

Publication Summary



Drug-Related Hospital Statistics Scotland 2013/14 (revision)

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About this Release

This publication reports on hospital stays relating to drug misuse using data from general acute hospitals in Scotland. In doing so, it tells us about some health impacts of drug misuse. This report describes the overall trend in drug-related hospital stays, the patients admitted to hospital, the substances used and geographical variations within Scotland.

Key Points

- The European Age-Sex Standardised Rate (hereafter referred to as 'rate') of general hospital stays with a diagnosis of drug misuse increased steadily between 1996/97 (41 per 100,000 population) and 2013/14 (125 per 100,000 population).
- In 2013/14, the majority of drug-related general hospital stays were associated with opioids (66%), followed by multiple/other drugs (13%) and cannabinoids (12%).
- In 2013/14, 92% (6,059) of general hospital stays were as a result of an emergency admission rather than a planned (i.e. elective) admission and 93% of stays (6,140) were for less than one week.
- Patients admitted to hospital in relation to a drug misuse diagnosis were more likely to live in the most deprived areas in Scotland than in the least deprived areas. In 2013/14, around a third (32%, 1,637/5,057) of patients staying in hospital for treatment in relation to a drug misuse diagnosis lived in the most deprived areas in Scotland (SIMD decile 1).
- In the period 1996/97 to 2013/14, the rate of patients admitted to hospital for treatment in relation to a drug misuse diagnosis increased among older age range groups (rising from 36 to 301 patients per 100,000 population for 35-39 years, and from 20 to 214 for those aged 40-44 years and over) and decreased among younger age groups (reducing from 91 to 74 patients per 100,000 population for 15-19 year olds and from 137 to 122 for 20-24 year olds).

Background

Hospital activity data are collected across the NHS in Scotland and are based on nationally available information routinely drawn from hospital administrative systems across the country. The principal data sources are the SMR01 (acute inpatient and daycase) and SMR04 (psychiatric inpatient and daycase) returns.

SMR01 is an episode based patient record relating to all inpatient and day cases discharged from specialities other than mental health, maternity, neonatal and geriatric long stay specialities in NHS Scotland. Attendances at Accident and Emergency that do not result in an admission are not included. Each individual patient may have more than one stay and hence the number of people discharged within a year will be less than the total number of stays.

The Mental Health (Psychiatric) Hospital Activity Statistics publication has been delayed for the second consecutive year due to incomplete Mental Health Inpatient and Day Case (SMR04) discharge records so the psychiatric stays section of this report has been omitted. ISD are working closely with NHS Boards to ensure submission of SMR04 discharge data.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

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