# The national census of UK endoscopy services 2021

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## Introduction

- The Joint Advisory Group on Gastrointestinal (GI) Endoscopy (JAG) biennial census provides an insight into the provision of UK endoscopy services.
- Since the last census two years ago, there has been a significant change in every aspect of endoscopy, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Aims:
- Understand the impact of ongoing pressures, including COVID-19, on endoscopy services.

## Methods

- JAG Quality working group developed an initial question set for 2021 census.
- Census sent to all JAG-registered services in April 2021 using an online survey platform.
- Data collation: second step verification process to minimise missing data.
- Data analysis: Various statistical methods to measure outcomes against service-specific core demographic data.

## Results

### Responses

- **321 services** (393 individual units) completed the census (response rate 79.2%).

### Activity & waits

- First 3 months of 2021:
  - 66.0% of services met urgent cancer waits, 38.7% met routine waits and 33.9% met surveillance waits.
  - Workforce redeployment was the predominant reason cited for not meeting targets.
  - Significant regional differences in the proportion of patients waiting 6 or more weeks ($p = 0.001$).
  - JAG accredited services more likely to meet urgent cancer waits & lower proportion of patients waiting 6 weeks ($p = 0.03$).

### Workforce

- Clinical endoscopists (11.0% of the endoscopist workforce), had a significantly greater number of annual planned sessions per individual than consultant colleagues ($p < 0.001$; 81.0% of workforce).

## Key findings

- Services are adapting to continued pressure - there are signs of a focussed response to demand during a time of ongoing uncertainty.
- Adherence to service performance was more likely in JAG accredited services.
- A significant minority of services reported equipment shortage and the need to improve infrastructure.

## Acknowledgements

Figure 1. Clustered bar chart demonstrating percentage of services meeting waiting time targets over successive census years.

Figure 2. Scatter diagram of planned annual sessions per individual by number of individuals, defined as clinical or consultant endoscopist.

Figure 3. Activity & waits.

Figure 4. COVID-19.

Figure 5. Equipment & decontamination.