

Long Acting Reversible Methods of Contraception (LARC) in Scotland

Year ending 31 March 2017



Publication Date – 05 September 2017

About this release

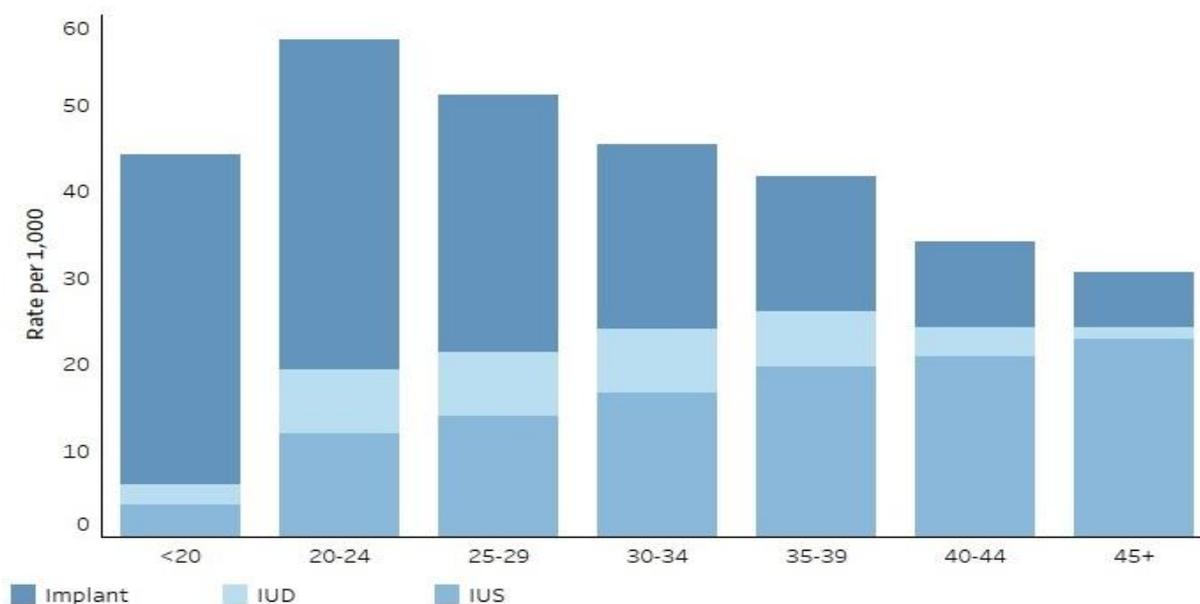
This release from the Information Services Division reports on the proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49) prescribed long acting reversible methods of contraception (LARC) in primary care and sexual health settings by NHS Board of treatment.

Main Points

In primary care and sexual health settings combined:

- LARC prescribing rates remained stable over the reporting period with 52.4 per 1,000 women prescribed LARC in 2016/17.
- The most common method of LARC was the contraceptive implant: prescribing rates were 27.9 per 1,000 women compared to 18.5 for the intrauterine system (IUS) and 6.0 for the intrauterine device (IUD).
- Younger women were more likely to be prescribed the contraceptive implant: prescribing rates were 38.2 per 1,000 women aged under 20.
- Older women were more likely to be prescribed the IUS: prescribing rates were 22.9 per 1,000 women aged 45 and over.

LARC prescribing rate by age group, 2016/17



Background

In typical use, the 'long-acting' or 'lasting' methods of contraception (the contraceptive implant, IUD and IUS) 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 LARC and the 2015-2020 update states that work has been carried out to improve access to such contraception.

Contact

Stuart Wrigglesworth

Senior Information Analyst

0131 275 7128

Email: nss.isdmaternity@nhs.net

Celina Davis

Principal Information analyst

0131 275 6199

Further Information

Further information can be found in the accompanying [downloadable data tables](#) and [metadata document](#).

The Information Services Division publishes a wide range of information on birth, pregnancy and sexual health, including teenage pregnancies and terminations of pregnancy in Scotland. Further information can be found on our [Maternity and Births](#) and [Sexual Health](#) pages.

The next update of this publication will be in September 2018.

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.](#)