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NHS Roadshow

Factsheet 2



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NHS FACTS

You really
need
to know

1. The NHS is currently undergoing the meanest decade for funding growth since 1948, with spending failing to cover costs of caring for a rising population.
2. England's population has **increased by 7%** since 2009: but numbers of **over 65s has increased by 19%** – while NHS spending has stood still in real terms. It's the funding freeze, not the rise in demand that has caused the crisis.
3. There have been continuous hospital bed closures. Nearly 16,000 beds (over 1 in 10) have been closed since 2009. **9,000** of these are frontline hospital beds. Over **5,000 mental health** beds (more than **ONE in FIVE**) have also closed.
4. There are dangerously low staffing levels. NHS trusts report a shortage of more than **100,000 full time posts (1 in 11)**, including **41,000 nursing vacancies** (1 in 8), potentially rising to **70,000** in 5 years, **10,000** doctors and **7,000** GPs.
5. **Social care funding has been slashed.** Delays in discharging elderly patients from hospitals have risen by 17% this year, with delays from social care increased by 21% since February.
6. A&Es are collapsing under the pressure. The target to treat or discharge 95% of patients within 4 hours **has not been met in England for over five years.** **64,921** patients spent **over 4 hours on trolleys** in September waiting for a bed – **46% higher** than the same month last year. Numbers of so-called "trolley waits" have increased 14-fold since August 2010
7. "Health tourism" makes up **less than one third of 1%** of NHS spending.
8. **11,000 NHS doctors** (almost 10%) are from other EU countries.
9. In many areas a growing list of treatments are being **excluded from the NHS** to save money, and described as "low clinical value": this includes **elective hip and knee replacements and cataracts.** It creates a **2-tier service** in which those who can afford to go private – while those who can't are forced to go without.
10. In 2012 new legislation, the Health and Social Care Act reorganised the NHS, increased privatisation and encouraged NHS hospital trusts to expand private wings. Even NHS England which oversees the NHS wants part of this Act reversed (for its own reasons): we want the whole Act repealed and our NHS reinstated as a public service to protect it against any future trade deals.



'As a junior doctor and a researcher looking after cancer patients in the NHS, I am terrified by the prospect of what the election will bring.'

Aislinn Macklin-Doherty, Junior Doctor