Scottish Public Health Observatory Quarterly Update

June 2018

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About this release
This release by the Scottish Public Health Observatory is an update on a number of topic areas. In this update, ‘Drugs’ (Social harm and Availability and prevalence) provides previously unpublished data.

Main Points

Drugs – Social Harm
- The average age of people convicted of possession of drugs with intent to supply remained approximately the same from 2007/08 (32 years) to 2016/17 (33 years). However, the average age of people convicted of possession of drugs increased from 28 years in 2007/08 to 33 years in 2016/17.

Drugs – Availability and Prevalence
- In 2017/18, 78% of individuals entering prison tested positive for illegal drugs and 31% tested positive for illegal drugs when leaving prison.
- In 2017/18, the drugs most commonly detected when leaving prison were buprenorphine (14% of tests), cannabis (8% of tests) and opiates (8% of tests).

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 will be available on the [ScotPHO website](mailto:scotpho@nhs.net).

The next release of this publication will be September 2018.

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**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. [Further information about our statistics.](mailto:scotpho@nhs.net)