

**What have we learnt  
from virtual wards  
and where next?**

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**Digital Health Rewired  
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Older people  
are the most  
keen to use  
tech to stay  
out of hospital

... and the  
biggest group  
being cared  
for in this way

## Public Appetite

In their survey of **7,100** people the Health Foundation found that **78%** would be happy to monitor their own health at home using technology instead of in a hospital.

For those aged **65 and over**, this rose to **85%**

How do the public and NHS staff feel about virtual wards? 29 July 2023

# Virtual Wards have expanded ...

**332,742** people have been cared for at home rather than in hospital since May 2022

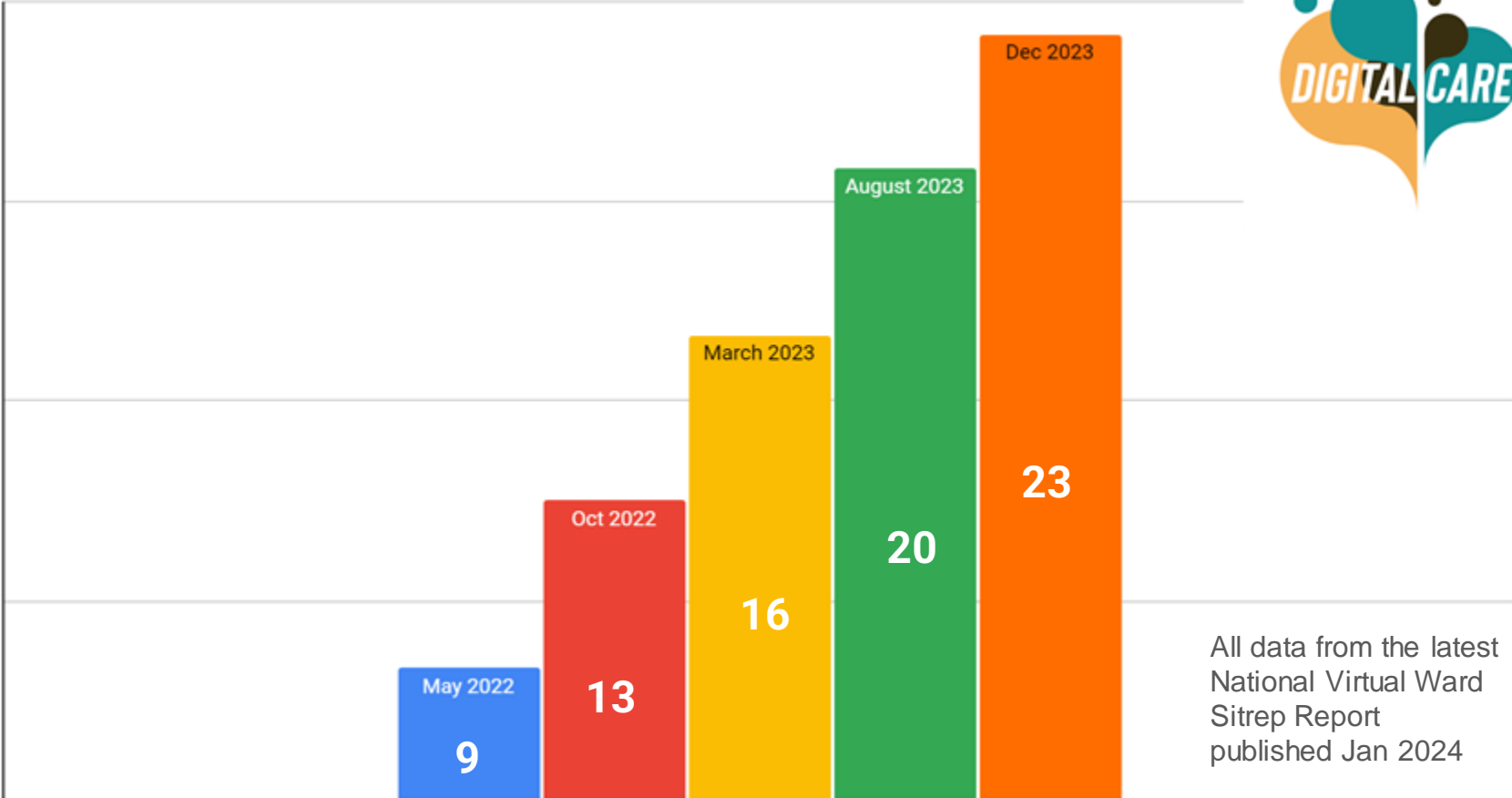
Latest data shows **14,916** people cared for in VW in December 2023

**47%** admission avoidance &  
**35%** early discharge

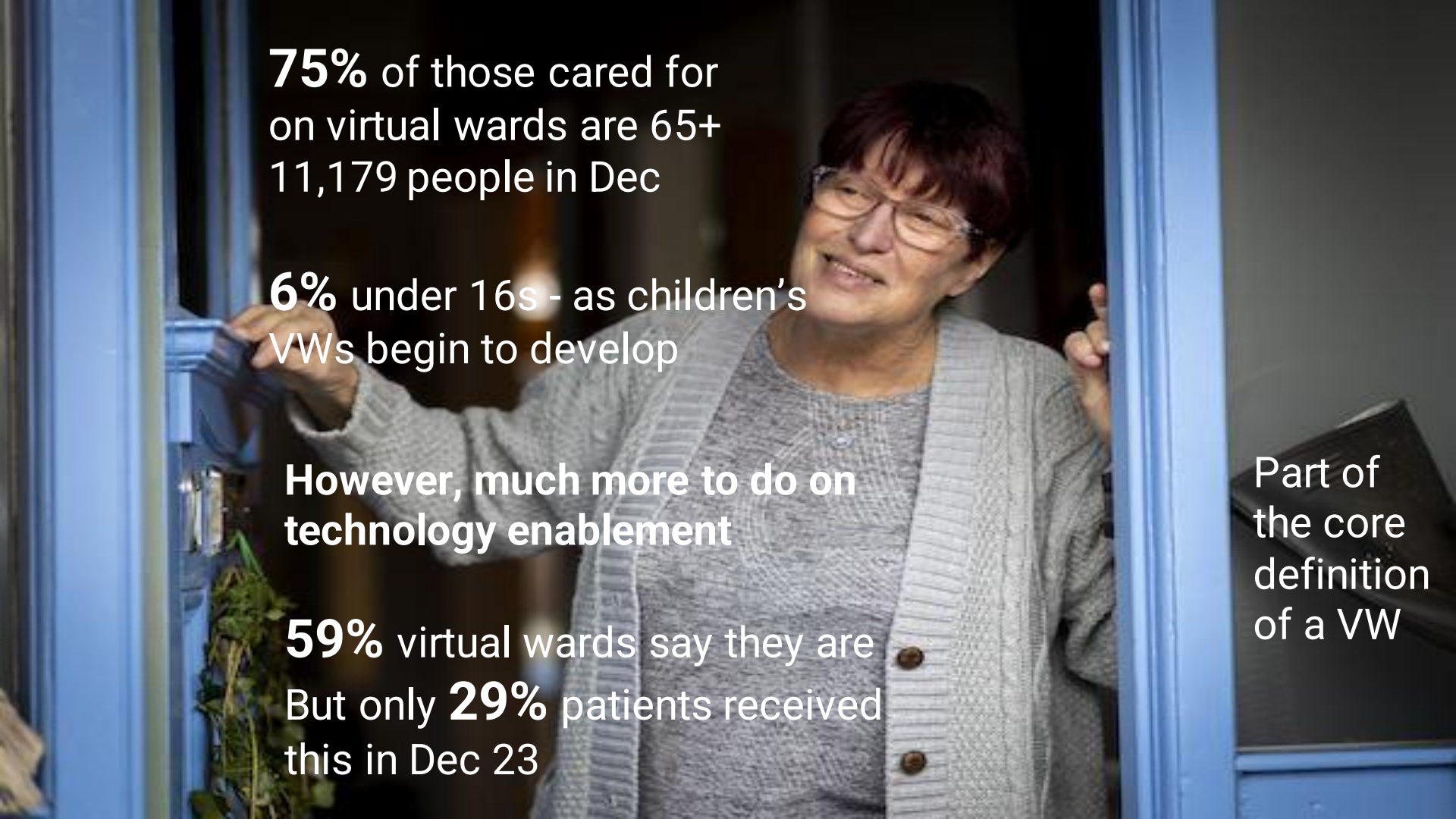
Running at a healthy  
**73%** occupancy



# Virtual Ward beds per 100,000 GP registered population (England)



All data from the latest National Virtual Ward Sitrep Report published Jan 2024



**75%** of those cared for on virtual wards are 65+  
11,179 people in Dec

**6%** under 16s - as children's VWs begin to develop

**However, much more to do on technology enablement**

**59%** virtual wards say they are  
But only **29%** patients received this in Dec 23


Part of the core definition of a VW



**UCR teams able to start RM  
RM from SDEC - North Bristol**

**GP rapid response vehicle equipped in  
Hertfordshire - Herts Urgent Care**

**Remote  
monitoring  
increasingly  
helping  
people avoid  
admission**

A photograph of four surgeons in blue scrubs and masks performing a procedure in an operating room. They are illuminated by large overhead surgical lights. In the background, there are medical monitors displaying various views, including a close-up of the surgical site. The overall atmosphere is clinical and focused.

Remote monitoring  
to help **the elective  
backlog**

Using RM to  
ensure people are  
**ready for major  
surgery** & reduce  
last minute canc's  
- Gloucester  
Hospital advancing  
this in Orthopaedics

As well as getting  
waits down the  
business case  
writes itself

Remote  
monitoring for  
long term  
conditions

Dramatic reduction in  
hospitalisation  
rates in a number of  
common LTCs

Heart Failure - great results delivered by the team at Imperial  
COPD - Airedale the leading UK site (50% reduction of admissions  
in their cohort of over 4k patients) and now  
Bristol adopting this Hub model across the ICB  
In Denmark they are providing remote monitoring to all those with  
severe COPD this year - be great if this became the model of care  
in the NHS



# How did you find it?

People who'd tried virtual wards were asked to reply to a number of questions and film themselves

<https://youtu.be/Se9SW9gI2yM>





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