

<b>Enclosure No:</b>	3/AWMSG/0626
<b>Agenda item No:</b>	8 – NHS Wales inhaler carbon footprint report – March 2026
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## 1.0 Action for AWMSG

AWMSG members are requested to consider the enclosed report 'Measuring the use of inhalers in Wales – March 2026' which is provided for information.

## 2.0 Purpose

The Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU) has developed a dashboard to report on progress in reducing the carbon footprint of inhalers used within primary care in Wales. This is to support the achievement of the [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan](#) target of increasing the use of low global warming potential inhalers to 80% of the total inhalers issued by 2025. This report is intended as a brief summary overview of some of the key metrics provided within the dashboard.

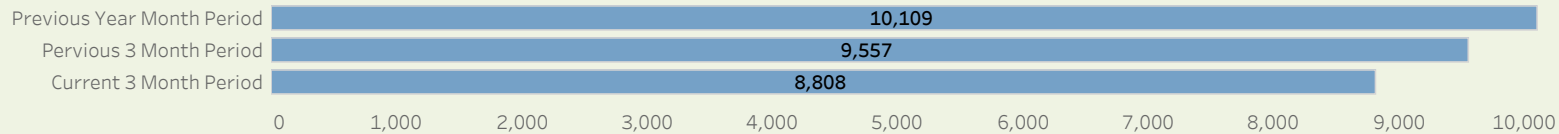
The dashboard can be viewed as part of the [Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis \(SPIRA\)](#).

## Measuring the use of inhalers in Wales

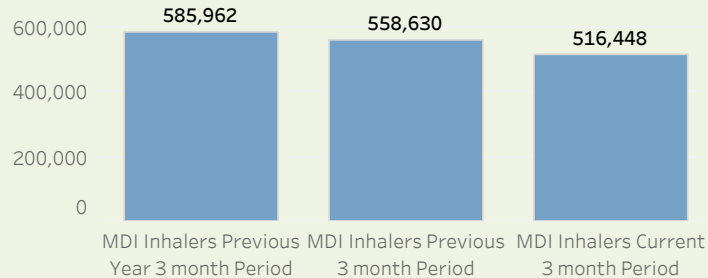
AWTTC has developed a dashboard to report on progress in optimising the use of inhalers, which includes measuring the reduction in the carbon footprint of inhalers in Wales. This report is intended as a brief summary overview of some of the key metrics provided within that dashboard. The volume data presented are based on the quantity of inhalers issued in primary care. The carbon footprint data are related to the use of inhalers only. On a quarterly basis, an annex for secondary care data will be provided.

Current 3 Month Period = **January 2026 to March 2026**, Previous 3 Month Period = **October 2025 to December 2025**, Previous Year 3 Month Period = **January 2025 to March 2025**

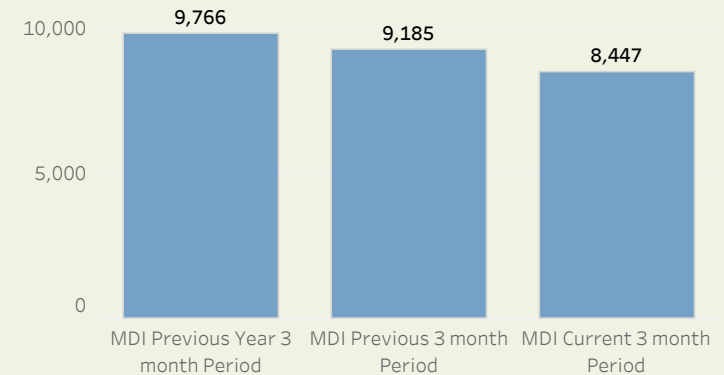
### Indicative carbon footprint (all inhalers) (CO<sub>2</sub>Tonnes)



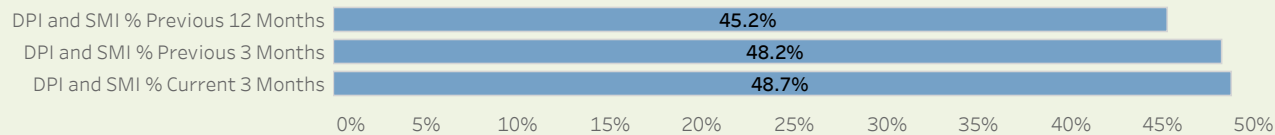
### MDI Inhalers (excluding next generation MDIs (ngMDIs))



### MDI Usage (CO<sub>2</sub>Tonnes) (excluding ngMDIs)



### DPI and SMI Inhalers as a percentage of total inhalers (%)

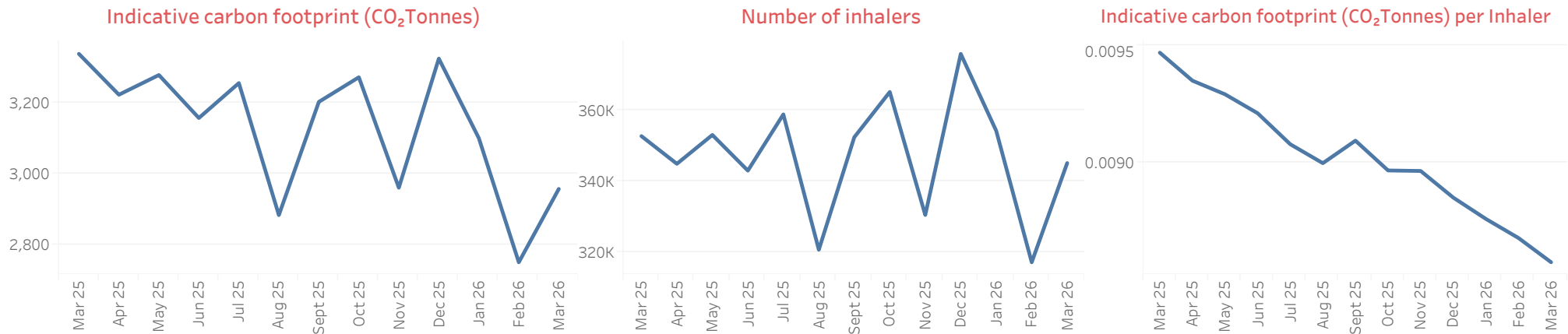


To show change across comparative periods, **Table 1** provides the key metric data for the latest month and the same month of the previous year. **Figure 1** provides the main metrics in a graphical form.

**Table 1.** Percentage change in key metrics since equivalent month of previous year.

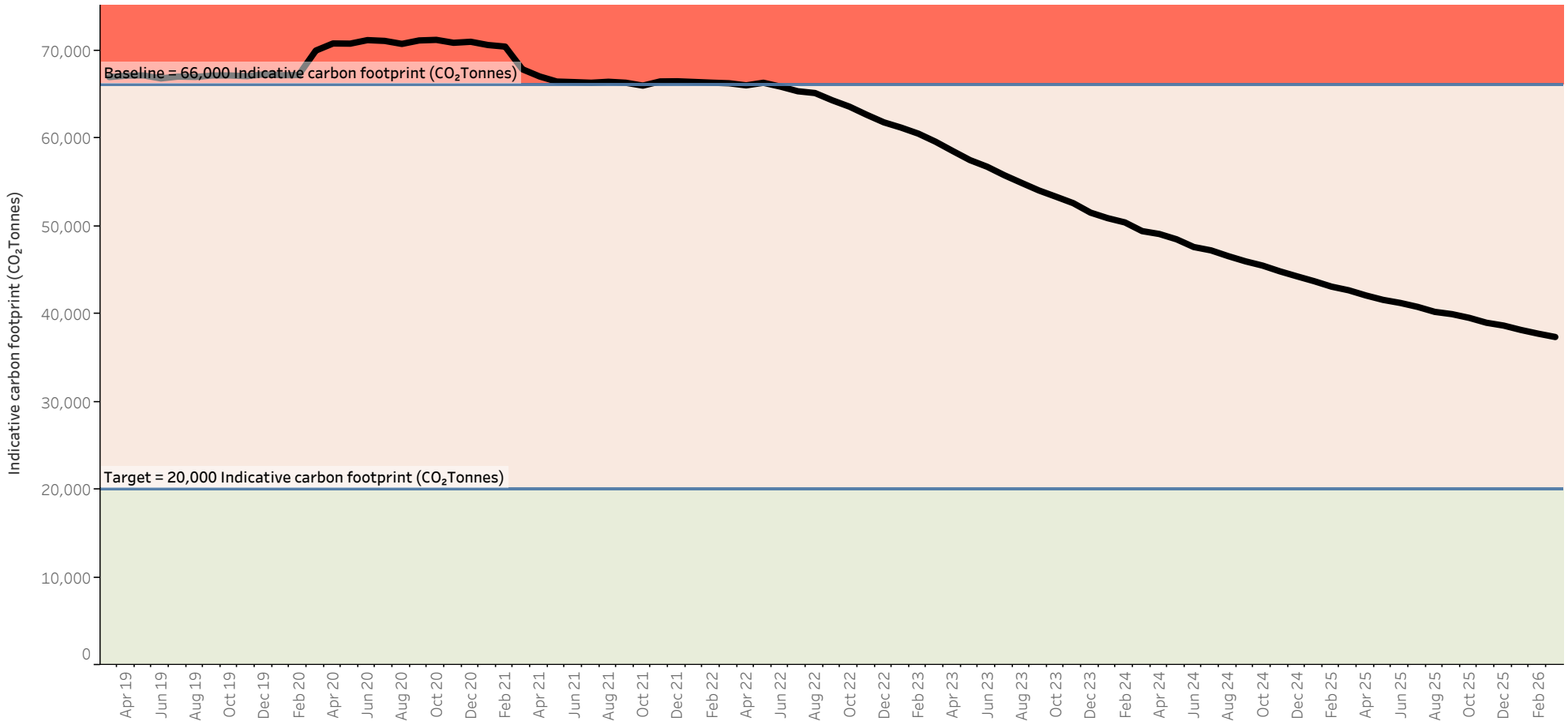
Measure	March 2025	March 2026	Percentage Change
Total number of inhalers	352,600	345,005	-2.15%
Indicative carbon footprint (CO <sub>2</sub> Tonnes)	3,338	2,957	-11.41%
Indicative carbon footprint per inhaler (CO <sub>2</sub> Tonnes)	0.0095	0.0086	-9.46%
MDI percentage of indicative carbon footprint (%)	96.55%	95.81%	-0.77%
DPI and SMI percentage of total inhalers (%) (excluding ngMDIs)	45.20%	49.14%	8.72%
DPI SMI and ngMDI percentage of total inhalers (%)	45.20%	49.65%	9.84%
SABA percentage of indicative carbon footprint (%)	51.54%	48.85%	-5.23%
SABA percentage of total inhalers (%)	33.37%	29.69%	-11.02%
AIR/MART percentage of total ICS and ICS/LABA inhalers (%)	34.07%	41.19%	20.90%

**Figure 1.** The indicative carbon footprint, number of inhalers, and indicative carbon footprint per inhaler issued within primary care in Wales  
March 2025 to March 2026



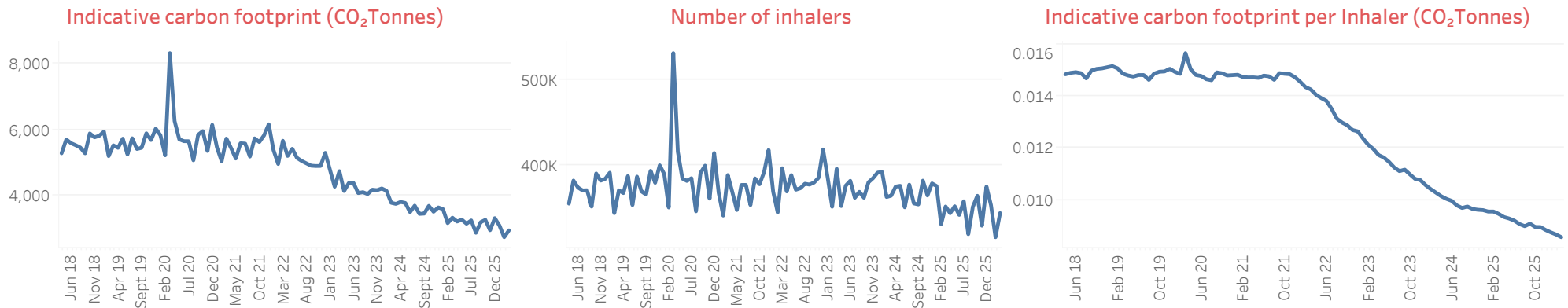
The 2021-2030 NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan has a stated target to increase the use of low global warming potential inhalers to 80% of the total inhalers issued. This equates to a decrease in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) to 20,000 tonnes per year. **Figure 2** shows total current annual carbon footprint based on the latest month's data as a rolling month annual total.

**Figure 2.** The indicative annual carbon footprint of all inhalers issued within primary care in Wales – from April 2019 to **March 2026**

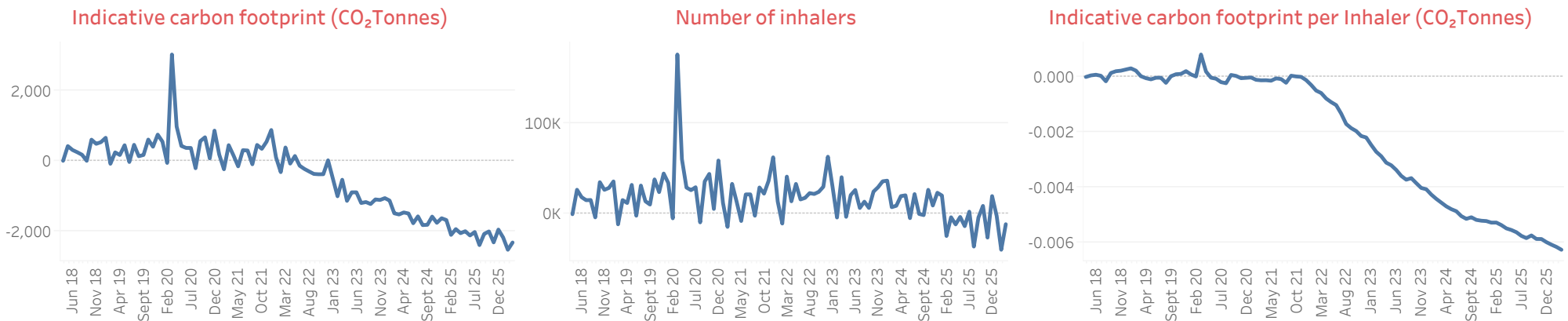


Several key metrics are reported on a monthly basis to support the stated target for reducing the inhaler carbon footprint. These are shown in Figures 3 and 4 which are presenting monthly data.

**Figure 3.** The indicative carbon footprint, number of inhalers, and indicative carbon footprint per inhaler issued within primary care in Wales from April 2018 to March 2026

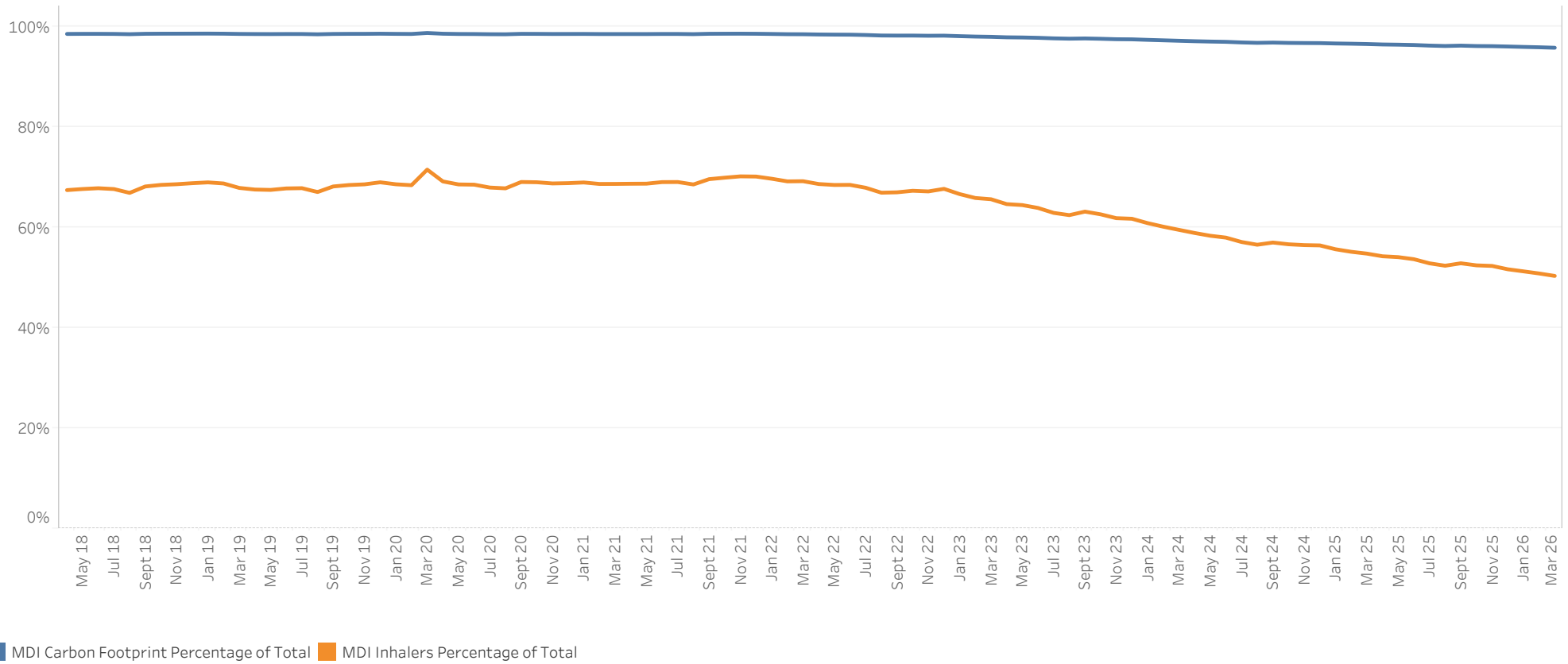


**Figure 4.** The indicative carbon footprint, number of inhaler issued, and indicative carbon footprint per inhaler changes within primary care in Wales from April 2018 to March 2026



The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) endorsed COPD and Asthma guidelines support medicines optimisation by providing direction for inhaler choices. MDIs currently contribute nearly all of the inhaler carbon footprint. DPIs, SMIs and ngMDIs have a significantly lower global warming potential associated with their use. Therefore, a move to decreasing the use of MDIs in favour of alternative low carbon footprint inhalers, should make a significant contribution to lowering the environmental impact from the use of inhalers. **Figure 5** provides a trend graph of MDIs as a percentage of the number and carbon footprint of all inhalers issued within primary care in Wales.

**Figure 5.** A trend graph of MDIs as a percentage of the number and carbon footprint of all inhalers issued within primary care in Wales - from April 2018 to March 2026



Short-acting beta-agonist (SABA) inhalers are intended for use in acute situations only. Therefore, regular use could indicate a potential under-optimisation of other therapies. The current All Wales Adult Asthma guideline states that daily reliance on SABAs is associated with an increased risk of severe exacerbations and mortality, reflecting very poorly controlled asthma. The 2025 update of the guidelines state a preferred option of either an AIR or MART regimen with ICS/LABA combination inhalers. Therefore, SABA inhaler use should continue to decrease. **Figure 6** provides a trend graph of SABA inhalers as a percentage of the number and carbon footprint of all inhalers issued within primary care in Wales.

**Figure 6.** A trend graph of SABA inhalers as a percentage of the number and carbon footprint of all inhalers issued within primary care in Wales – from April 2018 to **March 2026**

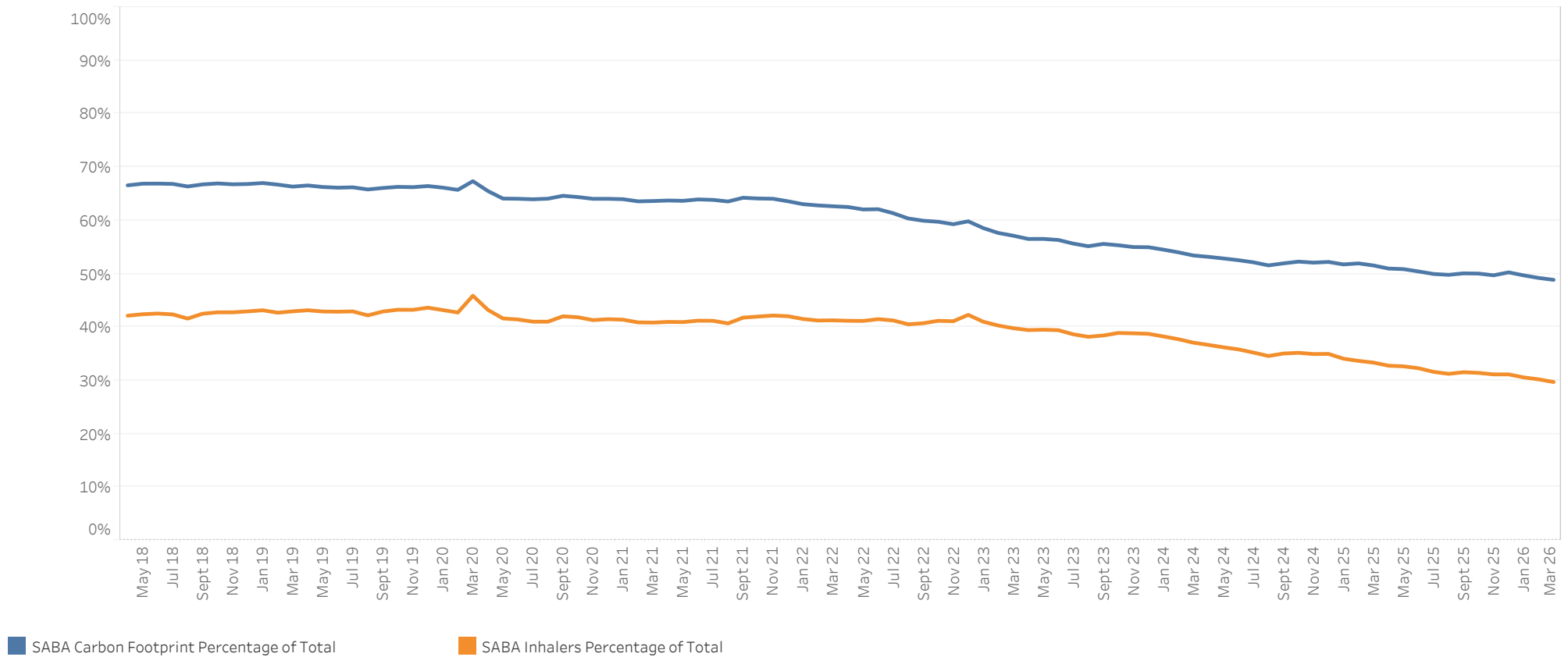
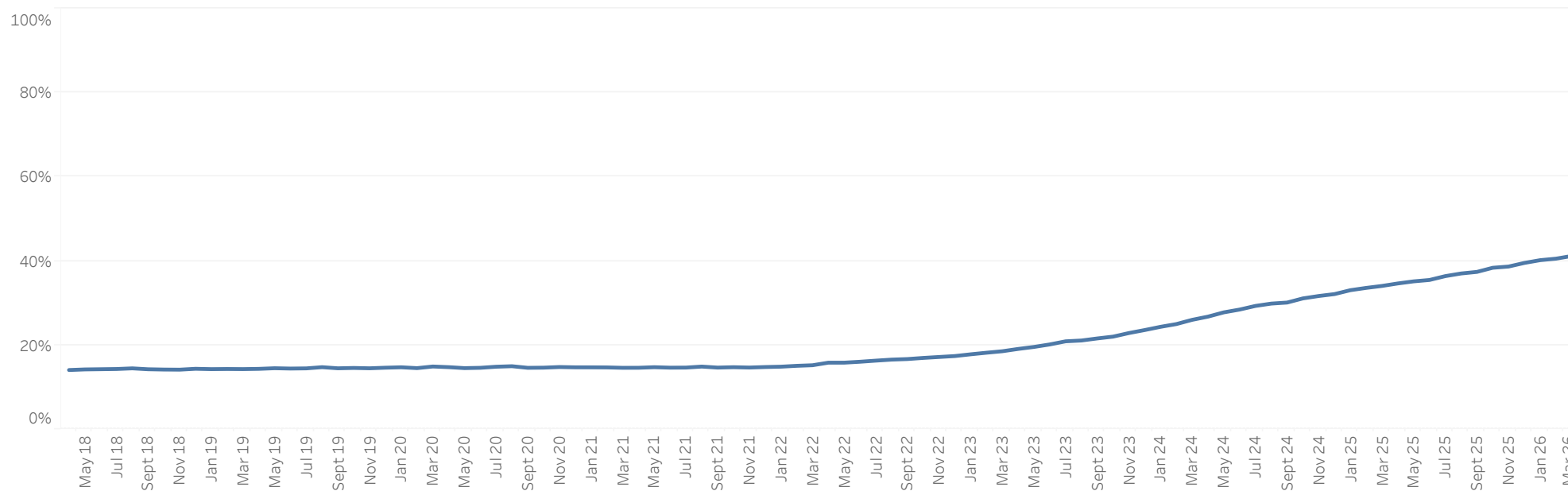


Figure 7 provides a trend graph of AIR and MART regimen inhalers as a percentage of the number and carbon footprint of all inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) and inhaled corticosteroid and long-acting beta agonist (ICS/LABA) inhalers issued within primary care in Wales.

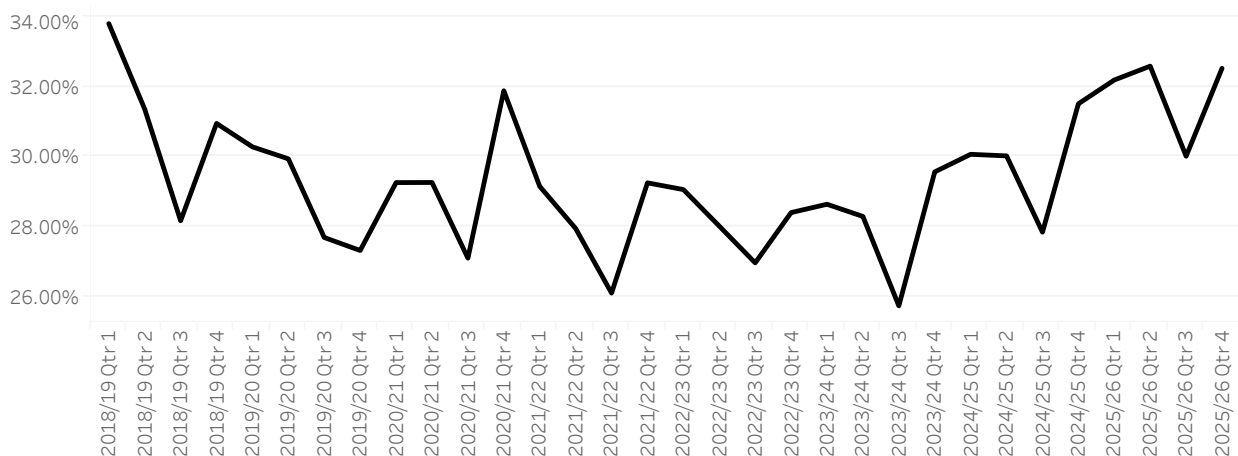
Figure 7. A trend graph of AIR and MART regimen inhalers as a percentage of the number and carbon footprint of all ICS and ICS/LABA inhalers issued within primary care in Wales - from April 2018 to March 2026



### Summary of Secondary Care Analysis of DPI and SMI vs Total Quantity

Data for inhalers issued in hospital settings (secondary care) are available on a quarterly basis. **Figure 7** provides trend of the percentage of inhalers issued that are either DPI and SMI as a percentage of all inhalers. **Figure 8** compares DPI and SMI as a percentage of all inhalers over 3 time periods. The most recent 3 months, a 3 month period prior to the most recent 3 months and the same 3 month period in the previous year. **Table 2** provides the main key metrics for the latest month and the same month of the previous year.

**Figure 7.** Combined DPI and SMI percentage of total inhaler quantity issued in secondary care from April 2018 to March 2026



**Figure 8.** Combined DPI and SMI percentage of total inhaler quantity issued in secondary care

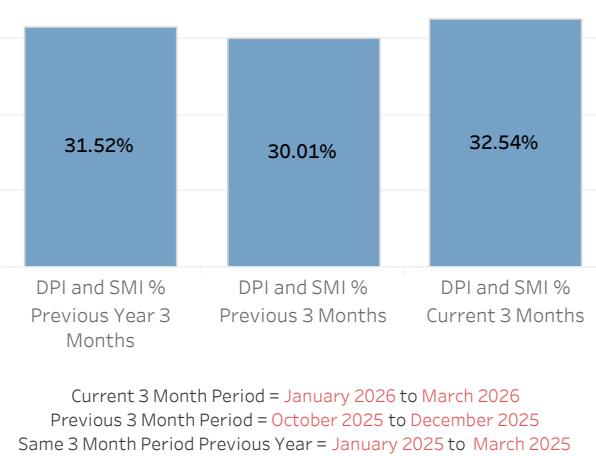


Table 2	Mar 25	Mar 26	Percentage Change
Total number of inhaler quantity	7,593	7,991	5.24%
Indicative carbon footprint (CO <sub>2</sub> Tonnes)	113.2	116.4	2.78%
Indicative carbon footprint per Quantity (CO <sub>2</sub> Tonnes)	0.015	0.015	-2.34%
MDI percentage of indicative carbon footprint (%)	98.10%	98.35%	0.26%
MDI percentage of total inhaler quantity (%)	68.05%	67.18%	-1.28%
SABA percentage of indicative carbon footprint (%)	70.81%	71.49%	0.96%
SABA percentage of total inhaler quantity (%)	44.38%	44.19%	-0.44%

Secondary care data are reported as quantity. However for the purpose of this report we have made these analogous to items to enable a comparison.

END OF REPORT