

Publication Summary



Injecting Equipment Provision in Scotland Survey 2011/12

25 June 2013

About this Release

This publication reports on the findings of the survey of injecting equipment provision (IEP) to people who inject drugs and relates to the financial year 2011/12.

Key Points

- A total of 292 Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) outlets responded to the 2011/12 survey. This was an increase from 269 for the 2010/11 survey. However, in two NHS Boards, an agency previously categorised as one service was in 2011/12 counted as nine separate agency locations.
- Approximately 219,000 attendances were reported across IEP outlets in Scotland in 2011/12. This was a decrease of 6% from approximately 234,000 attendances in 2010/11. This may reflect changes in the size of the injecting population in Scotland. Data from drug treatment services in Scotland, for 2011/12, showed a decline in the proportion of new clients who reported having injected drugs in the past month.
- The percentage of outlets reporting that their clients are injecting stimulants has increased from 71% in 2010/11 to 85% in 2011/12. Similarly the percentage of outlets reporting that their clients are injecting performance and image enhancing drugs (PIEDs) has increased from 84% in 2010/11 to 93% in 2011/12.
- Where gender of the client was reported, 68% of attendances were made by males.
- A total of 3.95 million needles/syringes were reported to have been distributed in 2011/12. This was a decrease of 12 % from 2010/11, when 4.51 million needles/syringes were distributed. However, this figure is artificially low due to no information being submitted for Lothian pharmacies in 2011/12.
- NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde reported the highest number of needles/syringes distributed (1.19 million).
- In terms of injecting paraphernalia distribution, there have been increases in, in particular, the numbers of wipes/swabs and syringe identifiers reported to have been distributed by services between 2010/11 and 2011/12.

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](#) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/