Scottish Drug Misuse Database

Overview of Initial Assessments for Specialist Drug Treatment 2015/16

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About this release

This report from Information Services Division on the Scottish Drug Misuse Database presents the available information on individuals presenting for initial assessment at specialist drug treatment services in 2015/16.

Main points

- In 2015/16, initial assessments for specialist drug treatment relating to 11,954 individuals were recorded on the Scottish Drug Misuse Database.
- Among individuals reporting recent illicit drug use:
  - the percentage seeking treatment for heroin (reporting it as their main drug) decreased from 64% in 2006/07 to 47% in 2015/16.
  - the percentage of under 25s reporting recent heroin use fell from 58% in 2006/07 to 25% in 2015/16.
- A general downward trend in the percentage of individuals who reported that they were currently injecting was observed (from 28% in 2006/07 to 18% in 2015/16).
- Between 2006/07 and 2015/16 current sharing of needles/syringes decreased from 12% to 6%, whilst sharing of other injection-related equipment fell from 20% to 8%.
- The percentage of individuals assessed for specialist drug treatment who were aged 35 and over increased from 30% in 2006/07 to 50% in 2015/16.

Background

The Scottish Drug Misuse Database is an important and widely used national data source on drug misuse. Data collection includes a wide range of indicators not available elsewhere and is therefore a unique data source providing national level data on individuals seeking specialist treatment for problem drug use. This report should be viewed in conjunction with the electronic dashboard which is publicly available and provides users with accessible, interactive content based on data from 2006/07 to 2015/16.

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Find out more

The report is available at: http://www.isdscotland.scot.nhs.uk/Health-Topics/Drugs-and-Alcohol-Misuse/Publications/

Information on the Scottish Drug Misuse Database is available at: http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Drugs-and-Alcohol-Misuse/Drugs-Misuse/Scottish-Drug-Misuse-Database/.

Other ISD publications on drug and alcohol misuse can be found at the drug and alcohol topic pages on the ISD website.

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) provides information on various aspects of drug misuse in Scotland: ScotPHO drug misuse section.

The next update of this publication will be in Spring 2018.

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. Find out more about our statistics.