

Publication Summary



ScotPHO routine quarterly web updates

Publication date – 24 June 2014

Key Points

- Several topics on the [ScotPHO \(Scottish Public Health Observatory\) website](http://www.scotpho.org.uk/) have been updated today (<http://www.scotpho.org.uk/>).
- Three topics include new (not previously published) data and are highlighted below: drugs, alcohol and mental health.
- **Drugs:** Addiction Prevalence Testing (APT) is conducted across all Scottish prisons annually. During one month of the year, prisoners arriving in custody are tested for the presence of illegal drugs. Similarly, those leaving custody during the month are tested to assess progress towards the 'reduced or stabilised' offender outcome.
 - Of the 1,227 tests carried out at prisoner reception in 2013/14, 77% were positive for illegal drugs (including illicit use of prescribed drugs) compared with 72% in 2012/13. The drugs most commonly detected when entering prison in 2013/14 were benzodiazepines and cannabis (each found in 50% of tests). Opiates were found in 33% of tests.
 - Of the 707 tests carried out at prisoner liberation in 2013/14, 25% were positive for illegal drugs (compared with 23% in 2012/13). The drugs most commonly detected when leaving prison in 2013/14 were illicit buprenorphine (11% of tests), benzodiazepines (7% of tests) and opiates (5% of tests).
- **Alcohol:** The Scottish Prisoner Survey 2013 included a ten item questionnaire, the [Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test \(AUDIT\)](#). While the 2013 [Prisoner Survey 2013 - Substance Misuse](#) report gives results for each item individually, ScotPHO publishes results for the combined score, grouped into drinking risk categories.
 - Of those respondents who answered all ten items of AUDIT, a third were classed as possibly alcohol dependent.
 - Prisoners engaging in harmful drinking generally have served more sentences than those with low-risk drinking. For example, 45% of those in the

- low-risk drinking category had never been in prison before, compared with 21% of those possibly alcohol dependent.
- Fewer of the low-risk category had been in prison 10 times or more compared with those possibly alcohol dependent (8% compared with 20% respectively).
- [Mental health](#): Patients were more likely to see their GP for anxiety and depression if they lived in a deprived area.
 - For anxiety, the estimated age-standardised rate of patients who consulted a GP or practice nurse in the year ending 31 March 2013 was approximately twice as high in the most deprived quintile (fifth of the population) compared with the least deprived quintile. For males, there were 39 consultations per 1000 males registered in the most deprived quintile, compared with 20 per 1000 in the least deprived. Similarly for females, the rates were 76 compared with 37 per 1000 females registered in the most and least deprived areas respectively.
 - For depression, a broadly similar pattern was seen when the most and least deprived quintiles were compared: for males, 24 consultations per 1000 compared with 14 per 1000; and for females, 44 compared with 31 per 1000.
- The following topics on the ScotPHO website have also been updated using data from previously published sources: sexual health; children and young people; population estimates and projections; infections; and oral health.
- In addition, the [alcohol profiles and drugs profiles](#) were updated on 10 June 2014.

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.

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Further Information

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

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