Drug-Related Hospital Statistics
Scotland 2017/18
A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release
This release by Information Services Division presents information on hospital activity relating to drug misuse in Scotland. The topics covered are: the number of hospital stays, the number and characteristics of patients, substances used and geographical variations. This includes information about inequalities and some of the health impacts of drug misuse.

Main Points
- Over the past 20 years, there was a fourfold increase in the rate of drug-related general acute hospital stays (from 51 to 199 stays per 100,000 population), with a sharper increase observed in recent years.
- After a lengthy period of stability, the rate of drug-related psychiatric stays increased from 29 to 40 stays per 100,000 population between 2014/15 and 2016/17, before decreasing slightly in 2017/18 (38).
- In 2017/18, approximately half of the patients with a drug-related general acute or psychiatric hospital stay lived in the most deprived areas in Scotland.

Percentage of drug-related general acute hospital patients† by deprivation* quintile
(Scotland; 2017/18)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deprivation quintile</th>
<th>Percentage of patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (most deprived)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (least deprived)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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† See Glossary in the full report for definitions of stays, patients and new patients.
* For an explanation of Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation measures, see Glossary in the full report.
p Provisional.
Source: General acute inpatient/day case records (SMR01).
• In 2017/18, 58% of drug-related general acute hospital stays were due to opioids (drugs similar to heroin) while 51% of drug-related psychiatric hospital stays were associated with ‘multiple/other’ drugs (including hallucinogens, volatile solvents, multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances (e.g. ecstasy)).

• Stays among individuals aged 35 and over increased over the past 20 years. Individuals aged 35-44 years were most common among drug-related patients in general acute and/or psychiatric hospitals. Drug-related general acute patient rates for this group increased more than tenfold from 37 to 399 patients per 100,000 population between 1996/97 and 2017/18.

• Since peaking in 1999/00 (276 patients per 100,000 population), drug-related general acute/psychiatric patient rates for 15-24 year olds decreased to 126 in 2012/13, but have since increased to 190 in 2017/18. The 2017/18 patient rate for this age group was the highest recorded since 2004/05 (204 patients per 100,000 population).

Background

Following a public consultation, the definition of a drug-related hospital stay has been revised to include hospital stays associated with accidental poisoning/overdose. Therefore, figures shown in this publication may not be directly comparable with previous reports (see report for more details).

Hospital activity data are based on information routinely drawn from hospital administrative systems across the NHS in Scotland. The data used in these statistics relate to all inpatient and day cases (excluding maternity, neonatal and geriatric long stay) discharged from general acute and psychiatric hospitals in NHS Scotland. Attendances at Accident and Emergency that do not result in a hospital admission are not included. Individual patients may have more than one stay in hospital, therefore the number of people discharged within a year will be less than the total number of stays.

Rates referred to in this publication are European Age-sex Standardised Rates (EASR) per 100,000 population.

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Further Information

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication are available to view and download from the electronic dashboard.

For more information on drug and alcohol misuse see the drug and alcohol section of our website.

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 in winter 2019/20.

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.