WHAT’S UP WITH WEE JIMMY? COMPARISON OF SCOTTISH HOSPITAL UTILISATION IN THE VERY YOUNG AND ELDERLY.

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BACKGROUND
In England, there has been a 6% rise in hospital admissions for the u25s, and an 11% increase in emergency admissions in the last decade, for the 0-4 year olds¹. We wanted to know whether this was the case in the Scottish population, especially in view of the devolved NHS services, and to contrast this with the other age groups.

METHODS
Descriptive statistics are calculated for governmental held, publically available data for numbers and rates per 1000 of attendances and admissions, for financial years (FY) 2010/11-2016/17.

OUTCOMES/ RESULTS
• Over the period, attendance rates for 0-4yo males increased from 404 to 498 per 1000 (94 points), for females the increase was 333 to 400 (67 points) (Graph 1)
• For the over 65s the corresponding increases were 285 to 323 (38 points) male, and 278 to 318 (40 points) female
• The average proportion admitted were in the 0-4s 17.8% male and 16.8% female, and in over 65s 54.7% male and 53.2% female (Graph 2). The proportions admitted peaked for 0-4s in FYs13-15
• Interestingly, in the age group 10-24yo, the proportions admitted were 8.9% male and 12.4% female, again with higher attendance rate for the males (315 vs 284)

CONCLUSIONS
Scotland has also seen an increasing rate of acute attendance in pre-schoolers. There are marked gender differences, particularly in this age group. Although attendance rates are much higher for the 0-4s compared to the over 65s, the conversion of attendance to admission is markedly lower. For the young group, this may reflect differential access to responsive primary care services, or generational differences in expectations for the services. The gender differences highlighted would be a fruitful area for more detailed research for this vulnerable age group.


1 Scottish ED Attendance rates per 1000 capita
2 Conversion of attendances into admissions

IN SCOTLAND 0-4 MALES (WEE JIMMY) ATTENDED ED THE MOST, WHILST 65+ MALES CONVERT TO ADMISSION THE MOST.

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