

# DAT Association

## DRUG RELATED DEATHS SUB GROUP

19/05/04

### Drug Related Deaths and Accident and Emergency Services in Grampian

1. In 2001 the three Drug and Alcohol Action Teams in Grampian collectively agreed to collate a range of information on drug related deaths and overdoses in order to gain additional understanding of trends and patterns to further develop preventative interventions.

Since 2001 information has been collected on all drug related deaths in Grampian including prison releases, recent treatment for drug related problems and previous Accident & Emergency overdose treatments.

**Table 1**  
**Accident & Emergency drug overdose treatments in year prior to death**

	2001		2002	
	Occasions	People	Occasions	People
	1	13	1	10
	2	3	2	9
	3	1	3	4
	4	3	4	1
	5 or more	2	5 or more	1
Total		22		25
Died in Accident & Emergency	14		3	

2. In addition a six month survey of illicit overdoses treated in Accident & Emergency was completed by University of Aberdeen, Department of General Practice in 2001. Another survey is to be repeated in 2005. The 2001 survey included details on drug users health, overdose, demography and use of NHS Grampian services.

The Main results of the survey were: -

- In total there were 272 attendance's
- 183 males compared to 63 female presented at A & E
- 21.3% of injecting drug users had tested positive to Hepatitis C

- There had been a 29% increase in the number of injecting drug users presenting with injecting related problems since 1998
  - 0.7% of injecting drug users in the 2001 survey stated they did not use clean equipment
  - A 9% decrease was noted in the number of subjects being administered naloxone (for suspect overdose) on arrival at A& E since 1998
  - Nurses reported that a majority of drug users were co-operative when presenting at A & E
3. The following preventative interventions are being developed and implemented by the three Drug & alcohol Action Teams in Grampian
- Provision of safer drug use information at Accident & Emergency centres throughout NHS Grampian area
  - Referral protocols and clinical pathways between Accident & Emergency centres and specialist drug treatment services/GP's
  - Improved data collection within Accident & Emergency centres
  - Referral protocols for under 17's who have been treated for a drug overdose between Accident & Emergency and Social Work child protection services, to improve the health, welfare and safety of children
  - Motivational interviewing of individuals admitted to Accident & Prevention in-patient care and referrals to community services

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