

# Trends in incidence and average waiting time for arthroplasty from 1998-2021

## An observational study of 252,376 patients from the Scottish Arthroplasty Project Database

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### Background

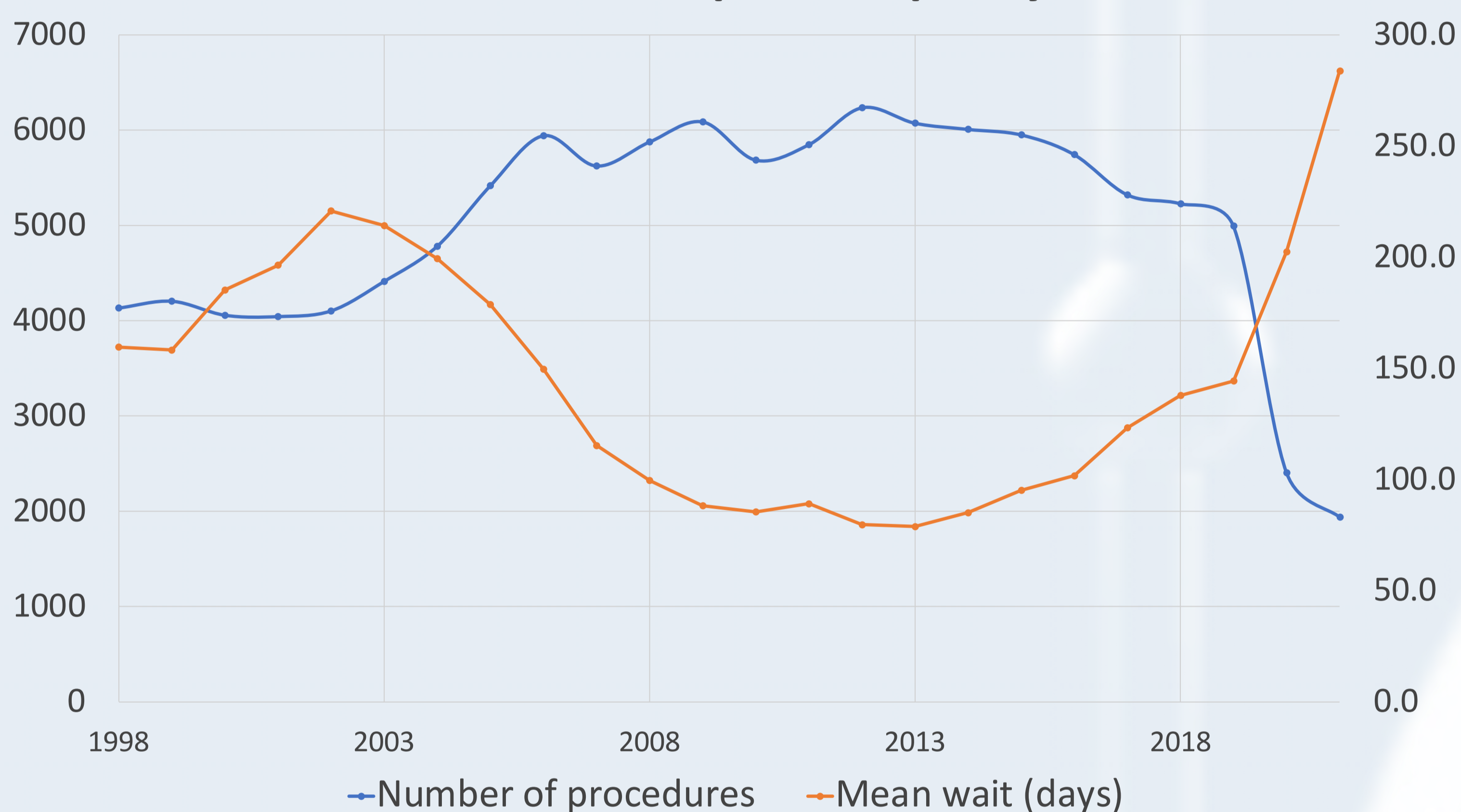
Current waiting times for arthroplasty are reported as being the worst on record. This is a combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and prior difficulties in meeting demands in the years prior.

### Methods

The Scottish Arthroplasty Project (SAP) is a national audit used to record all joint replacements. All TKA and THA from 1998-2021 were analysed, data linkage to national waiting times was performed via a unique identifier given to every person living in Scotland – the community health index (CHI).

### Results

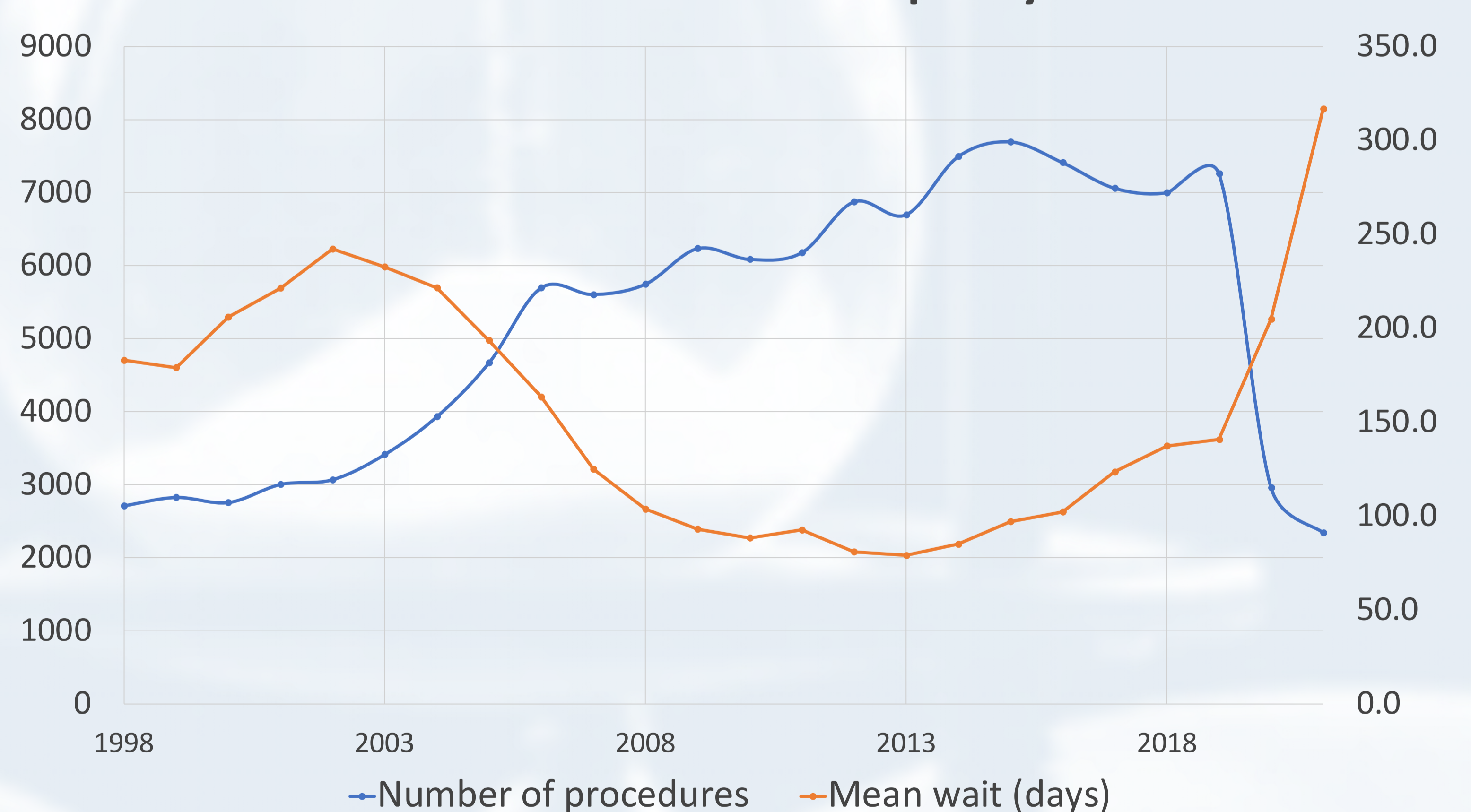
**Total Hip Arthroplasty**



The minimum waiting times were both in 2013 for 5600 THR – 78.8 days and 7012 TKR – 79.1 days

Max waiting times are in 2021 with 2127 THR waiting 283.7 days and 3102 TKR waiting 316.8 days

**Total Knee Arthroplasty**



### Conclusion

This is the first robust large scale national data set showing trends in waiting time for arthroplasty over a 20 year period. We demonstrate a period of significant expansion of operations with an accompanied reduction in waiting time peaking in 2013, followed by paradoxical reducing numbers of procedures and an increase in waiting time.