

Publication Summary



National Naloxone Programme Scotland – Monitoring Report 2014/15

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About this Release

This report from the Information Services Division (ISD) presents information on the number of 'take-home' naloxone (THN) kits issued by the National Naloxone Programme in Scotland. Changes in the numbers of opioid-related deaths following prison release or hospital discharge since the establishment of the programme are also examined.

Key points

- A total of 7,376 THN kits were issued in Scotland in 2014/15, an increase of 14% on the previous year, bringing the cumulative number of kits issued since the start of the program (2011/12 to 2014/15) to 21,140.
- For Scotland as a whole, supply of kits increased from 54 kits per 1,000 problem drug users (PDUs) in 2011/12 to 122 per 1,000 PDUs in 2014/15.
- In 2014/15, 6,498 kits were issued in the community (a 20% increase on the previous year) and 878 kits were issued in prisons (an 18% decrease).
- The percentage of prison and community THN kits distributed as repeat supply increased each year from 12% in 2011/12 to 33% in 2014/15. In 2014/15, 653 'repeat' kit supplies were made because the previous kit was reported as having been used to treat an opiate overdose.
- The percentage of all opioid-related deaths that occurred within four weeks of prison release fell steadily from 9.8% during 2006-10 (before the programme) to 3.1% in 2014. This substantial fall reflects both increasing total opiate-related deaths and falls in the relatively small number of deaths within four weeks of prison release.
- By contrast, the percentage of opioid-related deaths occurring within four weeks of hospital discharge showed no consistent trend, changing from 9.7% before the programme (2006-10) to 8.7% in 2014/15.

Background

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist; a drug which can temporarily reverse the effects of a potentially fatal overdose with opioid drugs such as heroin. Intramuscular injection of naloxone provides more time for emergency services to arrive and treatment to be given. Following suitable training, THN kits are issued to people at risk of opiate overdose in order to prevent overdose deaths.

Incremental rollout of community-based THN supply started in Scotland in April 2011. THN supply in prisons was introduced from February 2011. By June 2011, all Scottish prisons were participating in the programme. From 1st November 2011 responsibility for prisoner health was transferred to the NHS.

The monitoring analyses presented here were commissioned by the Scottish Government and use a national dataset, indicators and database agreed with the National Naloxone Advisory Group.

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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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