

# National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Report

**October - December 2015**

Publication Date – 29 March 2016

---

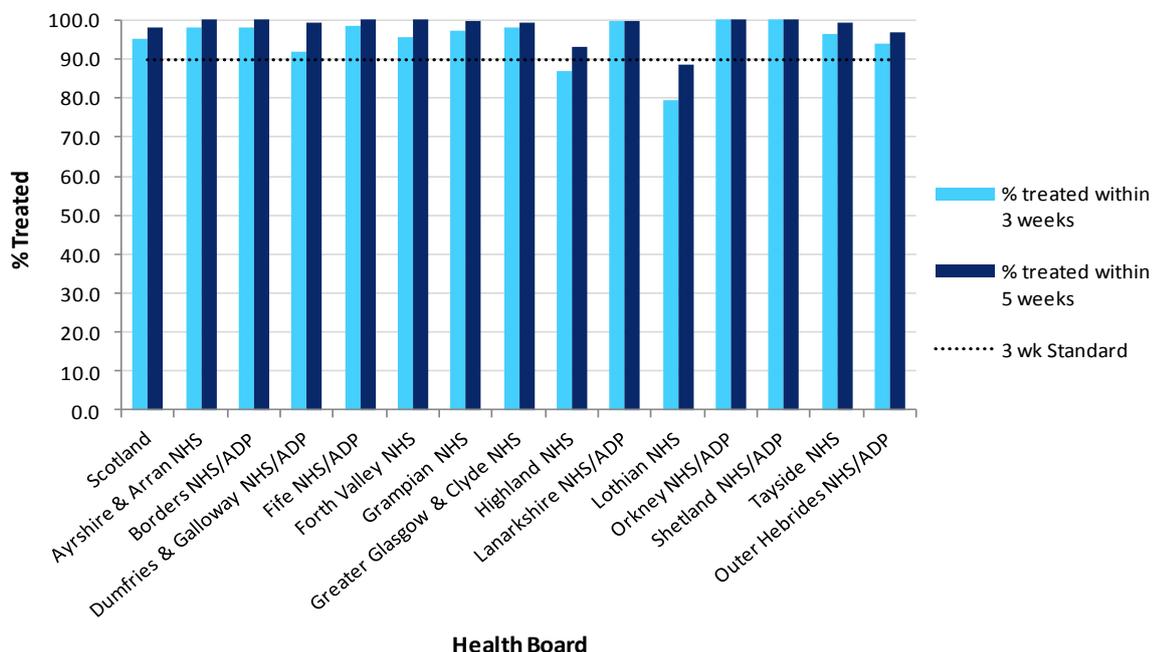
## About this release

This Information Services Division publication reports on the waiting times for people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services between October and December 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 and has been for the past two years. Of the 10,896 people who started their first treatment, 95.2% have waited three weeks or less. This is similar to the previous quarter (95.5%). Of those more than half (57.2%) started their first treatment within 1 week of referral.
  - For the 6,491 people seeking alcohol treatment, 96.1% waited 3 weeks or less, similar to the previous quarter (96.6%).
  - For the 4,405 people seeking drug treatment, 93.9% waited 3 weeks or less, similar to the previous quarter (93.8%).
- The proportion of people treated within 3 weeks by local Alcohol and Drug Partnerships ranges from 75.6% to 100%.
- At the end of this quarter, 2,354 people were waiting to start their first drug or alcohol treatment, of which 146 (6.2%) had been waiting more than 6 weeks. This is a decrease from the previous quarter when 221 (7.5%) people were waiting more than 6 weeks.
- In prisons, 1,276 people started their first drug or alcohol treatment between October-December 2015, with 98.7% waiting 3 weeks or less and 77.7% waiting one week or less.

## Percentage of people seen for Drug or Alcohol treatment, within 3 and 5 weeks, for all NHS Boards between October and December 2015



- All NHS Boards in Scotland met the Scottish Government's Local Delivery Plan standard except NHS Highland and 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](mailto:kathryn.burt@nhs.net)  
0131 275 6676

**Evelyn Shiel**  
Information analyst  
[evelynshiel@nhs.net](mailto:evelynshiel@nhs.net)  
0131 314 1054

Email: [NSS.ISD-DATWT@nhs.net](mailto: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.](#)