

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 The drugs section also includes new, unpublished analyses (usually related to existing publications) from those bodies, providing further information relevant to drug misuse.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'. Two topics on the 'Treatment' and 'health harm' pages include new analyses of previously published data:

- Health harm: HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs for 2013 (Health Protection Scotland: update of figures previously published in Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland).
- Treatment: Information about Opioid Replacement Therapy in Scotland in 2013/14: Update of figures previously published in Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland

Key Points

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

- Blood Borne Viruses – From 1985 until 31st December 2013, there have been a total of 7,635 HIV infections in individuals reported within Scotland. Of these, 1,494 (20%) were in known PWIDs. Of the 354 new HIV cases reported by NHS boards in Scotland in 2013, 23 (6%) were in known PWIDs.
- Opioid Replacement Therapy – For the third successive year there has been a decrease in the dispensing of opioid replacement therapy (including methadone). The number of items decreased from 556,711 in 2012/13 to 548,828 in 2013/14 and the number of defined daily doses decreased from 23,875,830 in 2012/13 to 22,686,480 in 2013/14.

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/