Scottish Public Health Observatory
Quarterly Update
December 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 alcohol, chronic liver disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, drugs, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis pages contain updated data.

Main Points

Alcohol
Treatment for alcohol misuse: medications to treat alcohol dependency
- In 2018/19, of those dispensed drugs for alcohol dependence 62% were male and 38% were female. These percentages have been consistent since 2012/13.

Chronic liver disease
- Trends in chronic liver disease hospital stays and deaths are presented in the charts below. Since 1982, hospital admissions for chronic liver disease have shown a generally increasing trend. Deaths from chronic liver disease peaked around 2003 and have since declined.

Multiple sclerosis
- In 2018, multiple sclerosis was recorded as the underlying cause of 184 deaths in Scotland.
- New cases of multiple sclerosis, identified using hospitalisation and death records, are consistently higher in females than males. In 2018/19, new cases in females were 13.7 per 100,000 population and 6.0 per 100,000 population in males.
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

- Historically deaths and hospitalisations with a diagnosis of COPD were higher in males compared to females, reflecting previous patterns of smoking. This is no longer the case, as both death and hospital admission rates are now similar in males and females.
- In 2018/19, the incidence of COPD in males was 135.4 per 100,000 population, and the incidence in females 134.0 per 100,000 population.

Diabetes

- In 2018, diabetes was recorded as a factor in over 6,300 deaths.
- Over the last 10 years both hospital admission and death rates have been increasing. However, in the last year both hospital admission and death rates associated with diabetes decreased slightly, continuing a trend towards no change or small reductions seen last year.

Drugs

Social harm: Drug related offences by council area

- In 2018/19, the Scotland rate of recorded drug offences was 64.0 offences per 10,000 population. Council area rates of recorded drug offences ranged from 112.9 offences per 10,000 population in Dunbartonshire West to 21.2 per 10,000 population in Na h-Eileanan Siar.

Health harm: Births in Scottish hospitals

- In 2018/19, drug misuse was recorded in 1.7% (848) of a total of 49,783 maternities in Scotland, approximately the same as the previous year when the percentage was 1.6%.
- The recorded drugs most often being used during pregnancy were cannabis (10.0 per 1,000 maternities), opiates (4.2 per 1,000 maternities) and cocaine (3.0 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 2018/19, 0.3% (158) of a total of 50,348 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 halved over time from 0.7% of live births in 2011/12.

Background

The Scottish Public Health Observatory collaboration is co-led by ISD Scotland and NHS Health Scotland, and includes the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, National Records of Scotland, Health Protection Scotland, the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit and the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory.

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 March 2020.

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.