

# Publication Summary



## Injecting Equipment Provision in Scotland Survey 2010/11

31 July 2012

### About this Release

This publication presents information collected through the Injecting Equipment Provision Survey 2010/11.

### Key Points

- A total of 269 Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) outlets responded to the 2010/11 survey. This was an increase from 255 for the 2009/10 survey.
- Approximately 234,000 contacts were reported across IEP outlets in Scotland in 2010/11. This was a decrease of 11% from approximately 263,000 contacts in 2009/10. There are, however, a number of factors that are likely to have contributed to this drop in reported contacts. Amongst these are a reduction in the percentage of IEP outlets reporting that their service limits the number of needles/syringes distributed in a single transaction and an increased provision of supplies for the purposes of secondary distribution both in line with national guidelines.
- Where gender of the client was reported, 78% of contacts were made by males.
- A total of 4.51 million needles/syringes were reported to have been distributed in 2010/11. This was a decrease of 3.7% from 2009/10, when 4.68 million needles/syringes were distributed. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde reported the highest number of needles/syringes distributed (1.27 million).
- In terms of injecting paraphernalia distribution, there have been increases in, in particular, the numbers of filters and spoons reported to have been distributed by services from the 2008/09 to 2010/11 surveys. Whilst an increase in the number of services reporting this information goes some way to explaining the rise, the size of the increase points to an 'actual' rise in the numbers of items distributed.
- The majority of IEP outlets have policies that follow the national guidelines for services providing injecting equipment in respect of both secondary distribution (96%) and the return of used needles/syringes (99%).

## Background

ISD published the results of its first survey of injecting equipment provision to injecting drug users in Scotland in June 2009. 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 coordinated by Health Protection Scotland.

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 will 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

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## 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](#).