Mental Health Act Statistics, 2017-18: Easy read version

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What is the Mental Health Act?

The Mental Health Act is a law.
It helps doctors decide if a person with a mental health problem needs to be kept in hospital.

Being detained under the Mental Health Act is sometimes called being sectioned.
It means you are made to stay in hospital for assessment or treatment.
People can be detained if doctors think they are going to hurt themselves or other people.

People who are detained are usually kept in secure hospitals. These are not like normal hospitals.

The Care Quality Commission checks these hospitals to make sure they are following the rules.
What do we do?

We collect information about the uses of the Mental Health Act in England. This helps people find out how many times people are being detained in each year.

How do we do this?

Hospitals in England send us information about how many times they have detained people.

We publish reports that show how many times people were detained.

This is one of those reports.
What do we need to know?

How many times were people detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act?

Who was detained under the Mental Health Act?

How many people were subject to the Mental Health Act at 31st March 2018?

Has the number of detentions gone up or down since last year?
How many times were people detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act?

Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018 people were detained 49,551 times under the Mental Health Act.

Who was detained under the Mental Health Act?

More men than women were detained under the Mental Health Act.

More people aged between 18 and 34 years old were detained than other age groups.

A black person was more likely to be detained compared with a white person.
How many people were subject to the Mental Health Act at the end of March 2018?

There were 21,439 people subject to the Mental Health Act.

Has the number of detentions gone up or down?

The number of detentions has gone up compared to last year.

Part of the increase is because the information we get from hospitals has got better.

But even taking that into account, we think the numbers have gone up since last year.