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Background

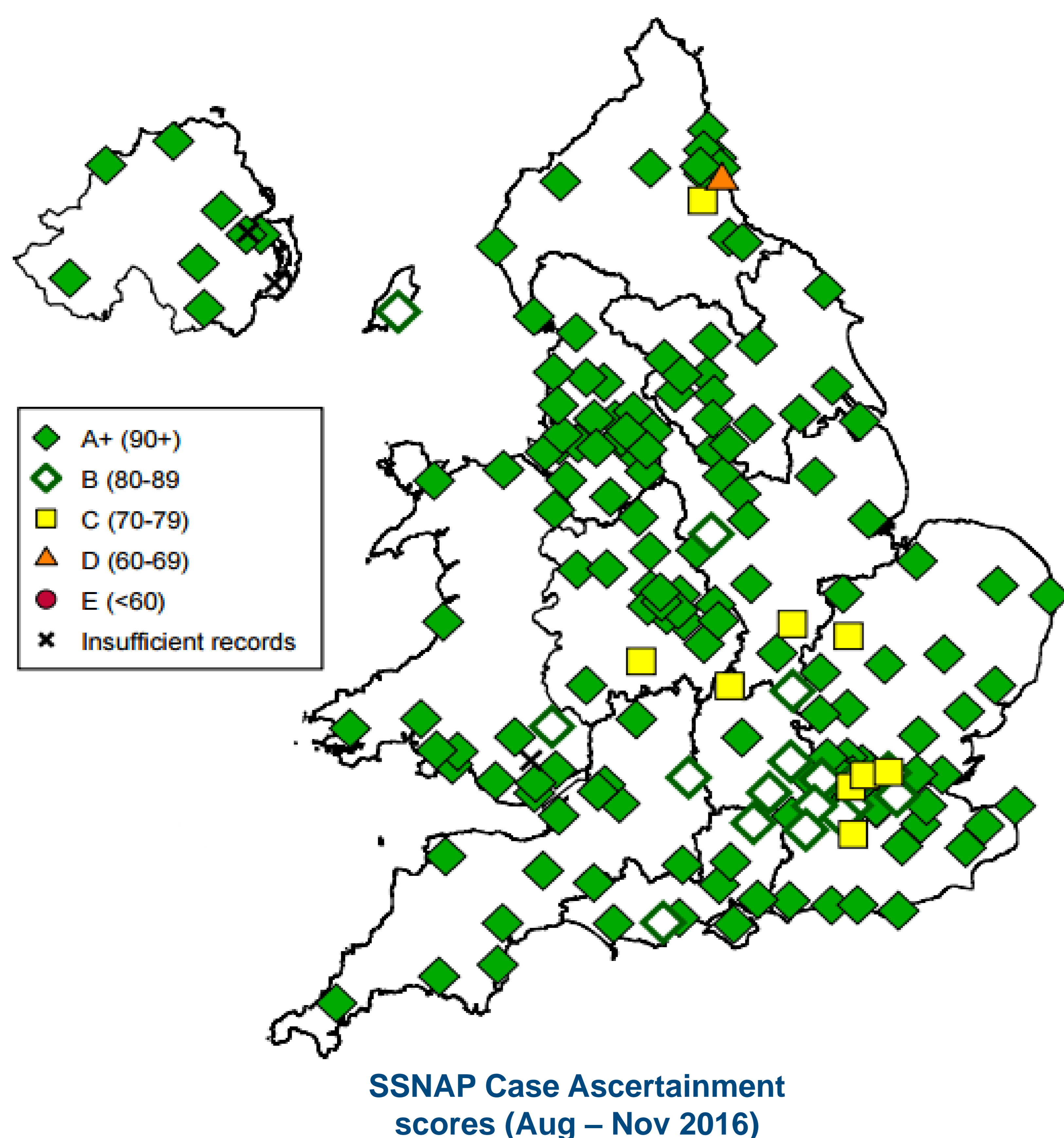
- The Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) is the **national stroke care register** in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The register routinely produces a large suite of reporting outputs which grade stroke care received across the country.
- Case Ascertainment is ensuring that all cases are entered onto the registry. High levels of case ascertainment are **essential to ensuring high quality data**.

Methods

- Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data are used to establish the number of expected stroke cases for acute hospitals for each reporting period.
- By comparing this expected number against the number of submitted stroke cases, teams are given an **A-E 'case ascertainment' performance score**.
- Scores lower than the highest banding of 'A' (90%+ of expected cases) impacts overall stroke care score.
- A 'participation report' is provided to teams so that they can always be aware of their number of cases entered and locked for inclusion in the register.

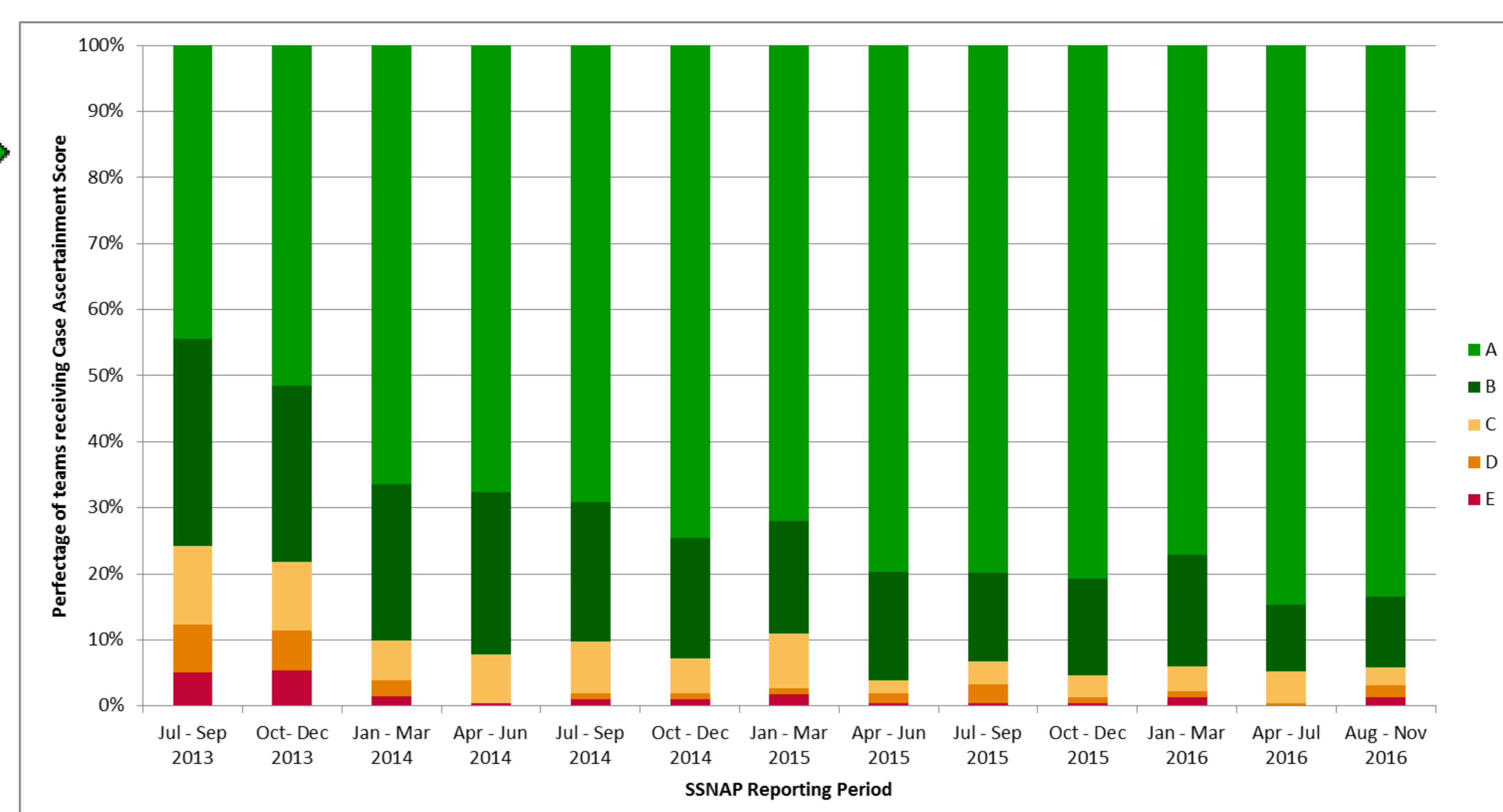
Results

- Over 95% of expected stroke cases are entered to SSNAP** ahead of each reporting deadline thus ensuring meaningful results are published.
- In the August - November 2016 reporting period, **131/148 teams achieved the highest possible grade** for case ascertainment, with only 6 teams submitting less than 80% of their expected cases.
- This high case ascertainment is maintained by tracking the number of cases entered over time at a provider level, as well as directly contacting specific under-performers prior to data locking deadlines.



Case Ascertainment Score	Jul - Sep 2013	Aug - Nov 2016
A	44%	83%
B	31%	11%
C	12%	3%
D	7%	2%
E	5%	1%

Comparison of SSNAP Case Ascertainment scores (Jul – Sep 2013 to Aug – Nov 2016)



SSNAP Case Ascertainment scores over time

Conclusion

- Exceptional case ascertainment is **essential for high quality and representative data**.
- SSNAP continues to excel in ensuring high case ascertainment, this makes data comparisons fairer, and develops more trust in the data provided.
- Similar approaches to ensuring complete, high quality data are continuously submitted to healthcare registries could be **adapted to other settings**.