National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Summary
1 July - 30 September 2018
A National Statistics publication for Scotland
Publication date: 18 December 2018

About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) reports on the waiting times for people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services between July and September 2018. 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 referred 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 11,247 people who started their first treatment in the most recent quarter, 94.2% waited three weeks or less.
  o For the 6,609 people seeking alcohol treatment, 94.9% waited three weeks or less.
  o For the 4,638 people seeking drug treatment, 93.2% waited three weeks or less.

• Ten NHS Boards met the Local Delivery Plan standard. Four NHS Boards did not meet the standard: NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Lothian and NHS Western Isles.

Percentage of people who started drug or alcohol treatment, within three and within five weeks, for all NHS Boards, between July and September 2018
• At the end of this quarter, 3,058 people were waiting to start their first drug or alcohol treatment, of which 309 (10.1%) had been waiting more than six weeks. This is an increase from the same quarter last year when 217 (7.2%) people were waiting more than six weeks.

• In prisons, 920 people started their first drug or alcohol treatment between July-September 2018 with 98.8% 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.

Contact

Laura Kate Campbell  
Senior Information Analyst  
0131 275 6570  
laura-katecampbell@nhs.net

Caroline Martin  
Information Analyst  
0141 282 2062  
caroline.martin3@nhs.net

NSS.ISD-DATWT@nhs.net

Further Information

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page. 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 March 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.