

Scottish Public Health Observatory Quarterly Update

December 2016

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About this release

The Scottish Public Health Observatory has updated a number of topic areas on its website today. Of these, alcohol, asthma, blood borne viruses, chronic liver disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and the treatment of drug misuse provide previously unpublished data. A new topic area, reviewing the most recently published data on screening in Scotland is also included.

Main points

Alcohol - Prescribing for alcohol dependency

- The gross ingredient cost of drugs for alcohol dependence was £1.7 million in 2015/16, a 40% increase compared with 2014/15. Recent changes in the price of disulfiram account for much of the increase in expenditure on drugs for alcohol dependence.

Asthma

- First admission rates for asthma continue to show a downward trend for males with a 2015/16 figure of 50.7 per 100,000 population compared to a high of 66.7 in 2006/07. Females also showed a similar trend, with a 2015/16 rate of 68.7 per 100,000. The downward trend is driven by a fall in the rates for males and females under the age of 10 being hospitalised with asthma.

Chronic Liver Disease

- Over the last three years Chronic Liver Disease (CLD) mortality has remained relatively static whilst CLD hospital admissions have increased. In 2015/16 over two thirds of all CLD admissions were for alcohol-related chronic liver disease; however non-alcohol related CLD admissions have accounted for much of the recent increase in admission rates.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

- The 2015/16 mortality rate from the lung condition, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) was 61.1 per 100,000 population for females and 73.0 for males. These two rates have converged over time due to a reduction in the male rate from a high of 99.7 in 1997.
- For the first time since secondary care data has been analysed, incidence of COPD is higher in females than males (151.4 and 149.9 respectively). This is due to a fall in the male rate from a high of 187.4 in 2003/04 combined with a rise in the female rate from a low of 123.7 in 2005/06.

Drugs -Treatment for drug misuse – methadone patient estimates

- The minimum number of individuals in Scotland prescribed methadone was 25,569 in 2015/16, though the variable quality of the underlying data means that the figures should be treated with caution.

Drugs - Health harm - Blood Borne Viruses - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

- There were 8,365 HIV infections reported in Scotland between 1985 and 2015, 1,573 (19%) amongst people who inject drugs.
- Of the 362 new HIV cases reported by NHS Boards in Scotland in 2015, 55 (15%) were among people who inject drugs. This percentage was the highest recorded in the last 11 years; prior to this the percentage remained relatively constant, with an average of 5% of new infections from 2005-2014 occurring among people who inject drugs (Table B5.8).

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, to promote the reduction in inequalities and to inform health improvement in Scotland.

New topic area to ScotPHO

Screening is a new topic area. It covers: the basics of screening; criteria for a screening programme; considerations before one is initiated; the programmes available in Scotland; why screening differs to other health services and factors to consider about screening; and available data on screening uptake including discussion of inequalities in uptake.

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Find out more

All the topic areas updated today are available on the [ScotPHO website](#).

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.](#)