

Changes in outpatient activity since the covid19 lockdown

week 21 analysis

June 2020

Introduction

This document describes the changes in levels of acute hospital outpatient activity that have taken place since the covid19 lockdown on 23rd March 2020.

Complete data is available for all providers for the period up to the end of week 21 (26th May 2020).

This analysis excludes appointments to psychiatry, obstetric and midwifery specialties.

This forms part of a series of analyses exploring changes in healthcare activity since the covid19 lockdown. Analysis of A&E attendances for adults and children and for planned hospital admissions have already been published. Further analyses of emergency hospital admissions and maternity activity are planned.

Key messages

The number of outpatient attendances fell by approximately 50% after the lockdown and had increased only marginally by week 21.

Reductions were more marked in surgical specialties (rather than medical specialties), for first attendances (rather than follow-ups), for routine appointments (rather than urgent or 2-week-wait appointments) and in the independent sector (rather than in the NHS).

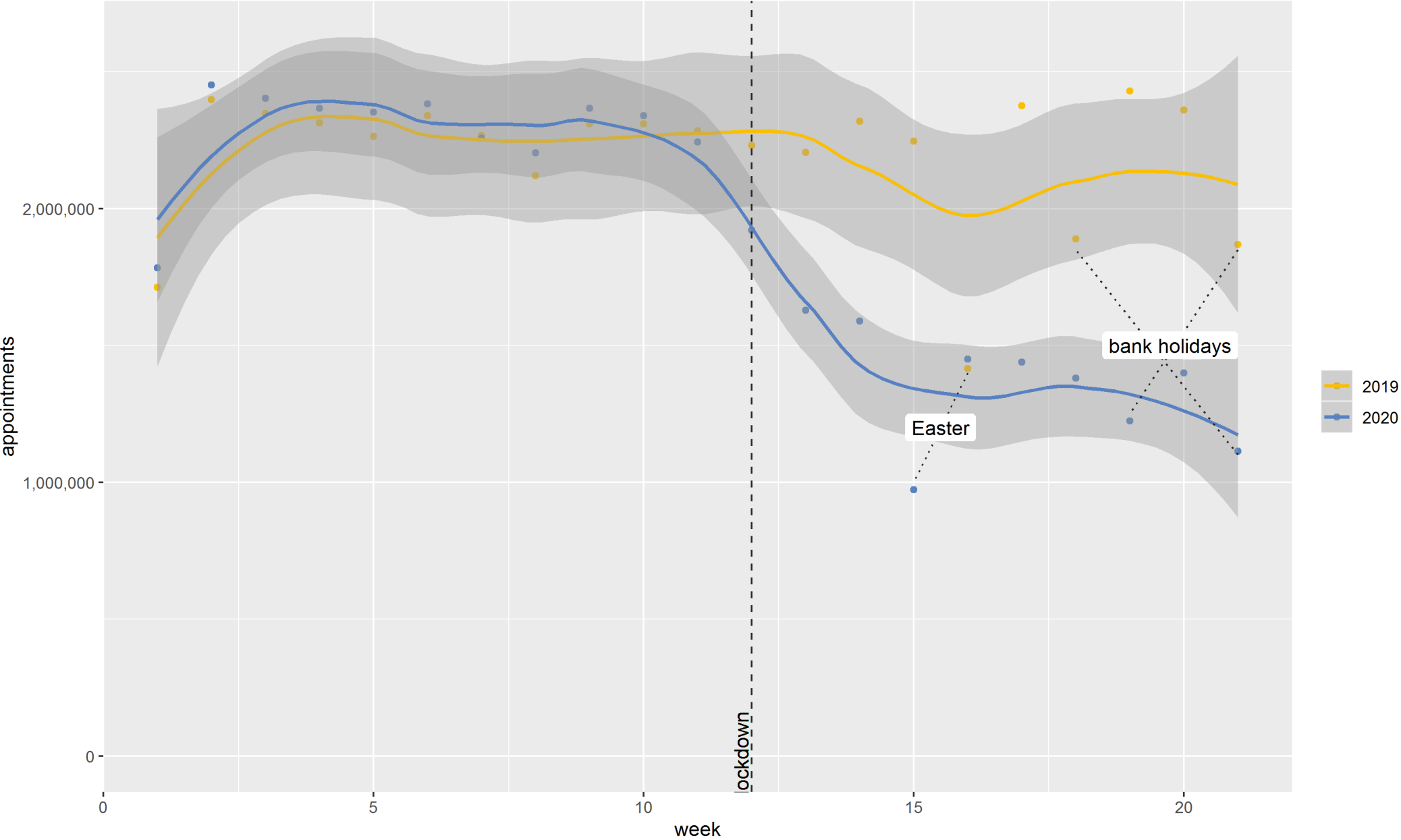
Meanwhile, telephone appointments increased 4-fold, substituting for face-to-face contacts.

Amongst the medical specialties, larger reductions were seen in anaesthetics, clinical physiology and respiratory physiology and smaller in medical oncology, intermediate care and clinical haematology. Recovery towards pre-covid activity levels has been more rapid in paediatrics.

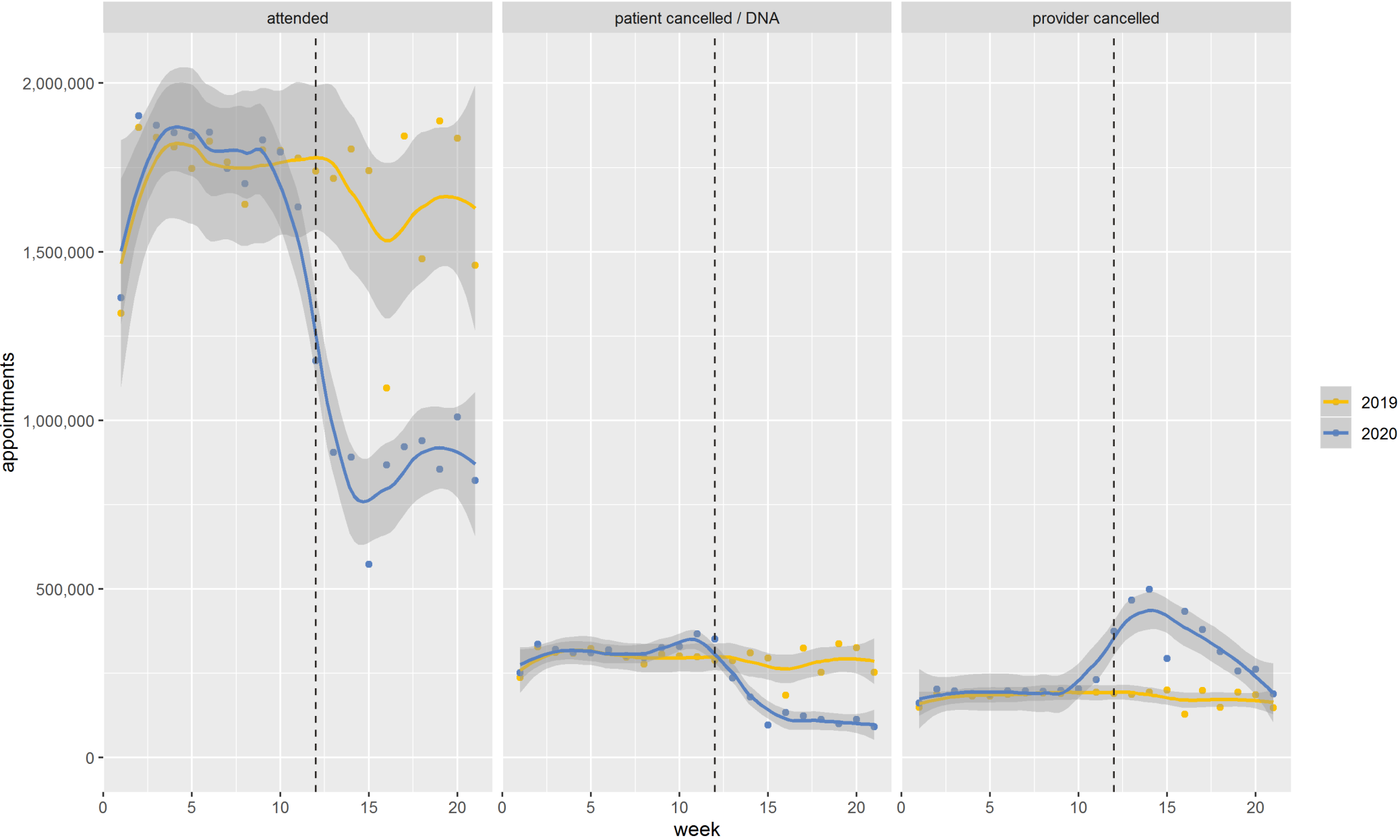
For surgical specialties reductions were more marked in orthodontics, oral surgery and ophthalmology, and more modest in urology, colorectal, breast and maxillo-facial surgery. Reductions in outpatient attendances in surgical specialties was largest amongst those aged 5 to 17 years.

The number of appointments that providers cancelled rose from approximately 200,000 per week, to more than 400,000 per week in the weeks immediately following the lockdown. By week 21, provider cancellations had reduced to pre-covid levels.

Outpatient appointments
Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England

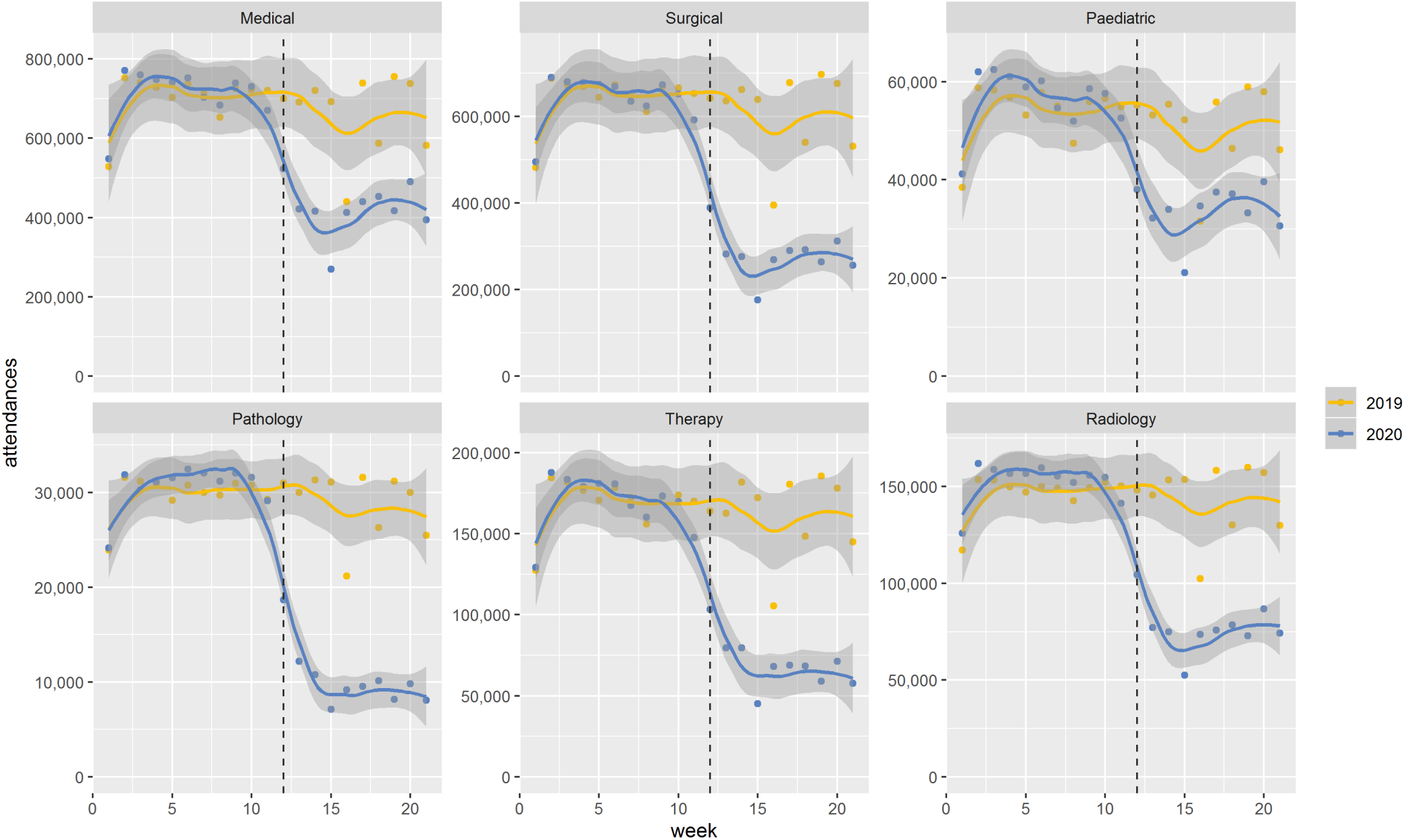


Outpatient appointments
by attendance status | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



Outpatient attendances

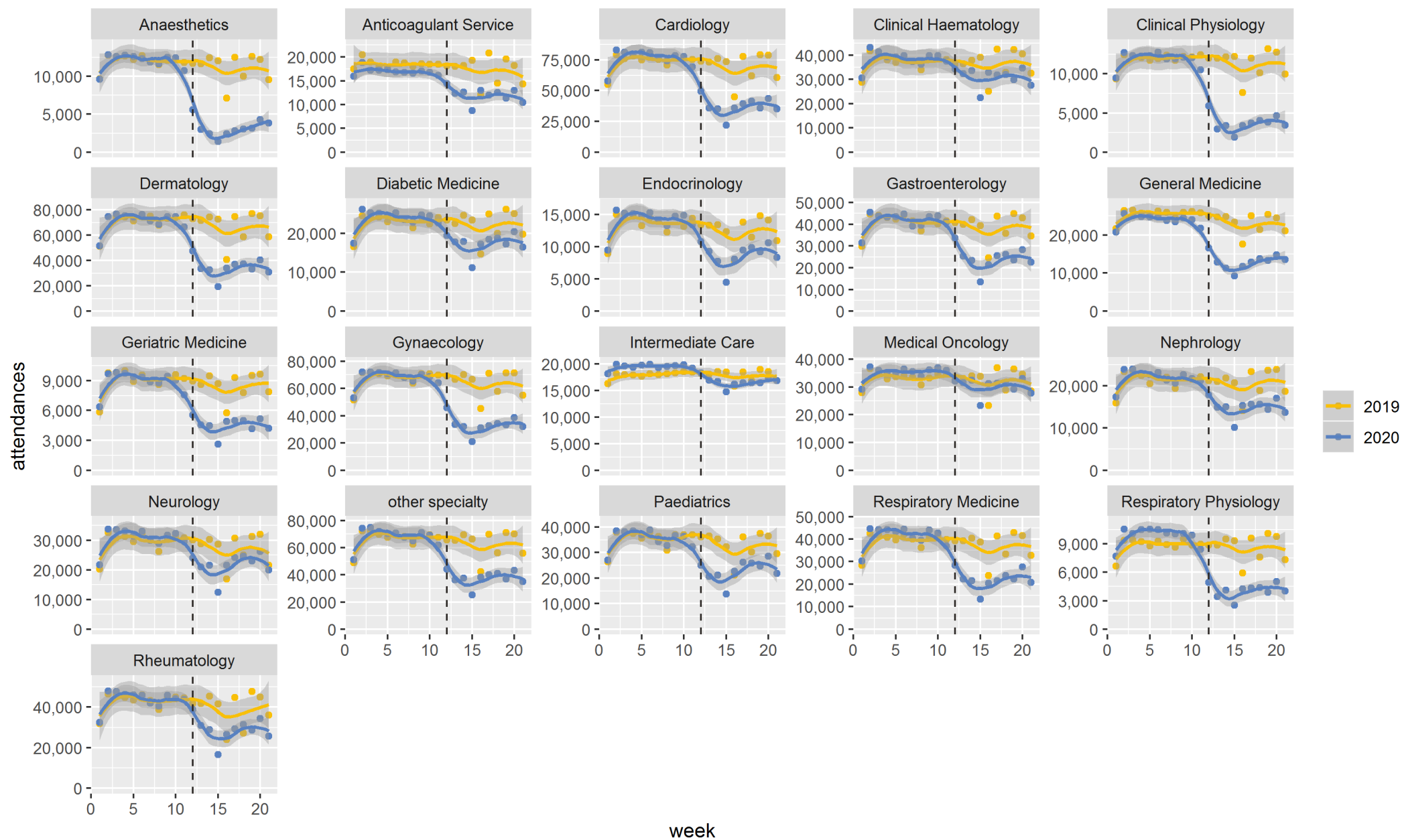
by specialty group | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



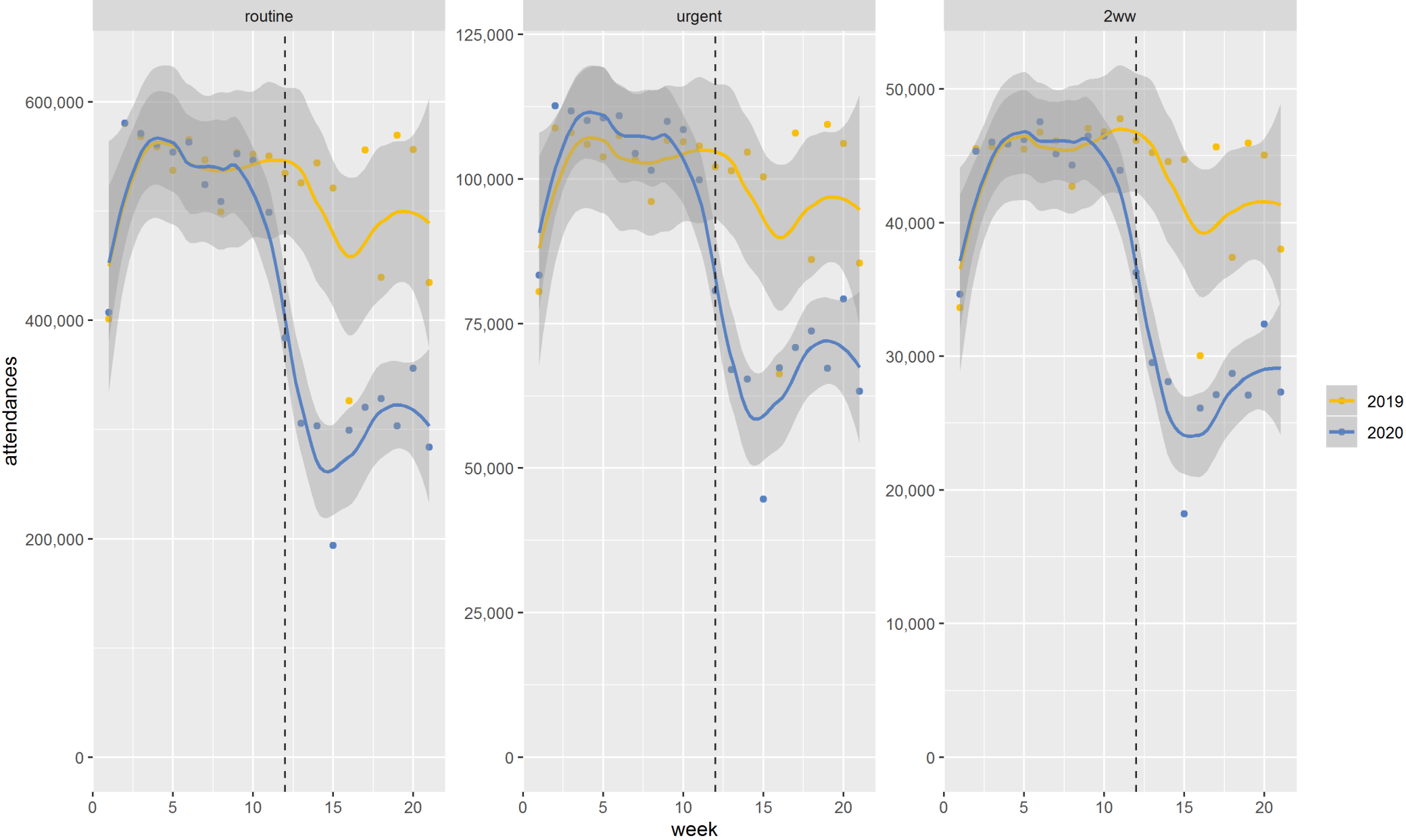
Medical outpatient attendances

MEDICAL Outpatient attendances

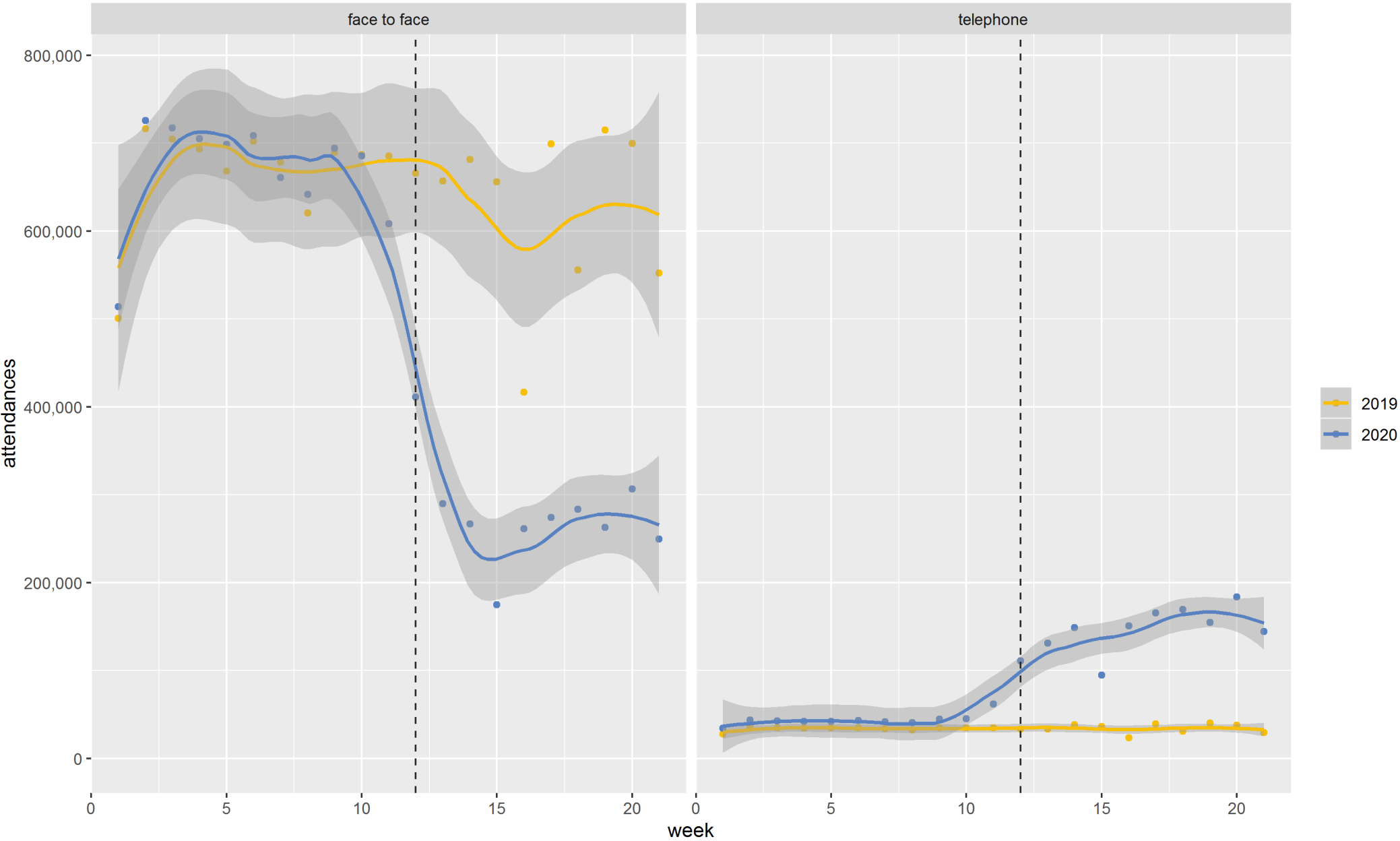
by specialty | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



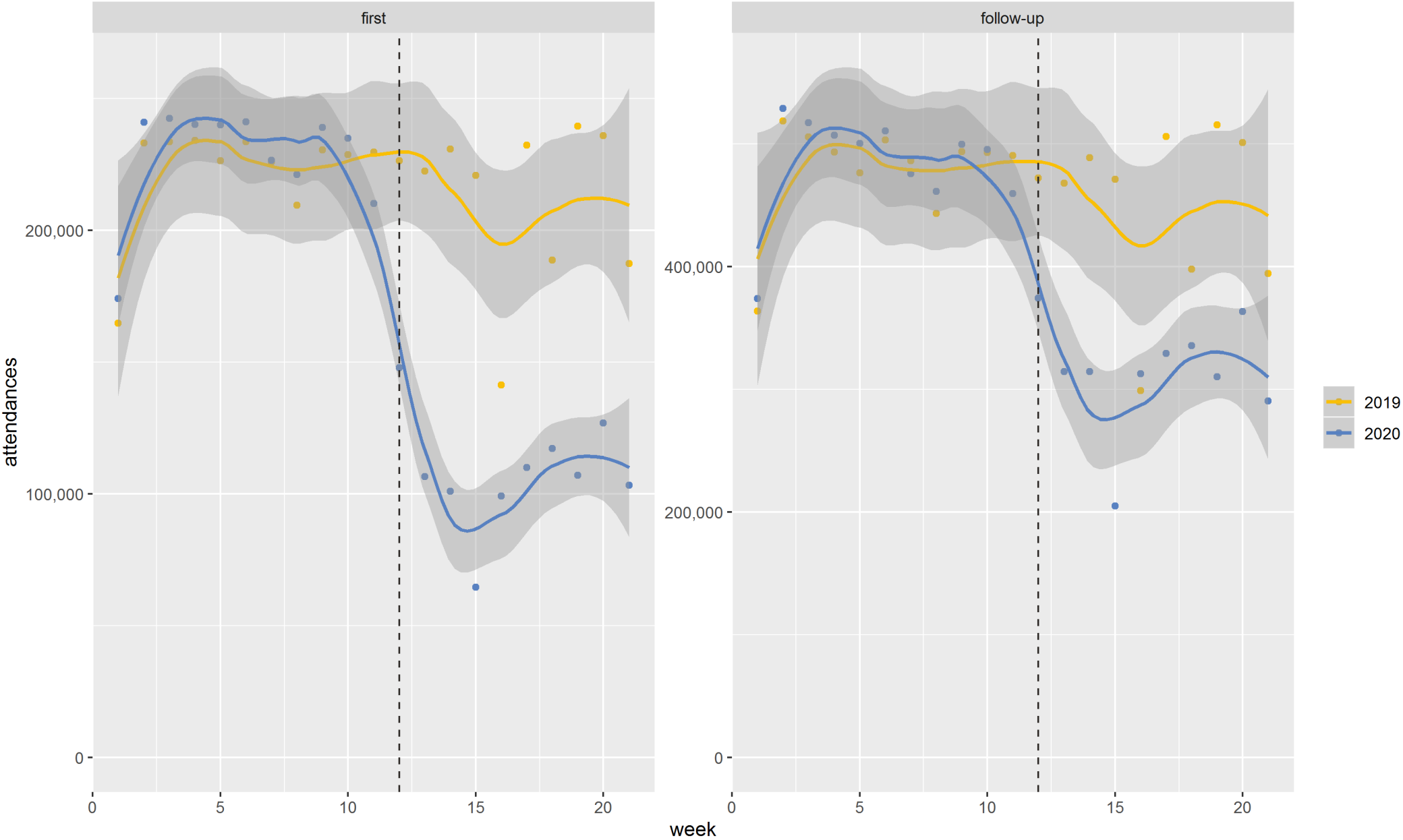
MEDICAL Outpatient attendances
by priority | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



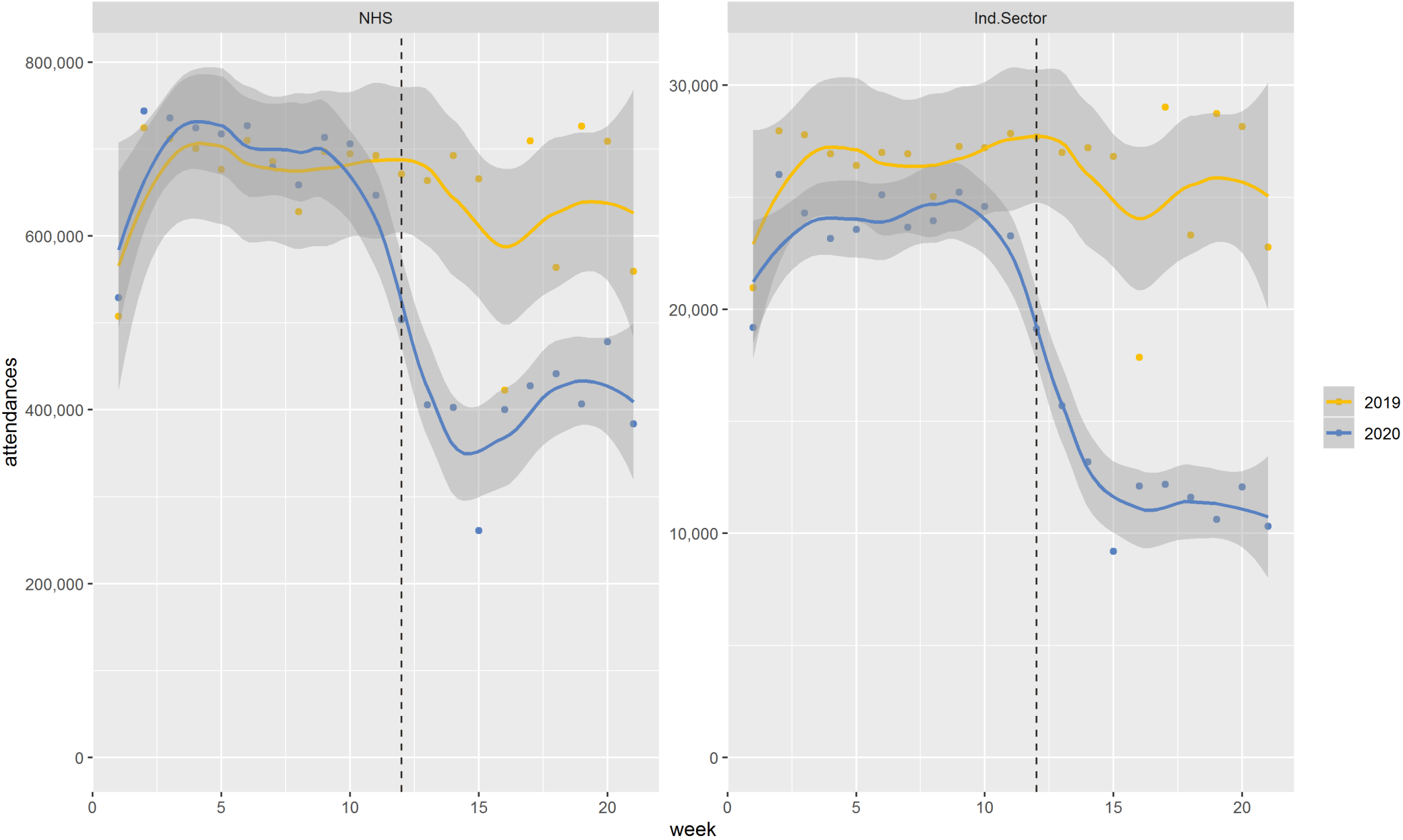
MEDICAL Outpatient attendances
by mode | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



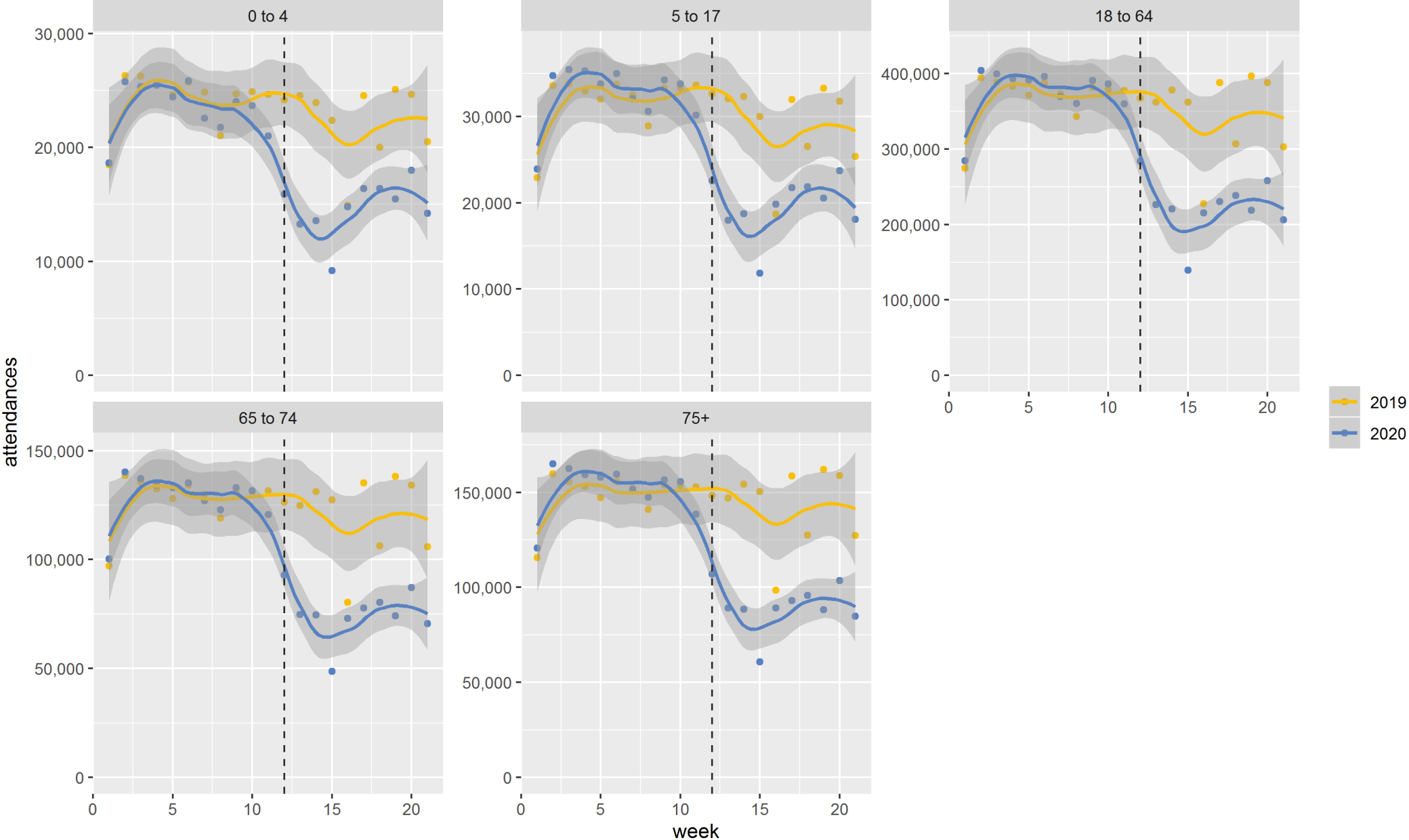
MEDICAL Outpatient attendances
by order | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



MEDICAL Outpatient attendances
by sector | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



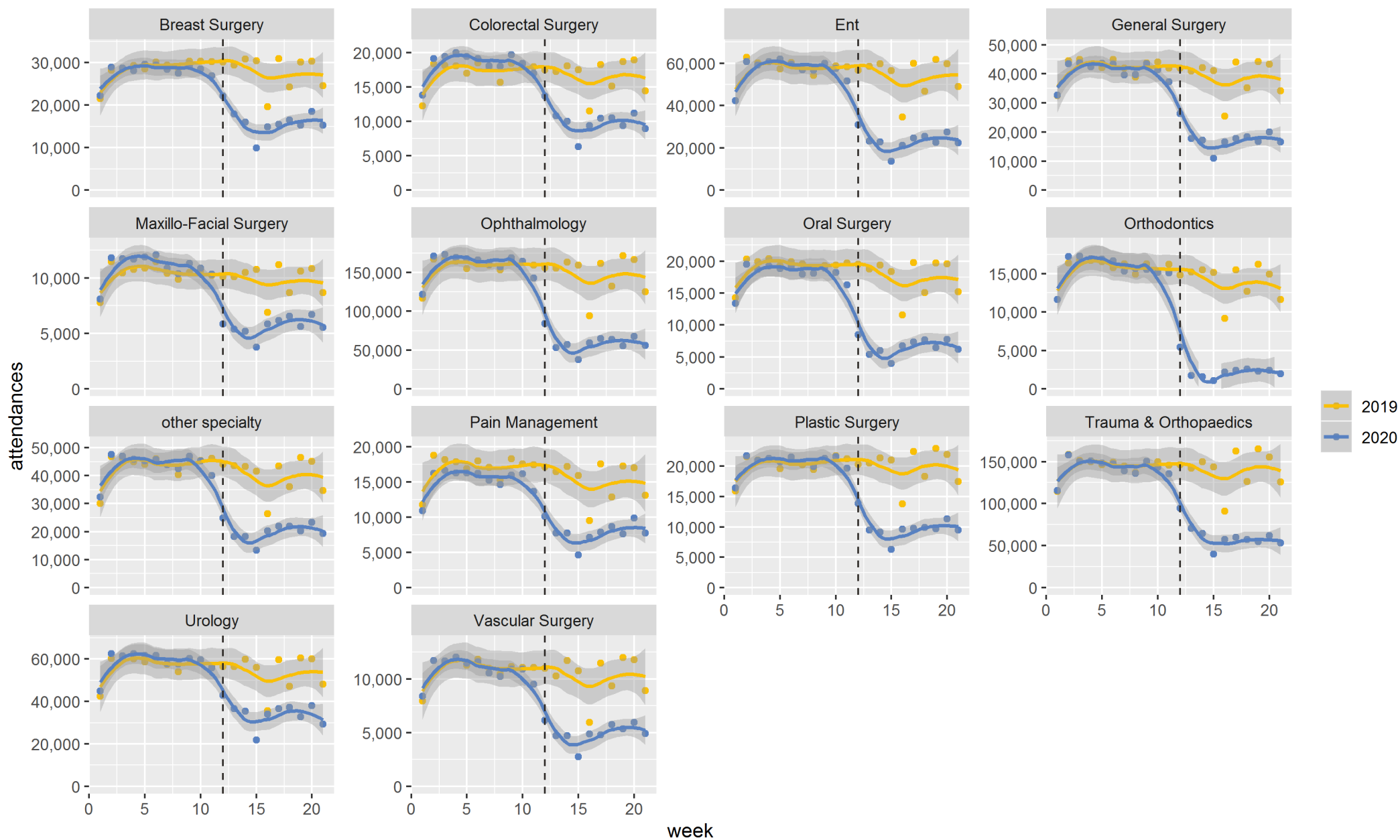
MEDICAL Outpatient attendances
by age group | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



Surgical outpatient attendances

SURGICAL Outpatient attendances

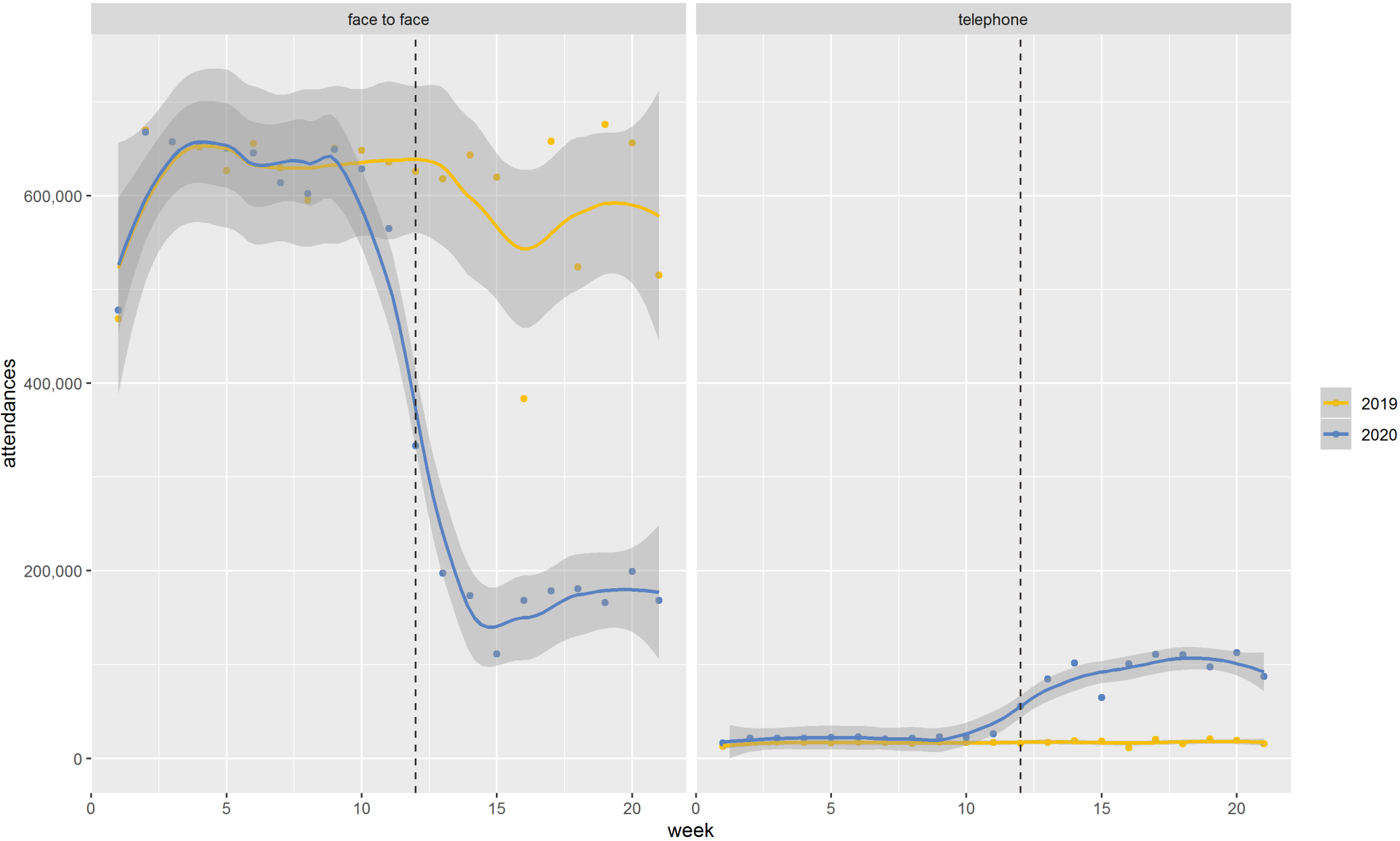
by specialty | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



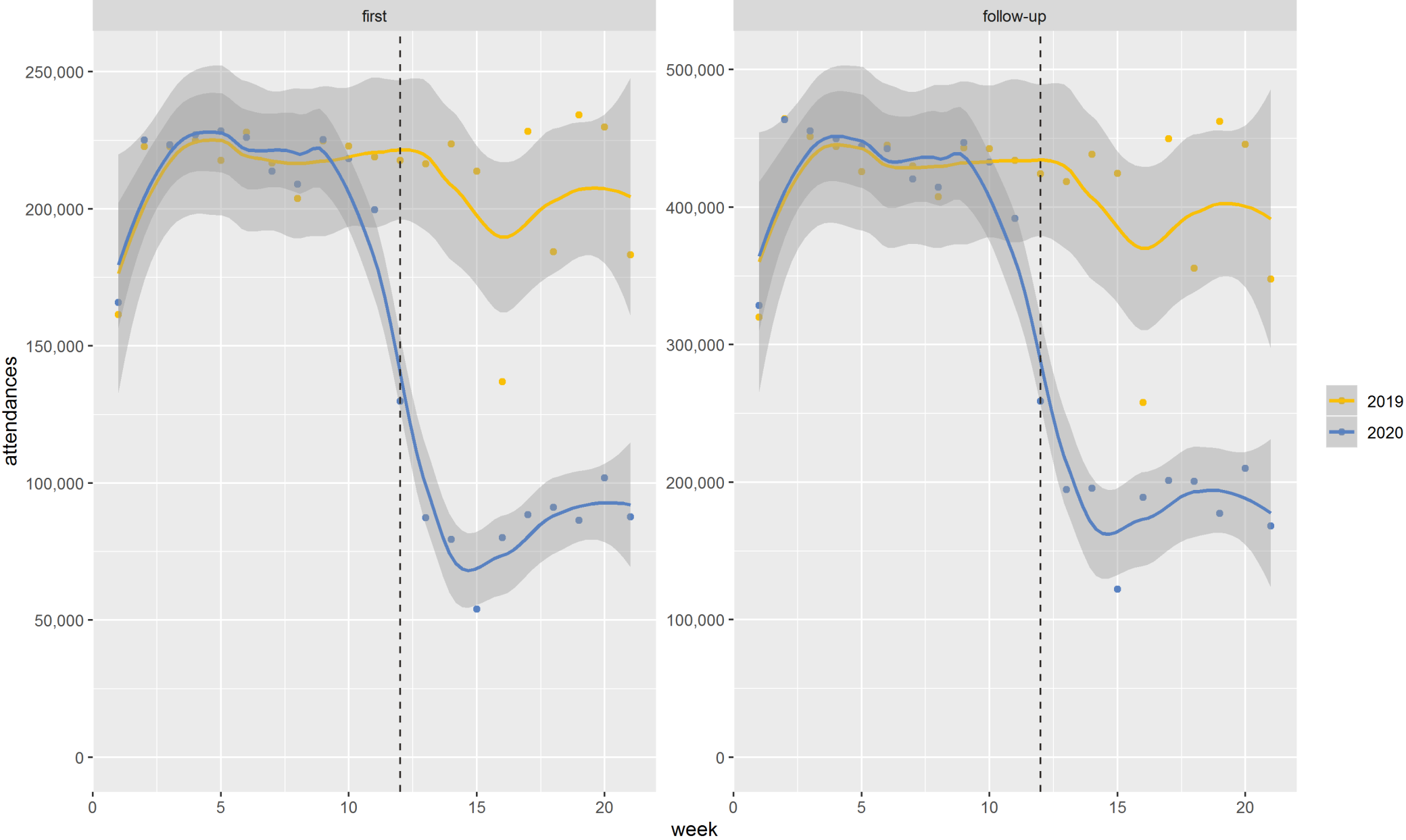
SURGICAL Outpatient attendances
by priority | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



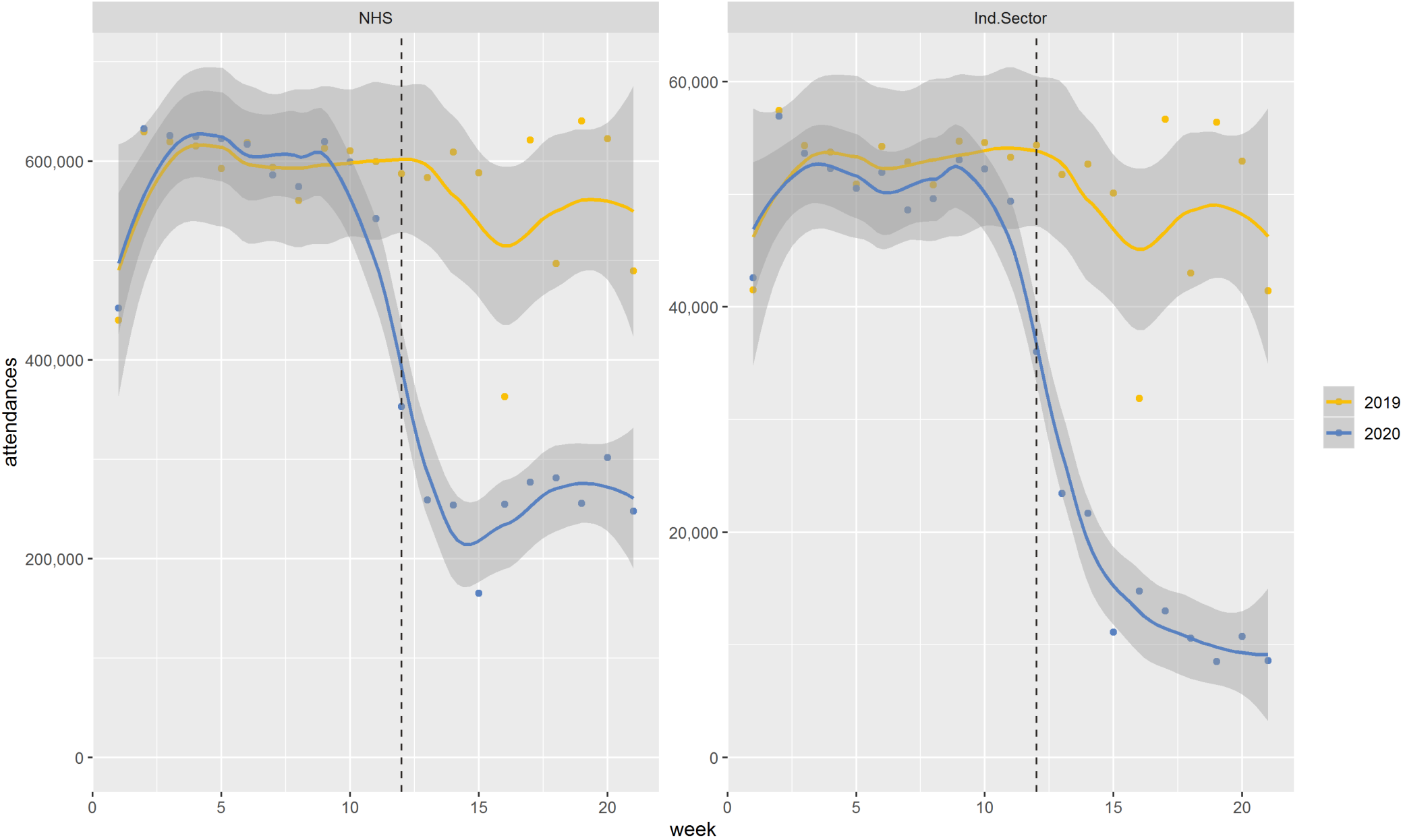
SURGICAL Outpatient attendances
by mode | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



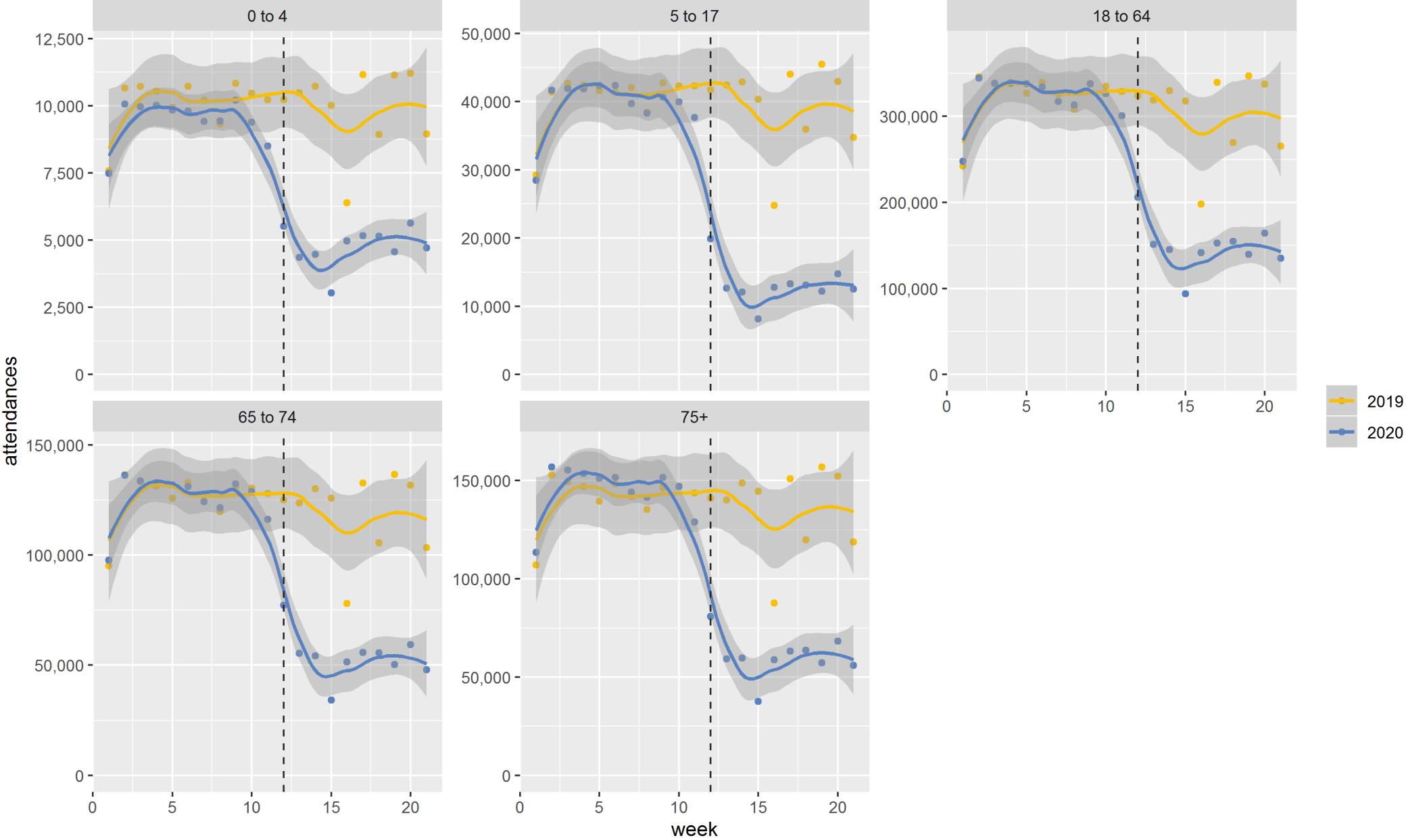
SURGICAL Outpatient attendances
by order | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



SURGICAL Outpatient attendances
by sector | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



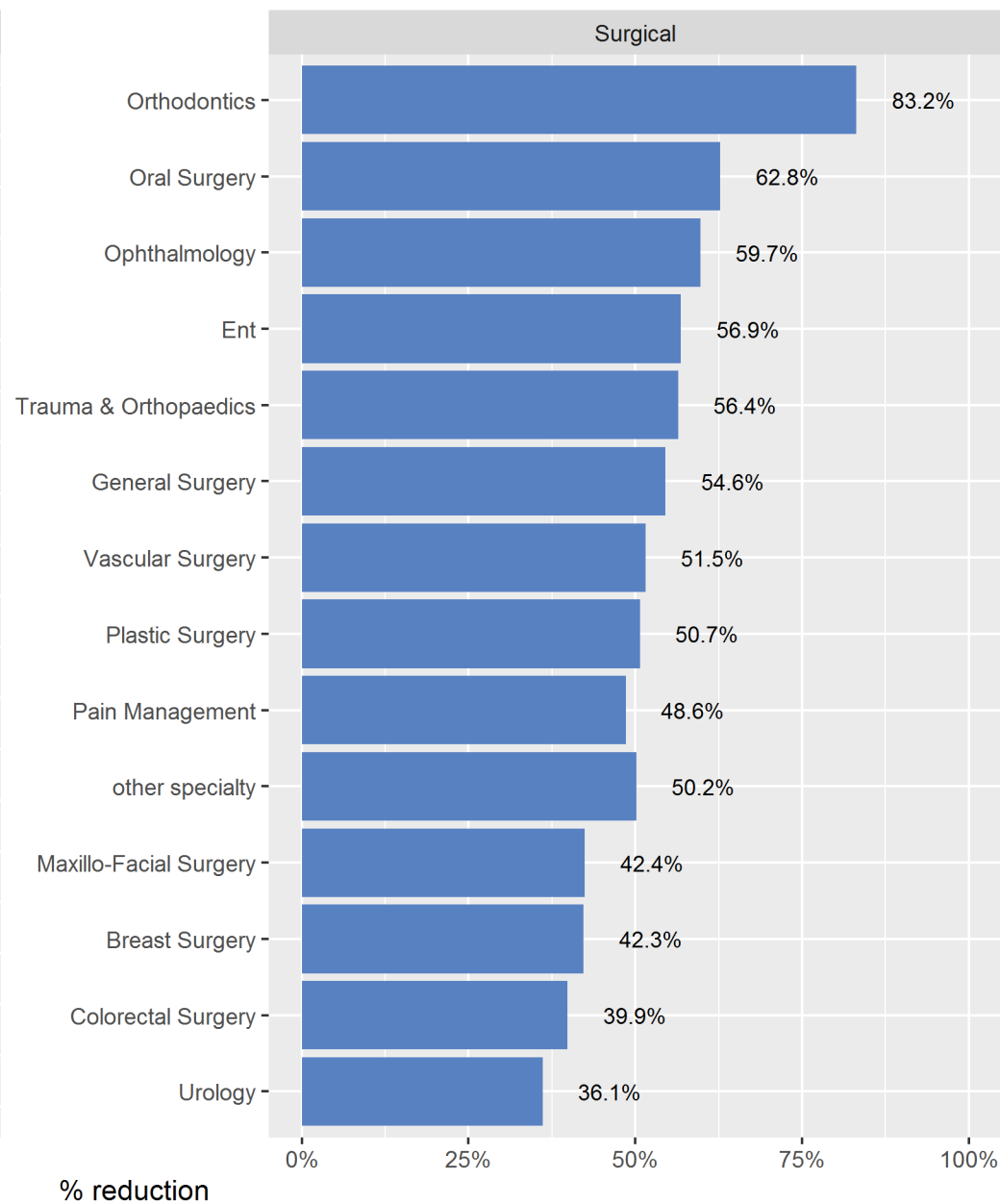
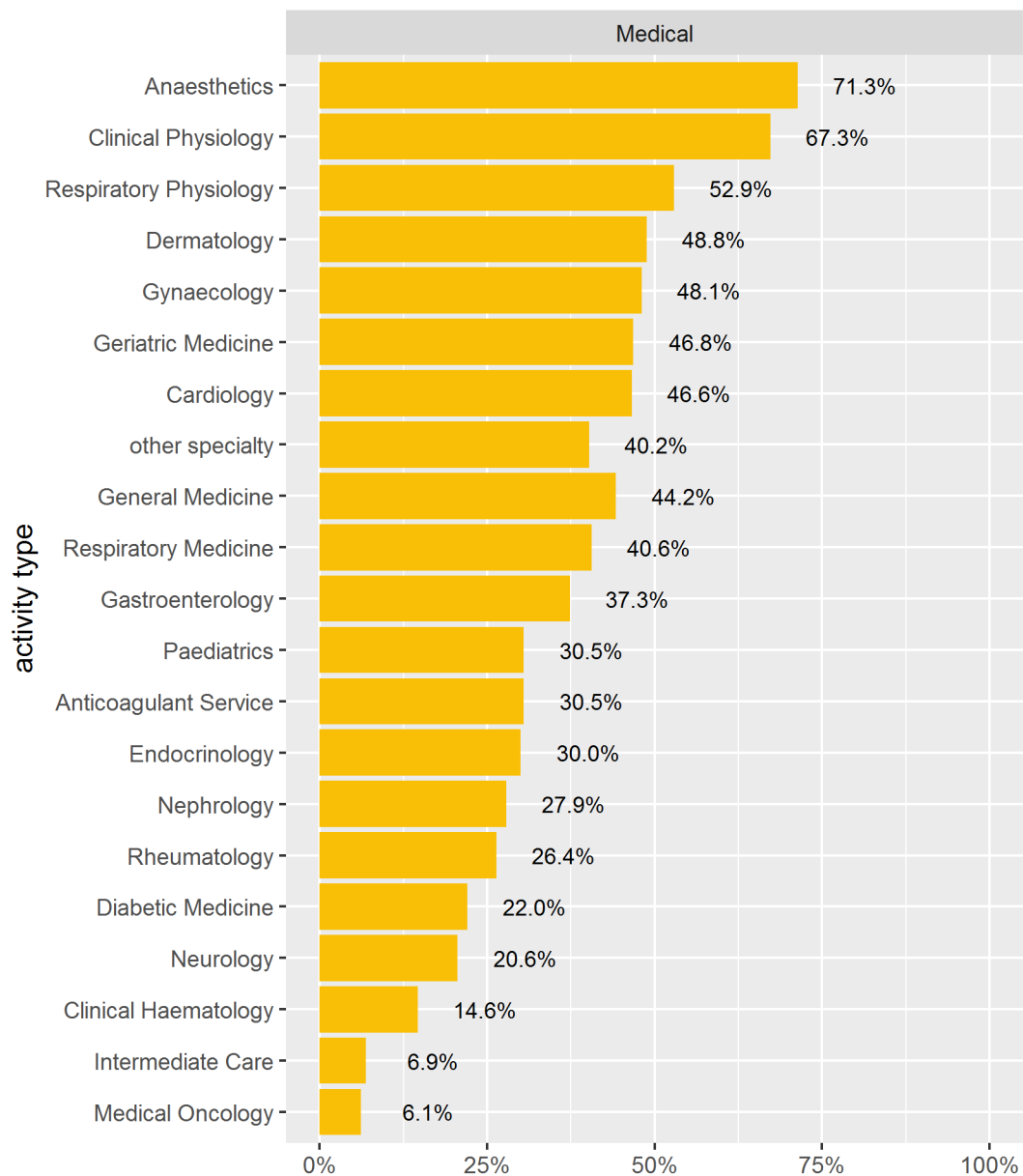
SURGICAL Outpatient attendances
by age group | Weeks 1-21 | 2019 & 2020 | England



Relative changes

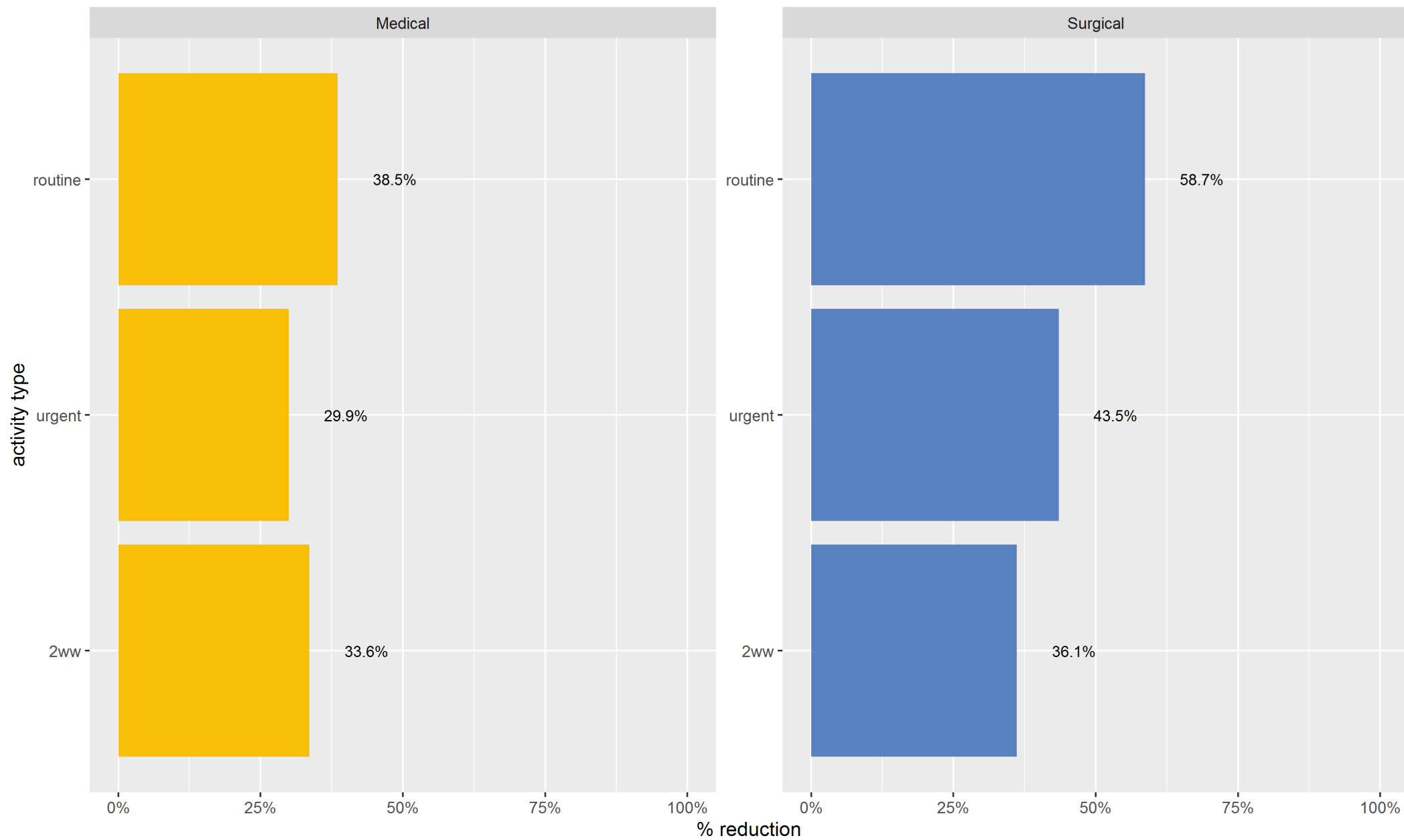
Change in outpatient attendances

by specialty type and specialty | Weeks 12-21 2019 & 2020 | England



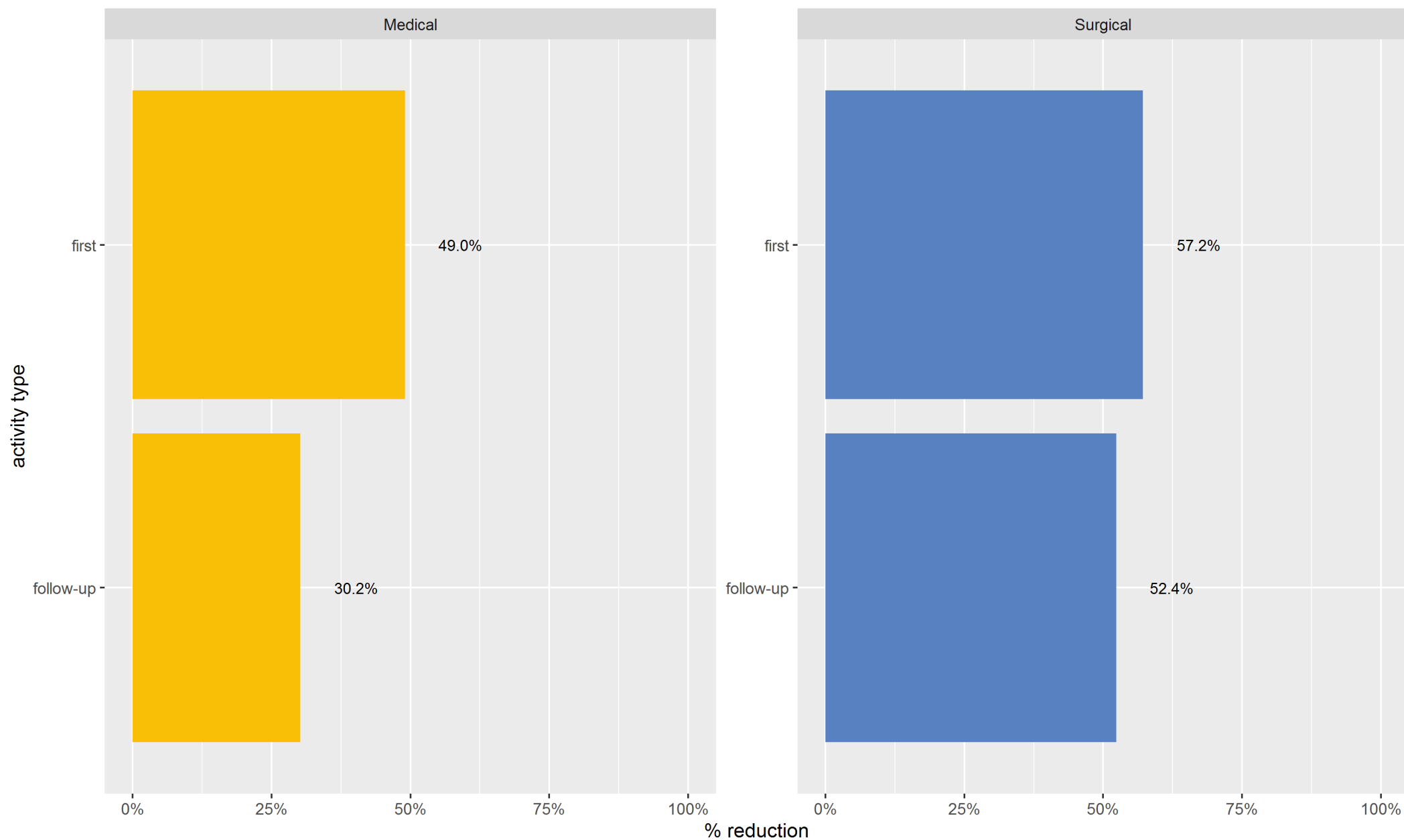
Change in outpatient attendances

by specialty type and priority | Weeks 12-21 2019 & 2020 | England

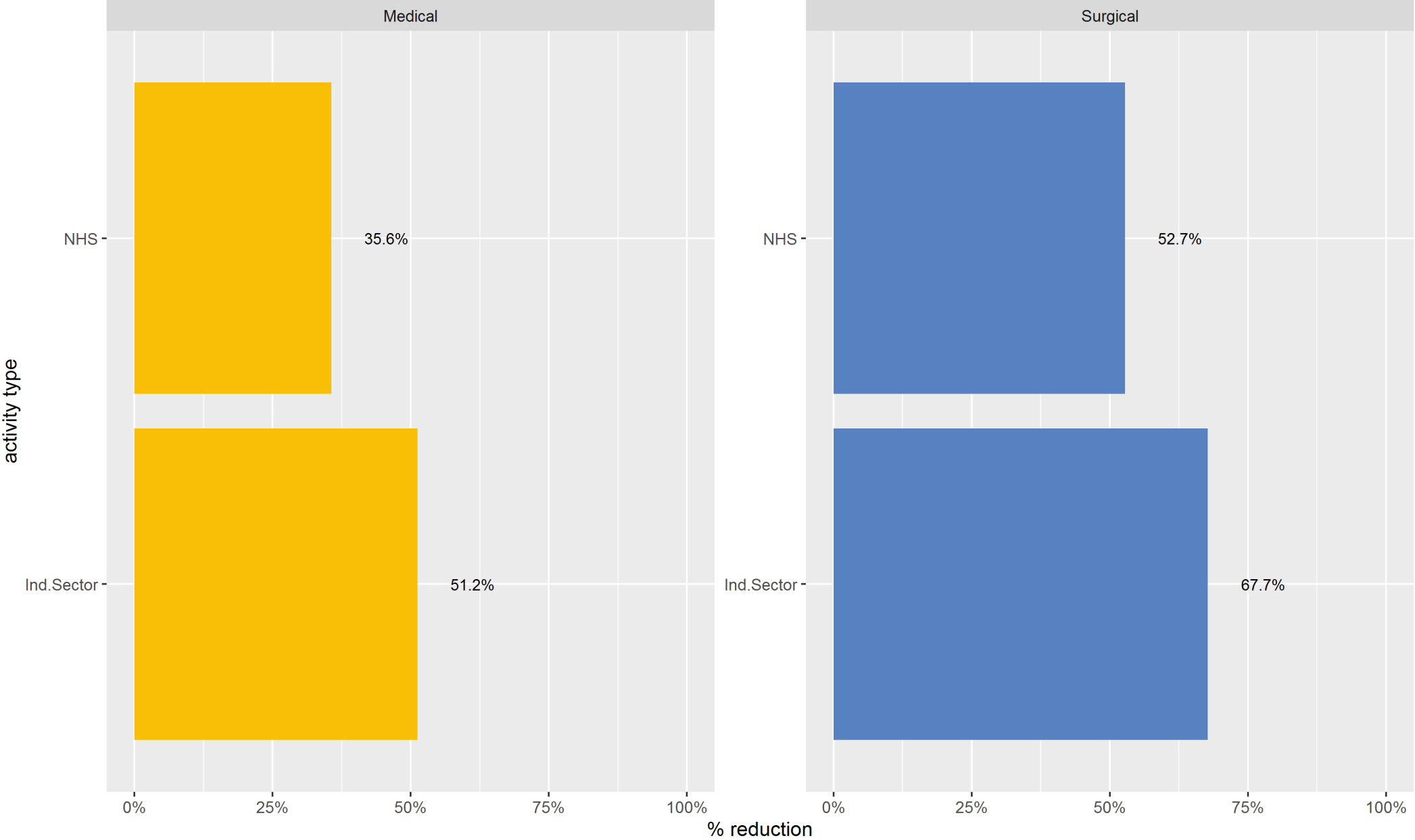


Change in outpatient attendances

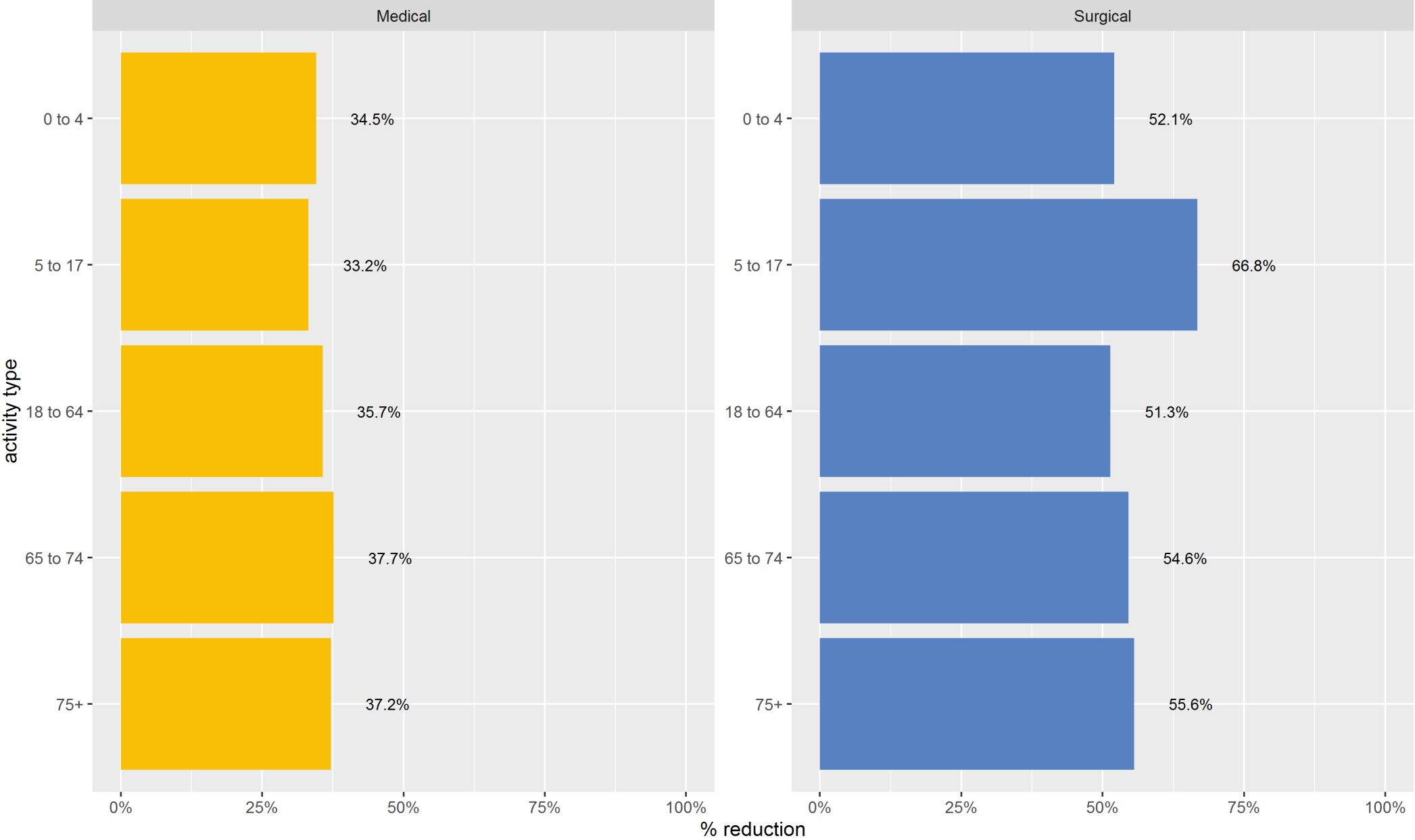
by specialty type and order | Weeks 12-21 2019 & 2020 | England



Change in outpatient attendances
by specialty type and sector | Weeks 12-21 2019 & 2020 | England



Change in outpatient attendances
by specialty type and age group | Weeks 12-21 2019 & 2020 | England



**The
Strategy
Unit.**

Notes

The data

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

Data up to the end of week 21 is taken from the SUSPlus_Live tables and provides a complete picture of outpatient activity up to this date.

For questions relating to this analysis, please contact:

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Leading research, analysis and change from within the NHS.

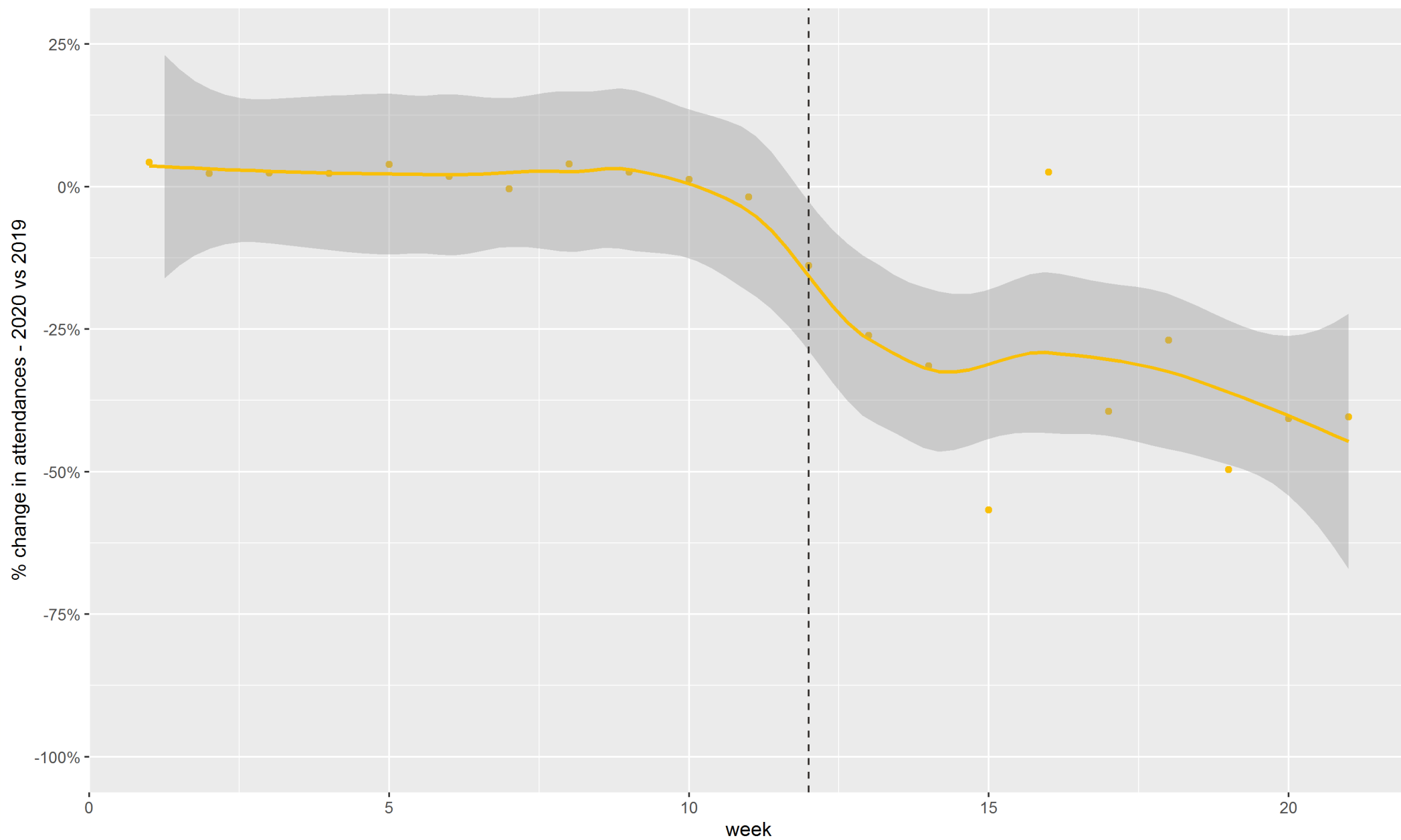
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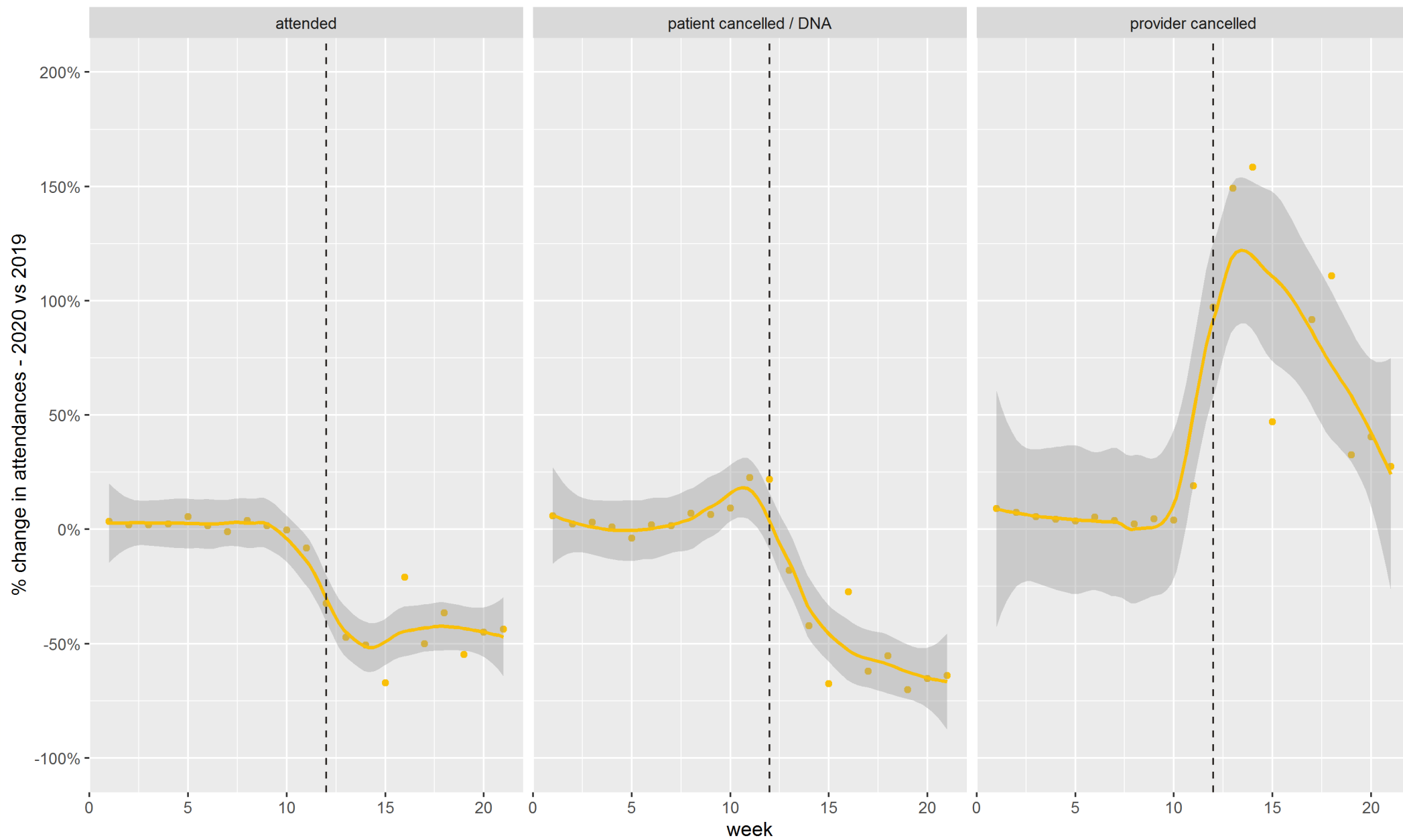
Additional charts

% change in outpatient attendances

Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

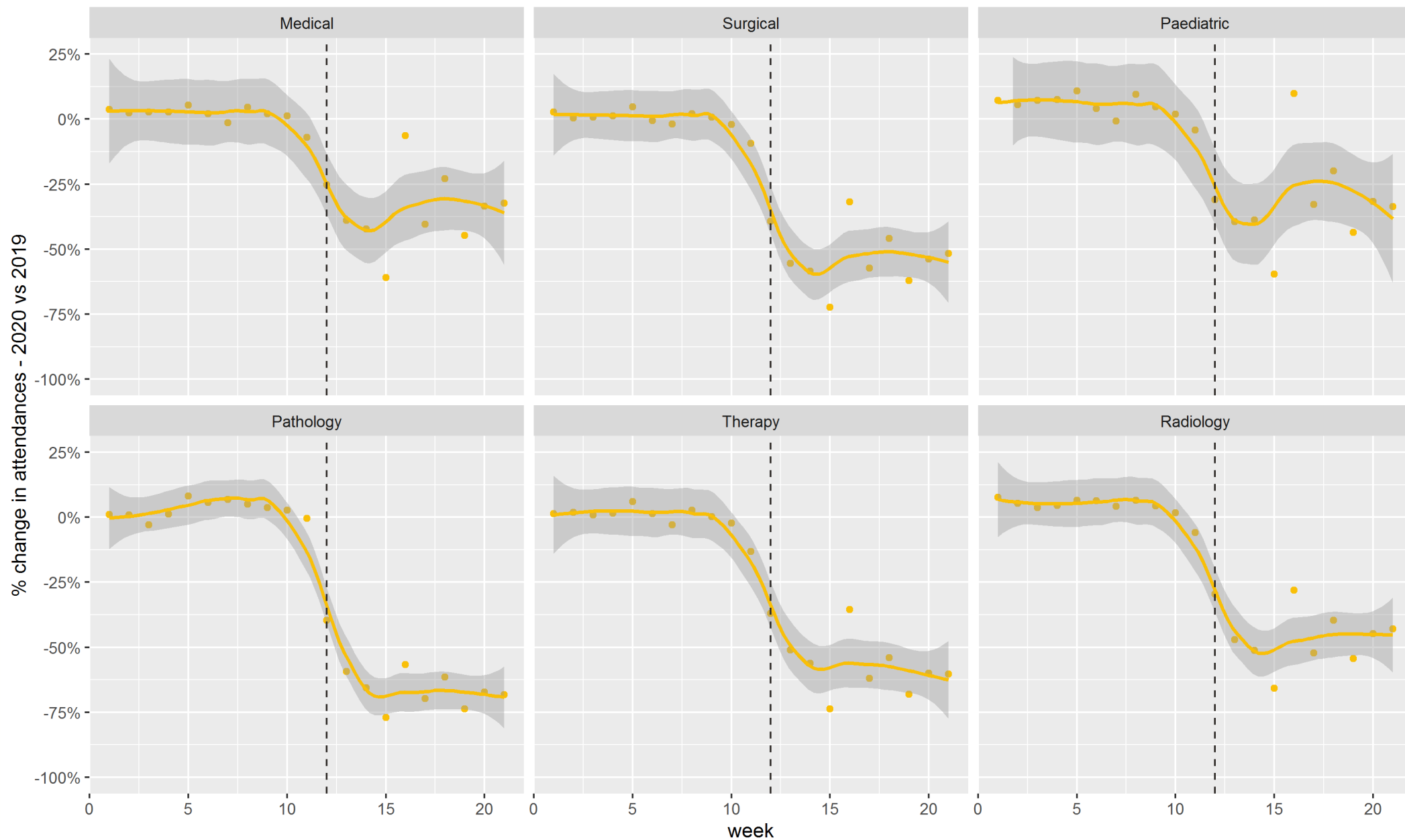


% change in outpatient attendances
by status | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

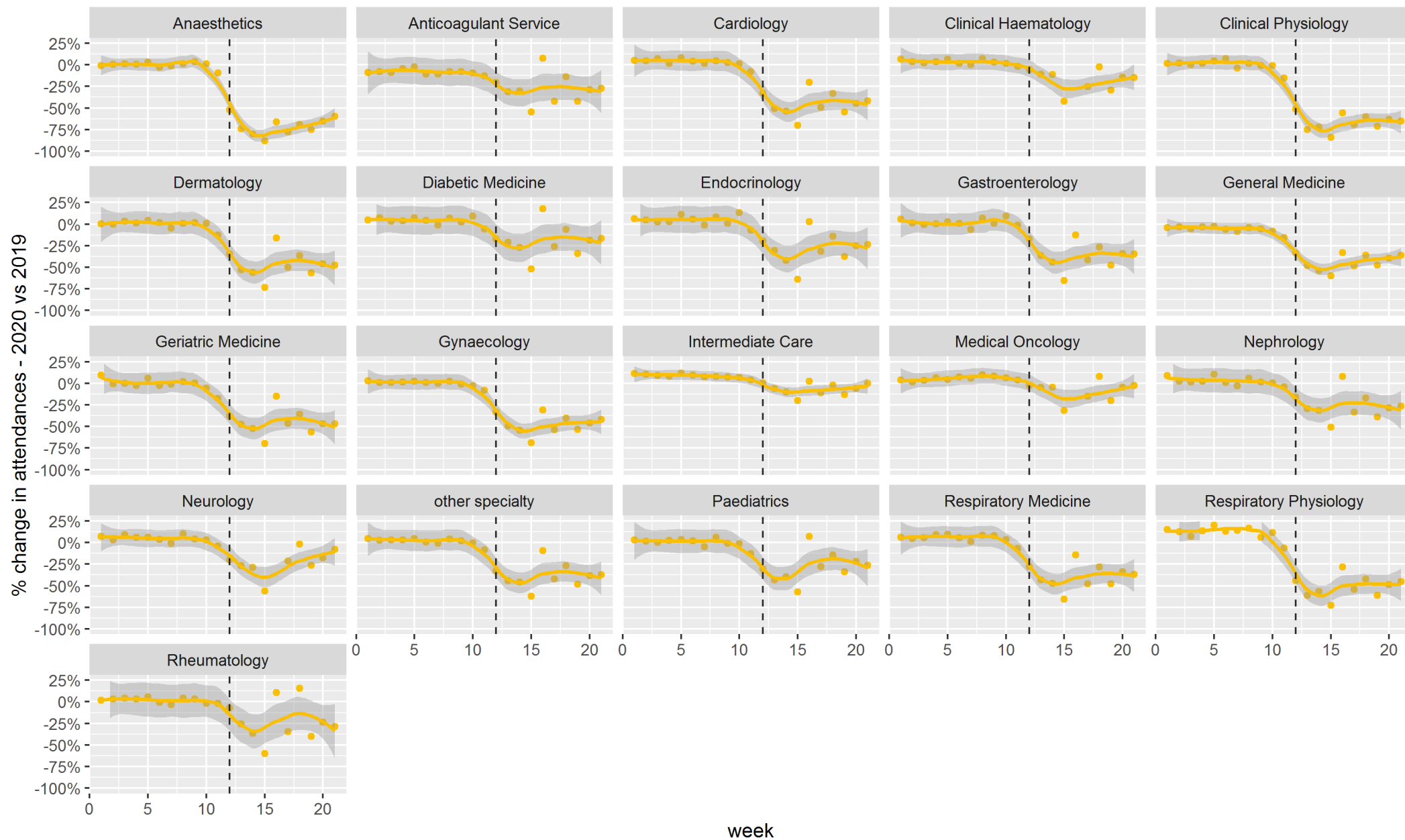


% change in outpatient attendances

by specialty type | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

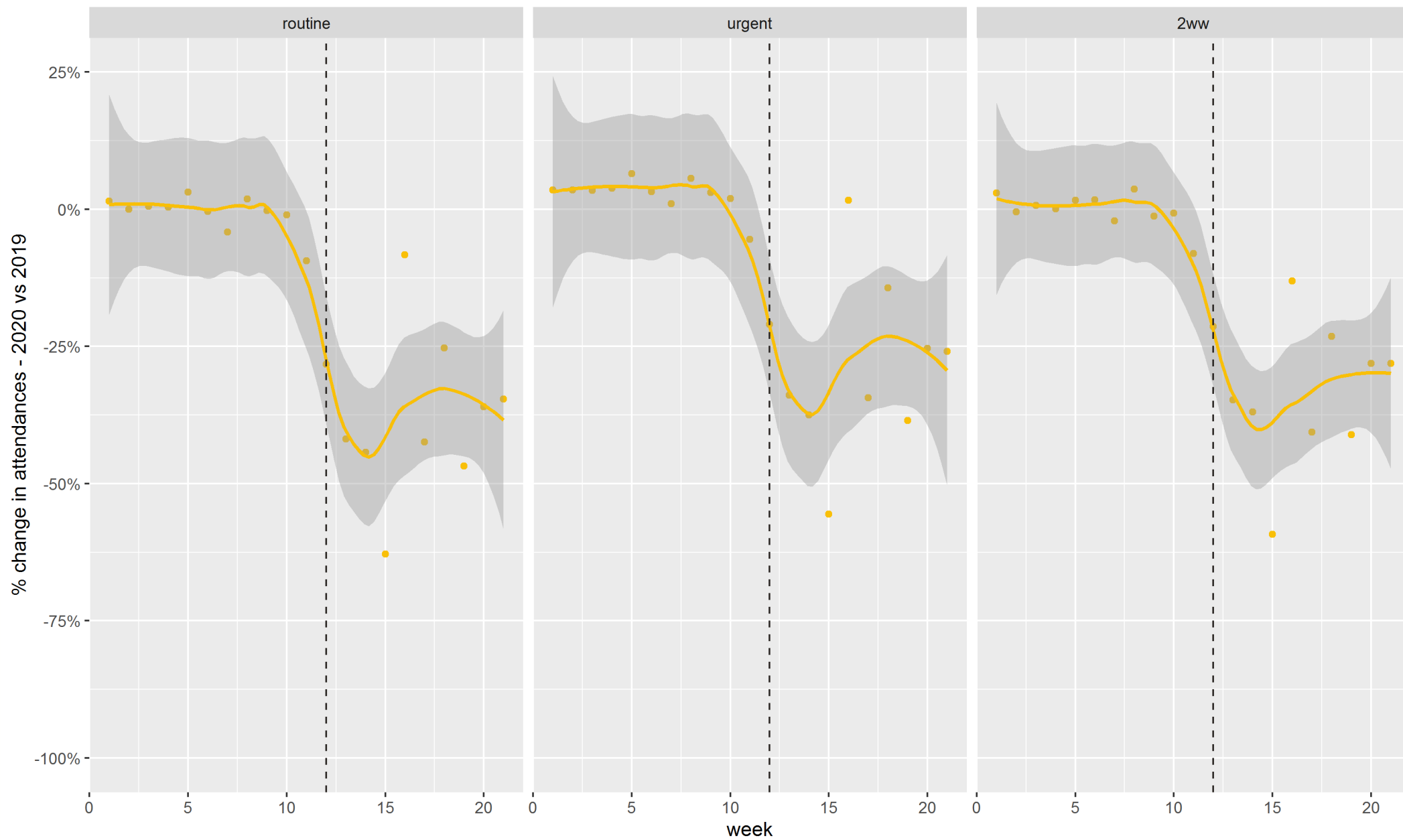


% change in MEDICAL outpatient attendances by specialty | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

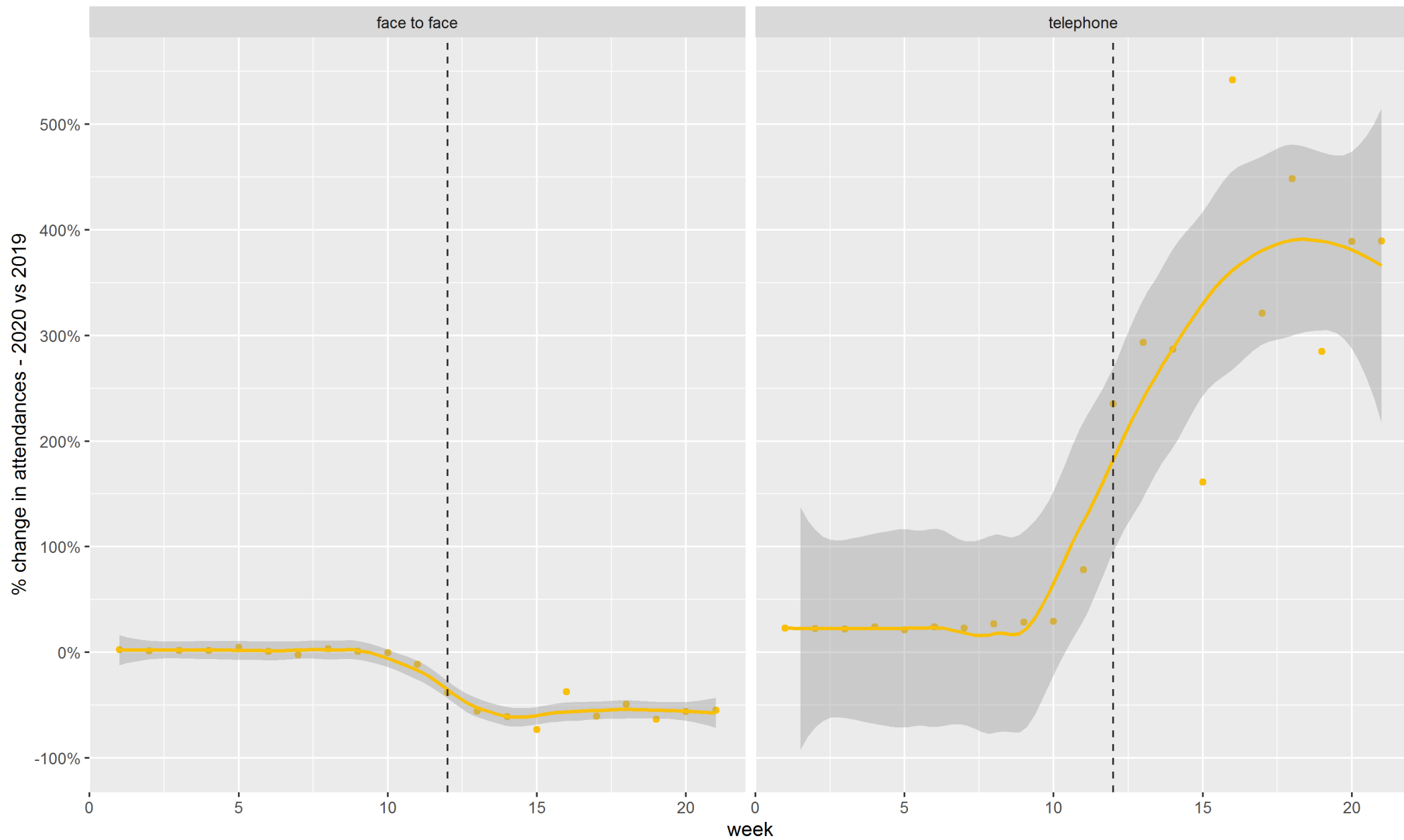


% change in MEDICAL outpatient attendances

by priority | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

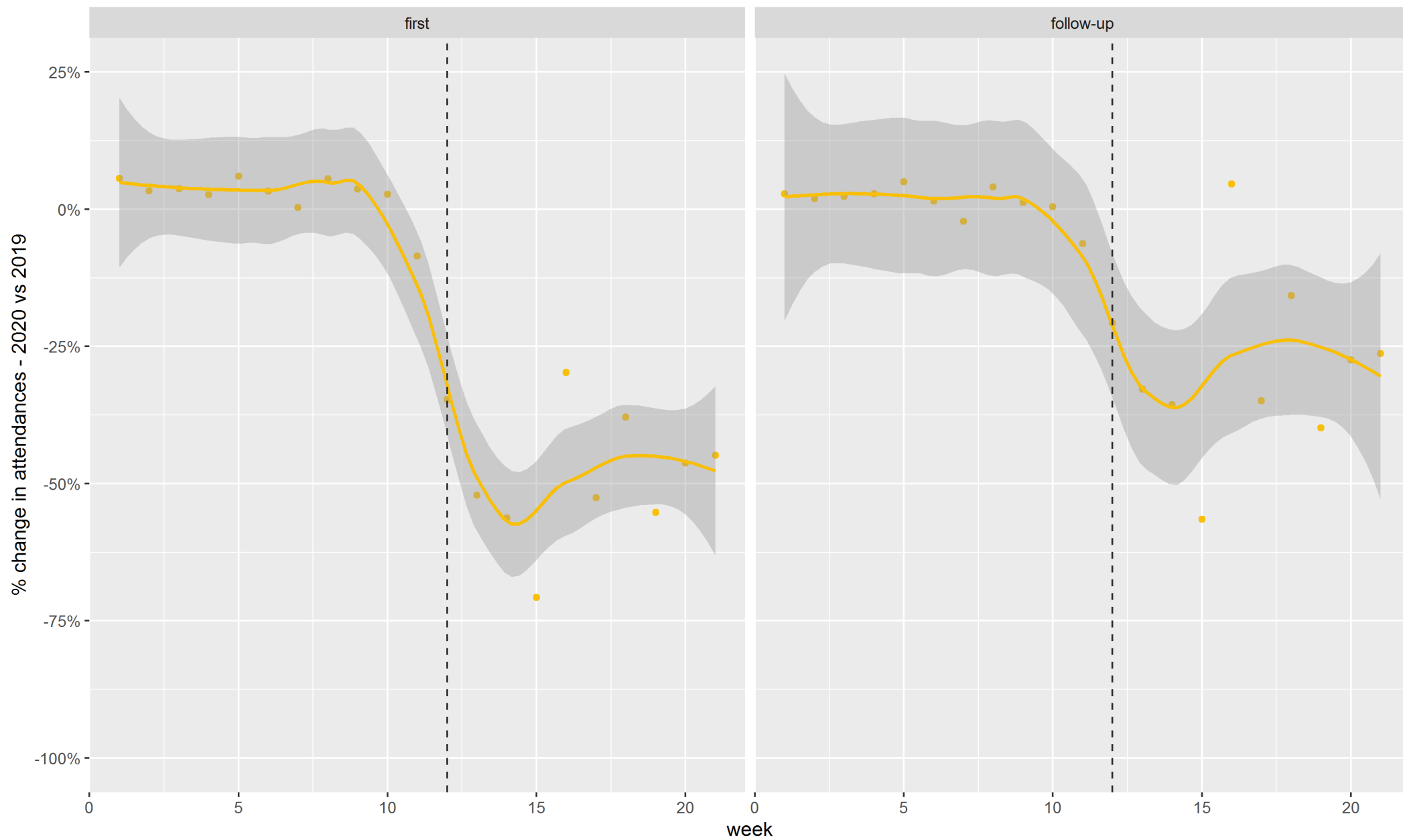


% change in MEDICAL outpatient attendances
by mode | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

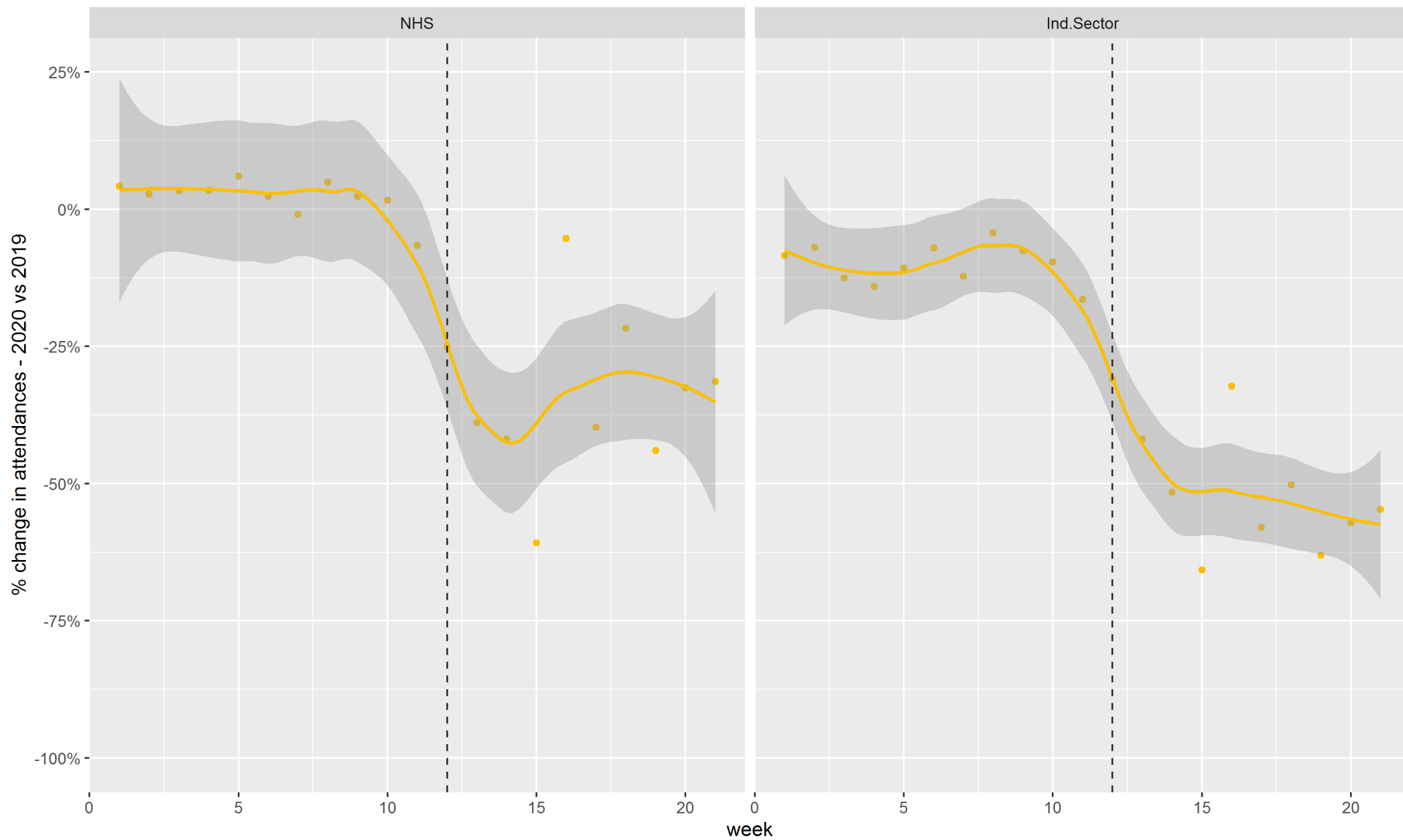


% change in MEDICAL outpatient attendances

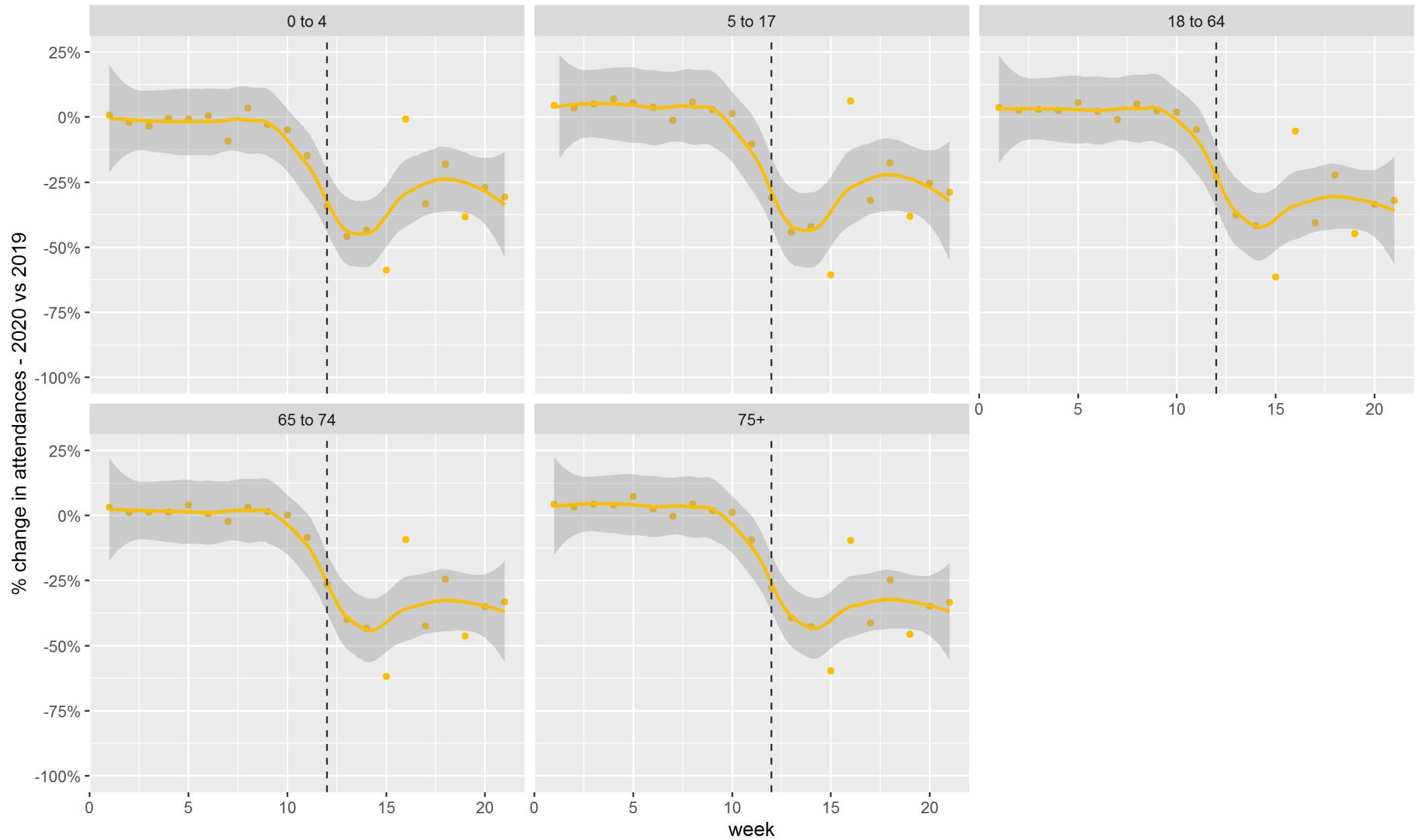
by order | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



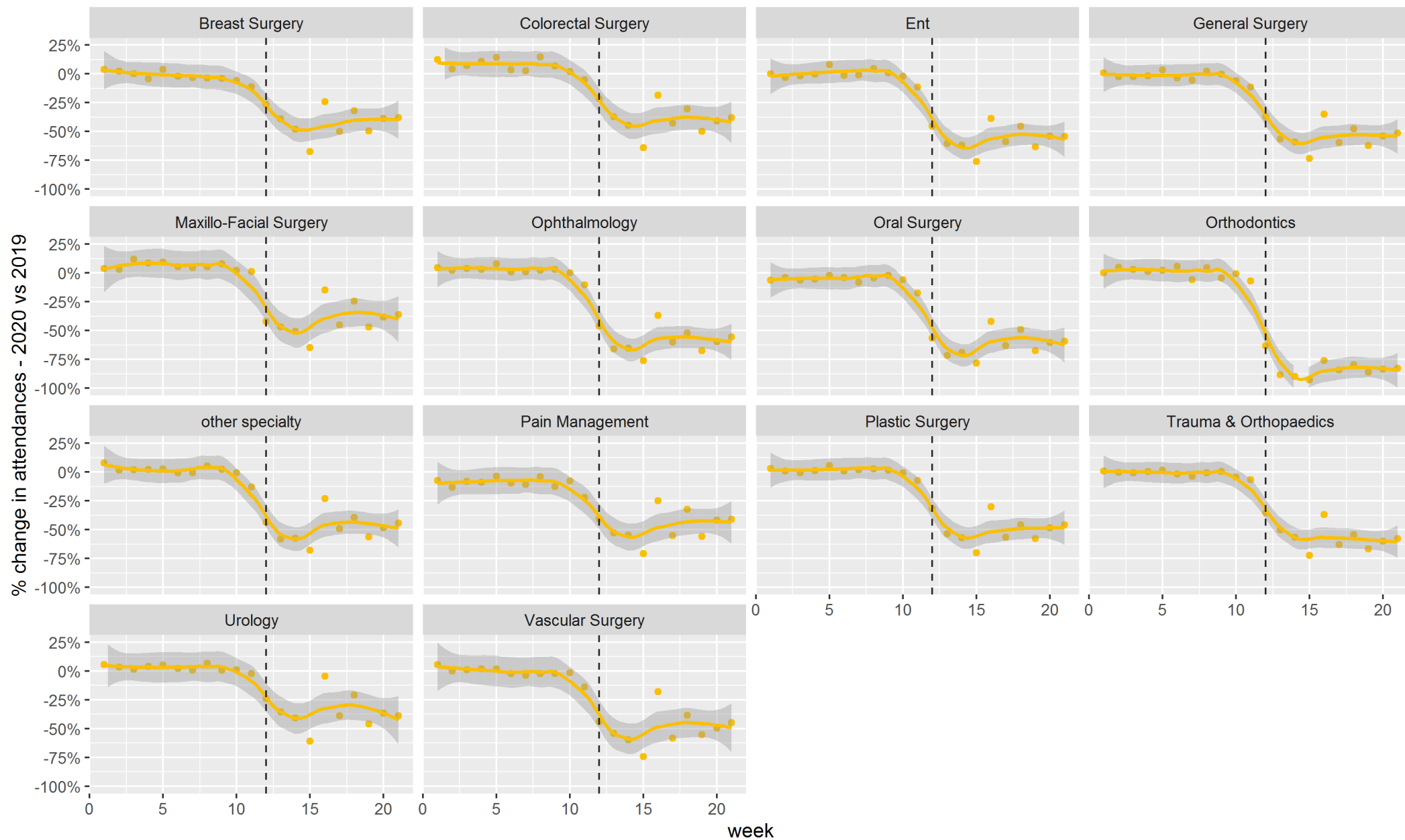
% change in MEDICAL outpatient attendances
by sector | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



% change in MEDICAL outpatient attendances
by age group | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

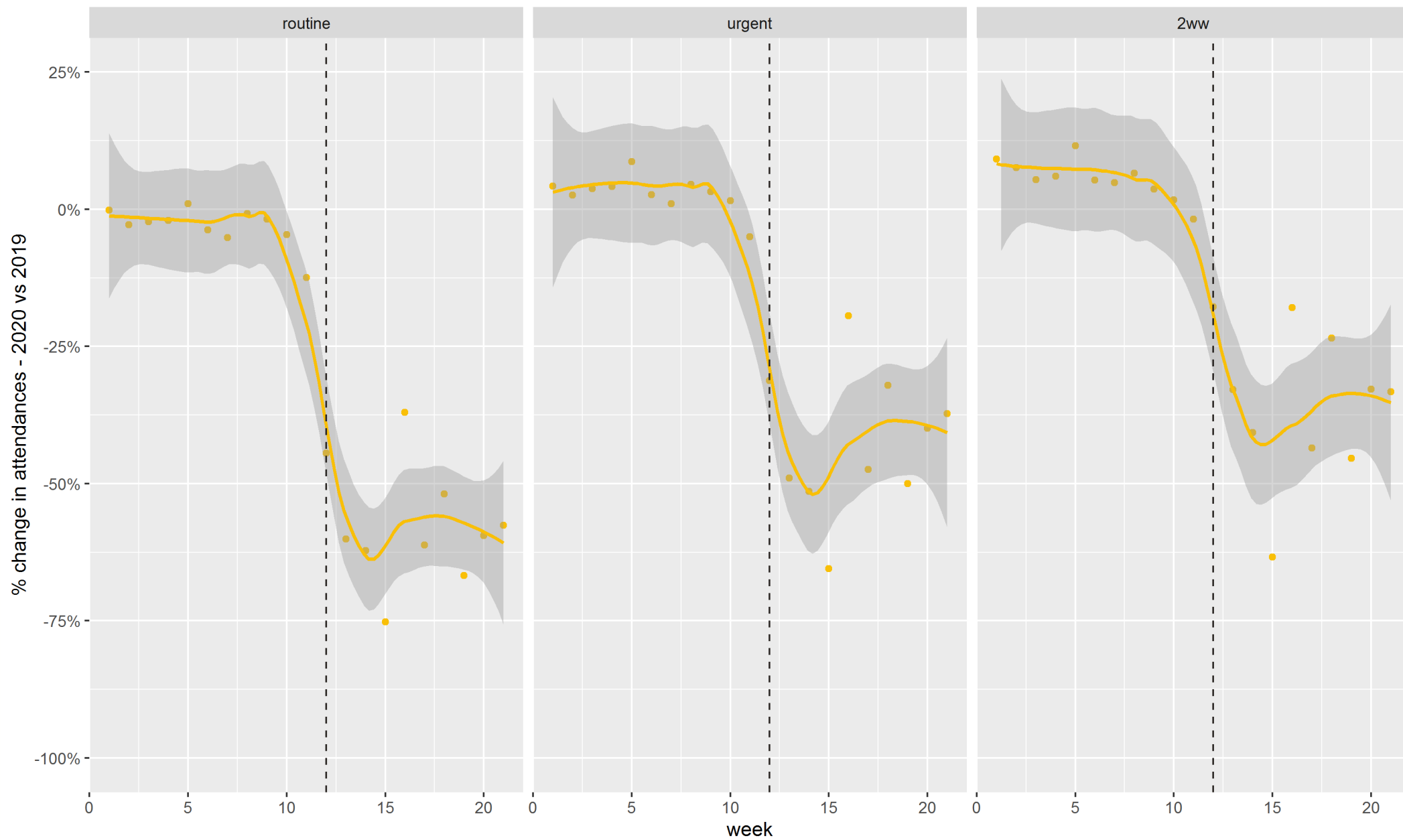


% change in SURGICAL outpatient attendances by specialty | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

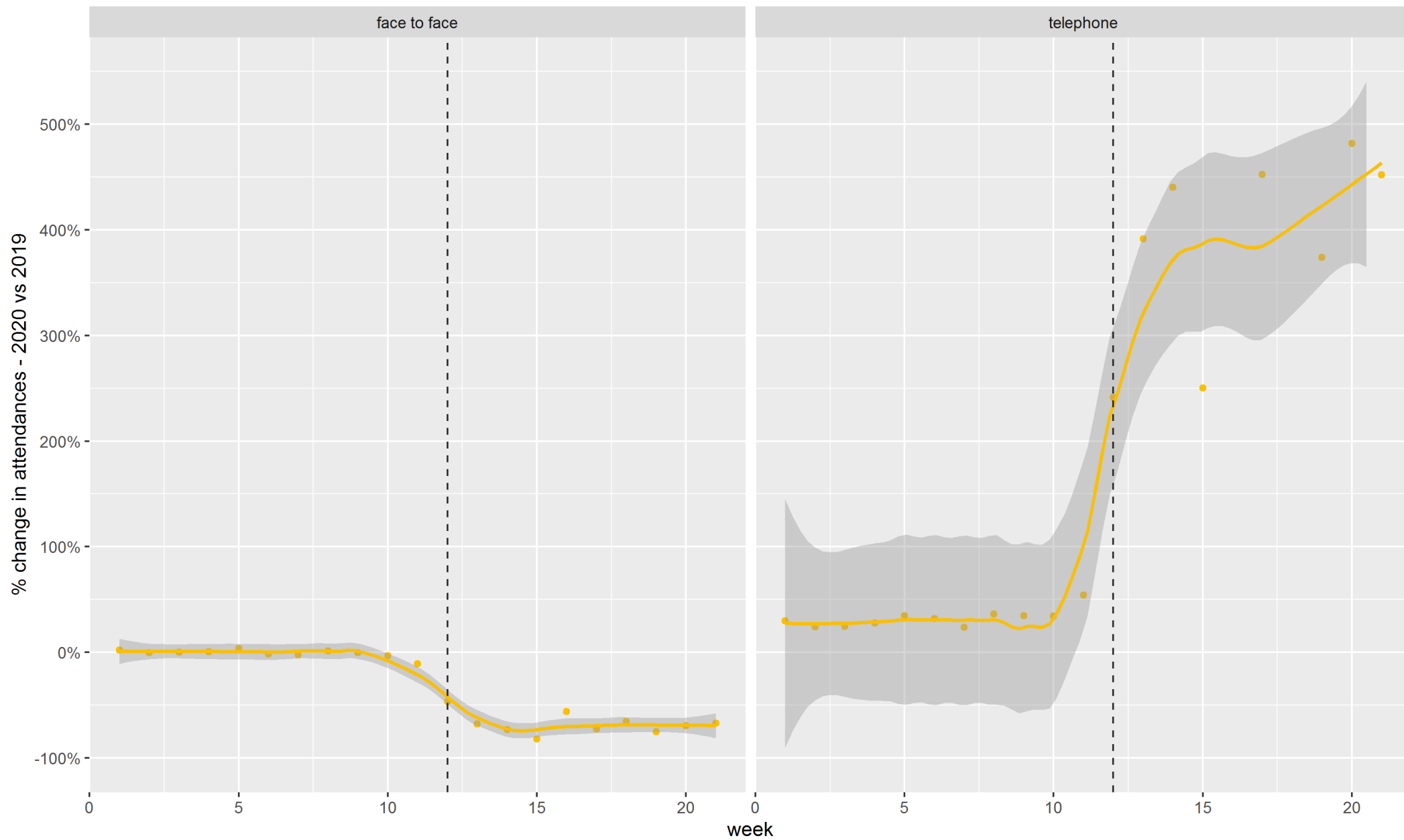


% change in SURGICAL outpatient attendances

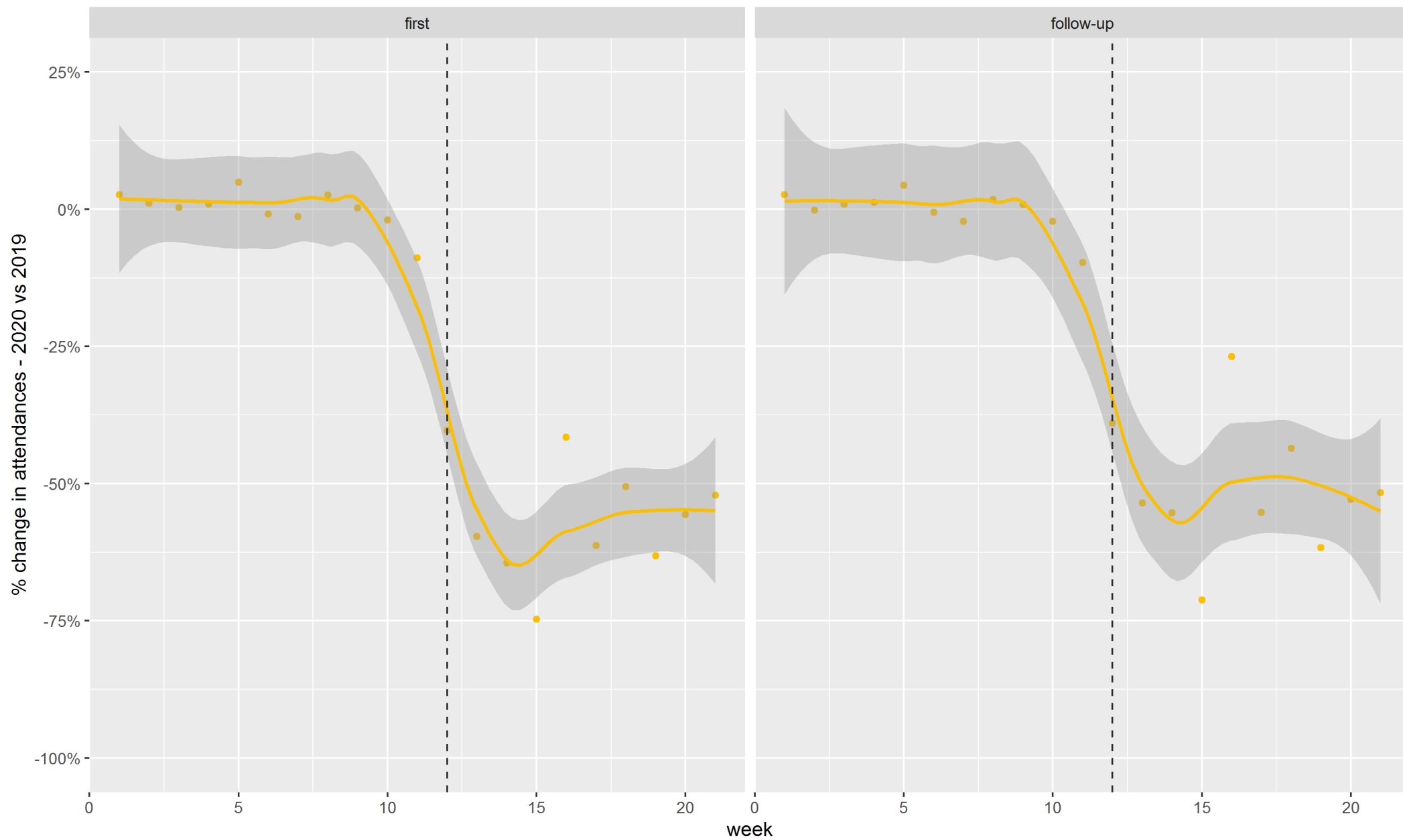
by priority | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



% change in SURGICAL outpatient attendances
by mode | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

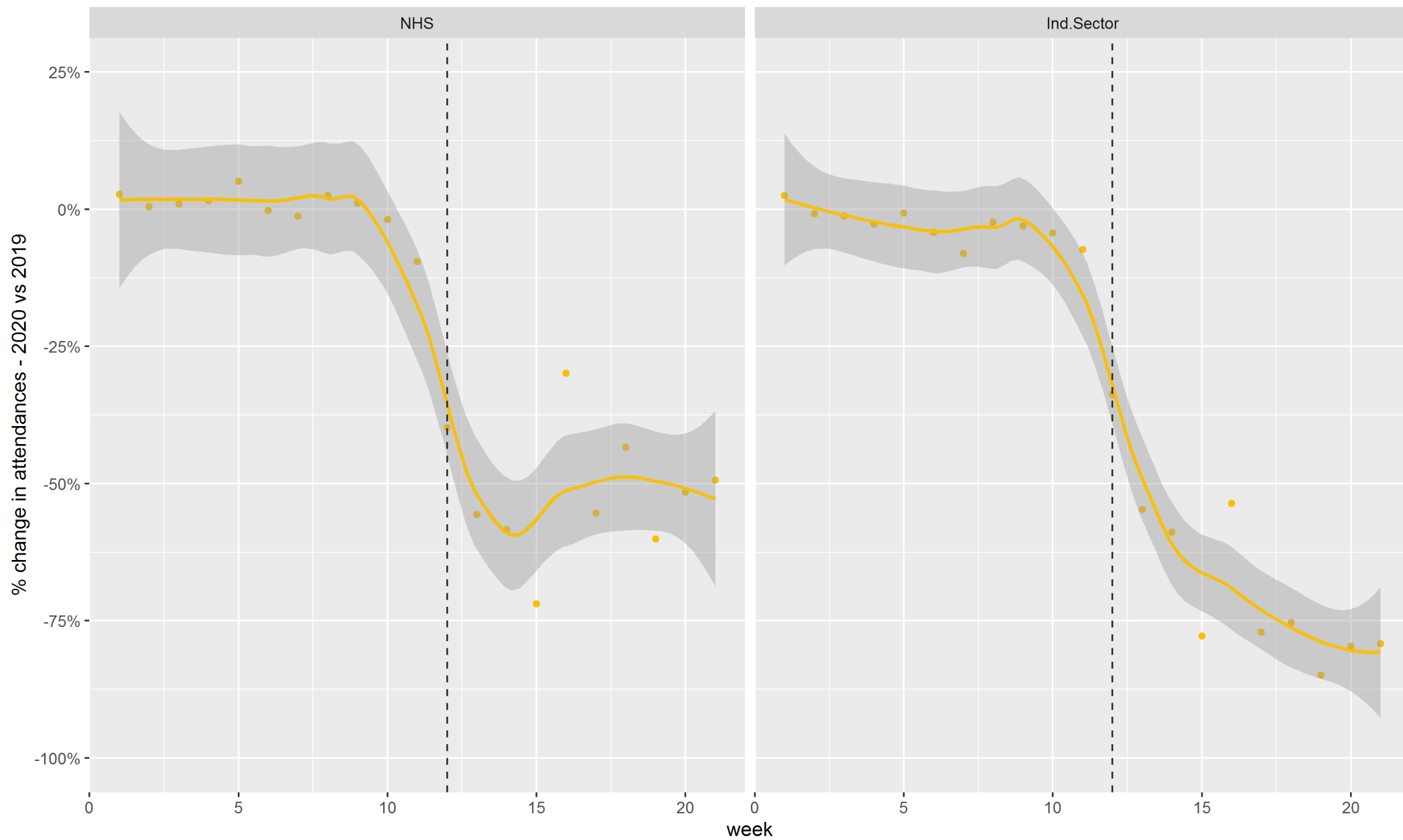


% change in SURGICAL outpatient attendances
by order | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



% change in SURGICAL outpatient attendances

by sector | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England



% change in SURGICAL outpatient attendances by age group | Weeks 1-21 | 2020 vs 2019 | England

