

chapter

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Drug misuse in Scottish prisons

Urine testing at reception into custody

During the period April 1999 to March 2000, a total of 282 urine samples were taken from prisoners at the point of entry to the prison system. This sample covers only a small proportion of prison admissions during the period (totalling nearly 25,000), and is therefore indicative rather than definitive. Most of the samples were taken in two prisons (Aberdeen (147) and Perth (86)), with 49 coming from other locations. Positive rates, and proportions of the drugs found, are presented below:

97 | Drug use at reception into custody : 1999/00

results of urine testing of new admissions

	Aberdeen	Perth	Others establishments	Total	1998/99 comparison
Number tested	147	86	49	282	286
Percentage Positive ¹					
All tests	85	86	22	75	73
Drugs detected as percentage of all tests taken ²					
Cannabis	60	72	10	55	49
Benzodiazepines	52	41	14	42	43
Opiates	46	30	6	34	42
Methadone	11	16	2	11	8
LSD	-	-	-	-	<0.5
Amphetamines	4	1	-	3	3
Barbiturates	1	-	-	-	<0.5
Cocaine	6	-	-	3	4
Temgesic	-	2	-	1	-

1 These figures include all reported instances of the named drug types, and make no allowance for those that might be due to medical prescription.

2 Drug percentages do not add up to 100% due to poly-drug abuse.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

Random mandatory drug testing (MDT) results

Each month, 10% of the prisoner population in each prison in Scotland is randomly selected for a urine drug test. Other reasons for targeted testing exist, but are not reported here. Table 98 shows aggregate results for the service as a whole for the last four years. Tables 99 and 100 show the rates of positive results and the drugs found, by prison establishment, in 1998/99 and 1999/00 respectively.

98 | Mandatory drug testing results : 1996/97 - 1999/00

random tests of 10% of prison population

	Number tested	Percentage positive		Drugs detected (as percentage of all tests taken) ¹								
		All tests	In-prison ²	Cannabis	Benzo-diazepines	Opiates	Methadone	LSD	Amphetamines	Barbiturates	Cocaine	Temgesic
1996/97	2 364 ³	36	29	29	9	16	1	-	-	-	-	3
1997/98	7 070	29	23	20	5	13	1	-	-	-	-	2
1998/99	7 162	25	18	15	6	12	-	-	-	-	-	1
1999/00	6 605	22	15	11	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	1

1 Poly-drug misuse makes simple addition of drug percentages inappropriate.

2 In-prison rate excludes those who may have misused the drugs for which they tested positive before entry to prison.

3 Due to the gradual phasing in of this data collection in 1996/97, this figure is lower than subsequent years and figures are indicative only.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

99 | Mandatory drug testing results : 1998/99

random tests of 10% of prison population

Establishment	Number tested	Percentage positive		Drugs detected (as percentage of all tests taken) ¹								
		All tests	In - prison ²	Cannabis	Benzodiazepines	Opiates	Methadone	LSD	Amphetamines	Barbiturates	Cocaine	Temgesic
Scottish Prison Service Total	7 162	25	18	15	6	12	-	-	-	-	-	1
Aberdeen	211	40	19	28	11	18	3	-	-	-	-	2
Barlinnie	1 362	22	12	6	8	12	1	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Huntly	127	26	26	17	5	8	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cornton Vale	201	14	12	5	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries	159	25	18	19	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dungavel	131	24	24	29	10	20	2	2	2	1	1	-
Edinburgh	899	29	20	22	6	11	1	-	-	-	-	2
Friarton	92	28	28	25	-	7	-	-	-	-	2	-
Glenochil Adult	516	32	31	13	4	22	-	-	-	-	-	3
Glenochil YOI	163	3	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Greenock	263	26	11	12	14	14	1	-	-	-	-	3
Inverness	150	24	15	23	7	5	-	-	1	-	-	-
Low Moss	434	32	19	16	10	17	-	-	-	-	1	-
Longriggend	179	37	11	32	13	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Noranside	115	17	17	8	2	8	-	-	1	-	-	2
Penninghame	102	11	11	2	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	1
Perth	576	34	26	22	6	17	-	-	-	-	-	3
Peterhead	345	7	7	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polmont	531	16	13	14	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Shotts	543	32	32	13	4	24	-	-	-	-	-	4
Shotts NIC	52	27	27	8	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	10
Shotts Unit	11	82	73	45	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-

1 Poly-drug misuse makes simple addition of drug percentages inappropriate.

2 In-prison rate excludes those who may have misused the drugs for which they tested positive before entry to prison.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

100 | Mandatory drug testing results : 1999/00

random tests of 10% of prison population

Establishment	Number tested	Percentage positive		Drugs detected (as percentage of all tests taken) ³								
		All tests	In - prison ⁴	Cannabis	Benzodiazepines	Opiates	Methadone	LSD	Amphetamines	Barbiturates	Cocaine	Temgesic
Scottish Prison Service Total	6 605	22	15	11	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	1
Aberdeen	185	21	8	13	4	8	-	-	-	-	1	-
Barlinnie	1 201	23	9	6	13	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Huntly	137	18	17	12	3	6	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cornton Vale	228	14	9	3	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries Adults ¹	42	43	14	14	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries Females ¹	9	22	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries YOI ¹	67	16	16	10	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	3
Dungavel	112	10	10	2	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Edinburgh	787	25	19	14	4	10	1	-	-	-	1	2
Friarton	78	29	28	27	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glenochil Adult	472	27	27	12	1	18	-	-	-	-	-	2
Glenochil YOI	132	9	8	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenock	313	20	8	13	10	9	-	-	-	-	-	1
Inverness	134	25	13	25	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Low Moss	329	28	14	16	10	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Longriggend ²	116	31	6	26	11	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Noranside	119	11	11	8	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	3
Penninghame ²	87	9	9	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	6
Perth	526	29	21	18	8	12	1	-	-	-	-	2
Peterhead	348	5	5	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peterhead Unit ²	7	43	43	43	14	29	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polmont	570	16	12	13	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shotts	535	25	25	10	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	3
Shotts NIC	59	27	27	17	3	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shotts Unit	12	67	67	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1 Figures for the separate parts of Dumfries prison are presented for the first time.

2 Prison closed part way through 1999/00.

3 Poly-drug misuse makes simple addition of drug percentages inappropriate.

4 In-prison rate excludes those who may have misused the drugs for which they tested positive before entry to prison.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).