

Publication Summary



National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Report

April – June 2011

27 September 2011

About this Release

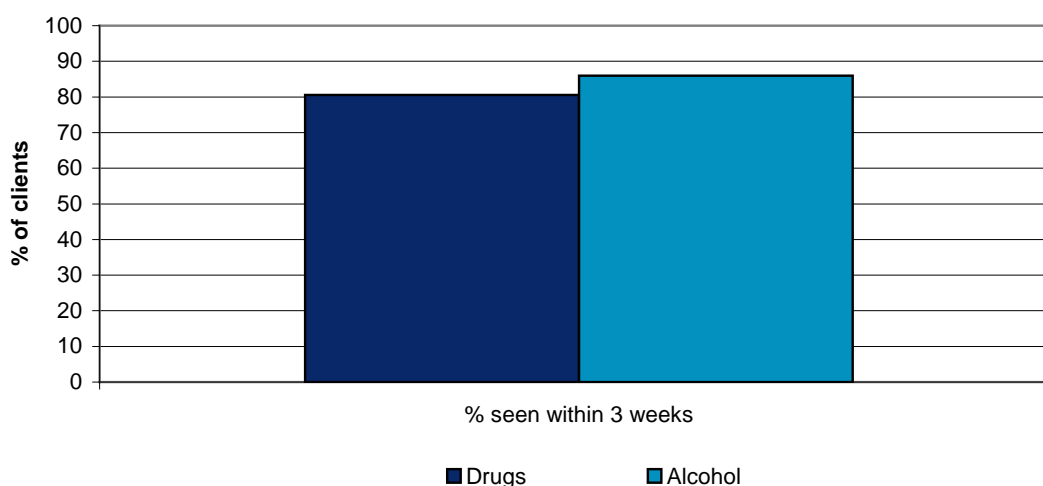
This is the first publication from the new Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Database. This release includes quarterly data from 1st April 2011 to 30th June 2011 at National, Health Board and Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) level. Information on the number of clients seen, the time waited and types of treatment accessed is included. This is the first time alcohol treatment waiting times have been published in Scotland, and the first time drug waiting times for the full client journey have been published.

The national HEAT (Health improvement, Efficiency, Access, Treatment) target A11 expects that by March 2013, 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.

Key Points

- In April - June 2011, of the 8,909 drug and/or alcohol clients who started their first treatment 84% had waited 3 weeks or less and half (50%) had waited one week or less.

Completed waits for Referral to Treatment, Scotland,
April - June 2011



- 86% of the 5,839 clients who started *alcohol* treatment between April and June 2011 had waited 3 weeks or less.

- Approximately 81% of the 3,070 clients who attended an appointment for *drug* treatment waited 3 weeks or less.
- Of those who were still waiting to start drug or alcohol treatment (4,937 clients), approximately 15% had waited more than 6 weeks at the end of June 2011.

Background

Information about waiting times is collected using the new Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Database which went live across Scotland on 1 April 2011. One of the benefits of the new system is that it enables the addition of new data items to measure the full wait from referral to treatment for both drug and alcohol services. Information is also collected on if clients *could not* or *did not* attend offered appointments and allows for periods of unavailability to be recorded, and can calculate the time clients wait for treatment. Prior to the introduction of the new database, information was only collected on drug treatment waiting times. Trend data is not published for Drug Treatment Waiting Times as the new data is not comparable with data from the old system.

It is important to be aware that some data quality issues may impact on analysis. The number of services submitting data varies from area to area and within areas across the data collection period. Additionally, there is a wide range of demand for substance misuse services across Scotland, and to meet this demand appropriately, services are tailored to local needs. Consequently, comparisons of data across Health Boards and ADPs may be misleading and should be treated with caution.

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Further Information

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

About ISD

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Official Statistics

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