

## GB Regional Drug Misuse Databases

In 1982 the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) published a report *Treatment and Rehabilitation* which recommended that local drug teams be set up to collect information. Responding to this recommendation, the Department of Health issued a circular to the NHS requesting a review of the prevalence of drug misuse. In 1986, a drug misuse database was developed by the Drug Research Unit at the University of Manchester. In 1989, the Department commissioned the Unit to adapt the database for use by the NHS regional health authorities, and issued a circular requesting RHAs to set up databases to monitor trends in drug misuse and the use of drug misuse services. The Scottish Drug Misuse Database is the regional database for Scotland.

The Government Statistical Service based at the Department of Health, London, issues a bi-annual Statistical Bulletin containing data collated from the Regional Drug Misuse Databases. Included in these bulletins are figures relating to Great Britain, allowing a wider picture of problem drug misuse to be illustrated.

### 53 Main drug of misuse and numbers injecting<sup>1,2</sup> : 1 April - 30 September 1999

Great Britain, Scotland, England and Wales

	New individual patients/clients	Heroin	Methadone	Other Opiates	Barbiturates	Benzo-diazepines	Amphetamines	Cocaine	Hallucinogens	Cannabis	Solvents	Alcohol	Anti-depressants	Other drugs	Not known/drug free
	n=100%	percentage of individuals reporting drug													
<i>Main drug reported</i>															
Great Britain	37 681	57	11	3	-	3	8	6	-	10	1	-	-	2	-
Scotland	5 299	53	20	8	-	8	4	1	-	5	-	-	-	1	-
England	30 545	59	9	2	-	2	8	7	-	11	1	-	-	2	-
Wales	1 837	36	11	4	-	8	22	2	-	12	1	-	1	4	-
<i>All drugs reported</i>															
Great Britain	37 681	64	20	9	-	23	15	18	1	30	1	12	2	8	-
Scotland	5 299	63	31	26	-	60	10	4	1	29	1	10	2	8	1
England	30 545	66	18	6	-	16	14	21	1	30	1	12	2	7	-
Wales	1 837	43	17	10	-	30	32	7	2	35	2	12	3	12	-
<i>Percentage of individuals injecting drug</i>															
Great Britain	.	58	7	8	19	3	44	12	4	-	-	-	-	10	-
Scotland	.	65	1	4	-	4	21	13	4	-	-	-	1	7	-
England	.	57	9	11	21	2	46	12	4	-	-	-	-	20	-
Wales	.	55	4	5	-	2	50	16	-	-	-	-	-	23	100

1 Drugs can be misused by a variety of routes, injecting being just one of them. The route recorded for the main drug determines a user's injecting status for their main drug of misuse.

2 Of those whose injecting status is known.

.'. ' = not applicable.

Sources : Department of Health and Scottish Drug Misuse Database.

### 54 New individual patients/clients : 1 April - 30 September 1999

age group and gender; Great Britain, Scotland, England and Wales

	All Ages	Under 15 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45 and over
	n=100%	percentage of individuals reporting drug							
<i>Males and Females</i>									
Great Britain	37 681	1	14	27	25	17	9	4	3
Scotland	5 299	-	13	30	27	18	8	3	1
England	30 545	1	14	27	25	17	9	4	3
Wales	1 837	2	14	29	25	16	8	3	2
<i>Males</i>									
Great Britain	27 810	1	13	27	26	18	9	4	3
Scotland	3 528	-	11	29	28	19	9	3	1
England	22 925	1	13	26	25	18	9	4	3
Wales	1 357	2	13	28	26	17	8	3	1
<i>Females</i>									
Great Britain	9 871	1	17	29	23	15	8	3	3
Scotland	1 771	-	16	32	27	15	6	2	1
England	7 620	1	17	28	23	16	8	4	3
Wales	480	2	17	29	20	15	8	4	3

Sources : Department of Health and Scottish Drug Misuse Database.