

Drug-Related Hospital Statistics

Scotland 2015/16

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About this release

This release from the Information Services Division provides an annual update on hospital stays relating to drug misuse in Scotland. The topics covered are: the number of hospital stays, the number and characteristics of patients, substances used and geographical variations. Analysis of these topic areas provides us with information about inequalities and some of the health impacts of drug misuse.

Main points

- The number and rate of drug-related general acute stays increased steadily over time (41 to 143 stays per 100,000 population between 1996/97 and 2015/16), while psychiatric stays remained roughly the same (28 to 29 stays per 100,000 population between 1997/98 and 2014/15).
- In the most recent available year's data, around six in ten drug-related general acute stays were due to opioids (drugs similar to heroin) while approximately half of drug-related psychiatric stays were associated with 'multiple/other' drugs.
- The number and rate of younger people admitted to hospital for drug misuse has remained relatively stable over time, while admissions among older drug users have increased (for example, among 40-44 year olds, a fifteen-fold rise from 20 to 291 patients per 100,000 population between 1996/97 and 2015/16 (general acute)).
- In the most recent available year's data, around half 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 2014/15, 3,297 patients (61 new patients 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 specialties (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.

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

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Find out more

The report is available at: <http://www.isdscotland.scot.nhs.uk/Health-Topics/Drugs-and-Alcohol-Misuse/Publications/>.

Data accompanying this report are published in an [electronic dashboard](#).

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](#).

Further statistics on general acute hospital activity are available at: <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Hospital-Care/>.

Further statistics on psychiatric hospital activity are available at <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Mental-Health/Psychiatric-Hospital-Activity/>.

If you would like further information on hospital activity relating to drug misuse, please contact the Health Improvement – Drug & Alcohol Team at nss.isdsubstance misuse@nhs.net.

For information about the completeness, timeliness and other data quality issues regarding SMR01/SMR04 data submissions contact the Data Management Team at nss.isdDMT@nhs.net.

The next update of this publication will be in September 2017.

ISD and Official Statistics

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