

# **Changes in childhood A&E attendance patterns since the covid19 lockdown**

week 26 analysis

*July 2020*

# Introduction

This document describes the changes that have taken place to patterns of childhood attendances (0-19 years) at accident and emergency departments since the covid19 lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

This analysis describes attendances at a representative subset of type 1 (24-hour consultant-led) A&E departments in England for the period up to the end of week 26 (30<sup>nd</sup> June).

# Key messages

Attendance rates at type 1 units are increasing but had not returned to pre-lockdown levels by the end of week 26.

In the week following the lockdown, rates fell to about a third of their normal level; by week 26 attendances were 40% below the usual level.

Reductions in attendance rates preceded the lockdown by 1 week.

Attendance rates reduced for all presentation types, acuity levels, arrival modes and age groups.

Injuries in older children and those that are frequently associated with sporting activities fell at the fastest rates.

Illness presentations for 1-4 year olds fell particularly rapidly as did illness presentations for respiratory, ENT and dermatological conditions.

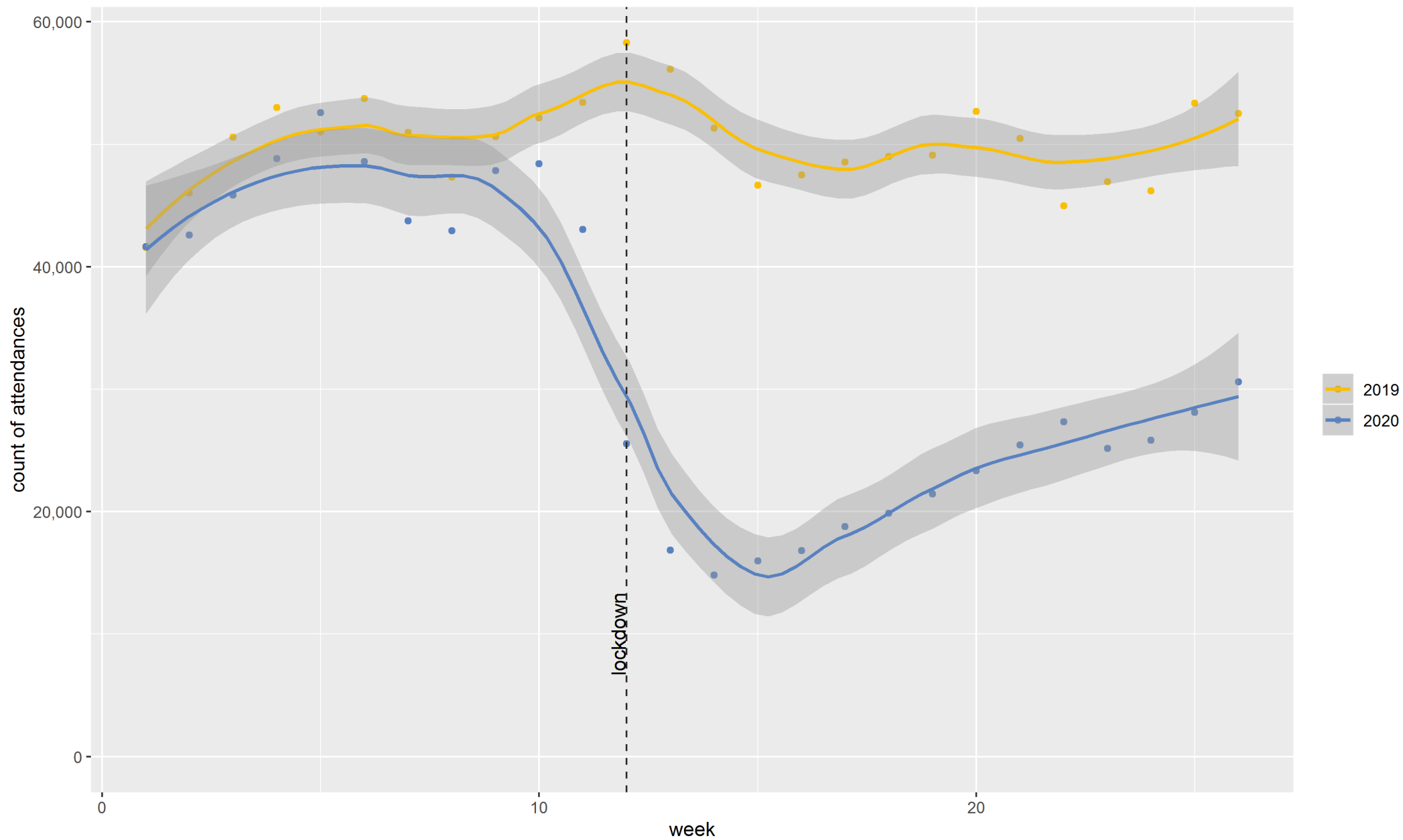
Some types of attendances increased more rapidly than others in the weeks following the lockdown. By week 26, ambulance conveyed injuries and attendances for burns and scalds, foreign bodies, poisonings, facio-maxillary and visceral injuries have returned to levels seen at this time last year. Presentations for endocrinological, gynaecological, psychiatric and social problems have also returned close to the usual rate.

Other types of attendances however have increased only marginally since the lockdown. These include illness presentations for 1-4 year olds, respiratory and ENT presentations and injury presentations for 10-14 year olds.

Attendances for Covid19 patients peaked in week 14 and had fallen to approximately one fifth of this rate by week 26.

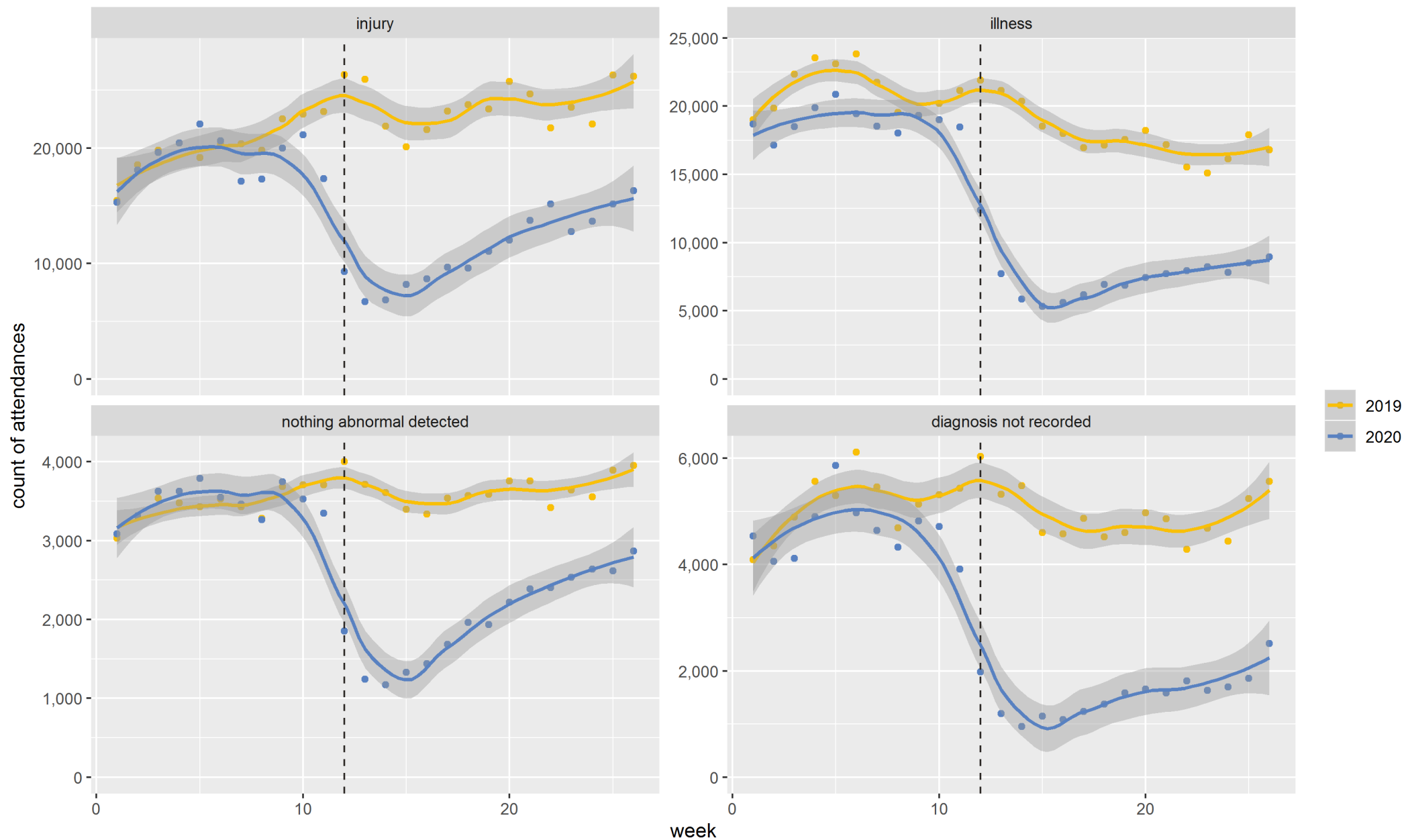
# Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

0-19 years | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



# Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

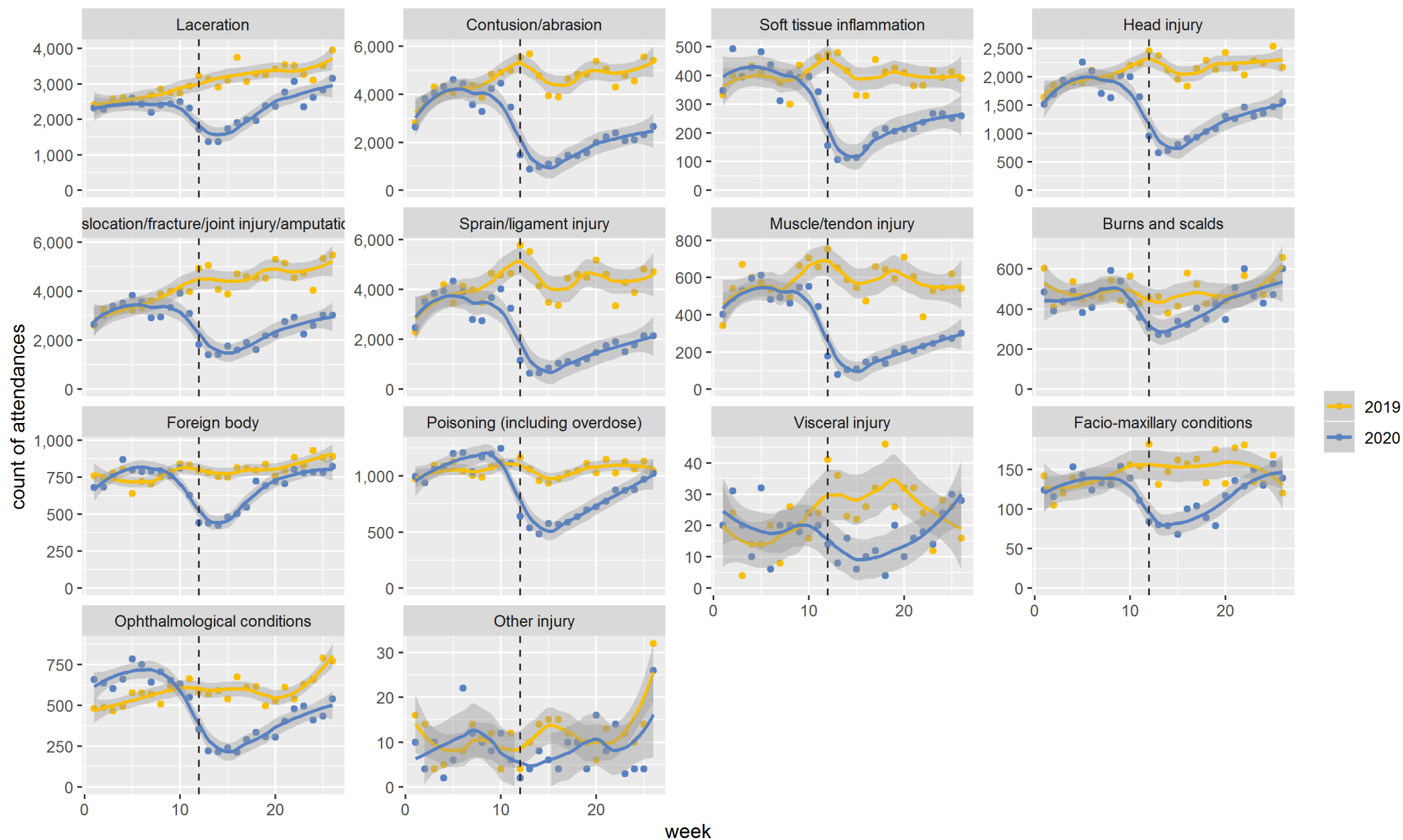
0-19 years | by presentation type | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



# **Injury presentations**

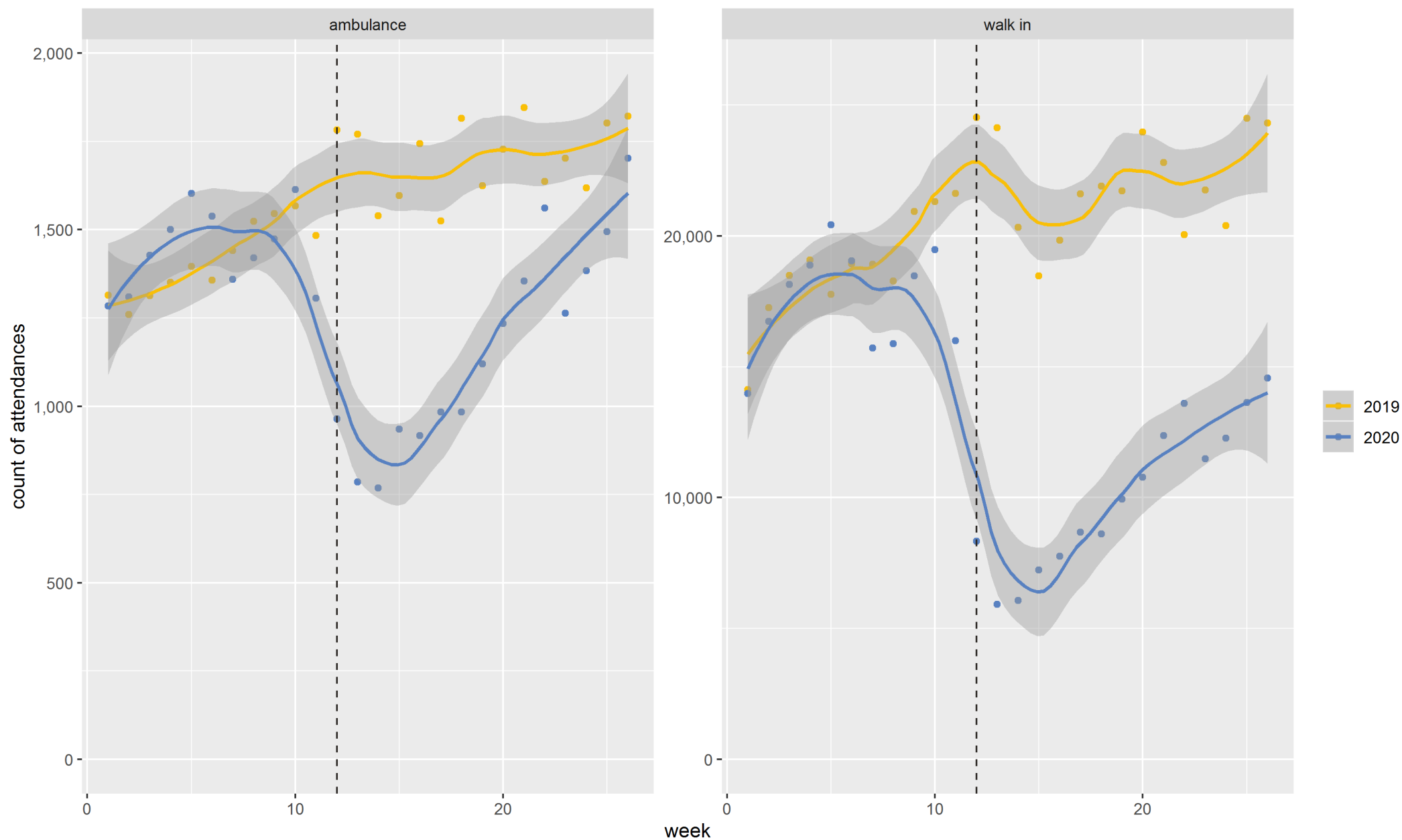
# Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Injury presentations by diagnosis | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



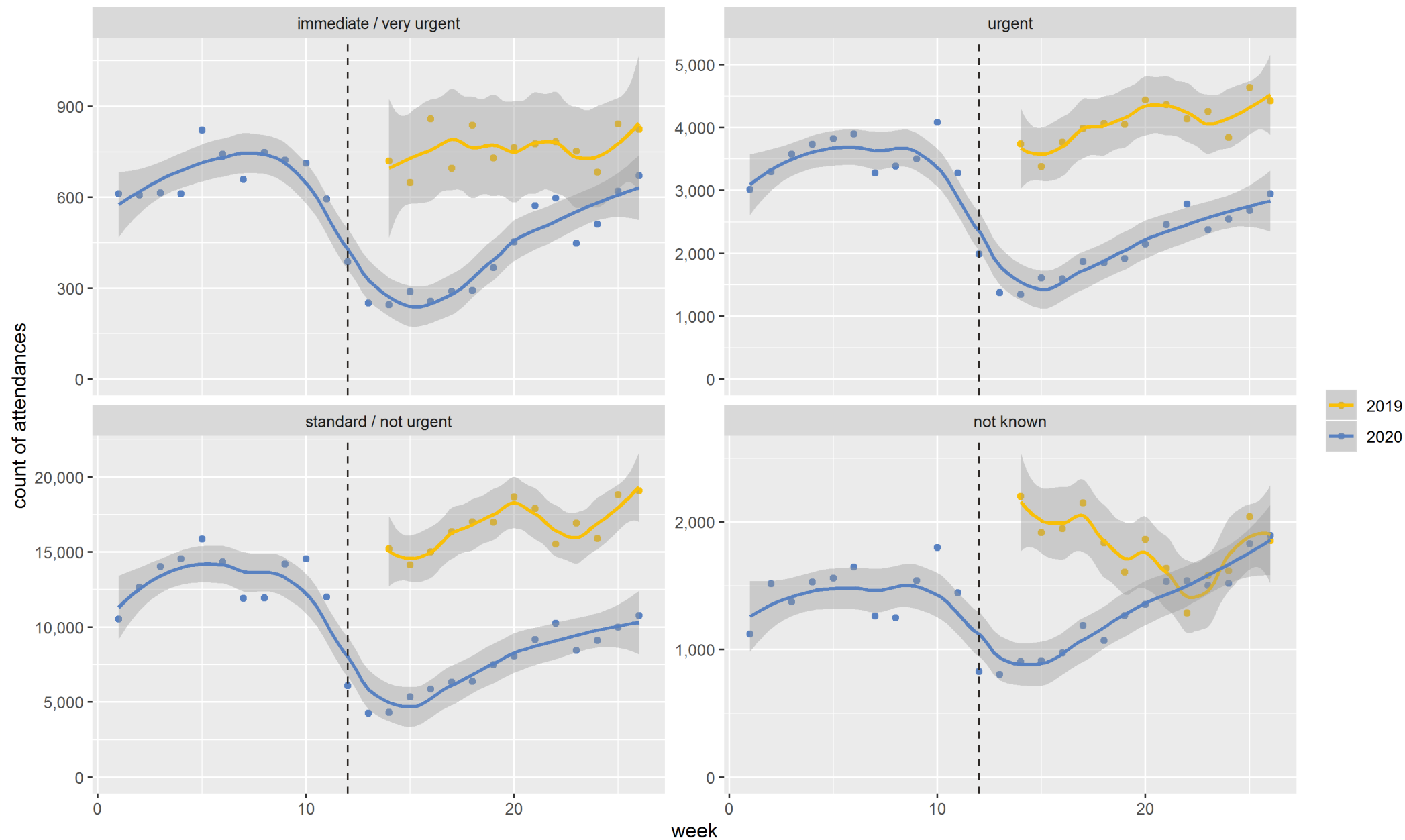
## Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Injury presentations by arrival mode | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



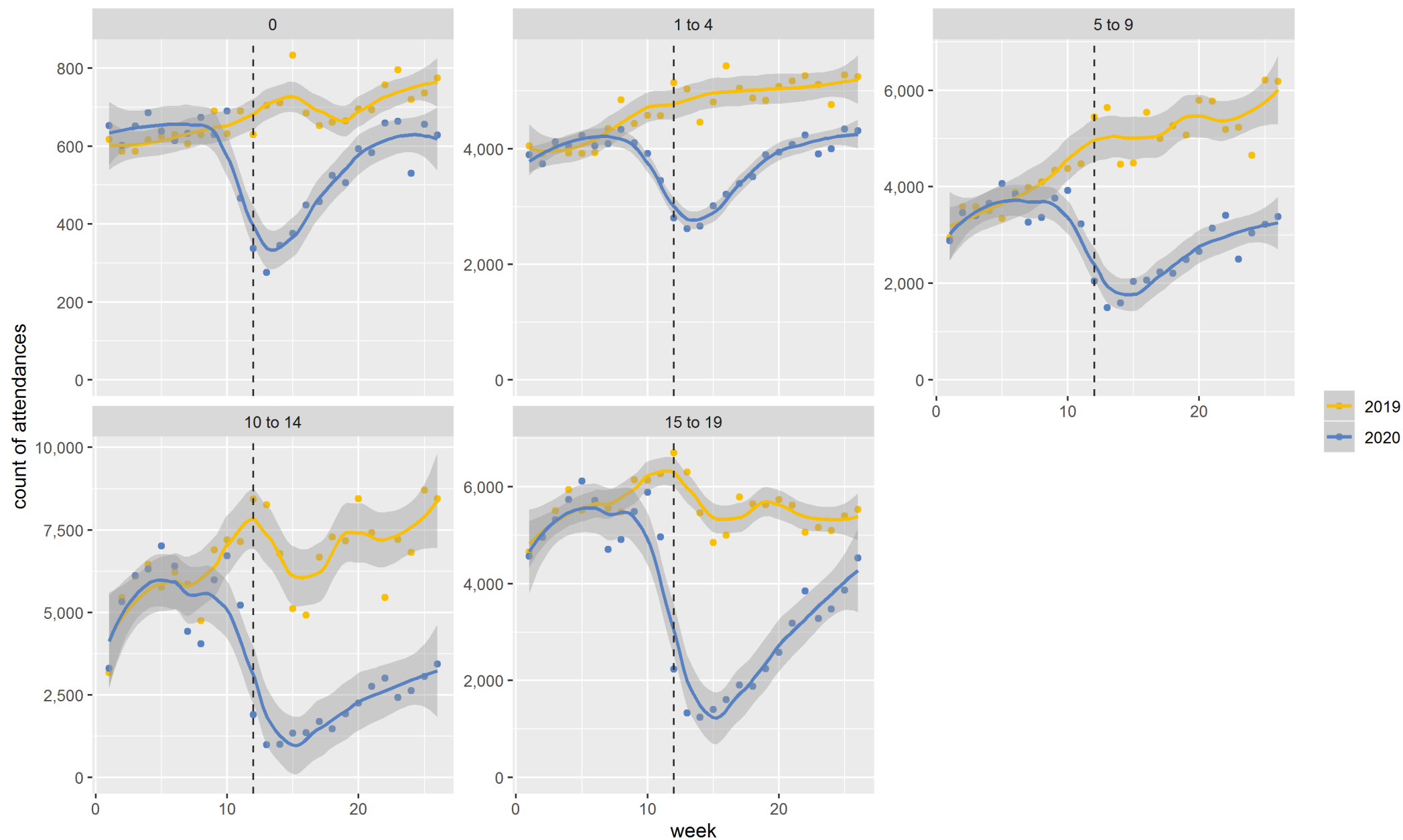
## Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Injury presentations by acuity level | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



# Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

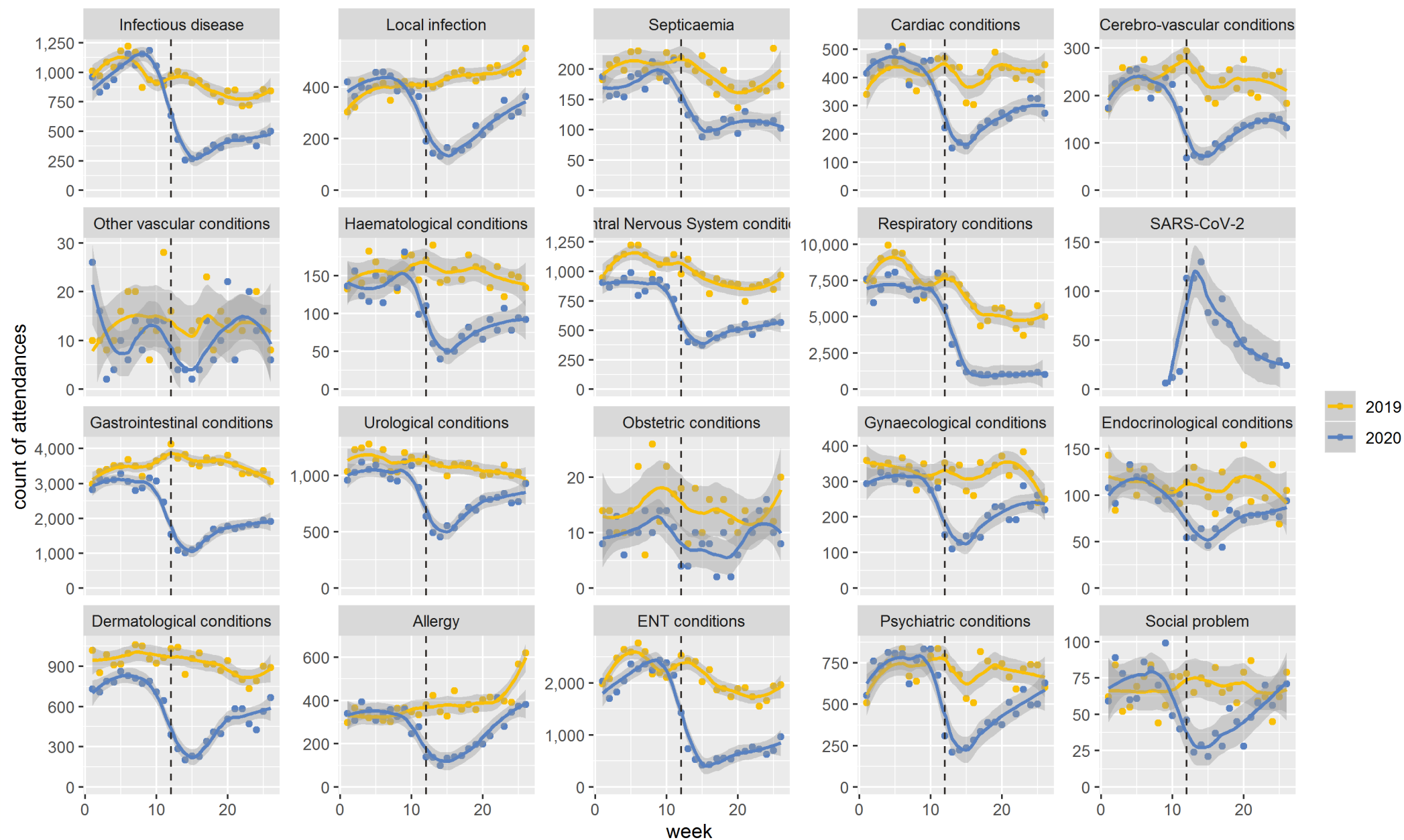
Injury presentations by age group | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



# **Illness presentations**

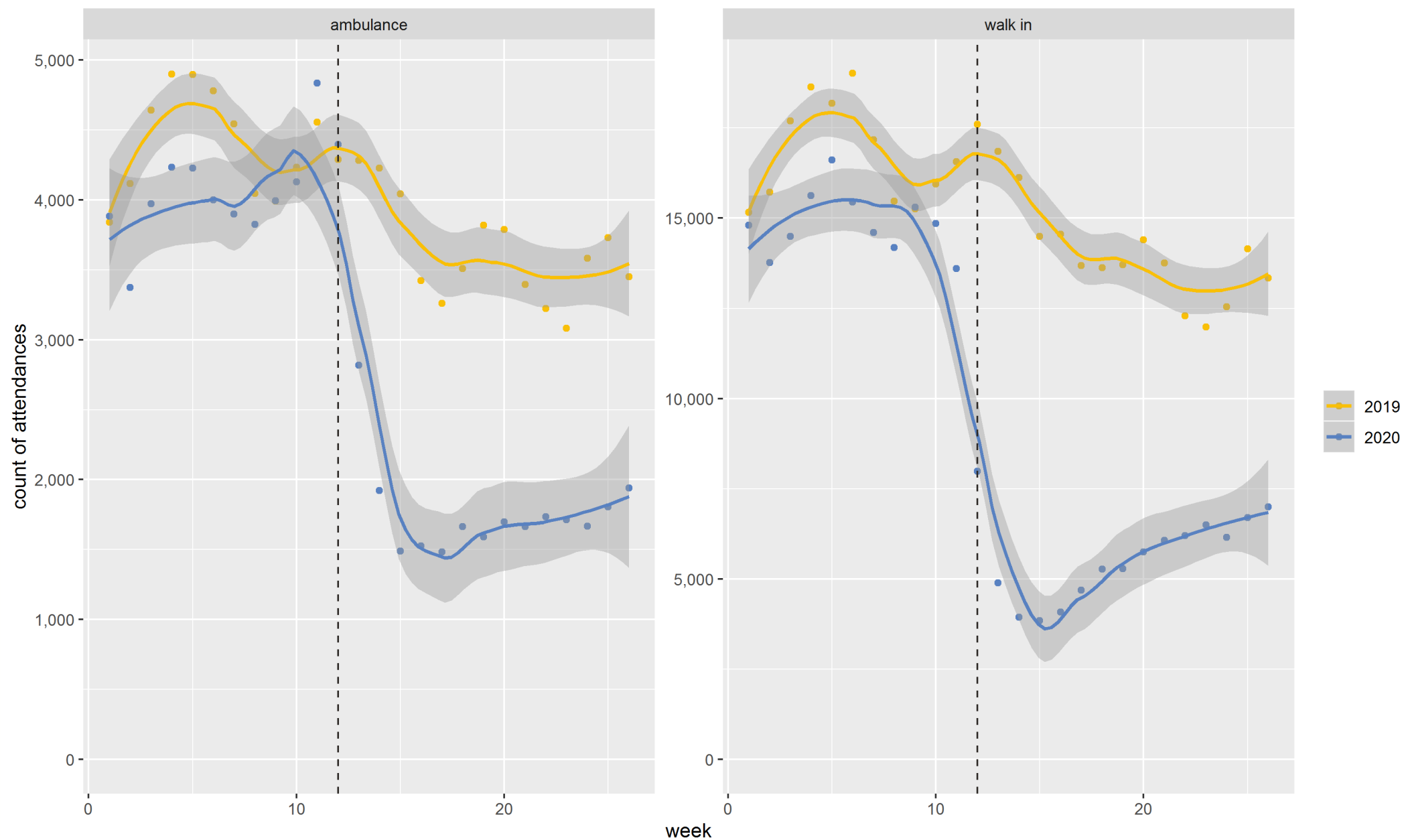
# Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Illness presentations by diagnosis | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



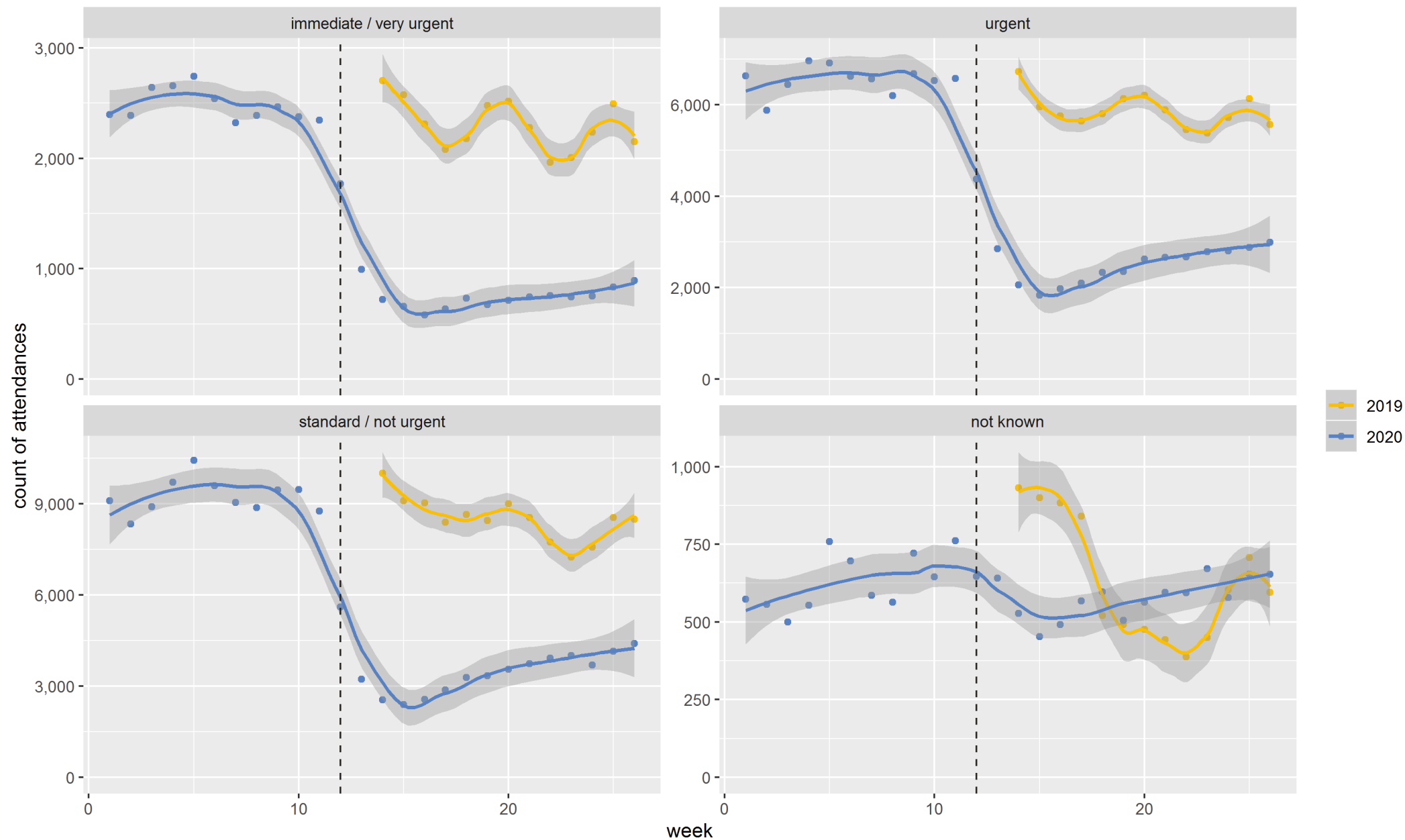
## Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Illness presentations by arrival mode | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



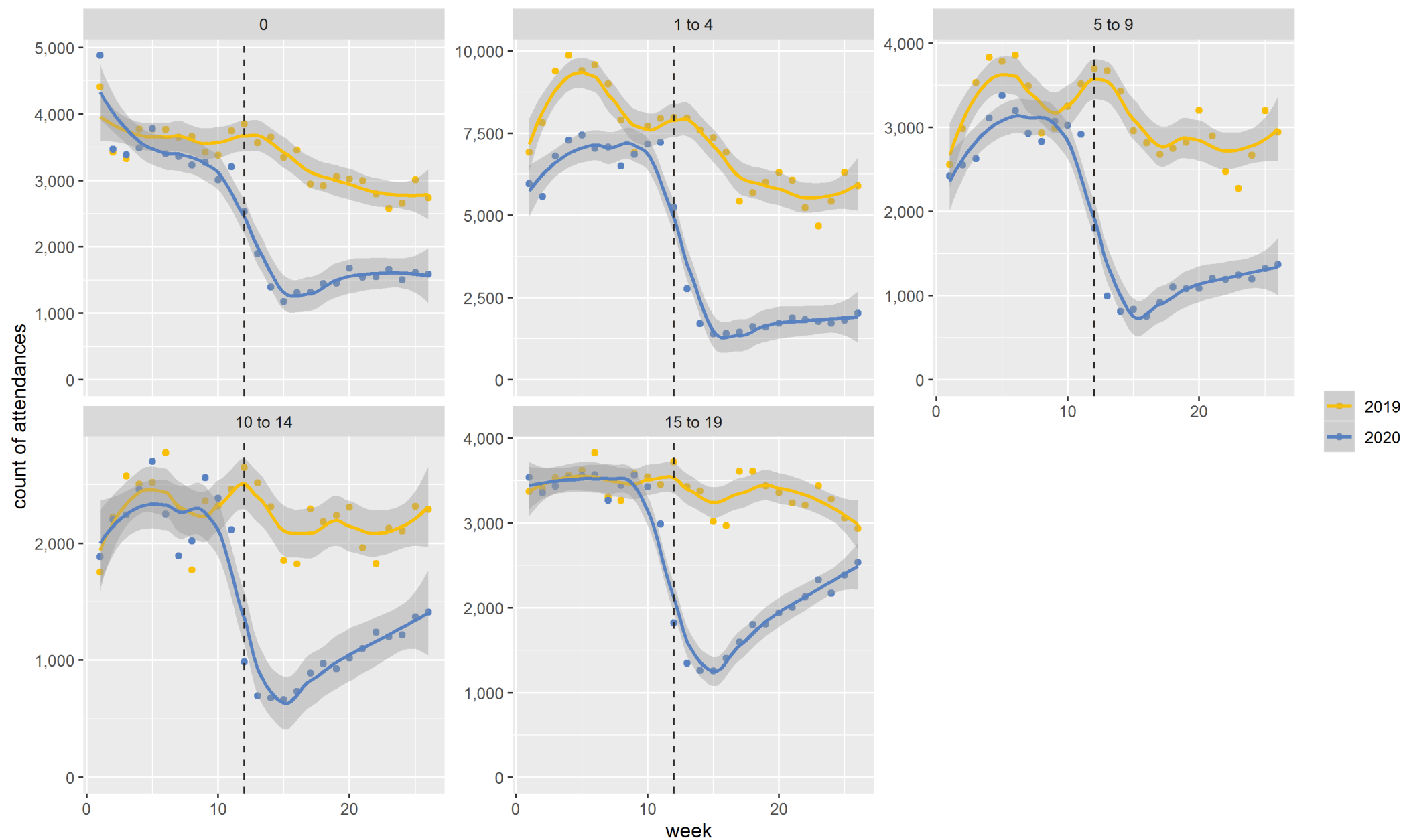
## Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Illness presentations by acuity level | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



## Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

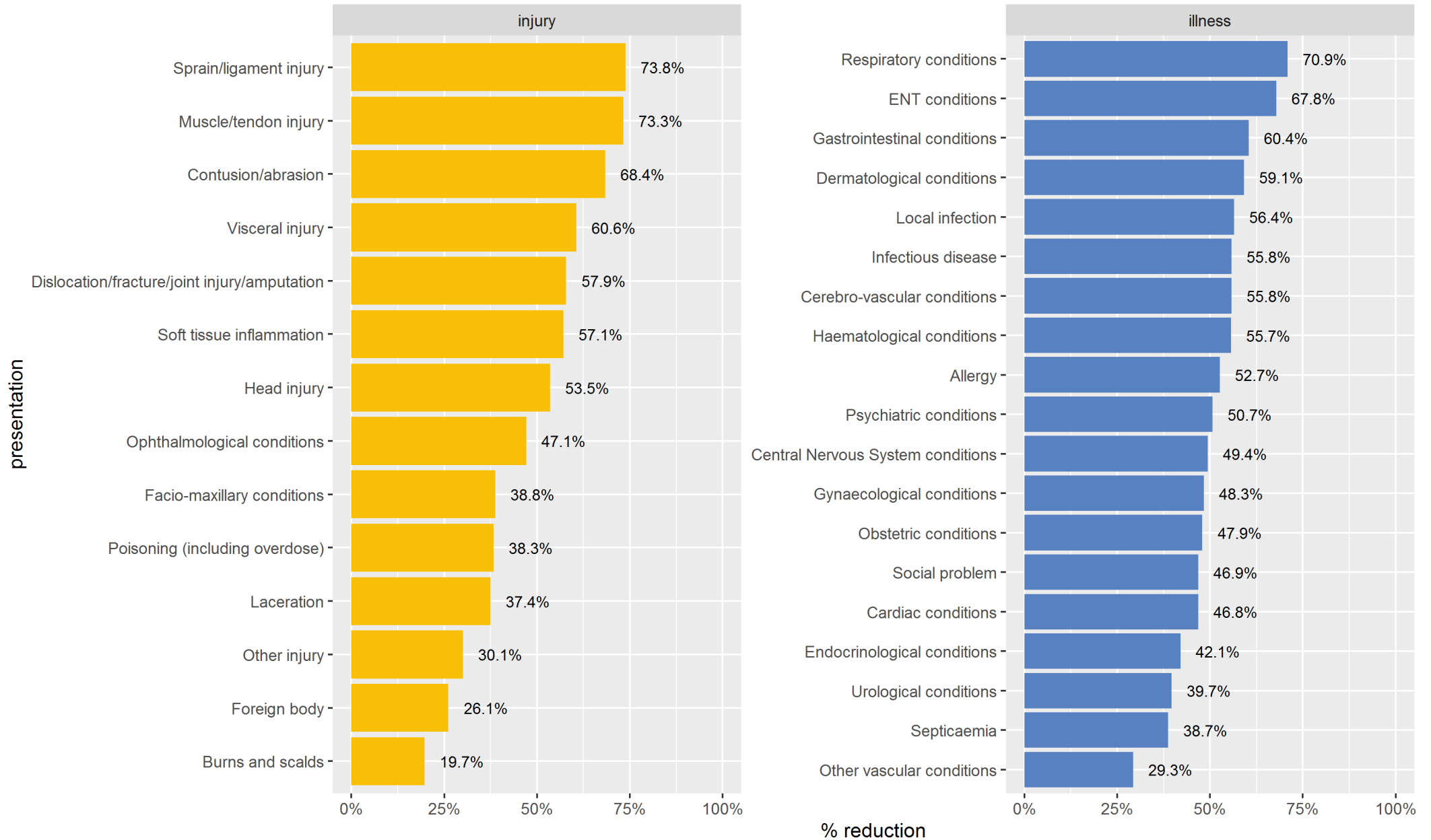
Illness presentations by age group | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



# **Relative changes**

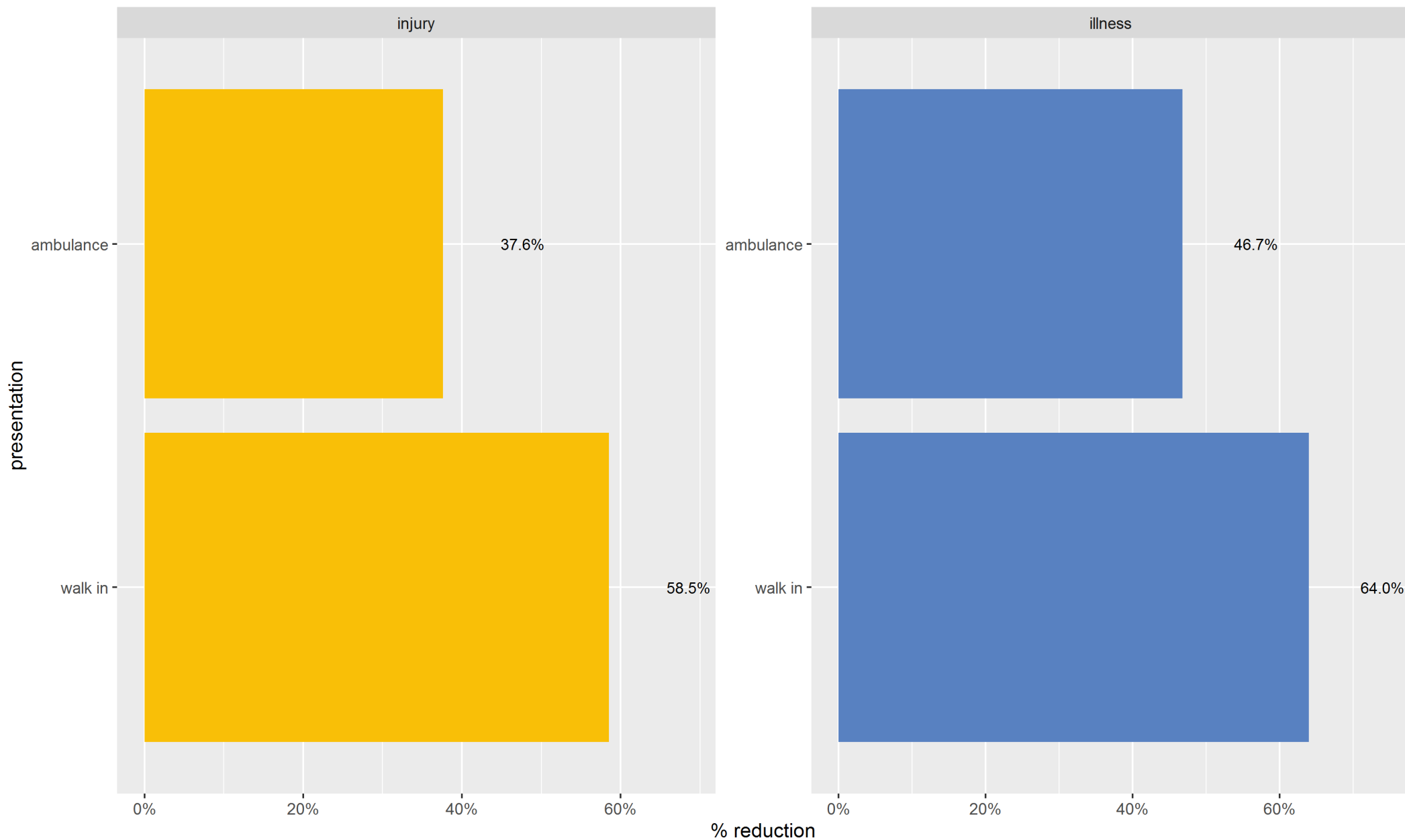
## Change in attendances rates at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

0-19 years | by presentation type and diagnosis | Weeks 12-26 2019 & 2020 | England



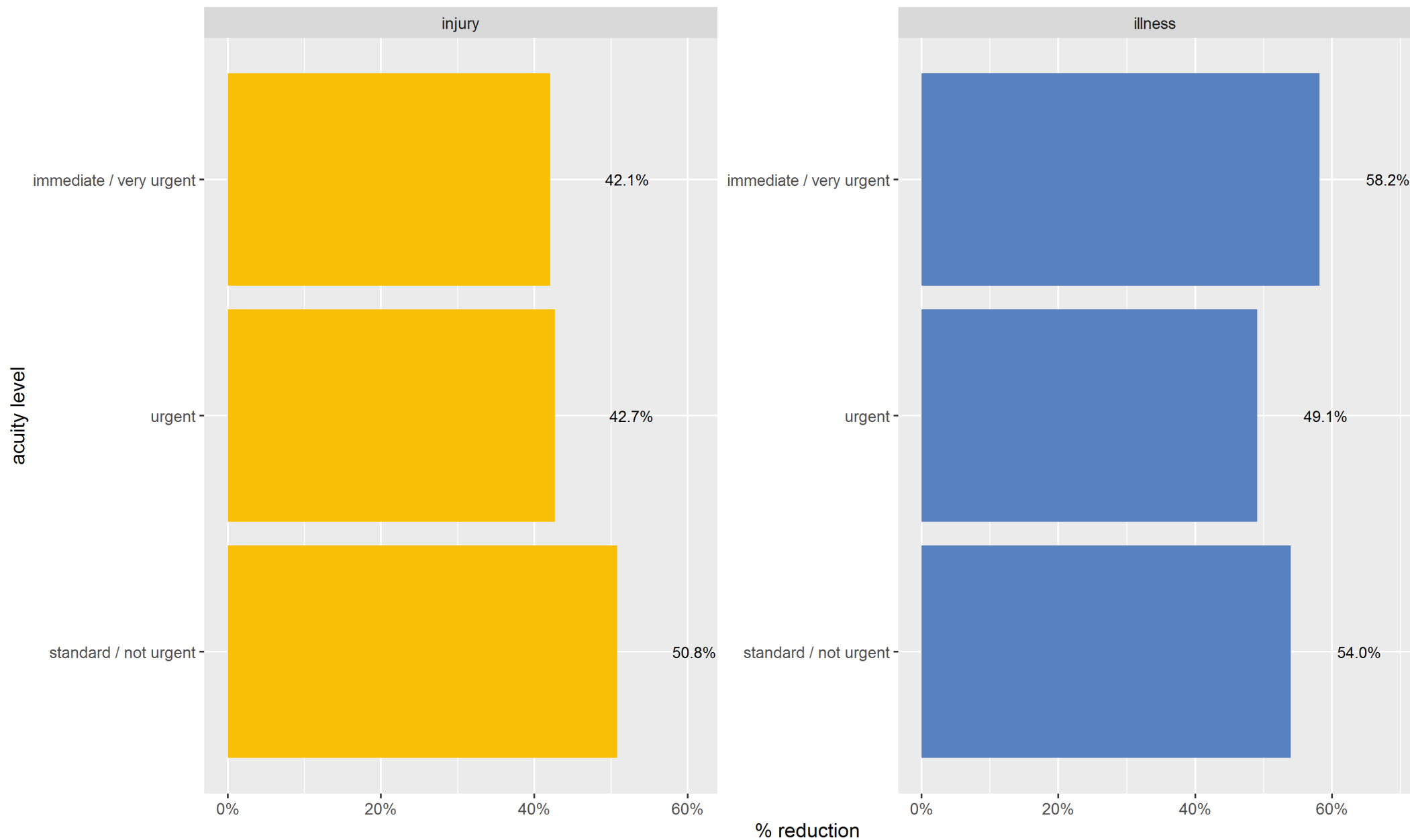
# Change in attendances rates at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

0-19 years | by presentation type and arrival mode | Weeks 12-26 2019 & 2020 | England



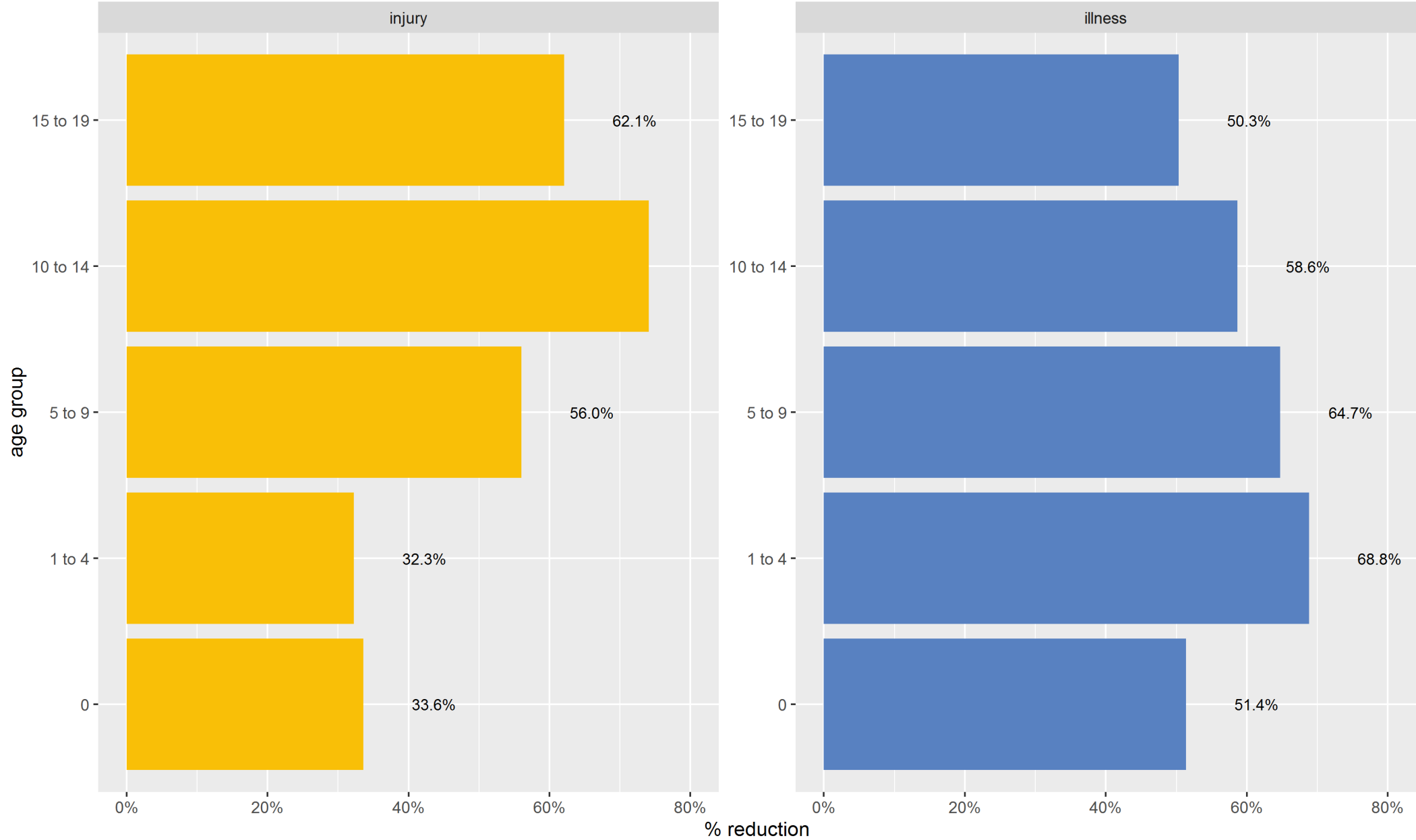
## Change in attendances rates at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

0-19 years | by presentation type and acuity level | Weeks 12-20 2020 vs weeks 2-10 2020 | England



Change in attendances rates at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

0-19 years | by presentation type and age group | Weeks 12-26 2019 & 2020 | England



**The  
Strategy  
Unit.**

**Notes**

# The data

The data used in this analysis is drawn from the daily ECDS feeds from SUS, supplied by the National Commissioning Data Repository (NCDR).

The charts show data for 41 trusts that have complete data for the period up to week 26 of 2020 and record patient diagnoses at consistently high levels.

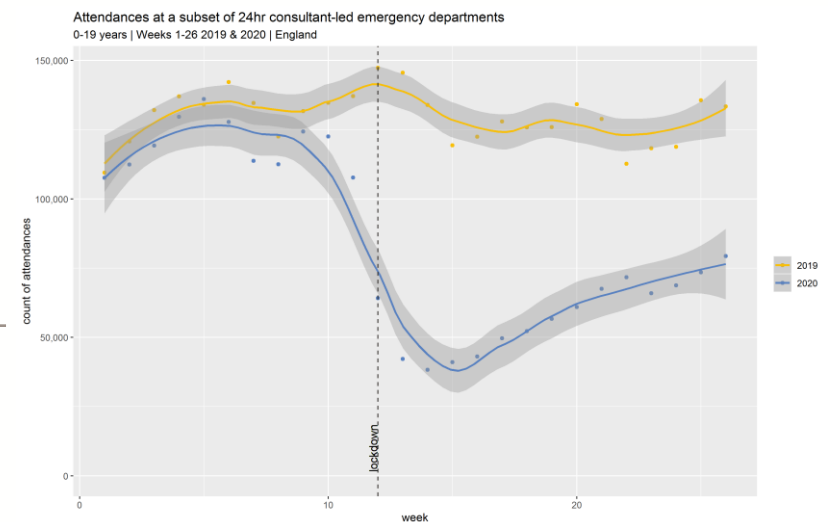
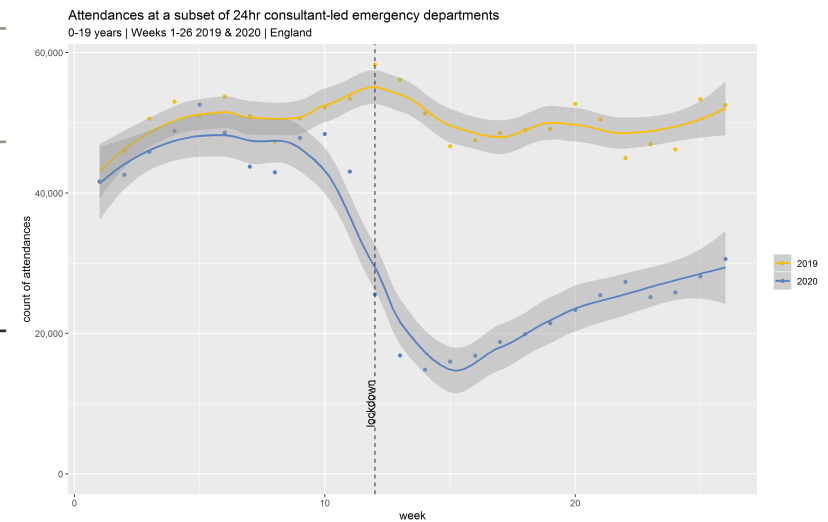
The two additional slides below show;

1) A comparison of the characteristics of attendances at the subset of 41 trusts and a wider set of 104 trusts that have complete data up to the end of week 26. The attendance characteristics are broadly similar, although higher proportions of white patients and patients from the most deprived areas are seen in the subset of trusts used in this analysis.

2) Attendance rate trends for the wider set of type 1 departments. This suggests that our sample of providers is not unusual in terms of the trends in attendances.

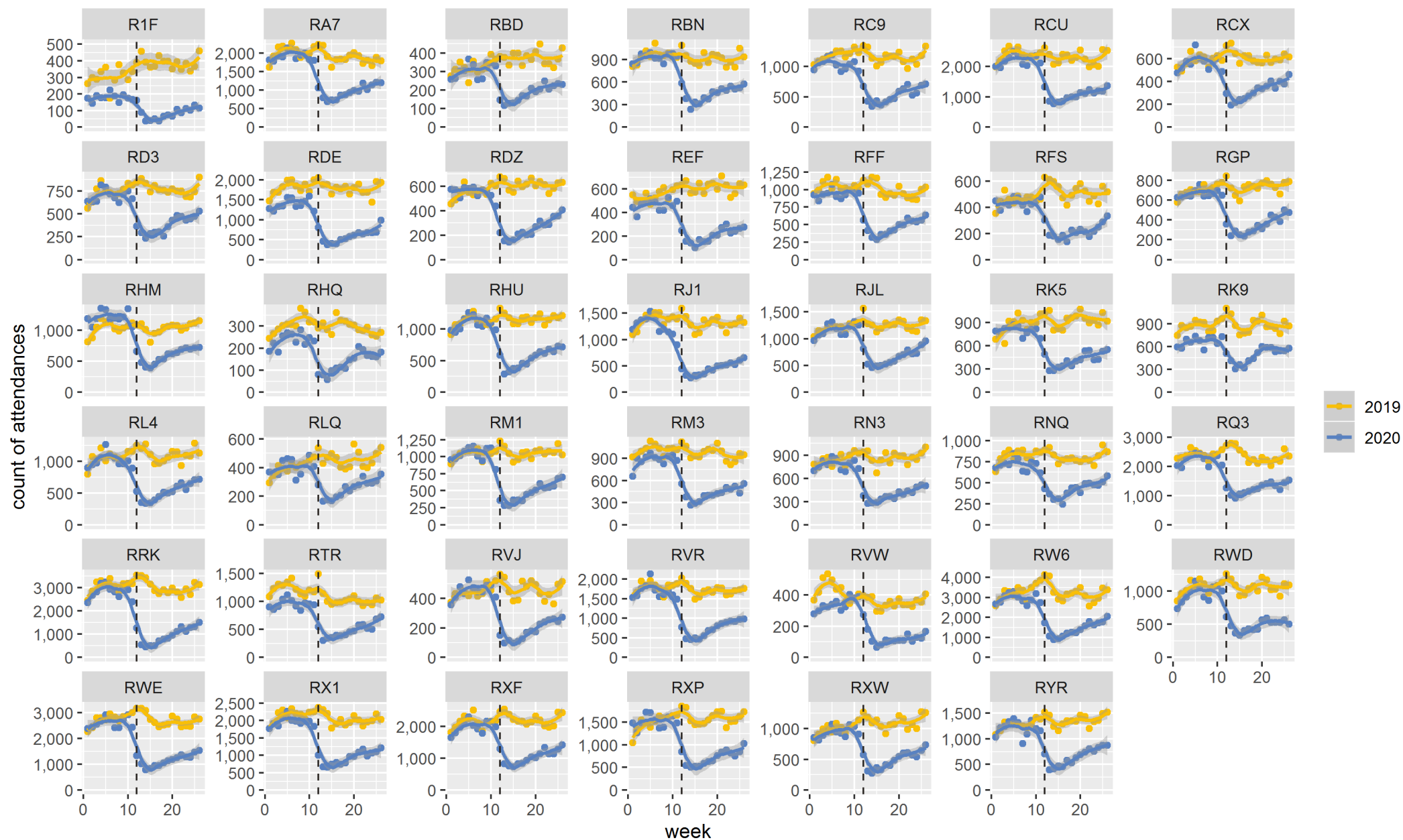
3) Attendance rate trends for each of the 41 departments. Most providers show similar trends and there are no providers that appear to be disproportionately affecting the aggregate trends.

		Attendances   0-19 years   Week 13-26 2019			
		providers used in this analysis n = 41		all providers with data to week 26 n = 104	
grouping	sub-group	attendances	%	attendances	%
total		695,296		2,190,983	
sex	female	324,449	46.7%	1,015,845	46.4%
	male	370,803	53.3%	1,169,055	53.4%
	not known	44	0.0%	6,083	0.3%
age group	0	73,025	10.5%	251,481	11.5%
	1 to 4	187,015	26.9%	597,099	27.3%
	5 to 9	135,771	19.5%	425,543	19.4%
	10 to 14	147,887	21.3%	448,372	20.5%
	15 to 19	151,598	21.8%	468,488	21.4%
ethnic group	White	489,650	70.4%	1,488,191	67.9%
	Mixed	28,311	4.1%	87,326	4.0%
	Asian or Asian British	67,533	9.7%	213,585	9.7%
	Black or Black British	28,135	4.0%	101,701	4.6%
	Other ethnic groups	22,488	3.2%	89,046	4.1%
	not stated / not given	59,179	8.5%	211,134	9.6%
IMD2015 decile	1 - most deprived	143,992	20.7%	358,801	16.4%
	2	98,756	14.2%	295,052	13.5%
	3	76,758	11.0%	257,234	11.7%
	4	68,395	9.8%	220,067	10.0%
	5	60,072	8.6%	197,906	9.0%
	6	54,122	7.8%	185,531	8.5%
	7	52,454	7.5%	175,442	8.0%
	8	50,185	7.2%	169,426	7.7%
	9	46,052	6.6%	162,253	7.4%
	10 - least deprived	40,156	5.8%	152,424	7.0%
	not known	4,354	0.6%	16,847	0.8%
Urbanicity	urban	599,247	86.2%	1,912,623	87.3%
	rural	92,657	13.3%	264,076	12.1%
	not known	3,392	0.5%	14,284	0.7%



# Attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

0-19 years | Weeks 1-26 2019 & 2020 | England



For questions relating to this analysis, please contact:

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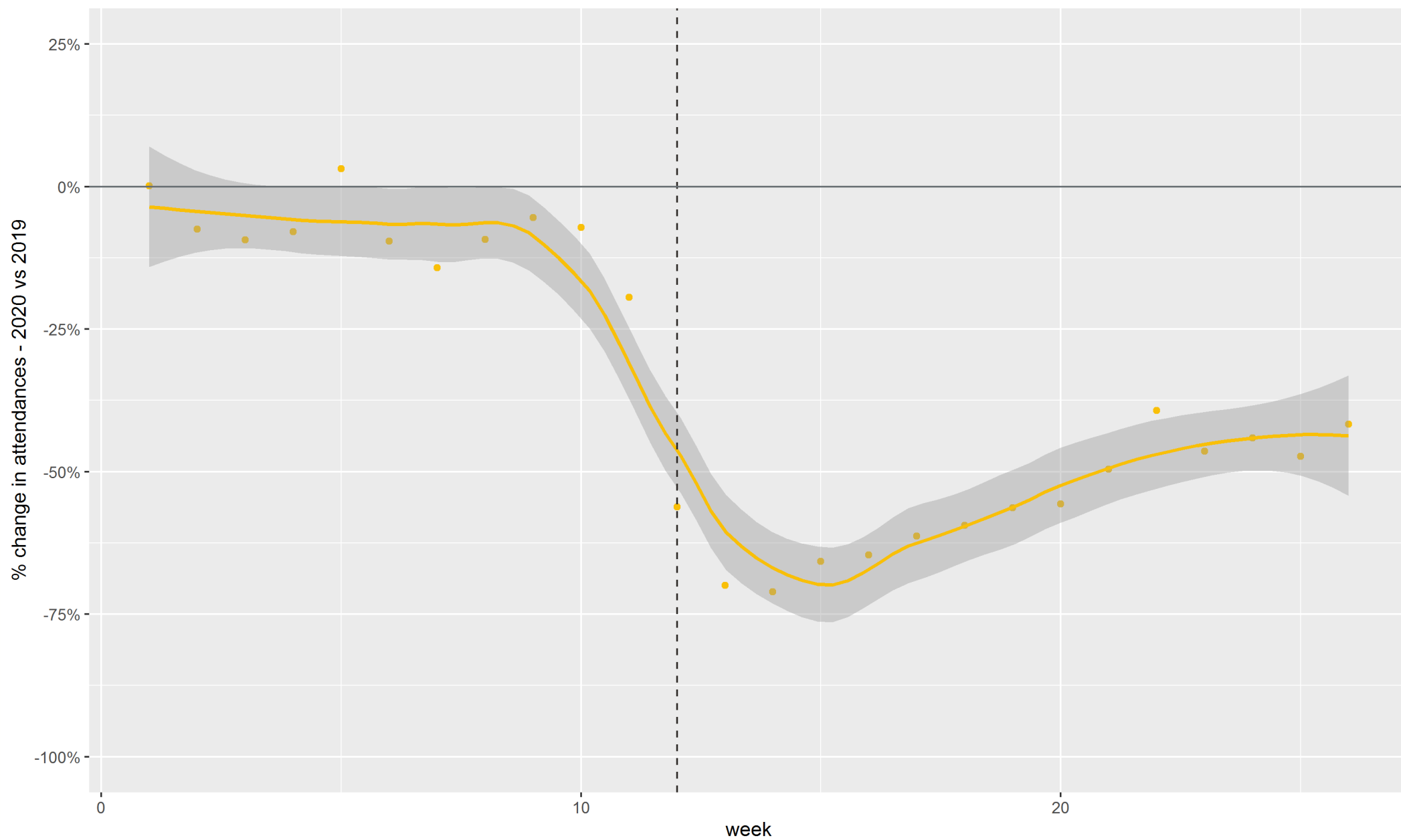
W: [strategyunit.co.uk](http://strategyunit.co.uk)

Twitter: [@Strategy\\_Unit](https://twitter.com/Strategy_Unit)

# **Additional charts**

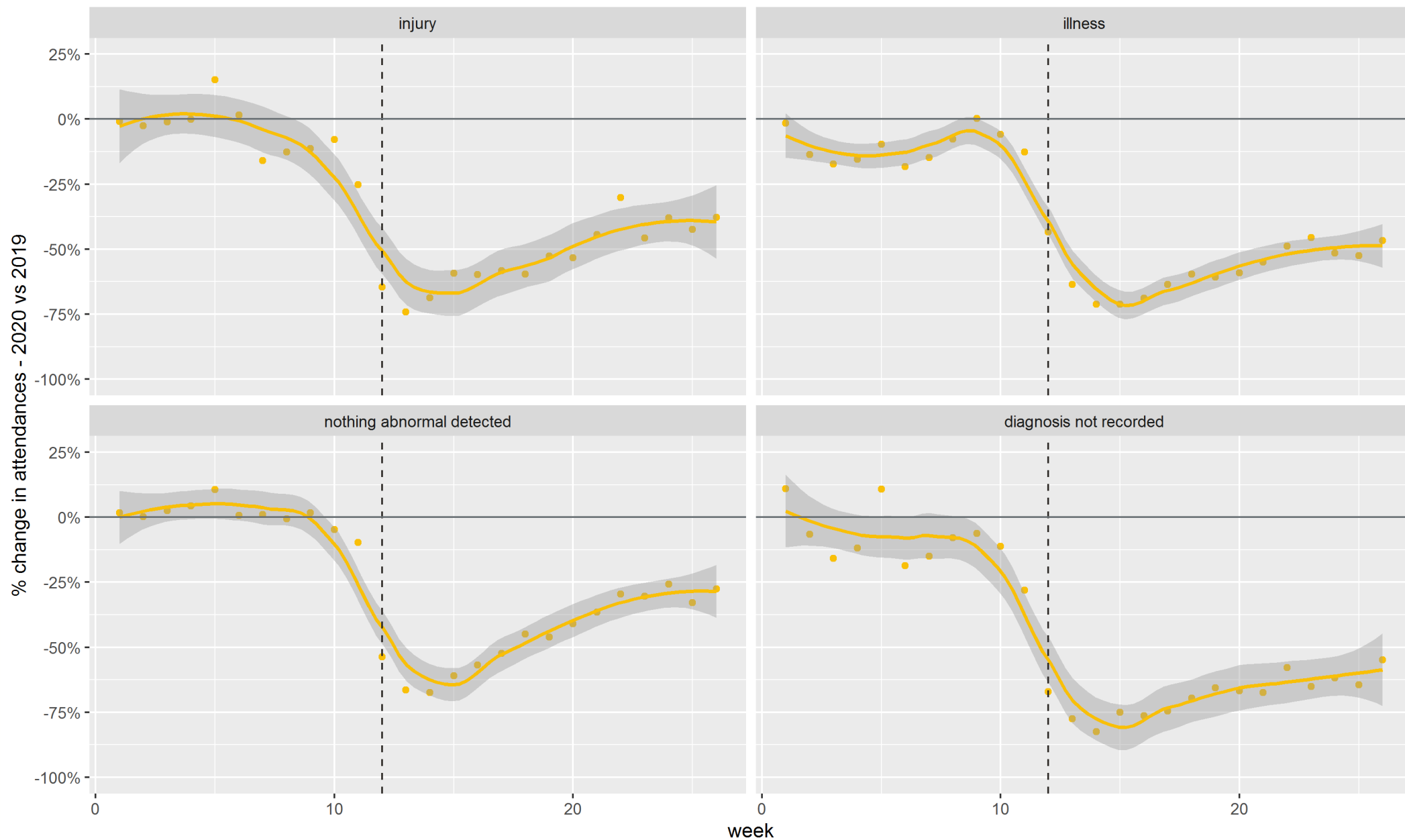
# % change in attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

0-19 years | Weeks 1-26 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



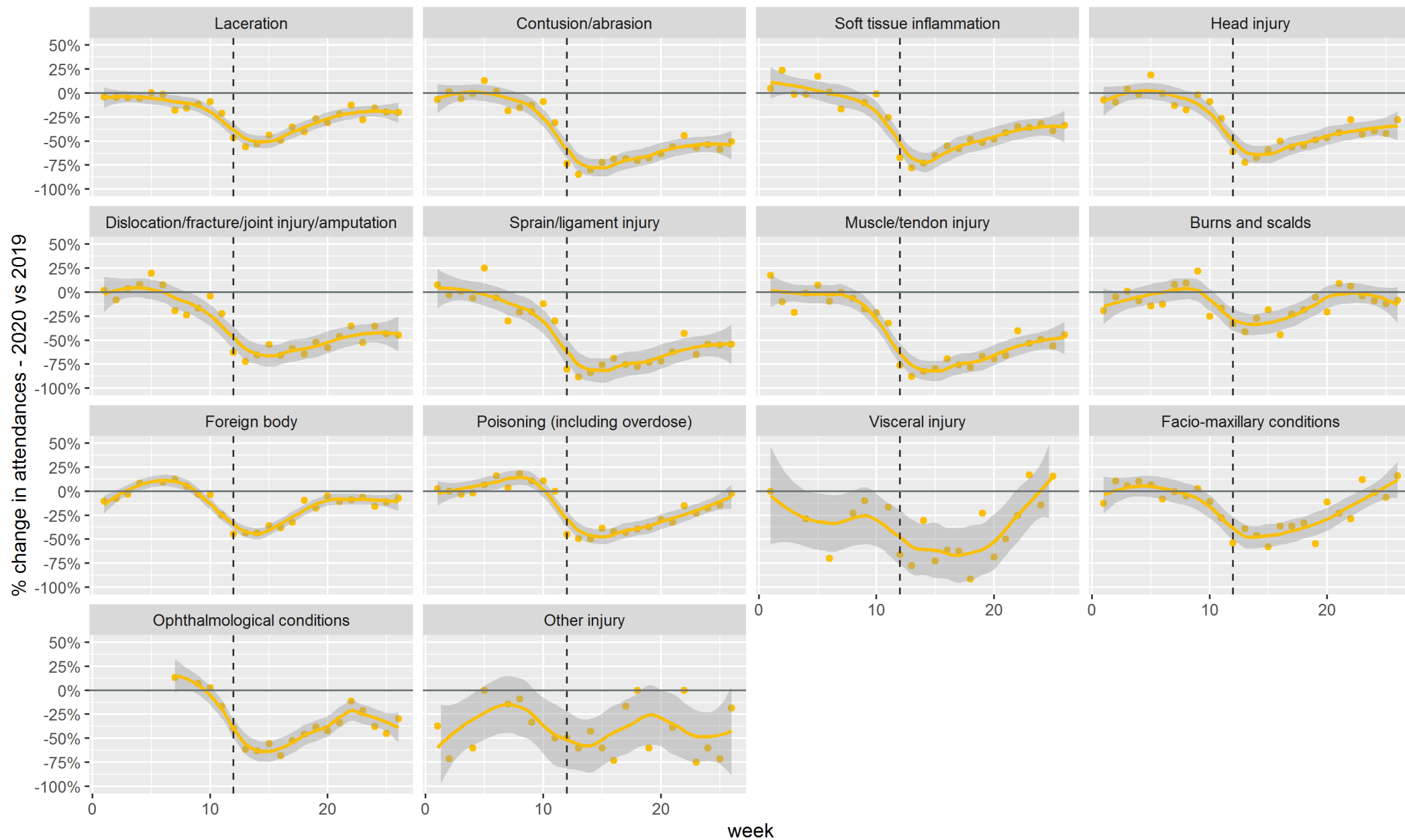
# % change in attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

0-19 years | by presentation type | Weeks 1-26 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



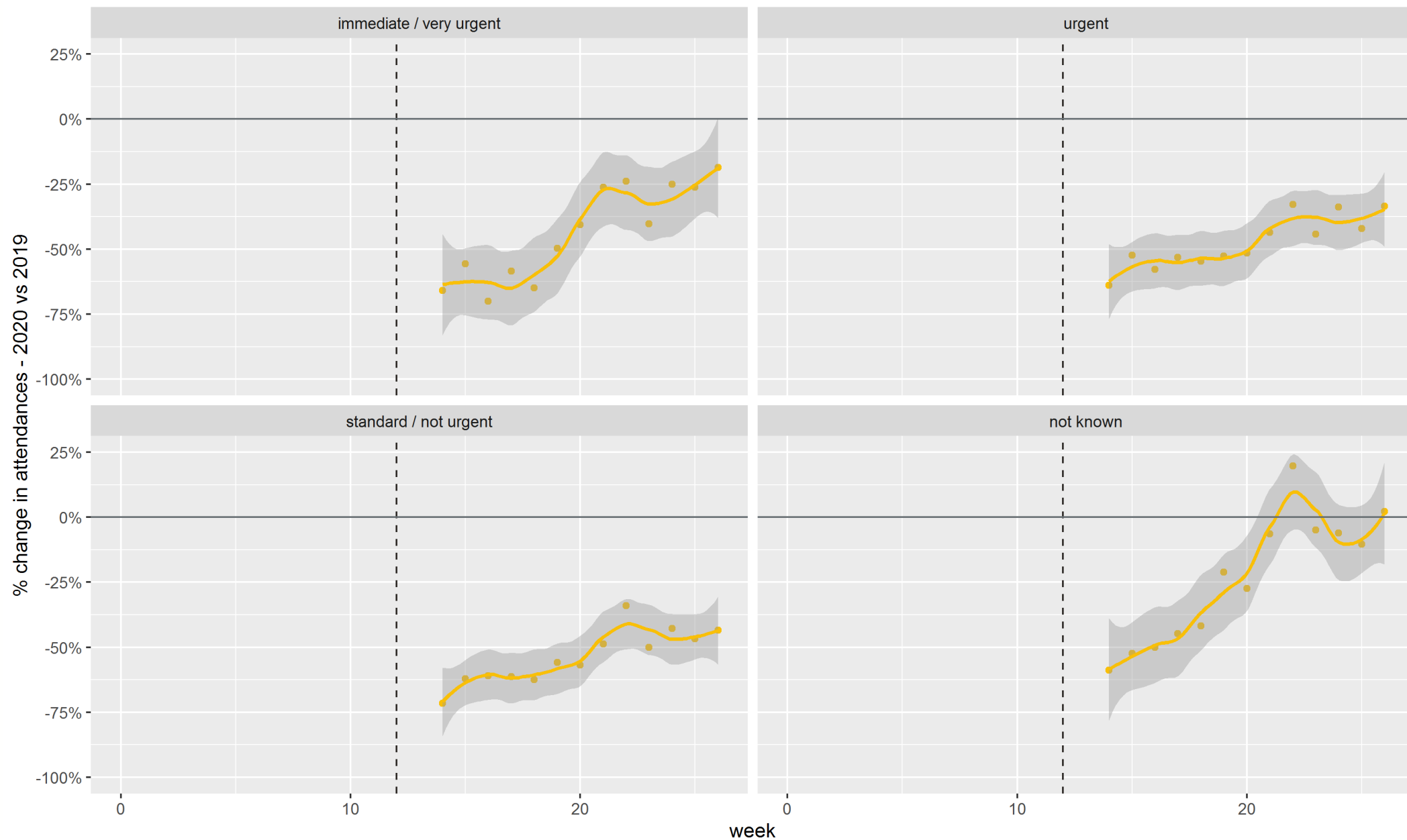
# % change in attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Injury presentations by diagnosis | Weeks 1-26 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



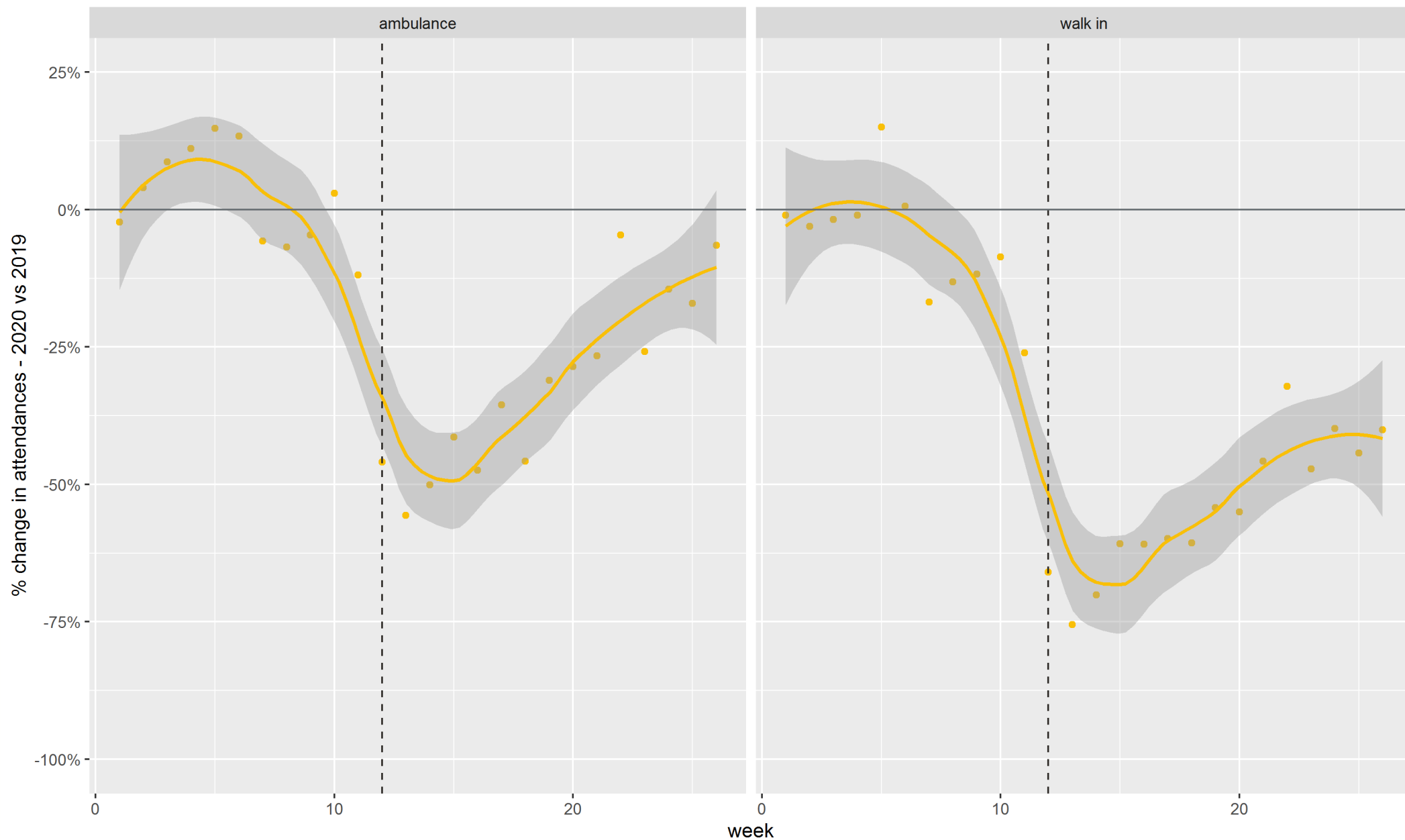
# % change in attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Injury presentations by acuity level | Weeks 14-20 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



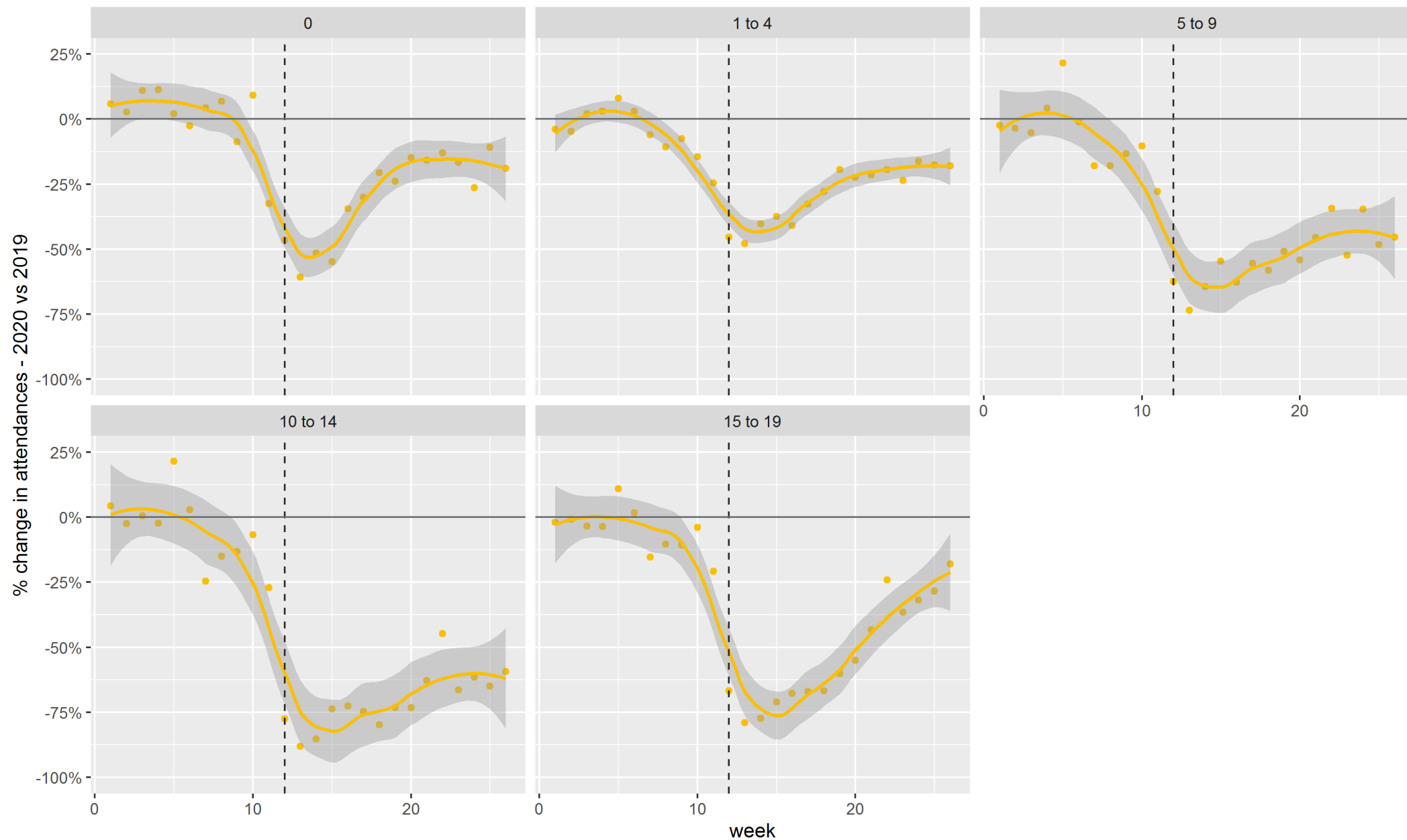
# % change in attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Injury presentations by arrival mode | Weeks 14-20 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



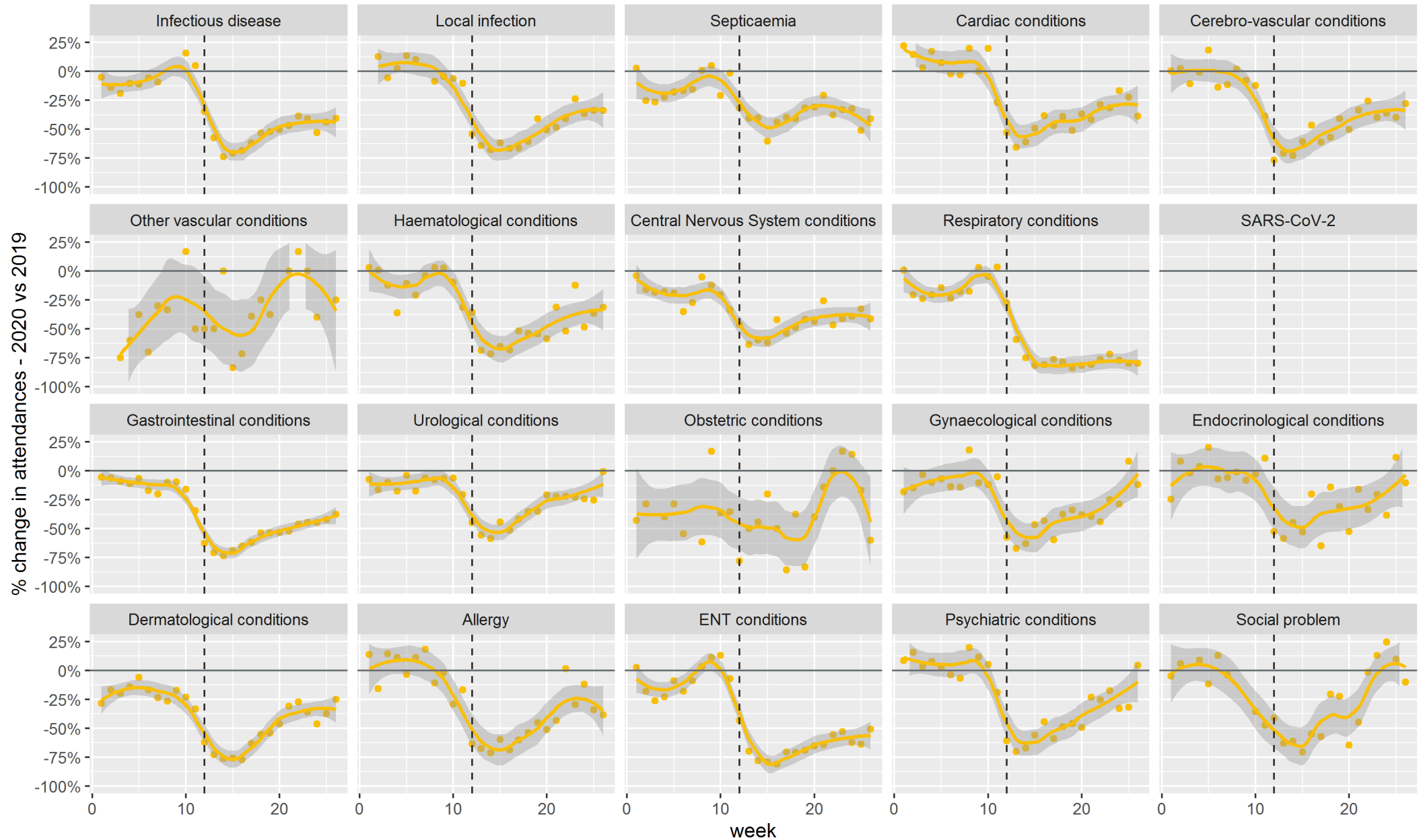
# % change in attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Injury presentations by age group | Weeks 1-26 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



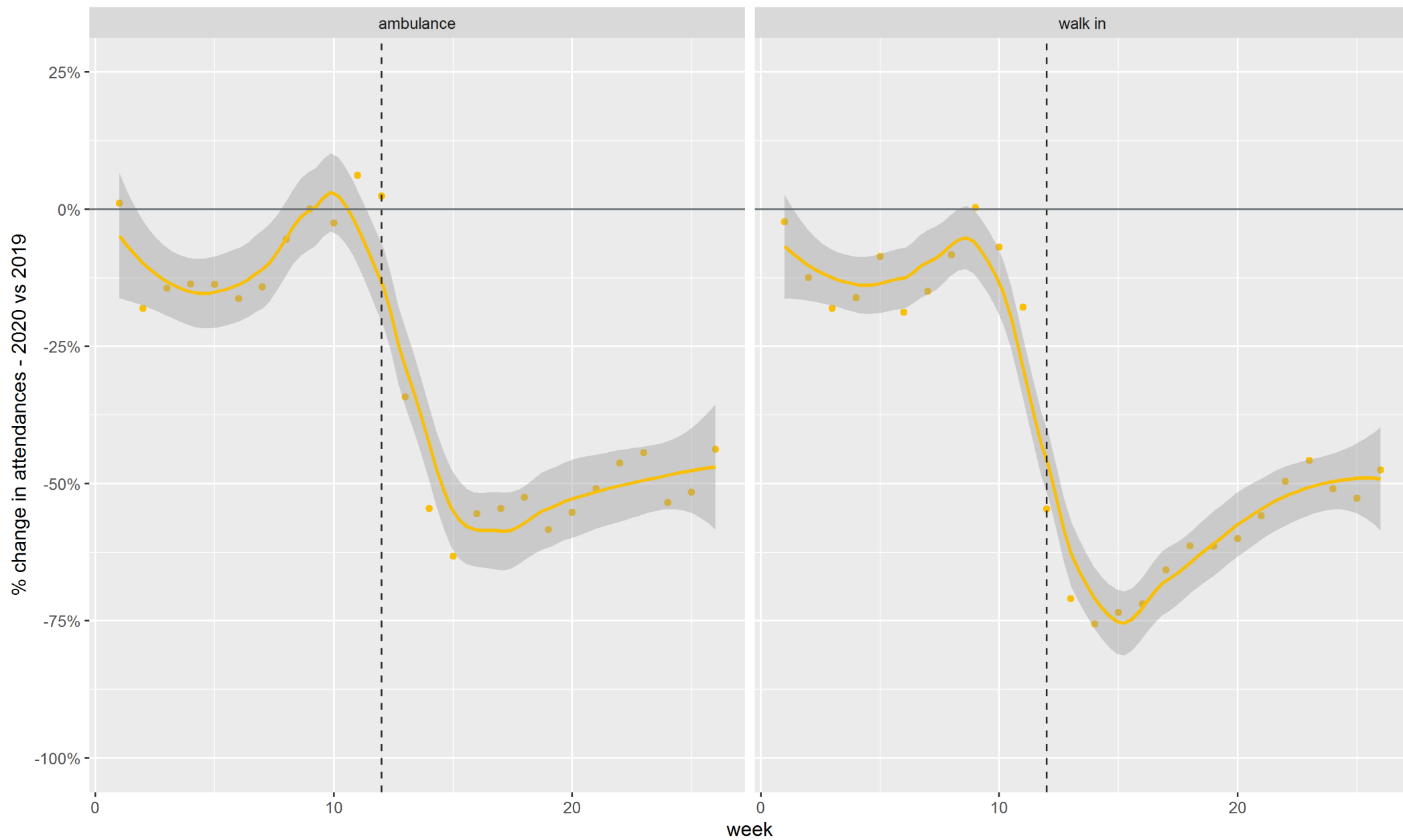
# % change in attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Illness presentations by diagnosis | Weeks 1-26 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



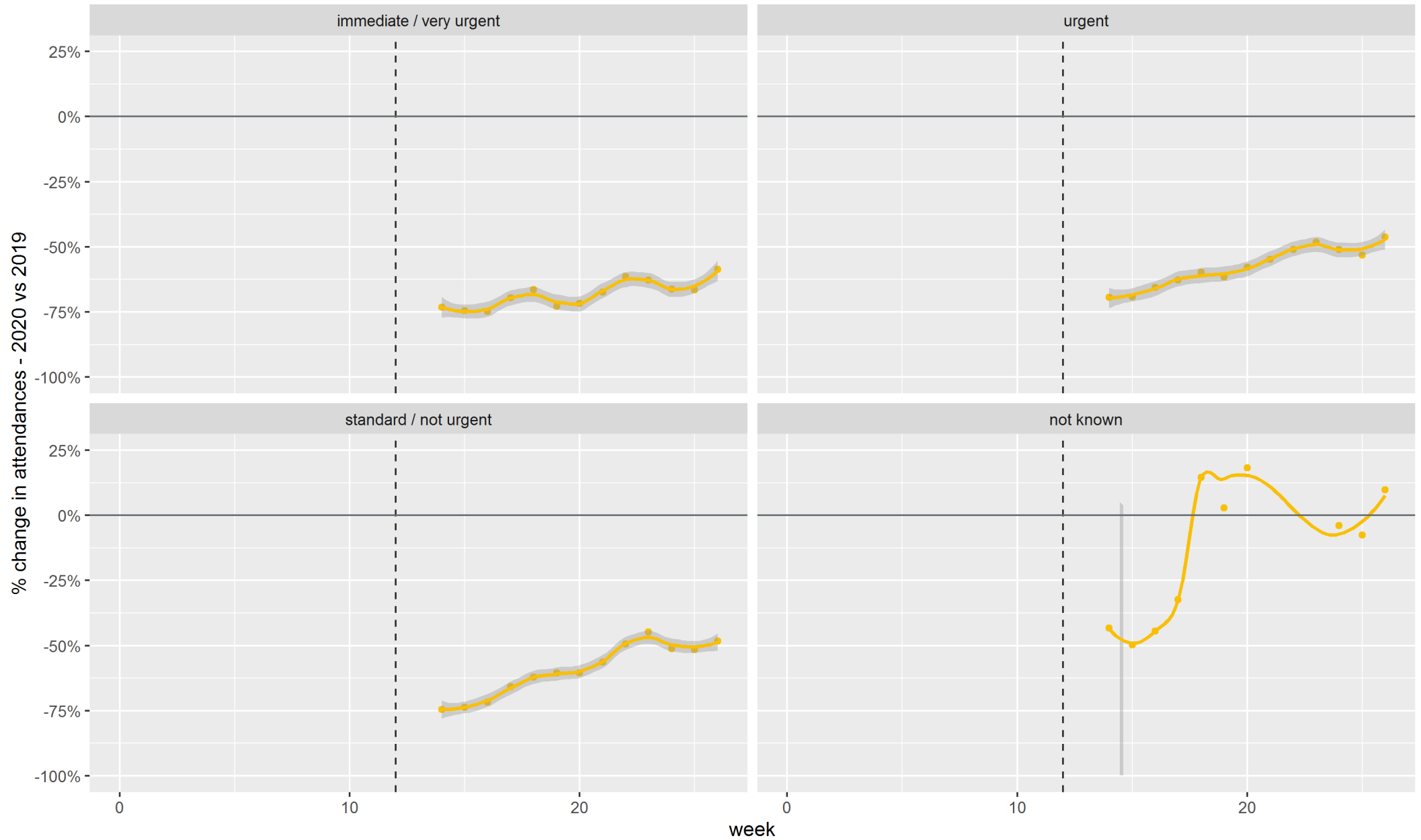
# % change in attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Illness presentations by arrival mode | Weeks 14-20 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



# % change in attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Illness presentations by acuity level | Weeks 14-20 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



# % change in attendances at a subset of 24hr consultant-led emergency departments

Illness presentations by age group | Weeks 1-26 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

