

Scottish Public Health Observatory Website quarterly update

March 2016

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About this release

The Scottish Public Health Observatory has updated 24 topic areas on their website today. Of these, six sections - asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, death, diabetes, drug related offences and epilepsy, provide previously unpublished data.

Main points

Asthma

- There has been a modest decline in incidence rates for asthma over the last ten years, though there is marked year to year variation in rates, particularly in females. Most recent (2014/15) incidence rates for males and females are 53 and 65 per 100,000 population respectively.
- Hospital admission rates for children under the age of ten for asthma have fallen. Admissions for boys peaked at 266 per 100,000 in 2006/07 reducing to 174 in 2014/15. Girls have seen a similar fall from 154 to 98 per 100,000 population during the same period.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease ^R

- Mortality from the lung condition, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), shows a long term decline in males and was 67 per 100,000 population in 2014. The mortality rate for females has changed little since 2000 and is currently 55 per 100,000 population.
- Overall rates of new admissions for COPD for 2014/15 remain higher in men than women, although the pattern is reversed among those under 65, with higher rates in women.

Deaths

- The all-cause death rate in Scotland is strongly related to deprivation. In 2014, the adjusted rate for the most deprived tenth of the population was more than twice the rate for the least deprived (1,661 compared to 815 deaths per 100,000 population respectively).

Diabetes

- Over the last ten years, there has been a steep rise in the number of deaths where diabetes was recorded as a contributory factor. The number of hospital admissions where diabetes was recorded as an additional diagnosis has risen steadily.

Drugs – Social Harm - Drug Related Offences by Council Area

- In 2014/15, there were 6.9 recorded offences for possession of drugs with intent to supply per 10,000 population. This was similar to figures for 2012/13 and 2013/14 (7.3 and 6.7 respectively).
- In 2014/15, there were 59.2 recorded offences for possession of drugs per 10,000 population. This was a slight increase compared to 2012/13 and 2013/14 (54.9 and 57.2 respectively).

Epilepsy

- Deaths due to epilepsy have increased slightly over the last ten years, whilst hospital admissions where epilepsy was the main cause have declined over the same period.

R – Revised 10th May 2016 due to analytical error. Calculation of the 2014 COPD male and female mortality rates was based on incomplete data. The revised bullet point replaces:

'Mortality from the lung condition, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), continues to fall in males. The 2014 rate of 61 per 100,000 population is the lowest reported since 1996. The mortality rate for females is decreasing after a period of stability and is currently at 48 per 100,000 population.'

Background

The Scottish Public Health Observatory collaboration is led by the Information Services Division 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.

All the topics updated today are listed on the [ScotPHO website](#).

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ISD and Official Stats

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