

# Long Acting Reversible Methods of Contraception in Scotland

Year ending 31 March 2016

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## About this release

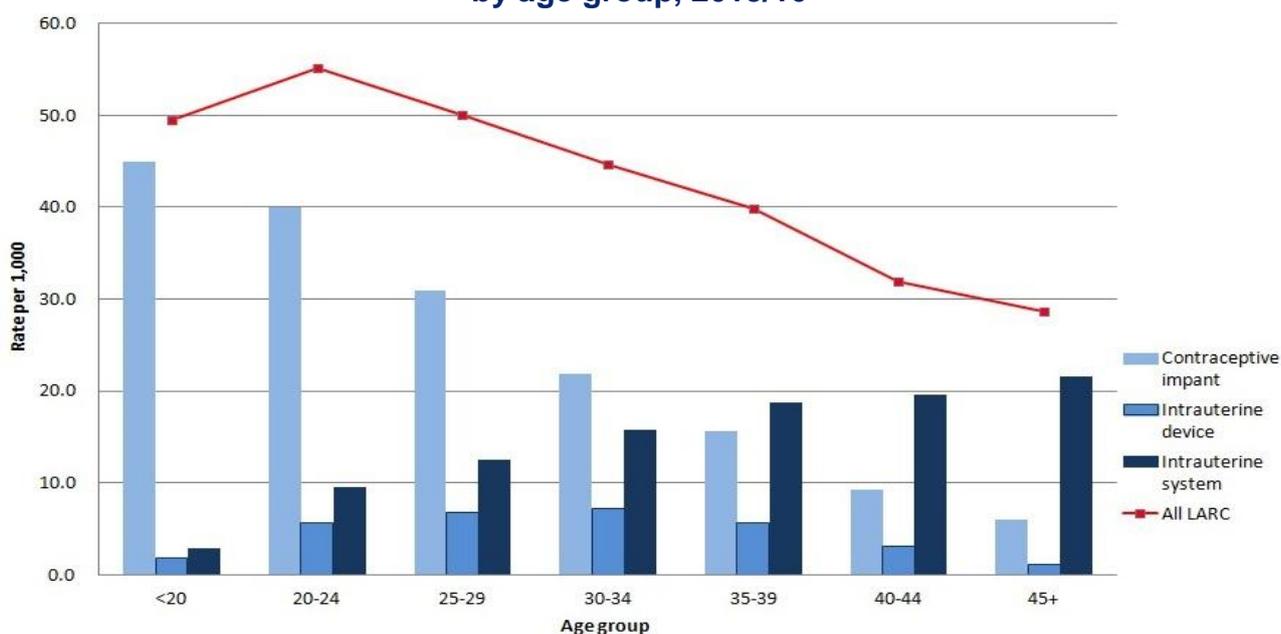
This release from the Information Services Division reports on the proportion of women of reproductive age prescribed long acting reversible methods of contraception in primary care and sexual health settings by each NHS board.

## Main points

In primary care and sexual health settings combined:

- The prescribing rate of very long acting methods of contraception in Scotland was 52.1 per 1,000 women aged 15-49 in 2015/16.
- The contraceptive implant was the most utilised method of long acting contraception with a prescribing rate of 29.4. The intrauterine system had a rate of 17.4 while the intrauterine device, which was the least utilised method, had a prescribing rate of 5.4 per 1,000 women aged 15-49.
- Contraceptive implant prescriptions were most common in the under 20 age group. The prescribing rate falls as the age group gets older. Intrauterine system prescriptions were most common in the 45 and over age group and the prescribing rate falls as age groups gets younger.

**All long acting reversible contraception, prescribing rate per 1,000 women by age group, 2015/16**



## Background

In typical use, the 'long-acting' or 'lasting' methods of contraception (the contraceptive implant, intrauterine device and intrauterine system) have a lower failure rate than alternative reversible methods, for example, the contraceptive pill or condoms.

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 long acting reversible contraception and the 2015-2020 update states that work has been carried out to improve access to long acting reversible contraception.

Information Services Division is committed to producing information that best meets the needs of our customers. We are currently seeking your views on our proposal to make changes to the format of our long acting reversible contraceptives publication. Currently we release a one-page summary of main points, a publication report and workbooks containing the data. We are proposing that future publications will consist of a summary and revised workbooks only. We welcome any comments on these proposals or suggestions for improvements to the information provided. If you wish to be involved please email [nss.isdmaternity@nhs.net](mailto:nss.isdmaternity@nhs.net) by 31 December 2016.

## Contact

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## Find out more

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](#).

The next update of this publication will be in September 2017.

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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](#).