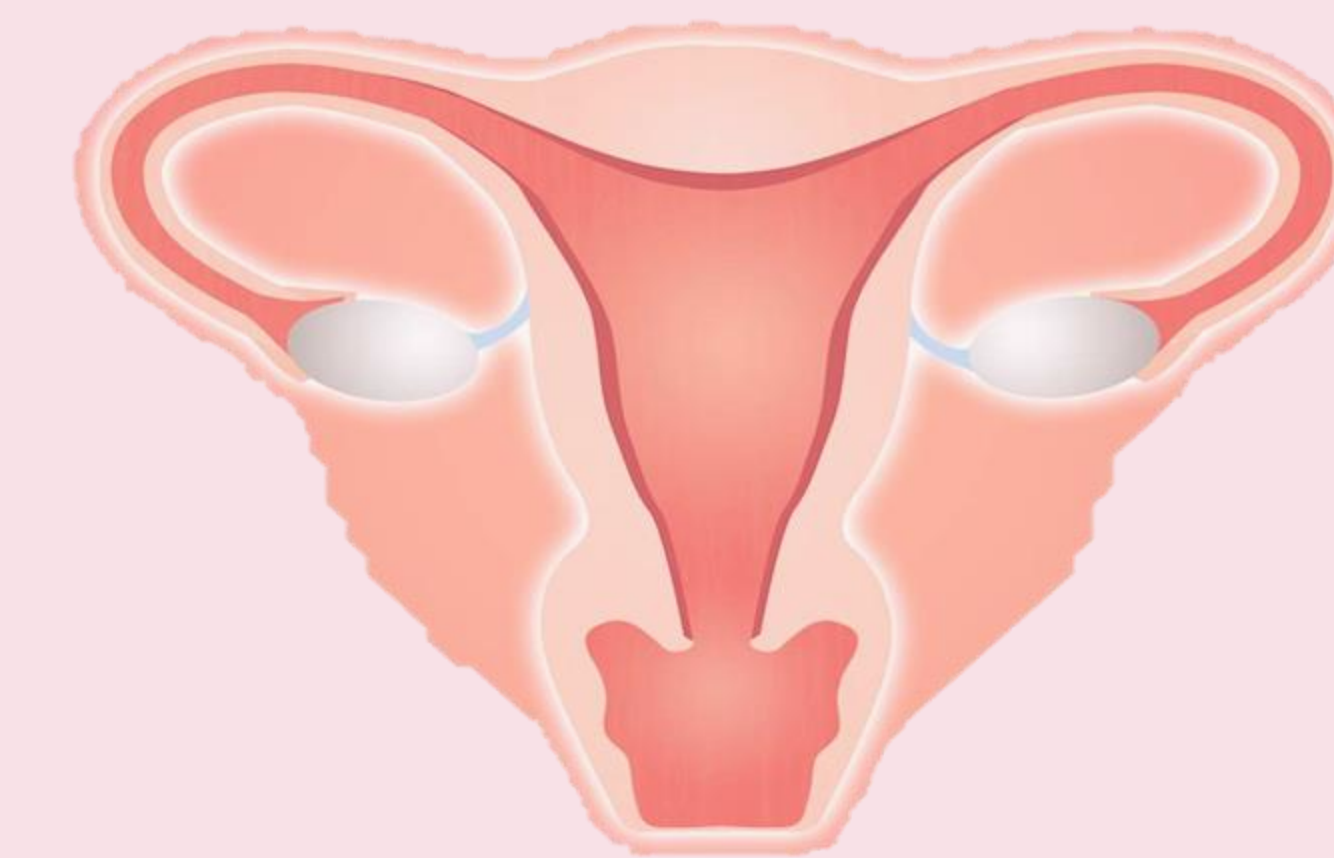




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Background

- Over 700,000 patients are on waiting lists for gynaecological care, including menopause services
- 76% report that this significantly impacts on their mental health.

Aims

The increasing demand for menopause-related care highlights the need to improve access to these essential services. We aim to compare the availability of menopause services across different regions in the UK to help map menopause services and ultimately inform strategies for service enhancement and equitable access.

Method

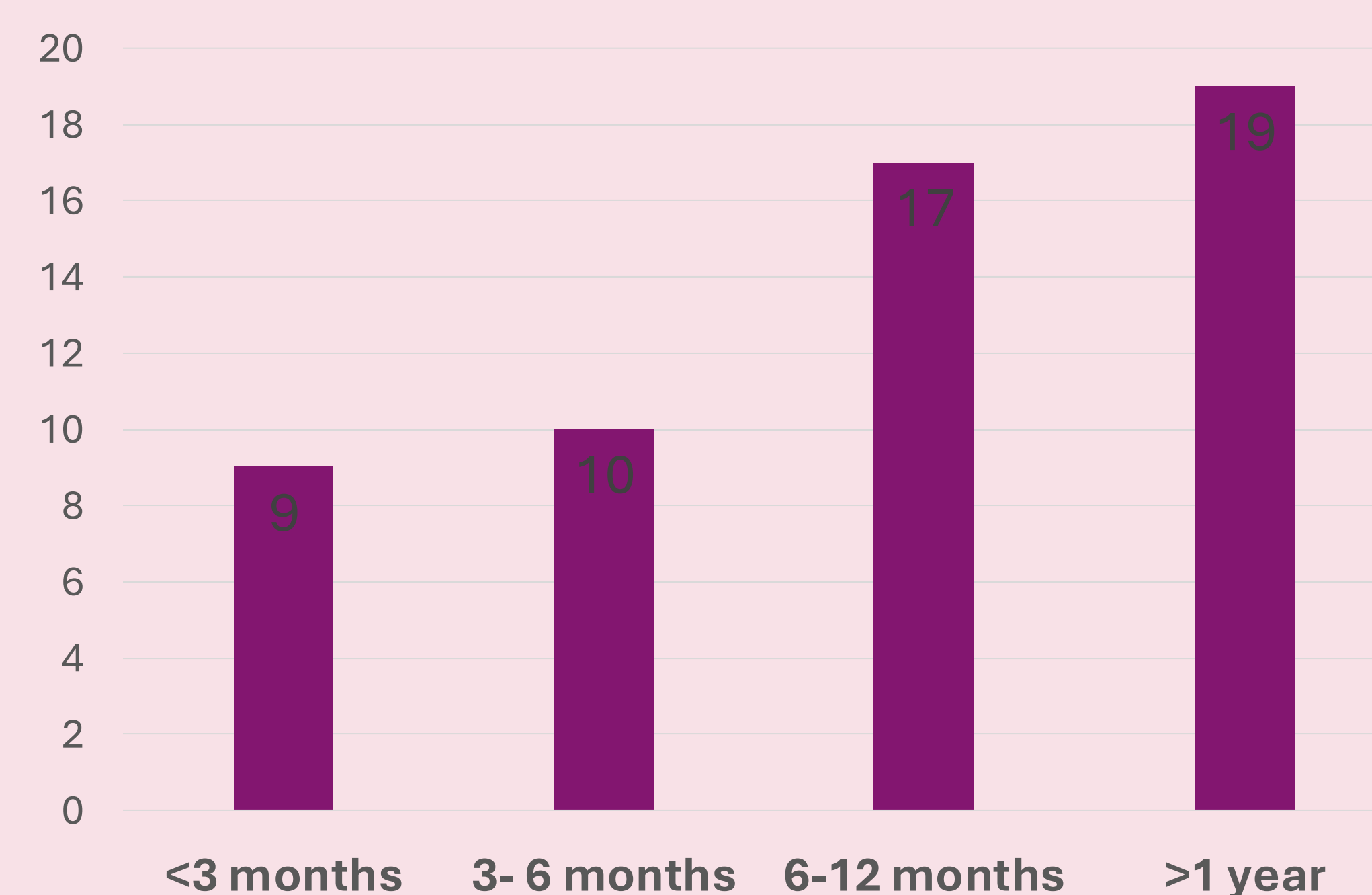
We collected data via a survey distributed to members of the Doctors Menopause Café (DMC), a Facebook platform with over 6,000 doctors. Data collection occurred over a two-week period and included General practitioners from across the UK. Data analysis was done on microsoft excel.



Perceived barriers to menopause services

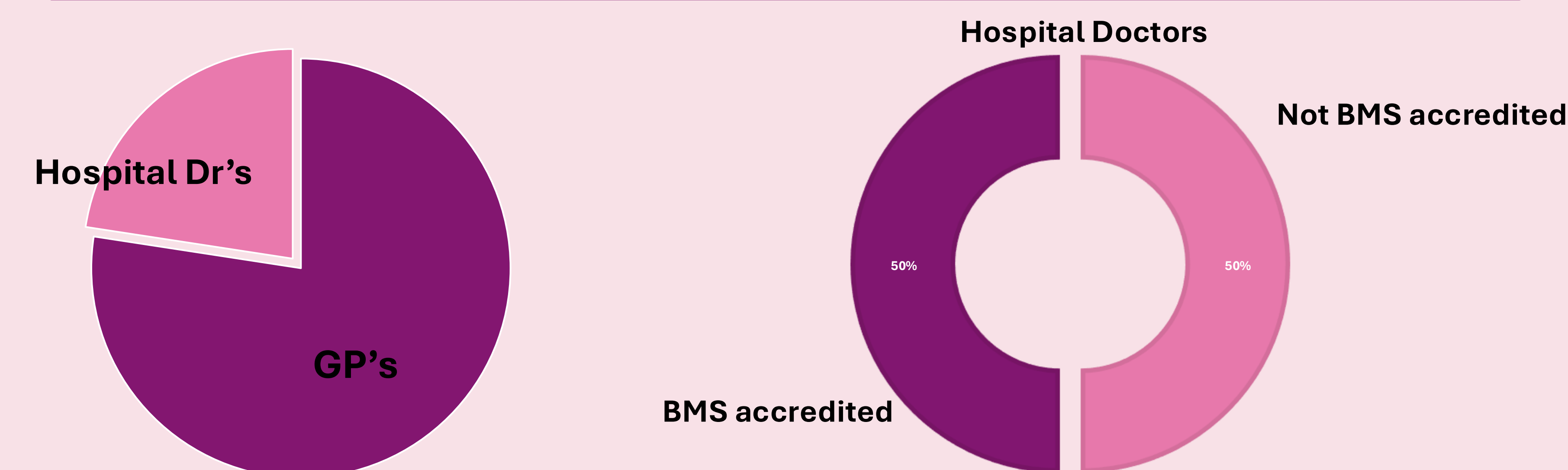


Waiting times for menopause services



Results

- 62 responses: 48 GPs + 14 hospital doctors
- 54.8% have access to advice & guidance
- 40% of GPs would refer elsewhere for menopause care
- Only 50% of hospital doctors providing menopause services were British Menopause Society (BMS) accredited.
- 27% reported waits of 6 months to 1 year, 29% noted waits exceeding 1 year.
- 26 respondents rated access to menopause services in their area as poor.
- Commonly cited barriers included long waiting times and insufficient funding.



Conclusion

Patients face long waiting times and that menopause services suffer from insufficient funding.
Our study highlights the potential for using the DMC platform to map service accessibility and identify strategies to address gaps in menopause care.