Stroke Statistics Update
Year Ending 31 March 2014
Publication date – 27 January 2015

About this Release
This publication relates to the annual update of stroke statistics, including information on
cerebrovascular disease, stroke, subarachnoid haemorrhage and transient ischaemic
attacks. Information on hospital activity, operations, incidence, 30 day survival following
first emergency admission, GP prescribing, mortality and ambulance service activity is
included in this release.

Key points

- Cerebrovascular disease (CVD) develops as a result of problems with the blood vessels
  supplying the brain. The number of new cases of CVD in Scotland has decreased over
  the last decade. The incidence rate of CVD in Scotland was 328.9 per 100,000
  population in 2004/05 compared to 257.4 per 100,000 in 2013/14, a decrease of 21.8%.
  Incidence rates for CVD are consistently higher in males than females.

- The decrease in mortality rates for stroke in men (43.1%) has been greater than for
  women (39.3%). For the last three years, the stroke mortality rate for women has been
  slightly higher than that for men.

- The percentage of people surviving 30 days or more following their first emergency
  admission to hospital with a stroke has improved slightly over the last 10 years from
  80.8% in 2004/05 to 84.9% in 2013/14.

- Although the number of prescriptions for drugs to treat cardiovascular disease (all
  diseases of the circulation, including stroke) increased by 16.9% in the last 10 years,
  the overall costs of prescriptions dispensed for cardiovascular drugs fell in 2013/14 to
  £102.9 million, a reduction of 7.8% on the previous year. This is the lowest cost for
  these drugs over the last ten years (since 2004/05). Costs may continue to reduce as
  medicines become available in less expensive, non-branded (generic) form.
Background

Although cerebrovascular disease (CVD) is largely a preventable disease, there were 4,452 deaths in Scotland in 2013 where CVD is the underlying cause. One of the common types of CVD is stroke which occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is interrupted and the brain cells are starved of oxygen. Scotland has a high prevalence of the risk factors associated with CVD such as smoking, high blood pressure, poor diet, lack of exercise and alcohol consumption above recommended limits. Treating and preventing stroke is a national clinical priority for Scotland (Better Heart Disease and Stroke Care Action Plan). In the Scottish Health Survey 2013, 3.2% of men and 2.7% of women reported that they had experienced a stroke.

Please note that this publication uses the 2013 European Standard Population (ESP2013) to calculate the European Age Standardised Rates. Figures using the 1976 European Standard Population and ESP2013 are not comparable. Therefore, findings from this publication are not comparable with previous ISD reports. Further details regarding this change are included in Appendix A1 of the publication report.

Contact

Charles Guthrie
Senior Information Analyst
charles.guthrie@nhs.net
0131 275 6340

Alex Henriquez
Information Analyst
ahenriquez@nhs.net
0131 275 7999

Andrew Deas
Principal Information Analyst
andrew.deas@nhs.net
0131 275 7030

Heart Disease & Stroke inbox
nss.isdhdstroke@nhs.net

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website.