

# Hospital inpatient care of people with mental health problems in Scotland

Trends up to 31 March 2015

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## About this release

This publication from the Information Services Division presents information on patients with mental health problems treated as inpatients in Scottish hospitals. This year's report has been developed to include both general hospital and psychiatric hospital settings. Also included for the first time there is a section on Learning Disability.

## Main points

### Patients treated for mental health conditions in all hospital wards

- Since 1997/98 discharges for mental health conditions from mental health units fell from over 30,000 per year to less than 18,500. Over the same period, discharges from general hospitals for mental health conditions increased from just under 9,500 to nearly 18,000.
- Patients discharged from mental health units tended to be younger than those discharged from general hospital wards, with an average age of 50 compared to 60.
- Among people discharged from general hospital wards for a mental health problem, most were treated for an organic disorder, such as dementia or delirium, or for a condition related to substance misuse.
- Among those discharged from mental health units, most were treated for schizophrenia and similar disorders, or for disorders of mood.

### Patients treated in psychiatric specialties up until 2014/15

- The total number of patients treated in mental health units in 2014/15 was slightly lower than in 2013/14.
- People living in the most deprived areas were more than four times as likely to experience a period of psychiatric inpatient care than those in the least deprived areas.

### Patients treated in the Learning Disability specialty

- Discharges from the Learning Disability specialty fell sharply from around 4,700 to around 1,200, between 1997/98 and 2005/06, but have started to level out in more recent years. This reflects changes in patterns of care, moving away from long term hospital care towards more community based care.
- People living in the most deprived areas were more than three times as likely to experience an episode of inpatient care in the Learning Disability specialty than those living in the least deprived areas.

## Background

Patients receiving inpatient care (including learning disability) in mental health (psychiatric) hospitals generate records held nationally on Scottish Morbidity Record 04 (SMR04).

Patients receiving care as inpatients and day cases in acute (non-psychiatric hospitals) generate records held nationally on Scottish Morbidity Record 01 (SMR01).

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## Find out more

The Information Services Division publishes a range of mental health related information on the [mental health](#) section of the ISD website.

[Full publication report](#)

The next update of this publication is scheduled for December 2016.

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