

Publication Summary



National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Report

October-December 2013

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About this Release

The Scottish Government's HEAT standard for drug and alcohol treatment states that 90% of people who need help with their drug or alcohol problem will wait no longer than three weeks for treatment that supports their recovery.

This drug and alcohol treatment waiting times report contains new data from 1st October to 31st December 2013 at national, NHS Board and Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) level. It contains information on the number of people seen for treatment, the time waited and types of treatment accessed.

This publication now includes waiting times data for drug and alcohol treatment in prison. However, this is a new area of data collection and it will take time to embed the system and assure the quality of the data. Consequently, prison waiting times data is published separately but is expected to be the same level of performance in line with the delivery of the HEAT standard for drug and alcohol treatment waiting times.

Key points

- In October-December 2013, 96.3% of the 11,564 people who started their first drug or alcohol treatment had waited 3 weeks or less (HEAT standard), compared to 96.6% in the previous quarter.
- 97.2% of the 7,412 people who started alcohol treatment between October and December 2013 had waited 3 weeks or less, compared to 97.0% in the previous quarter.
- 94.6% of the 4,152 people who attended an appointment for drug treatment waited 3 weeks or less, compared to 95.8% in the previous quarter.
- Of the 2,528 people who were still waiting to start drug or alcohol treatment, 70 people, or 2.8%, had waited more than 6 weeks at the end of December 2013, compared to 65 people, or 2.2% in the previous quarter.

Background

The data in this publication is a snapshot of a dynamic database, which means that data for previous quarters may not be the same as found in previous publications for the same time period. Data for the most recent quarter is provisional and as such is subject to revisions in future publications.

Since 2011, data from treatment service providers has been collected in the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times database. This allows the measurement of the full wait from referral to treatment for both drug and alcohol services as well as calculating the time a person waits for treatment. Information is also collected on whether the individual could not or did not attend offered appointments and allows for periods of unavailability to be recorded. Trend data for drug waiting times prior to April 2011 is not published as the current data is not comparable with data from the old system.

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Further Information

The [full publication report can be accessed here](#).

Find out more about Drug and Alcohol waiting times:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/Drugs-and-Alcohol/>

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