Alcohol-Related Hospital Statistics
Scotland 2018/19

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division provides an 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 2018/19 and psychiatric hospital admissions from 1997/98 to 2018/19.

Main Points

- In 2018/19 there were 38,370 alcohol-related hospital admissions (stays) in general acute and psychiatric hospitals in Scotland, similar to the previous year (38,199). The vast majority of patients (93%) admitted with alcohol-related conditions are treated in general acute hospitals (35,685) with a further 2,685 patients in psychiatric hospitals.

- The 35,685 admissions to general acute hospitals relate to 23,751 patients some of whom had multiple admissions to hospital. Around half of these patients (12,033) were admitted for the first time for alcohol-related conditions.

- Considering the long term trend since 1981/82, there was a steep and sustained increase in general acute alcohol-related hospital admissions until 2007/08 reaching a rate of 855 admissions per 100,000 population; this has now fallen to 669 per 100,000 population.

Alcohol-related hospitalisation rates¹ for general acute hospitals, Scotland, financial years 1981/82 to 2018/19

¹ European age sex standardised rates (EASR). ⁰ Provisional
- Men were 2.5 times more likely than women to be admitted to general acute hospitals for alcohol-related conditions (971 per 100,000 population compared to 377).
- People in the most deprived areas were six times more likely to be admitted to general acute hospitals for an alcohol-related condition than those in the least deprived areas (1,059 per 100,000 population compared to 167).

**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 is a contributing 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.

This publication includes rates of activity presented as European Age-sex Standardised Rates (EASR) calculated using the 2013 European Standard Population.

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**Further Information**

Find out more in the full Alcohol-Related Hospital Statistics 2018/19 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 2018/19 Data

The data can also be sourced on the NHS Scotland Open Data platform.

The next full release of this publication will be in November 2020.

**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.](#)