Population Based Key Clinical Indicators for Sexual Health: 2007 Data

Key Messages

This report presents the third set of data on the population based indicators of

- Chlamydia
- Male and female sterilisation
- Termination of pregnancy
- Hepatitis B vaccination in men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Long acting reversible methods of contraception (LARC)

The previous reports can be accessed at www.isdscotland.org/kci.

Note: The female sterilisation denominator has changed from 15 – 44 to 15 – 49, therefore comparison with the previous year’s reports on the website is not possible. However, re-analysed data for female sterilisation can be provided on request at dash@isd.csa.scot.nhs.uk.

The next report will be published in September 2009.

Chlamydia

Although sexually active individuals aged less than 25 are at greatest risk of chlamydia infection and the majority (71%) of positive tests were noted in this age group, less than half (47%) of all chlamydia testing in Scotland during 2007 was performed on those aged less than 25.

Key Message: Improvements in screening opportunities, especially for men, and increased targeting of young people, those most at risk of infection, are required across Scotland to help address the burden of chlamydia infection.

Access to male and female sterilisation

Female sterilisation

Rates of female sterilisation per 10 000 women continue to decrease. Whilst the reasons for this are unknown, there are some factors that may have contributed. For example, the data for long acting reversible methods of contraception (LARC) show that uptake is increasing, which may indicate that women would prefer to use a lasting method of contraception, rather than go through a surgical procedure.

Key message: The continuing reduction in rates of female sterilisation indicates that women are increasingly choosing alternative methods for long term contraception.

Male sterilisation (vasectomy)

Vasectomies are performed as inpatient / daycase procedures in all of the boards, with 10 out of 14 (71%) performing vasectomies as inpatient / daycase only. NHS Grampian, Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Lanarkshire and Lothian all offer a service outwith the acute setting - in General Practice, Family Planning and Community clinics.

Key message: A limited number of NHS boards offer a vasectomy procedure within community health care.
**Termination of Pregnancy**
The percentage of terminations that are carried out at under 10 weeks continues to increase. However, the data shows that women from deprived areas are less likely to have an early termination than those from more affluent areas.

The difference between SIMD 1 and SIMD 5 suggests that deprivation may have an influence on accessing services rapidly. However, the difference between the two populations has reduced between 2006 and 2007 from 8.2% to 6.3%. This is due to an increase in early terminations in SIMD5 from 64.3% in 2006 to 66.3% in 2007.

*Key message: The percentage of terminations carried out at under 10 weeks has increased once again between 2006 and 2007. However, the percentage continues to be lower in more deprived populations.*

**Hepatitis B Vaccination in men who have sex with men (MSM)**
The STISS data on hepatitis B vaccination for MSM shows that the percentage of those receiving the vaccination is lower than the NHSQIS ‘Essential Criteria’ for standard 7.3. However, when those individuals who declined the vaccination are included in the numerator, in a ‘percentage offered’ analysis, the percentages increase.

*Key message: The data show that a higher percentage of vaccinations are being offered to those eligible than are being received due to individuals who decide they do not want the vaccination. The reasons for this decision are not recorded.*

**Long acting reversible methods of contraception (LARC)**
The data show that the uptake of LARC continues to increase and the majority of the mainland NHS boards (91% - 10 out of 11) have increased their uptake of the very long acting methods between 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

*Key message: The uptake of very long acting methods of contraception (Implanon, IUDs and Mirena) continues to increase, indicating a growing popularity in these lasting methods of contraception.*