

Publication Summary



National Naloxone Programme Scotland – naloxone kits issued in 2012/13

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About this Release

This is the second annual release of monitoring information from the National Naloxone Programme in Scotland. This report presents data on the number of 'take-home' naloxone kits issued as part of the national programme during 2012/13 (and comparisons with 2011/12). Data are presented separately for kits issued in the community and kits issued by prisons prior to prisoner release. In order to begin to assess the impact of naloxone distribution, numbers of opioid related deaths following prison release in 2011 are compared with 2006-2010 data.

Key Points

- There were a total of 3,833 'take home' naloxone kits issued in Scotland in 2012/13, through the National Naloxone Programme. This compares with 3,458 kits issued in 2011/12 (revised 2011/12 figures), an increase of 375 kits (10.8%). Note: these figures include kits issued in the community and kits issued to prisoners (at risk of opioid overdose), on their release from prison.
- There were 3,087 'take home' naloxone kits issued in the community in Scotland in 2012/13, through the National Naloxone Programme. This compares with 2,743 'take home' kits issued in the community in 2011/12, an increase of 344 kits (12.5%).
- The majority of kits issued in the community in 2012/13 (86.8%) were issued to individuals at risk of opioid overdose, 10.7% were supplied to service workers and 2.5% to family and friends (with the recorded consent of the person at risk).
- Of the 3,087 kits issued in the community in 2012/13, 80% were reported as a 'first' supply, 18.1% a 'repeat' supply and 1.8% 'unknown' if first or repeat supply. In 210 cases 'repeat' supply was reported as due to use of the previous kit on a person at risk.
- There were 746 'take home' naloxone kits issued by prisons in Scotland in 2012/13, all to persons at risk of opioid overdose, an increase of 31 kits (4.3%) on 2011/12. Note: kits are not issued 'in prison', rather they are supplied to the individual 'on release'.
- Of the 746 kits issued by prisons in 2012/13, 86.3% were reported as a 'first' supply, 10.6% a 'repeat' supply and 3.1% 'unknown' whether a 'first' or 'repeat' supply. In 10 cases 'repeat' supply was reported to be due to use of the previous kit on a person at risk.

- There was no significant decrease in opioid related deaths within four weeks of prison release in 2011 (8.4%) compared to the 2006-10 Baseline Indicator (9.8%).

Background

The monitoring analyses presented here provide vital evidence of the reach of the national 'take home' naloxone programme in Scotland. The Scottish Government commissioned the Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS National Services Scotland to report on the monitoring data, including using a national dataset (agreed with the National Naloxone Advisory Group) and a database set up at ISD.

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist which can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, providing more time for emergency services to arrive and treatment to be given. 'Take home' naloxone is administered intramuscularly. The supply of a 'take-home' kit follows training on how to administer it safely and quickly.

Incremental rollout of community-based 'take-home' naloxone and associated data collection started in Scotland in April 2011. The supply of 'take home' naloxone by prisons was introduced, incrementally, from February 2011. By June 2011 all Scottish prisons (at that time) were participating in the programme. From 1st November 2011 responsibility for prisoner health care transferred from the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to the NHS.

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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](#).