About this release

The Scottish Public Health Observatory has updated a number of topic areas on its website today. Of these, healthy life expectancy, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), asthma, allergic conditions and epilepsy provide previously unpublished data.

Main points

Healthy Life Expectancy

- The most recent annual estimates for Scotland are for boys born in 2016 to live 77.0 years on average, 59.3 of these in a 'healthy' state. Girls born in 2016 are expected to live 81.1 years on average, 62.7 of these years being 'healthy'.

- Underlying trends in life expectancy at birth show a general improvement in Scotland since 1980, with comparatively modest increases in recent years. Changes to calculation methodology prevent longer term trend analysis in healthy life expectancy (HLE), but data from 2009 to 2016 indicate HLE has remained relatively stable.

COPD

- New cases of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in males and females for 2016/17 remained similar to the previous year at a rate of 150 per 100,000 population for males and 146 for females.

Asthma

- Deaths due to asthma continued to show an increase from a low of 72 deaths in 2014 to 133 in 2016. First admission rates for asthma remained similar to previous years with a 2016/17 figure of 44.71 per 100,000 population for males and 61.98 for females.

Allergic Conditions

- Asthma continues to be the most common allergic condition, accounting for around 76.7% (6,695) of all allergy related hospital admissions.

- There was a decrease in the number of hospital admissions due to allergic rhinitis to 269 following a steady increase from 270 in 2009/10 to 420 in 2015/16.
Epilepsy

- Hospital admissions where epilepsy was the main cause showed a slight decline in 2016/17, in both males and females. The greatest decreases were seen in males under 15, females under 15 and males over 55. These groups recorded decreases to 36.8, 35.2 and 40.8 new cases per 100,000 population respectively.

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.

Life expectancy is an estimate of how many years a person might be expected to live, whereas healthy life expectancy is an estimate of how many years they might live in a ‘healthy’ state. HLE is a key summary measure of a population's health.

Healthy life expectancy at birth is a theoretical measure of the number of years that a newborn baby would live in a ‘healthy’ state if they experienced the death rates and levels of general health of the local population at the time of their birth, throughout their life. It is unlikely to be a true prediction of healthy life expectancy for any individual, since death rates may increase or decrease during a person’s lifetime, and people may move to areas with different mortality risks and views of their own health.

Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy estimates should be interpreted as providing a general indication of these measures over time, rather than precise and robust figures. The results include 95% confidence intervals to give some indication of the stability of the estimates.

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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 March 2018.

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.