Alcohol Brief Interventions 2017/18
An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) presents the number of Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABIs) delivered in Scotland up to 2017/18. ABIs are consultations which aim to help individuals cut down their drinking to within sensible guidelines.

Main Points

ABIs delivered in 2017/18

- In 2017/18, 81,177 ABIs were delivered in Scotland, 32.9% more than the 61,081 set out in the Local Delivery Plan standard for 2017/18.

- The number of ABIs delivered in Scotland fell for the fourth consecutive year to 81,177 from a peak of 104,356 in 2013/14.

Number of ABIs delivered in priority¹ and wider settings²; financial years³ 2008/09-2017/18

Notes:
1. Priority settings (Primary Care, Accident & Emergency and Antenatal settings).
2. Wider settings (All settings other than priority settings, see Appendix 1 of report for full list of settings).
3. Information on wider settings was introduced to the HEAT target/LEP Standard in 2012/13.
• Of the 81,177 ABIs delivered, 50.9% were delivered in primary care, 13.5% in Accident & Emergency, 3.0% in antenatal settings and 32.6% in wider settings.

• Altogether, 54,711 ABIs were delivered in priority settings, representing 89.6% of the number of ABIs specified in the LDP standard. This is 9.6 percentage points more than the figure for priority settings set out in the standard.

• Nine of the fourteen NHS Boards met or exceeded their standard for delivery of all ABIs. Five NHS Boards met or exceeded their standard for ABIs delivered in priority settings.

Background
In March 2009, the Scottish Government published *Changing Scotland’s Relationship with Alcohol: A Framework for Action*, setting out the strategic approach to tackling alcohol misuse in Scotland. A key element of the strategy included the setting of targets for delivery of ABI.

In 2008/09, the Scottish Government introduced a target setting minimum numbers of interventions to be delivered by each NHS Board; this evolved into a Local Delivery Plan (LDP) standard in 2012/13. The LDP Standard for ABI has two elements: it stipulates a minimum number of ABIs to be delivered in any setting (61,081), and specifies that a minimum of 80% of these need to be delivered in ‘priority’ settings (Primary Care, Accident & Emergency and Antenatal settings).

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Further Information
Find out more in the [full report](#).

ISD has published ABI statistics every year since 2009. Please visit the [website](#) to find out what other alcohol statistics we publish.

ISD are a partner in the ScotPHO collaboration (together with NHS Health Scotland, the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, National Records of Scotland and Health Protection Scotland) and we maintain the Alcohol section on the ScotPHO website. More information about treatment of alcohol misuse can be found on the [ScotPHO website](#).

The next release of this publication will be June 2019.