Alcohol Brief Interventions 2018/19

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 in 2018/19. ABIs are short discussions which aim to help individuals reduce their drinking to within sensible guidelines.

Main Points

ABIs delivered in 2018/19

• Whilst the number of ABIs delivered in recent years has fallen from a peak of 104,356 in 2013/14, there were 80,575 ABIs delivered in 2018/19 which is 32% more than the 61,081 ABIs to be delivered as set out in the Local Delivery Plan (LDP) standard. Nine of the fourteen NHS Boards met or exceeded their LDP standard for delivery of all ABIs.

Map showing Alcohol Brief Interventions LDP standard by NHS Board, 2018/19
The majority of ABIs (65%) are delivered in the designated priority settings of primary care (49%), Accident & Emergency departments (14%) and antenatal settings (2%). The remaining 35% were delivered in non-priority settings.

Overall, 52,383 ABIs were delivered in priority settings in 2018/19, which is 3,518 more than the number of priority settings ABIs associated with the standard (48,865). Six NHS Boards met or exceeded their LDP 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 the delivery of ABIs. In November 2018, an updated framework was published, Alcohol Framework 2018: Preventing Harm, which acknowledges and continues to commit to ABIs as an important tool for improving Scotland’s relationship with alcohol.

In 2008/09, the Scottish Government introduced a target setting minimum numbers of ABIs to be delivered by each NHS Board; this evolved into a Local Delivery Plan (LDP) standard in 2012/13. The LDP Standard for ABIs 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% (48,865) of these ABIs 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. To find out what other alcohol statistics we publish see the Alcohol section of our website.

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 alcohol misuse can be found on the ScotPHO website.

The next release of this publication will be June 2020.