

Open Data in Practice at Public Health Scotland

Tricia Govindasamy

Dundee Data Meetup x The Data Lab Community

28 April 2026

My Open Data Journey

- Undergraduate: BSc Geological Sciences
- 2015: Open Data Durban (now Open Cities Lab)
 - Role: Open Government Fellow
 - First project: South Africa's Government Open Data Portal
- 2017 – 2023: Code for Africa



Global Open Data Index (GODI) 2016

by Tricia Govindasamy
February 23, 2017

Measuring the openness of government data in southern Africa: the experience of a GODI contributor

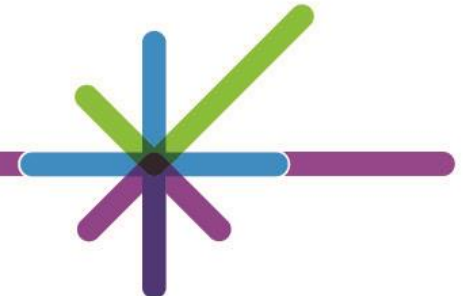
4 Min Read

The Global Open Data Index (GODI) is one of our core projects at Open Knowledge International. The index measures and benchmarks the openness of government data around the world. As we complete the review phase of the audit of government data, we are soliciting feedback on the submission process. Tricia Govindasamy shares her experience submitting to #GODI16.

Open Data Durban (ODD), a civic tech lab based in Durban South Africa, received the opportunity from Open Knowledge International (OKI) to contribute to the Global Open Data Index (GODI) 2016 for eight (8) southern African countries. OKI defines GODI as “an annual effort to measure the state of open government data around the world.”

GODI 2016 is here!

- Lead by: Open Knowledge Foundation (OKFN)
- I measured the GODI for 8 Southern African countries
- Link: index.okfn.org



Africa's Largest Volunteer Driven **Open Data** Platform

openAFRICA aims to be the largest independent repository of open data on the African continent



Join the openAFRICA Community

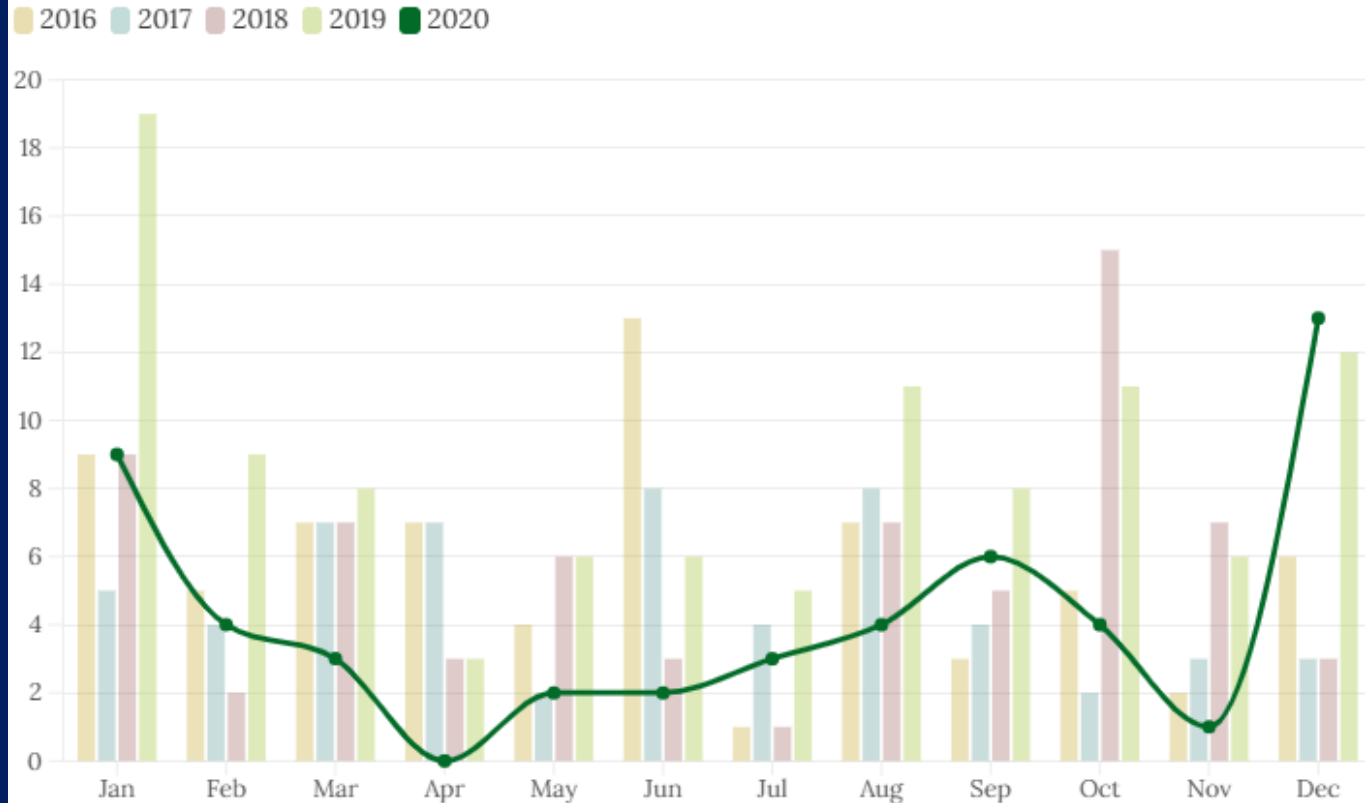
We will not spam or share your email with third parties

Link: open.africa



Monthly wildlife seizures in East Africa

Wildlife seizures in mid 2020 were fewer than usual. However, by December the seizures had increased to levels seen before the pandemic.



Source: [Environmental Investigation Agency of Wildlife Trafficking Seizures in East Africa, 2016-2020](#)



Transforming Storytelling: Making Data Open

🏠 / Organizations / Environmental Investigation Agency / Environmental... / Monthly seizures Consolidated

Monthly seizures Consolidated

Download

URL: <https://open.africa/dataset/5a6ec085-dcc9-4c2e-839f-0d48deadd609/resource/18f45b16-ac93-488b-bf58-2539867a172f/download/wildlife-project-data-consolidated-m...>

This data is consolidated for all east African countries.

Africa's premier repository
for actionable documents

[Search sourceAFRICA](#)[Browse Documents](#)

sourceAFRICA is an investigative tool developed and maintained by Africa's largest association of investigative newsrooms, [ANCIR](#).

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS FROM

47 Organizations

No. of Contributors: 137

[View all Organizations](#)

COLLECTION OF

115,126 Documents

No. of Pages: 1,243,213

[View all Resources](#)

Transforming Storytelling: Making Documents Open

- sourceAFRICA
- Link: sourceafrica.net

DOCUMENT PAGES NOTES TEXT

Zoom

Tourism contribution to GDP in Uganda

NEXT ►

In FY 2018/19, Travel and Tourism in Uganda contributed approximately 7.7 percent of GDP and over USD \$1.6 billion in foreign exchange. The stoppage of airline travels, and imposition of quarantines on inbound travellers across the globe led to the complete fall in the number of tourist arrivals, and distortion of the entire value chain.

Tourist Arrivals were predicted by the Ministry to increase to 1,663,568 visitors in 2020 from

tribution of international arrivals by category of visitors for the last 10 years

Opening Up Public Health Data

Publications

Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data

Case Study

ScotPHO

PHS Publications

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[Home](#) > [Publications](#) > [NHS waiting times - stage of treatment](#) > [Stage of treatment waiting times - Inpatients, day cases and new outpatients](#) 31 March 2026

NHS waiting times - stage of treatment

Inpatients, day cases and new outpatients

Accredited official statistics

Published 31 March 2026 (Latest release)
Type Statistical report
Author Public Health Scotland



Waiting times

[See all releases](#)

About this release

This monthly release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) focuses on the length of time patients wait to be seen as a new outpatient or admitted for treatment as an inpatient or day case. Revised calculations of wait featured in the 2023 [waiting times guidance](#) published by the Scottish Government in December 2023 have been implemented by PHS since July 2025. These latest statistics up to 28 February 2026 cover all patients waiting for an appointment or procedure as well as those seen and removed from a waiting list covered by the national standards. **Individual patients are counted more than once if they are waiting to attend more than one scheduled hospital appointment or admission, so the official statistics**

Blog posts

[How many people are waiting for NHS treatment in Scotland?](#)

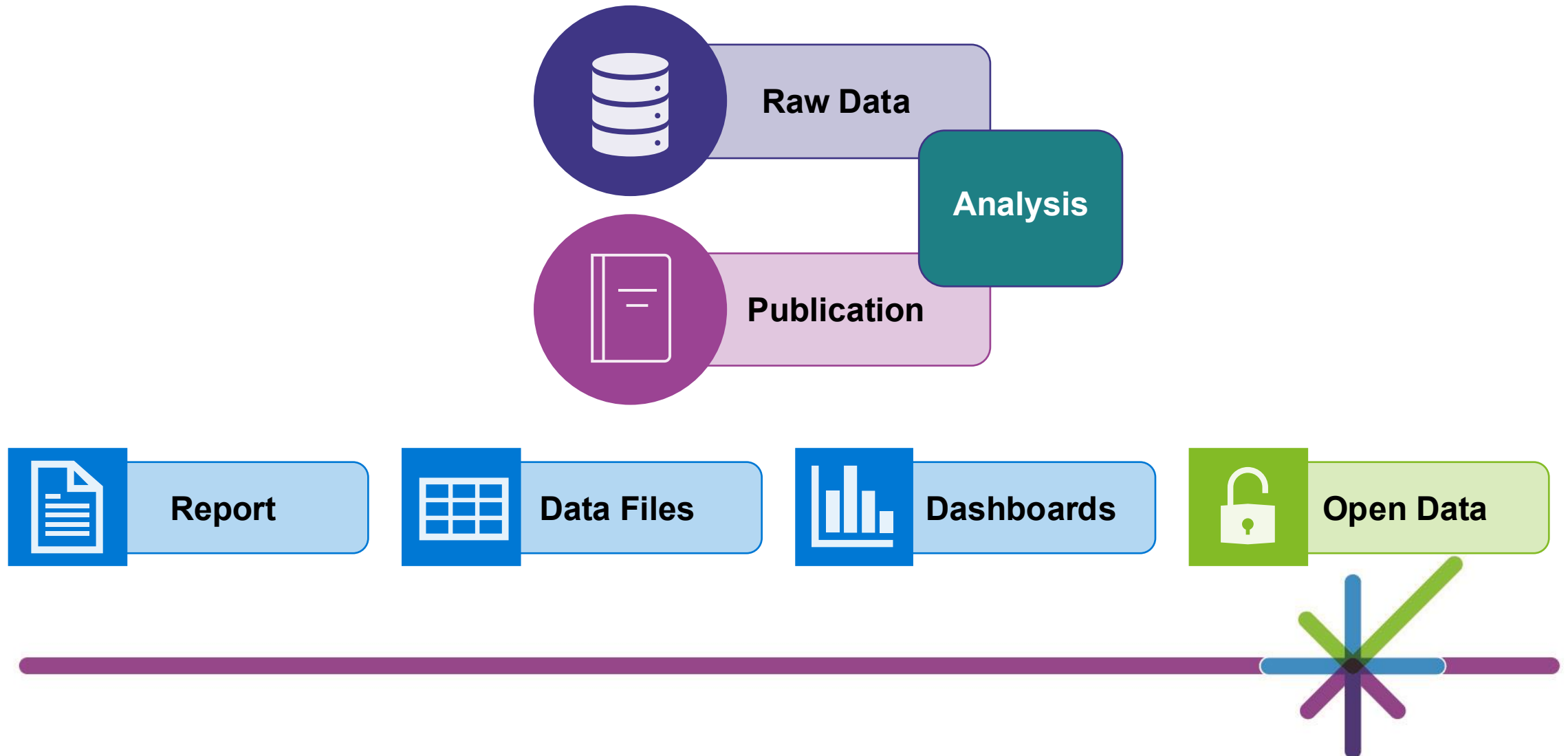
18 November 2025

[Changes to reporting of NHS Scotland waiting times make for more relevant and timely statistics](#)

28 October 2025

- Link: publichealthscotland.scot/publications

Making Data Open



Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data

- Link: opendata.nhs.scot
- Maintained by PHS but any NHS Board can upload data
- Users: 1,200 a month
- Most popular datasets
 1. Prescriptions in the Community
 2. GP Practice Contact Details and List Sizes
 3. Viral Respiratory Diseases (Including Influenza and COVID-19)



Themes

Health and care 92

Health protection 12

Groups

COVID-19 19

Reference Files 15

Hospital Activity 14

Maternity and Births 10

Waiting Times 9

Geography 8

Child Health 7

Acute Hospital Acti... 6

Search datasets...



104 datasets found

Order by:

Relevance



Dental Practices and Patient Registrations

This dataset contains address data and practice sizes for all NHS dental practices in Scotland. All publications and supporting material to this topic area can be found on the...

CSV

Viral Respiratory Diseases (Including Influenza and COVID-19) Data in Scotland

This publication was renamed on 12 October 2023 from Respiratory Infection Statistical Data in Scotland to Viral Respiratory Diseases (Including Influenza and COVID-19) Data in...

CSV

Flu & COVID vaccinations

This data resource shows the latest published vaccination statistics from the Flu and COVID-19 vaccination uptake in Scotland

API: phsopendata R package

 README  License  MIT license



phsopendata

CRAN 1.0.3 release v1.0.1  R-CMD-check  codecov 49%

`phsopendata` contains functions to interact with open data from the [Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data platform](#) via the CKAN API.

- `get_resource()` extracts a single resource from an open dataset by resource id
- `get_latest_resource()` extracts the most recent resource from applicable datasets, by dataset name
- `get_dataset()` extracts multiple resources from an open dataset by dataset name
- `list_datasets()` returns the names of all available datasets
- `list_resources()` returns information on all resources within an open dataset by dataset name

`phsopendata` can be used on both Posit Workbench and desktop versions of RStudio.



Open Dataset: Prescriptions in the Community

- 3 datasets:
 - Prescriber Location
 - Dispenser Location
 - Board
- Success story:
 - Team received many FOI requests
 - Opening the data reduced FOI requests
 - FOI requests are referred to the open data portal



Monthly Prescribing Activity Data: Interactive Dashboard



 Introduction

 Prescribing Trends

 Highest Cost Therapeutic Areas

 Practice Variation by BNF Chapter

A trend of NHS Board activity by Number of Items or GIC (Gross Ingredient Cost) across a chosen period of time, and the percent difference in Items or GIC by month from previous year over a chosen period of time, can be viewed via the line charts below. A datatable is available to view and download for each chart.

Be aware that the dashboard will time out after a period of inactivity.

Number of Items

GIC(£)

%Diff in Items

%Diff in GIC

Select one or all NHS Boards

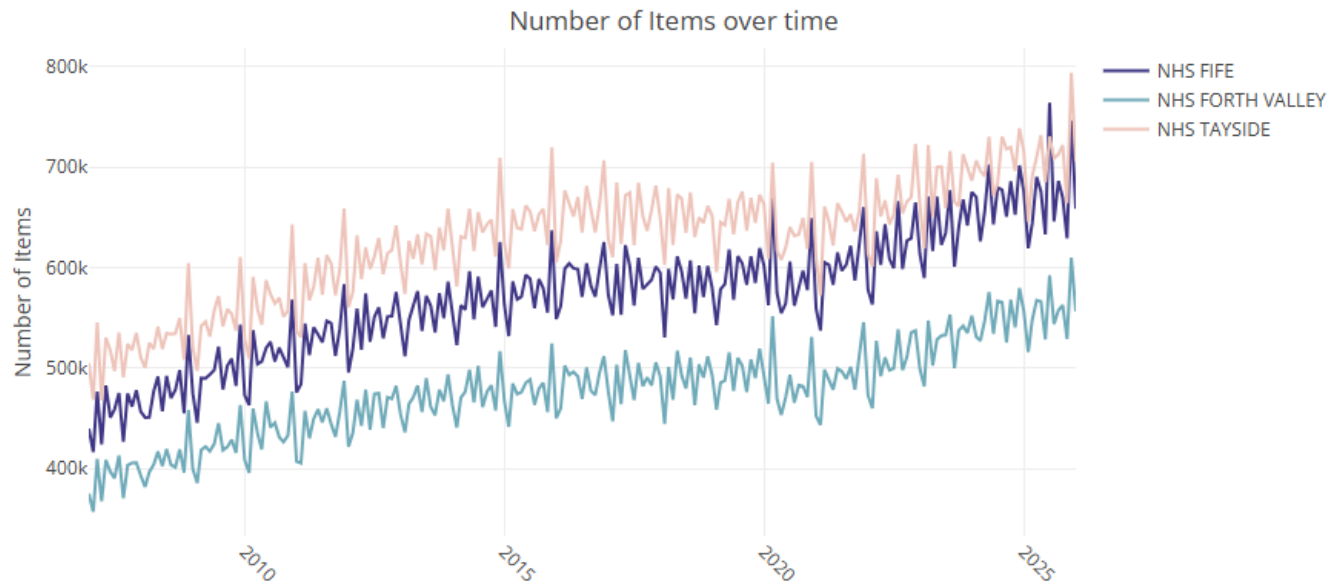
NHS TAYSIDE NHS FIFE
NHS FORTH VALLEY

Select time period (month) start point

Jan 2007

Select time period (month) end point

Jan 2026



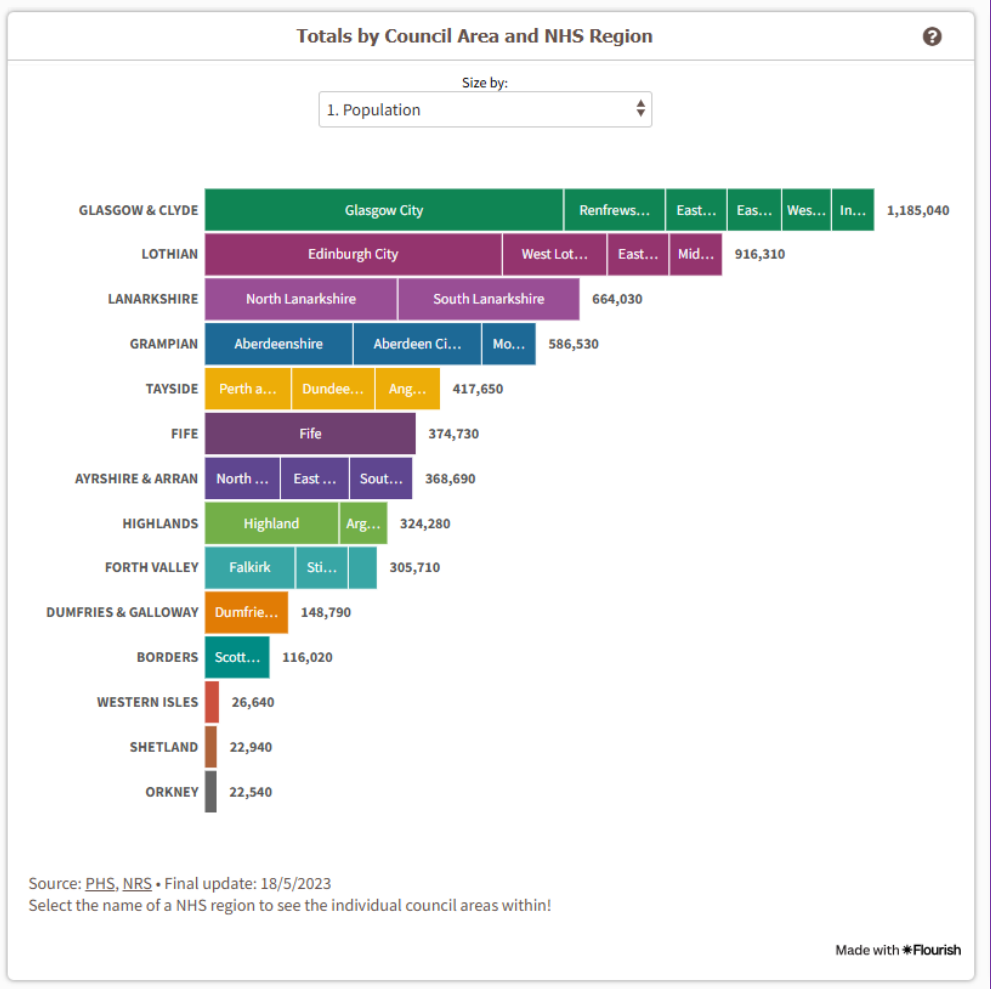
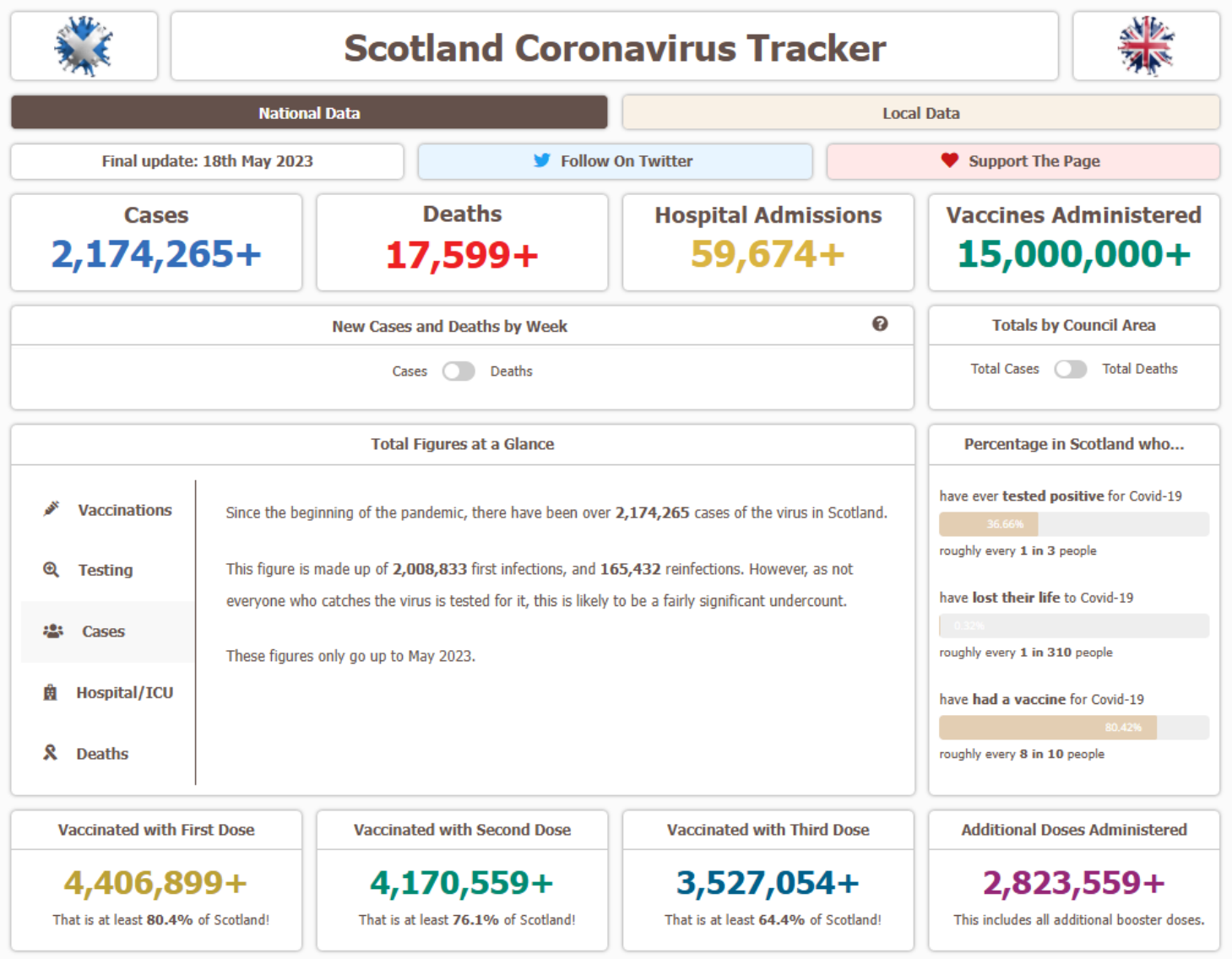
↓ Items Data

Hide Items table

Month and Year	NHS Health Board	Number of Items
All	All	All
Jan 2007	NHS FIFE	439,415
Jan 2007	NHS FORTH VALLEY	374,678
Jan 2007	NHS TAYSIDE	504,702
Feb 2007	NHS FIFE	416,259

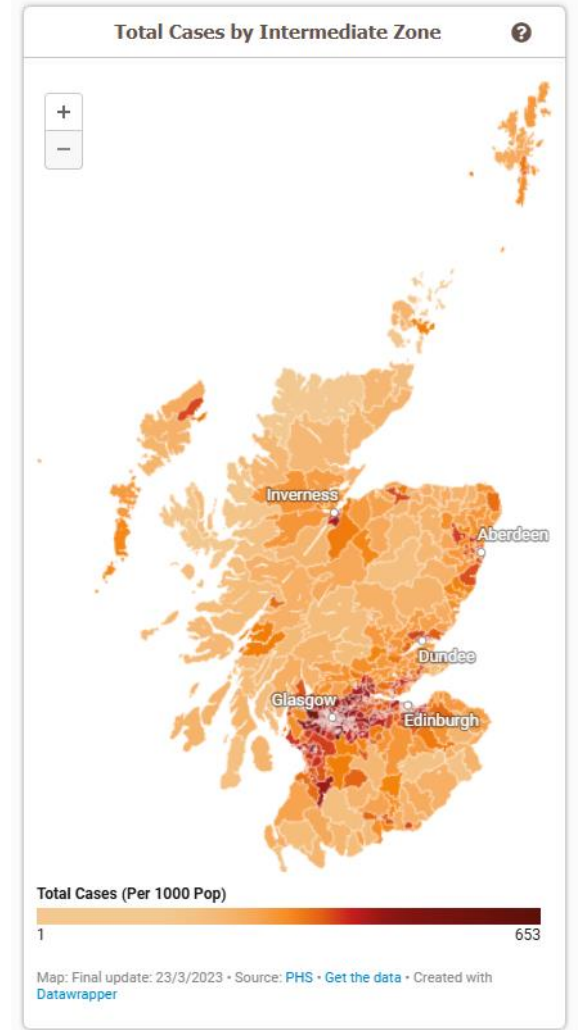
Interactive and Downloadable Data

Case Study: Scotland Coronavirus Tracker (Travelling Tabby)



Case Study: Scotland Coronavirus Tracker

- Link: travellingtabby.com/scotland-coronavirus-tracker
- Created by a University of the Highlands and Islands student
- Year: 2020 – 2023
- Dataset: COVID-19 Statistical Data in Scotland



Welcome to the ScotPHO Profiles

Explore over 250 indicators of public health.

 About us

 About indicators/updates

Health & Wellbeing

View indicators relating to **Behaviours**, **Crime**, **Economy**, **Life expectancy** and **Mortality**, ill health and injury.

Population Health

View indicators through the lens of the **Marmot principles**. Supporting Scotland's **Population Health Framework**, and the **Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland**

Climate

New

View indicators relating to **Climate Health Impact**, **Weather**, **Air Quality**, **Climate Attitude** and **Demography**

Adult Mental Health

View indicators relating to **Mental health outcomes**, and **Individual**, **Community** and **Structural** determinants.

Children & Young People Mental Health

View indicators relating to **Mental health outcomes**, and **Individual**, **Family and friends**, **Learning environment**, **Community** and **Structural** determinants.

Long-term Monitoring of Health Inequalities in Scotland

New

View indicators relating to **long-term monitoring of health inequalities**.

Children & Young People

View indicators relating to **Active**, **Healthy**, **Achieving**, **Safe** and **Nurtured**.

Tobacco

View indicators relating to **Adult prevalence**, **Smoking during and post pregnancy**, **Smoking attributable deaths and diseases** and **Smoking cessation and services**.

Alcohol

View indicators relating to **Community safety**, **Environment**, **Health**, **Prevalence** and **Services**.

Drugs

View indicators relating to **Community safety**, **Environment**, **Health**, **Prevalence** and **Services**.

Population

View **population estimates** for different age groups.

Physical Activity

Under development - not yet available

All Indicators

View **all indicators** in this tool from across every profile.

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)

link:
scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool

Profile: Health & Wellbeing

▼ Change profile

Health board : NHS Tayside

▼ Change area

Summary

Trends

Rank

Deprivation

Population groups

About this profile

Select an indicator

Asthma patient hospitalisations

[Scroll to indicator metadata](#)

Add area(s) to chart

☒ Scotland

Health Boards:

Council areas:

Dundee City

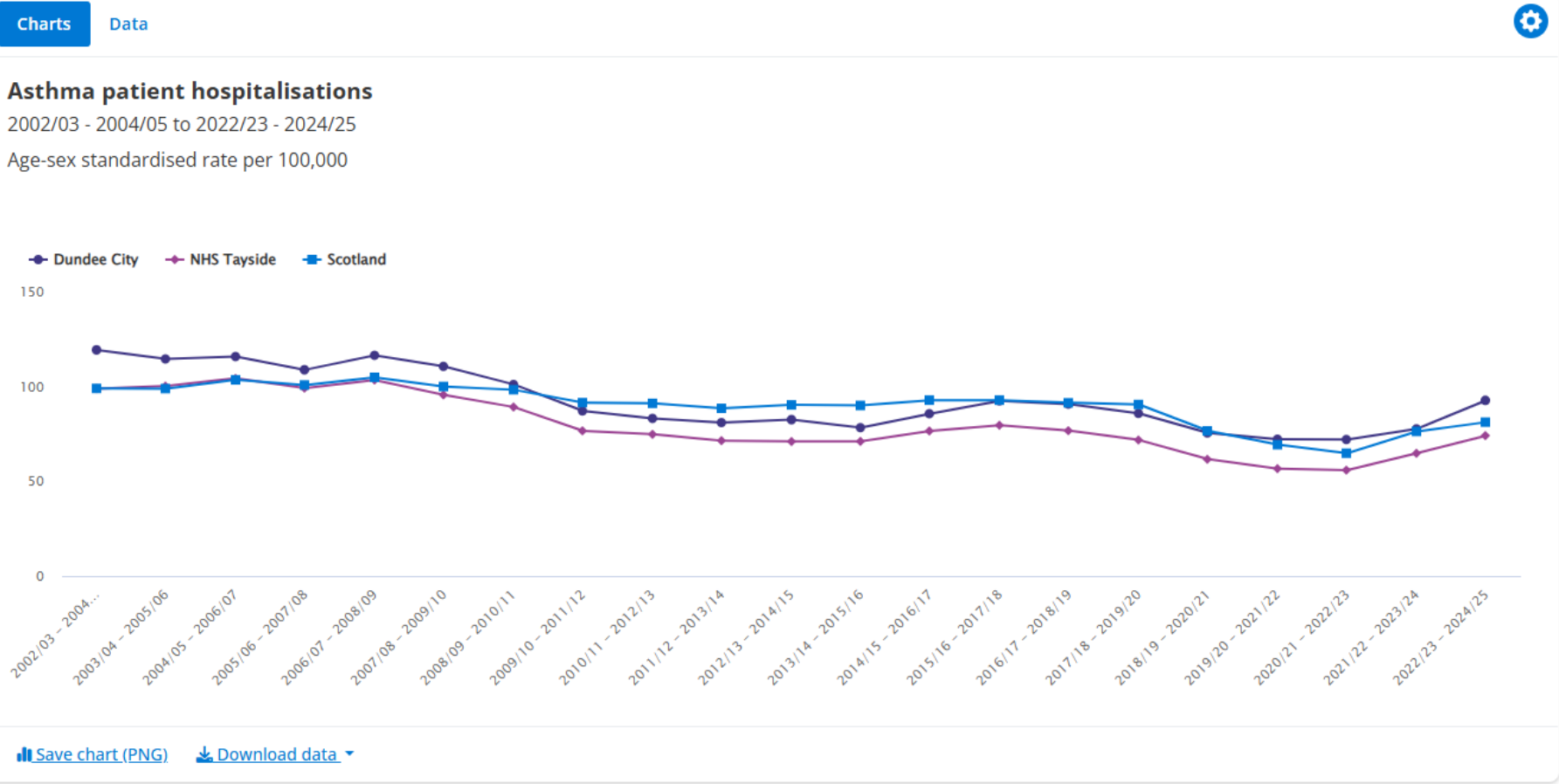
Health and Social Care Partnerships:

Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships:

To select a locality or intermediate zone, first select an HSC partnership:

HSC localities:

Intermediate zones:



Challenges

- Poor uptake from NHS Boards
- Sensitive data cannot be made open
- Difficult to measure impact



Thank you for listening!!!

Let's stay in touch!

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