

Publication Summary



Alcohol-related hospital statistics Scotland

2014/15

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About this Release

This publication reports on alcohol-related hospital stays in general acute and psychiatric hospitals in Scotland. It provides information on hospital stays, numbers of patients and new patients (defined as not having been hospitalised for an alcohol condition in the previous 10 years). The report includes data from general acute stays from 1981/82 to 2014/15 and from psychiatric stays from 1997/98 to 2013/14.

Key Points

- In 2014/15, there were 35,059 alcohol-related general acute hospital stays in Scotland; a standardised rate of 672 stays per 100,000 population. This is a continuation of the fall in rates seen since 2007/08. However, in 2014/15 rates for stays were still more than four times higher than at the beginning of the time trend.
- The decrease since 2007/08 has been predominantly driven by the more 'acute' conditions, such as Harmful Use and Toxic Effect, whereas the more 'chronic' conditions, such as Alcohol-related Liver Disease and Alcohol Psychosis have remained stable or have increased.
- The increase in hospital stays seen up to 2007/08 has been driven to a large extent by repeat visits rather than new patients being admitted to hospital.
- The trend for alcohol-related psychiatric stays has been downwards over the full time period 1997/98 to 2013/14; the rate has almost halved (from 103 to 56 per 100,000 population). This decrease coincides with shifts in patterns of service delivery to more community based services. Psychiatric stays formed just 7% of the alcohol-related general acute and psychiatric stays in 2013/14.
- In 2014/15, alcohol-related stays in general hospitals were nearly 8 times more frequent for individuals living in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas. In 2013/14, the standardised rates for alcohol-related psychiatric stays was more than 16 times higher for patients living in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas; the largest difference seen since the beginning of the time trend.

Background

- The information reported in this publication is based on routinely collected hospital data from ISD General Acute Inpatient / Day cases Records (SMR01), referred to as general acute stays, and from the Mental Health Inpatient and Day Case Records (SMR04), referred to as psychiatric stays.
- Figures for the latest year (2014/15) 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% complete.
- Rates referred to in this publication are European Age-Sex Standardised Rates (EASR) using the 2013 European Standard Population.

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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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