About this release
The Scottish Public Health Observatory has updated a number of topic areas on its website today. Of these, Drugs (Social harm and Health harm), Alcohol (Treatment for alcohol misuse) and Chronic liver disease provide previously unpublished data.

Main Points

Drugs – Social harm
- In 2016/17, crude rates of recorded drug offences in Scotland in 2016/17 ranged from 115.5 offences per 10,000 population in Glasgow City to 13.7 per 10,000 population in Orkney Islands.

Drugs – Health harm
- In 2016/17, drug misuse was recorded in 1% (683) of a total of 52,927 maternities in Scotland. The rate of maternities where drug misuse was recorded was five times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland by SIMD quintile (20 per 1,000 births) than in the least deprived (4 per 1,000 births).

Alcohol: treatment for alcohol misuse
- In 2016/17, 9,270 patients were dispensed drugs for alcohol dependency; a 2.2% decrease from the previous year.
- The gross ingredient cost of drugs for alcohol dependence was £2.3 million in 2016/17, this is a 35% increase compared with 2015/16. Recent changes in the price of disulfiram account for much of the increase in expenditure on drugs for alcohol dependence over the last two financial years.
- In 2016/17 treatment with drugs for alcohol dependency was most common in patients between 45 and 49 years of age. Seventy one percent of the patients dispensed drugs for alcohol dependence were aged between 35 and 59.
Chronic Liver Disease

- Mortality rates for chronic liver disease decreased from a peak in 2003 until 2012. Thereafter the rate remained relatively stable until 2015 and then a 12% increase was observed in 2016.
- The rate for general acute hospital admissions (stays) including a diagnosis of chronic liver disease increased markedly between 1982/83 and 2006/07. Rates then remained relatively stable until 2012/13 and have since increased year on year to 208 per 100,000 population.
- In 2016, chronic liver disease mortality rates were seven times higher in the most deprived areas (42 per 100,000 population) compared to the least deprived areas (6 per 100,000 population). In 2016/17, chronic liver disease hospital stay rates were just over five times higher in the most deprived areas (495 per 100,000 population) compared to the least deprived areas (95 per 100,000 population).
- In 2016/17 chronic liver disease rates for both mortality and hospital stays in males were almost twice those in females.

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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Further Information

All the topic areas updated today are available on the ScotPHO website.

The next update of this website will be in June 2018.