About this release

This Information Services Division (ISD) publication reports on the waiting times for people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services between July and September 2017. It contains information on the number of people seen for treatment, types of treatment accessed and length of time waited. 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.

Main Points

- The quarterly trend over the past three years shows little change in performance. Of the 10,758 people who started their first treatment in the most recent quarter, 93.8% waited three weeks or less.
  - For the 6,532 people seeking alcohol treatment, 94.5% waited three weeks or less.
  - For the 4,226 people seeking drug treatment, 92.6% waited three weeks or less.

- All NHS Boards met the Local Delivery Plan standard, except NHS Borders, NHS Highland, NHS Lothian, NHS Shetland and NHS Tayside.

Percentage of people who started drug or alcohol treatment, within three and within five weeks, for all NHS Boards, between July and September 2017
At the end of this quarter, 3,023 people were waiting to start their first drug or alcohol treatment, of which 266 (8.8%) had been waiting more than six weeks. This is an increase from the same quarter last year when 130 (4.2%) people were waiting more than six weeks.

In prisons, 1,223 people started their first drug or alcohol treatment between July-September 2017 with 99.0% waiting three weeks or less.

Background
The data in this publication is a snapshot of a dynamic database. This 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.

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Further Information
Further information can be found in the National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Report or on the ISD Website. Other relevant ISD publications can be found here. The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) provides information on various aspects of drug misuse in Scotland: ScotPHO drug misuse section.