

Scottish Public Health Observatory Website quarterly update

June 2016

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About this release

The Scottish Public Health Observatory has updated a number of [topic areas](#) in the behaviour, health, wellbeing & disease and population groups sections of their website today. Of these, disability, drugs, ethnicity and tobacco use, provide previously unpublished data.

Main points

Disability

- In 2014, it was estimated that 31% of adults (aged 16 years and over) in Scotland had a limiting long-term condition or illness (lasting at least 12 months).

Drugs – Addiction Prevalence Testing

- In 2015/16, 73% tested positive for illegal drugs when entering prison and 27% tested positive for illegal drugs when leaving prison.

Drugs – Drug Related Criminal Proceedings

- In 2014/15, for those convicted of ‘possession with intent to supply’, the most common sentence was imprisonment (51%). For ‘possession’, the most common sentence was a fine (64%). The use of community sentences has increased over time (33% and 10% respectively in 2014/15, compared to 17% and 2% in 2010/11).

Ethnicity

- Completeness and quality of ethnicity coding in national routinely-collected hospital records have improved sufficiently (80% complete with the ability to reach 90% through matching) to allow comparison of hospital admission rates by ethnic group for the first time in Scotland.

Tobacco Use

- Over the period 2003-14, a clear downward trend in the number of deaths attributable to smoking was apparent.

Background

Addiction Prevalence Testing is conducted across all Scottish prisons annually. In 2015/16, 960 individuals arriving in prison and 619 individuals leaving prison during one month of the year were tested for the presence of illegal drugs (including illicit use of prescribed drugs).

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 available on the [ScotPHO website](#).

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Find out more

Two research papers are being released today:

- [‘Smoking attributable deaths in Scotland: trend analysis and breakdown by disease type and age groups, 2003-2014’](#). This report focuses specifically on results by age group and smoking-related diseases, as well as splitting the results by gender. Trend analysis of smoking attributable deaths for 2003 and 2008-2014 is also presented.
- [‘Using routinely collected data to compare hospital admission rates by ethnic group in Scotland’](#). This report presents the first national analyses across Scotland for all-cause hospitalisation rates, and those for coronary heart disease, presenting standardised rate ratios for ethnic groups relative to the White Scottish reference population.

Further information on ethnicity analysis is available in [Improving Ethnic Data Collection for Equality and Diversity Monitoring](#).

ISD and Official Stats

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. [Find out more about our statistics](#).