

Publication Summary



Long Acting Reversible Methods of Contraception (LARC) in Scotland

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About this Release

This release from the Information Services Division (ISD) reports on the proportion of women of reproductive age prescribed long-acting reversible methods of contraception (LARC) in each NHS Board.

Key Points

- The total uptake of very long acting methods of contraception (the contraceptive implant, intrauterine device (IUD) and intrauterine system (IUS) in primary care and specialist sexual health services in Scotland increased from 50.2 per 1,000 women aged 15-49 in 2013/14 to 52.8 in 2014/15.
- All three very long acting methods of contraception have seen a slight increase in prescribing rate per 1,000 in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14.
- The contraceptive implant is the most popular method of LARC (29.4 per 1,000) while the intrauterine device (IUD) remains the least utilised method (5.8 per 1,000) in 2014/15.
- Uptake of these very long acting methods has increased in ten of the fourteen NHS Boards between 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Background

In typical use, the 'long-acting' or 'lasting' methods of contraception have a lower failure rate than alternative reversible methods (for example, the contraceptive pill or condoms). 'Respect and Responsibility: Strategy and Action Plan for Improving Sexual Health', published in 2005, states that the full range of contraceptive methods should be available to all patients.

In August 2011, the [Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework 2011-2015](#) was launched, followed in 2015 by the [Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework 2015-](#)

[2020 Update](#). Both of these support the use of LARC and the 2015-2020 update states that work has been carried out to improve access to LARC.

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Further Information

Find out more in the [Long Acting Reversible Methods of Contraception in Scotland](#) Report.

ISD Scotland publishes a wide range of information on Sexual Health including teenage pregnancies and terminations of pregnancy. Further information can be found on the [ISD website](#).

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/