

2 DATA RETURNED AND THE STUDY POPULATION

Age and sex

The average age of all patients identified during the two sampling periods was 8.6 years, and the average age of patients included in the small sample for review was 9.8 years (F2.1). While there was a higher proportion of children under one year old in the wider study population, these younger patients were more likely to undergo a procedure in a specialist tertiary paediatric hospital, and so were less likely to be included in the sample for review (134/467; 28.7% admitted to a district general hospital vs. 333/467; 71.3% admitted to a tertiary hospital).

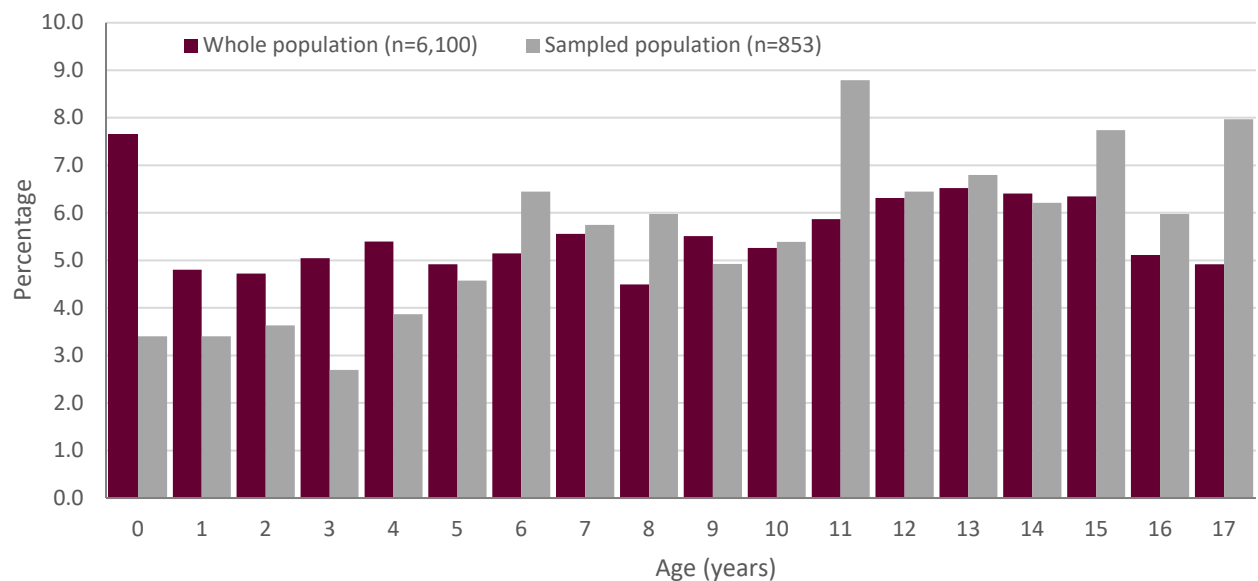


Figure 2.1 Age of the patient at the time of the procedure (years)

Database and reviewer assessment form data

In total, 565/853 (66.2%) patients included in the sampled study population were male and 288/853 (33.8%) patients were female. This was representative of the total patients identified in the wider dataset (F2.2).

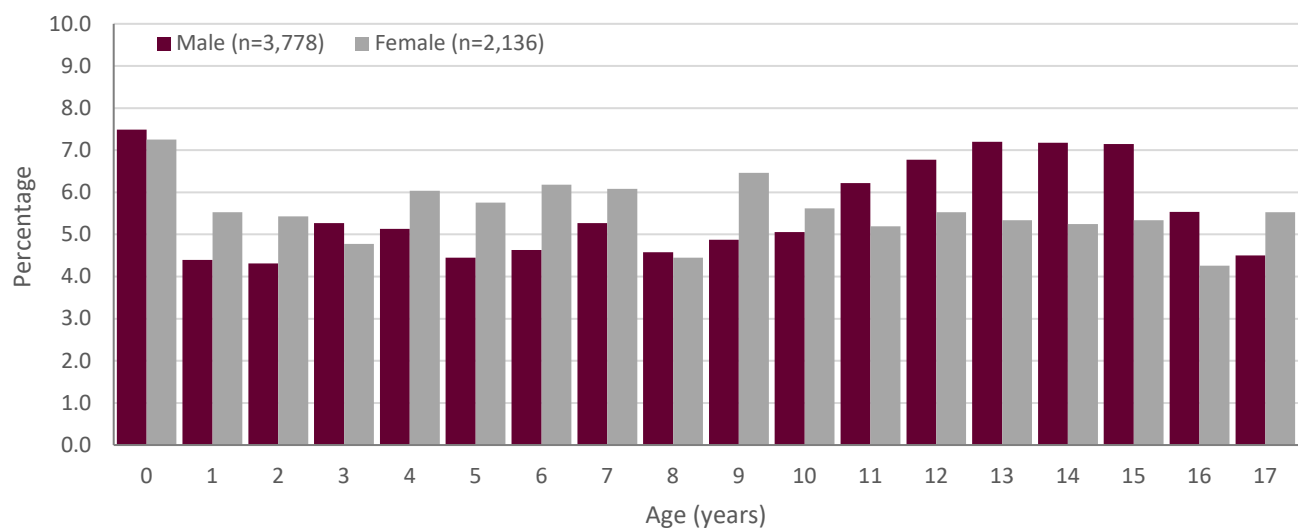


Figure 2.2 Age of the patient at the time of the procedure (years) by sex

Database data

The most commonly performed procedures were the manipulation/fixation of joints (T2.1), and this was similar to the sampled population (T2.2) with only slight variation in in some of the procedures included (T2.2) (see [Appendix 1](#) for a complete list of procedures undertaken).

Table 2.1 Most common procedures undertaken by sex (whole population)	Male		Female	
	Number of patients	%	Number of patients	%
Manipulation/fixation of joints	845	22.3	407	19.0
Suture laceration/wound washout/debridement	423	11.2	273	12.7
Scrotal exploration/orchidectomy/orchidopexy	411	10.9	0	0.0
Appendicectomies	393	10.4	265	12.4
Incision/drainage of abscesses	152	4.0	135	6.3
Oral and maxillofacial surgery procedures	123	3.2	75	3.5
Nail bed repairs	113	3.0	66	3.1
Insertion/removal of lines	98	2.6	77	3.6
Removal of foreign bodies	88	2.3	84	3.9
Endoscopies/colonoscopies	54	1.4	46	2.1
Other procedures	1087	28.7	717	33.4
Total	3,787		2,145	

Database data (not answered for 204 patients)

Table 2.2 Most common procedures undertaken by sex (sampled population)	Male		Female	
	Number of patients	%	Number of patients	%
Manipulation/fixation of joints	167	29.6	61	21.2
Appendicectomies	97	17.2	74	25.7
Scrotal exploration/orchidectomy/orchidopexy	85	15.0	0	0.0
Suture laceration/wound washout/debridement	55	9.7	32	11.1
Incision/drainage of abscesses	31	5.5	20	6.9
Removal of foreign bodies	17	3.0	15	5.2
Nail bed repairs	11	2.0	3	1.0
Oral and maxillofacial surgery procedures	8	1.4	8	2.8
Tendon/ligament/nerve repairs	5	<1	6	2.1
Gynaecological procedures	0	0.0	9	3.1
Other	89	15.8	60	20.8
Total	565		288	

Reviewer assessment form data

Ethnicity

Ethnicity data were available in the case notes for 670/853 (78.5%) patients. The majority of patients sampled for inclusion in the study were White British or White other (555/670; 82.8%) (T2.3). United Kingdom census data^[4] show that 12.1% of 0-17-year-olds are in the Black/African/Caribbean/Black British or mixed/multiple ethnic groups and were therefore potentially underrepresented in this study. Previous research has shown that children from Black and 'other' minority ethnic groups are at a significantly higher risk of poor outcomes, with data from the Children's Acute Surgical Abdomen Programme (CASAP) showing that ethnicity, but not socio-economic status, was associated with an increased risk of postoperative complications in children having surgery for acute appendicitis.^[5]

Table 2.3 Ethnicity	Sampled population		Census data	
	Number of patients	%	Number of patients	%
White British/White - other	555	82.8	9,096,920	73.4
Asian/Asian British (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, other Asian)	74	11.0	1,472,100	11.9
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	24	3.6	679,255	5.5
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	15	2.2	823,415	6.6
Other	2	<1	320,550	2.6
Subtotal	670		12,392,240	
Unable to answer	183			
Total	853			

Reviewer assessment form data

Comorbidities

Within the group of patients sampled for inclusion, 192/838 (22.9%) had an additional health condition (comorbidity); 124/838 (14.8%) patients had one comorbidity reported and 70/838 (8.4%) had two or more reported. The most common were asthma (51/838; 6.1%), autism (37/838; 4.4%) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (23/838; 2.7%) (unknown for 15).

Reviewers indicated that 64/853 (7.5%) patients had a communication difficulty. Thirty patients had a language difficulty and four had a hearing difficulty; 36 patients were reported as having another communication difficulty, and in 12 of these patients, autism was given as the reason. There were 45/853 (5.3%) patients who had a learning difficulty and 19/853 (2.2%) had a physical disability.

Previous research has shown that children and adolescents face inequalities in accessing healthcare services^[6,7] Within the group of patients sampled for inclusion in this study, reviewers found evidence of at least one characteristic associated with healthcare inequality or bias and this negatively impacted the care provided to 12/853 (1.4%) patients. The most common reasons given were learning/cognitive disability (5/12) and geographic deprivation/travel time to hospital (3/12).