

Publication Summary



ScotPHO website Alcohol section update

Publication date – 17 November 2015

About this Release

The alcohol section on the Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) website has been updated to include new data on dispensing of drugs for the treatment of alcohol dependency in Scotland.

Key Points

- The Defined Daily Doses per 10,000 Population per Day (a proxy for patient rates) for alcohol dependency drugs increased from 7.1 in 2005/06 to 9.1 in 2008/09 but has remained relatively stable since. This is in line with the number of patients being dispensed at least one drug for alcohol dependence, which has remained broadly steady over the last six years. In 2014/15 a total of 9,395 patients were prescribed drugs for alcohol dependency.
- Over the last six years treatment with drugs for alcohol dependence has been most common in patients between 45 and 49 years of age. In 2014/15, 72% of patients dispensed drugs for alcohol dependence were aged between 35 and 59. Treatment in younger age groups has generally slightly decreased and in older age groups slightly increased. In 2014/15, 62% of those dispensed drugs for alcohol dependence were male.
- Treatment with drugs for alcohol dependence is much more common in the more deprived areas. In 2014/15, patients living in the most deprived areas were five times more likely to be treated for alcohol dependence compared to the least deprived.

Background

This publication covers three drugs specific to the treatment of alcohol dependence: Acamprosate Calcium, Disulfiram and Nalmefene. The number of patients who have been

prescribed any of these drugs is based on prescriptions where the Community Health Index (CHI) number was recorded. However, the CHI capture, although increasing in recent years is not complete and in the latest year varied between drugs from 80% to 95.0%.

Contact

Annemarie van Heelsum

Principal Information Analyst

a.vanheelsum@nhs.net

0131 275 7099

Kathryn Neill

Service Manager

kathryn.neill@nhs.net

0131 275 6581

Further Information

More information can be found on the [Treatment for Alcohol Misuse](#) page of the ScotPHO alcohol section.

More information about prescribed items in Scotland can be found at the ISD Website under the [Prescribing & Medicines](#) topic.

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. Alcohol data relevant to local areas is now available in the [ScotPHO Alcohol Profiles](#).

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Further information [about our statistics](#).