Publication Summary

About this Release
This Information Services Division publication reports on the waiting times for people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services between July and September 2015. It contains information on the number of people seen for treatment, the length of time waited as well as types of treatment accessed.

Main Points
- The proportion of people receiving early access to their first treatment for drug or alcohol misuse continues to be high. 95.6% of the 11,694 people who started their first treatment waited three weeks or less in the quarter ending September 2015. This is similar to the previous quarter (95.4%). More than half of people (54.5%) started their first treatment within 1 week of referral.
  - For the 7,288 people seeking alcohol treatment, 96.7% waited 3 weeks or less, similar to the previous quarter (96.3%).
  - For the 4,406 people seeking drug treatment, 93.8% waited 3 weeks or less, similar to the previous quarter (93.9%).
- The proportion of people treated within 3 weeks varies by local Alcohol and Drug Partnerships, ranging from 80.3% to 100%.
- At the end of this quarter, 2,852 people were waiting to start their first drug or alcohol treatment, of which 254 (8.9%) had been waiting more than 6 weeks. This is an increase from the previous quarter when 168 (5.2%) people were waiting more than 6 weeks.
- In prisons, 1,358 people started their first drug or alcohol treatment between July - September 2015, with 97.7% waiting 3 weeks or less and 74.4% waiting one week or less.
All NHS Boards in Scotland met the Scottish Government’s Local Delivery Plan standard except NHS Lothian.

**Background**

The Scottish Government’s Local Delivery Plan standard for drug and alcohol treatment states that 90% of people who need help with their drug or alcohol problem will wait no longer than three weeks for treatment that supports their recovery. The data in this publication is a snapshot of a dynamic database, which means that data for previous quarters may not be the same as found in previous publications for the same time period. Data for the most recent quarter is provisional and may be revised in future publications.

**Contact**

**Kathryn Burt**  
Senior Information Analyst  
kathryn.burt@nhs.net  
0131 275 6676

**Evelyn Shiel**  
Information Analyst  
evelynshiel@nhs.net  
0131 314 1054

General enquiries: NSS.ISD-DATWT@nhs.net

**Further Information**

Further information can be found in the National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Report or on the ISD Website.

---

**ISD and 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. Further information about our statistics.