

## Publication Summary



# ScotPHO website: Drug misuse section update

**Publication date – 29 September 2015**

## About this Release

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) provides information on various aspects of drug misuse in Scotland. This information has been updated and includes new analyses of data on HIV and treatment for drugs misuse:

<http://www.scotpho.org.uk/behaviour/drugs/introduction>

The data pages of the ScotPHO drug misuse section cover four areas: 'Availability and prevalence'; 'Social harm'; 'Health harm' and 'Treatment for drug misuse'. Two topics on the 'Health harm' and 'Treatment for drug misuse' pages include new data analyses:

## Key Points

Health harm - Blood Borne Viruses:

- There were 8,004 HIV infections reported in Scotland between 1985 and 2014. Of these, 1,518 (19%) were amongst people who inject drugs.
- Of the 371 HIV cases reported by NHS Boards in Scotland in 2014, 23 (6%) were amongst people who inject drugs.

Treatment for drug misuse - Opioid Replacement Therapy:

- For the fourth successive year there has been a decrease in the dispensing of Opioid Replacement Therapy drugs (including methadone).
- Due to significant public interest in the provision of Opioid Replacement Therapy drugs, ISD are publishing estimates of the number of individuals in Scotland prescribed methadone. Because of data quality issues, these estimates show the minimum number of individuals prescribed methadone in each time period. It is estimated that methadone was prescribed to at least 25,170 individuals in Scotland

in 2014/15. The estimated number of individuals prescribed methadone reduced from at least 26,202 individuals in 2011/12.

## Background

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) collaboration is co-led by the Information Services Division and NHS Health Scotland, and includes the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, National Records of Scotland and Health Protection Scotland.

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.

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## Further Information

[ScotPHO Drugs Misuse web pages](#)

Drug use data relevant to local areas is now also available in the [ScotPHO Drugs Profiles](#).

More information regarding community dispensing can be found on the [ISD Prescribing](#) web pages.

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