

Publication Summary



National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Report

October - December 2011

27 March 2011

About this Release

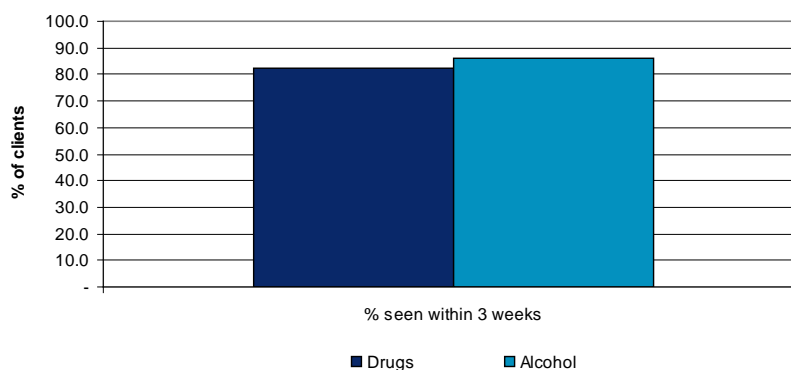
This release from the new Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting times Database includes quarterly data from 1st October 2011 to 31st December 2011 at National, Health Board and Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) level. Information on the number of clients seen, the time waited and types of treatment accessed is included. This is the third quarter of data from the new database which presents waiting times data for the full client journey for both drugs and alcohol.

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 October - December 2011, of the 11,006 drug and/or alcohol clients who started their first treatment 84.9% had waited 3 weeks or less.

Completed waits for Referral to Treatment, Scotland,
October - December 2011



- 86.3% of the 7,188 clients who started alcohol treatment between October and December 2011 had waited 3 weeks or less.
- 82.3% of the 3,818 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 (4,014 clients), 16.6% had waited more than 6 weeks at the end of December 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 for drugs prior to April 2011 is not published 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 quarters, Health Boards and ADPs may be misleading and should be treated with caution.

Note figures for the latest quarter (October to December 2011) include NHS Lothian Substance Misuse Directorate for the first time. This will affect comparisons of data across quarters at both a national and local level.

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Further Information

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

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