

Publication Summary



Drug-Related Hospital Statistics Scotland 2014/15

Publication date – 13 October 2015



About this Release

This publication reports on hospital stays relating to drug misuse using data from general acute and psychiatric hospitals in Scotland; describing the number of hospital stays, the number and characteristics of patients, substances used and geographical variations.

For the first time, data accompanying this report is published in an [electronic dashboard](#), providing users with interactive content from 1996/97 to 2014/15. The report includes data from psychiatric stays (to 2013/14) and new data on combined general acute and psychiatric stays, which provides a more comprehensive description of drug-related hospital activity.

Key Points

- In 2014/15, there were 7,054 general acute stays with a diagnosis of drug misuse. The number of general acute stays increased steadily from 1996/97 to 2014/15 (41 to 133 stays per 100,000 population). In 2013/14, there were 1,451 psychiatric stays with a diagnosis of drug misuse (28 stays per 100,000 population).
- In 2014/15, around two-thirds of drug-related general acute stays were associated with opioids. In 2013/14, half of drug-related psychiatric stays were associated with 'multiple/other' drugs.
- In the most recent available year's data, 91% of drug-related general acute stays and 72% of drug-related psychiatric stays were as a result of an emergency admission. A majority of drug-related general acute stays (84%) were for less than one week, compared to a minority (37%) of drug-related psychiatric stays.
- Trend data for both general acute and psychiatric stays indicated that the rate of patients admitted in relation to drug misuse has increased over time among older age groups (in the context of drug misuse, those aged 35 and over). Rates among younger age groups stayed the same or decreased.
- In the most recent available year's data, 50% of patients with either a general acute or psychiatric stay in relation to drug misuse lived in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland.

- In 2013/14, 3,107 patients (58 per 100,000 population) were treated in hospital (general acute/psychiatric combined) for drug misuse for the first time.

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 (general acute inpatient and day case) and SMR04 (psychiatric inpatient and day case) returns.

SMR01 and SMR04 are episode based patient records relating to all inpatient and day cases discharged from the respective specialities (excluding maternity, neonatal and geriatric long stay) in NHS Scotland. Attendances at Accident and Emergency that do not result in an admission are not included. Individual patients 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.

Rates referred to in this publication are European Age-Sex Standardised Rates (EASR) per 100,000 population. Due to implementation of the revised European Standard Population in 2013, rates from Drug-Related Hospital Statistics publications prior to 2012/13 are not comparable with subsequent reports.

'Multiple/other' drugs includes hallucinogens, volatile solvents, multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances (e.g. ecstasy).

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Further Information

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

Alcohol-Related Hospital Statistics (also released on 13 October 2015) are available [here](#).

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