

Publication Summary



Scottish Drugs Misuse Database (SDMD)

NHS Board Overview of Initial Assessments

for Specialist Drug Treatment 2012/13

Publication date – 24 June 2014



About this Release

This report on the Scottish Drugs Misuse Database (SDMD) presents the available information on individuals presenting for initial assessment (for a new drug treatment episode) at specialist drug treatment services in 2012/13.

Due to problems with the local data collection systems which some ADPs use to capture information from drug treatment assessments and their associated local processes for submitting these data to ISD, it has been necessary to change the way in which SDMD data for 2012/13 is reported. Data from NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and NHS Tayside are only included in Section 1. Section 2 does not include these data and is therefore restricted to comparisons between NHS Health Boards in 2012/13 and over time. Efforts are ongoing to resolve the issues experienced in these boards and it is hoped that the 2013/14 report will include revised 2012/13 data from NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and NHS Tayside alongside complete 2013/14 SDMD data from all NHS Health Boards.

Key Points

Section 1: Scotland and NHS Health Board of Residence

- In 2012/13, 11,861 individuals participated in an initial assessment for specialist drug treatment. This equates to a European Age-Sex Standardised Rate (EASR) of 222 per 100,000 population. The overall EASR has been stable at approximately 220 per 100,000 population since 2009/10.
- Since 2006/07, an increasing proportion of individuals from older age groups have been assessed for specialist drug treatment each year. In 2006/07, half (51%) of individuals were aged 30 and over, compared with two-thirds (66%) in 2012/13. Likewise, the percentage of individuals aged 40 and over increased from 15% in 2006/07 to 26% in 2012/13.

Section 2: NHS Health Board of Residence (excludes NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and NHS Tayside)

- In the majority of NHS Health Boards, the percentage of individuals reporting heroin as the main illicit drug used in the past month decreased from 2011/12 to 2012/13.

- In most NHS Health Boards, a notable decrease in the percentage of individuals reporting current injecting has occurred since 2006/07.
- Sharing of needles/syringes and paraphernalia (e.g. spoons/water/filters/solutions) reported by those injecting drugs in the past month varied between NHS Health Boards but was generally low (less than 10%).
- In almost all NHS Health Boards, methadone was currently prescribed in over half of assessments where a prescription drug was reported. Diazepam was the second most commonly prescribed drug reported at assessments for drug treatment in 2012/13.
- In all NHS Health Boards, more than three-quarters of individuals who reported injecting at some point in the past had been tested for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV.

Background

The SDMD, which is managed by ISD Scotland, was set up in 1990 to collect information about people with drug problems, based on data obtained when individuals first made contact with services (or reinitiated contact following a gap of at least six months since last attendance). Services contributing to the SDMD include specialist drug services and General Practitioners. Further detail on the SDMD is included within Appendix A1 of the main report.

The SDMD is an important and widely used national information source on problem drug use in Scotland. It provides a wealth of information on drug treatment that Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs), their individual members and a range of different organisations can use to influence policy and inform strategies or research to improve the services available to help people with drug problems recover.

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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](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/