National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Summary

October - December 2016

Publication Date – 28 March 2017

About this release

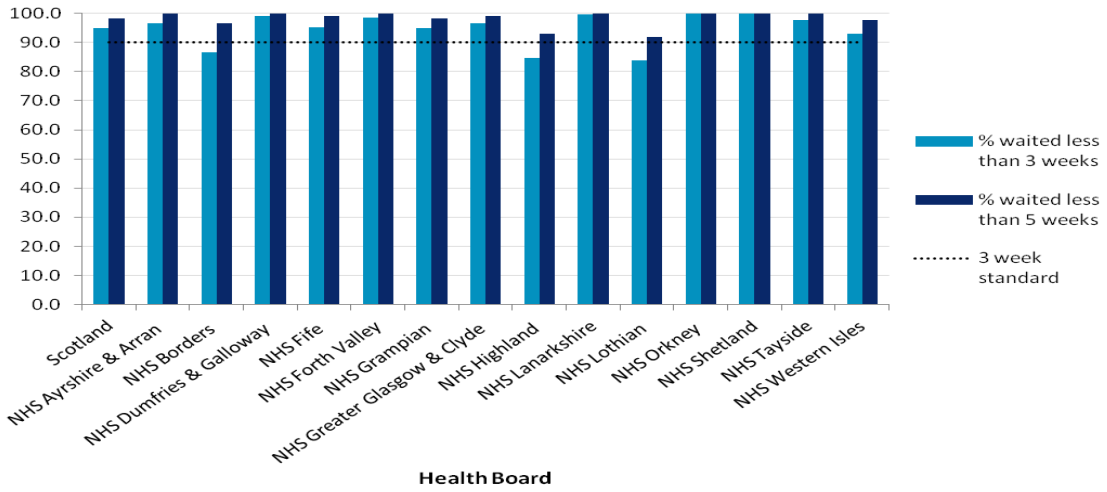
This Information Services Division publication reports on the waiting times for people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services between October and December 2016. It contains information on the number of people seen for treatment, types of treatment accessed and length of time waited. The Scottish Government's Local Delivery Plan standard for drug and alcohol treatment states that 90% of people who need help with their drug or alcohol problem will wait no longer than three weeks for treatment that supports their recovery.

Main Points

- The quarterly trend over the past two years shows a high proportion of people receiving early access for their first drug or alcohol treatment. Of the 10,322 people who started their first treatment in the most recent quarter, 95.0% waited three weeks or less. More than half (55.3%) started their first treatment within one week of referral.

  - For the 6,259 people seeking alcohol treatment, 95.2% waited three weeks or less.
  - For the 4,063 people seeking drug treatment, 94.6% waited three weeks or less.
  - There has been little change in the waiting times performance of both drug and alcohol treatment in the last 2 years.

Percentage of people who started drug or alcohol treatment, within three and five weeks, for all NHS Boards, between October and December 2016



- All NHS Boards, except NHS Borders, NHS Highland and NHS Lothian met the Scottish Government's standard.

- At the end of this quarter, 2,370 people were waiting to start their first drug or alcohol treatment, of which 190 (8.0%) had been waiting more than six weeks. This is an increase from the same quarter last year when 143 (5.8%) people were waiting more than six weeks.

- In prisons, 1,136 people started their first drug or alcohol treatment between October-December 2016, with 96.8% waiting three weeks or less and 75.3% waiting one week or less.

Background

The data in this publication is a snapshot of a dynamic database. This means that data for previous quarters may not be the same as found in previous publications for the same time period. Data for the most recent quarter is provisional and may be revised in future publications.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Report or on the ISD Website. Other ISD publications on drug and alcohol misuse can be found here. The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) provides information on various aspects of drug misuse in Scotland: ScotPHO drug misuse section.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information about our statistics.