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 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 since data collection began shows little change in performance. Of the 11,229 people who started their first treatment in the most recent quarter, 95.0% waited three weeks or less.
  - For the 5,894 people seeking alcohol treatment, 94.9% waited three weeks or less.
  - For the 5,335 people seeking drug treatment, 95.0% waited three weeks or less.

- 11 out of the 14 NHS Boards met the standard. NHS Boards that did not meet the standard were NHS Highland, NHS Lothian, and NHS Shetland.

Percentage of people who started drug or alcohol treatment, within three weeks, for all NHS Boards, between July and September 2019
• In prisons, 1006 people started their first drug or alcohol treatment between July-September 2019 with 93.7% waiting three weeks or less.

• At the end of this quarter, 2,664 people were waiting to start their first drug or alcohol treatment, of which 229 (8.6%) had been waiting more than six weeks. This is similar to the same quarter last year when 223 (7.4%) people were waiting more than six weeks.

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 31 March 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.