National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Summary
1 October - 31 December 2017
A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This Information Services Division (ISD) publication reports on the waiting times for people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services between October and December 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 10,435 people who started their first treatment in the most recent quarter, 93.6% waited three weeks or less.
  - For the 6,187 people seeking alcohol treatment, 94.7% waited three weeks or less.
  - For the 4,248 people seeking drug treatment, 92.0% waited three weeks or less.

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

Percentage of people who started drug or alcohol treatment, within three and within five weeks, for all NHS Boards, between October and December 2017
At the end of this quarter, 2,621 people were waiting to start their first drug or alcohol treatment, of which 309 (11.8%) had been waiting more than six weeks. This is an increase from the same quarter last year when 160 (6.8%) people were waiting more than six weeks.

In prisons, 1,175 people started their first drug or alcohol treatment between October-December 2017 with 98.0% 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.

Please see News and Updates section of our website for more details.

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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.

The next release of this publication will be 26 June 2018.

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.