

# Scottish Multiple Sclerosis Register National Report 2020

## Figures from January 2010 to December 2019

A Management Information release for Scotland

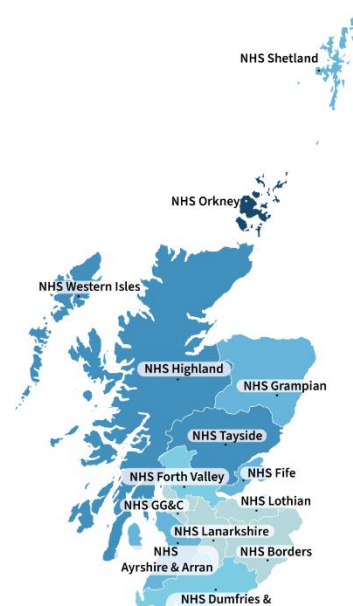
Publication date: 14 July 2020

### About this release

This release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides information from the Scottish Multiple Sclerosis Register (SMSR) on all patients with a confirmed diagnosis of multiple sclerosis (MS) from January 2010 to December 2019.

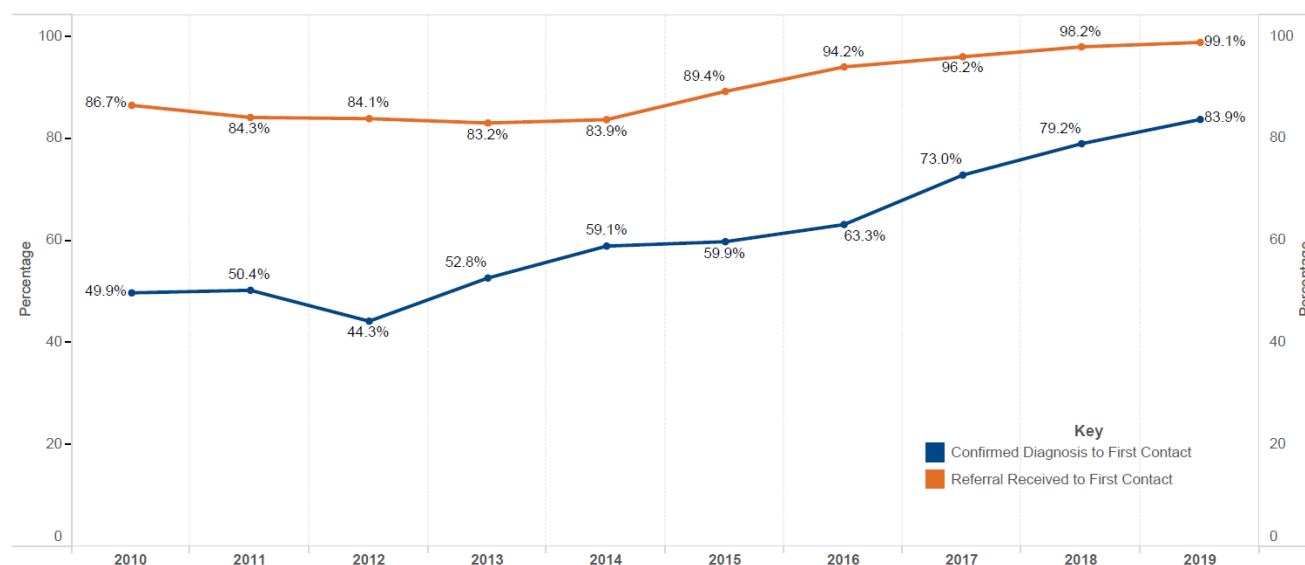
### Main Points

- In 2019, 535 new patients with a confirmed diagnosis of MS were added to the MS Register. This brings the total number of patients newly diagnosed and reported over the nine-year period to 4814.
- The annual incidence shows that approximately twice as many females than males were diagnosed with MS.
- In line with previous findings, the average annual incidence of MS in the six most northern NHS Boards was greater than the average for the eight southern NHS Boards.
- The proportion of newly diagnosed patients receiving contact with a MS specialist nurse within 10 working days of diagnosis, increased from 79.2% in 2018 to 83.9% in 2019.
- Once a referral was received by the MS specialist nurse, 99.1% of patients were contacted within 10 working days, an improvement from 98.2% last year.



Average annual incidence per 100,000 population, 2010 - 2019 data	
NHS Board	
NHS Orkney	17.51
NHS Tayside	12.28
NHS Highland	11.80
NHS Western Isles	11.78
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	10.49
NHS Fife	10.44
NHS Shetland	10.38
NHS Grampian	9.63
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	8.86
NHS Forth Valley	8.84
NHS Lanarkshire	7.67
NHS Lothian	7.54
NHS GG&C	7.48
NHS Borders	7.08
Scotland	8.96

## Percentage of patients with a new diagnosis of MS contacted by a MS specialist nurse within 10 working days of confirmed diagnosis and percentage contacted within 10 working days from receipt of referral



Note: These figures exclude paediatric patients (8); patients that have refused contact with MS specialist nurse (33) and cases for which we hold a missing year of diagnosis (1) over the period 2010-2019.

## Background

The Scottish MS Register is a national register within the Scottish National Audit Programme at Public Health Scotland. The aim of the Register is to improve healthcare for people living with MS in Scotland. Establishing the incidence and interpreting the implications of its demography allows us to facilitate service evaluation and drive health improvement. The data on which this report is produced are provided by neurologists and MS clinical teams via a standard electronic proforma which incorporates the patient journey from referral to diagnosis, including referral to a MS specialist nurse.

## Contact

**Chrissie Watters**  
Clinical Coordinator  
0131 275 6111

**Sinforosa Pizzo**  
Senior Information Analyst  
0141 282 2020

E: [phs.isdscottishmsregister@nhs.net](mailto:phs.isdscottishmsregister@nhs.net)

T: 0131 314 1209

For all media enquiries please email [phs.comms@nhs.net](mailto:phs.comms@nhs.net) or call 07500 854 574.

## Further Information

Further information can be found in the full report on the [Register website](#).

The next update for this publication will be July 2021.

---

## PHS and Official Statistics

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. PHS is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. [Further information about our statistics](#).