

GP out-of-hours syndromic surveillance system bulletin (England)

2025 week 24

Key messages

Data reported to: 15 June 2025

During week 24, GP out-of-hours contacts for the 'heat or sunstroke' indicator increased, in line with the recent warmer weather, but remain at baseline levels. Contacts for 'insect bites' increased but are within expected levels for this time of year. Contacts for 'eye problems' also increased slightly over the weekend in line with increases in grass pollen. Contacts for acute bronchitis and difficulty breathing/wheeze/asthma increased over the weekend (14-15 June) but remained stable overall and at 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
Total contacts (Figure 1)	Increasing	No baseline
Acute respiratory infections (Figure 2)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Influenza-like illness (Figure 3)	No trend	Similar to 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)	Increasing	Below baseline
Acute pharyngitis (Figure 7)	No trend	Similar to baseline
Gastroenteritis (Figure 8)	Decreasing	Above baseline
Diarrhoea (Figure 9)	Decreasing	Above baseline
Vomiting (Figure 10)	Decreasing	Above baseline
Chest pain (inc. myocardial infarction) (Figure 11)	No trend	Above baseline
Heat or sunstroke (Figure 12)	Increasing	Similar to baseline
Insect bites (Figure 13)	Increasing	Below baseline
Eye problems (Figure 14)	Increasing	Similar to baseline

¹ Current trend reports on the trend seen over previous weeks

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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
 - o diagnoses are based on signs/symptoms and not laboratory confirmed
 - o not all contacts include a diagnosis
 - some contacts include more than one diagnosis, so may be included in more than one syndromic indicator
- Error! Reference source not found. describes any notable trends nationally (England) a nd by age group
- 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 and by age group. Each chart includes data from April 2023:
 - 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

See main key message for update on current data quality issues.

Aug 24

Oct 24

Total contacts

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

GP out of hours: total contacts 16/06/2024 to 15/06/2025

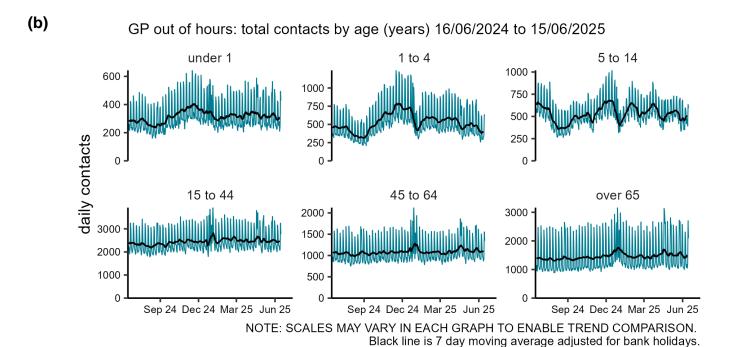


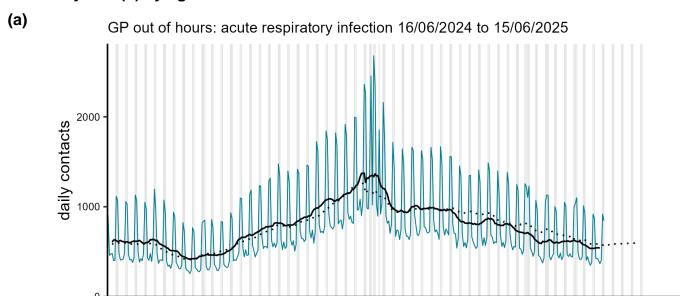
Table 2: The number of GP out-of-hours contacts in this sentinel syndromic surveillance system in England recorded each day in the most recent week.

Date	Number of contacts	
9 June 2025	26,650	
10 June 2025	24,379	
11 June 2025	24,090	
12 June 2025	23,854	
13 June 2025	24,142	
14 June 2025	35,959	
15 June 2025	29,570	

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 and (b) by age.



Dec 24

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

Apr 25

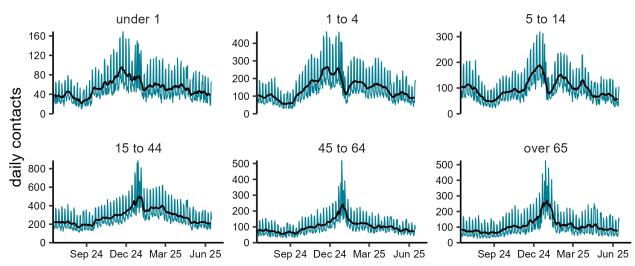
Aug 25

Feb 25



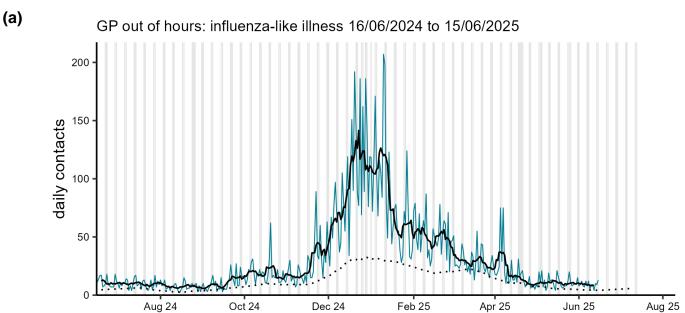
Oct 24

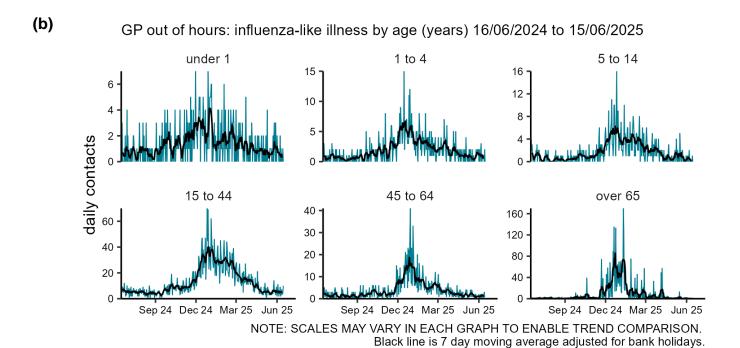
Aug 24



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 and (b) by age.

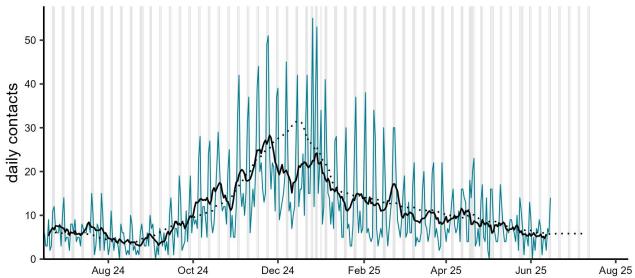




Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis

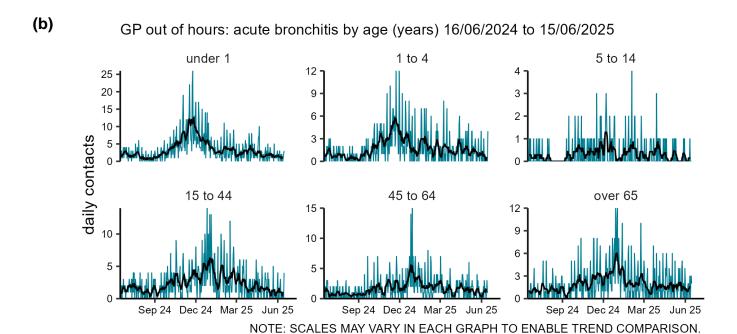
Figure 4: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis, England (a) nationally and (b) by age.





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

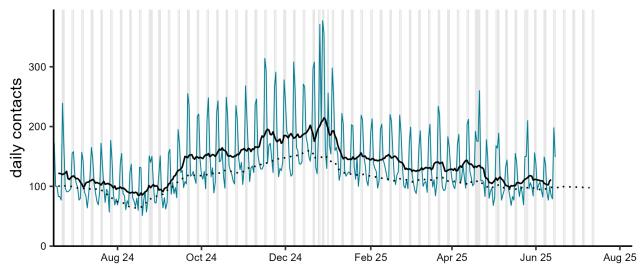
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.



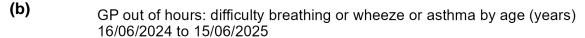
Difficulty breathing, wheeze or asthma

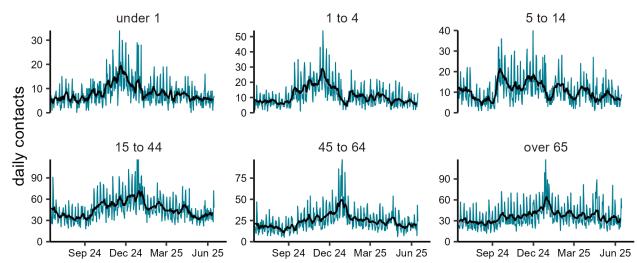
Figure 5: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for difficulty breathing, wheeze or asthma, England (a) nationally and (b) by age.

(a) GP out of hours: difficulty breathing or wheeze or asthma 16/06/2024 to 15/06/2025



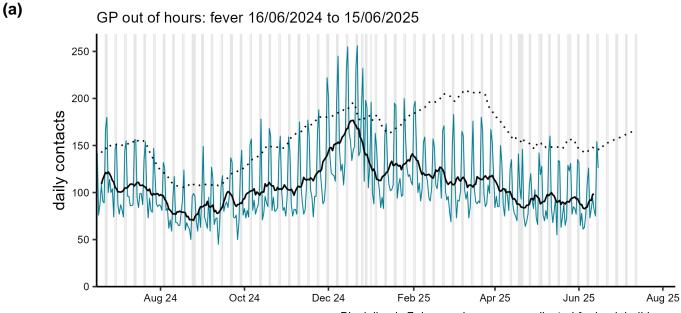
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.



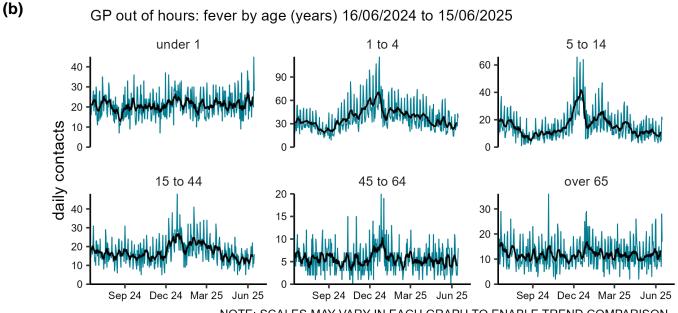


Fever

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 and (b) by age.

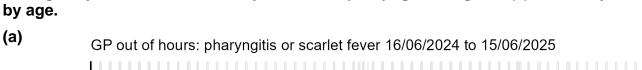


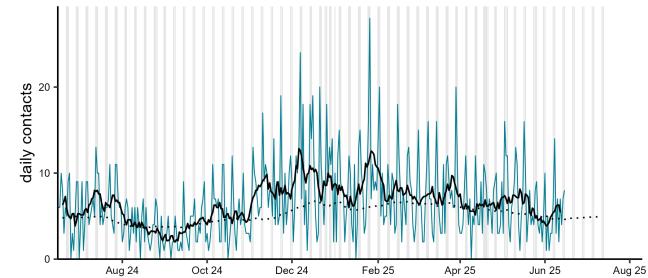
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.



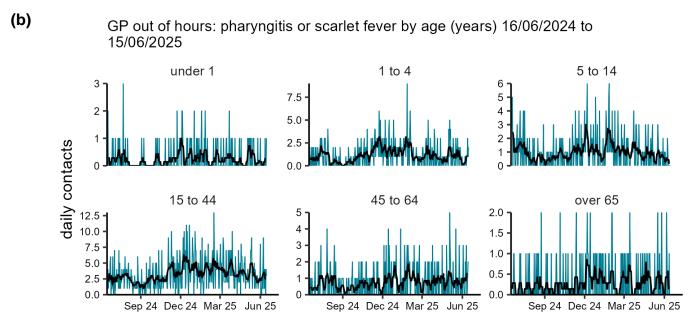
Acute pharyngitis

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 and (b) by age.





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

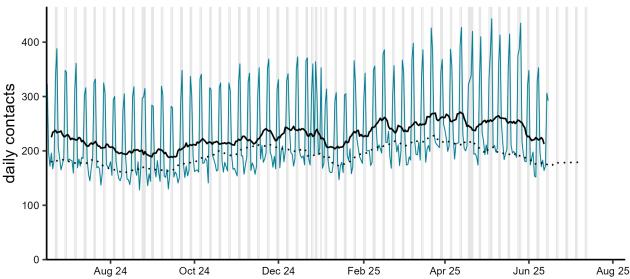


Gastrointestinal conditions

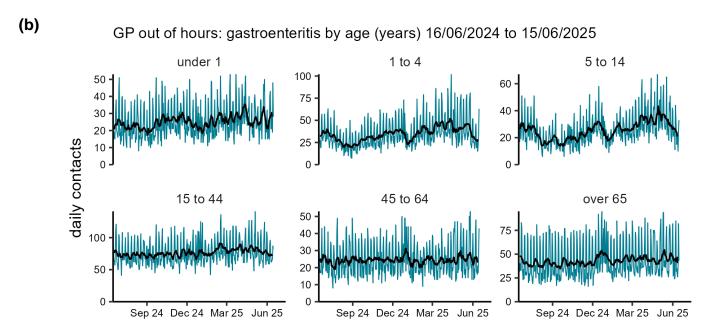
Gastroenteritis

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 and (b) by age.



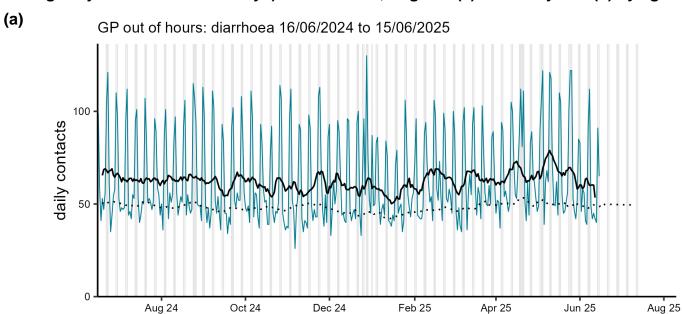


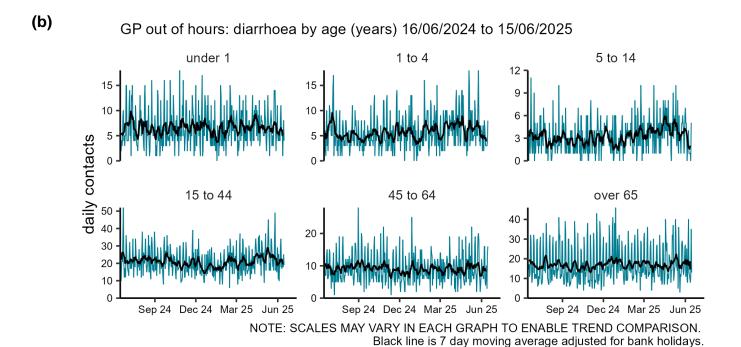
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.



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 and (b) by age.

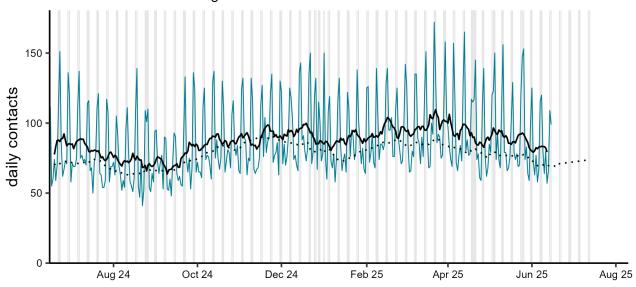




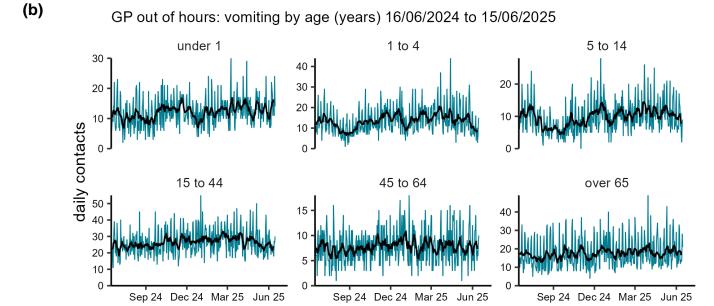
Vomiting

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 and (b) by age.





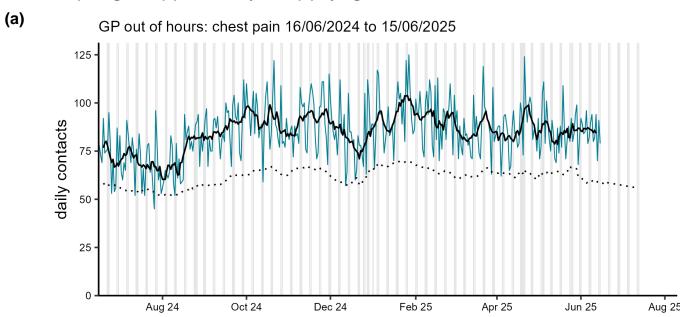
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.



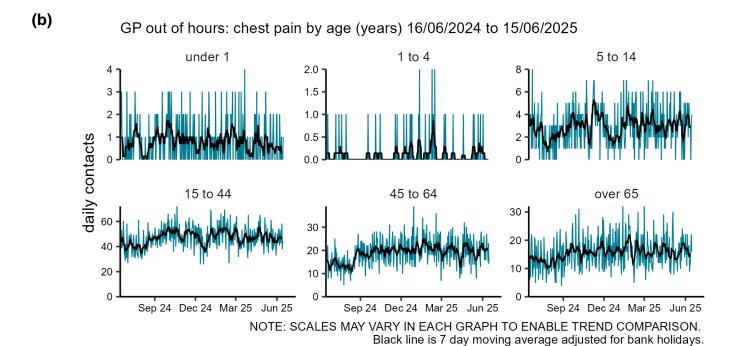
Cardiac conditions

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 and (b) by age.



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



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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 routeinely included below (where an appropriate syndromic indicator is available).

Cold weather alert period: 1 November to 31 March

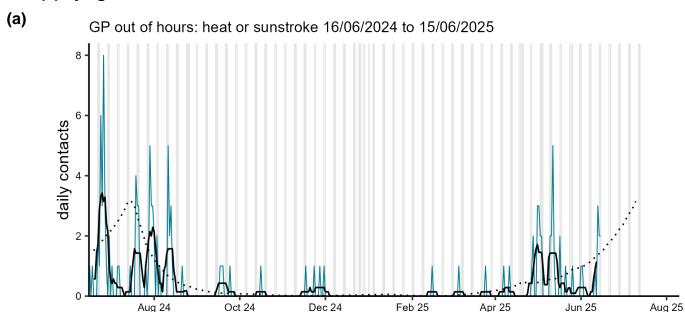
Heat-Health Alert period: 1 June to 30 September

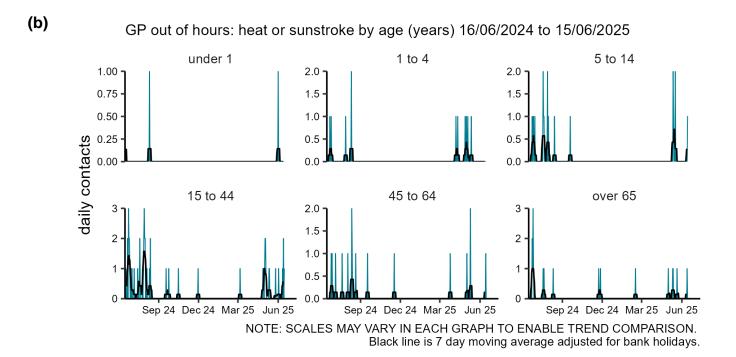
Highest weather alert level during the current reporting week:

Yellow alert (hot weather response)

Heat or sunstroke

Figure 12: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for heat or sunstroke, England (a) nationally and (b) by age.

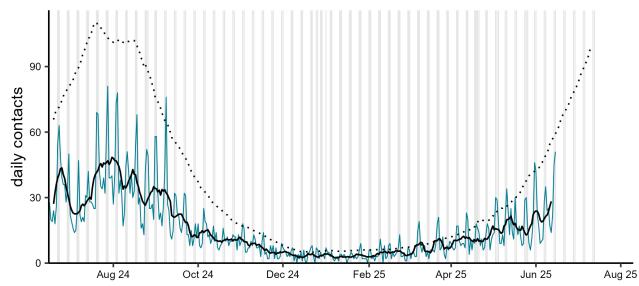




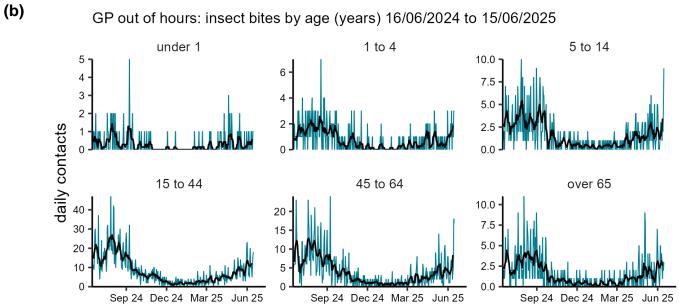
Insect bites

Figure 13: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for insect bites, England (a) nationally and (b) by age.





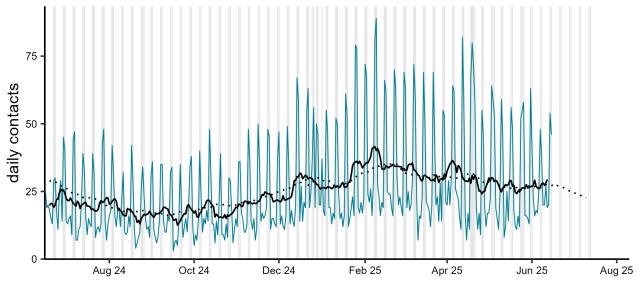
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

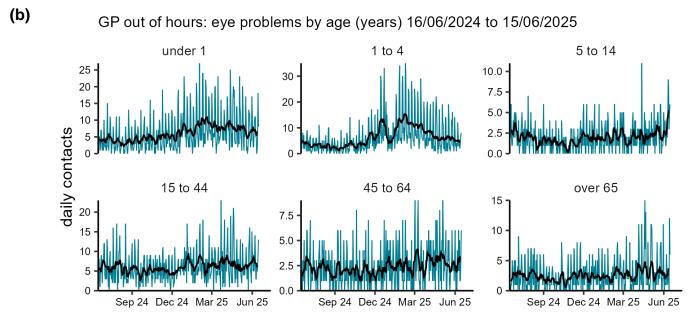


Eye problems

Figure 14: Daily number of GP out-of-hours and unscheduled contacts (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for eye problems, England (a) nationally and (b) by age.

(a) GP out of hours: eye problems 16/06/2024 to 15/06/2025





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
 - Table 2 shows total contacts which are higher than Figure 1 which shows total contacts where a clinical code is available for mapping to a syndromic indicator
- some syndromic indicators are hierarchical:
 - o acute respiratory infections includes:
 - influenza-like illness
 - acute bronchitis/ bronchiolitis
 - other and non-specific acute respiratory infections
 - o 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
- We did not receive daily GP out-of-hours contact data from 4 August 2022 until 22
 April 2023 due to technical issues. The trends and levels presented in Table 1 of the
 report are based upon data received from 23 April 2023 onwards with baselines
 constructed from historical data as described above.
- The GP out-of-hours system coverage is currently poor across some of the UKHSA regions and therefore we are currently unable to publish data at regional level in this bulletin.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Advanced and the GP OOH and unscheduled care service providers who have kindly agreed to participate in 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.

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

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Prepared by: Real-time Syndromic Surveillance Team

For queries relating to this document, please contact: syndromic.surveillan@ukhsa.gov.uk

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