

## Publication Summary



# Scotland and European Health for All (HfA) Database 2012

Update of trends to 2010

Publication date – 20 November 2012

## About this Release

The Scotland and European HfA Database 2012, published on the Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) website, is an update of the 2009 release. It is based on the January 2012 release of the World Health Organization's HfA database, with data added for Scotland. The data are presented in a user-friendly, graphical or tabular form, allowing time trend and international comparisons for:

- 600 health and health-related indicators, with Scottish data available for 501 (84%)
- Annual data from 1970 to 2010 where available
- Scotland and the 53 Member States currently in the WHO European Region, including the UK, plus averages such as the European Union (27 Member States).

The database includes previously unpublished data for Scotland, along with information from other published sources. Briefing notes include a summary of the key findings.

## Key Points

The briefing notes examine trends for the 501 indicators for Scotland, both over time and compared with the following selected European countries: Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, UK, and the average of the 27 European Union countries (EU). Some indicators for Scotland show changes over time and/or differences from the other selected countries. These indicators form eight broad categories, shown below with an example:

1. Scotland is improving over time, and has a favourable position relative to the selected countries: *Standardised death rates (SDRs) for transport accidents* and the subset *motor vehicle traffic accidents*.
2. Scotland has mainly steady rates over time, but a favourable position relative to the selected countries: *Incidence rates for measles and rubella*.
3. Scotland has improved over time, but still compares unfavourably with the selected

countries: *Life expectancy at birth, age 1, 15, 45 and 65 years.*

4. Scotland has improved over time, but comparisons with the selected countries are limited due to insufficient or inconsistently defined data: *Rates of road traffic accidents involving alcohol.*

5. Scotland has worsened over time, but is broadly in line with the selected countries: *Cancer incidence (rate of new cases) per 100,000 population (crude rate).*

6. Scotland has worsened over time (although recently improving), and is currently worse than the selected countries: *SDRs for diseases of the digestive system, in particular chronic liver disease and cirrhosis.*

7. Scotland tends to be worse than the selected countries, and exhibits a gender difference related to different historical lifestyle behaviour: *Trachea, bronchus and lung cancer incidence per 100,000 (for all ages).*

8. Scotland demonstrates poor health, but comparisons with some of the selected countries (eg the UK as a whole) are limited due to insufficient or inconsistently defined data: *Diabetes prevalence, in %.*

## Background

In general, any comparison in the database between countries should be made with caution. Whilst efforts have been made to ensure comparability, there will inevitably be some differences between countries in methodology, data accuracy and completeness, time periods and definitions. Particular difficulties may be highlighted in the briefing paper, and/or in the database (see notes for Scotland in the indicator Definitions, and Notes on data availability and quality in the Help text).

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## Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ScotPHO website](#).

Metadata and pre-release access information for this publication is available [here](#).

### About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### About ScotPHO

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) collaboration is led by ISD Scotland and NHS Health Scotland, and includes the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, National Records of Scotland and Health Protection Scotland. Our aim is to make public health information more accessible and usable to improve health and reduce inequalities in Scotland.