About this release

This release from the Information Services Division provides an annual update on heart disease in Scotland. The publication includes information on hospital activity, operations, incidence, 30-day survival following first emergency admission, GP prescribing, mortality and ambulance service activity.

Main Points

- There has been a steady downward trend in deaths from coronary heart disease in Scotland and the rest of the UK over the last ten years. In Scotland, the mortality rate fell by 39.6% between 2007 and 2016. However, coronary heart disease is still a leading cause of death and a national clinical priority for Scotland.

Coronary heart disease – age and sex adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 population, Scotland, 2007-2016

- The incidence rate for coronary heart disease decreased over the past decade by 26.7%. Incidence rates for coronary heart disease remain consistently higher in males than females.
The reduction in all-age mortality rates for coronary heart disease was seen in both the most and least deprived communities. The percentage reduction in deaths in the most deprived category (36.1%) over the last ten years was larger than that in the least deprived category (31.7%).

For an individual admitted to hospital as an emergency with their first heart attack, their chances of surviving at least 30 days improved over the last ten years from 86.0% to 92.9%.

The number of prescriptions for drugs to treat diseases of the circulation increased by 3.5% in the last ten years. Despite this, the cost of prescriptions dispensed for these drugs has fallen by 37.7% over the last ten years to £124.0 million in 2016/17, reflecting falls in drug prices for these conditions.

Background

Despite a substantial reduction in the rate of death from coronary heart disease (CHD) over the last decade, it remains one of the leading causes of death in Scotland (Health of Scotland’s population - Mortality Rates). In 2016, there were 6,697 deaths in Scotland where CHD was the underlying cause.

Scotland has a high prevalence of the risk factors associated with heart disease (British Heart Foundation), such as smoking and physical inactivity. Treating and preventing heart disease is a national clinical priority for Scotland, as outlined in the Heart Disease Improvement Plan.

Please see News and Updates section of our website for more details.

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Further Information

The Information Services Division publishes a range of heart disease-related information. You can find all our information on the heart disease section of the ISD website. Further information can be found in the Heart Disease Statistics report.

Corresponding information on stroke can be found on the stroke section of the ISD website.

The next release of this publication will be in January 2019.