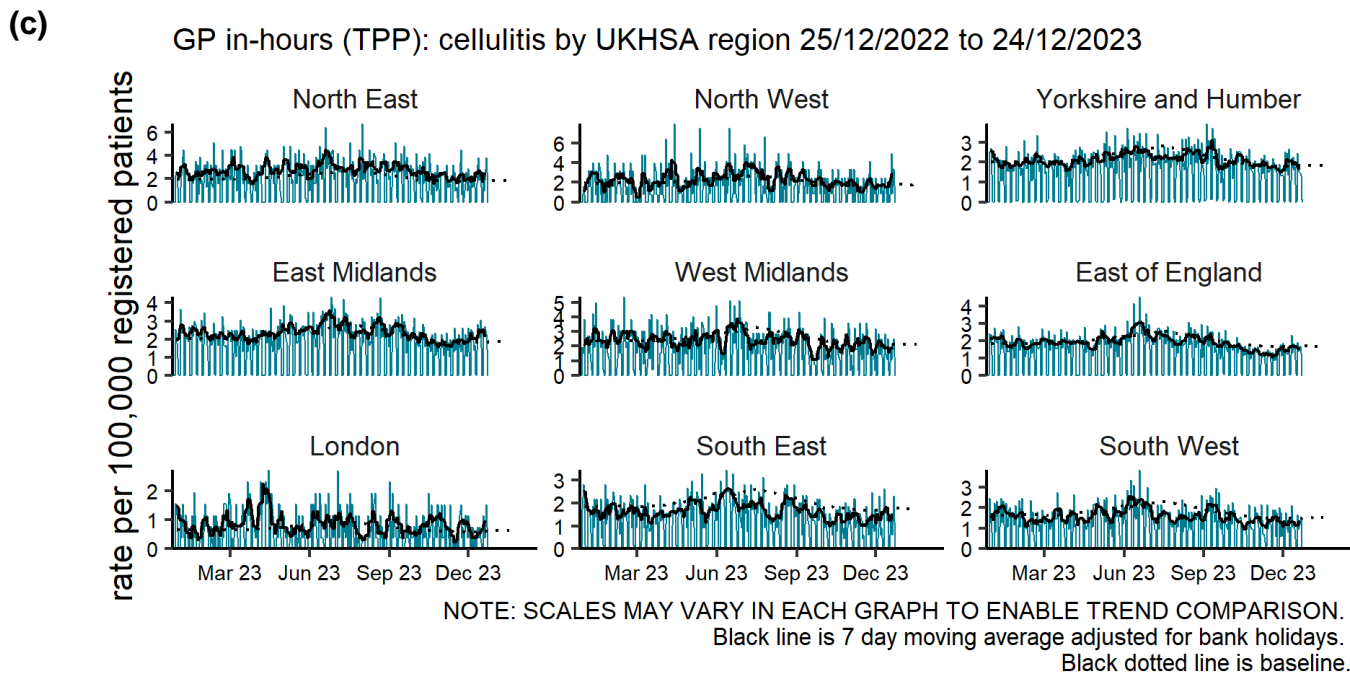
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Skin conditions

Cellulitis

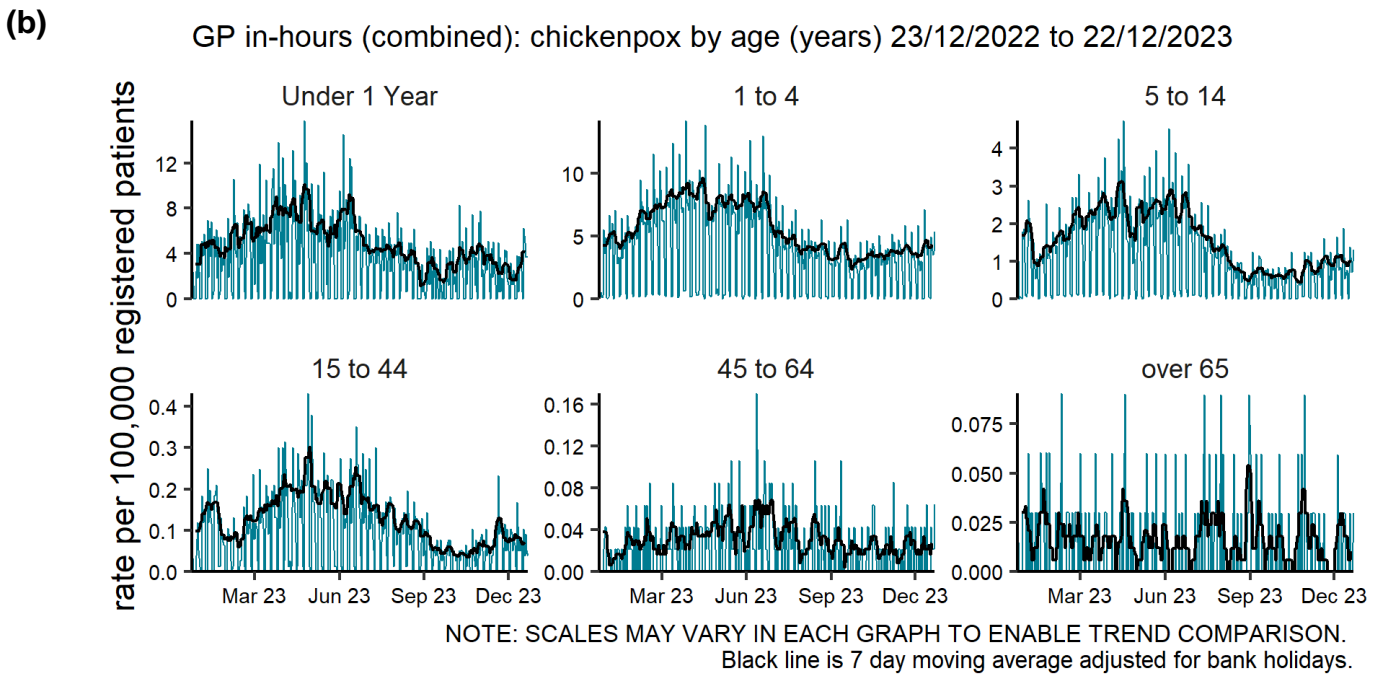
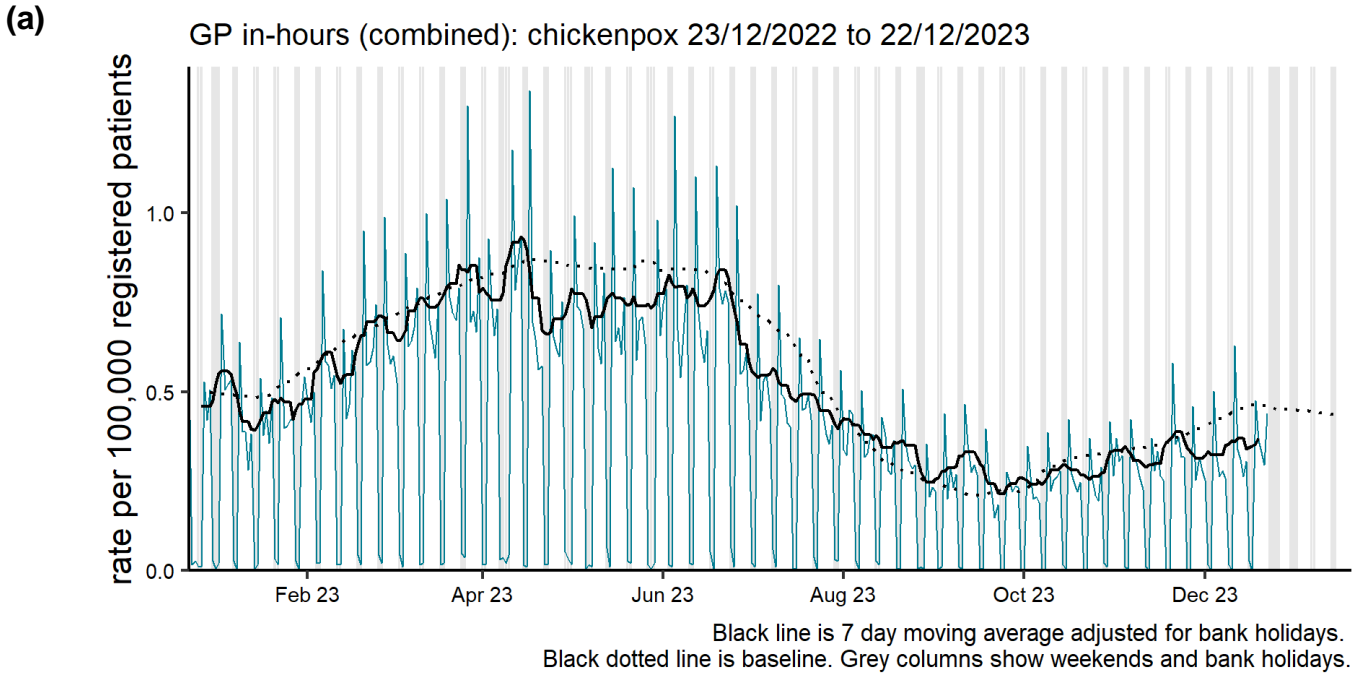
Figure 17: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for cellulitis GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 7.0 million patients).





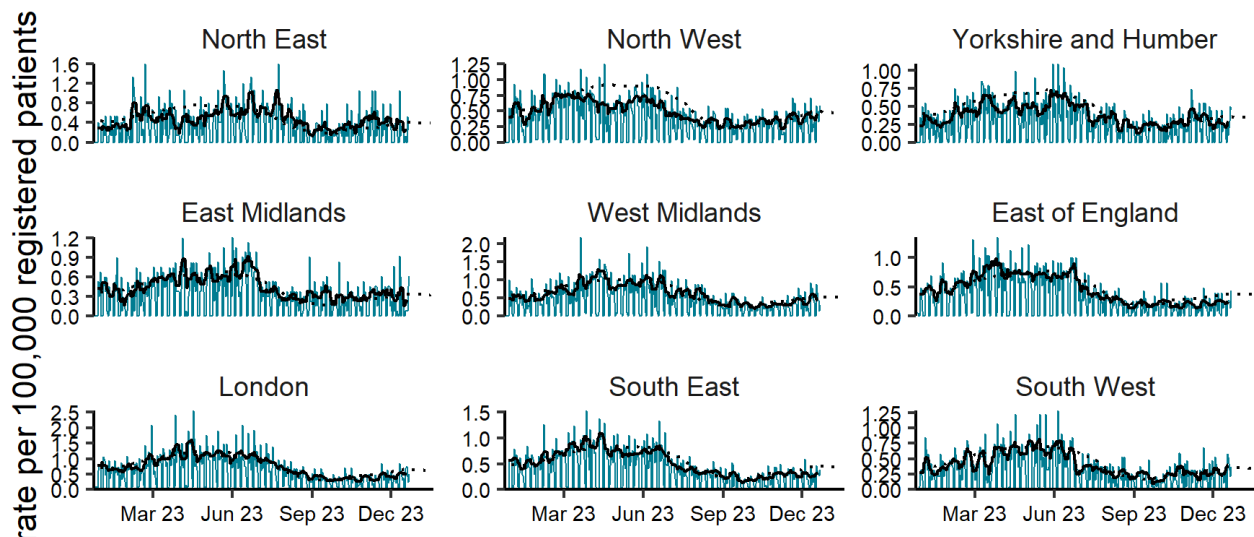
Chickenpox

Figure 18: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for chicken pox GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



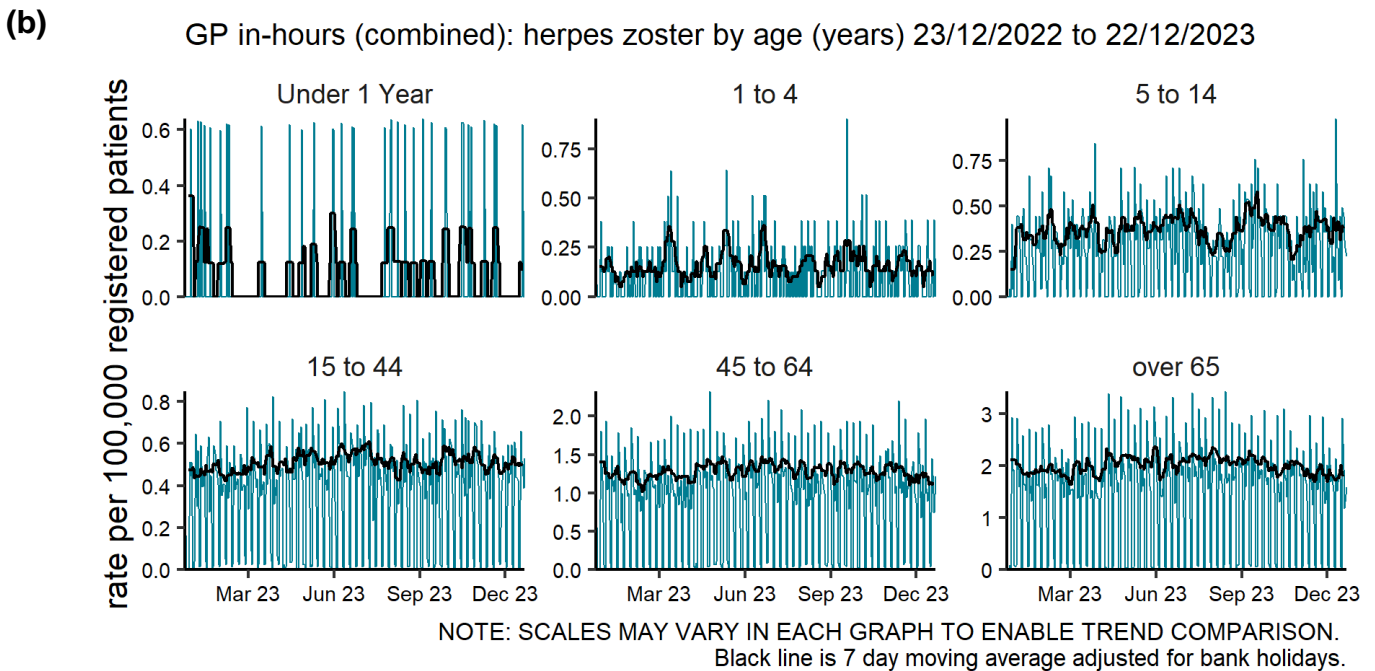
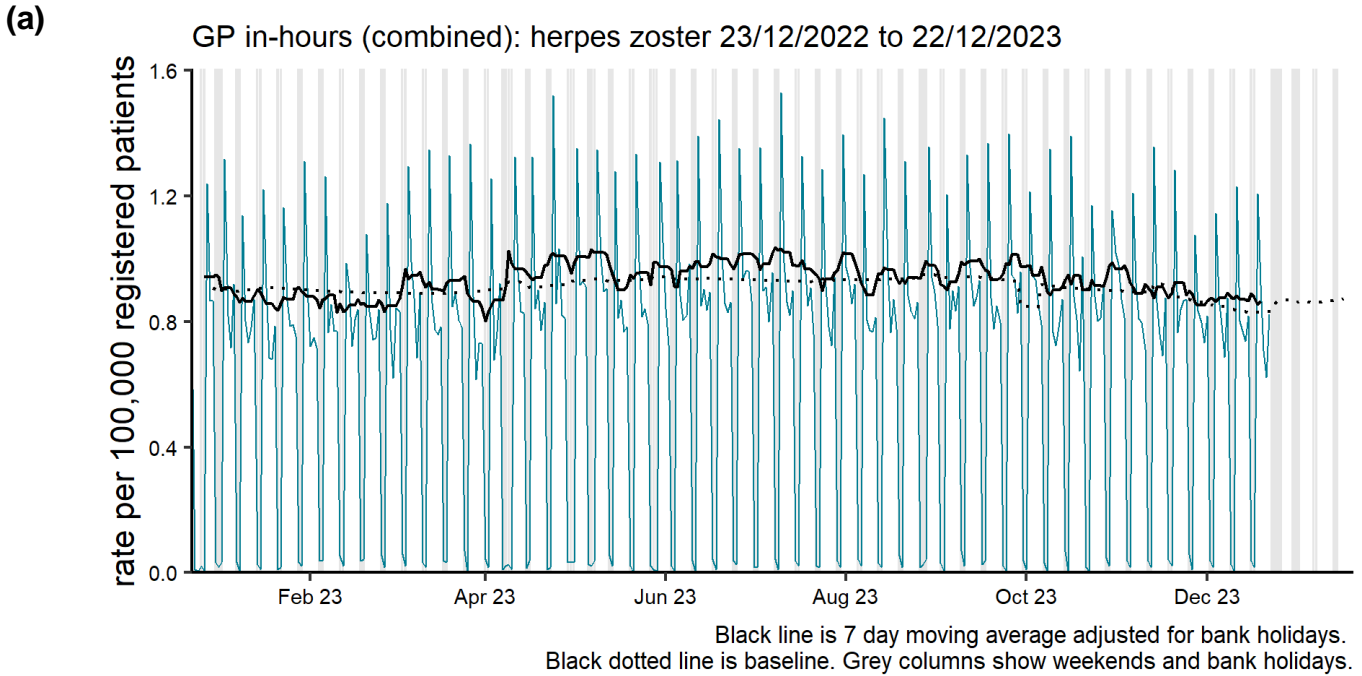
(c)

GP in-hours (combined): chickenpox by UKHSA region 23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023

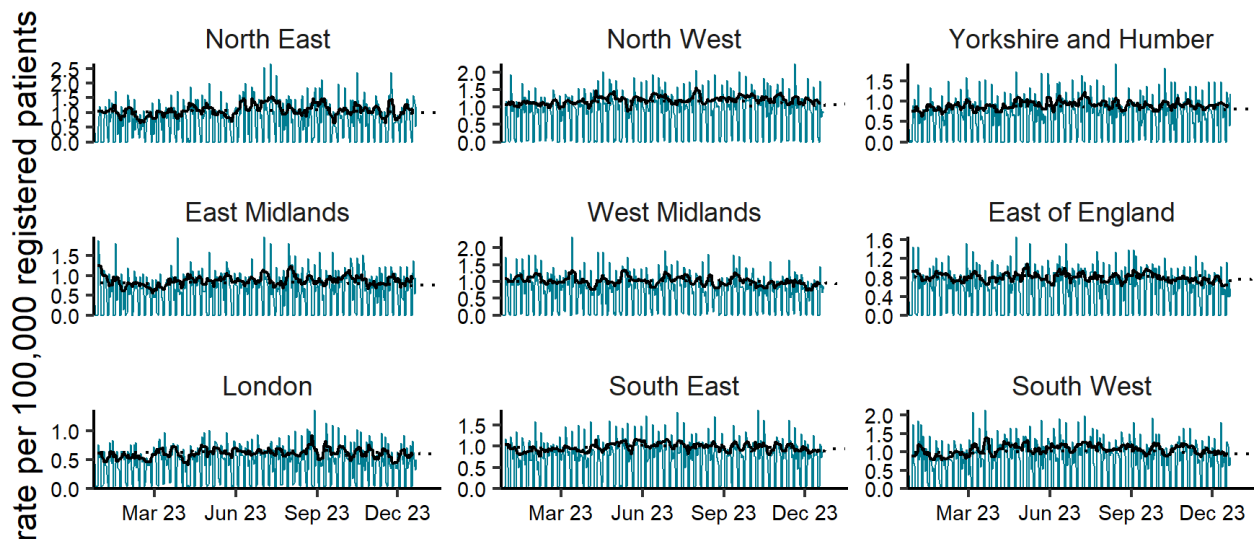


Herpes zoster

Figure 19: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for herpes zoster GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



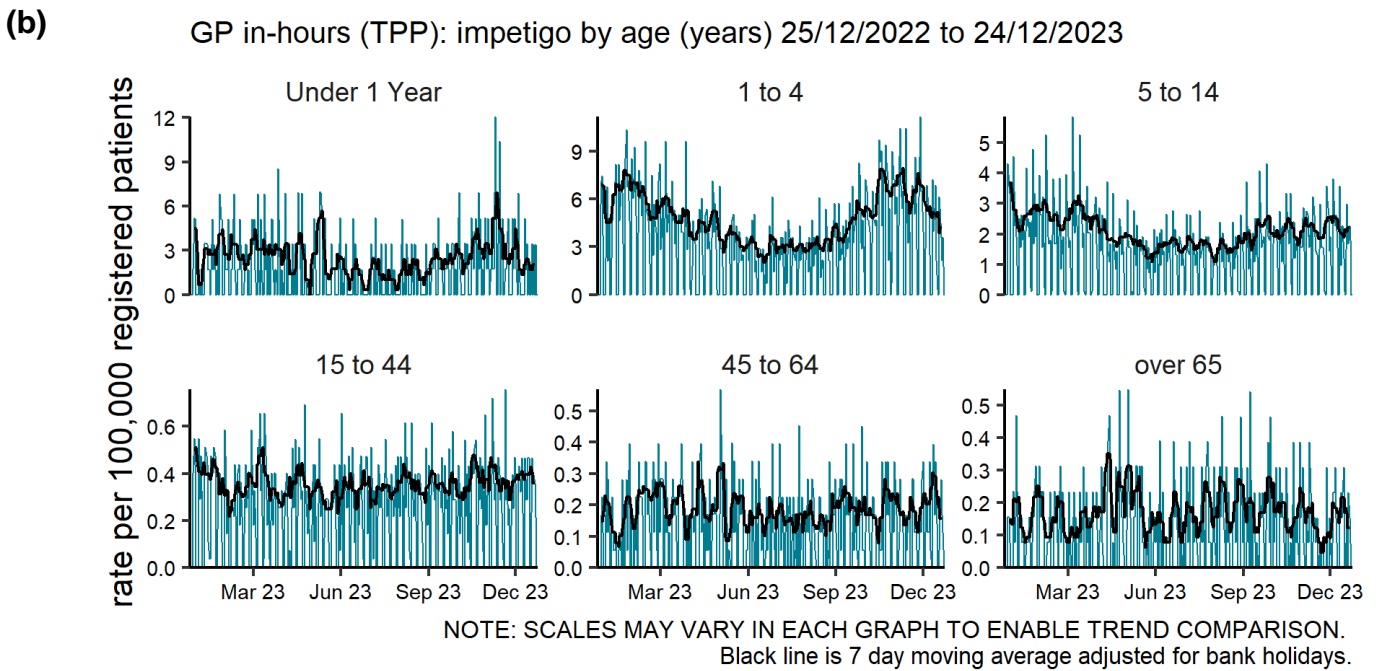
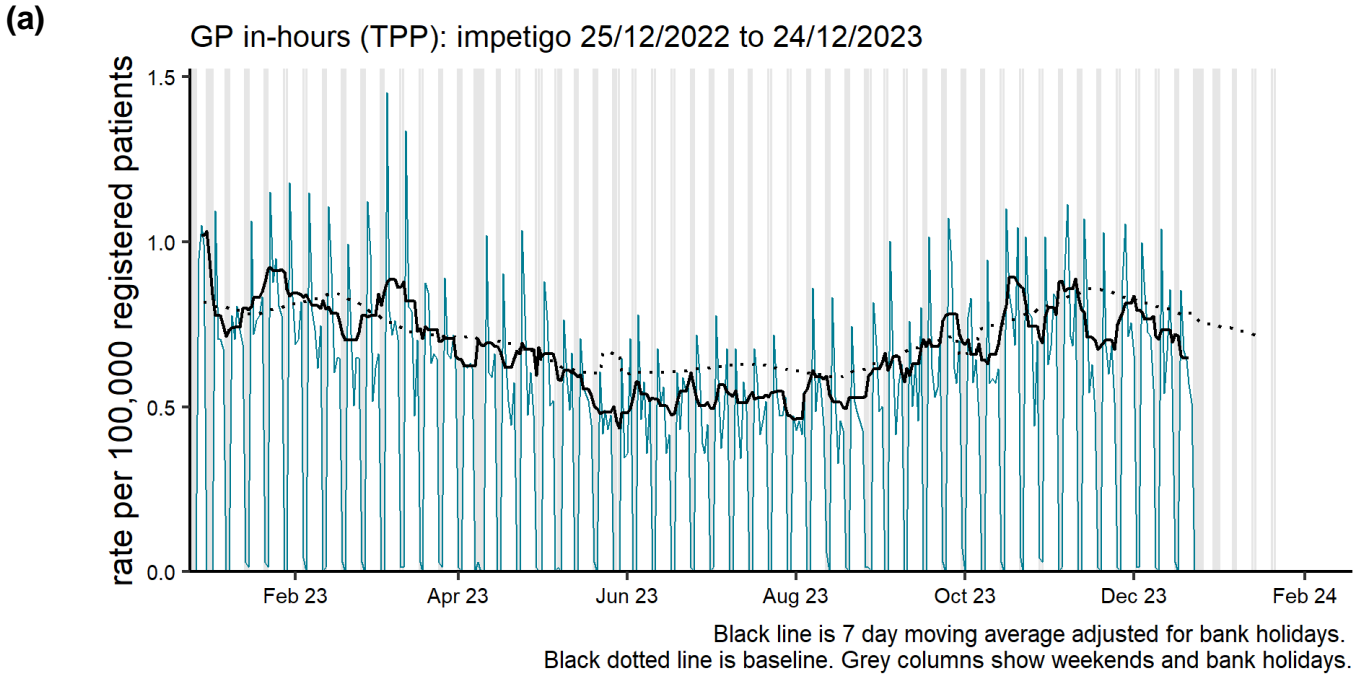
(c) GP in-hours (combined): herpes zoster by UKHSA region 23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023

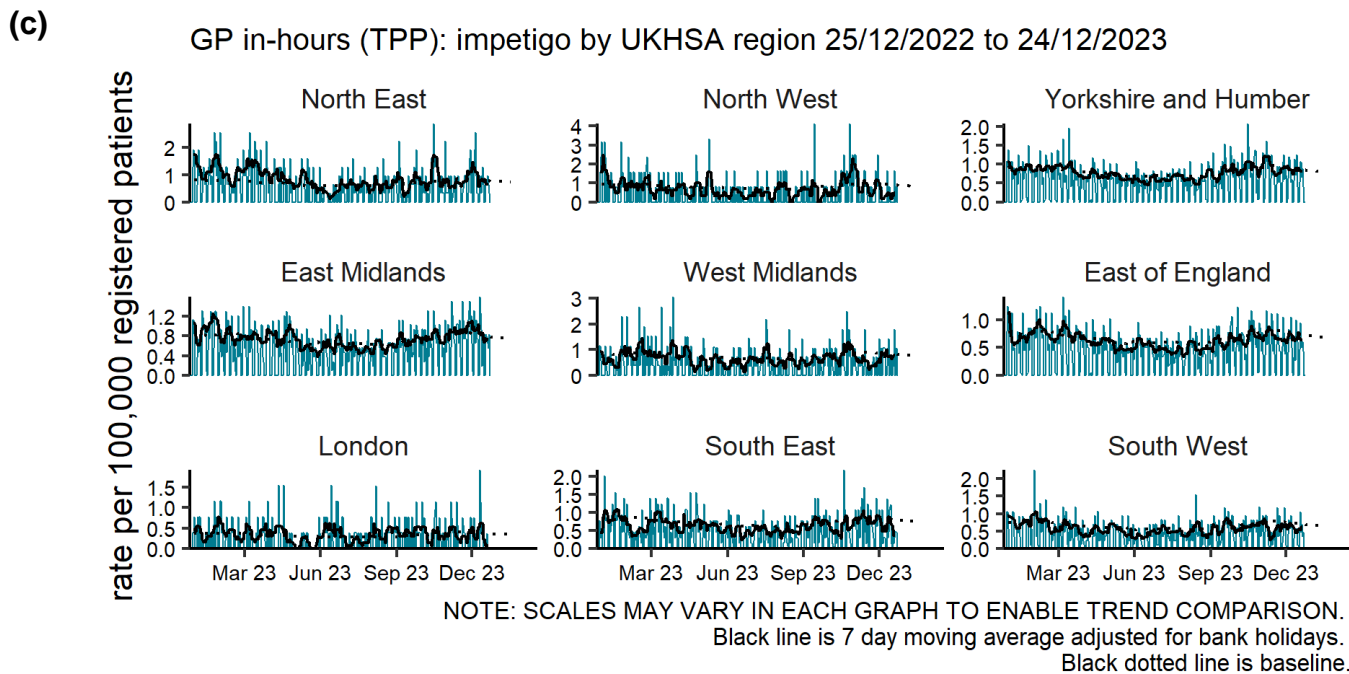


NOTE: SCALES MAY VARY IN EACH GRAPH TO ENABLE TREND COMPARISON.
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
Black dotted line is baseline.

Impetigo

Figure 20: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for impetigo GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 7.0 million patients).





Seasonal environmental conditions

UKHSA and the Met Office operate a weather-health alert system that includes both heat and cold weather alert periods. 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

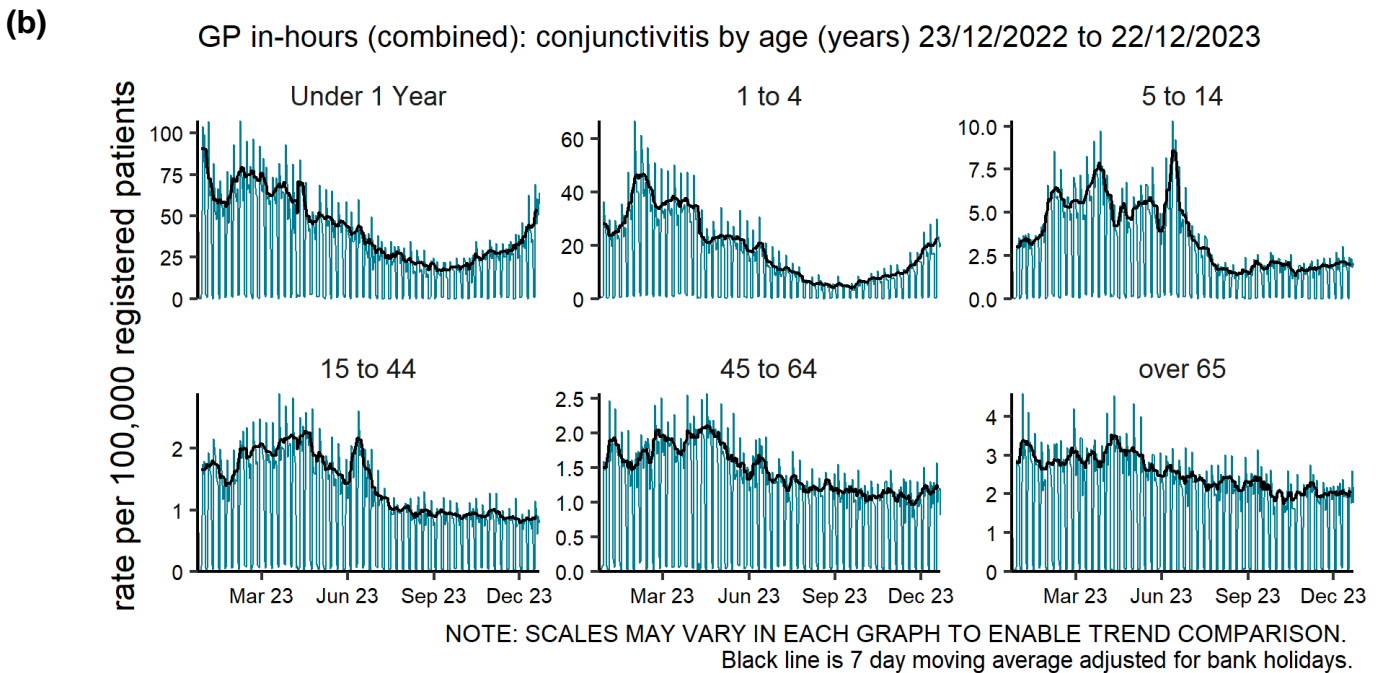
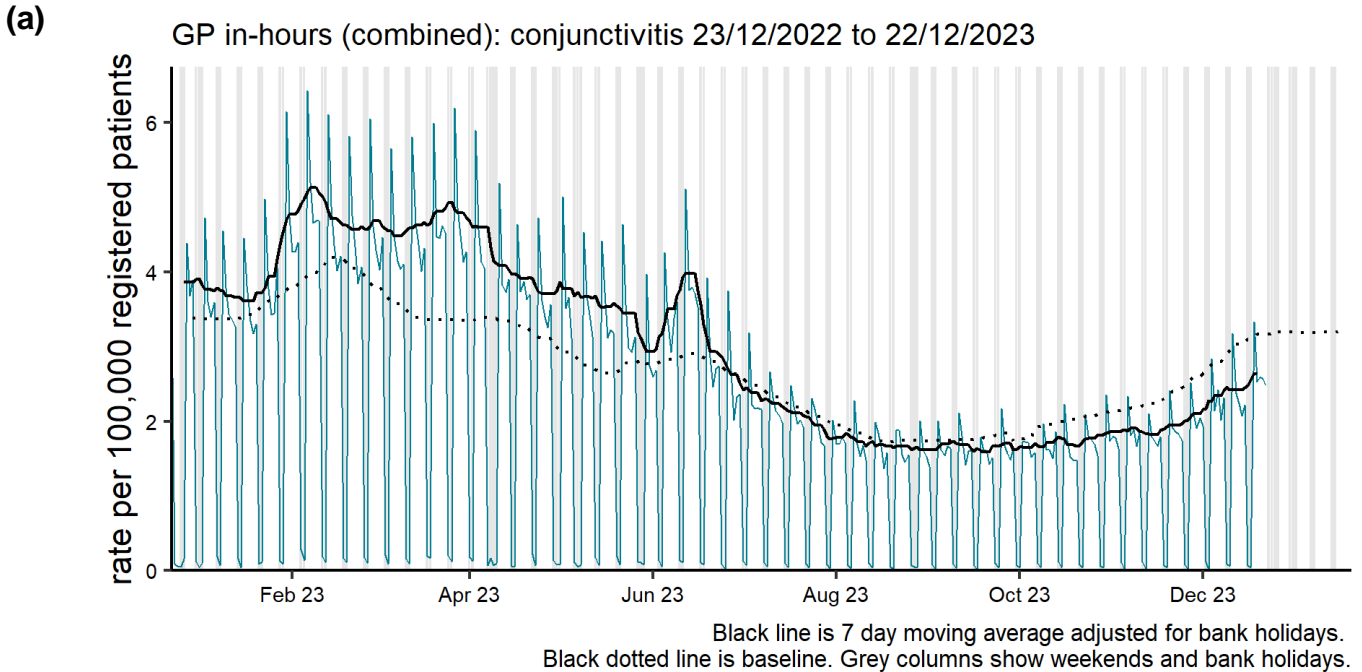
[Heat-Health Alert](#) period: 1 June to 30 September

Highest weather alert level during the current reporting week:

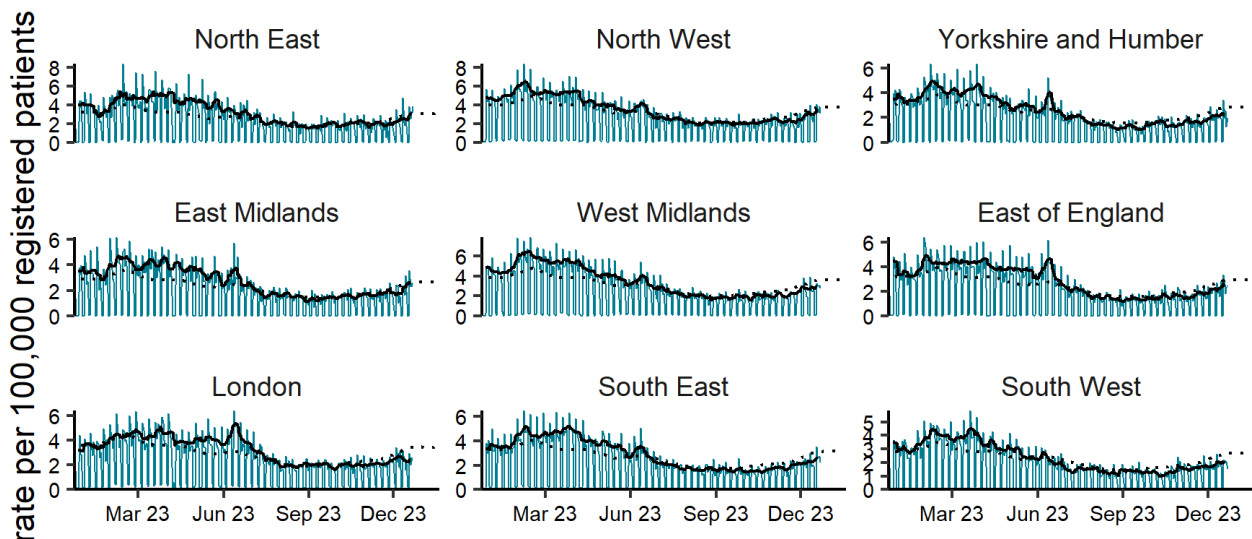
No alerts issued

Conjunctivitis

Figure 21: Daily incidence rate per 100,000 population (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for conjunctivitis GP in hours consultations, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region (population 18.8 million patients).



(c) GP in-hours (combined): conjunctivitis by UKHSA region 23/12/2022 to 22/12/2023



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 GP in hours syndromic surveillance system:

- all 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
- the data presented are based on a sentinel syndromic surveillance system:
 - not all GP practices in England are included
 - data is included from two sources, TPP and ORCHID (Oxford and Royal College of General Practitioners Clinical Informatics Digital Hub)
 - national coverage each week is included in **Table 2**
 - coverage varies by location
 - Data from ORCHID is currently only available for inclusion in this bulletin up to Friday each week, so all charts that contain ORCHID data do not include the most recent weekend
- some syndromic indicators are hierarchical:
 - upper respiratory tract infections includes:
 - influenza-like illness
 - pharyngitis
 - other and non-specific upper respiratory tract infections
 - lower respiratory tract infections includes:
 - pneumonia
 - bronchiolitis
 - acute bronchitis
 - other and non-specific upper respiratory tract infections
 - gastroenteritis includes:
 - diarrhoea
 - vomiting
 - other and non-specific gastroenteritis
- baselines:
 - were last remodelled May 2023 for TPP and July 2023 for ORCHID
 - are constructed from historical data since August 2016
 - 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

COVID-19 syndromic surveillance

- the COVID-19-like syndromic indicator is based on diagnoses recorded using the COVID-19 Snomed codes released in March 2020:
 - these data are based on COVID-19-like symptoms reported and are not based on outcomes of tests for coronavirus
 - patients presenting with COVID-19 symptoms may be diagnosed using other clinical codes used by the GP, so the COVID-19-like syndromic indicator should be interpreted in context with the other respiratory syndromic indicators presented in this report
 - the rate of COVID-19-like consultations should not be used to estimate an absolute count of patients with COVID-19

Acknowledgements

We thank TPP, ResearchOne and the SystemOne GP practices contributing to this surveillance system.

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