

National Naloxone Programme Scotland Monitoring Report 2016/17

Year Ending 31 March 2017

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About this release

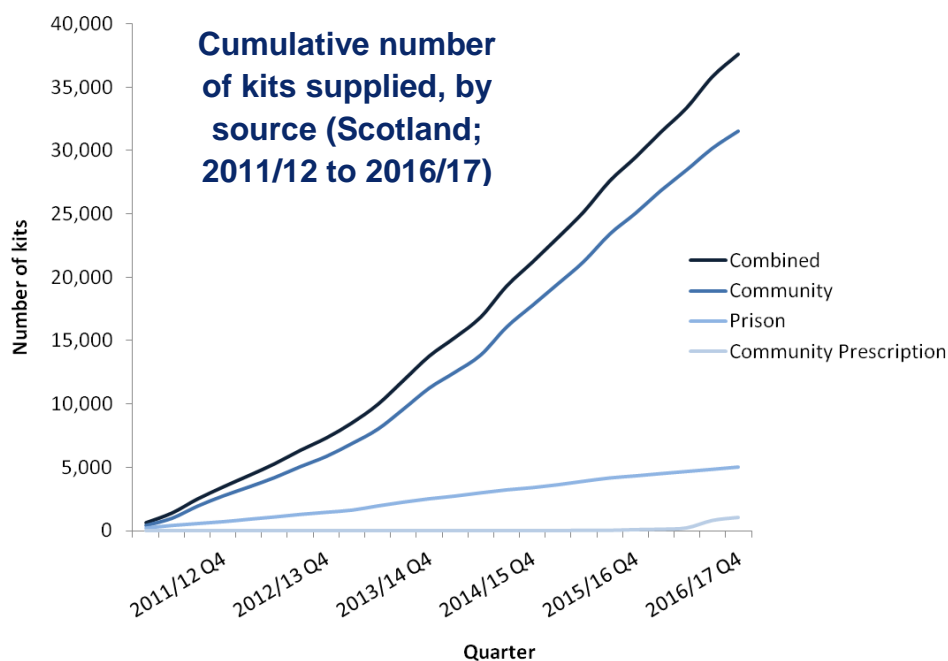
This release from the Information Services Division presents information on the number of take-home naloxone kits issued by the National Naloxone Programme in Scotland. Data are presented separately for kits issued in the community, kits issued in prisons at the point of prisoner release and (for the first time) kits dispensed via community prescription.

Previous publications have included data on the number and percentage of opioid-related deaths that occurred within four weeks of prison release or within four weeks of hospital discharge. This information was not available for inclusion within this report but will be included in a revised report in early 2018.

Accidental overdose is a common cause of death among users of heroin, morphine and similar drugs, which are referred to as opioids. Naloxone is a drug which reverses the effects of a potentially fatal overdose with these drugs.

Main points

- A total of 8,159 take-home naloxone kits were issued in Scotland in 2016/17, a decrease of 1% on the previous year. A total of 37,609 take-home naloxone kits were supplied in Scotland between 2011/12 and 2016/17.



- In 2016/17, 6,497 kits were issued in the community, 700 kits were issued in prisons upon release and 962 kits were dispensed via community prescription.
- In 2016/17, 3,471 (48%) take-home naloxone kits distributed in the community and prisons were repeat supplies. Of these, 882 (25%) repeat supplies were made because the previous kit was reported as having been used to treat an opioid overdose.
- In 2016/17, it is estimated that 3,386 kits were issued as a first supply to an individual at risk of opioid overdose. Cumulatively, 21,189 'at risk' individuals are estimated to have been supplied with take-home naloxone between 2011/12 and 2016/17.
- At the end of 2016/17, the 'reach' of take-home naloxone (based on the number of 'at risk' individuals supplied with kits between 2011/12 and 2016/17) was estimated to be 345 kits per 1,000 problem drug users.

Background

The overall aim of the National Naloxone Programme is to contribute to a reduction in fatal opioid overdoses in Scotland. Intramuscular injection of naloxone provides time for emergency services to arrive and for further treatment to be given. Following training, take-home naloxone kits are issued to people at risk of opioid overdose in order to help prevent overdose deaths. To help achieve this, in the five years from April 2011 to March 2016, the National Naloxone Programme co-ordinated distribution of take-home naloxone kits from community outlets (usually specialist drug treatment services) and prisons. During this period, NHS Boards were responsible for local delivery of the programme and (until March 2016) the cost of naloxone kits was reimbursed by the Scottish Government. From 2015/16, some NHS Boards have also started to dispense take-home naloxone from pharmacies via community prescription (for example, from GPs, specialist nurses).

Contact

Lee Barnsdale

Principal Information Analyst
leebarndale@nhs.net
 0131 275 6055

Lesley Graham

Associate Specialist (Public Health)
lesley.graham@nhs.net
 0131 275 6322

Substance Misuse inbox

nss.isdsubstancemisuse@nhs.net

Find out more

Further details: [National Naloxone Programme Scotland Monitoring Report 2016/17](#)

Other ISD publications on drug and alcohol misuse can be found at the [drug and alcohol topic pages](#) on 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 update of this publication will be in October 2018.

ISD and Official Statistics

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