Public Health England

Remote Health Advice

Syndromic Surveillance System:
England

Key messages

Data to: 29 August 2016

There were increases in insect bites in week 34 and heatstroke calls remain slightly above baseline levels, both in line with recent warm weather (figures 10 & 10a, 11 & 11a). There were also further small increases in fever calls in the <1 years age group (figure 3a).

A Heat-Health Watch system operates in England from 1 June to 15 September each year. As part of the Heatwave Plan for England, the PHE Real-time Syndromic Surveillance team will be routinely monitoring the public health impact of hot weather using syndromic surveillance data during this period.

Heat-health watch level (current reporting week): Level 1/3 Summer preparedness/Heatwave Action

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/heathealth/

Syndromic indicators at a glance:

Indicator	Trend	Level *
Cold/flu	no trend	similar to baseline levels
Fever	no trend	below baseline levels
Cough	no trend	similar to baseline levels
Difficulty breathing	no trend	similar to baseline levels
Sore throat	decreasing	similar to baseline levels
Diarrhoea	no trend	similar to baseline levels
Vomiting	no trend	above baseline levels
Eye problems	no trend	above baseline levels
Heatstroke	no trend	above baseline levels

*Since week 47 2014 new baselines have been introduced for comparison with previous years. Baselines use historical data from the NHS Direct surveillance system to estimate seasonal trend but with levels adjusted to reflect changes since the switch to using NHS 111 data in September 2013.
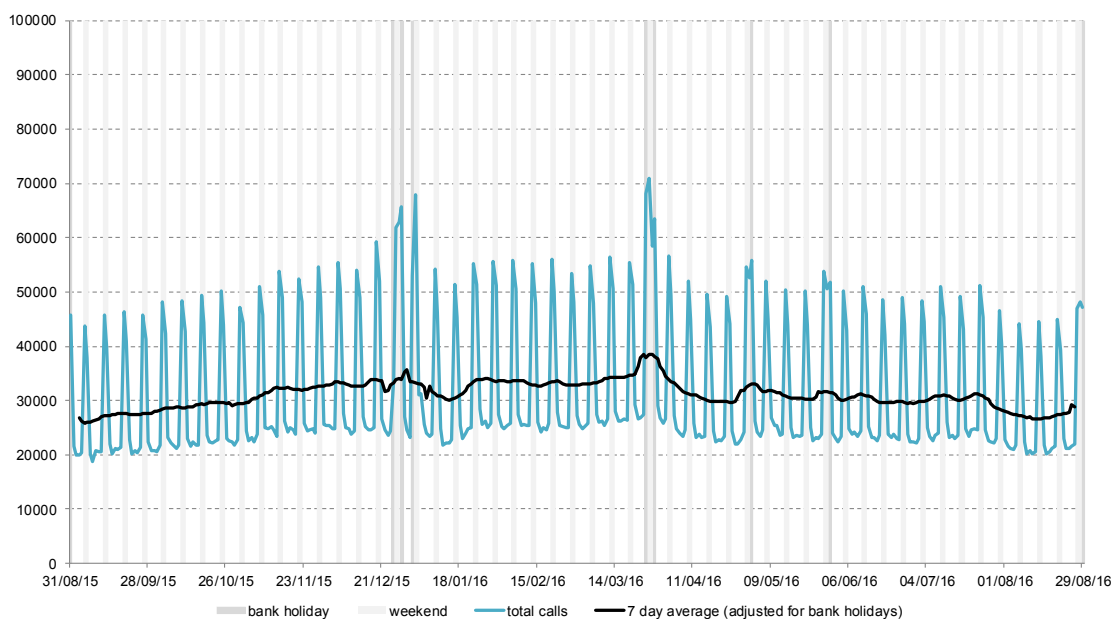
Data summary:

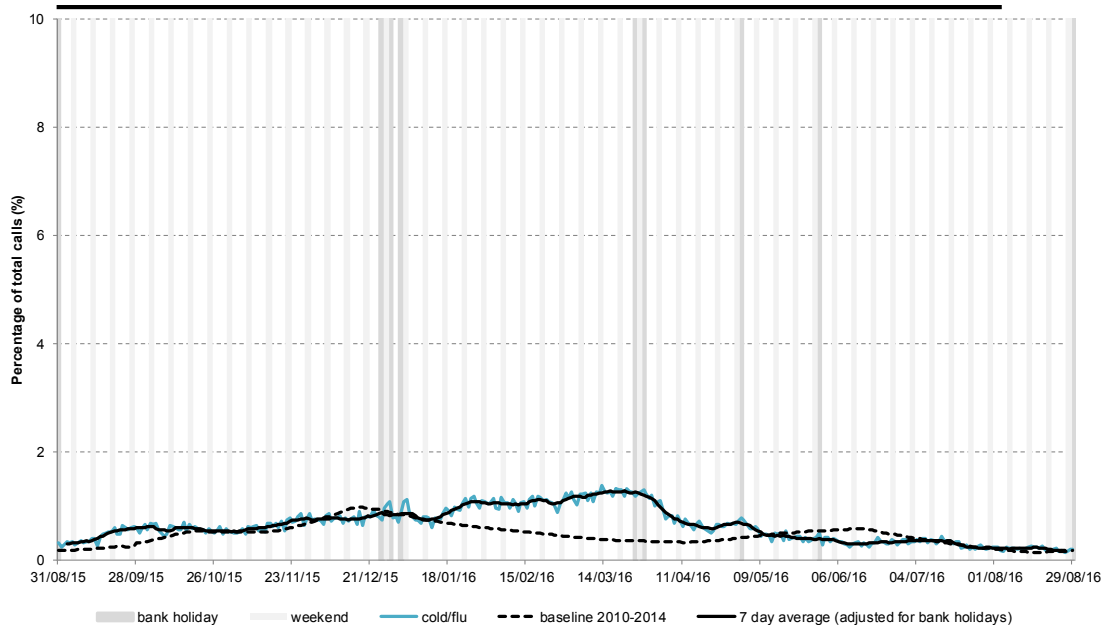| Year	Week	Total calls
2016	34	228,432

31 August 2016

1: Total calls.

The total number of syndromic calls recorded each day by NHS 111.

2: Cold/flu

Daily 'cold/flu' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.
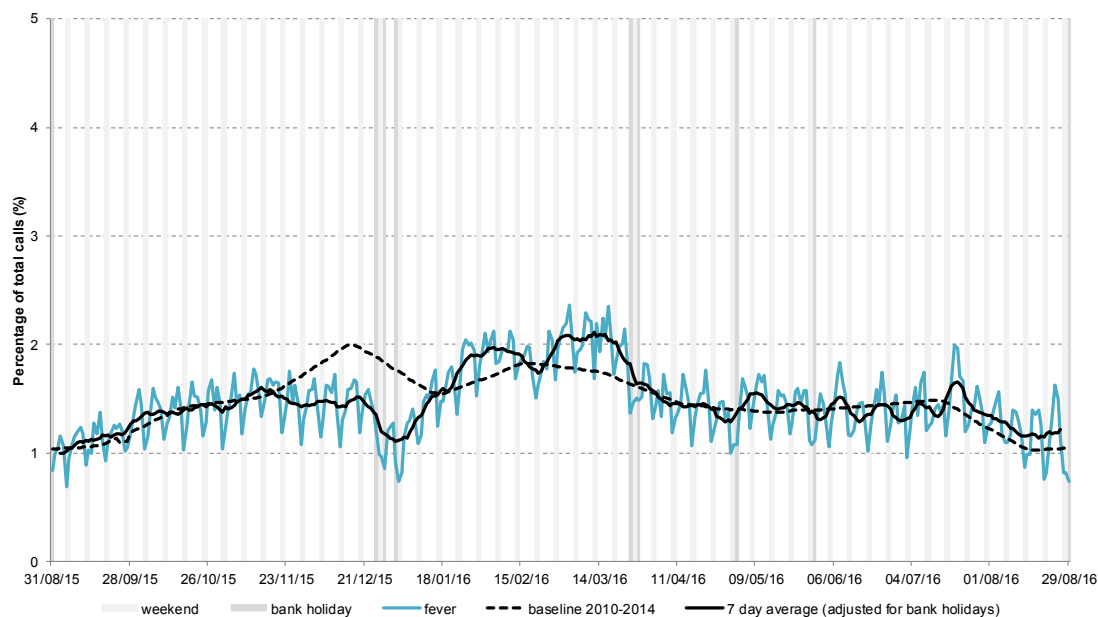

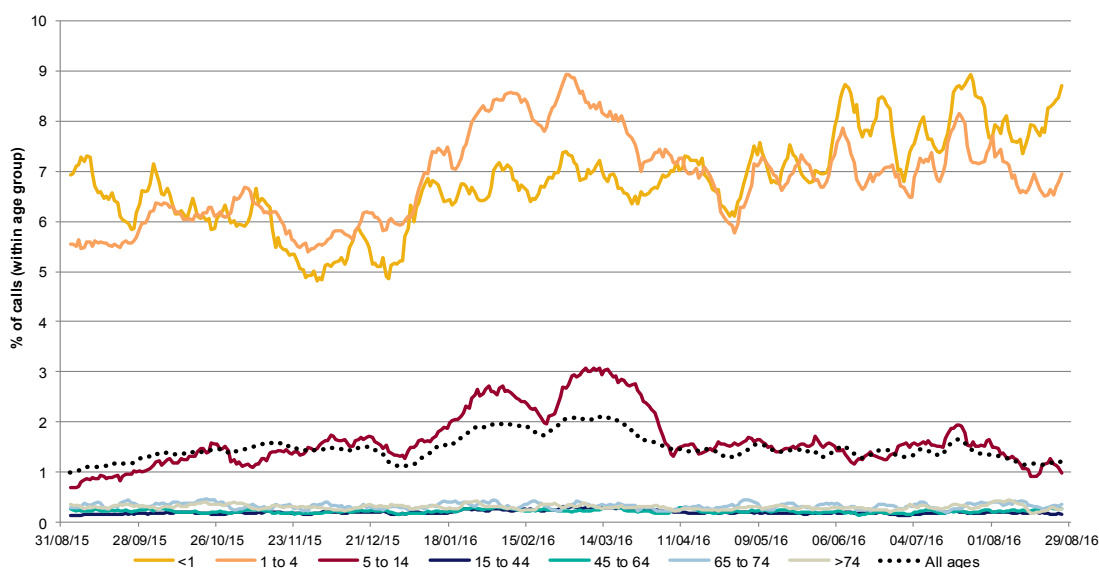**Intentionally blank**

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3: Fever

Daily 'fever' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.
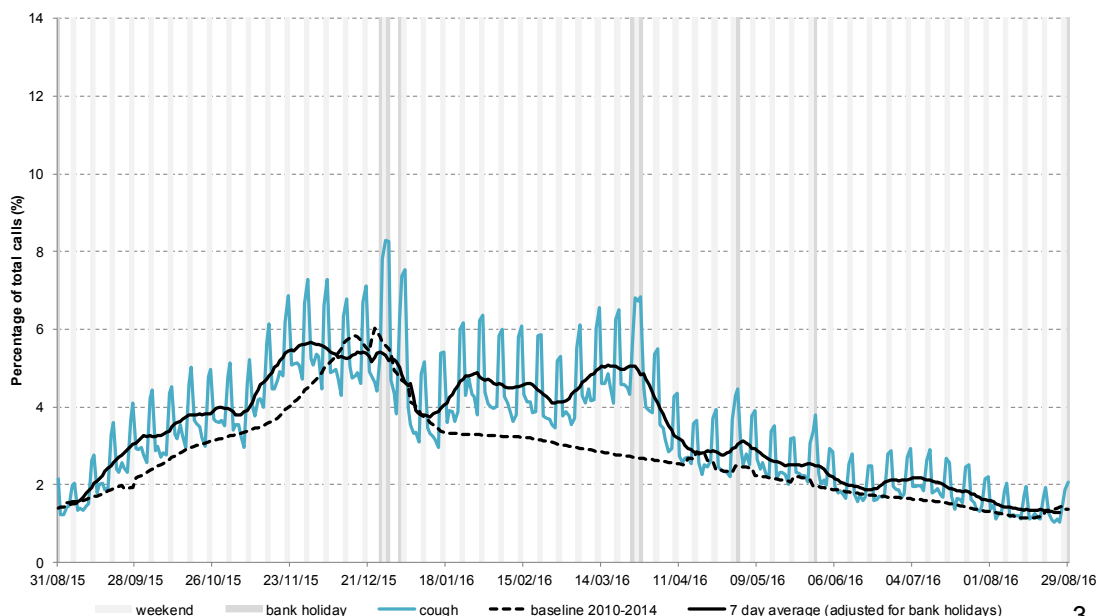

3a: Fever calls by age group

Fever calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

4: Cough

Daily 'cough' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.
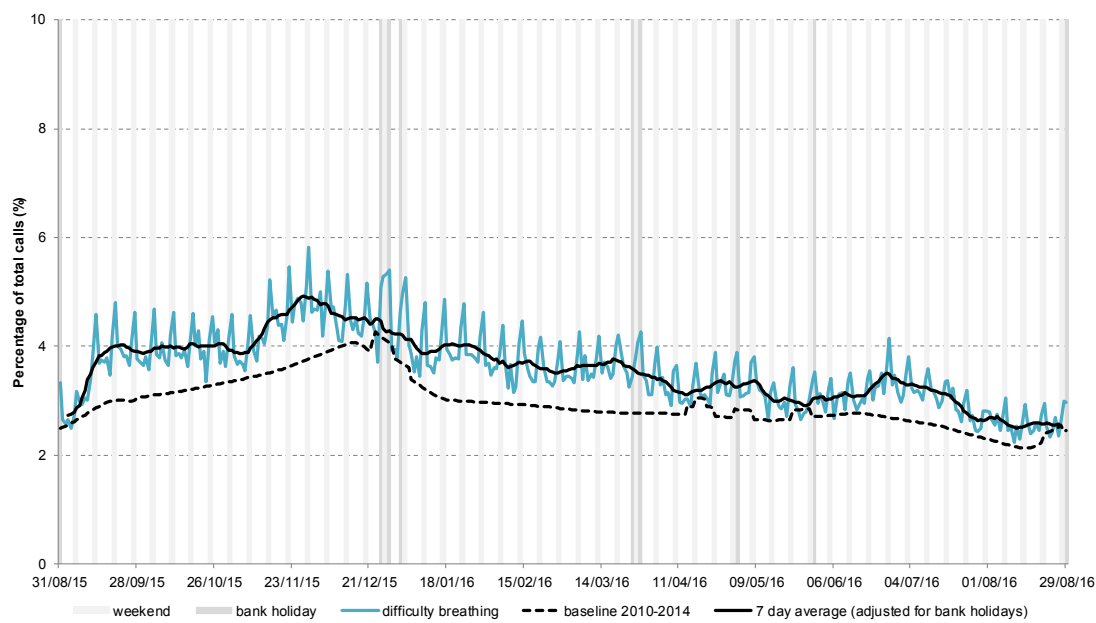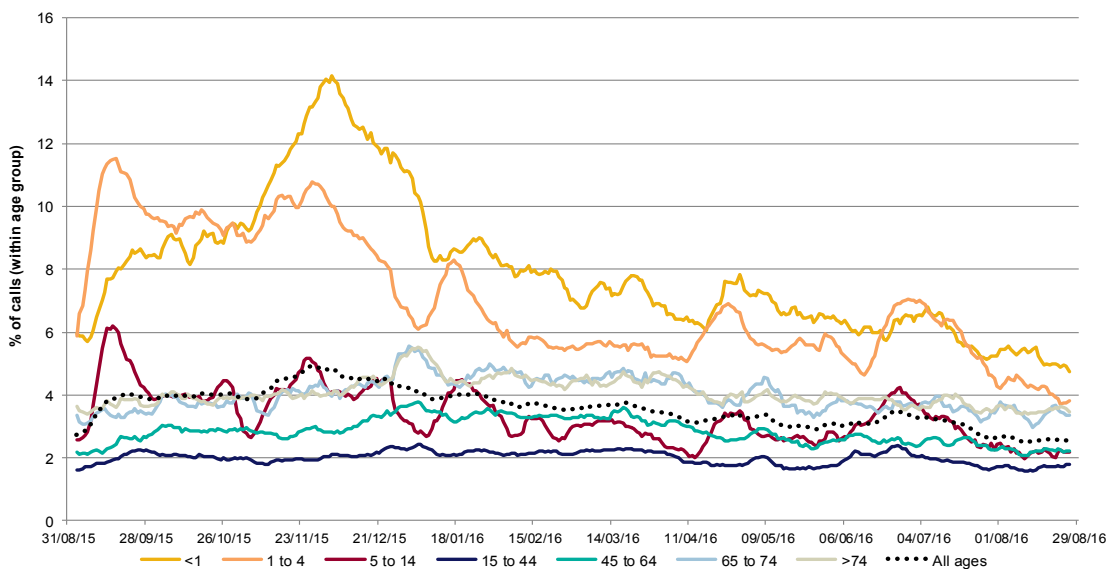

3

5: Difficulty breathing

Daily 'difficulty breathing' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.

5a: Difficulty breathing calls by age group

Difficulty breathing calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
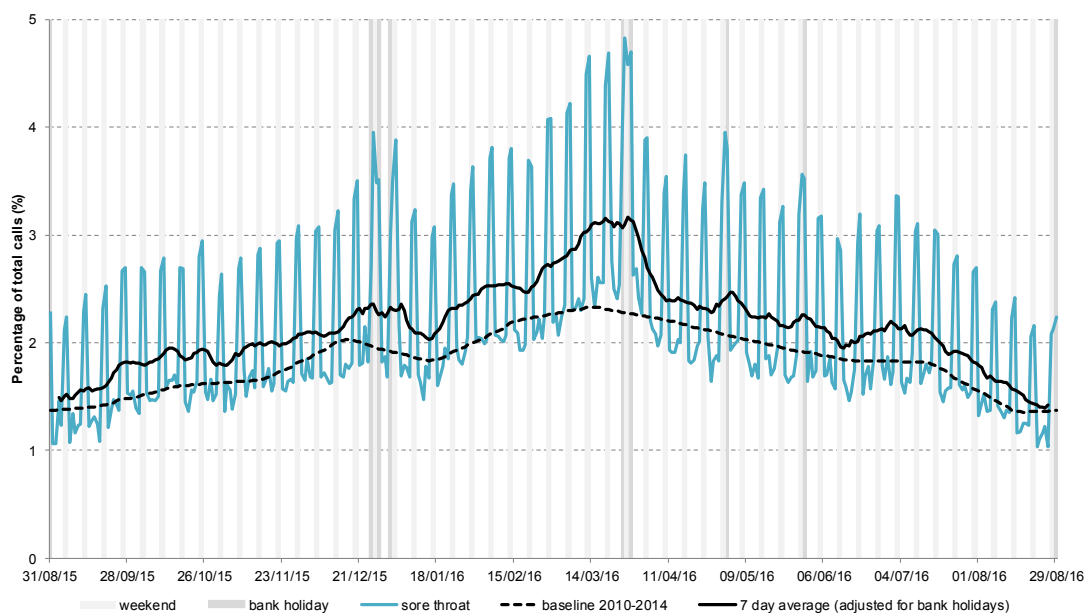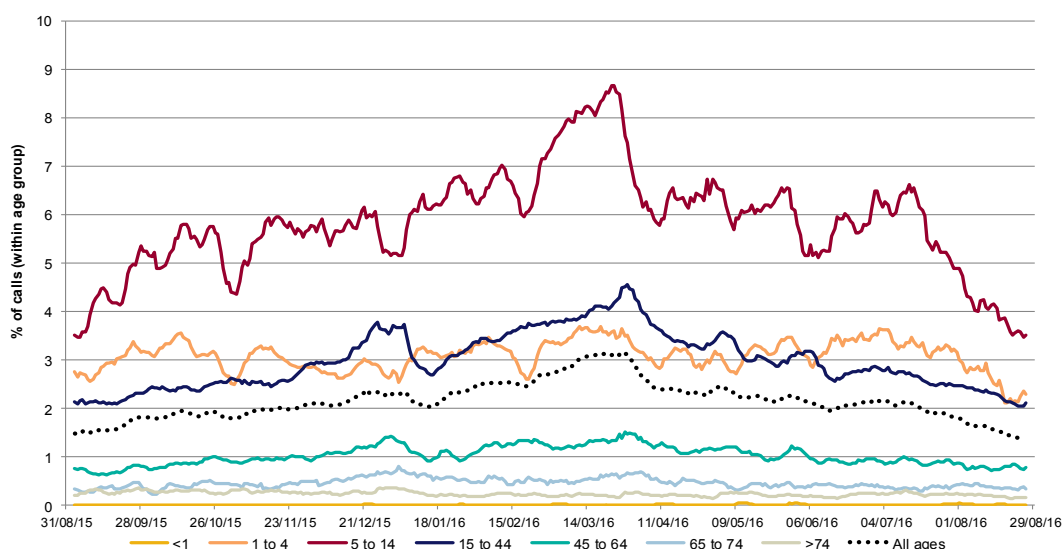

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6: Sore throat

Daily 'sore throat' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.
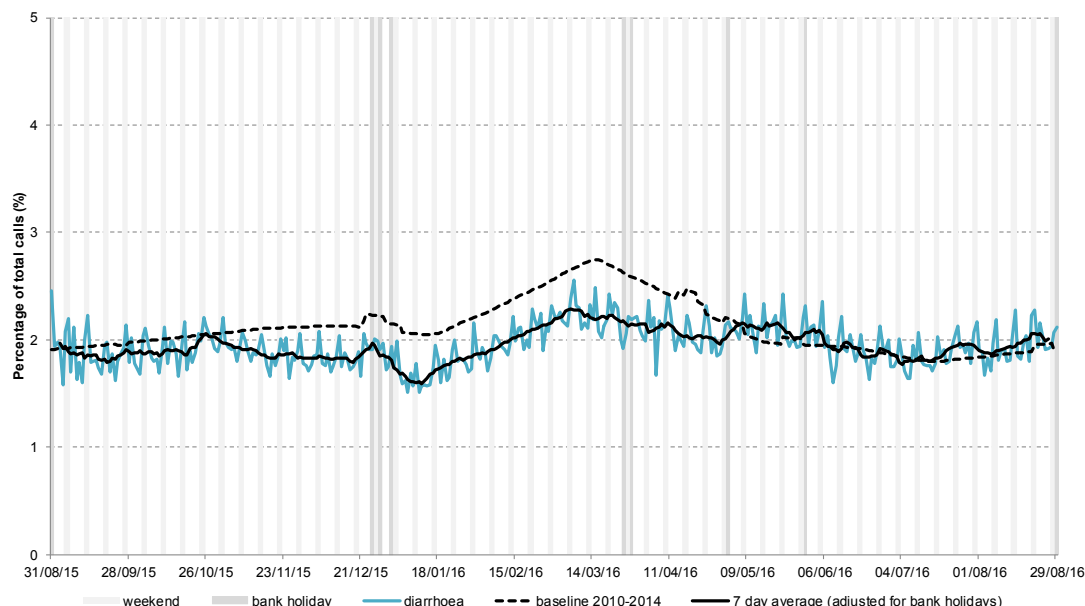

6a: Sore throat by age group

Sore throat calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

7. Diarrhoea

Daily 'diarrhoea' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.
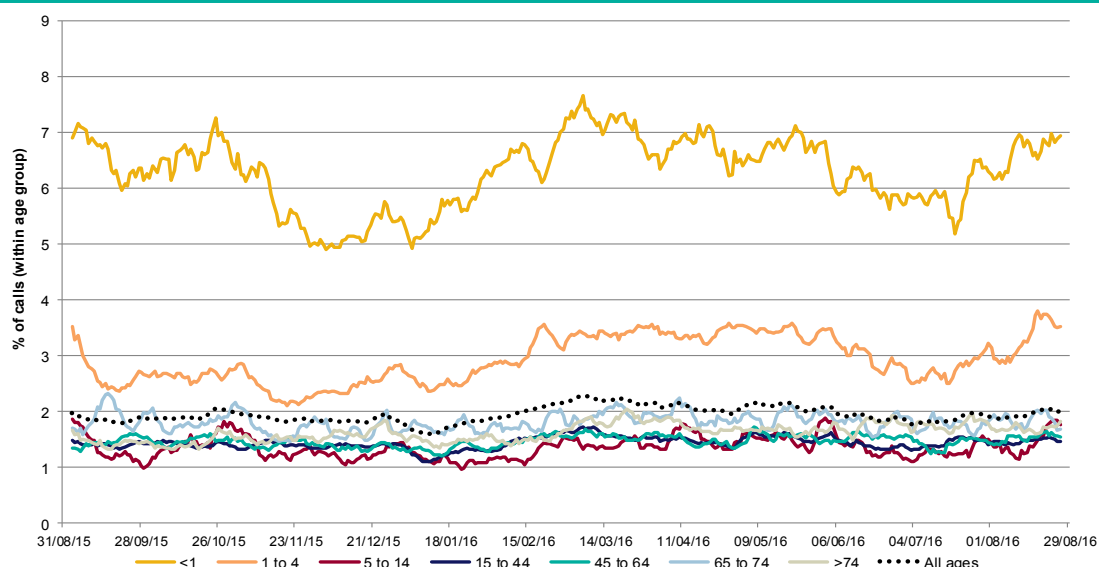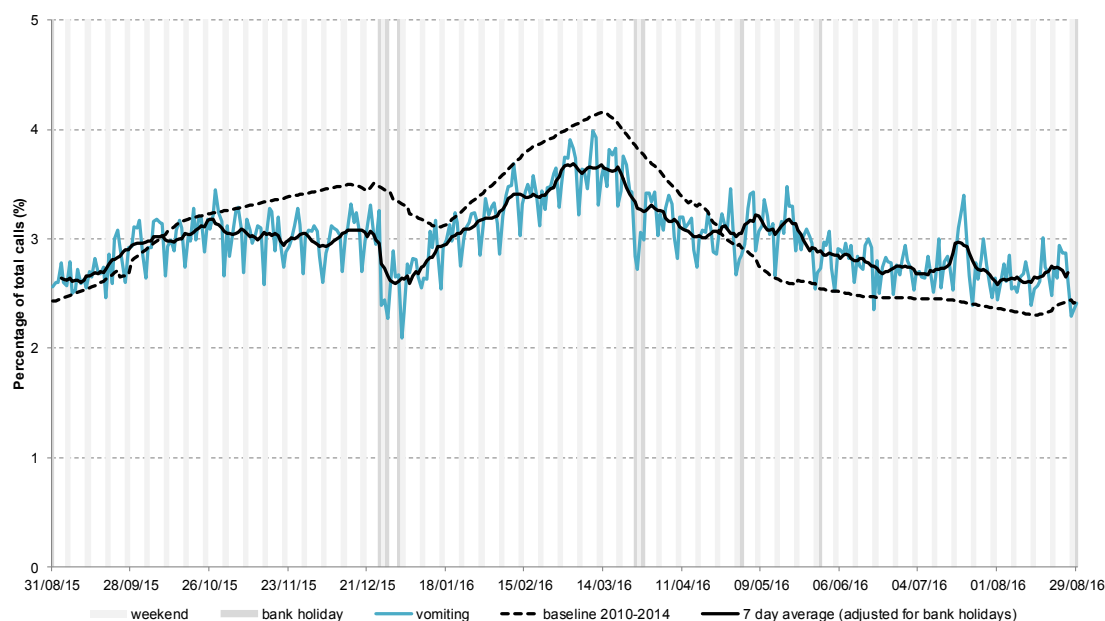
7a: Diarrhoea by age group

Diarrhoea calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
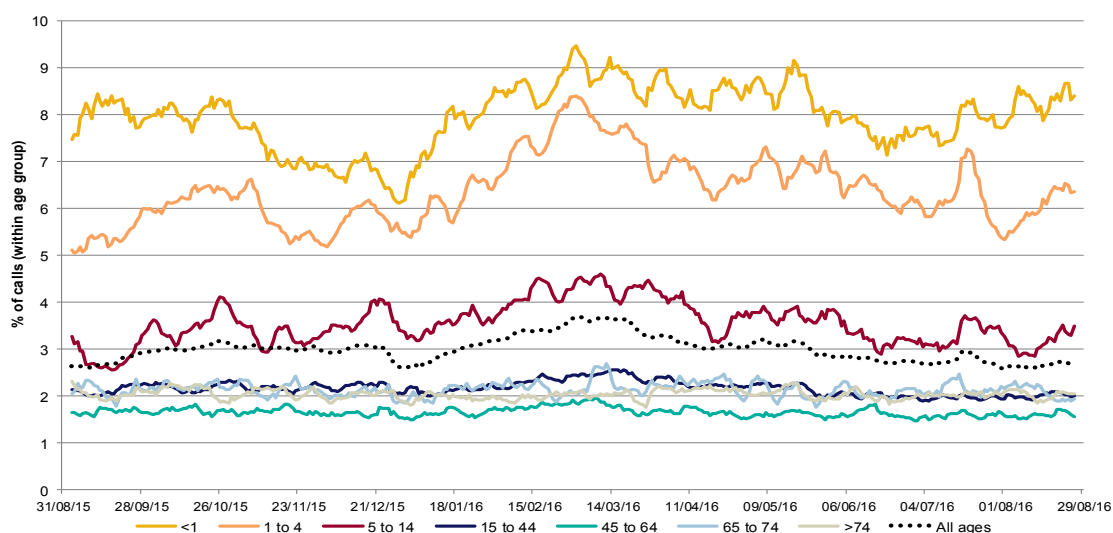

8: Vomiting

Daily 'vomiting' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.

8a: Vomiting by age group

Vomiting calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
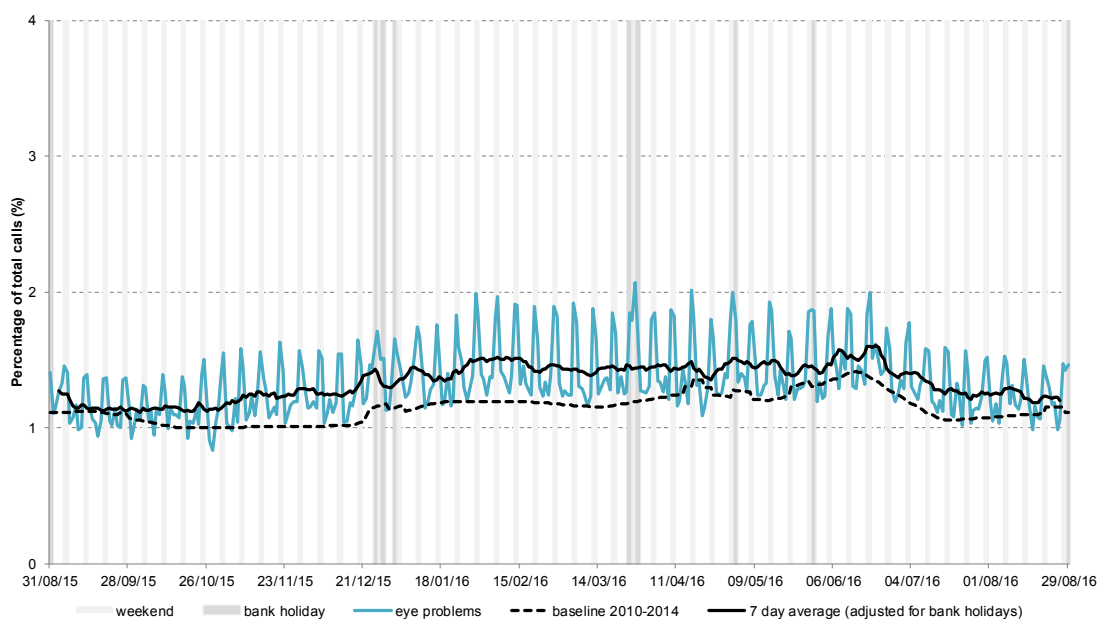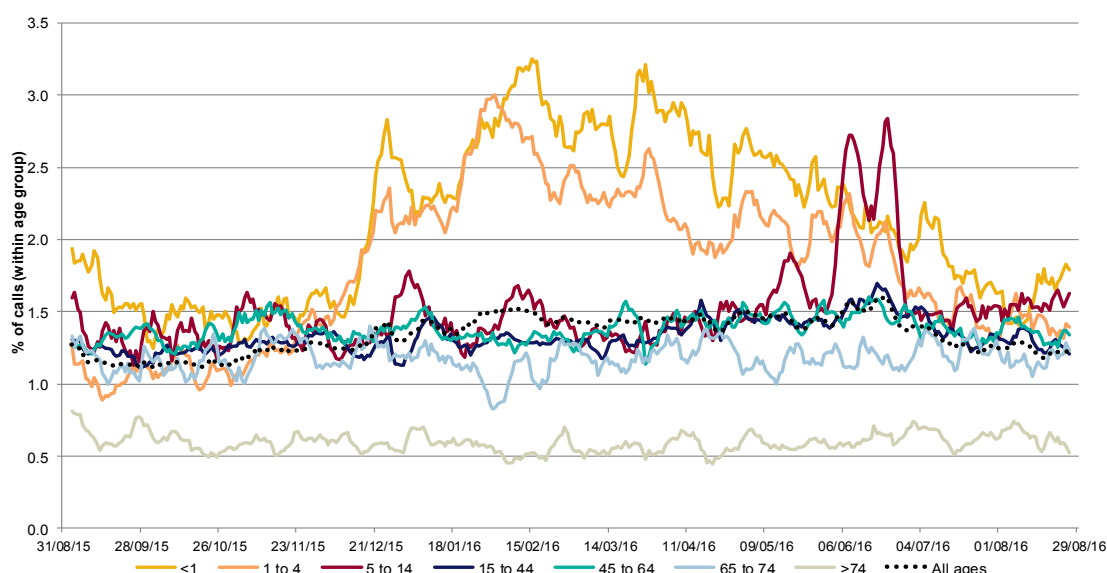
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9: Eye problems

Daily 'eye problems' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.
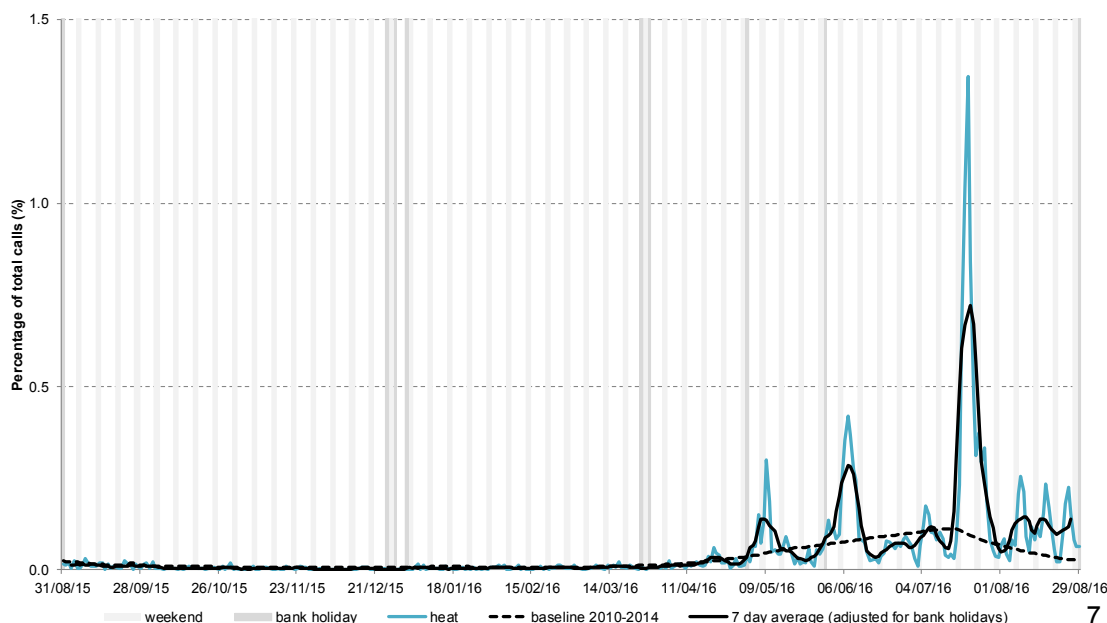

9a: Eye problems by age group

Eye problems calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

10. Heat/sun stroke

Daily 'heat/sun stroke' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since 2010, including data from NHS 111 and NHS Direct.
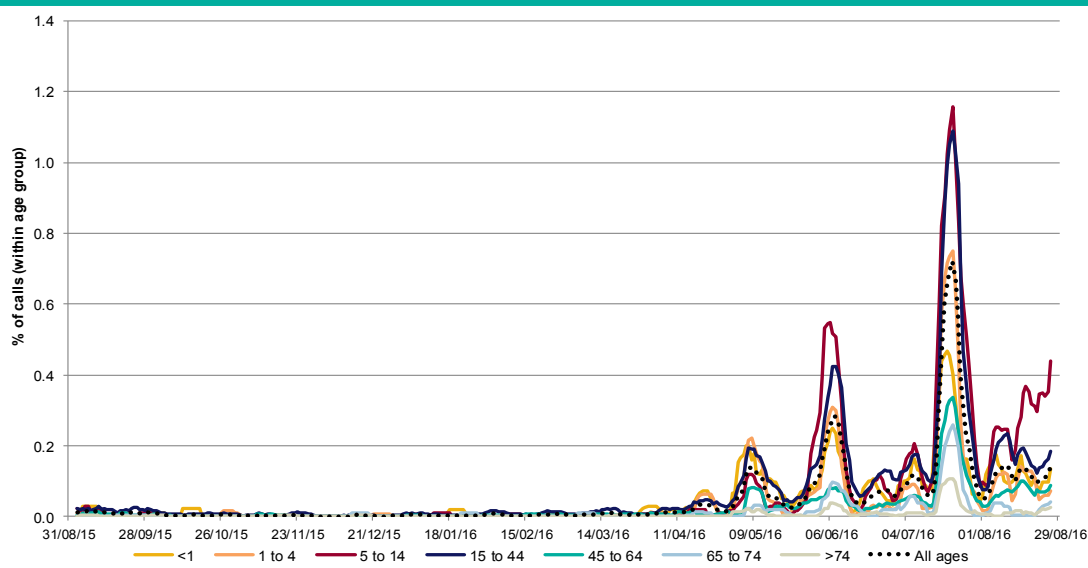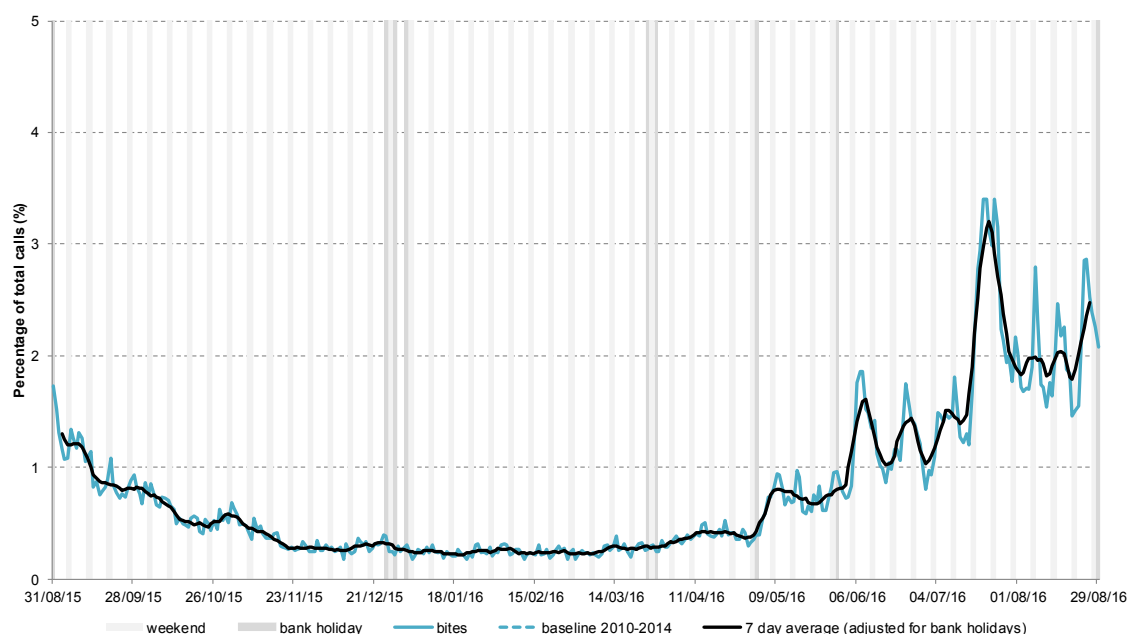

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10a: Heat/sun stroke by age group

'Heat/sun stroke' calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.
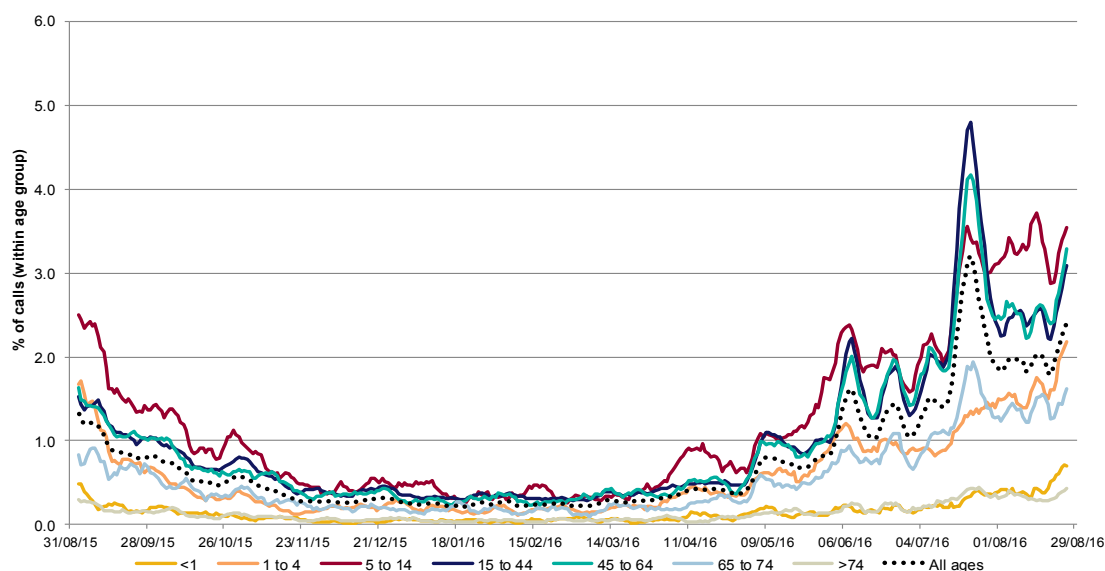

11: Insect bites

Daily 'insect bites' calls as a percentage of total calls. Baselines are constructed from historical data since Sept 2013.

11a: Insect bites by age group

'Insect bites' calls as a percentage of total calls within each age group, shown as a 7 day moving average adjusted for bank holidays.

Introduction to charts:

- Weekends and bank holidays are marked by vertical **grey** lines (bank holidays **darker grey**).
- A 7-day moving average (adjusted for bank holidays) is overlaid on the daily data reported in each chart, unless specified.
- Baselines are constructed using historical data, including data from both NHS111 and the NHS Direct syndromic system (which was replaced by NHS 111 data in September 2013). Seasonal trends reflect the average over past years, with levels adjusted to reflect differences between NHS 111 and NHS Direct data.
- This new syndromic surveillance system is still under development and further analyses at PHE Centre level will be included in future bulletins.
- NHS 111 call data are analysed on a daily basis to identify national and regional trends. A statistical algorithm underpins each system, routinely identifying activity that has increased significantly or is statistically significantly high for the time of year. Results from these daily analyses are assessed by the ReSST, along with analysis by age group, and anything deemed of public health importance is alerted by the team.

Notes and further information:

Further information about NHS 111 can be found at:

http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/ Emergencyandurgentcareservices/Pages/NHS-111.aspx

The Remote Health Advice Syndromic Surveillance bulletin can also be downloaded from the PHE Real-time Syndromic Surveillance website which also contains more information about syndromic surveillance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/syndromic-surveillance-systems-and-analyses

Acknowledgements:

We are grateful to NHS 111 and to HSCIC for their assistance and support in providing the anonymised call data that underpin the Remote Health Advice Syndromic Surveillance System.

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