

Publication Summary



Injecting Equipment Provision in Scotland Survey 2009/10

26 July 2011

About this Release

This publication presents information collected through the Injecting Equipment Provision Survey 2009/10. This survey was the third carried out by ISD as part of Phase II of the Scottish Government's Hepatitis C Action Plan¹. Results are published annually. This release includes annual data to 31 March 2010.

Key Points

- 263,424 contacts were reported across IEP outlets in Scotland. Where gender of the client was reported, 78% of contacts were made by males. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde reported the largest number of contacts (73,529), followed by NHS Lothian (48,079).
- A total of 4.68 million needles/syringes were reported to have been distributed in 2009/10, an increase from 4.38 million in 2008/09. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde reported the highest number of needles/syringes distributed (1.28 million).
- A total of 2.62 million needles/syringes were reported to have been returned to IEP services in 2009/10, an increase from 2.48 million in 2008/09. Approximately 540,000 needles/syringes were returned in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area. It should be noted that there are other safe disposal routes for needles/syringes that are not covered by this survey, so the reported returned figure is likely to be an underestimate.
- As well as needles/syringes, other injecting paraphernalia can be provided by IEP outlets. In 2009/10, the most commonly provided items of injecting paraphernalia were wipes/swabs and citric acid/vitamin C. Filters and spoons/other forms of cooker showed a large increase between 2008/09 and 2009/10. However, many IEP outlets only started to distribute filters after April 2009 which explains the increase for that item.

Background

In June 2009, ISD published the results of its first survey of injecting equipment provision to injecting drug users in Scotland. The survey was commissioned in the context of Phase II of the Scottish Hepatitis C Action Plan, which was funded by the Scottish Government and

¹ Scottish Government (2008) Hepatitis C Action Plan, Phase II (May 2008 – March 2011)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/05/13103055/0>

coordinated by Health Protection Scotland. The results of surveys undertaken for 2007/08 and 2008/09 were published by ISD in June 2009 and September 2010 respectively.

The survey is an interim solution to the problem that there has been no systematic approach to data collection on the provision and uptake of injecting equipment. As such, the development of a data collection system has been undertaken by ISD to meet the requirements of the Hepatitis C Action Plan. This data collection system is expected to be rolled out across Scotland in 2011/12 and will eventually replace the IEP survey as the primary means of collecting data on IEP provision.

Caution should be taken when interpreting figures provided in this publication. Despite efforts by ISD and data providers to ensure data quality, there are likely to be inconsistencies in reporting across NHS boards as well as missing data. Estimated figures were used by some outlets and not all outlets were able to provide responses to all questions. In some areas, the introduction of improved reporting mechanisms have led to more accurate reporting over time, so caution should be taken when looking at trends.

Contact

Andrew Deas

Principal Information Analyst

andrew.deas@nhs.net

0131 275 7030

Chris Black

Information Analyst/Statistician

chrisblack@nhs.net

0141 275 7449

Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#). www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/