About this release

The Scottish Public Health Observatory has updated a number of topic areas on its website today. Of these, the treatment for drug misuse, drug health harm, prisoner health, multiple sclerosis and diabetes provide previously unpublished data.

Main points

Drugs – Treatment for drug misuse

- For the sixth successive year there has been a decrease in the number of Opioid Replacement Therapy drug items (including methadone) dispensed.
- From 2010/11 to 2016/17, the cost of methadone dispensing decreased from £6,382 to £5,051 per 1,000 adult population.
- The minimum number of individuals in Scotland prescribed methadone was 26,017 in 2016/17.

Drugs – Health harm

- There were 8,684 HIV infections reported in Scotland between 1985 and 2016, 1,613 (19%) among people who inject drugs.
- Of the 306 new HIV cases reported by NHS Boards in Scotland in 2016, 36 (12%) were among people who inject drugs.

Prisoners – Prisoner Health

- In 2015 the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) was administered to prisoners as part of the Scottish Prisoner Survey conducted by Scottish Prison Service. Among prisoners who completed the AUDIT assessment, 66% had an alcohol use disorder. Of these one third (33%) were classed as possibly alcohol dependent, 27% were hazardous drinkers and one in 20 (6%) were harmful drinkers.

Multiple Sclerosis

- In 2016 there were 171 deaths where multiple sclerosis was recorded as the underlying cause of death. Over time the number of deaths among women is consistently around double the number in men, reflecting the fact that MS is more common among women.
Diabetes

- The number of discharges with a diabetes diagnosis has increased gradually over the last ten years. Diabetic ketoacidosis shows a steady rise in the number of hospital discharges, particularly among younger age groups.

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.

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Find out more

All the topic areas updated today are available on the ScotPHO website.
The next update of this website will be in December 2017.

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. Find out more about our statistics.