

ScotPHO website: Drugs Section Update

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About this Release

The drugs section on the [ScotPHO](#) website is updated regularly to include summaries of relevant publications by ISD Scotland and other public/academic bodies. The drugs section also includes new, unpublished analyses (usually related to existing publications) from those bodies, providing further information relevant to drug misuse.

The data pages of the ScotPHO drugs section cover four areas: 'availability and prevalence'; 'social harm'; 'health harm' and 'treatment'. Four topics on the 'social harm' and 'health harm' pages include new analyses of previously published data:

- Social harm: Number and rate of specific drug misuse offences by council area in 2012/13 (Scottish Government Justice Department: update of 2011/12 figures published on ScotPHO).
- Social harm: Number of convictions and patterns of sentencing for specific drug misuse offences in 2012/13 (Scottish Government Justice Department: update of 2011/12 figures published on ScotPHO).
- Health harm: HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs for 2012 (Health Protection Scotland: update of figures previously published in Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland).
- Health harm: Estimates of the number and nature of drug-related primary care consultations in 2012/13 (ISD Scotland (Practice Team Information): update of 2011/12 figures published on ScotPHO).

Key Points

Key findings from the new analyses of previously published data listed above are as follows:

- Social Harm: Drug Misuse Offences - The crude rate of recorded offences for possession with the intent to supply in Scotland has fallen over the past three years from 11.8 per 10,000 population in 2010/11 to 7.3 per 10,000 in 2012/13. In contrast, the rate of recorded offences for possession has risen slightly from 51.6 per 10,000 in 2010/11 to 54.9 per 10,000 in 2012/13.

- Court Activity and Sentencing – 46% (2,998) of the 6,457 convictions for drug offences in Scotland in 2012/13 were in relation to Class A drugs (e.g. cocaine, ecstasy, heroin). The most common sentence for those convicted of possession with intent to supply was imprisonment (53%), whereas the most common sentence for possession was a fine (64%).
- Blood Borne Viruses – Of the total 7,293 HIV infections reported within Scotland since 1985, 1,474 (20%) were in those known to inject drugs. There were 349 new HIV cases in 2012, of which 14 (4%) were in those known to inject drugs.
- Primary Care – There were an estimated 24,810 patients who consulted their GP about drug use in 2012/13. These patients had an average of 8.3 consultations in 2012/13 compared with 3.9 consultations for all patients.

Background

The ScotPHO website contains comprehensive information on a wide range of topics grouped into sections including: Behaviour; Health, wellbeing and disease; and Clinical risk factors. Along with summary data and statistics, the website provides background information, interpretation, policy notes, commentaries on data sources, references and links to further information. Drug use data relevant to local areas is now also available in the [ScotPHO Drugs Profiles](#).

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Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ScotPHO 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](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/