Scottish Public Health Observatory
Quarterly Update
June 2019

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About this release
This release by Information Services Division provides the Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) quarterly update on a number of topic areas. Of these topics the drugs pages contain updated data.

Main Points
Drugs

Social harm: Drug related criminal proceedings
• In 2017/18, there were 5,390 people convicted in cases where a drugs charge was the main offence. Of these convictions, 54% were for class A drugs (e.g. cocaine, ecstasy, heroin), 38% for class B drugs (e.g. amphetamines, cannabis) and 3% for class C drugs (e.g. diazepam, etizolam).

Health harm: Births in Scottish hospitals
• In 2017/18, drug misuse was recorded in 1.6% (830) of a total of 51,197 maternities in Scotland, an increase compared to the previous year when the percentage was 1.3%.

• The recorded drugs most often being used during pregnancy were cannabis (9.1 per 1,000 maternities), opiates (4.7 per 1,000 maternities) and cocaine (2.9 per 1,000 maternities). Recorded opiate misuse during pregnancy consistently decreased over the time series from 9.7 per 1,000 maternities in 2011/12.

• In 2017/18, 0.4% (208) of a total of 51,750 babies born in Scotland were recorded as having been affected by, or having withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction. The rate has decreased steadily over time from 0.7% of live births in 2011/12 to 0.4% of live births in 2016/17 (the same rate as in 2017/18).

Availability and prevalence: Drug misuse and treatment in Scottish Prisons
• In 2018/19, the drugs most commonly detected when leaving prison were buprenorphine (12% of tests), opiates (8% of tests) and benzodiazepines (6% 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. The aim of the collaboration 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.

The next release of this publication will be September 2019.

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.