

Publication Summary



Alcohol-related hospital statistics Scotland 2013/14

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About this Release

This report provides information on patients who have had an alcohol-related stay in hospital in 2013/14 and includes time trends going back to 1981/82. It provides information on patient stays (previously referred to as 'discharges'), numbers of patients and numbers of new patients (defined as not having been hospitalised for an alcohol condition in the previous 10 years).

Key Points

- In 2013/14, there were 36,206 alcohol-related stays in a general acute hospital in Scotland. This is equivalent to a standardised rate of 696.9 stays per 100,000 population. This is almost identical to the previous year, which had 36,115 alcohol-related stays; a rate of 697.0 stays per 100,000 population.
- The rate for alcohol-related stays was lowest in 1982/83 with 152.8 stays per 100,000 population. This increased sharply to a peak of 855.7 stays per 100,000 population in 2007/08, a more than five-and-a-half-fold increase. At an individual level, the patient rate increased more than 4 times from 133.9 patients per 100,000 in 1982/83, to 578.3 patients per 100,000 in 2007/08. The increases were more prominent in older age groups. Since 2007/08, rates for both stays and patients have decreased; stays by 19% and patients by 20%.
- The rate of patients discharged from hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis for the first time was relatively stable from around 1997/98 to 2007/08, and has subsequently decreased. The increase in hospital stays seen up to 2007 has been driven to a large extent by repeat visits in previous patients rather than new patients presenting to hospital. Although the younger age groups made a substantial contribution to the increasing rates of new hospitalised patients, the older age groups contributed far more to the increasing numbers of stays and present the largest burden on the hospital system.
- In 2013/14, the hospital stay rate was 8.4 times greater for patients living in the most deprived areas compared to those living in the least deprived areas. In the most deprived areas the rate of individual patients with an alcohol related diagnosis was 7.5 times higher and the new-patient rate was 4.7 times higher compared to the least

deprived areas. However, differences have decreased over the period 2001/02 to 2013/14, because the rates in the most deprived areas dropped more markedly than in the least deprived, where rates changed very little.

Background

- Figures for the latest year (2013/14) are as yet provisional and subject to minor changes due to data incompleteness. At the time of extraction the number of hospital episodes was regarded 98.4% complete.
- To allow comparisons between geographical areas that may be different in size and age structure of the population, many of the figures are also presented as rates (typically per 100,000 population) and are standardised using the 2013 European Standard Population.
- The information reported in this publication is based on hospital data from ISD General Acute Inpatient / Day cases Records (SMR01). Information on the Mental Health Inpatient and Day Case Records (SMR04) that in the past was part of this publication is no longer included and will be published in the [Alcohol section](#) on the ScotPHO website.

Contact

Annemarie van Heelsum

Principal Information Analyst

a.vanheelsum@nhs.net

0131 275 7099

Stephen Simmons

Information Analyst

stephen.simmons@nhs.net

0131 275 7572

Further Information

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

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