

# Alcohol-Related Hospital Statistics Scotland 2015/16



Publication Date – 25 October 2016

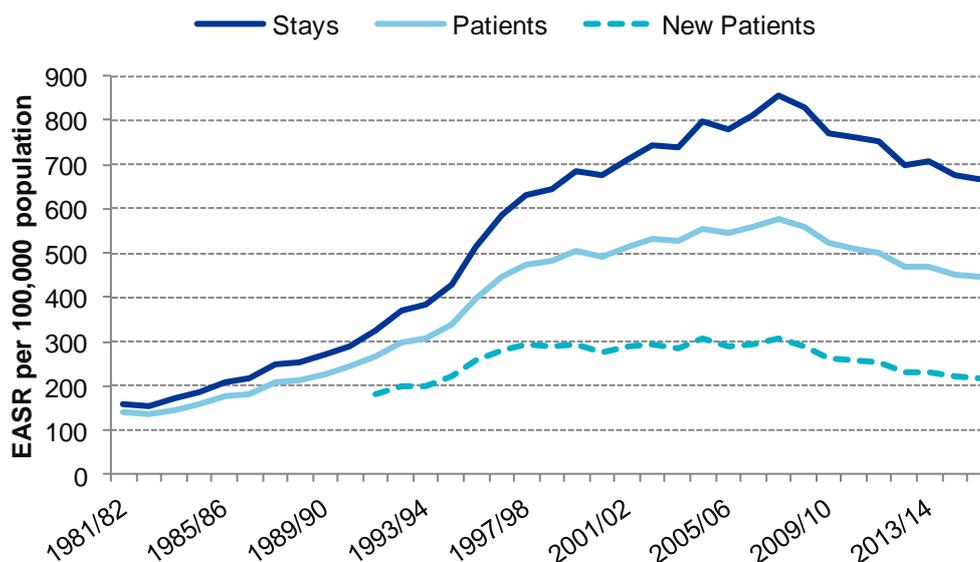
## About this release

This publication from the Information Services Division provides an annual update to figures on alcohol-related inpatient and day case activity within general acute hospitals and psychiatric hospitals in Scotland. This release covers general acute hospital activity for the financial years 1981/82 to 2015/16 and psychiatric hospital admissions from 1997/98 to 2014/15. For the first time there is an [interactive dashboard](#) to accompany this publication.

## Main Points

- In 2015/16 there were almost 35,000 alcohol-related inpatient hospital admissions in Scotland. Over this period around 23,400 Scottish residents had at least one admission to hospital with an alcohol-related condition, of whom around 11,400 had not been admitted in the previous 10 years or were admitted for the first time.
- In 2015/16 the rate of alcohol-related inpatient stays are similar to the previous year, reducing by under 2%. Overall, there has been a steady decline in alcohol-related hospital stays since 2008/09 both in general acute hospitals and in psychiatric hospitals.

**Alcohol-related hospitalisation rates<sup>1</sup> for general acute hospitals, Scotland, financial years 1981/82 to 2015/16<sup>P</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> European age sex standardised rates (EASR).  
<sup>P</sup> Provisional

- In recent years, there has been an increase in hospital admissions for alcoholic liver disease and alcohol withdrawal state during a period where overall alcohol-related admissions have been decreasing.
- In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of people having multiple alcohol-related admissions within a year. This may be contributing to the slowing of the overall decreasing trend in alcohol-related admissions.
- There continues to be an inequality gap for alcohol-related admissions between those living in the most and least deprived parts of Scotland.

## Background

Excessive consumption of alcohol can result in a wide range of health problems. Some may occur after drinking over a relatively short period, such as acute intoxication (drunkenness) or poisoning (toxic effect). Others develop more gradually, only becoming evident after long-term heavy drinking, such as damage to the liver and brain.

Alcohol is a factor in a wide range of hospital admissions; this publication reports on admissions that are entirely due to alcohol.

Estimates of the number of inpatient and day case hospitalisations are based on counts where a range of alcohol-related conditions are diagnosed during the hospital stay. Attendances at Accident and Emergency that do not result in an admission are not included. Individuals may have more than one hospital stay hence the number of people admitted will be less than the total number of stays.

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## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Alcohol-related hospital statistics 2015/16 report](#).

Figures relating to this publication can be viewed via our [interactive dashboard](#).

Data within the dashboard is also available to download [alcohol-related hospital statistics 2015/16 data](#)

The next release of this publication will be October 2017.

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## 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](#).