Heart Disease Statistics Update
Year Ending 31 March 2012
Publication date – 18 December 2012

About this Release
This publication relates to the annual update of heart disease statistics (related to both Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) and other types of heart disease). Information on hospital activity, operations, incidence, 30 day survival following first emergency admission, GP prescribing and mortality is included in this release.

Key Points
- The standardised hospital discharge rate for acute myocardial infarction (AMI or heart attack) increased by 51.1% from 230.7 per 100,000 population in 2007/08 to 348.5 in 2011/12. This increase is likely to be due to changes in the definition of AMI, which is now based on more sensitive troponin tests.

- The incidence rate for coronary heart disease (CHD) decreased by 28.9% over the past decade, from 379.7 per 100,000 in 2002/03 to 270.0 in 2011/12.

- As in the rest of the UK and Europe, the trend in mortality from AMI, and for coronary heart disease as a whole, remains downward. The age-sex standardised mortality rate for coronary heart disease (CHD) has been decreasing steadily over the last 10 years, falling from 162.3 per 100,000 population in 2002 to 92.2 in 2011, a reduction of 43.2% since 2002 and 8.1% between 2010 and 2011.

- There has been a reduction in absolute and relative inequality in CHD mortality rates over the decade 2002-2011. Mortality rates fell among all deprivation quintiles. The reduction in the age-sex standardised mortality rate for CHD among the most deprived category was 38.7% compared with 25.1% in the least deprived category.

- 30-day survival for those admitted as an emergency with their first AMI improved over the last ten years from 84.1% to 91.0%.

- The overall costs of prescriptions dispensed for cardiovascular related drugs fell in 2011/12 to £157.8 million, a reduction of 5.8% on the previous year. This is the lowest gross ingredient cost for cardiovascular drugs observed for any year over the last
decade 2002/03 to 2011/12. Costs may reduce as medicines become available in generic form.

### Background
Coronary Heart Disease (or Ischaemic Heart Disease) is a preventable disease which kills around 8,000 people in Scotland each year (7,636 people died of CHD in 2011). The disease is caused when the heart's blood vessels, the coronary arteries, become narrowed or blocked and cannot supply enough blood to the heart. This can cause a heart attack, chest pain or angina.

CHD is a priority in Scotland where prevalence of the associated risk factors such as smoking, poor diet and physical inactivity is high and around 7.5% of men and 4.9% of women are living with CHD ([Scottish Health Survey 2011](https://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)).

The Scottish Government published their strategy document [Better Heart Disease and Stroke Care Action Plan](https://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) in June 2009. This confirmed that heart disease would continue to be a national clinical priority for NHS Scotland.

### Contact
**Andrew Deas**
Principal Information Analyst
andrew.deas@nhs.net
0131 275 7030

**Steven Hecht**
Information Analyst
stevenhecht@nhs.net
0141 282 2114

**Charles Guthrie**
Information Analyst
charles.guthrie@nhs.net
0131 275 6340

### Further Information
Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](https://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) or on the [ISD website](https://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/).