

Remote health advice syndromic surveillance system bulletin (England)

2025 week 49

Key messages

Data reported to: 07 December 2025

During week 49, daily NHS 111 triaged calls and online assessments for acute respiratory infections (ARI) continued to increase nationally, however the rate of increase was less than that seen in the previous week and levels appeared to be stabilising in children aged 1 to 14 years. There were further seasonally expected increases in triaged calls for vomiting, though call levels were stable for children aged 1 to 14 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 ¹	Level
Total NHS 111 triaged calls (Figure 1)	Increasing	No baseline
Total NHS 111 online assessments (Figure 2)	No trend	No baseline
Acute respiratory infections triaged calls (Figure 3)	Increasing	Below baseline
Acute respiratory infections online assessments (Figure 4)	Increasing	Below baseline
Diarrhoea triaged calls (Figure 5)	No trend	Above baseline
Diarrhoea online assessments (Figure 6)	Increasing	Below baseline
Vomiting triaged calls (Figure 7)	Increasing	Above baseline
Vomiting online assessments (Figure 8)	No trend	Below baseline
Eye problems triaged calls (Figure 9)	No trend	Above baseline
Eye problems online assessments (Figure 10)	No trend	Below baseline

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

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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 triaged 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 Symptom Group or Pathway) identified from both NHS 111 triaged calls and NHS 111 online assessments respectively
- 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 <u>here</u>.

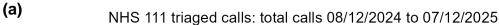
Data quality issues of note this week

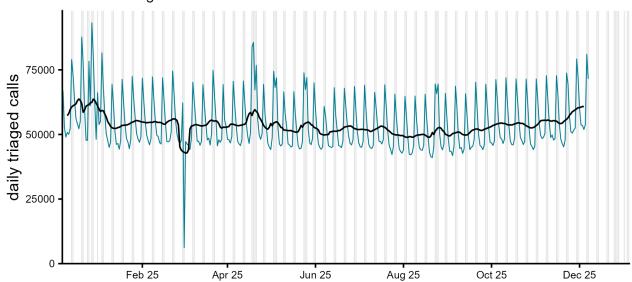
We are currently investigating a potential data quality and coding issue within NHS 111 online assessment data across selected indicators in the South East region. Therefore, recent trends in online assessment indicators for the South East should be interpreted with some caution; this has particularly affected the 'vomiting', 'acute respiratory infections' and 'eye problems' indicators in recent weeks, also impacting the national trend, especially in adults aged 45 years and over.

Total contacts

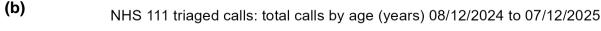
NHS 111 triaged calls

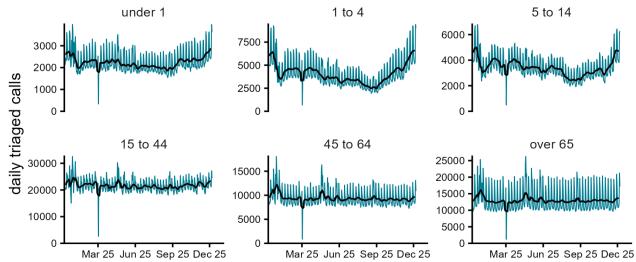
Figure 1: Daily number of NHS 111 triaged calls (with 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) recorded in this syndromic surveillance system in England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.





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





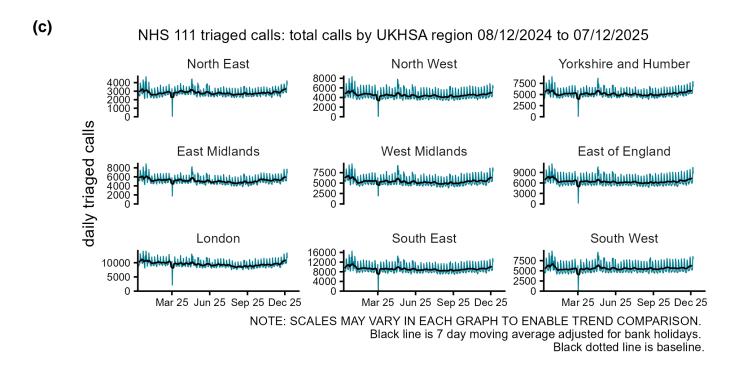
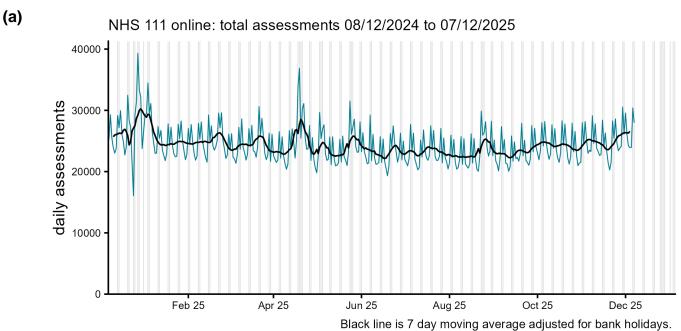


Table 2: The number of NHS 111 triaged calls in England recorded each day in the most recent week.

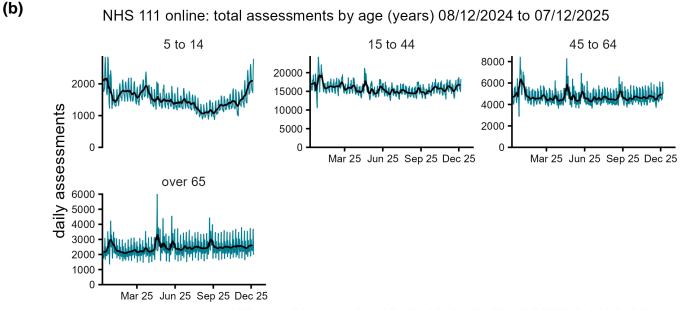
Date	Number of triaged calls
01 December 2025	59,967
02 December 2025	53,655
03 December 2025	53,450
04 December 2025	52,005
05 December 2025	53,717
06 December 2025	80,812
07 December 2025	71,344

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



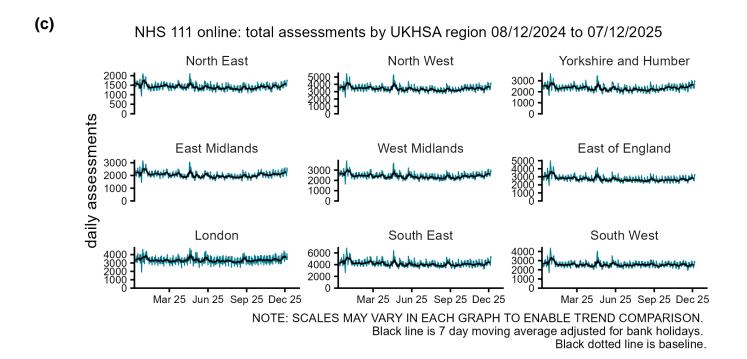


Table 3: The number of completed NHS 111 online assessments in England recorded each day in the most recent week.

Date	Number of completed assessments
01 December 2025	29,679
02 December 2025	26,081
03 December 2025	24,295
04 December 2025	23,987
05 December 2025	24,067
06 December 2025	30,596
07 December 2025	28,090

Respiratory conditions

Feb 25

Apr 25

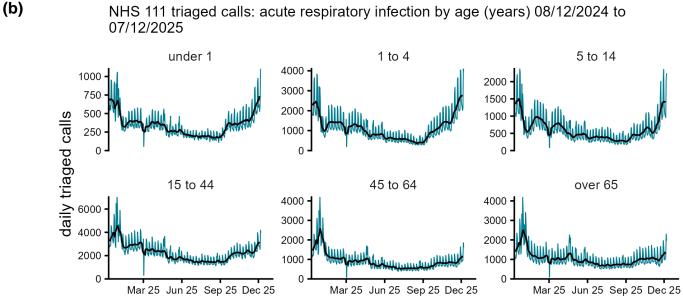
Acute respiratory infections NHS 111 triaged calls

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

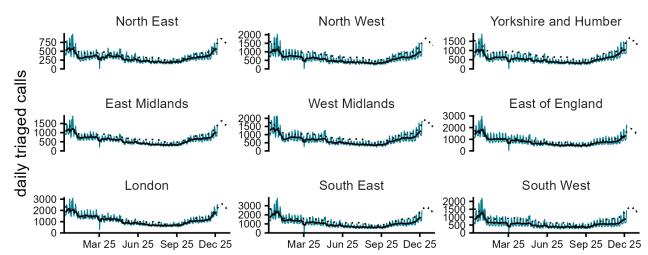
NHS 111 triaged calls: acute respiratory infection 08/12/2024 to 07/12/2025

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

Aua 25



NHS 111 triaged calls: acute respiratory infection by UKHSA region 08/12/2024 to 07/12/2025



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 NHS 111 online

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

NHS 111 online: acute respiratory infection 08/12/2024 to 07/12/2025

12500

7500

2500

Feb 25

Apr 25

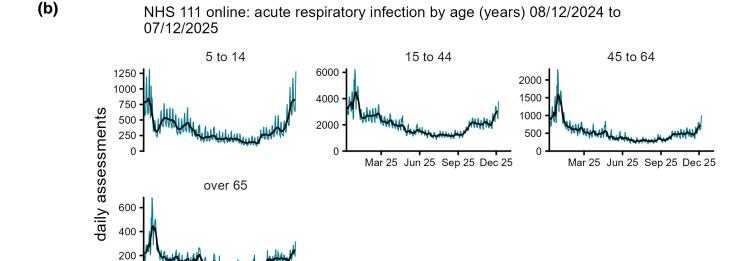
Jun 25

Aug 25

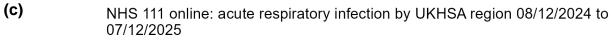
Oct 25

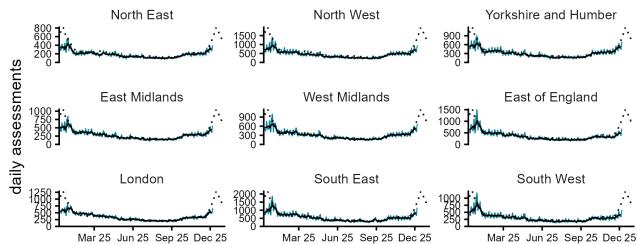
Dec 25

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



Mar 25 Jun 25 Sep 25 Dec 25





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

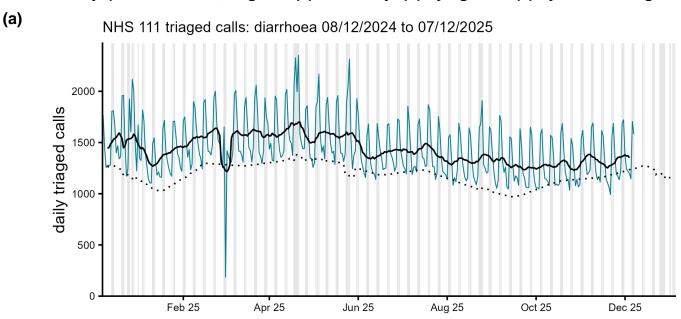
Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

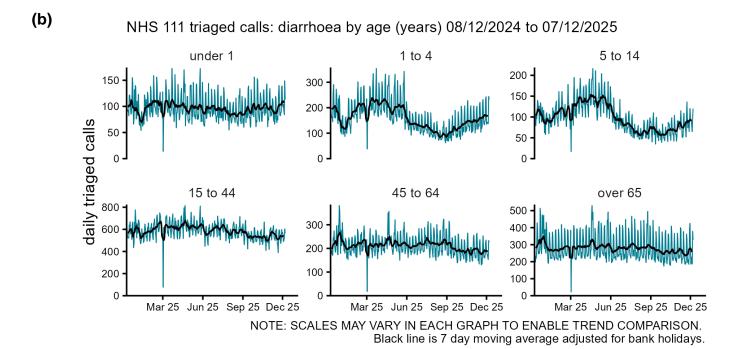
Black dotted line is baseline.

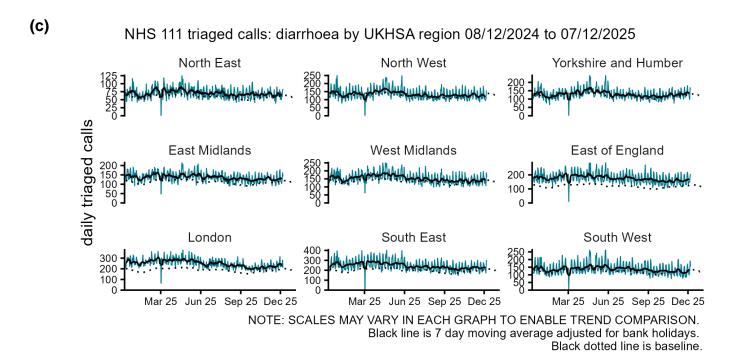
Gastrointestinal conditions

Diarrhoea NHS 111 triaged calls

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

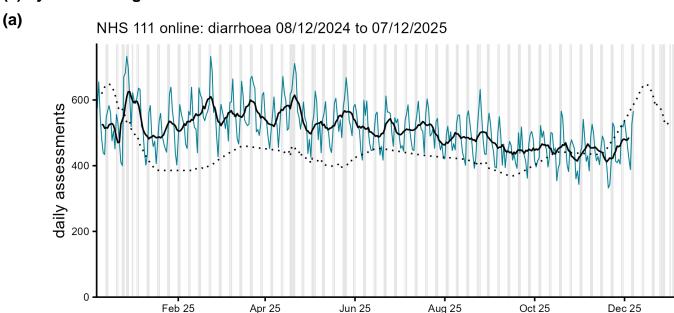


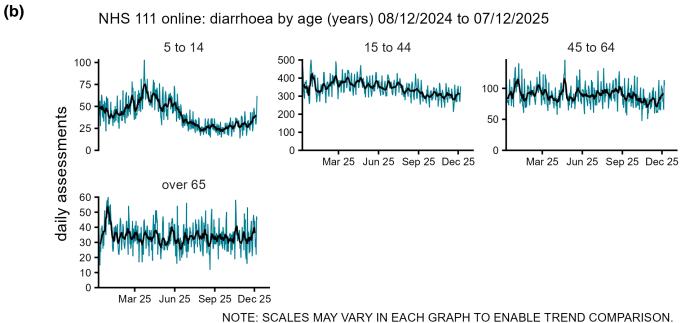


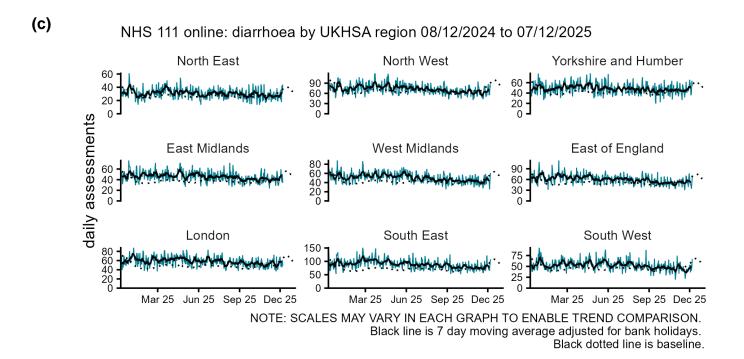


Diarrhoea NHS 111 online

Figure 6: 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.

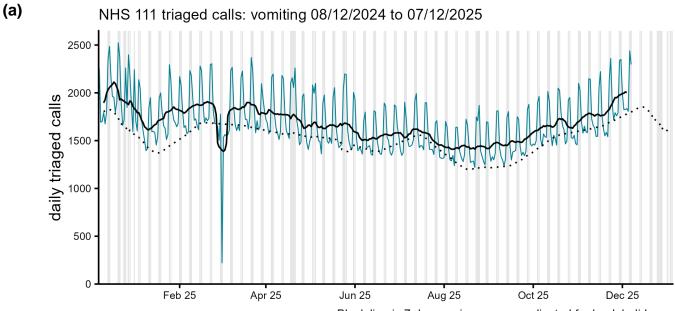


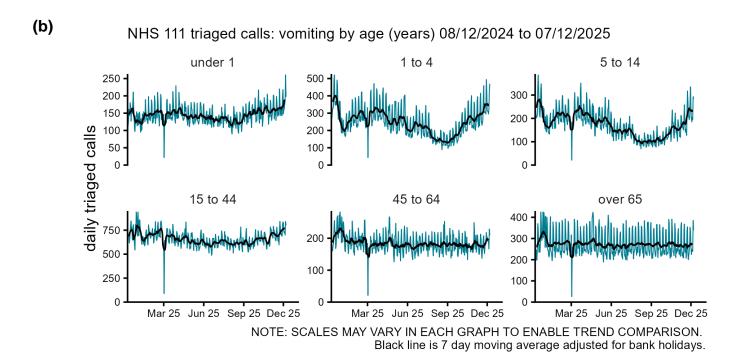


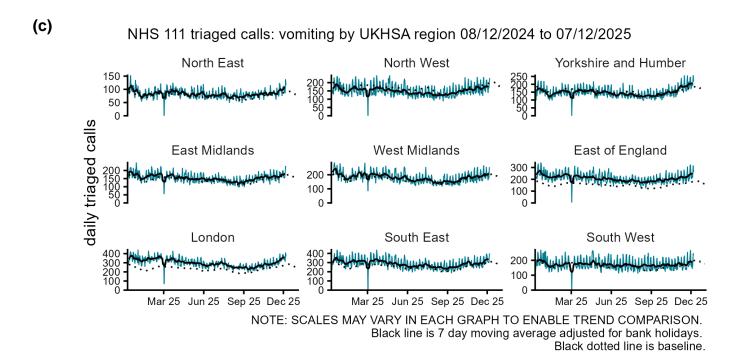


Vomiting NHS 111 triaged calls

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





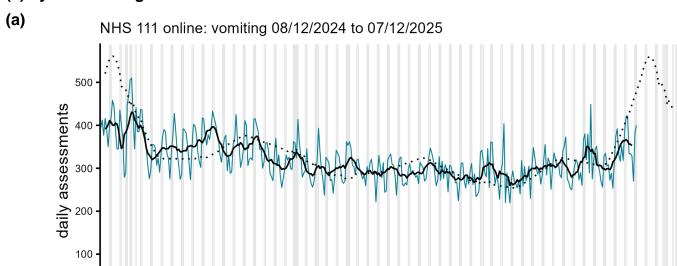


Vomiting NHS 111 online

Feb 25

Apr 25

Figure 8: 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.

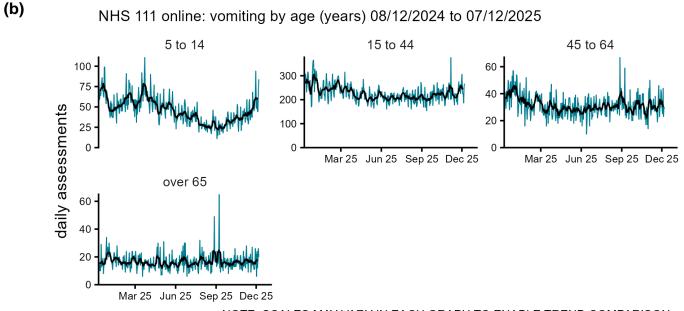


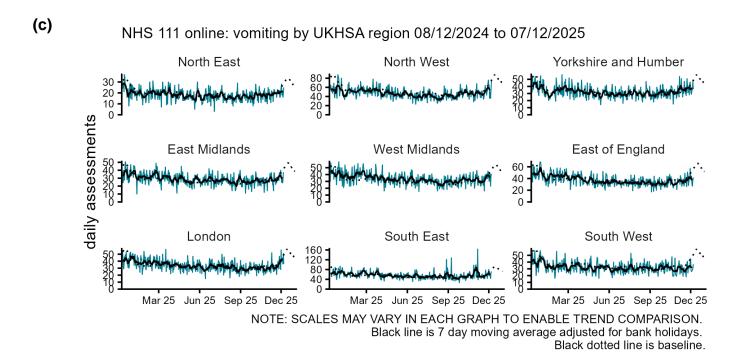
Jun 25

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

Oct 25

Aug 25





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

Cold weather alert period: 1 November to 31 March

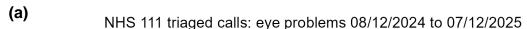
Heat-Health Alert period: 1 June to 30 September

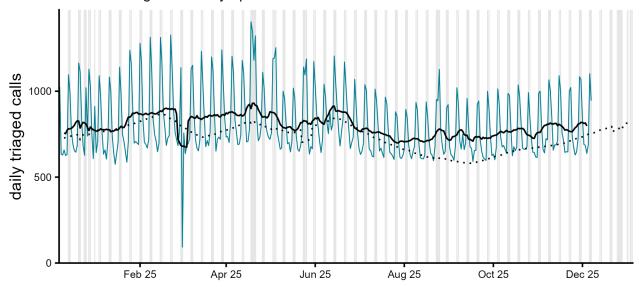
Highest weather alert level during the current reporting week:

No alerts issued

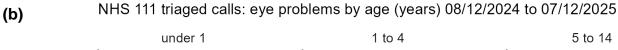
Eye problems NHS 111 triaged calls

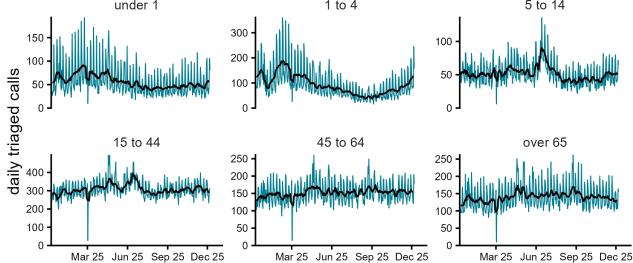
Figure 9: Daily number of NHS 111 triaged calls (and 7-day moving average adjusted for bank holidays) for eye problems, England (a) nationally, (b) by age and (c) by UKHSA Region.

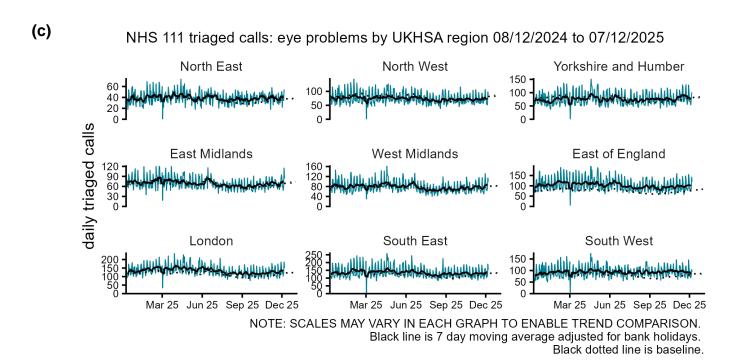




Black line is 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays. Black dotted line is baseline. Grey columns show weekends and bank holidays.

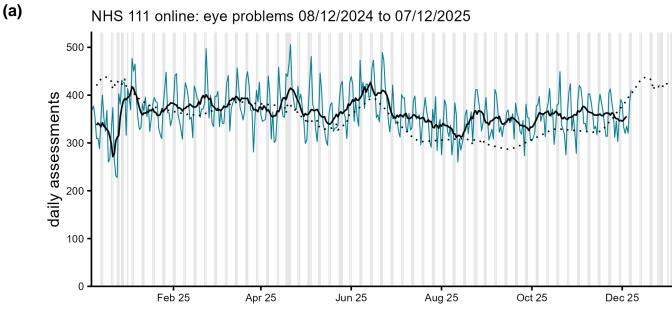


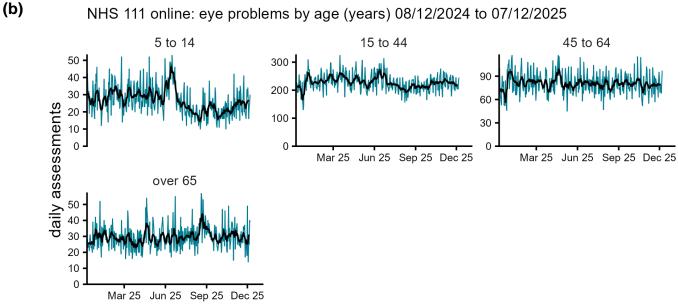


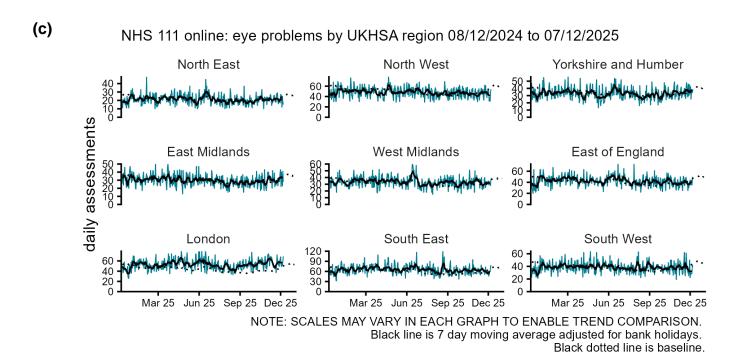


Eye problems NHS 111 online

Figure 10: 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.







Notes and caveats

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

- during the period November 2023 to April 2024, NHS Pathways system updates (NHS Pathways Releases 41 and 42) have resulted in updates to the clinical triage of certain NHS 111 calls and online assessments
 - These Pathways updates have had a significant impact on the number of syndromic NHS 111 triaged calls and online assessments presented in respiratory indicators in this bulletin
 - Due to challenges interpreting the NHS 111 respiratory triaged calls, from week 17 2024 all respiratory indicators routinely reported in this bulletin have been replaced with an 'acute respiratory infections' calls and online assessments indicator
 - The 'acute respiratory infections' indicator is based on a broad group of symptoms/provisional diagnoses that may be indicative of acute respiratory infections including, for example, influenza-like illness, otitis media, pharyngitis
 - Individual calls and online assessment respiratory indicators will be reintroduced later in the year once the new reporting levels have been established and baselines adapted to those new levels
- data presented should be used to monitor trends rather than numbers of 'cases':
 - NHS 111 calls are monitored using the NHS 111 Intelligent Data Tool, a repository of data on NHS 111 triaged calls used by NHS England, UKHSA and service commissioners. The volume of triaged calls for each syndromic indicator may be different to the call volumes presented in syndromic reports before week 20 2023, when a different data repository was used for syndromic surveillance purposes. However, trends remain similar to those previously reported
 - NHS 111 triaged 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 January 2024
 - o are constructed from historical data since January 2018
 - o represent seasonally expected levels of activity
 - take account of any known substantial changes in data collection, population coverage or reporting practices and consequently may vary slightly from week to week (and will rescale) if there are substantial changes in call/online activity
 - the COVID-19 pandemic period is excluded
- 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 <u>here</u>

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to NHS 111 and to NHS England 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.

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

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

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