Alcohol-Related Hospital Statistics
Scotland 2017/18

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release
This release by the Information Services Division provides an annual update of 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 2017/18 and psychiatric hospital admissions from 1997/98 to 2016/17.

Main Points
• In 2017/18 there were 35,499 alcohol-related hospital admissions (stays) in general acute hospitals in Scotland. These relate to 23,494 Scottish residents who had at least one admission to hospital with an alcohol-related condition. Of these people, around half (11,566) were admitted for an alcohol-related admission for the first time or had not been admitted to hospital for an alcohol-related admission in the previous 10 years.

• In 2017/18 the alcohol-related stay rate per 100,000 population in general acute hospitals was 668.3, a 2.5% decrease compared to the previous year (685.4). There has been a general decline in alcohol-related stays since 2007/08.

Alcohol-related hospitalisation rates\(^1\) for general acute hospitals, Scotland, financial years 1981/82 to 2017/18\(^p\)

\(^1\) European age sex standardised rates (EASR).
\(^p\) Provisional
In 2016/17, there were 2,775 alcohol-related stays in psychiatric hospitals (52.4 per 100,000 population), a 3.5% decrease from the previous year (54.3 per 100,000 population).

The 2017/18 stay rate in general acute hospitals for alcohol liver disease (139.8 stays per 100,000 population) is similar to the previous year 2016/17 (140.1 per 100,000 population). The 2016/17 rate equals the highest recorded since 1997/98.

In 2017/18, there were seven times as many people (per 100,000 population) admitted to general acute hospitals from the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas. In the psychiatric setting, in 2016/17, just over fourteen times as many people (per 100,000 population) were admitted from the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas.

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 can be 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 to hospital are not included in this report. Individuals may have more than one hospital stay in a year therefore the number of people admitted will be less than the total number of stays.

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Further Information

Find out more in the full Alcohol-Related Hospital Statistics 2017/18 report.

Figures relating to this publication can be viewed via our interactive dashboard. Data from this publication and dashboard is available to download as an excel file via the following link: ARHS 2017/18 Data

A revised publication to include alcohol-related psychiatric hospital activity data for the financial year 2017/18 will be published in February 2019. The next full release of this publication will be in November 2019.

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.