

Publication Summary



Injecting Equipment Provision in Scotland Survey 2012/13

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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 2012/13.

Key Points

- A total of 290 Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) outlets responded to the 2012/13 survey.
- Approximately 213,000 attendances were reported across IEP outlets in Scotland in 2012/13. This was a decrease from 219,000 in 2011/12, continuing the trend of decreasing attendances since 2009/10. This may reflect changes in the size of the injecting population in Scotland.
- Where gender of the client was reported, 64% of attendances were made by males.
- A total of 4.0 million needles/syringes were reported to have been distributed in 2012/13. This was similar to the number distributed in 2011/12, indicating more needles were distributed per attendance.
- In 2012/13, NHS Fife distributed the highest number of needles/syringes per head of population over 16, distributing 1.7 needles/syringes per person.

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.

In earlier IEP reports, data was drawn from paper surveys which were distributed by Hepatitis C Prevention leads to the IEP outlets in their area. However, in recent years reports drew their information from three sources, a paper survey, the ISD Scottish Injecting Equipment Provision Database (ISD IEP Db) and Neo (a commercially available database).

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.

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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.

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