

Injecting Equipment Provision in Scotland 2014/15

Publication Date – 7 June 2016

About this release

This report from Information Services Division on the provision of injecting equipment presents the available information on outlets, attendances and the numbers and types of injecting equipment distributed to people who inject illicit drugs (including Novel Psychoactive Substances and Image and Performance Enhancing Drugs) in Scotland in 2014/15.

Main points

- In 2014/15, 288 outlets in Scotland provided injecting equipment. Three in four of these outlets were located in pharmacies.
- Approximately 330,000 attendances were reported by injecting equipment outlets.
- Approximately 4.4 million needles/syringes were distributed by participating outlets.
- Nationally, 71 needles/syringes were distributed per problem drug user.
- The number of outlets distributing injecting paraphernalia has increased over time. In 2014/15, sterile wipes or swabs and citric acid or vitamin C were the types of paraphernalia most commonly distributed (4.2 million and 3.3 million items respectively).

Background

The purpose of injecting equipment provision is harm reduction. The provision of injecting equipment has been found to be effective in reducing injecting risk behaviours in people who inject drugs.

Caution should be taken when interpreting the figures provided in this publication. The Information Services Division are aware of issues with data quality due to inconsistencies in reporting across NHS Boards. Estimated figures were used by some injecting equipment outlets and not all outlets were able to provide responses to all questions. Due to missing data, previous year's figures for the number of attendances and items distributed are known to be incomplete. Statistics for years 2007/08 to 2014/15 are available in the associated [data tables](#).

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Find out more

The report is available at: <https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Drugs-and-Alcohol-Misuse/Publications/2016-06-07/2016-06-07-IEP-Report.pdf>.

An [IEP 2014/15 Excel workbook](#) containing the data from this publication is available to download.

Other ISD publications on drug and alcohol misuse can be found at the [ISD website](#).

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) provides information on various aspects of drug misuse in Scotland: [ScotPHO drug misuse section](#).

The next release of this report is expected to be published in May 2017.

ISD and Official Statistics

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