

# Publication Summary



## Alcohol Brief Interventions 2013/14

Publication date – 24th June 2014

### About This Release

Alcohol brief interventions (ABIs) are consultations which aim to help individuals cut down their drinking to within sensible guidelines. A HEAT H4 target was introduced in 2008/09 setting minimum numbers of ABIs to be delivered by each NHS Board. This evolved into a HEAT standard in 2012/13.

This publication presents the number of alcohol brief interventions delivered in Scotland up to 2013/14 in accordance with the HEAT H4 target/standard.

### Key Points

- All NHS Boards exceeded their standard for ABI delivery in 2013/14, except NHS Western Isles, which fell short by 20 ABIs (6%) albeit an improvement compared to 2012/13. This was also the only NHS Board that delivered less than 90% of the standard in priority settings. Totalled across all six years (2008/09 to 2013/14) all NHS Boards exceeded the target.
- The total number of ABIs carried out in Scotland has generally increased year-on-year except for a small decrease in 2012/13. In 2013/14 there were 104,356 ABIs carried out in Scotland. This is 71% more than the 61,081 ABIs required by the HEAT standard set for 2013/14. Over all six years 470,540 were delivered (41% more than the target/standard).
- ABIs can be delivered in different settings. There is large variation between individual NHS Boards in distribution of ABI delivery over settings, but in Scotland overall in 2013/14:
  - 63% of ABIs were delivered in primary care;
  - 15% in A&E;
  - 2% in antenatal; and
  - 21% in wider settings.

## Background

The Scottish Government published [Changing Scotland's Relationship with Alcohol: A Framework for Action](#) in March 2009, setting out the strategic approach to tackling alcohol misuse in Scotland. A key element of the strategy included, amongst others, the setting of targets for delivery of Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABIs), which developed into a [HEAT H4: Alcohol Brief Intervention \(ABI\) Standard](#). ABIs contribute to the Scottish Government's overall objective of reducing alcohol-related harm by helping individuals to cut down their drinking to within sensible guidelines.

## Contact

### **Annemarie Van Heelsum**

Principal Analyst

[a.vanheelsum@nhs.net](mailto:a.vanheelsum@nhs.net)

0131 275 7099

### **Stephen Simmons**

Information Analyst

[stephen.simmons@nhs.net](mailto:stephen.simmons@nhs.net)

0131 275 7572

### **Ruth Gordon**

Senior Information Analyst

[r.gordon@nhs.net](mailto:r.gordon@nhs.net)

0131 275 6335

## Further Information

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