

## GPs in Wales, as at 30 September 2017

26 April 2018  
SFR 39/2018



This release presents data on the number of GPs working in Wales, broken down by their GP type, age, gender, qualifications, and Welsh language ability. Information is also provided on the number of patients per GP and practice and GP workforce flows. All data included in the release are snapshots at 30 September in each year unless otherwise stated.

A number of [data quality issues](#) have been identified with the source data for this release. It is advised that the numbers presented in this release are treated with caution.

Welsh Government has published [A Planned Primary Care Workforce for Wales](#) which outlines areas of development and acknowledges current gaps in data and information.

### Key results, at 30 September 2017

- The number of GP practitioners in Wales fell between 2016 and 2017, but was largely offset by an increase in GP locums. However data quality issues mean that the fall in GP practitioners is likely to be overstated. Overall the total number of GPs (including locums, registrars and retainers) was very similar to the number in 2016.
  - There were 1,926 GP practitioners in 2017, 83 (or 4.1%) fewer than in 2016, however an alternative source suggests this fall may be as few as 26.
  - There were 754 GP locums in 2017, 70 (or 10.2%) more than in 2016 continuing the trend of increasing numbers of GP locums.
  - There were 239 GP registrars (GP trainees) in 2017, up 7 from 2016.
  - A more complete measure of GPs is to include all GP practitioners, locums, retainers and registrars. In total there were 2,936 in 2017, 8 fewer than 2016 (0.3 per cent).
  - Additional analysis shows that of the 212 GP practitioners leaving the workforce between 2016 and 2017, just over half re-joined as a GP locum. Therefore the leavers figures should not be used as those no longer working as a GP practitioner.
- GP practices are becoming fewer in number, but are tending to have more GPs per practice.
- The trend of a growing female GP practitioner workforce has continued.

Additional analysis by Local Health Board can be found in the [Annex tables](#) and on [StatsWales](#).

### About this release

This annual Statistical First Release presents a summary on workforce data relating to GPs and general practice staff, as at the end of September 2017. It highlights trends over time where possible.

The main source of data is an extract from the Exeter database provided by NHS Digital. This database is a computerised payment system of GPs who are in contract with Local Health Boards. The number of [Staff directly employed by the NHS, 30 September 2017](#) was published on 28 March 2018.

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## Data quality issues

The data on GP numbers primarily comes from the General Medical Services (GMS) Census, which is an administrative data source. There are a number of quality issues with the data from this source for 2017 which are outlined below.

In particular, there are issues with the number of salaried GPs, these are practitioners that are generally remunerated by salary, included in the GMS Census. When cross-referenced with the Medical Performers List (a list of GPs allowed to practice in Wales, maintained by NHS Shared Services), there are over 30 salaried GPs which do not appear to be included in the GMS Census. However, it cannot be determined whether these GPs have been coded to a different GP category (for example, a partner or practice owner) in the GMS Census or if they are missing completely.

A further problem, is the incompleteness of Local Health Boards (LHB) managed practices covered in the GMS Census. In 2017, it is known that there are 24 LHB managed practices in Wales; however, only 16 have been identified as being included in the GMS Census. Feedback was sought directly from LHBs and around 35 GPs were identified as potentially being GPs who were directly employed by their respective health board. However, not all LHBs were able to respond, but it cannot be determined whether these GPs are included, and classified as another category of GP, or whether they are not included in the data. This may result in a number of GPs not being counted in the GP practitioner headcount figures presented from the GMS Census.

There are data quality issues with LHBs submitting incomplete data to NHS Digital through their Exeter (GP payroll) system. This data is submitted, by LHBs, to NHS Digital and provides the source data for the headline count of GP practitioners. For example, in 2017, 2.5% of the GPs were removed by NHS Digital during their data validation process, because of incomplete or erroneous data being supplied. It cannot be determined how many of the GP records removed during this process are valid GPs where the LHB has submitted incomplete information; or whether they are not genuine GPs working in Wales at the time and LHBs submitted incorrect data which should not be included in GP counts.

There are further issues with the consistency of GP's sex and reliability of their age. For example, there were records where several GPs recorded age differed to what had recorded in previous years. Where possible, the Welsh Government has tried to address during our additional quality assurance process.

UK comparisons of each of the four nations GP workforces was not available by the date of publication and has therefore not been included in this statistical release. Updates will be added to StatsWales when data are made available. Details of where other UK nations GP workforce statistics are published have been included in the [Key Quality Information](#) section.

## **Rationale for publication**

Despite the numerous quality issues with the source data, these figures are being published as there is a clear need for the Welsh public to understand the number of GPs in Wales and some of their characteristics. The figures published are currently the best available statistics on the number of GPs, and broadly, there is agreement in the recent trends of GP numbers across both the GMS Census and the Medical Performer's List.

Given the quality issues identified, caution should be exercised when using these statistics.

The Welsh Government is currently discussing different options for providing more robust data for GP numbers in the future, and hope to have a new process in place to inform next year's release in Spring 2019.

## Charts and tables

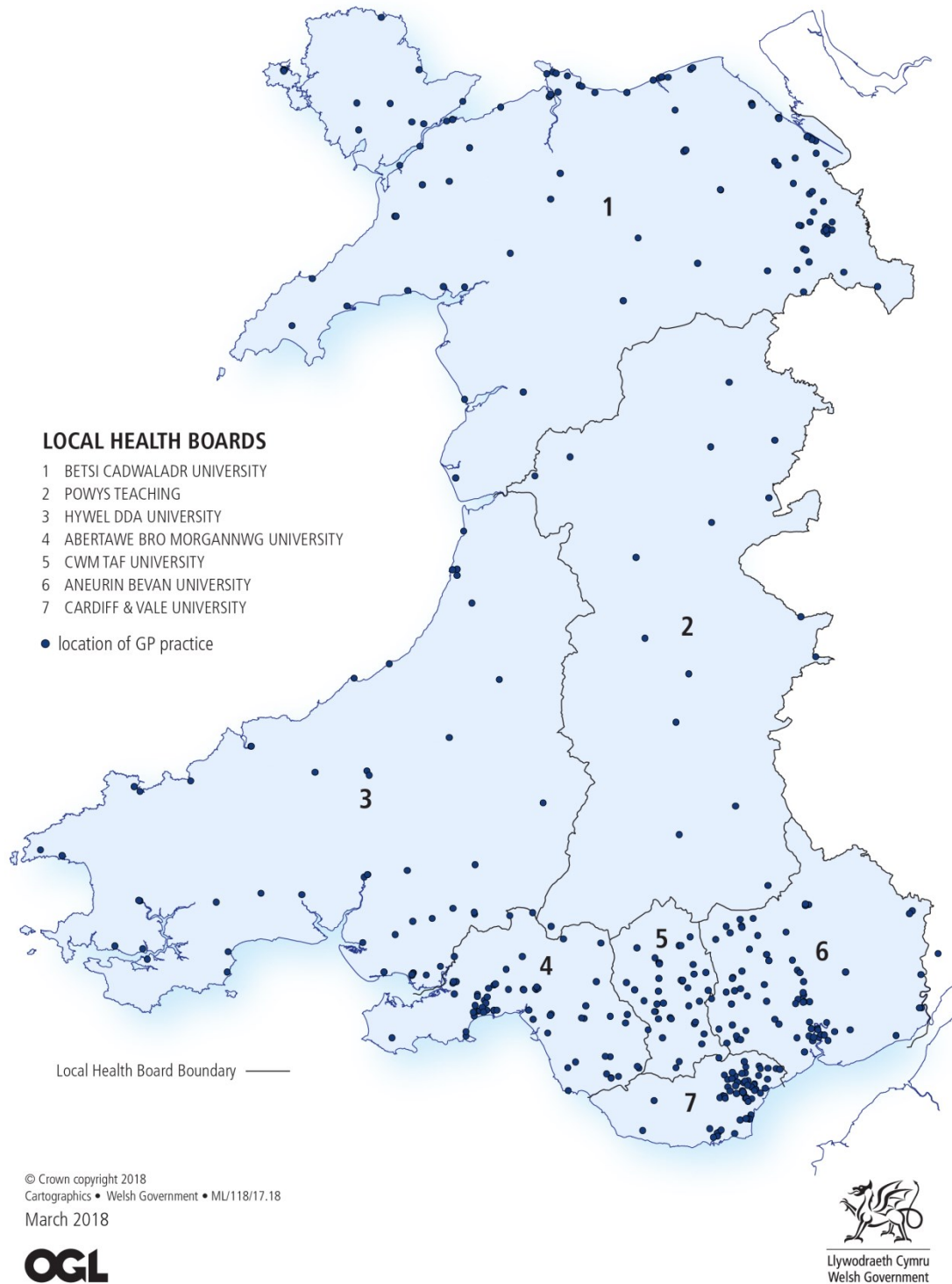
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## Overall summary

- The number of GP practitioners in Wales has gradually increased from under 1,800 in the mid 1990s to around 2,000 in 2010. Since then the number of GP practitioners has remained largely stable, with small year-to-year changes, until 2017 when the number dropped by more than in any other year – however as noted earlier this fall may be overstated so should be interpreted with caution and in the context of increasing numbers of GP locums.
- At 30 September 2017, Powys had the greatest number of GP practitioners per 10,000 population at 7.7; Cwm Taf University, Hywel Dda and Betsi Cadwaladr University all had the joint lowest at 5.8. The average for Wales was 6.2 GP practitioners per 10,000 population.
- The number of patients per partnership has risen nearly every year since 2000, and is at a record high in 2017. The number of patients per GP practitioner has remained relatively stable over the time series, notwithstanding some year-to-year volatility. The increase in patients per GP practitioner in 2017 has resulted in there being more than 1,600 patients per GP practitioner for the first time since 2009.
- In 2017 the shift to practices with a larger number of partners continued, while the number of single-handed partnerships has remain largely stable over the past 6 years.
- In 2000, over 70 per cent of GP practitioners were male; however, that percentage has fallen over time and has been below 50% since 2015. The number of male GPs has fallen every year since 2000. Conversely, the number of female GP practitioners has increased every year from 2000 to 2016. There have been more female GP practitioners than male for the last three years. 2017 was the first year that the number of female GP practitioners did not increase, however the proportion of female to male GP practitioners did increase.
- Although there are slighter fewer Welsh speaking GPs than in 2016, over the past four years there has been little change in the number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population. In 2017 the Wales average was 1.1 per 10,000 population, a 0.1 percentage point decrease since 2013.
- Analysis comparing the list of 'leaving' GPs with the Medical Performers List (which includes GP locums) indicates that just over half of GPs who were in the 2015/16 GMS Census but were not present in the 2016/17 GMS Census, were present on the Medical Performers list in 2018 as GP locums.

## Map 1: GP practices by Local Health Board 2017

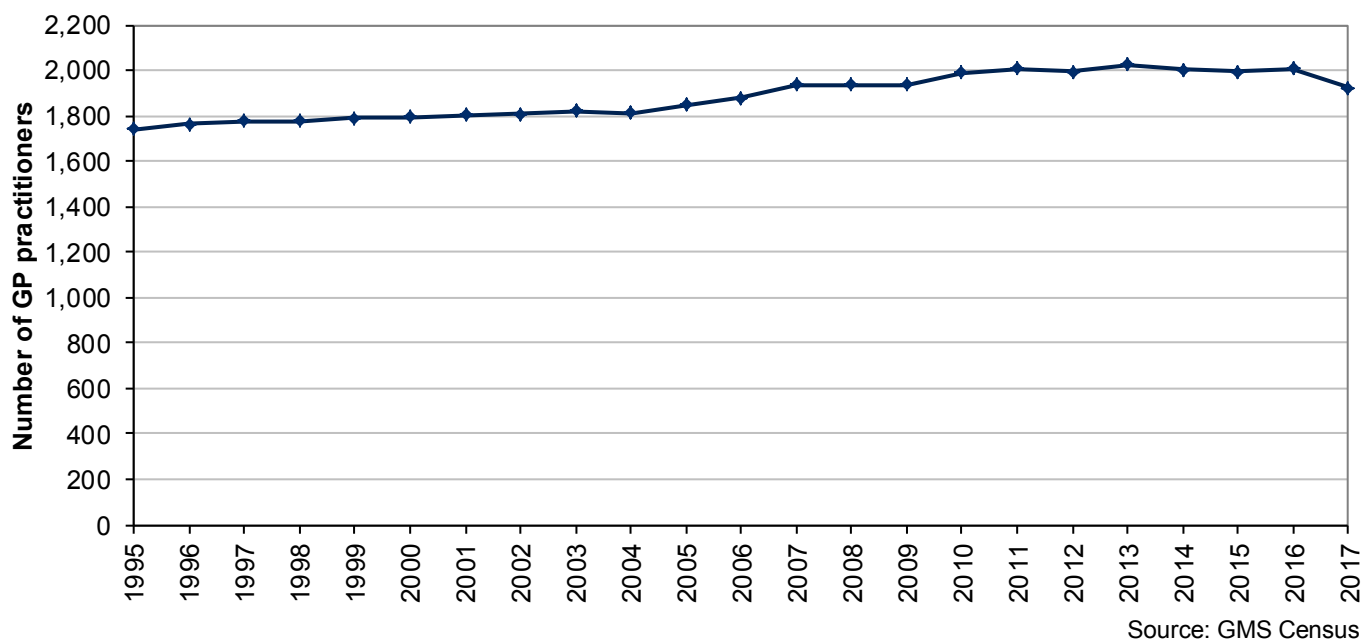
### GP Practices (as at 30th September 2017)



In 2017 there were 432 GP Practices in Wales, 9 fewer than in 2016.

## GP practitioner trends

Chart 1: Headcount - Number of GP practitioners at 30 September (a)



(a) Except for 2009 and prior to 2000 which is at 1 October.

(b) Comparisons across years should be treated with caution due to changes in methodology. See definitions in the [Notes](#) section.

A **GP practitioner** includes GP providers and salaried/other GPs. It does not include GP Locums, retainers and registrars. See [Notes](#) section for detailed explanation.

**Summary:** The number of GP practitioners in Wales has gradually increased from under 1,800 in the mid 1990s to around 2,000 in 2010. Since then the number of GP practitioners has remained largely stable, with small year-to-year changes, until 2017 when the number dropped by more than in any other year. However as noted earlier on this fall may be overstated.

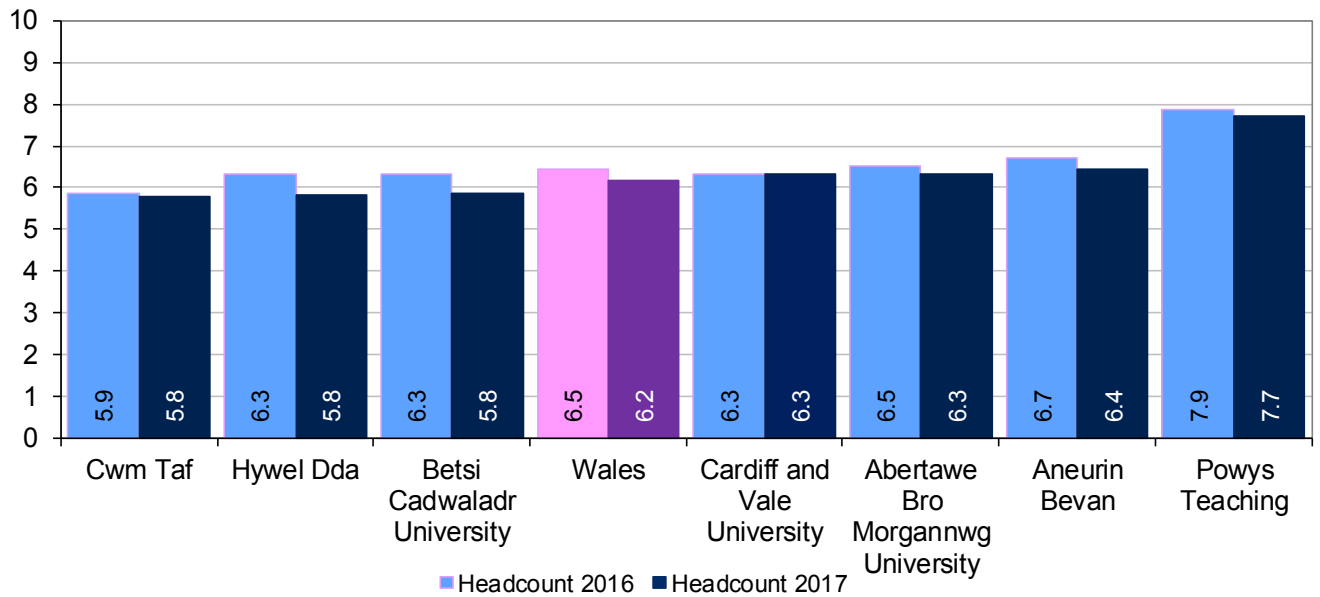
**Latest Data:** At 30 September 2017, the number of GP practitioners in Wales (excluding registrars, retainers and locums) was 1,926. As noted on the front page, this figure may be lower than it should be and should be seen in the context of total GP numbers (i.e including locums etc).

**Annual Change:** At 30 September 2017, there were 83 (or 4.1 per cent) fewer GP practitioners than the previous year. However as noted earlier on this fall is likely to be overstated.

Note that of the 1,926 GP practitioners, 33 were working in more than one practice in Wales; however, these are only counted once in the headcount figure in all of the tables and charts in the release.

## GP practitioners by local health board

Chart 2: Headcount - GP practitioners per 10,000 population by Local Health Board



Source: GMS Census, ONS

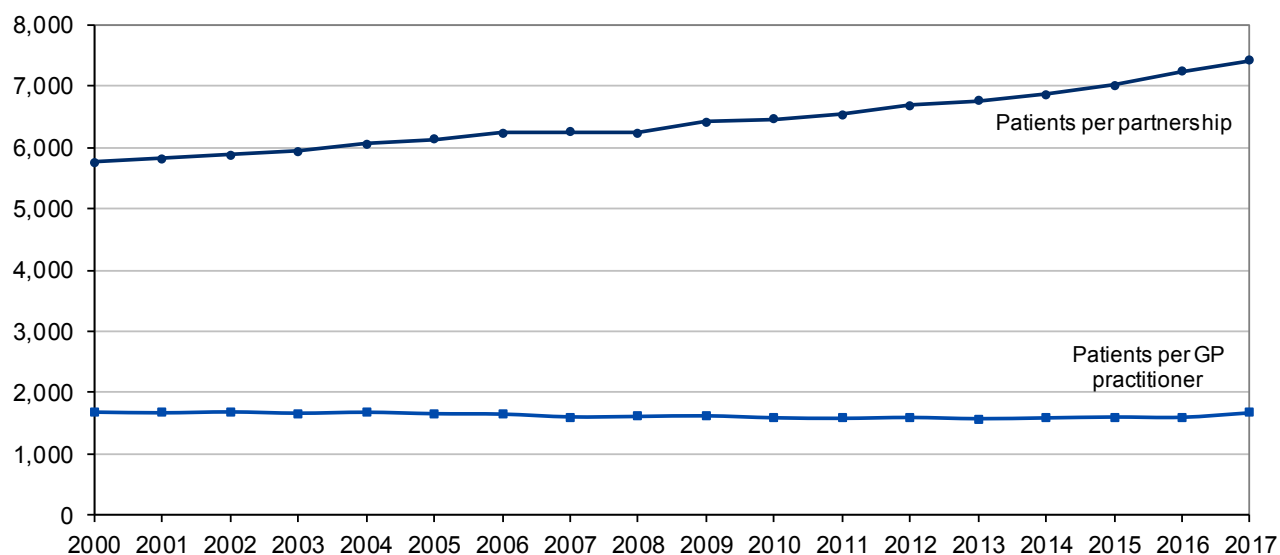
**Summary:** At 30 September 2017, Powys had the greatest number of GP practitioners per 10,000 population at 7.7; Cwm Taf University, Hywel Dda and Betsi Cadwaladr University all had the joint lowest at 5.8. The average for Wales was 6.2 GP practitioners per 10,000 population.

Further information can be found on [StatsWales](#).



## Patients per partnership and GP practitioner

Chart 3: Registered patients per GP practitioner / partnership



Source: GMS Census

**Summary:** The number of patients per partnership has risen nearly every year since 2000, and is at a record high in 2017. The number of patients per GP practitioner has remained relatively stable over the time series, notwithstanding some year-to-year volatility. The increase in patients per GP practitioner in 2017 has resulted in there being more than 1,600 patients per GP practitioner for the first time since 2009. This increase though may be overstated due to the issue with GP practitioner numbers.

**Latest Data:** At 30 September 2017, the number of patients per partnership was 7,420 and the number of patients per GP practitioners in Wales was 1,664.

**Annual Change:** At 30 September 2017, the number of patients per partnership was 169 (or 2.3 per cent) higher than the previous year, and the number of patients per GP practitioners was 73 (or 4.6 per cent) higher than the previous year.

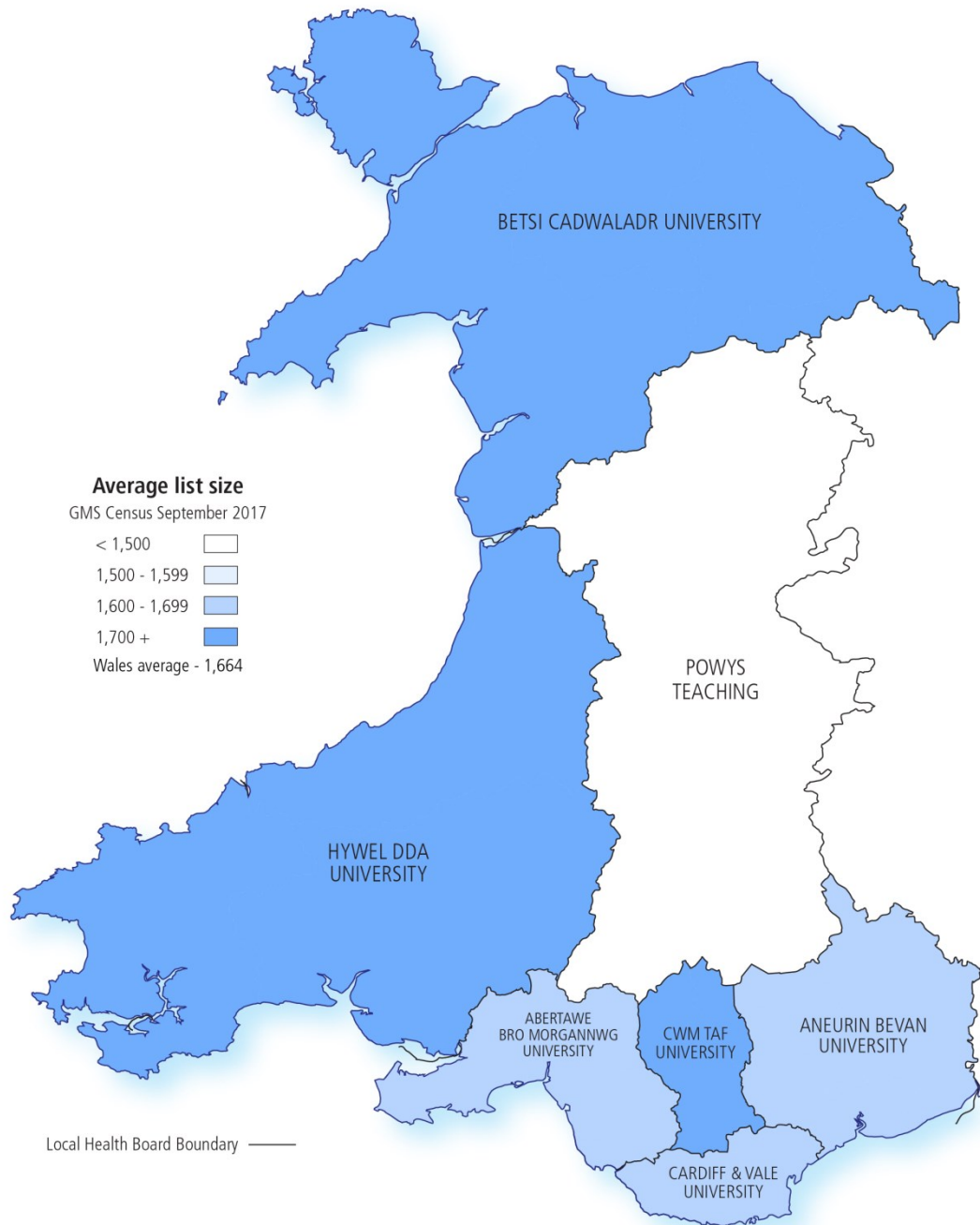
**10 Year Change:** At 30 September 2017, the number of patients per partnership was 1,179 (or 18.9 per cent) higher than at 30 September 2008, and the number of patients per GP practitioners was 59 (or 3.7 per cent) higher than at 30 September 2008.

**Change since first year of data:** At 30 September 2017, the number of patients per partnership was 1,675 (or 28.7 per cent) higher than at 30 September 2000, and the number of patients per GP practitioners was 12 (or 0.7 per cent) lower than at 30 September 2000.

## Patients per GP practitioners by Local Health Board

Map 2: Registered Patients per GP practitioners (average list size) by Local Health Board 2017

### Average List Size by Local Health Board 2017



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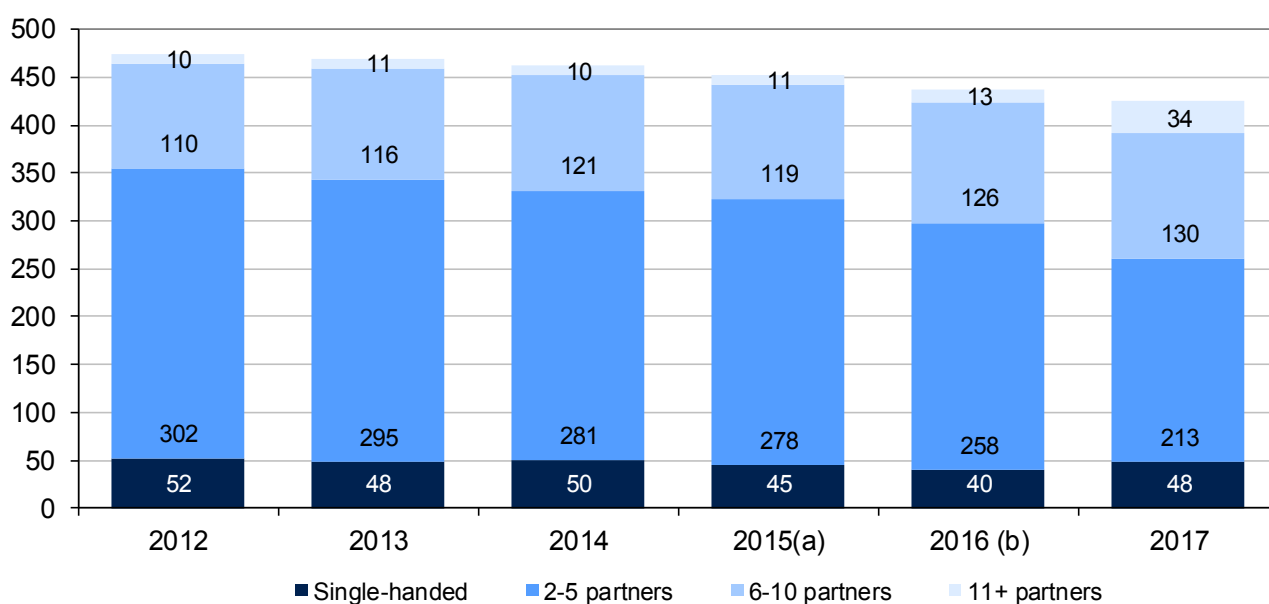
**Summary:** The average list sizes are relatively similar across 6 of the 7 Health Boards.

In 2017, Cwm Taf University had the largest average list size of 1,777, while Powys had the smallest average list size of 1,365, the only Health Board with an average list size of less than 1,600 (see Table A1).

Cwm Taf University also had the largest average list size in 2016, and Powys also had the lowest average list size in 2016.

## Partnerships by number of partners

**Chart 4: Number of partnerships by number of partners**



Source: GMS Census

(a) In 2015 the number of partners for one practice was unknown.

(b) In 2016 the number of partners for 4 practices were unknown

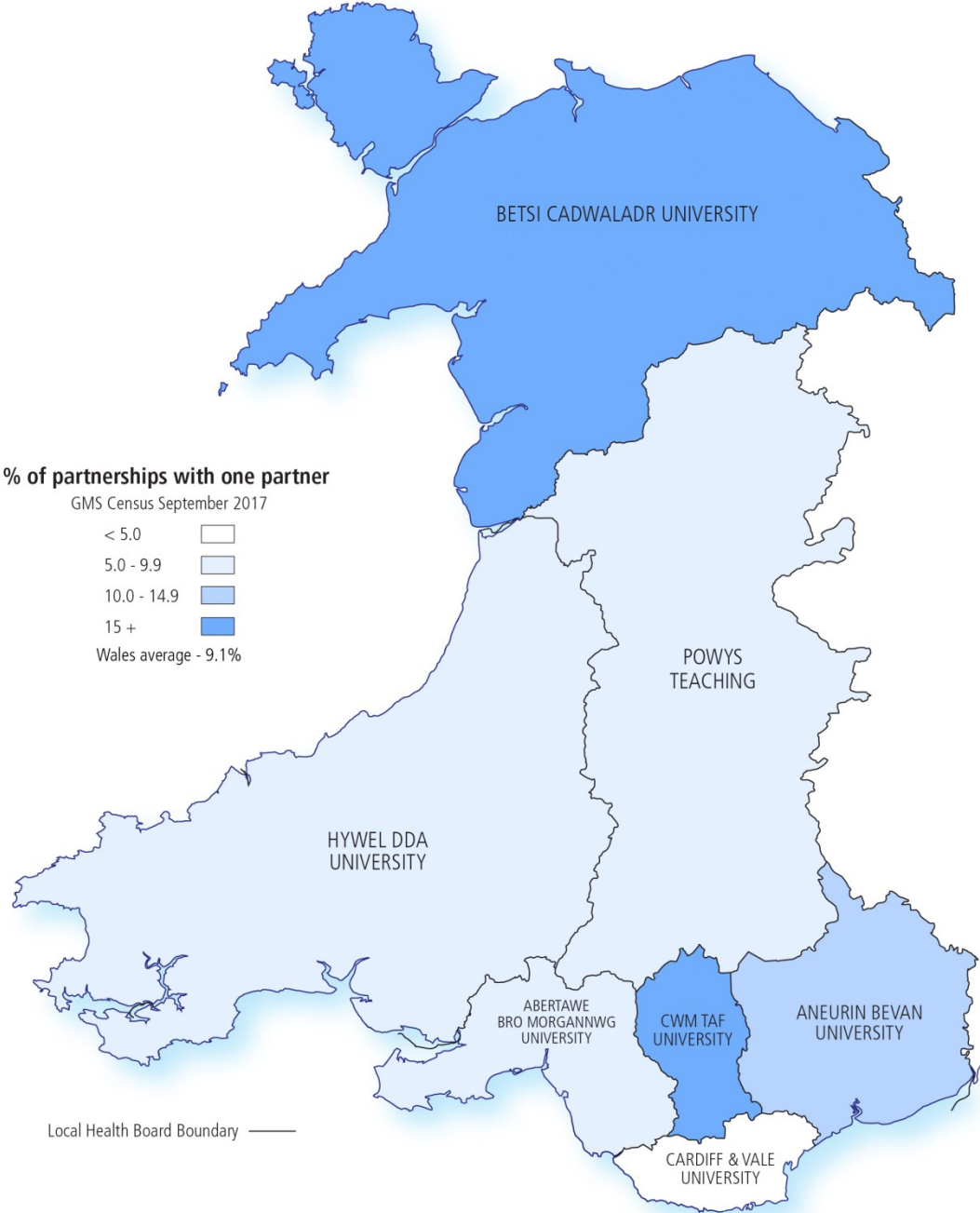
(c) In 2017 the number of partners for 7 practices were unknown.

A **partnership** is a financial arrangement between two or more bodies of which one must be a GP practitioner.

**Summary:** Single year changes should be treated with caution as there is volatility within the data. In 2017 the shift to practices with a larger number of partners continued, while the number of single-handed partnerships has remain largely stable over the past 6 years.

As shown in Map 3, the percentage of single-handed partnerships varied across Health Boards, from 21.4% in Cwm Taf University to 0% in Cardiff and Vale University (refer to [Table A2](#)).

# Percentage of Partnerships with One Partner by Local Health Board, 2017

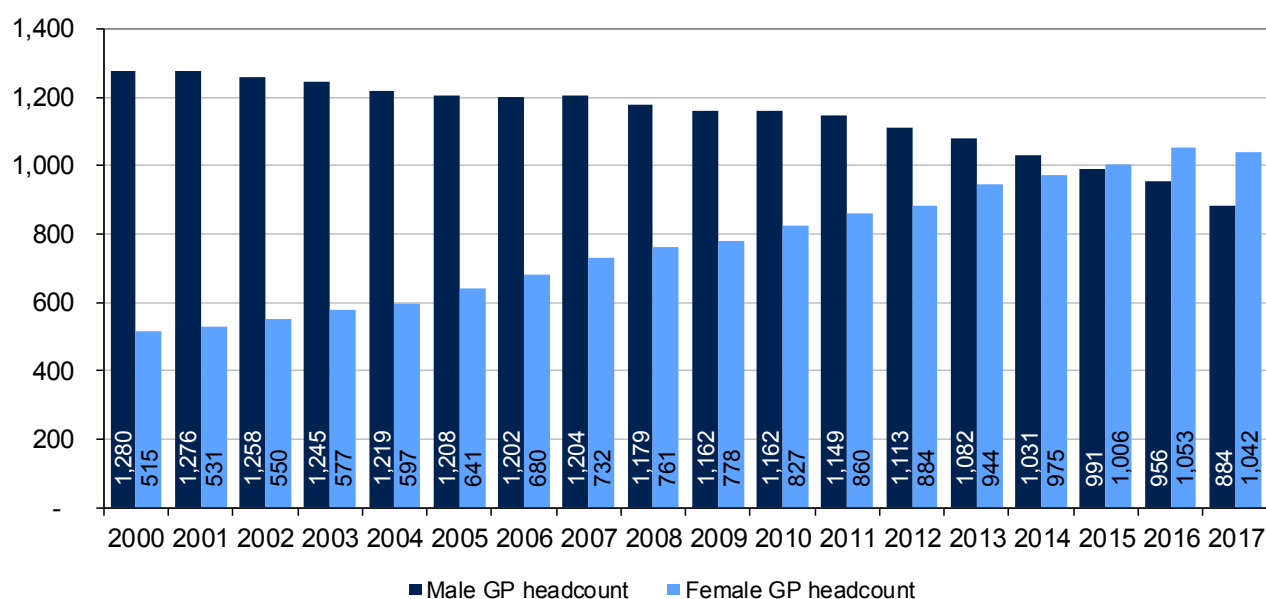


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## GP practitioner by gender and age

Chart 5: GP practitioner Headcount by Gender (a)



Source: GMS Census

(a) See definitions in the [Notes](#) section.

**Summary:** In 2000, over 70 per cent of GP practitioners were male; however, that percentage has fallen over time and has been below 50% since 2015. The number of male GPs has fallen every year since 2000. Conversely, the number of female GP practitioners has increased every year from 2000 to 2016. There have been more female GP practitioners than male for the last three years.

**Latest Data:** At 30 September 2017, the male GP practitioner headcount was 884 and the female GP practitioner headcount was 1,042.

The percentage of all GP practitioners that were male was 45.9 per cent; the percentage of GP practitioners that were female was 54.1 per cent.

**Annual Change:** At 30 September 2017, the male GP practitioner head count has fallen by 72 (or 7.5 per cent) since the previous year, and the female GP practitioner head count has fallen by 11 (or 1.0 per cent) since the previous year. However this change should be interpreted with caution due to the quality issues noted earlier on.

The percentage of all GP practitioners that were male was 1.7 percentage points lower than the previous year; the same percentage point increase in the percentage of all GP practitioners that were female.

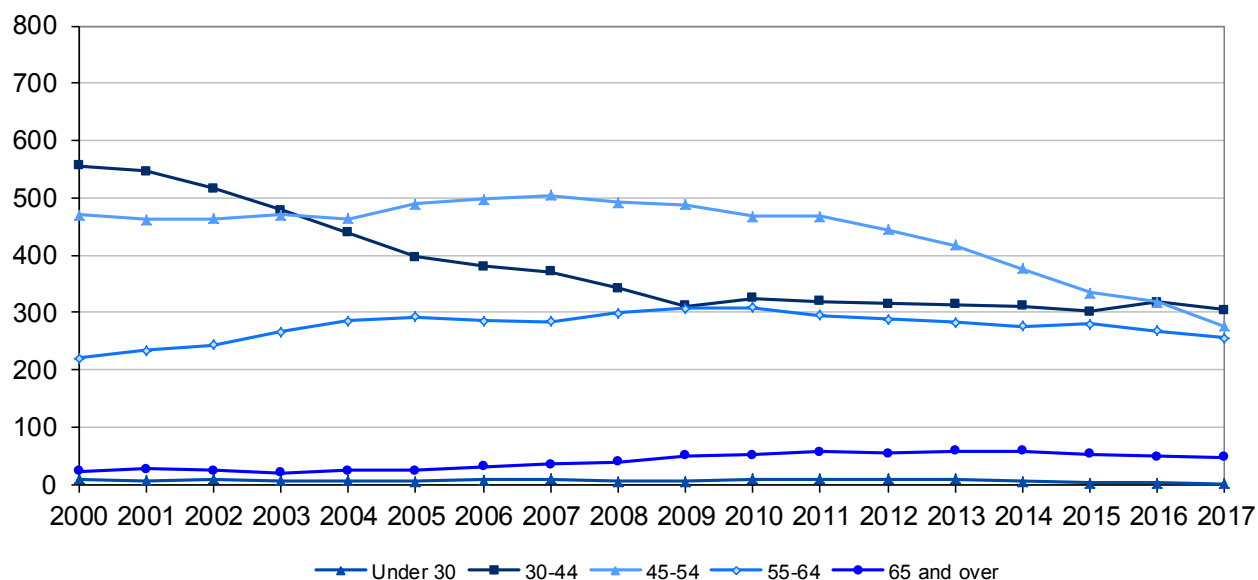
**10 Year Change:** At 30 September 2017, the male GP practitioner head count has fallen by 295 (or 25.0 per cent) since 30 September 2008, and the female GP practitioner head count has risen by 281 (or 36.9 per cent) since 30 September 2008.

The percentage of all GP practitioners that were male was 14.9 percentage points lower than the previous year; the same percentage point increase in the percentage of all GP practitioners that were female.

**Change since first year of data:** At 30 September 2017, the male GP practitioner head count has fallen by 396 (or 30.1 per cent) since 30 September 2000, and the female GP practitioner head count has risen by 527 (or 102.3 per cent) since 30 September 2008.

The percentage of all GP practitioners that were male was 25.4 percentage points lower than the previous year; the same percentage point increase in the percentage of all GP practitioners that were female.

**Chart 6: Male GP practitioner numbers by age groups**



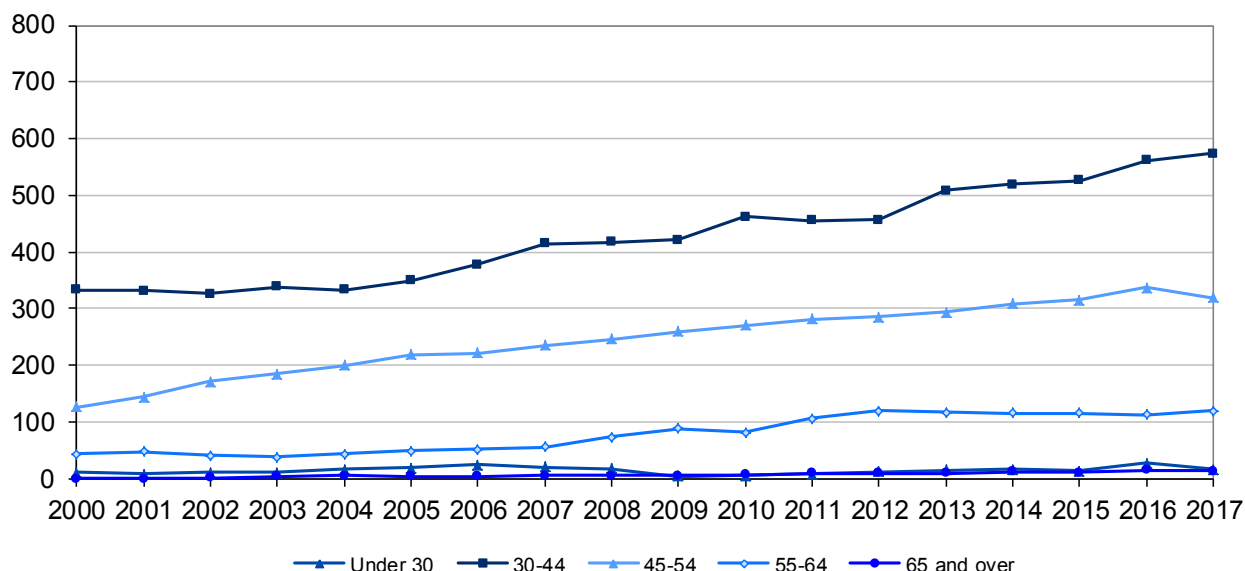
Source: GMS Census

**Summary:** The majority of male GP practitioners (34.4 per cent) are in the 30-44 age group. This is the first year since 2003 that it has been the majority age group; in 2016 an equal number were in the 30-44 age group and the 45-54 age group.

Over the longer term, the numbers of male GP practitioners in both of these groups has been declining. Over the shorter term, the number of male GP practitioners in the 45-54 age group has been falling, while the numbers in all other age groups have remaining relatively stable.

Male GP practitioners aged 65 and over make up 5.4 per cent of all male GP practitioners, while those aged under 30 make up less than 1 per cent.

**Chart 7: Female GP practitioner numbers by age**



Source: GMS Census

**Summary:** The majority of female GP practitioners (55.1 per cent) are in the 30-44 age group, as it has been for the whole of the time series.

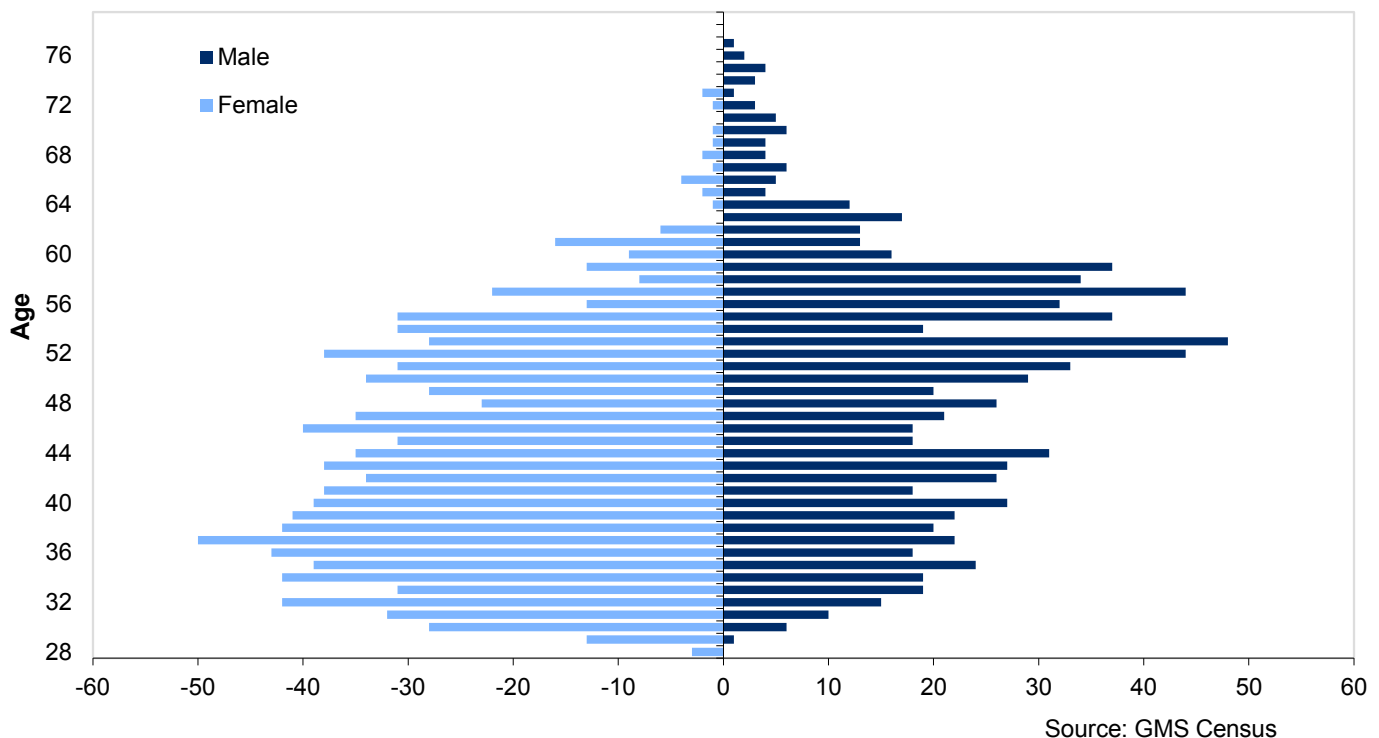
Over the longer term, the numbers of female GP practitioners in all age groups has been increasing. Over the shorter term, the number of female GP practitioners in the three youngest age groups has tended to grow, while the two older age groups have remained relatively stable.

Female GP practitioners aged 65 and over make up 1.3 per cent of all female GP practitioners, while those aged under 30 make up 1.5 per cent.

Data for Local Health Boards is available at [Table A2](#).

## GP age pyramids

Chart 8: GP Practitioners by gender and age, at 30 September 2017



**Summary:** The GP practitioner age pyramids show how the age distribution is different between genders. There are a far higher proportion of younger female GP practitioners than male; whereas the largest proportion of male GP practitioners are in their 50s.

Of the 1,490 GP practitioners aged 54 or less, 581 (or 39.0 per cent) were male and 909 (or 61.0 per cent) were female.

Of the 436 GP practitioners aged 55 or over, 303 (or 69.5 per cent) were male and 133 (or 30.5 per cent) were female.

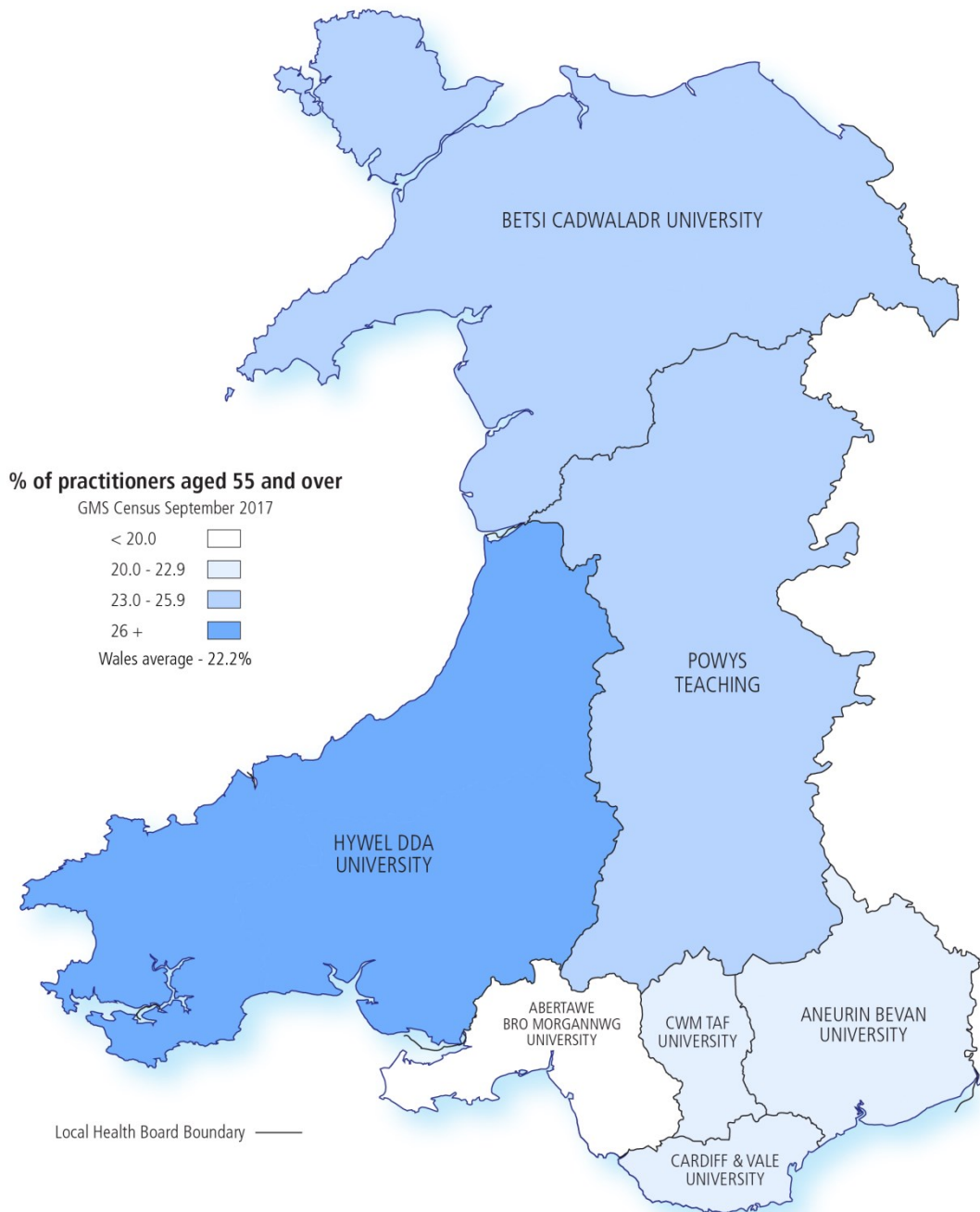
Map 5 shows how the distribution of GP practitioners aged 55 and over differs between Local Health Board.

In 2017, the Local Health Board with the highest proportion of GPs aged 55 or over was Hywel Dda University with 29 per cent. Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University had the lowest proportion with 18.2 per cent of GPs aged 55 and over.

Data for Local Health Boards is available at [Table A2](#).



## Percentage of Practitioners aged 55 and over by Local Health Board, 2017



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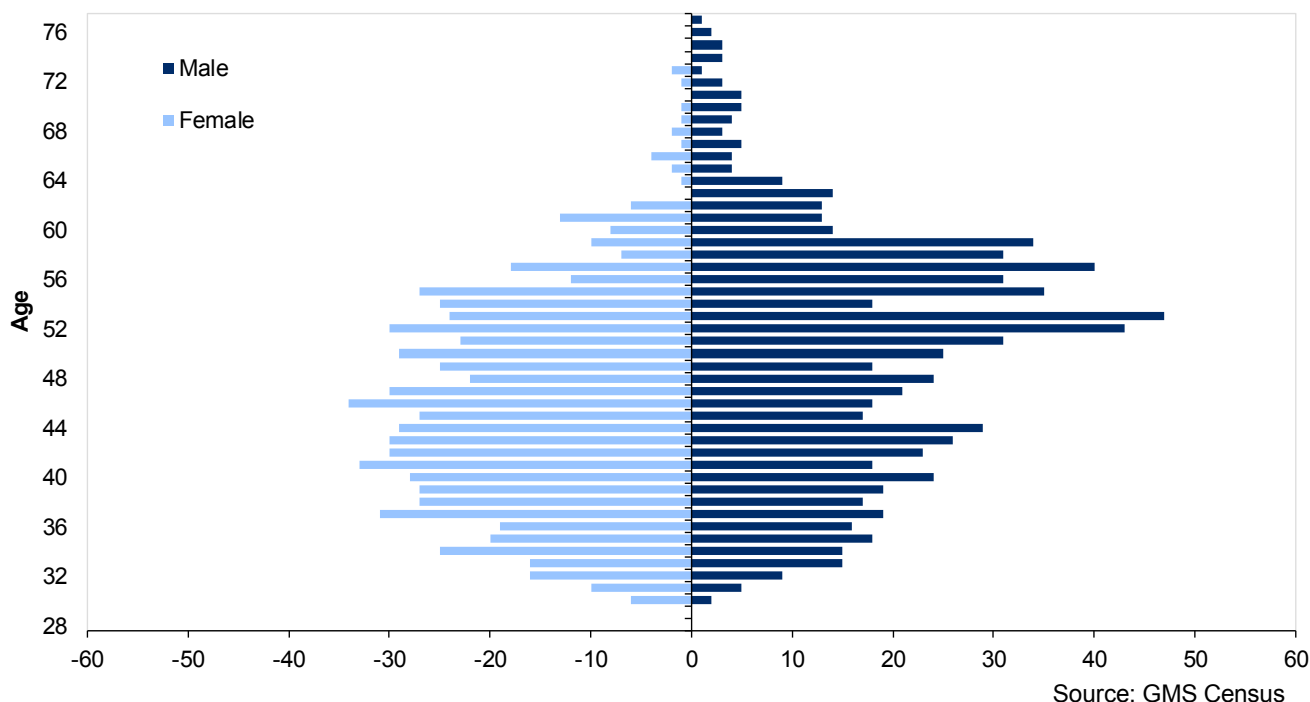


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## GP Providers and Salaried/Other GPs

Chart 9 and Chart 10 below show the number of GP Providers and Salaried/Other GPs, by gender and age.

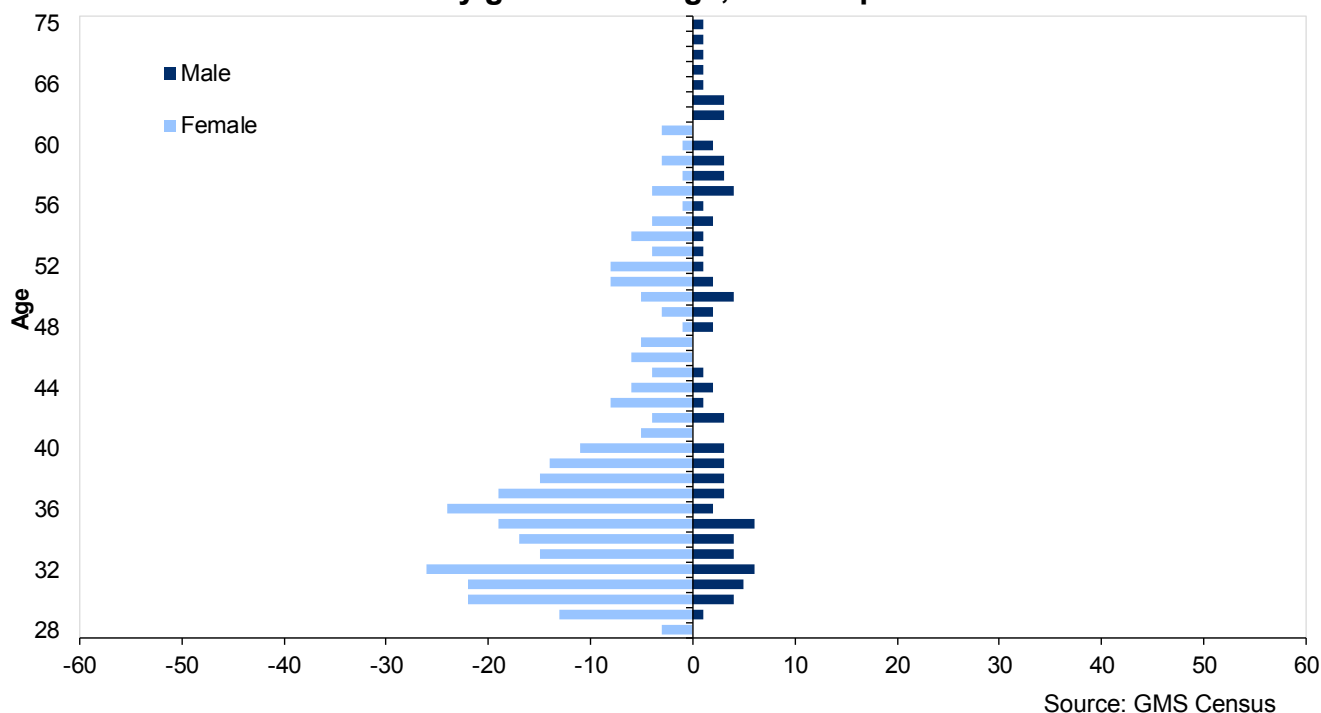
**Chart 9: GP Providers by gender and age, at 30 September 2017**



A **GP provider** is a practitioner who has entered into a contract with a LHB to provide services to patients.

**Summary:** There were 1,526 GP providers (GPs who contracted with Health Boards) in Wales. Of these 794 (52 per cent) were male and 732 (48 per cent) were female. Similarly to all GP practitioners, female GP providers are more concentrated in younger age groups than male (refer to [Table A3](#)).

**Chart 10: Salaried/Other GPs by gender and age, at 30 September 2017**



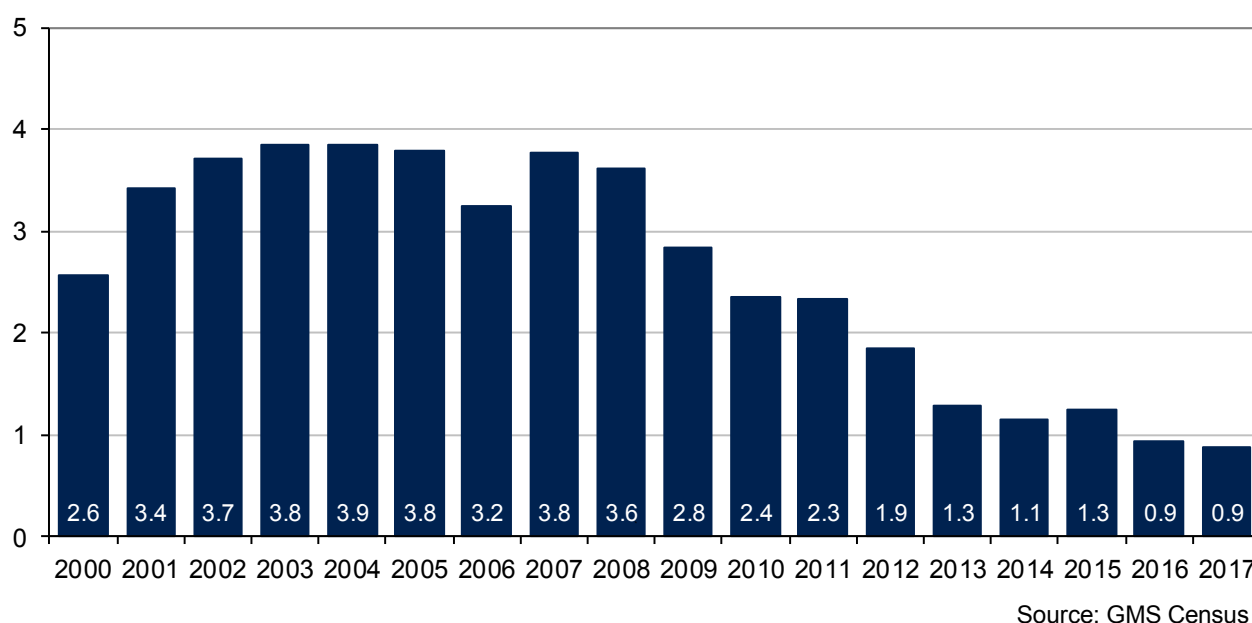
A **Salaried/other GP** works within a partnership; these practitioners are generally remunerated by salary.

**Summary:** There were 400 Salaried/Other GPs working in Wales in 2017. There were more than three times as many female (310) Salaried/Other GPs than males (90) in Wales, and most were in the younger age groups (Refer to [Table A1](#)).

## GP retainers

A **GP Retainer** is a practitioner who provides service sessions up to a maximum of 4 per week in general practice. See [Notes](#) section for a detailed explanation.

**Chart 11: GP Retainers per 100 GPs**



**Summary:** There has been a downward trend in the number of GP retainers in Wales over the long term. Over the last decade, the majority of GP retainers have been female, and in both 2016, and 2017, 100 per cent of GP retainers were female. GP retainers tend to be younger, with the large majority of GP retainers in the 30-44 age group.

**Latest Data:** At 30 September 2017, there were 17 GP retainers in Wales, or 0.9 per every 100 GPs.

**Annual Change:** There are two fewer GP retainers in Wales than in 2016, but the rate per 100 GPs remains the same.

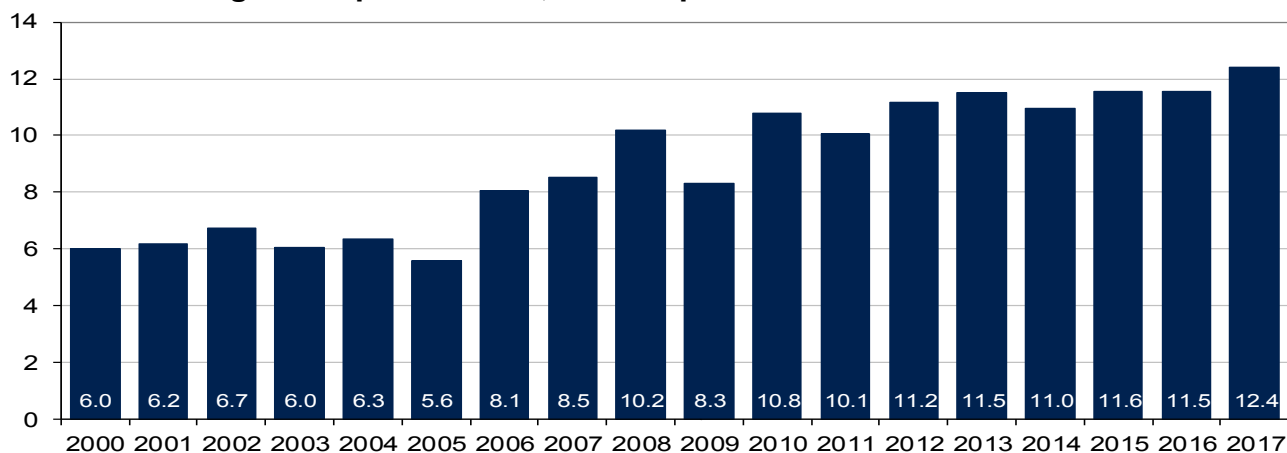
**10 Year Change:** Since 2008, there are 53 fewer GP retainers in Wales, a fall of 75.7%. As a rate per 100 GPs, there are 2.7 fewer GP retainers.

**Change since first year of data:** Since 2000, there are 29 fewer GP retainers in Wales, a fall of 63.0%. As a rate per 100 GPs, there are 1.7 fewer GP retainers.

## GP registrars

A **GP registrar** is a practitioner employed for the purpose of training in general practice and in respect of whom a training grant is paid. See [Notes](#) section for further information

**Chart 12: GP Registrars per 100 GPs, at 30 September**



Source: GMS Census

**Summary:** The largest number of GP registrars in Wales was recorded in 2017. The number of GP registrars per 100 GPs is also the highest on record. Over the long term, the number of GP registrars in Wales has increased, but has remained relatively stable over the last five years.

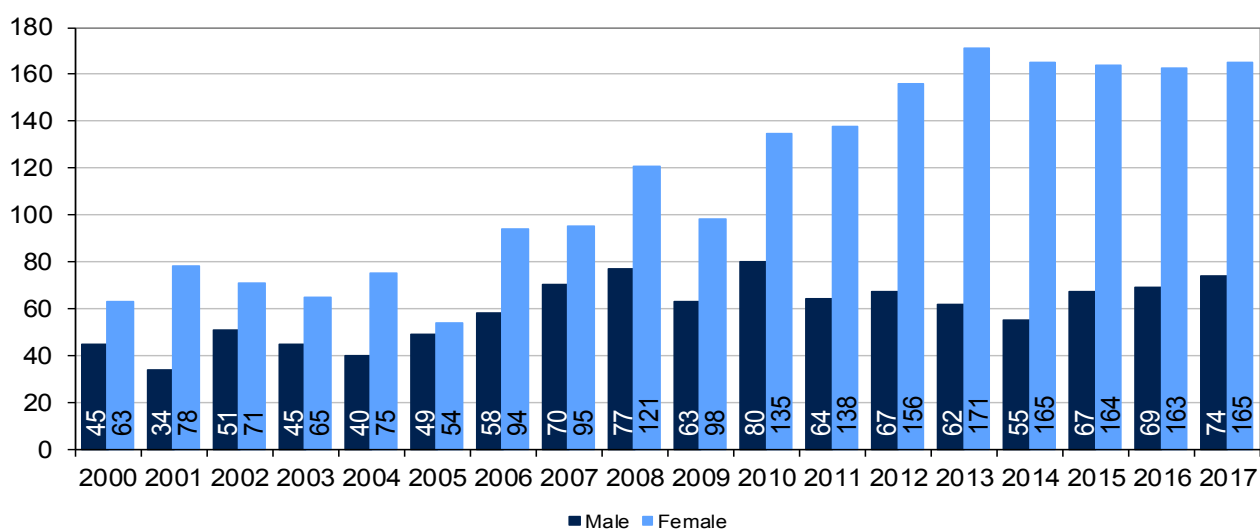
**Latest Data:** At 30 September 2017, there were 239 GP registrars in Wales, or 12.4 per every 100 GPs.

**Annual Change:** There are seven more GP registrars in Wales than in 2016, and the rate per 100 GPs has increased by 0.9.

**10 Year Change:** Since 2008, there are 41 more GP registrars in Wales, an increase of 20.7%. As a rate per 100 GPs, there are 2.2 more GP registrars.

**Change since first year of data:** Since 2000, there are 131 more GP registrars in Wales, an increase of 121.3%. As a rate per 100 GPs, there are 6.4 more GP registrars.

**Chart 13: GP Registrars by gender, at 30 September**



Source: GMS Census

**Summary:** In 2017, around two thirds of GP registrars are female, the ratio of female to male GP registrars has not changed much over the last 3 years.

Since 2000, there have always been more female GP registrars than male; however, over time the number of female GP registrars has tended to grow by more than male GP registrars. In 2000, 58.3% of GP registrars were female, compared to 69.0% in 2017.

## GP locums

A **GP Locum** is a GP who deputises temporarily at a GP Practice and is paid through the practice, usually to cover for an absent GP Practitioner. Such cover should last for no more than 6 months.

This is the fourth year a count of GP locums has been included in this statistical release.

The data is sourced from the Medical Performers List, which lists all GPs able to practice in Wales and is maintained by the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership. The data relates to September 2017. GP Locum data is separate from the GP Practitioners data presented earlier in the release.

**Table 1: Number of Locums as at 30 September 2017**

Local Health Board	Number of locums	Locums per 100	Locums per 10,000
		GPs	population
Betsi Cadwaladr University	171	42.0	2.5
Powys Teaching	44	43.1	3.3
Hywel Dda University	105	46.9	2.7
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	136	40.6	2.6
Cwm Taf University	57	33.1	1.9
Anuerin Bevan University	117	31.1	2.0
Cardiff and Vale University	124	40.0	2.5
<b>Wales</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>

Source: Medical Performers List

**Summary:** There has been a clear shift to GPs choosing to be a locum.

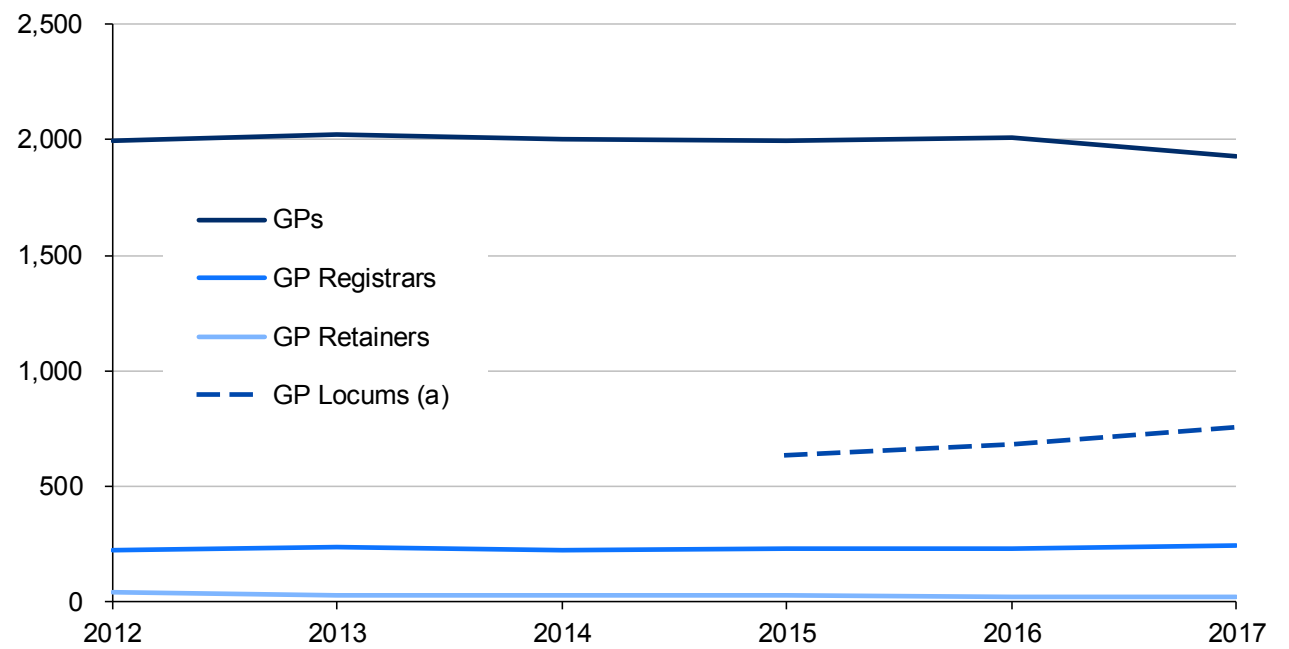
The number of GP locums has increased every year since the first data were available in 2015. While the number of locums in each health board varies quite notably, when taking account of the whole GP pool and population in each Health Board, the variation is much smaller. Hywel Dda University has the most GP locums per 100 GPs, while Aneurin Bevan University has the least. Powys Teaching has the largest number of locums per 10,000 population, while Cwm Taf University has the least.

**Latest Data:** At 30 September 2017, there were 754 GP locums in Wales, 39.1 per every 100 GPs, or 2.4 per 10,000 population.

**Annual Change:** There were 70 (or 10.2%) more GP locums in Wales than in 2016, this equates to an increase of 5.1 Locums per 100 GPs over the year and a rise of 0.2 Locums per 10,000 population.

**Change since first year of data:** There were 145 (or 23.8%) more GP locums in Wales than in 2015, this equates to an increase of 7.1 Locums per 100 GPs over the year and a rise of 0.3 Locums per 10,000 population.

**Chart 14: Time Series of GP practitioners by type of GP in Wales**



Source: GMS Census & Medical Performers List

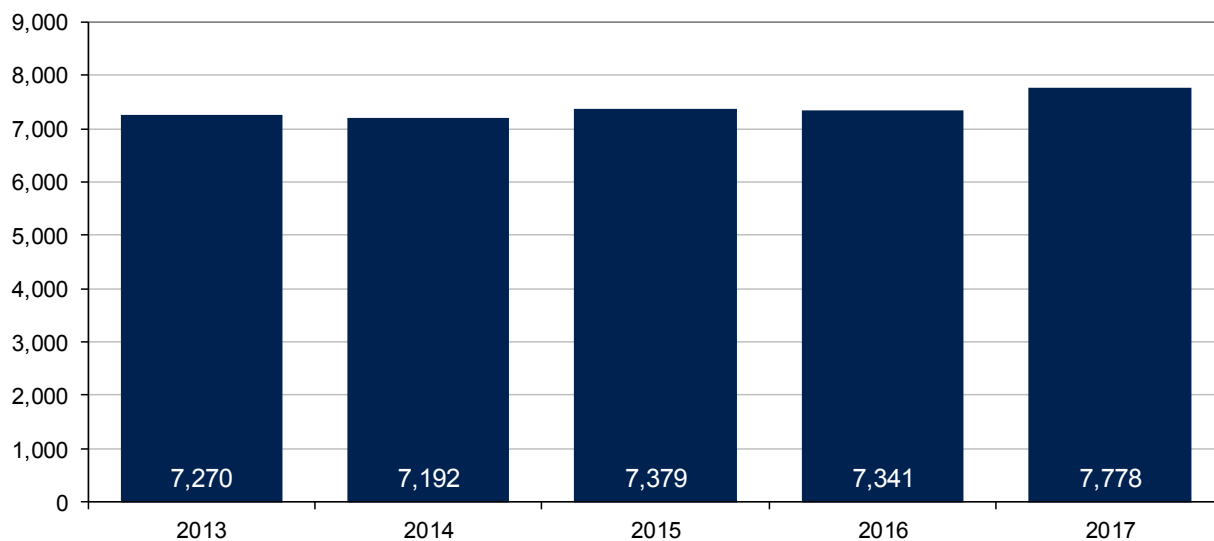
(a) Locum data only available from September 2015

## Practice staff by health board

To deliver primary care, practitioners work closely with their practice staff including nurses, midwives health visitors, managers, administrators and others involved in direct patient care (e.g. physiotherapists, chiropodists); this release details only those staff employed by the practice.

The LHBs returned data for 429 individual practices (99.3% of all Welsh practices). For practices where no data was supplied an estimate of their figures has been made (Details of the estimation methodology can be found in the [Key Quality information](#) section).

**Chart 15: Time series of practice staff in Wales**



Source: GMS Census

**Summary:** In 2017, the number of practice staff in Wales is the highest on record. Since data was collected in 2013, the number of practice staff has tended to increase over time. The number of practice staff at Health Board level, tends to reflect the size of the populations they serve with Betsi Cadwaladr University having the largest number (2,206) and Powys Teaching having the least (436).

**Latest Data:** At 30 September 2017, there were 7,778 practice staff in Wales.

**Annual Change:** There were 437 (or 6.0%) more practice staff in Wales than in 2016.

**Change since first year of data:** There were 508 (or 7.0%) more practice staff in Wales than in 2013.

**Table 2: Practice staff by type and health board, at 30 September 2017**

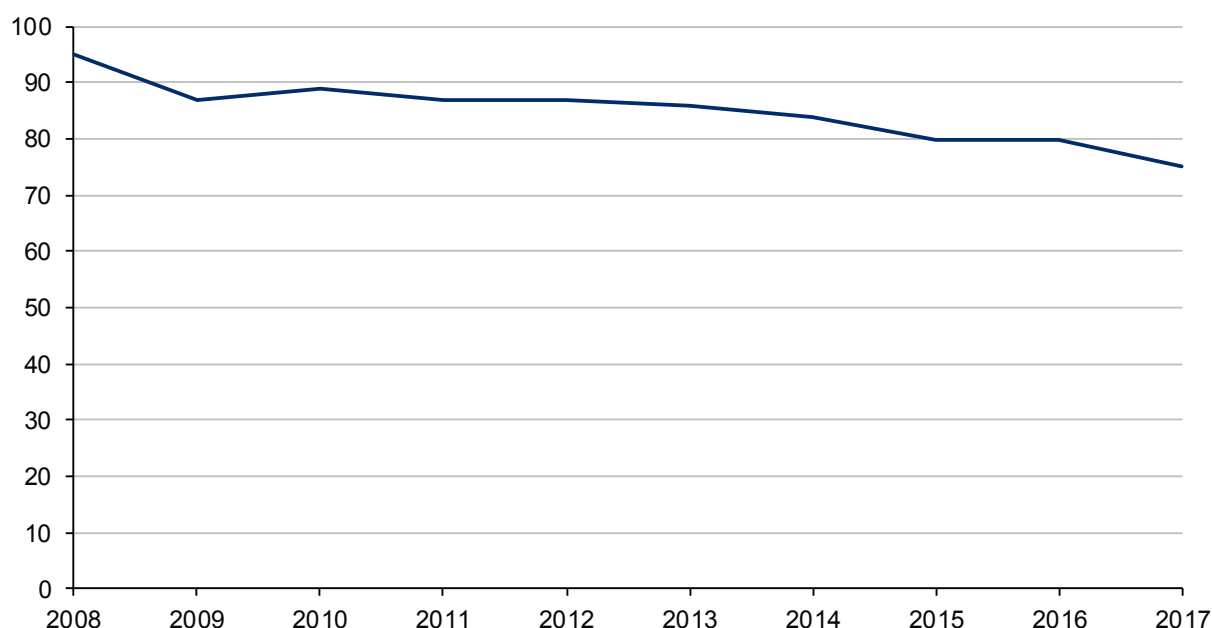
Local Health Board	Nurses				Direct Patient Care (e)	Admin and clerical (f)	Other (g)
	Advanced (a)	Extended (b)	Practice (c)	Total (d)			
Headcount							
Betsi Cadwaladr University	90	63	314	467	287	1,375	77
Powys Teaching	13	17	31	79	111	226	20
Hywel Dda University	31	64	96	191	121	540	51
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	26	46	141	213	94	792	33
Ow m Taf University	13	13	72	85	78	413	27
Aneurin Bevan University	37	23	162	222	226	935	68
Cardiff and Vale University	29	32	118	179	74	740	55
Wales	239	258	934	1,436	990	5,021	331

Source: GMS Census

- (a) Include: Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Practitioner, Prescribing Nurse, Nurse Clinician, Nurse Manager, Practice Development Nurse, Physician Associate, Assistant Practitioner. These nurses have high levels of clinical skill, competence and autonomous decision-making.
- (b) Extended Role Nurses and practice nurses who have received additional training in a specialist area such as Diabetes, Asthma, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Sexual Health. Only include Community Nurses or Midwives, Health Visitors, School Nurses if they are directly employed by the practice.
- (c) Include all other qualified nurses employed by the practice. Do not include Health Care Assistants here (they are in the Direct Patient Care category).
- (d) The total number of Nurses will not necessarily equal the sum of Advanced, Extended and Practice Nurses as some practices only provided the total number of nurses and not the breakdown.
- (e) Anyone who is directly involved in delivering patient care but who is not a nurse or GP. This includes Health Care Assistants (HCAs), Physiotherapists, Pharmacist, Phlebotomist, Chiropodists, Dispensers, Counsellors, Complementary Therapists.
- (f) Anyone who is involved in the administration or organisation of the GP Practice. This includes Practice Managers, Receptionists, Secretaries, IT/Computing Specialists, Link worker, Interpreter, General Office Staff etc.
- (g) Any paid/employed member of practice staff who is not included in any other staff group. For example Gardeners, Cleaners etc.

## Dispensing partnerships

As well as prescribing some Practitioners are also authorised to dispense prescriptions under the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 1992; a Local Health Board may authorise a GP to dispense to patients living in a 'controlled locality' like a rural area who would have difficulty reaching a chemist or pharmacy. Dispensing doctors are never found in areas defined as being non-rural (i.e. 'urban') where the proximity of pharmacies is guaranteed.

**Chart 16: Number of Dispensing Partnerships by year**



**Summary:** Data on dispensing partnerships was first collected in 2008, since this point there has been a general decline in the number of partnerships that are able to dispense. However, over this same time period, many partnerships have merged or have generally become larger.

**Latest Data:** At 30 September 2017, there were 75 dispensing partnerships in Wales.

**Annual Change:** There five fewer dispensing partnerships than in 2016.

**Change since first year of data:** Since 2008, there are 25 fewer dispensing partnerships, a decrease of 21 per cent.

## **Workforce flows**

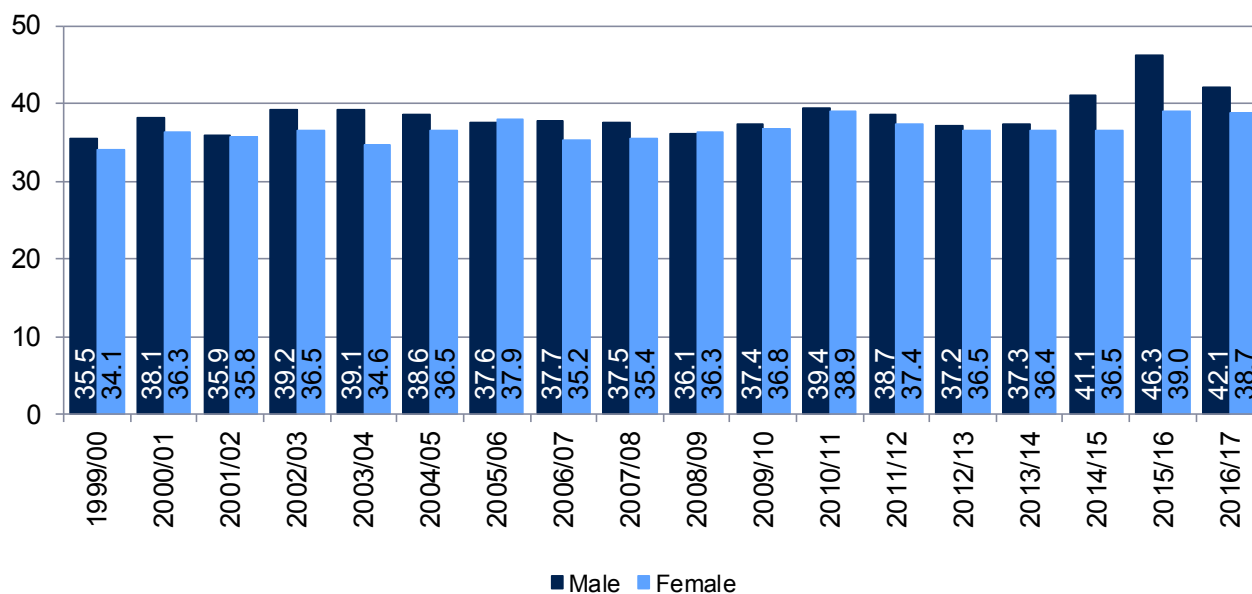
Workforce flows are estimated by comparing successive General Medical Services (GMS) censuses. A joiner is a GP reported as working in Wales in the census in one year but not the previous year. A leaver is a GP reported as working in Wales in the census in one year but not the next year. A leaver does not necessarily mean that they are not longer working as a GP, only that they are no longer a GP Practitioner and similarly for a joiner (eg a locum becoming a GP practitioner).

These figures are snapshots from two specific points in time and only represent the national position at these times. They do not cover movement in and out of the GMS between these two points, nor do they relate to the local level turnover of staff between LHBs.

As the workforce flow figures are derived from the GMS Census, GP locums are not included in the workforce flows. Further analysis comparing the list of 'leaving' GPs with the Medical Performers List (which includes GP locums) indicates that just over half of GPs who were in the 2015/16 GMS Census but were not present in the 2016/17 GMS Census, were present on the Medical Performers list in 2018 as GP locums.

## GP joiners in Wales

Chart 17: Average age of joiners to GP workforce by gender



Source: GMS Census

As in previous years there are more female joiners than male joiners (refer to [Table A4](#)).

**Summary:** The average age of joiners to the GP workforce, for both males and females, has fluctuated over the years. 2015/16 saw both the oldest average age for male and female joiners to the GP workforce (46.3 and 39.0 respectively).

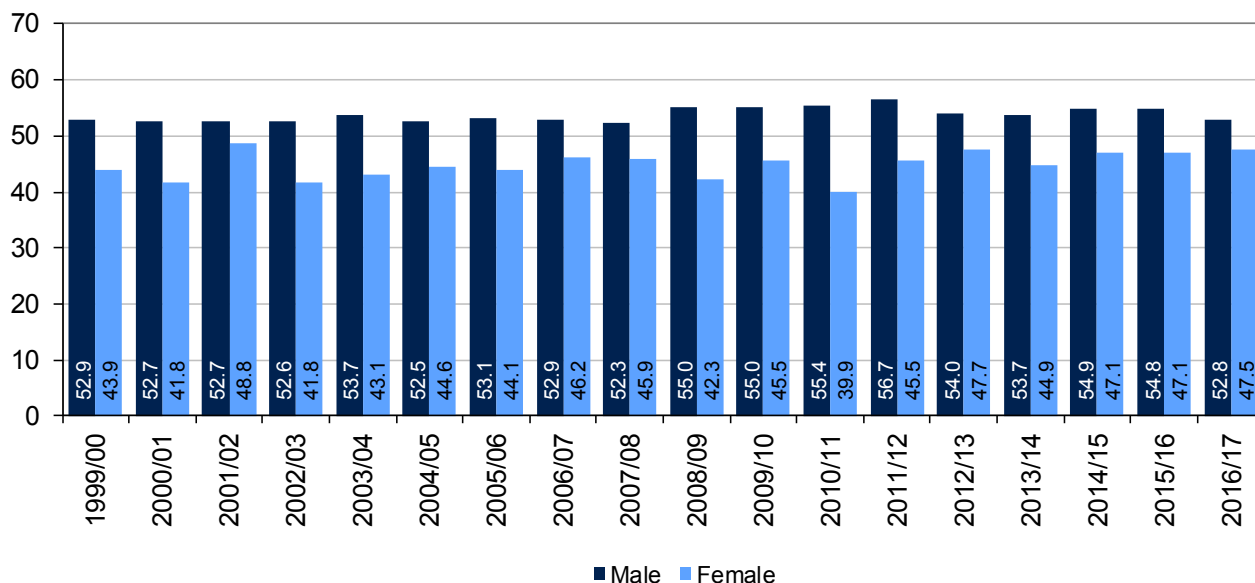
**Latest Data:** In 2016/17 the average age of GPs joining was higher for males (42.1 years) than for females (38.7 years).

**Annual Change:** Between 2016 and 2017, 129 Practitioners (6.7 per cent of the 2017 workforce) joined the profession in Wales; 89 of joiners were female and 40 were male.

**Change since first year of data:** Since 1999/00 the average age of male and female joiners has increased by 6.6 and 4.7 years respectively.

## GP Leavers in Wales

**Chart 18: Average age of leavers from GP workforce by gender**



Source: GMS Census

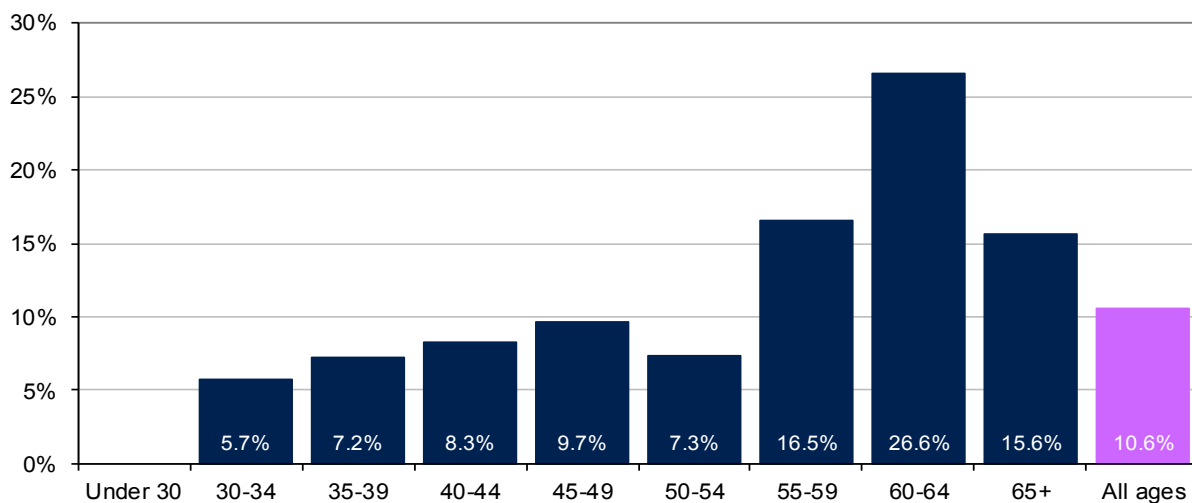
**Summary:** Historically, there have always been more male leavers than female. Between 2016 and 2017, 212 Practitioners (10.6 per cent of the 2016 workforce) left the profession: 112 of leavers were male and 100 were female.

**Latest Data:** In 2016/17 the average age of male leavers from GP workforce was 52.8 and the average age of female leavers was 47.5.

**Annual Change:** The average age of GPs leaving was lower for males from 54.8 to 52.8 years, compared to 12 months previously, but the average age of female GPs leaving is now up from 47.1 to 47.5 years.

**Change since first year of data:** Since 1999/00 the average age of male leavers has decreased slightly from 52.9 to 52.8 and the average age of female leavers has increased from 43.9 to 47.5.

**Chart 19: Percentage leaving General Practice at 30 September 2017, by age group**



Source: GMS Census

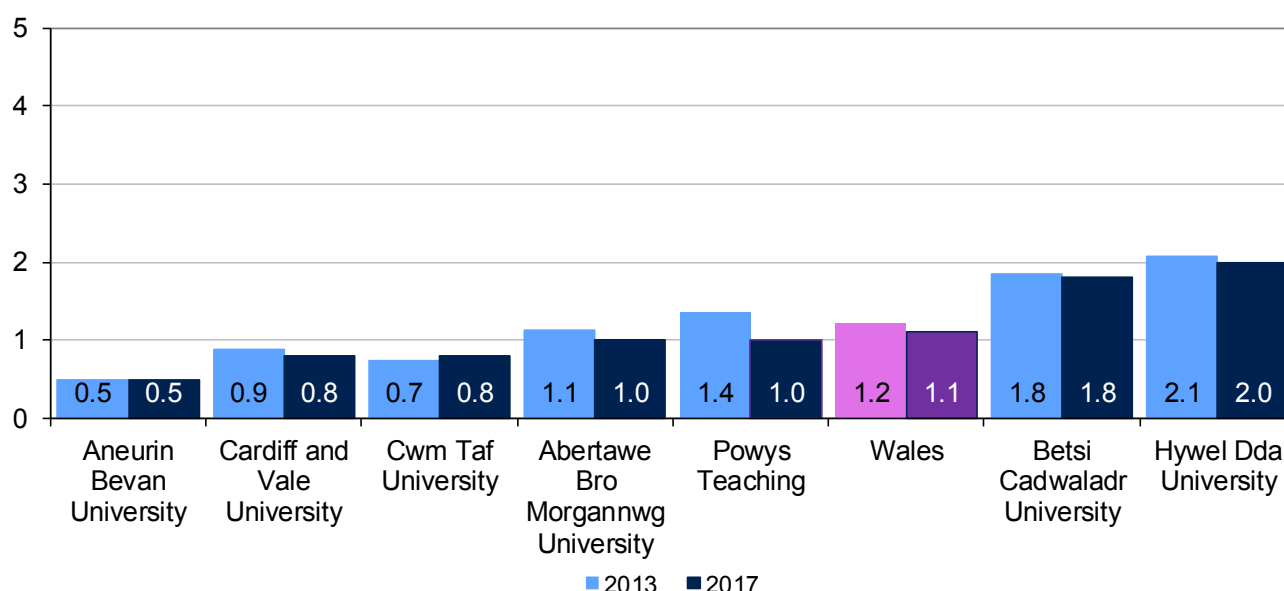
**Summary:** The 60-64 age group accounted for the largest proportion of leavers, with 22.6 per cent. This was followed by the 55-59 age group with 16.5 per cent. The 30-34 age group had the smallest proportion of leavers, accounting for 5.7 per cent of the total practitioners leaving the profession.

## Welsh Language

Data on the Welsh language ability of GPs represents the number of GPs on the Medical Performers' List who listed Welsh as a language they were able to speak. This includes all levels of fluency, from basic to fluent.

This data does not represent the number of GPs who currently consult in Welsh. Data does not include all GPs in Wales as, at the time of publishing the response rate of GPs could not be determined, but it is not thought to be less than 95 per cent.

**Chart 20: Number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population, four year comparison**



Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership; ONS

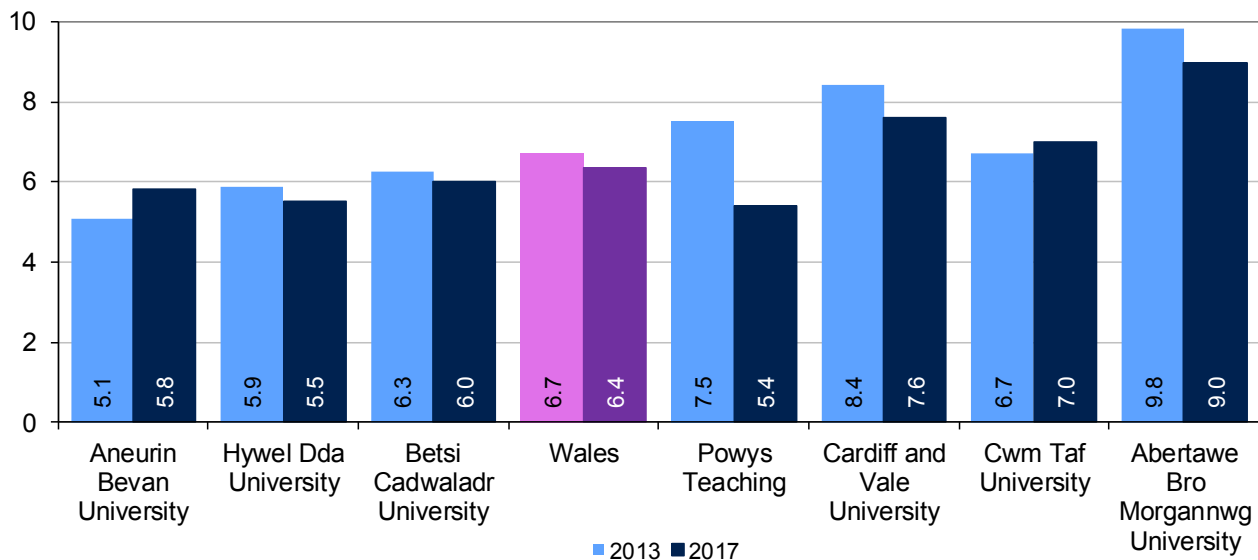
**Summary:** In 2017, 358 practitioners recorded that they could speak Welsh.

Although there are slightly fewer Welsh speaking GPs than in 2016, over the past four years there has been little change in the number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population. In 2017 the Wales average was 1.1 per 10,000 population, a 0.1 percentage point decrease since 2013.

At Local Health Board, Hywel Dda University had the largest number of GPs with an ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population at 2.0, whilst Aneurin Bevan had the smallest with 0.5 GPs per 10,000 population in 2017.

Further information on Welsh language ability for Local Health Boards can be found in [Table A5](#).

**Chart 21: Number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population, four year comparison**



Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership; ONS

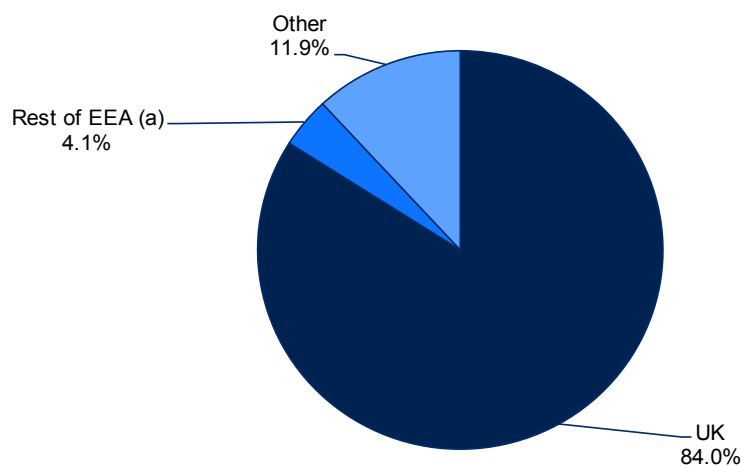
**Summary:** In 2017, there were 6.4 GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population, down 0.3 percentage points since 2013.

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University had the highest number of GPs able to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population at 9.0 whilst Aneurin Bevan had the lowest with 5.8.

Over the four year period, Powys Teaching health board has seen the largest percentage point decrease from 7.5 in 2014, to 5.4 in 2017.

## Qualifications

**Chart 22: Country of qualification – Main groups at 30 September 2017**



Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

(a) The European Economic Area (EEA) (excluding the UK) includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Irish Republic, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

**Summary:** 84.0 per cent (1,618) of GPs included in the GMS Census have a primary medical qualification from the UK, 4.1 per cent (79) from the European Economic Area (EEA) (excluding the UK) and 11.9 per cent (229) have a qualification from elsewhere.

**Table 3: General Practitioners by country of primary medical qualification group, 2017**

Local Health Board	All Practitioners (excluding Retainers, Registrars and locums)			
	UK	Rest of EEA (a)	Other	
Betsi Cadwaladr University	407	325	29	53
Powys Teaching	102	90	5	7
Hywel Dda University	224	178	14	32
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	335	301	5	29
Cwm Taf University	172	137	10	25
Aneurin Bevan University	376	305	11	60
Cardiff and Vale University	310	282	5	23
<b>Wales</b>	<b>1,926</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>229</b>

Source: GMS Census

(a) The European Economic Area (EEA) (excluding the UK) includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Irish Republic, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

## Notes

All data relates to numbers as at 30 September except for 2009 which is at 1 October.

### **General medical practitioner definitions:**

A **General Medical Practitioner** is a medical practitioner who treats all illnesses and provides preventative care and health education for patients of all ages.

A **General Practice** is an organisation which offers Primary Care medical services by a qualified General Medical Practitioner who is able to prescribe medicine where patients can be registered and held on a list. For the purpose of this release the term General Practice excludes Prisons, Army Bases, Education Establishments, Specialist Care Centres and Walk in Centres.

A **GP practitioner** includes GP providers and Other GPs only (excludes GP Registrars and GP Retainers).

A **GP Provider** is a practitioner who has entered into a contract with a LHB to provide services to patients.

**Salaried/other GPs** work within partnerships and were formerly known as GMS Others. These practitioners are generally remunerated by salary. This also includes GP returners. Returner is an old name for those GPs on what is now the [induction and refresher training](#).

A **GP registrar** is a practitioner employed for the purpose of training in general practice and in respect of whom a training grant is paid. A GP Registrar in this release is either in their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year so the GP registrars are not all in the same cohort.

A **GP Retainer** is a practitioner who provides service sessions in general practice. They undertake the sessions as an assistant employed by the practice and are allowed to work a maximum of 4 sessions each week.

A **GP Locum** is a GP who deputises temporarily at a GP Practice, usually to cover for an absent GP Practitioner. Such cover should last for no more than 6 months.

**Registered patients per practitioner** - the number of registered patients divided by the number of 'all practitioners'.

Where tables refer to numbers, the figures represent a headcount of GPs. Some GPs may work in several partnerships/practices. Where this occurs the GP is only counted for the partnership/practice where the GP has the most senior position and/or spends most of their time as this will be their main place of work.

A **Partnership** is a financial arrangement between two or more bodies of which one must be a practitioner.

The **primary medical qualification** used to identify the country of qualification is based on information held on each individual doctor on the GMC register. The countries are grouped into UK, European Economic Area (EEA) and Elsewhere. Historical figures are based on the current EEA membership for comparability.

**General Medical Services (GMS)** is the contract which most GPs are employed.

## Joiners and Leavers

A leaver is a GP who was working (as a GP practitioner) at a Welsh practice in one census but was not a GP practitioner at a Welsh practice the following year.

A joiner is a GP who was working (as a GP practitioner) at a Welsh practice in one Census but was not a GP practitioner at a Welsh practice the previous year. i.e. If a GP was working as a registrar at the 2012 census and then took up a position as a GP practitioner they will be counted as a joiner.

## General practice staff definitions

**Advanced Level Nurses:** Include advanced nurse practitioner, nurse practitioner, prescribing nurse, nurse clinician, nurse manager, practice development nurse, physician associate, assistant practitioner. These nurses have high levels of clinical skill, competence and autonomous decision-making.

**Extended Role Nurses:** Extended role nurses and practice nurses who have received additional training in a specialist area such as Diabetes, Asthma, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Sexual Health. Only include Community Nurses or Midwives, Health Visitors, School Nurses if they are directly employed by the Practice.

**Practice Nurses:** Include all other qualified nurses employed by the practice. Do not include Health Care Assistants here (they are in the Direct Patient Care category.)

**Direct Patient Care:** Anyone who is directly involved in delivering patient care but who is not a nurse or GP. This includes Health Care Assistants (HCAs), Physiotherapists, Pharmacist, Phlebotomist, Chiropodists, Dispensers, Counsellors, Complementary Therapists etc.

**Administrative/Clerical:** Anyone who is involved in the administration or organisation of the GP Practice. This includes Practice Managers, Receptionists, Secretaries, IT/Computing Specialists, Link worker, Interpreter, General Office Staff etc.

**Other:** Include any paid/employed member of practice staff who is not included in any other staff group. For example gardeners, cleaners etc.



## Key quality information

### Data sources

#### General medical practitioners:

NHS Digital produces GMS Census data for Wales using the Exeter database. This database is a computerised payment system of General Medical Practitioners (GMPs) who are in contract with Local Health Boards. Selected information is supplied by NHS Digital via secure electronic data transfer. This represents the majority of data used in this release.

NHS Wales Shared Service Partnership maintains the Medical Performers List which contains data on GP Locums, practice staff, country of GP qualifications, and Welsh language. Although it does not include GP locums, the GMS Census data is the preferred source for counting GPs because it should be a more accurate count of GPs working in Wales at a point in time.

Additional sources used are:

- Information Services Division Scotland, Business Services Organisation (Northern Ireland) and NHS Digital (England): The other UK countries provide data for the number of GPs (headcounts), the percentage of GPs aged 55 or over, the percentage of GPs who are female and GPs per 10,000 population.
- [Mid Year Estimates of the Population](#): Office for National Statistics' Mid year estimates for 2016 are used to calculate the number of GPs per 10,000 population and the number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population. Mid year estimates of population can be found on [StatsWales](#).
- 2011 Census: Welsh speaking population used to calculate the statistic "number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population" is derived from the 2011 Census of Population. In previous editions data from the 2001 Census was used.
- Welsh speaking GPs: This data is derived from NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Contractor Services and used to calculate the number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 population and the number of GPs who have any ability to speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh-speaking population. The counts are derived from the Medical Performers' List which lists all GPs able to practice in Wales.

#### General practice staff

- NHS Digital compiles data from the ANC4 forms returned to the NHS Digital by the seven Welsh Local Health Boards (LHBs). Information is collected from General Practices as at the 30 September 2017.

## **Coverage**

A full census of GPs was carried out as at 30 September 2017. Only practitioners whose 'Responsible Local Health Board' is within Wales have been included. The 'Responsible Local Health Board' is, in general, the Local Health Board area in which the majority of patients of the practice to which the practitioner belongs reside.

Information collected included details of each practitioner's name, age, sex, partnership details, country of primary medical qualification and whether certain allowances are payable (e.g. seniority). Also collected are details of partnership structure, patients, registrars, retainers and services offered by partnerships. Locum doctors are excluded.

This release covers the period 2006 to 2017. All data relates to headcount numbers as at 30 September except for 2009 which is at 1 October.

There were 33 GP practitioners working in more than one practice at the 30 September 2017.

Data on the Welsh language ability of GPs represents the number of GPs on the Medical Performers' List who listed Welsh as a language they were able to speak. This includes all levels of fluency, from basic to fluent. This data does not represent the number of GPs who currently consult in Welsh. Data does not include all GPs in Wales as, at the time of publishing the response rate of GPs could not be determined, but it is not thought to be less than 95 per cent.

Prior to 2010 General Practice staff information was collected at an aggregated Local Health Board level with the completeness of such returns at practice level being unknown. In 2010 the method of collecting the information changed to individual practice level submission. Data prior to 2010 may not be directly comparable. In 2012, improvements were made to the data collection form and Data Quality process. 99 per cent of practices provided a return in 2013 and 2014. 97 per cent in 2015, 98 per cent in 2016 and 99.3 per cent in 2017. Figures for the remaining practices were estimated to give a full census figure.

## **Accuracy**

Some quality assurance is performed by NHS Digital to improve the accuracy of GP data. For example every General Medical Council (GMC) number present on the Exeter database is cross referenced with an 'Employee File' which contains every valid GMC number which has been issued. In 2016/17 this resulted in around 2-3% of GPs initially recorded on the Exeter system as working in Wales being removed from the total GP count. NHS Digital do not refer back to Local Health Boards to enquire why invalid GMC number have been submitted on the Exeter System.

Welsh Government statisticians perform further quality assurance on the version of the data they receive, for example cross referencing GMS Census data with the Medical Performers List. Where it is identified that a single GP has more than one contract, double counting is prevented as they are only counted once in GP totals.

The figures published in this release are considered the best available, but should be treated with some caution due to the limitations of the source data.

## **Timeliness and punctuality**

This release has met the previously announced date of publication.

## **Comparability and coherence**

In previous editions of this release, GP Whole Time Equivalent figures (WTE) were included. These have been omitted from the past 4 years following concerns expressed by users about data quality. WTE figures will be published once the issue has been fully investigated and resolved. Headcount figures are unaffected.

## **Revisions**

Routine revisions of previous year's rates to use the correct mid year estimate (MYE) year will be made each year. i.e. Last years rates have been updated to use the MYE for 2016. All statistics in this release can be regarded as final figures, not subject to further revision or update.

## **Accessing and clarity**

The data behind the chart and tables in this release can be found on [StatsWales](#) (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables).

## **Relevance**

### **What are the potential uses of these statistics?**

These statistics will be used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;
- to inform debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond;
- to make publically available data on GP services in Wales.

### **Who are the key potential users of this data?**

These statistics will be useful both within and outside the Welsh Government. Some of the key potential users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Local Health Boards;
- Local Authorities;
- Primary care clusters;
- GP Practices;
- The Department for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government;
- Other areas of the Welsh Government;
- National Health Service (eg Workforce, Education & Development Services (WEDS)) AND Public Health Wales
- The research community;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics may also be useful for other UK governments

- The Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- The Scottish Government
- The Department of Health in England.

## **UK comparisons**

The other UK countries also publish counts of GPs. Users should be aware of differences in definitions, methodologies and data collections.

### **England, NHS Digital:**

[General Practice Data Hub](#)

[GP Primary Care & Workforce Data Report](#)

### **Scotland**

ISD Scotland:

[GPs and Other Practice Workforce](#)

[General Practice Data Tables](#)

### **Northern Ireland**

[General Medical Statistics](#)

[GPs, Practices and Registered Patients \(administrative geographies\)](#)

[GP Registrations](#)

## **Related links**

Official statistics for the number of serving UK Armed Forces personnel and civilian personnel with a Defence Medical Services (DMS) registration can be accessed on the [Ministry of Defence Website](#).

## Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

### Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/general-medical-practitioners/?lang=en>

### Next update

March 2019 (provisional)

### We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.healthinfo@gov.wales](mailto:stats.healthinfo@gov.wales).

### Open Government Licence

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## Annexes

**Table A1: Local health boards at 30 September 2017**

Local Health Board	All practitioners (excluding locums, GP Registrars and GP Retainers) - numbers									GP				
	GP Providers			Salaried/ Other GPs			Total			Registrars: Number	GP Retainers: Number	GP Locums Number	Registered patients (a)	Average list size (b)
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total					
Betsi Cadwaladr University	181	157	338	14	55	69	195	212	407	32	2	171	705,358	1,733
Powys Teaching	44	39	83	4	15	19	48	54	102	.	.	44	139,264	1,365
Hywel Dda University	105	78	183	11	30	41	116	108	224	26	2	105	382,376	1,707
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	144	140	284	11	40	51	155	180	335	82	5	136	557,627	1,665
Cwm Taf University	69	47	116	11	45	56	80	92	172	30	.	57	305,664	1,777
Aneurin Bevan University	133	147	280	25	71	96	158	218	376	32	.	117	603,330	1,605
Cardiff and Vale University	118	124	242	14	54	68	132	178	310	37	8	124	511,928	1,651
<b>Wales</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>1,926</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>3,205,547</b>	<b>1,664</b>

Source: GMS Census & Medical Performers List

(a) Patients registered with relevant GPs irrespective of where the patient lives.

(b) Number of registered patients divided by the number of 'all practitioners'

**Table A2: Geography of general medical services 2017 (a)**

Local Health Board	GPs per 10,000 population (b)	Percentage of GP workforce who are	Percentage of GP workforce aged 55 and	Number of partnerships (c)	Partnerships with one partner	Percentage of partnerships with one partner
		female	over			
Betsi Cadwaladr University	5.8	52.1	24.1	107	19	17.8
Powys Teaching	7.7	52.9	25.5	17	1	5.9
Hywel Dda University	5.8	48.2	29.0	50	4	8.0
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	6.3	53.7	18.2	71	5	7.0
Cwm Taf University	5.8	53.5	20.9	42	9	21.4
Aneurin Bevan university	6.4	58.0	21.5	79	10	12.7
Cardiff and Vale University	6.3	57.4	22.3	66	0	0.0
<b>Wales</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>11.1</b>

Source: GMS Census

- (a) Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) figures have been omitted this year following concerns expressed by users about data quality. WTE figures will be published once the issue has been fully investigated and resolved. Headcount figures are unaffected.
- (b) Patients registered with relevant GPs irrespective of where the patient lives. ONS mid year population estimate for 2016.
- (c) Includes LHB employed Partnerships.

**Table A3: Trends in the GP practitioner workforce (a)(b)**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
GP headcount												
Male	1,202	1,204	1,179	1,162	1,162	1,149	1,113	1,082	1,031	991	956	884
Female	680	732	761	778	827	860	884	944	975	1,006	1,053	1,042
Persons (c)	1,882	1,936	1,940	1,940	1,991	2,009	1,997	2,026	2,006	1,997	2,009	1,926
GPs by age (headcount)												
Male												
Under 30	8	9	6	6	10	9	9	9	6	3	3	1
30-44	380	371	342	311	325	320	316	314	311	302	318	304
45-54	497	505	492	488	467	467	445	417	377	334	318	276
55-64	286	284	299	307	308	295	288	283	276	280	268	255
65 and over	31	35	40	50	52	57	55	59	58	53	49	48
Total (d)	1,202	1,204	1,179	1,162	1,162	1,149	1,113	1,082	1,031	991	956	884
Female												
Under 30	24	21	18	4	6	8	12	15	16	13	27	16
30-44	378	415	418	422	462	455	457	508	519	526	561	574
45-54	222	235	246	259	271	281	285	294	309	315	337	319
55-64	52	56	73	88	81	106	120	117	116	116	113	119
65 and over	4	5	6	5	7	10	9	10	12	11	15	14
Total (e)	680	732	761	778	827	860	884	944	975	1,006	1,053	1,042
GP Registrars												
Male	58	70	77	63	80	64	67	62	55	67	69	74
Female	94	95	121	98	135	138	156	171	165	164	163	165
Persons	152	165	198	161	215	202	223	233	220	231	232	239
GP Retainers												
Male	4	6	5	4	4	3	3	1	1	1	.	.
Female	57	67	65	51	43	44	34	25	22	24	19	17
Persons	61	73	70	55	47	47	37	26	23	25	19	17
GP Locums (f)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	609	634	684	754
Registered patients per practitioner	1,643	1,598	1,605	1,616	1,584	1,575	1,589	1,569	1,582	1,596	1,592	1,664
Number of partnerships	496	495	499	488	487	483	474	470	462	454	441	432
Registered patients per partnership	6,236	6,250	6,242	6,424	6,474	6,549	6,694	6,762	6,868	7,021	7,251	7,420

Source: GMS Census; General Medical Performer list

(a) At 30 September except for 2009 which is at 1 October.

(b) Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) figures have been omitted this year following concerns expressed by users about data quality. WTE figures will be published once the issue has been fully investigated and resolved. Headcount figures are unaffected.

(c) Include 2 GPs whose gender was unknown in 2010.

(d) Include GPs whose age was unknown; one in 2011, three in 2014 and 19 in 2015

(e) Include GPs whose age was unknown; one in 2012, three in 2014 and 25 in 2015.

(f) The data is sourced from the medical performers list, which is provided by the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership. The data for 2014 is correct as at February 2015. GP Locum data is separate from the GP Practitioners data presented in the release. In 2014 due to the time period when the data was obtained, there may be a small number of GPs who have been double counted as being a GP Practitioner and a GP Locum. Data after 2014 is at 30 September.

**Table A4: Workforce flows (a)(b)**

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Joiners											
Male	59	40	39	60	59	46	54	45	56	59	40
Female	82	64	54	91	83	95	121	92	112	116	89
Persons	141	104	93	151	142	141	175	137	168	175	129
Joiners to GP as a percentage of all GPs	7.3	5.4	4.8	7.6	7.1	7.1	8.6	6.8	8.4	8.7	6.7
Average age of joiners (c)											
Male	37.7	37.5	36.1	37.4	39.4	38.7	37.2	37.3	41.1	46.3	42.1
Female	35.2	35.4	36.3	36.8	38.9	37.4	36.5	36.4	36.5	39.0	38.7
Persons	36.3	36.2	36.2	37.0	39.1	37.8	36.7	36.7	37.9	41.7	39.6
Leavers											
Male	58	64	56	57	78	82	86	96	96	95	112
Female	32	31	38	41	51	71	60	61	81	68	100
Persons	90	95	94	98	129	153	146	157	177	163	212
Leavers from GP as a percentage of all GPs	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.1	6.5	7.6	7.3	7.7	8.8	8.2	10.6
Average age of leavers (c)											
Male	52.9	52.3	52.5	55.0	55.4	56.7	54.0	53.7	54.9	54.8	52.8
Female	46.2	45.9	41.1	45.5	39.9	45.5	47.7	44.9	47.1	47.1	47.5
Persons	50.5	50.2	47.9	51.0	49.2	51.4	51.4	50.3	51.3	51.6	50.3

Source: GMS Census

- (a) Workforce flows are estimated by comparing successive GMS censuses for all GP types. Therefore this table will not align with the headcount of practitioners. Joiners are those Practitioners reported in the census one year, but not reported as a Practitioner in the previous year. These figures are therefore snapshots from two specific points in time and only represent the national position at these times.
- (b) The years in this table denote a full year between each census. The census dates are 30 September except for 2009 which is at 1 October.
- (c) Average age of those whose age is 'known'.



**Table A5: Welsh language ability amongst GPs in Wales 2017 (a)**

Local Health Board and Local Authority Area	GPs w ho speak Welsh (b)	Population of LHB (c)	GPs w ho speak Welsh per 10,000 population	Welsh-speaking population of LHB (d)	GPs w ho speak Welsh per 10,000 Welsh- speaking population
Betsi Cadwaladr University	123	695,822	1.8	204,406	6.0
Isle of Anglesey	23	69,723	3.3	38,568	6.0
Gwynedd	47	123,627	3.8	77,000	6.1
Conwy	18	116,538	1.5	30,600	5.9
Denbighshire	17	94,805	1.8	22,236	7.6
Flintshire	8	154,419	0.5	19,343	4.1
Wrexham	10	136,710	0.7	16,659	6.0
Powys Teaching	13	132,160	1.0	23,990	5.4
Hywel Dda	75	383,710	2.0	135,798	5.5
Ceredigion	23	74,146	3.1	34,964	6.6
Pembrokeshire	12	123,954	1.0	22,786	5.3
Carmarthenshire	40	185,610	2.2	78,048	5.1
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University	54	529,278	1.0	60,133	9.0
Swansea	35	244,513	1.4	26,332	13.3
Neath Port Talbot	13	141,588	0.9	20,698	6.3
Bridgend	6	143,177	0.4	13,103	4.6
Owain Taf (e)	23	298,116	0.8	32,807	7.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	22	238,306	0.9	27,779	7.9
Merthyr Tydfil	1	59,810	0.2	5,028	2.0
Aneurin Bevan (e)	32	584,133	0.5	54,958	5.8
Caerphilly	14	180,462	0.8	19,251	7.3
Blaenau Gwent	2	69,628	0.3	5,284	3.8
Torfaen	6	92,052	0.7	8,641	6.9
Monmouthshire	3	92,843	0.3	8,780	3.4
Newport	7	149,148	0.5	13,002	5.4
Cardiff and Vale University	38	489,931	0.8	49,924	7.6
The Vale of Glamorgan	6	128,463	0.5	13,189	4.5
Cardiff	32	361,468	0.9	36,735	8.7
<b>Wales</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>3,113,150</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>562,016</b>	<b>6.4</b>

Source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership

- (a) The GPs noted here are from the Medical Performers List. This is a list of all GPs able to practice in Wales, and includes principals, locums, salaried doctors, registrars and retainers.
- (b) Number of Welsh Speaking GPs on the All Wales Medical Performers List as at 30 September 2016.
- (c) Office for National Statistics, mid year population estimates, 2015.
- (d) 2011 Census.
- (e) Due to low numbers in some local authorities only Local Health Boards are shown.

## Appendix 2 - StatsWales tables

[General practitioners workforce headcounts and Whole Time Equivalents by local health board, gender and year](#)

[General practitioners, registrars, retainers and average list size by local health board and year](#)

[General practitioners workforce trend by age and gender](#)

[General practitioners workforce flows by gender and year](#)

[Local health board comparisons of GP workforce by year](#)

[UK comparisons of general practitioners workforce by year](#)

[General practitioners Welsh language ability by local health board and year](#)

### **GP workforce data for other UK countries can be found at the following links:**

England:

[General and Personal Medical Services, England 2005 - 2015, as at 30 September, experimental statistics](#)

Scotland:

[GPs and Other Practice Workforce](#)

Northern Ireland:

[General Medical Statistics](#)