

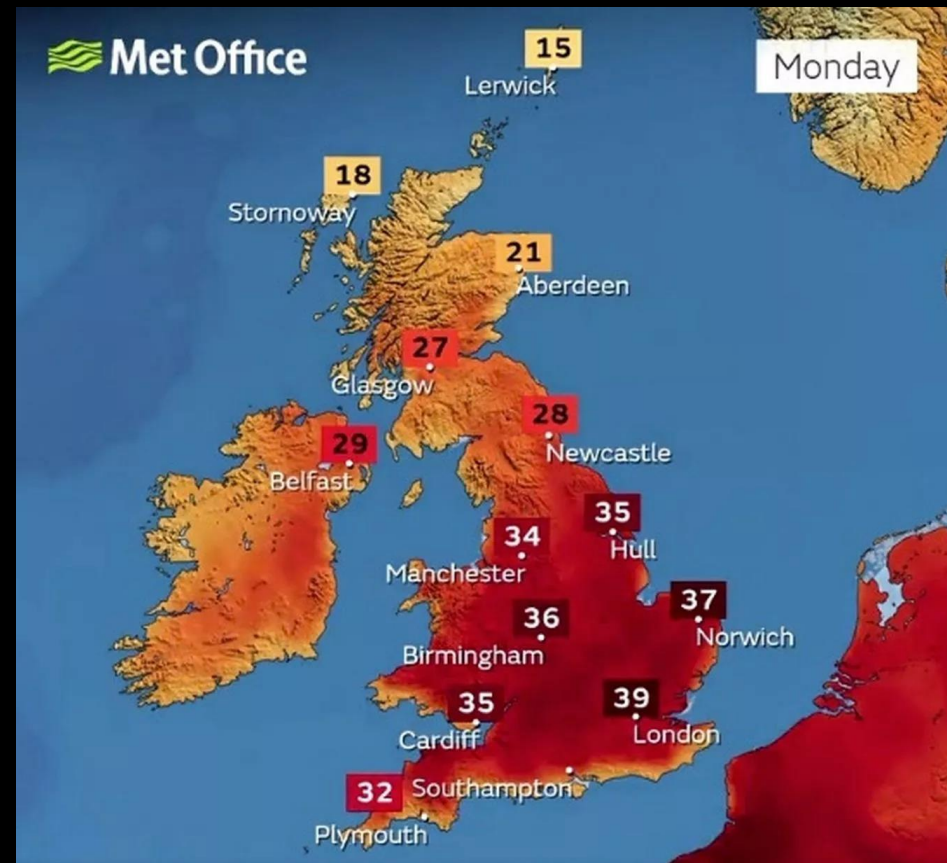
Elective surgical services need to start planning for summer pressures

Maria Picciochi

PhD fellow at the NIHR Global Surgery Unit,
University of Birmingham

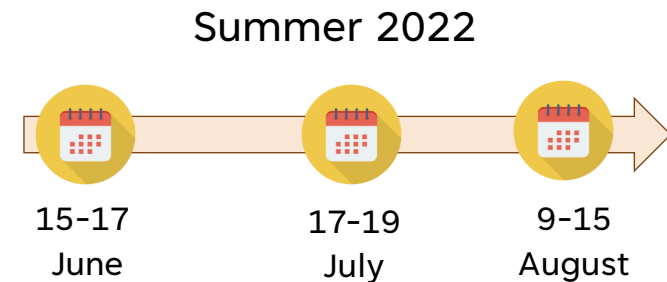
General Surgery Trainee, Portugal

On behalf of GreenSurg Collaborative



Background & Aims

- Heatwaves will occur more frequently
- Elective services are prone to external pressures



AIM: Determine the impact of heatwaves on elective surgery in the UK



Methods



? Impact

? Preparedness



17-19 July

Frontline teams



Results



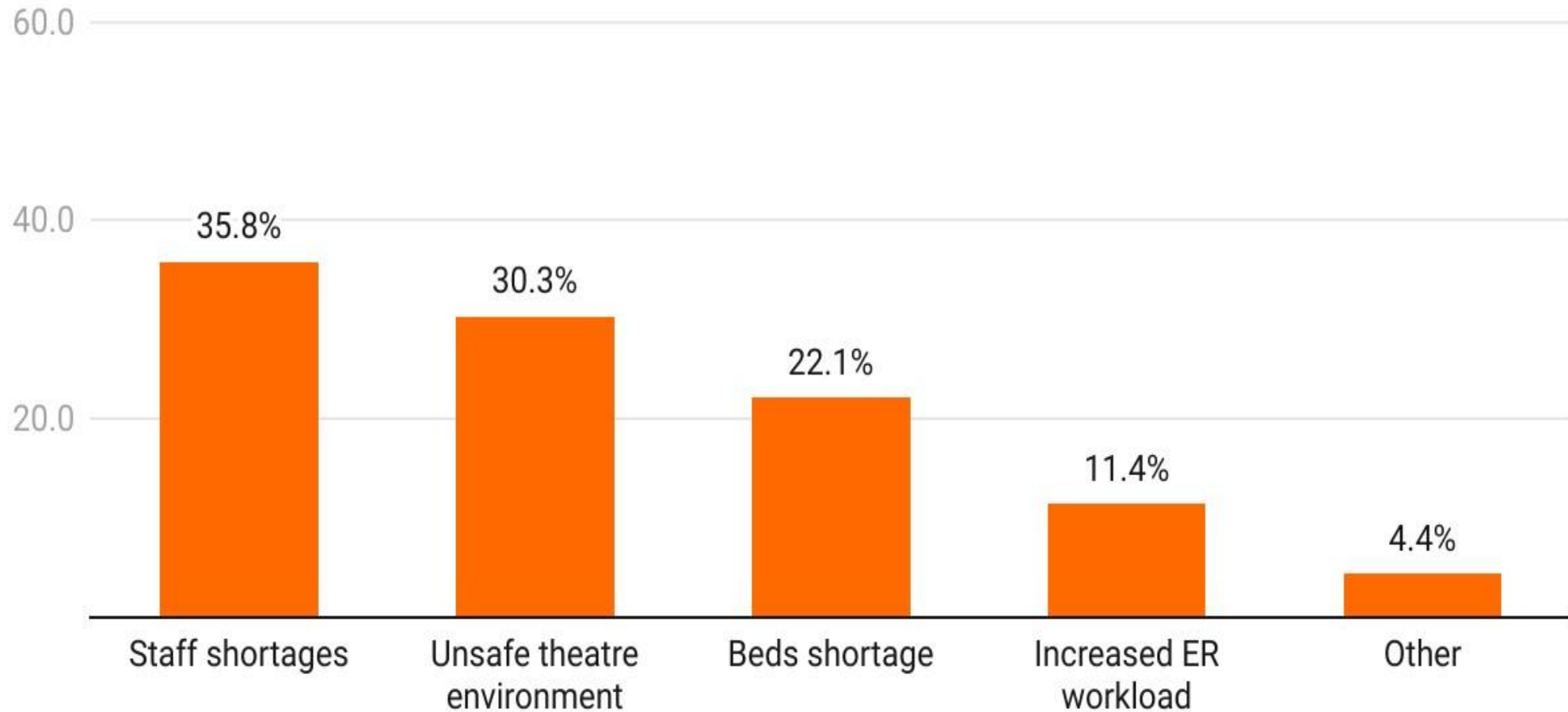
- 271 responses
- 140 hospitals in the UK
- 20 specialties

1 in 5 respondents
heatwave resulted directly in
cancellation of elective
surgery

41%
Operating theatres unable to
control ambient temperature



Results



12 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

Factors contributing to heatwave-related cancellations of elective surgery



Implications to practice



- Planning before summer is needed
- Improvement of air-conditioning coverage
- Checklist for operating theatres during heatwaves
- Learning from other countries



Operating theatre heatwaves checklist

- ✓ **Do you have a operating theatre heatwave plan?**
Who is responsible for overseeing this?
- ✓ **Can your operating theatres function during heatwaves?**
Do ventilation systems need to be upgraded?
Is any equipment at risk of overheating?
- ✓ **Do you have a plan in case there are staff shortages?**
Is it feasible to have "backup" staff?
- ✓ **If there is a heatwave-related surge in emergency admissions, can surgical activity be maintained?**
Ringfencing elective surgery beds, switching inpatient theatre lists to day-cases



Thank you Questions?

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@MariaPicciochi | m.picciochi@bham.ac.uk

