

## Publication Summary



# ScotPHO website Drugs section update

Publication date – 24 September 2013

## About this Release

The drugs section on the ScotPHO website has been updated to include:

- Content migrated from the Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland compendium publications and the Drug Misuse Information Scotland website.
- Updated links to previously published data.
- New data on drug-related primary care consultations, addiction prevalence testing in prisons and prescribing for opioid dependency.

## Key Points

The data section within the revised Drugs pages is divided in four areas: availability and prevalence; social harm; health harm and treatment. Three topics include new, not previously published data:

- Primary care - there were an estimated 26,200 patients in Scotland with a GP consultation relating to drug misuse in 2011/12 (based on Practice Team Information). They consulted their GP an average of 8.7 times, compared to 4.0 consultations for all patients seeing their GP in 2011/12.
- Addiction prevalence testing in prisons - 72% of prisoners tested positive for illicit drugs on reception (31% of prisoners tested positive for opiates) in 2012/13. On liberation, 23% tested positive for illicit drugs (4% of prisoners tested positive for opiates).
- Prescribing for opioid dependency - there has been a drop in the number of prescriptions for drugs used for opioid replacement therapy (including methadone) from 25,249,316 defined daily doses in 2011/12 to 23,875,830 defined daily doses in 2012/13. The number of prescriptions for Suboxone (Buprenorphine and Naloxone) continued to rise from 621,462 defined daily doses in 2011/12 to 871,073 in 2012/13.

## Background

The ScotPHO website contains comprehensive information on a wide range of topics grouped into sections including: Behaviour; Health, wellbeing and disease; and Clinical risk factors. Along with summary data and statistics, the website provides background information, interpretation, policy notes, commentaries on data sources, references and links to further information.

## Contact

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## Further Information

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

### **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.