

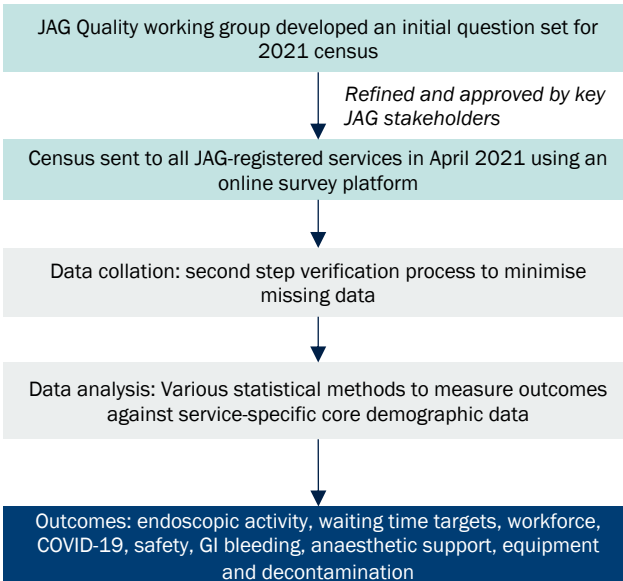
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INTRODUCTION

- 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



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** (Figure 1)
- 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 + ($p = 0.03$)

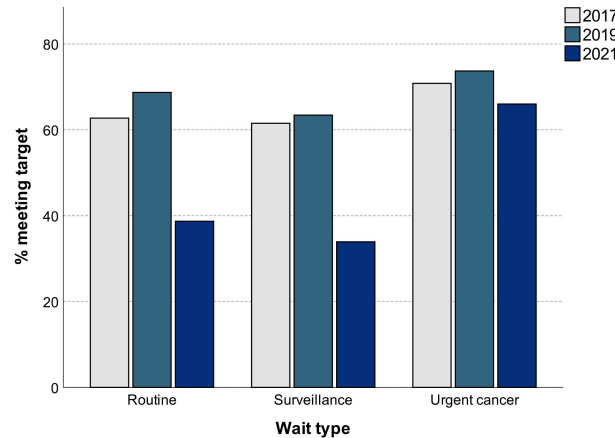


Figure 1. Clustered bar chart demonstrating percentage of services meeting waiting time targets over successive census years

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) (Figure 2)

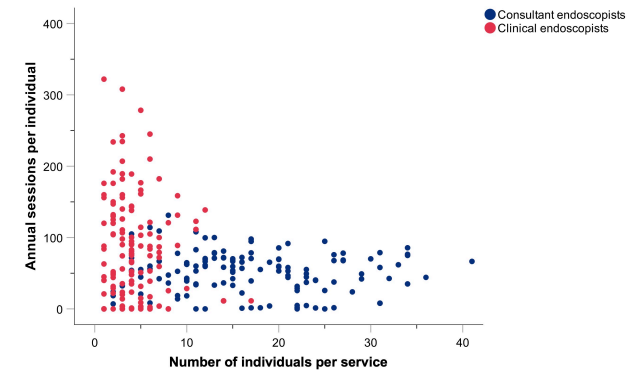


Figure 2. Scatter diagram of planned annual sessions per individual by number of individuals, defined as clinical or consultant endoscopist

COVID-19

- Services at **79.3 ± 20.4% activity** compared to 2 years ago
- 64.8% of NHS endoscopy services had staff redeployed
- Mean sickness rate of 8.5% (no difference across sectors or regions)
- Endoscopic activity was outsourced to the private sector in 21.6% of services

Equipment & decontamination

- Over 10% of services stated that **equipment shortage interferes with service delivery**
- Overall, 42.7% of services would require **additional building works** to decontaminate more scopes

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