

A Survey of the Lower Limb Amputee Population in Scotland 2022 and 2023 Executive Summary



SPARG
Scottish Physiotherapy Amputee
Research Group

December 2025

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1 Acknowledgements

We wish to thank all physiotherapy teams who are involved in the work of SPARG and without whose loyal, tireless, and determined support this work would not have been accomplished.

SPARG would also like to thank the British Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in limb Absence Rehabilitation (BACPAR) for providing the funding to allow us to produce this report.

2 SPARG 2022 & 2023 Annual Report: Executive Summary

- The number of amputations in Scotland significantly increased in 2023 (914). The number of hip disarticulations in this year was also notably high (14).
- The population of those with a major lower limb amputation (MLLA) in Scotland continue to have a median age of 66 years and 71% are male. The ratio of transtibial (TTA) to transfemoral (TFA) amputations is 1.5:1, this is largely unchanged.
- The prevalence of diabetes in this cohort has started to stabilise since 2020 at around 55%.
- Dysvascular aetiology remains the leading cause of amputation in Scotland.
- The number of patients limb-fitted overall remains constant at 40%–45%. The main difference in numbers of patients limb-fitted is between TTA and TFA level of amputation.
- In 2022, 65% of those with TTA and 15% of those with TFA were limb-fitted.
- In 2023, 66% of those with a TTA and 19% of those with a TFA were limb-fitted. Although there was an increase in TFA patients limb-fitted in 2021 (27%), this has reduced again to below 20% through 2022-23 and seems to be the new normal.
- In 2023, TORT limb-fitted the lowest percentage of TFAs since SPARG reports began (7%). During COVID-19, TORT lost their in-patient rehabilitation beds and set up an outreach service within patients' homes. This has continued since COVID-19 and is thought to be a positive change. It will be interesting to monitor whether this lower rate of limb-fitting for TFA patients continues, and if the outreach service has enabled more targeted limb-fitting decision making.
- The median days from casting to delivery for TFA patients increased from 9 to 14 days in 2022, and remained at this in 2023.
- The median days from casting to delivery for TTA patients increased from 7 to 14 days in 2023.
- The median days to in-patient discharge when limb-fitted, increased slightly in 2022-23 but remained lower than the pre-COVID-19 length of stay.

The full report can be accessed from the BACPAR website (BACPAR website: <https://www.bacpar.org/resources/sparg-resources/sparg-public-reports/>)

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