

Publication Summary



Injecting Equipment Provision in Scotland Survey 2013/14

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About this Release

Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) services have been shown to be effective in reducing injection risk behaviours in People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs). This publication reports on the findings of the survey of injecting equipment provision (IEP) to people who inject drugs and relates to the financial year 2013/14.

Key Points

- A total of 299 Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) outlets in Scotland responded to the 2013/14 survey. Despite efforts by ISD and data providers to ensure data quality, estimated figures were used by some IEP outlets and not all outlets provided responses to all questions. Therefore, analyses show data reported to ISD by participating outlets and caution should be exercised when interpreting trends.
- Approximately 226,000 attendances were reported across participating IEP outlets in 2013/14, an increase from 213,000 in 2012/13. This increase can largely be attributed to a sharp rise in attendances for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, where a change in IEP practice was implemented in 2013/14.
- Where gender of the client was reported, 78% of attendances were made by males.
- A total of 3.8 million needles/syringes were reported to have been distributed by participating outlets in 2013/14. Coupled with increased attendances, this indicates fewer needles/syringes distributed per attendance compared to previous years.
- In 2013/14, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde reported the highest number of needles/syringes distributed (1.1 million).

Background

ISD published the results of its first survey of injecting equipment provision to injecting drug users in Scotland in June 2009. The survey was commissioned in the context of Phase II of the Scottish Hepatitis C Action Plan, which was funded by the Scottish Government and coordinated by Health Protection Scotland.

In earlier IEP reports, data was drawn from paper surveys which were distributed by Hepatitis C Prevention leads to the IEP outlets in their area. However, in recent years reports drew their information from three sources, a paper survey, the ISD Scottish Injecting Equipment Provision Database (ISD IEP Db) and Neo (a commercially available database).

Caution should be taken when interpreting figures provided in this publication. Despite efforts by ISD and data providers to ensure data quality, there are likely to be inconsistencies in reporting across NHS boards as well as missing data. Estimated figures were used by some outlets and not all outlets were able to provide responses to all questions. In some areas, the introduction of improved reporting mechanisms have led to more accurate reporting over time, so caution should be taken when looking at trends.

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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.

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Official Statistics

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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/