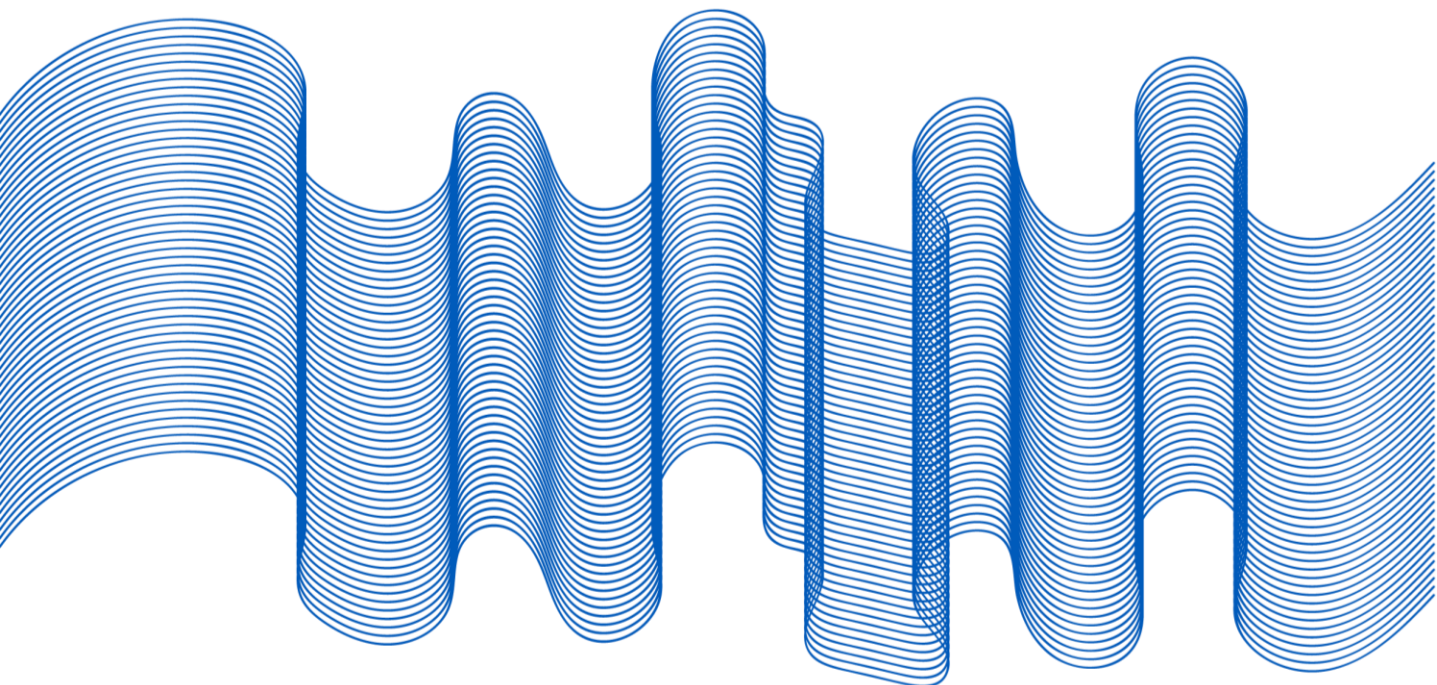




**Benchmarking Network**

# **Community Hospital Bed Survey Bespoke Report 2021/22**

Code: CHXXX



# Section 1: Introduction

## 1.1 Project Overview

The NHS Benchmarking Network (NHSBN) is pleased to present the 2021/22 Community Hospital Beds Report. Data covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022.

This is the first year that the Community Hospital Bed Survey has been run by the Network. The aim of the project is to understand both the numbers and types of beds within Community Hospitals. Although, there is not yet a universal definition for community hospitals, the consensus is that multi disciplinary teams use these settings to provide health and care services to patients.

There are over 500 community hospitals throughout the UK, these small local hospitals provide a range of service to their local community; including community beds, minor injury units, clinic and much more. Originally established as converted cottages offering inpatient beds, they have developed into hubs of services that have developed to meet changing needs. These services range from health promotion, diagnostics, treatments, rehabilitation and end of life care.

This bespoke report shows the position of your organisation's community hospitals against all the participants on a selection of key metrics. Data submissions were received from 33 organisations, covering 108 community hospitals across England and Wales

This report should be viewed in conjunction with the [online toolkit](#), available to all participants, which includes all the benchmarking metrics within this project. Covering service models, access, activity, workforce and finance . Data included within this report is for the NHS financial year 2021/ 22 unless stated otherwise.

### Reference documents

Several reference documents to support this report are available on the members area:

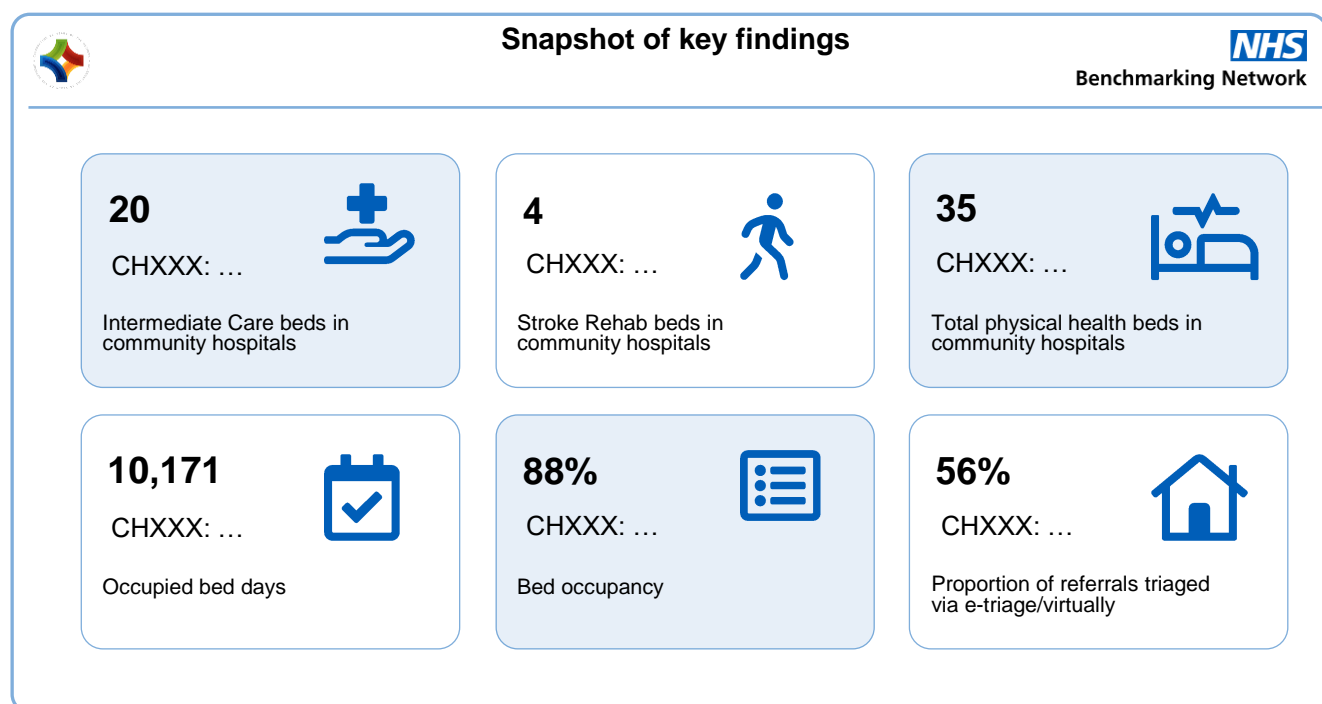
- [How to read the report guide](#) – an explanation of the charts that are used in this report
- [Participants list](#) – the participants in the 2021/22 Community Hospital Beds Project
- Hyperlink icons can be found on the charts throughout this report, the link will take you to the corresponding chart in the online toolkit.



## Section 2: Key Findings

Key findings from the 2021/22 Community Hospital Bed survey can be found below:

- Community hospitals are most commonly (83% of sites) used by community care providers,
- 95% of community hospitals reported that they provided rehabilitation services, with general rehabilitation of older people being a core function of most hospitals.
- 74% of community hospitals provide outpatient services
- Intermediate care beds are the most common bed type (41%) within community hospitals, averaging 20 intermediate care beds.
- 79% of referrals to a community hospital are step down referrals from an acute hospital.
- The mean bed occupancy is 88%.



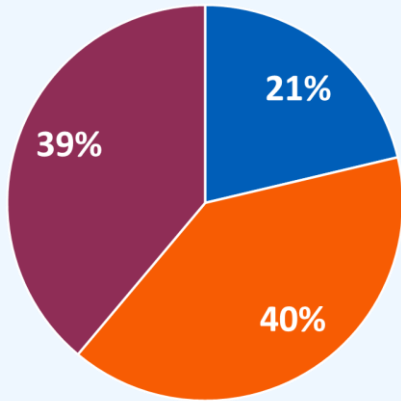
Please note, the bold figure represents the sample average

# Section 3: Service model

40% of community hospitals who participated in the project are situated in predominantly rural areas, 21% in predominantly urban areas and 39% in mixed areas.

Multiple types of providers deliver services on community hospital sites. Community care providers were reported as the most common (on 83% of sites), followed by secondary care (56%), and mental health (43%). Independent/private sector providers are the least common provider of services amongst the community hospitals surveyed.

**Types of areas served by community hospitals**



CH000	...
Predominantly Urban	21%
Predominantly Rural	40%
Mixed	39%

**Types of providers who provide services on the site**








	Sample average	CHXXX
Primary care	29.9%	...
Community care	83.0%	...
Secondary care	55.6%	...
Social care	34.9%	...
Mental health	43.0%	...
Third sector	29.0%	...
Independent/private sector	20.8%	...

A variety of services are provided within community hospitals. 95% of community hospitals reported that they provided rehabilitation services, with general rehabilitation of older people being a core function of most hospitals. End of life care is the second most common service type provided at 76%.




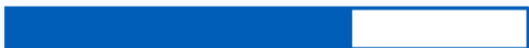



74% of community hospitals provide outpatient services, with the most common being physiotherapy (82%), speech & language therapy (66%) and occupational therapy (60%).

Follow the links to view the full variety of services and outpatient clinics provided across community hospitals within our online toolkit.

### Types of services provided in community hospitals

		Sample average	CHXXX
Minor injury unit		27.4%	...
Diagnostics		51.4%	...
Outpatients		73.8%	...
Day treatments/ambulatory care		22.4%	...
Rehabilitation services/therapies		95.3%	...
End of life services		75.7%	...
Other		35.8%	...

### Outpatient clinics provided





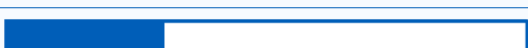






		Sample average	CHXXX
Dietetics		55.7%	...
Physiotherapy		82.2%	...
Occupational therapy		60.4%	...
Speech & language therapy		66.0%	...
Podiatry		56.6%	...
Paediatrics		41.5%	...
Other		51.0%	...

A key element of the NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) was improvements to care quality and outcomes. One solution of this being the improvement of diagnostics and the introduction of Community Diagnostic Hubs. Diagnostic services are provided in 51% of community hospitals surveyed, with the most common types being phlebotomy, ECG and digital plain film x-rays.

Interestingly, only 8% of hospitals stated they had links with a Community Diagnostic Hub

95% of hospitals report having a specific [admission criteria](#) set out in a formal policy or SLA. 100% of these policies or SLAs contained criteria around adult age. 98% contained criteria around a patient's potential to benefit from rehab, and 97% included criteria around a patient's willingness to participate in rehab.

### Diagnostics provided on site

		Sample average	CHXXX
Phlebotomy		72.9%	...
Analogue Plain Film X-rays		40.6%	...
Digital Plain Film X-rays		55.2%	...
Ultrasound (obstetric)		19.8%	...
Ultrasound (non-obstetric)		30.2%	...
Mammography		19.0%	...
MRI		6.7%	...
CT		4.8%	...
DEXA		5.7%	...
ECG		69.5%	...
Other		27.4%	...

### Community diagnostic hubs

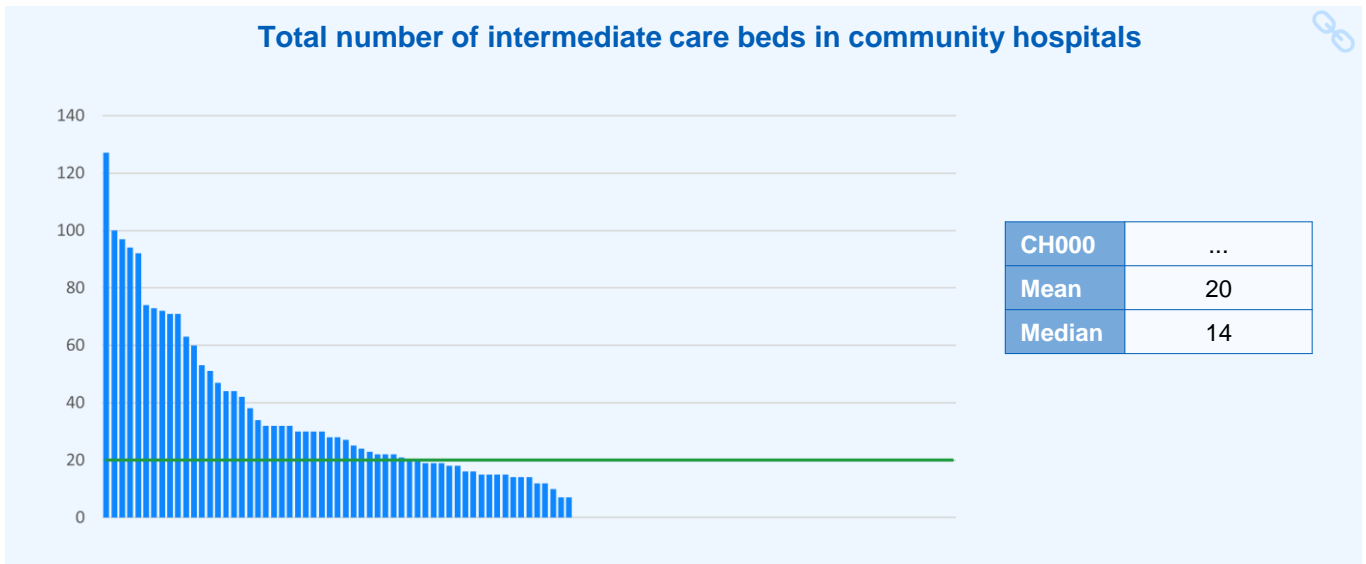
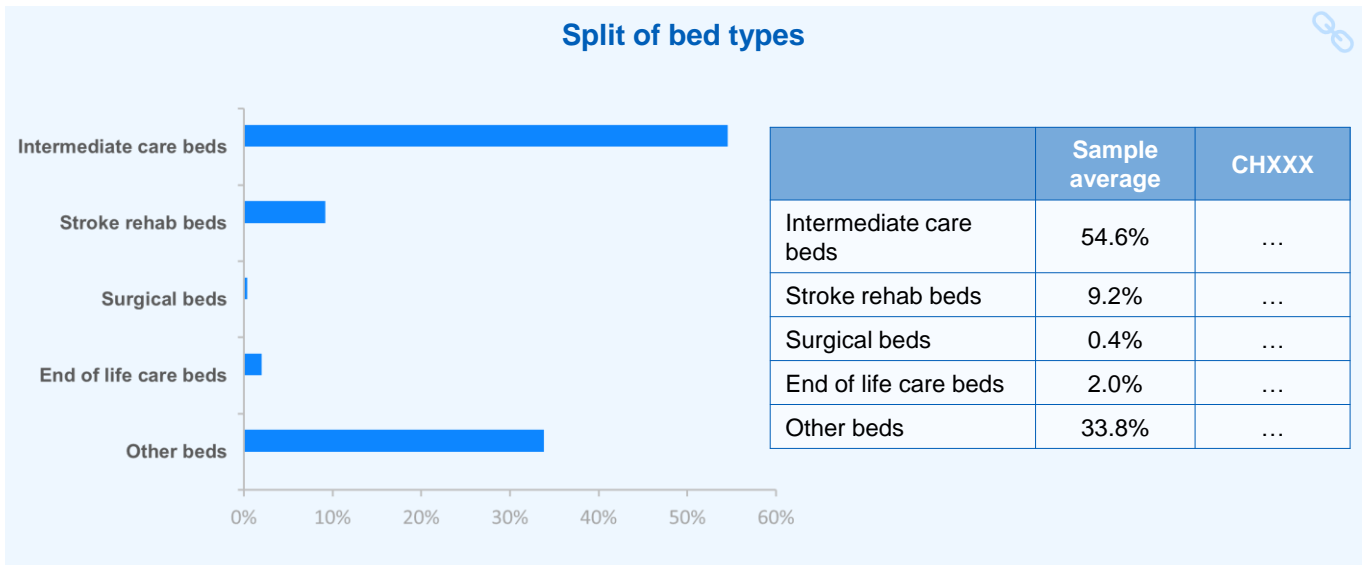
		Sample average	CHXXX
Do you have links with a community diagnostics hub?		8.3%	...

# Section 4: Bed Capacity

Intermediate care beds are the most common bed type (41%) within community hospitals, averaging 20 intermediate care beds.

Other beds make up 48% of the total beds, these include 'flexible beds'. Followed by stroke rehab beds at 10%. Although it is the second most common service type, end of life care beds only account for 2% of all beds.

The online toolkit provides further details of the [specialised bed types](#), benchmarked against peers

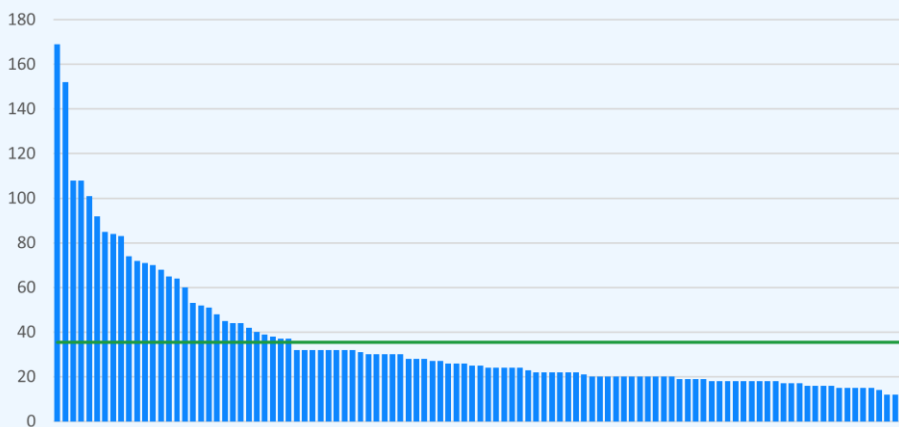


There was a large variation in the number of physical health beds reported within each community hospital. Numbers ranged from 9 to 169 beds with an overall average of 35 per community hospital.

Looking across the [past four years](#), bed numbers have remained fairly consistent. The mean average number of physical beds is reported as between 33.6 and 34.7.

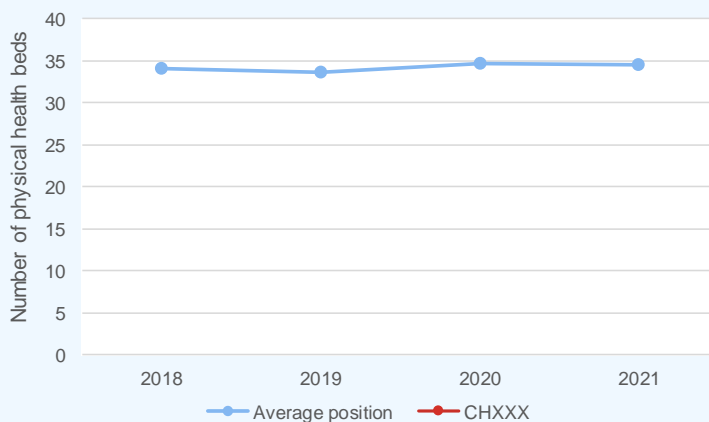
It was reported that there were no plans to close beds in 87% of community hospitals reporting.

**Total number of physical health beds**



CH000	...
Mean	35
Median	25

**Total physical health beds over last 4 years**



	CHXXX	Sample average
2018	...	34.0
2019	...	33.6
2020	...	34.7
2021	...	34.5



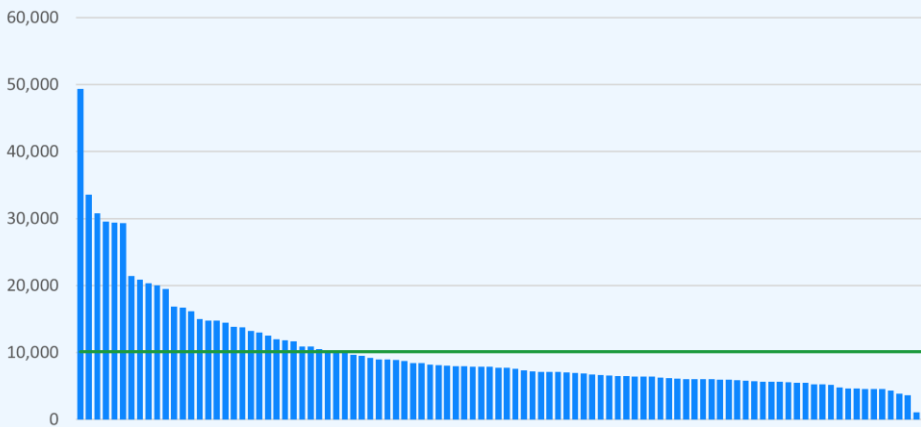
# Section 5: Activity

The mean total number of occupied bed days reported is 10,171. This is higher in comparison to the 2019 Community Hospitals Project, where it was reported to be 8,796 in older people wards & 9,101 in other wards.

The mean bed occupancy is 88%. This value has stayed consistent with the findings of 2019 (88% in older people wards & 92% in other wards).

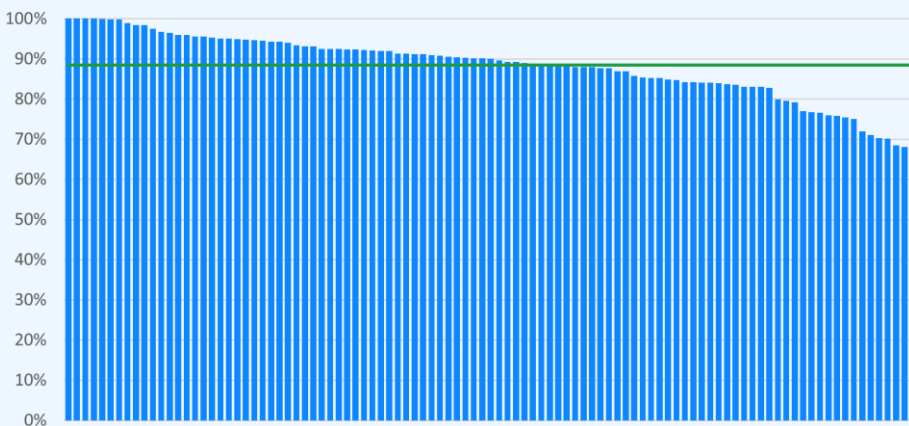
The [intermediate care project](#) also measures bed occupancy for the bed based service. The [bed occupancy](#) reported in bed based intermediate care was 85.7%.

Total number of occupied bed days



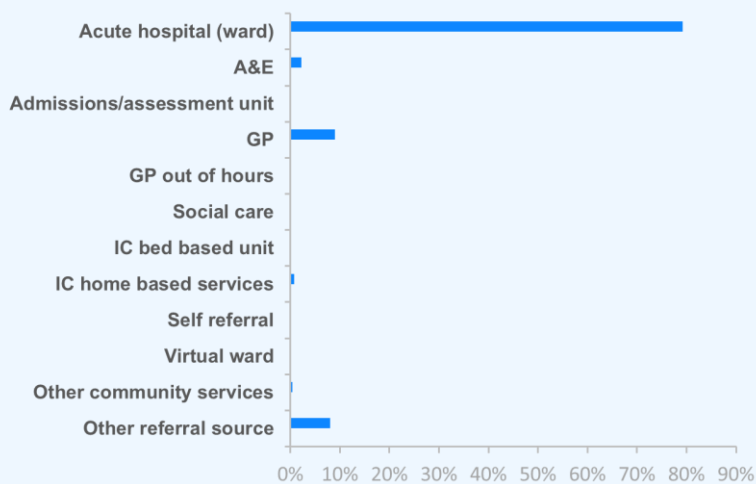
CH000	...
Mean	10,171
Median	7,754

Bed occupancy



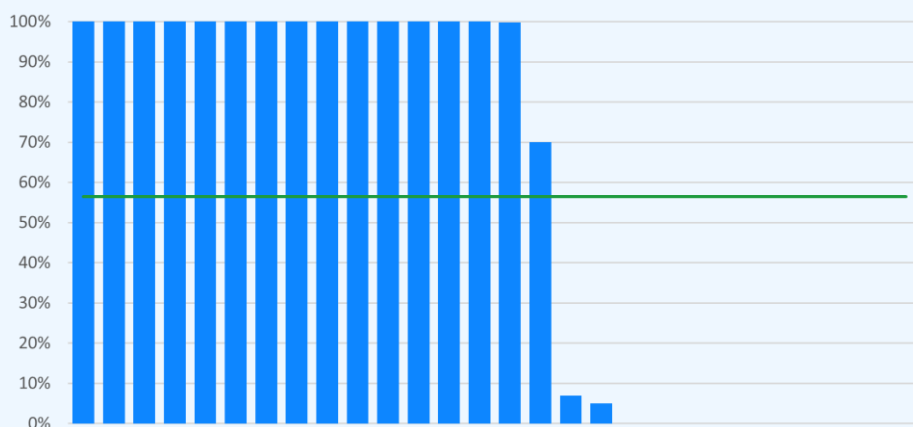
CH000	...
Mean	88%
Median	90%

### Number of referrals by source



	Sample average	CHXXX
Acute hospital ward	79.2%	...
A&E	2.3%	...
Admission/assessment unit	0.1%	...
GP	9.0%	...
GP out of hours	0.0%	...
Social care	0.0%	...
IC bed based unit	0.2%	...
IC home based services	0.7%	...
Self referral	0.0%	...
Virtual ward	0.0%	...
Other community services	0.4%	...
Other referral source	8.0%	...

### Proportion of referrals triaged via e-triage/virtually



CH000	...
Mean	56%
Median	100%

79% of referrals to a community hospital are step down referrals from an acute hospital. This fits into the pattern of rising step-down referrals observed within previous NHSBN Community hospital project findings, suggesting an impact on the step-up capacity of community hospitals.

56.5% of referrals are triaged via e-triage or virtually. The distribution of data suggests that hospitals either fully utilise e-triage/virtual triage or do not at all with few submissions suggesting a mixture of approaches.



## Section 6: Next Steps

- The UK findings webinar, presenting UK position (England and Wales) for the 2022 Intermediate Care project will take place January 2023. There will also be a Welsh Findings event in February 2023. These webinars will be available on the [members' area](#), following the events.
- Participants should use this report in conjunction with the project's [online toolkit](#), which presents charts covering all the data collected in the project. If you do not have access to the member's area where the toolkit is located, please contact the project team (below) who will be able to provide you with access.
- A separate report capturing all the good practice shared through the 2021/22 project will also be available on the members area.
- The development of this project is a collaborative process to ensure collection of metrics and the subsequent outputs are aligned to member needs. We will be undertaking consultation in early 2023.
- If you would like some additional support in interpreting and using your findings, why not consider our enhanced membership package? More information can be [found here](#).

Project team contact details:

For any queries please email us at [nhsbn.cst@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbn.cst@nhs.net)