About this release
This release by Information Services Division provides an annual update on cerebrovascular disease in Scotland, including stroke, brain haemorrhage and ‘mini-stroke’. This publication includes information on hospital activity, operations, incidence, 30-day survival following first emergency admission, GP prescribing, mortality and ambulance service activity.

Main Points

• Cerebrovascular disease develops as a result of problems with the blood vessels supplying the brain. The incidence rate for cerebrovascular disease decreased over the last decade by 12.1%. Incidence rates were consistently higher in males than females.

• In the last decade, the mortality rate for cerebrovascular disease decreased by 38.7%.
• The mortality rate for cerebrovascular disease in the most deprived areas was 36.0% higher than in the least deprived areas in 2017.

• The percentage of people surviving 30 days or more following their first emergency admission to hospital with a stroke improved over the last ten years from 80.8% in 2008/09 to 85.3% in 2017/18.

• The number of patients receiving prescriptions for drugs to treat diseases of the circulation increased by 11.2% in the last nine years. Despite this increase, the cost of prescriptions dispensed for these drugs has fallen by 23.4% over the last nine years to £135.7 million in 2017/18, reflecting falls in drug prices for these conditions.

**Background**

Despite a substantial decrease in rates of death over the last decade, there were 3,935 deaths in Scotland in 2017 where cerebrovascular disease, including stroke, is the underlying cause.

Scotland has a high prevalence of the risk factors associated with cerebrovascular disease such as smoking and high blood pressure. Treating and preventing stroke is a national clinical priority for Scotland as outlined in the Stroke Improvement Plan.

Please see [News and Updates section](#) of our website for more details.

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**Further Information**

The Information Services Division publishes a range of cerebrovascular disease-related information. You can find all our information on [stroke section of the ISD website](#). More information is also available from the [Scottish Stroke Care Audit](#). Further information can be found in the [Stroke Statistics report](#).

Corresponding information on heart disease can be found on the [heart disease section of the ISD website](#).

The next update of this publication will be in January 2020.

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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](#).