

Publication Summary



Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD) Report on People in Treatment – 2011/12

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About this Release

This is the first release of information from the Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD) Follow-up Reporting System. This report presents data on individuals entering drug treatment services in Scotland during 2011/12 and, using person level 'follow-up' data, explores their treatment outcomes three months after initial assessment. For comparison, and to look at longer term (twelve month) outcomes, we also present data on individuals entering services during 2010/11.

Key Points

- In 2011/12, the Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD) was around 70-74% complete when compared to the national Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Database (DATWTD); there did not appear to be an age or sex bias in completeness but there were wide geographic variations.
- In 2011/12, 25% of individuals with an SDMD initial assessment had a three month follow-up record, a slight increase on the 20% in 2010/11.
- For individuals who self-reported as having used illicit drugs 'in the past month' at initial assessment, almost one third of these self-reported as not having used illicit drugs 'in the past month' by three month follow-up (32% of the 2011/12 cohort and 31% of the 2010/11 cohort), whilst the equivalent figure at 12 month follow-up (2010/11 cohort) was 46%.
- At three month follow-up, 38% of individuals who had not previously reported prescribed drug use now reported prescribed drug use (2011/12 cohort), and by 12 month follow-up this figure had increased to 59% (2010/11 cohort).
- At least 36% of individuals who self-reported as having 'injected in the past month' at initial assessment had ceased injecting by three month follow-up (self reported; 2011/12 cohort). At least 55% had ceased injecting by 12 month follow-up (2010/11 cohort) (most conservative estimates).

Background

The primary source of the data presented here is the Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD). The SDMD was first established to collect data on people presenting for drug treatment based only on 'initial contact' with a service (or following a gap of at least six months since last attendance), however, over the years there has been growing interest in being able to look at the 'outcomes' of those interventions.

Scotland's national drugs strategy [The Road to Recovery: A New Approach to Tackling Scotland's Drug Problem](#), launched in May 2008, highlighted the need for 'evidence informed drugs policy and practice' and, as part of this 'improving data on the drug misusing population'. The strategy's Action Plan included the following 'key action': to 'Work with Information Statistics Division (ISD) to deliver (by April 2008) an enhanced Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD) to improve outcome data on a person's journey through treatment' thus providing better outcome data to inform policy and practice.

When interpreting the figures presented in this report it is important to bear in mind that this is the first year of presenting these national treatment outcomes data and that with the low levels of data completeness detailed above the results presented may not be representative of drug users in Scotland as a whole. These results do, however, give a useful first picture of outcomes for those individuals for whom we have follow-up information, and show the potential in the data. It is hoped that in publishing this first report on the SDMD treatment follow-up monitoring, this will lead to enhanced data completeness in future.

Contact

Linsey Galbraith
Principal Information Analyst
linsey.galbraith@nhs.net
0131 275 6227

Diane Stockton
Public Health Specialist
diane.stockton@nhs.net
0131 275 6817

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/