National Drug and Alcohol Treatment
Waiting Times Summary

1 April - 30 June 2019

A National Statistics publication for Scotland
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About this release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) reports on the waiting times for people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services between April and June 2019. It contains information on the number of people seen for treatment, types of treatment accessed and length of time waited. The Scottish Government set a standard that 90% of people referred for help with their drug or alcohol problem will wait no longer than three weeks for treatment that supports their recovery.

Main Points

- The quarterly trend for Scotland as a whole over the past three years shows little change in performance. Of the 10,325 people who started their first treatment in the most recent quarter, 93.2% waited three weeks or less.
  - For the 5,758 people seeking alcohol treatment, 93.0% waited three weeks or less.
  - For the 4,567 people seeking drug treatment, 93.3% waited three weeks or less.

- Twelve out of the fourteen NHS Boards met the standard. Two NHS Boards did not meet the standard: NHS Lothian and NHS Western Isles.

Percentage of people who started drug or alcohol treatment, within three weeks, for all NHS Boards, between April and June 2019
• At the end of this quarter, 2,670 people were waiting to start their first drug or alcohol treatment, of which 203 (7.6%) had been waiting more than six weeks. This is an increase from the same quarter last year when 156 (5.5%) people were waiting more than six weeks.

• In prisons, 1,158 people started their first drug or alcohol treatment between April-June 2019 with 94.4% 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. Updated 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.

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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 17 December 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.