

70 years of the NHS; 8 years of Tory failure

Today celebrates 70 years of the NHS. However, after eight years of Tory austerity, the health system is in crisis, with patients are waiting for hours in overcrowded A&Es, waiting lists are rising and hospitals are facing huge financial problems:

Under the Tories, NHS performance since 2010 has dramatically worsened:

- 2,425,517 more people are now waiting longer than four hours in A&E compared to 2009/10
- 1.7 million more people are now on the waiting list compared with when Labour were in power
- 156,028 people have waited longer than 62 days for cancer treatment since July 2011
- 551,988 more people are now waiting longer than four hours on trolleys compared to 2009/10

While key targets have been left unmet for years:

<i>Failed NHS target</i>	<i>Last met by the Tories</i>
4-hour A&E	July 2015
18 week referral to treatment	February 2016
62 day cancer waiting time	December 2015
6 weeks for diagnostic tests.....	November 2013

If Tory failure continues at the same rate, by the end of this Parliament¹:

- there will be over one million more people waiting longer than four hours in A&E; almost 3.8 million people by 2022
- there will be 4.9 million people on waiting lists in England by 2022; an increase of 700,000
- there will be 9,600 more people waiting over two months for their first cancer treatment; a total of almost 36,000 people by 2022
- there will be over 230,000 more people spending more than four hours waiting on a trolley for a bed; a total of nearly 850,000 people by 2022.

¹ With the exception of the number of people on waiting lists, projections have been made using all available data going back to 2010 to project future indicators up to 2021/22. This trend takes account of movement in the data to reach a steady-rate scenario between now and 2021/22.

For the projection of the number of people on waiting lists, we have used data going back to June 2015, in line with official NHS data and methodology.

Background

The Tories are failing to meet key NHS performance targets

- This lack of funding has meant that under the Tories things have only got worse. The Tories are currently failing to meet five key targets, including A&E, referral to treatment, diagnostic test and ambulance response standards.

More people are waiting longer in A&E

- The number of people waiting longer than four hours in A&E has increased from just over 350,000 in 2009/10 to 2.8 million in 2017/19.
- Labour introduced the target for 98 per cent of patients to be seen within four hours in A&E departments in 2004. The Tories downgraded this to 95 per cent when they came to power. But they are not even meeting this watered-down target.
- NHS England's target of 95 per cent of patients spending four hours or less in A&E has not been met since July 2015.

YEAR	Total Attendances > 4 hours	Percentage in 4 hours or less (all)
2009-10	353,617	98.3%
2010-11	557,114	97.4%
2011-12	724,943	96.6%
2012-13	901,411	95.9%
2013-14	939,186	95.7%
2014-15	1,421,138	93.6%
2015-16	1,854,980	91.9%
2016-17	2,540,440	89.1%
2017-18	2,779,134	88.3%

NHS England, A&E Attendances and Emergency Admissions

More people are on waiting lists

- The total number of patients on the waiting list in April 2018 was 4.2 million compared with 2.6 million in May 2010.
- Labour introduced the 18 week target to get waiting lists down. When Labour left Government in May 2010, just 209,411 people were waiting longer than 18 weeks for an operation. Most recent data shows that 500,068 people waited longer than 18 weeks for treatment in April 2018.
- NHS England's target of 92 per cent of patients waiting less than 18 weeks to start treatment has not been met since February 2016.

Patients still waiting for treatment at the end of latest reporting period (the waiting list)*								
Monthly	Median wait (weeks)	92nd percentile (weeks)	No. within 18 weeks	% within 18 weeks	No. > 18 weeks	No. > 52 weeks	% > 52 weeks	Total waiting (mil)
May-10	5.5	18.1	2,364,484	91.9%	209,411	18,458	0.7%	2.57
Apr-11	6.0	19.9	2,237,539	90.5%	236,141	13,434	0.5%	2.47
Apr-12	5.5	16.0	2,333,158	94.1%	147,506	4,213	0.2%	2.48
Apr-13	5.6	15.8	2,596,934	94.5%	151,874	391	0.0%	2.75
Apr-14	5.9	16.3	2,831,337	93.7%	188,774	516	0.0%	3.02
Apr-15	5.9	16.5	2,821,088	93.3%	201,424	413	0.0%	3.02
Apr-16	6.6	18.5	3,300,705	91.6%	302,901	886	0.0%	3.60
Apr-17	6.8	20.0	3,399,969	89.9%	382,488	1,568	0.0%	3.78
Apr-18	6.9	22.0	3,512,916	87.5%	500,068	2,882	0.1%	4.01

Source: NHS England, Consultant Led Referral to Treatment Times

When accounting for missing data from hospital Trusts that have not submitted data, NHS England estimates the number of people on the waiting list to be 4.2 million

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/rtt-data-2018-19/>

More people are waiting longer for cancer treatment

- The number of people waiting longer than 62 days for cancer treatment following an urgent referral from their GP now stands at over 26,000, up from 13,478 in 2010/11.
- The 85 per cent target for 62 day cancer waiting times has not been met since December 2015.

Year	Total	Within Standard	Outside Standard	Performance
2010/11	105,035	91,416	13,619	87.0%
2011/12	113,180	98,796	14,384	87.3%
2012/13	117,938	102,897	15,041	87.2%
2013/14	125,275	107,705	17,570	86.0%
2014/15	130,379.5	108,751.0	21,628.5	83.4%
2015/16	138,181	113,896	24,285	82.4%
2016/17	146,081	119,798	26,283	82.0%
2017/18	149,046	122,631	26,415	82.3%

Source: NHS England, Cancer Waiting Times

More people are being left to wait on trolleys in hospital corridors because there is not enough space on overcrowded hospital wards

- The total number of patients spending over four hours or more on trolleys in hospital corridors because of lack of space in overcrowded hospital wards in 2016/17 is now nine times the level it was when Labour was last in government.
- The total number in 2009/10 was just 61,969, while the figure for 2016/17 has increased dramatically to 613,957, with 3,440 people waiting more than 12 hours.

Year	Number of patients spending >4 hours from decision to admit to admission	Number of patients spending >12 hours from decision to admit to admission
2009-10	61,969	N/A
2010-11	93,905	N/A
2011-12	108,314	123
2012-13	152,584	170
2013-14	168,181	240
2014-15	304,292	1,243
2015-16	388,408	1,014
2016-17	560,093	3,502
2017-18	613,957	3,440

NHS England, A&E Attendances and Emergency Admissions

- In June, Stephen Barclay refused to rule out scrapping key NHS targets.

Jonathan Ashworth: It's the NHS workforce who deliver the constitutional performance targets on 18 weeks, A&E and cancer treatment. Will he reassure patients and taxpayers, whose taxes are going up, that they will rule out any dropping of these essential targets?

Stephen Barclay: What the Prime Minister has set out is a long-term vision to improve standards, to raise mental health, as members of his backbench have highlighted. He should come to the House and welcome that investment in our NHS.

Health and Social Care Questions, House of Commons, June 19 2018

<https://parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/601745e3-9d18-48f7-b9ce-8085163b33a9>

Failing on Funding

- Despite their failure on NHS performance, the Tories still refuse to properly fund the NHS. Their recent plan for tackling the financial crisis facing the NHS is barely enough money for the NHS to stand still. Their reorganisations of the NHS have put hospital units across the country at risk, while beds are cut, staff numbers reduced, treatments rationed and care packages cut to save money.

- Additional funding announced for the NHS in June, has been criticised by health think tanks and the wider sector for being inadequate. Responding to the announcement the Health Foundation said: "Increases of just 3.4% a year mean longer waits for treatment, ongoing staff shortages, deterioration of NHS buildings and equipment, and little progress to address cancer care."

Health Foundation Press Release, June 16 2018

<https://www.health.org.uk/news/health-foundation-response-government-announcement-additional-nhs-funding>

- The funding doesn't include money for social care, public health budgets or training, areas that have seen cuts to their budgets since the Tories came to power.
- An increase of 3.4 per cent in NHS funding is lower than the average annual increase since the NHS was founded, and between 1950/51 and 2016/17 the average annual increase has been 3.7 per cent, accounting for inflation.

Health spending grew at an average annual rate of about 3.7% from 1950/51 up to 2016/17, accounting for inflation. Public spending on health usually increases year on year, and there are only a handful of times in the last 60 years when it hasn't.

Full Fact, June 2018

<https://fullfact.org/health/spending-english-nhs/>

- Figures from NHS Improvement this week have shown NHS Trusts finished 2017/8 almost £1bn in deficit. This is £464 million above what was anticipated by trusts at the start of the year, and £30 million above December's forecast.

NHS improvement Quarterly Report on the NHS provider Sector, Q4, 2017/18

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/quarterly-performance-nhs-provider-sector-quarter-4-201718/>

- The same report put the vacancy rate in the NHS at 8.5% for 2017/18 and in the final quarter of 2017/18 there were 92,694 vacancies.

NHS improvement Quarterly Report on the NHS provider Sector, Q4, 2017/18

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/quarterly-performance-nhs-provider-sector-quarter-4-201718/>

Failing on mental health

- There are 5,000 fewer mental health nurses now than in 2010.

Royal College of Nursing, Press Release, 31 July 2017

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/more-work-and-investment-needed-in-mental-health>

- Funding for Child and Adolescent Mental Health services fell by almost £50m between 2009/10 and 2012/13.

Response to Parliamentary Question

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-16/218865>

- 62% of mental health trusts (34 out of 55) reported lower income at the end of 2016/17 than the end of 2011/12

February 21 2018, Royal College of Psychiatrists

<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases2018/sammhfundingstory.aspx>

- Children's mental health services receive just 6 per cent of the overall mental health budget.

Children's Commissioner for England Mental Health Briefing

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Childrens-Commissioner-for-England-Mental-Health-Briefing.pdf>

- The number of NHS Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists has fallen 6.3% since November 2013.

Royal College of Psychiatrists, March 8 2018