

## Drug misuse in pregnancy

---

### Introduction

This section presents national statistics on drug misuse during pregnancy. The source of the information is maternity inpatient and day case records (SMR02) and neonatal discharge records (SMR11) collected by the Information and Statistics Division (ISD Scotland).

Over recent years, there has been increased recognition of the particular treatment needs of pregnant women who are drug users. Also, efforts have been made by clinicians and others to improve the identification and recording of diagnoses of drug misuse. Under-recording problems, however, still exist, and it is recognised that the statistics presented here are underestimates. For example, estimates from clinicians in Glasgow suggest that actual numbers of maternities involving drug-using women may be as high as twice the number recorded on the SMR02 records. This highlights the need to develop a consistent approach to recording.

The data does, nevertheless, provide a useful starting point in looking at the issue of drug misuse in pregnancy at a national level.

### SMR02 records

Since 1976, the maternity inpatient and day case record (SMR02) system has achieved national coverage of 98 per cent of all births. Delivery records account for approximately half of all maternity inpatient and day case discharges each year; antenatal, postnatal and abortion episodes make up the remaining discharges.

### SMR11 records

Record type SMR11 records all neonatal discharge information (including from neonatal units and postnatal cots), with records being generated for sick babies who fall into one of the following categories:

- babies who require medical care (other than (a) resuscitation immediately after birth or (b) routine screening)
- babies who have a congenital anomaly (whether or not medical treatment is given at that time).

### Drug misuse diagnoses

Drug misuse is recorded on the SMR02 and SMR11 returns using the following codes from the International Classification of Diseases (10<sup>th</sup> revision).

#### SMR02

- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of: opioids (code F11); cannabinoids (F12); sedatives or hypnotics (F13); cocaine (F14); other stimulants (F15); hallucinogens (F16); volatile solvents (F18); multiple drug use and use of other psycho-active substances (F19)
- Maternal care for suspected damage to fetus by drugs (O35.5).

#### SMR11

- Fetus and newborn affected by maternal use of drugs of addiction (P04.4)
- Neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction (P96.1).

## Analysis of the data

The figures presented cover the last four financial years 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00. Data for 1997/98 and 1998/99 are revised, so will be different from previously published figures. The data for the last year are provisional and should, therefore, be treated with caution. Due to delays in receipt of data from two health boards (Greater Glasgow and Western Isles), figures at Scotland level and for these health boards are not shown for 1999/00. For this reason, analysis here is taken from the revised 1998/99 figures.

Care should be taken when comparing numbers over time as there has been an improvement in drug misuse recording over the last four years. Also, recording practices of drug misuse diagnoses may vary between, and within, hospitals, which contributes to part of the differences between health boards or council areas. Due to these inconsistencies in recording, this data may not necessarily be a true reflection of current practices.

Table 64 shows the total number of antenatal discharges over the last four years, together with the number of discharges where drug misuse was recorded. In 1998/99, of a total of 62 123 discharges recorded, 177 included a diagnosis of drug misuse. Greater Glasgow health board area accounted for the largest share (94 cases, 53 per cent), followed by Grampian (32 cases, 18 per cent) and Ayrshire & Arran (26 cases, 15 per cent). The rate of discharges recording drug misuse diagnoses (per 1,000 discharges) indicates an increase in the occurrence of such cases over the past few years. The rates in 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99 were 1.6, 2.3 and 2.8 respectively.

Of the 177 cases where a diagnosis of drug misuse was recorded, the majority of the mothers were aged between 20 and 29 (116 cases, 66 per cent).

Table 65 presents information about maternities (pregnancies which result in a live or stillbirth) for the last four years. In 1998/99, of a total of 55 537 maternities recorded, there were 197 cases where the mother had a diagnosis of drug misuse. Of these, 89 cases (45 per cent) were in Greater Glasgow health board area, followed by Grampian (37 cases, 19 per cent). Of the 197 cases where a diagnosis of drug misuse was recorded, the majority of the mothers were aged between 20 and 29 (136 cases, 69 per cent).

The data in Table 66 relates to neonatal discharges over the last four years. In 1998/99, there were a total of 17 851 neonatal discharges in Scotland, of which 245 included a diagnosis of drug misuse. Once again, Greater Glasgow health board area accounted for the largest share (100 cases, 41 per cent), followed by Grampian (42 cases, 17 per cent), then Ayrshire and Arran (23 cases, 9 per cent). The rate of discharges recording drug misuse diagnoses (per 1,000 discharges) indicates an increase in the occurrence of such cases over the past few years. The rates in 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99 were 9.3, 12.5 and 13.7 respectively.

# 64 Antenatal discharges<sup>1</sup> : 1996/97 - 1999/00

health board, council area of residence and age at discharge

	All Discharges				Discharges Recording Drug Misuse <sup>4</sup>				Rate per 1 000 Discharges			
	1996/97	1997/98 <sup>r</sup>	1998/99 <sup>r</sup>	1999/00 <sup>5,p</sup>	1996/97	1997/98 <sup>r</sup>	1998/99 <sup>r</sup>	1999/00 <sup>5,p</sup>	1996/97	1997/98 <sup>r</sup>	1998/99 <sup>r</sup>	1999/00 <sup>5,p</sup>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>61 758</b>	<b>62 854</b>	<b>62 123</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>**</b>
<i>by health board</i>												
Argyll and Clyde	8 288	8 398	8 509	8 688	6	3	4	23	0.7	0.4	0.5	2.6
Ayrshire and Arran	6 302	6 551	6 578	6 722	4	4	26	26	0.6	0.6	4.0	3.9
Borders	789	862	664	752	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	1 965	1 997	1 887	1 936	-	-	1	6	-	-	0.5	3.1
Fife	3 685	3 739	4 220	4 430	1	2	3	1	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.2
Forth Valley	3 639	3 421	3 454	3 025	-	-	2	4	-	-	0.6	1.3
Grampian	4 367	4 621	4 729	4 435	9	26	32	21	2.1	5.6	6.8	4.7
Greater Glasgow	11 116	11 936	11 001	**	64	83	94	**	5.8	7.0	8.5	**
Highland	1 518	1 436	1 444	1 411	-	-	1	-	-	-	0.7	-
Lanarkshire	6 877	7 179	7 160	5 682	2	4	2	-	0.3	0.6	0.3	-
Lothian	9 773	10 007	10 419	10 221	7	6	7	-	0.7	0.6	0.7	-
Tayside	2 736	1 960	1 279	1 276	5	19	5	6	1.8	9.7	3.9	4.7
Orkney	142	162	176	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shetland	148	173	152	173	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Isles	186	152	192	**	-	-	-	**	-	-	-	**
Other <sup>2</sup>	227	260	259	192	1	-	-	-	4.4	-	-	-
<i>by council area</i>												
Aberdeen City	2 081	2 115	2 419	2 296	8	23	27	18	3.8	10.9	11.2	7.8
Aberdeenshire	1 740	1 994	1 895	1 794	-	3	3	2	-	1.5	1.6	1.1
Angus	608	502	382	357	2	1	-	-	3.3	2.0	-	-
Argyll and Bute	774	732	739	665	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1.5
Ayrshire East	2 006	2 167	2 097	2 045	-	-	12	10	-	-	5.7	4.9
Ayrshire North	2 743	2 747	2 871	2 929	4	4	11	15	1.5	1.5	3.8	5.1
Ayrshire South	1 541	1 616	1 596	1 675	-	-	3	1	-	-	1.9	0.6
Borders	788	860	663	733	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clackmannanshire	468	345	342	311	-	-	1	-	-	-	2.9	-
Dumfries & Galloway	1 958	1 996	1 887	1 935	-	-	1	6	-	-	0.5	3.1
Dunbartonshire East	842	881	961	**	-	-	1	**	-	-	1.0	**
Dunbartonshire West	1 180	1 305	1 299	**	1	6	5	**	0.8	4.6	3.8	**
Dundee City	1 626	913	500	517	3	14	2	3	1.8	15.3	4.0	5.8
Edinburgh City	4 337	4 797	5 089	5 088	6	2	5	-	1.4	0.4	1.0	-
Falkirk	2 478	2 466	2 481	2 198	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	0.9
Fife	3 681	3 738	4 201	4 314	1	2	3	1	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.2
Glasgow City	7 998	8 524	7 848	**	62	70	84	**	7.8	8.2	10.7	**
Highland	1 517	1 435	1 437	1 301	-	-	1	-	-	-	0.7	-
Inverclyde	1 069	1 027	998	1 154	5	3	4	2	4.7	2.9	4.0	1.7
Lanarkshire North	3 845	4 122	4 080	3 110	1	4	1	-	0.3	1.0	0.2	-
Lanarkshire South	3 862	3 961	3 644	2 786	3	7	5	-	0.8	1.8	1.4	-
Lothian East	598	548	759	741	1	-	1	-	1.7	-	1.3	-
Lothian West	4 121	3 886	3 470	3 329	-	4	-	-	-	1.0	-	-
Midlothian	717	774	1 032	951	-	-	1	-	-	-	1.0	-
Moray	545	510	370	181	1	-	-	-	1.8	-	-	-
Perth & Kinross	500	529	397	383	-	1	3	3	-	1.9	7.6	7.8
Renfrewshire	5 089	5 195	5 376	5 479	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	0.2
Renfrewshire East	1 576	1 719	1 584	**	-	-	-	**	-	-	-	**
Stirling	650	608	618	490	-	-	1	2	-	-	1.6	4.1
Island Councils <sup>3</sup>	476	487	519	**	-	-	-	**	-	-	-	**
Other <sup>2</sup>	344	355	569	1 118	1	3	2	1	2.9	8.5	3.5	0.9
<i>by age at discharge</i>												
Under 15 years	56	31	39	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19 years	6 101	6 686	6 592	6 132	10	25	36	21	1.6	3.7	5.5	3.4
20-24 years	12 931	12 561	11 884	10 537	38	52	71	34	2.9	4.1	6.0	3.2
25-29 years	19 792	19 009	18 722	15 401	37	52	45	37	1.9	2.7	2.4	2.4
30-34 years	15 832	16 504	16 612	14 673	13	15	18	5	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.3
35 years and over	7 046	8 063	8 274	7 563	1	3	7	-	0.1	0.4	0.8	-

1 An antenatal discharge is defined as an inpatient or day case where the woman is discharged "still pregnant". A woman may have more than one antenatal discharge. The figures show the total number of discharges, not the number of women discharged.

2 Area of residence "not known" or outwith Scotland.

3 Eileen Siar, Orkney and Shetland councils.

4 Drug misuse is defined using the following International Classification of Disease (10th Revision) codes: O35.5, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F18, and F19.

5 Numbers are lower than expected due to under recording, particularly in Greater Glasgow and Western Isles health board areas.

r Revised.

p Provisional.

\*\* Data not available.

Source: Scottish Morbidity Record (SMR02)

# 65 | Number of maternities<sup>1,2</sup> : 1996/97 - 1999/00

health board, council area of residence and age of mother

	All maternities				Maternities recording drug misuse <sup>5</sup>				Rate per 1 000 Discharges			
	1996/97	1997/98 <sup>r</sup>	1998/99 <sup>r</sup>	1999/00 <sup>6,p</sup>	1996/97	1997/98 <sup>r</sup>	1998/99 <sup>r</sup>	1999/00 <sup>6,p</sup>	1996/97	1997/98 <sup>r</sup>	1998/99 <sup>r</sup>	1999/00 <sup>6,p</sup>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>57 499</b>	<b>57 620</b>	<b>55 537</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>**</b>
<i>by health board</i>												
Argyll and Clyde	4 807	4 823	4 581	4 213	3	8	7	14	0.6	1.7	1.5	3.3
Ayrshire and Arran	4 057	4 004	3 972	3 612	2	2	22	23	0.5	0.5	5.5	6.4
Borders	1 087	1 023	989	1 001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	1 402	1 547	1 399	1 331	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2.3
Fife	3 716	3 658	3 667	3 510	2	5	8	10	0.5	1.4	2.2	2.8
Forth Valley	2 983	3 138	3 098	2 847	1	-	-	3	0.3	-	-	1.1
Grampian	5 917	5 954	5 626	5 470	13	33	37	30	2.2	5.5	6.6	5.5
Greater Glasgow	10 505	10 667	9 893	**	84	54	89	**	8.0	5.1	9.0	**
Highland	2 329	2 358	2 333	2 100	1	-	2	2	0.4	-	0.9	1.0
Lanarkshire	6 521	6 533	6 386	5 504	5	1	3	3	0.8	0.2	0.5	-
Lothian	9 027	8 789	8 695	8 475	13	10	10	5	1.4	1.1	1.2	0.6
Tayside	4 332	4 267	4 013	3 890	20	26	19	23	4.6	6.1	4.7	5.9
Orkney	210	210	200	144	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shetland	249	266	260	244	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Isles	238	231	260	**	-	-	-	**	-	-	-	**
Other <sup>3</sup>	119	152	165	139	1	-	-	-	8.4	-	-	-
<i>by council area</i>												
Aberdeen City	2 326	2 352	2 270	2 262	9	25	31	24	3.9	10.6	13.7	10.6
Aberdeenshire	2 588	2 543	2 350	2 201	-	7	5	6	-	2.8	2.1	2.7
Angus	1 220	1 186	1 138	1 023	3	3	3	1	2.5	2.5	2.6	1.0
Argyll and Bute	902	893	844	695	1	1	-	4	1.1	1.1	-	5.8
Ayrshire East	1 363	1 353	1 308	1 202	-	1	12	11	-	0.7	9.2	9.2
Ayrshire North	1 547	1 533	1 510	1 363	1	1	7	6	0.6	0.7	4.6	4.4
Ayrshire South	1 142	1 116	1 147	1 003	1	-	3	6	0.9	-	2.6	6.0
Borders	1 086	1 023	987	982	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clackmannanshire	587	556	531	516	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	1 402	1 545	1 398	1 330	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2.3
Dunbartonshire East	1 046	1 157	1 092	**	1	-	-	**	1.0	-	-	**
Dunbartonshire West	1 151	1 134	1 068	**	1	1	2	**	0.9	0.9	1.9	**
Dundee City	1 755	1 644	1 565	1 497	15	21	9	18	8.5	12.8	5.8	12.0
Edinburgh City	5 048	4 909	4 754	4 640	12	8	9	4	2.4	1.6	1.9	0.9
Falkirk	1 499	1 635	1 658	1 532	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fife	3 712	3 655	3 656	3 392	2	5	8	10	0.5	1.4	2.2	2.9
Glasgow City	7 359	7 431	6 800	**	80	50	81	**	10.9	6.7	11.9	**
Highland	2 325	2 359	2 306	1 933	1	-	2	2	0.4	-	0.9	1.0
Inverclyde	967	953	920	869	2	6	4	2	2.1	6.3	4.3	2.3
Lanarkshire North	3 944	3 943	3 863	3 055	3	-	3	-	0.8	-	0.8	-
Lanarkshire South	3 387	3 378	3 215	2 705	4	4	7	-	1.2	1.2	2.2	-
Lothian East	1 066	998	998	946	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lothian West	2 003	1 977	1 969	1 898	1	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Midlothian	898	911	932	892	-	1	-	-	-	1.1	-	-
Moray	1 001	1 051	942	699	4	1	-	-	4.0	1.0	-	-
Perth & Kinross	1 351	1 432	1 304	1 300	2	1	7	4	1.5	0.7	5.4	3.1
Renfrewshire	2 051	2 115	1 980	1 883	-	1	1	1	-	0.5	0.5	0.5
Renfrewshire East	994	986	971	**	-	-	1	**	-	-	1.0	**
Stirling	870	934	906	773	1	-	-	3	1.1	-	-	3.9
Island Councils <sup>4</sup>	697	706	718	**	-	-	-	**	-	-	-	**
Other <sup>3</sup>	212	222	437	1 203	1	1	1	-	4.7	4.5	2.3	-
<i>by age of mother</i>												
Under 15 years	30	19	31	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19 years	4 507	4 817	4 775	4 159	16	23	26	27	3.6	4.8	5.4	6.5
20-24 years	10 728	10 145	9 573	8 142	63	48	63	47	5.9	4.7	6.6	5.8
25-29 years	18 786	18 023	16 745	13 602	47	44	73	37	2.5	2.4	4.4	2.7
30-34 years	16 584	17 045	16 572	14 217	14	21	28	18	0.8	1.2	1.7	1.3
35 years and over	6 864	7 571	7 841	6 834	5	3	7	5	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.7

1 Excludes home births.

2 A maternity is defined as a pregnancy which results in a live or stillbirth: multiple pregnancies counted only once.

3 Area of residence "not known" or outwith Scotland.

4 Eilean Siar, Orkney and Shetland councils.

5 Drug misuse is defined using the following International Classification of Disease (10th Revision) codes: O35.5, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F18, and F19.

6 Numbers are lower than expected due to under recording, particularly in Greater Glasgow and Western Isles health board areas.

r Revised.

p Provisional.

\*\* Data not available.

Source : Scottish Morbidity Record (SMR02)

# 66 Neonatal discharges<sup>1</sup> : 1996/97 - 1999/00

health board and council area of residence

	All Discharges				Discharges Recording Drug Misuse <sup>4</sup>				Rate per 1 000 Discharges			
	1996/97	1997/98 <sup>r</sup>	1998/99 <sup>r</sup>	1999/00 <sup>5,p</sup>	1996/97	1997/98 <sup>r</sup>	1998/99 <sup>r</sup>	1999/00 <sup>5,p</sup>	1996/97	1997/98 <sup>r</sup>	1998/99 <sup>r</sup>	1999/00 <sup>5,p</sup>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>17 351</b>	<b>17 322</b>	<b>17 851</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>**</b>
<i>by health board</i>												
Argyll and Clyde	2 303	1 304	1 127	1 038	9	11	22	27	3.9	8.4	19.5	26.0
Ayrshire and Arran	854	998	887	660	10	17	23	27	11.7	17.0	25.9	40.9
Borders	273	238	251	272	-	1	-	2	-	4.2	-	7.4
Dumfries & Galloway	274	315	284	279	2	3	5	7	7.3	9.5	17.6	25.1
Fife	570	527	532	488	6	6	10	15	10.5	11.4	18.8	30.7
Forth Valley	580	676	609	695	2	7	2	12	3.4	10.4	3.3	17.3
Grampian	3 825	3 952	3 838	3 879	24	60	42	62	6.3	15.2	10.9	16.0
Greater Glasgow	2 989	3 466	3 880	**	59	66	100	**	19.7	19.0	25.8	**
Highland	552	595	555	596	3	4	5	6	5.4	6.7	9.0	10.1
Lanarkshire	1 441	1 390	1 580	1 297	4	2	4	6	2.8	1.4	2.5	4.6
Lothian	2 187	2 414	3 072	3 465	20	16	19	28	9.1	6.6	6.2	8.1
Tayside	1 210	1 106	881	562	21	24	12	3	17.4	21.7	13.6	5.3
Orkney	112	143	121	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shetland	119	127	144	152	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6.6
Western Isles	24	28	29	**	-	-	-	**	-	-	-	**
Other <sup>2</sup>	38	43	61	51	1	-	1	-	26.3	-	16.4	-
<i>by council area</i>												
Aberdeen City	1 688	1 687	1 689	1 824	21	43	36	44	12.4	25.5	21.3	24.1
Aberdeenshire	1 884	1 981	1 938	1 883	1	15	6	138	0.5	7.6	3.1	6.9
Angus	290	269	247	111	2	3	2	-	6.9	11.2	8.1	-
Argyll and Bute	584	286	261	209	1	-	3	7	1.7	-	11.5	33.5
Ayrshire East	307	353	285	248	7	9	12	11	22.8	25.5	42.1	44.4
Ayrshire North	323	372	352	228	1	4	8	11	3.1	10.8	22.7	48.2
Ayrshire South	224	272	248	180	2	4	3	5	8.9	14.7	12.1	27.8
Borders	270	238	251	263	-	1	-	2	-	4.2	-	7.6
Clackmannanshire	118	148	142	146	1	-	1	1	8.5	-	7.0	6.8
Dumfries & Galloway	274	314	284	276	2	3	5	7	7.3	9.6	17.6	25.4
Dunbartonshire East	270	398	423	**	-	-	2	**	-	-	4.7	**
Dunbartonshire West	733	410	448	**	2	4	6	**	2.7	9.8	13.4	**
Dundee City	518	451	379	173	9	16	8	1	17.4	35.5	21.1	5.8
Edinburgh City	1 318	1 543	1 954	2 181	18	15	14	27	13.7	9.7	7.2	12.4
Falkirk	233	268	192	232	-	5	-	4	-	18.7	-	17.2
Fife	567	526	531	469	6	6	10	15	10.6	11.4	18.8	32.0
Glasgow City	2 215	2 524	2 733	**	58	59	89	**	26.2	23.4	32.6	**
Highland	551	594	554	564	3	4	5	3	5.4	6.7	9.0	5.3
Inverclyde	678	192	158	220	2	5	6	9	2.9	26.0	38.0	40.9
Lanarkshire North	930	920	987	666	3	2	4	1	3.2	2.2	4.1	1.5
Lanarkshire South	667	643	792	696	2	4	6	5	3.0	6.2	7.6	7.2
Lothian East	171	159	420	488	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2.0
Lothian West	471	422	307	336	1	1	5	-	2.1	2.4	16.3	-
Midlothian	225	290	375	415	1	-	-	-	4.4	-	-	-
Moray	252	282	186	80	2	2	2	-	7.9	7.1	-	-
Perth & Kinross	401	386	252	256	10	5	2	2	24.9	13.0	7.9	7.8
Renfrewshire	450	517	447	402	3	1	7	5	6.7	1.9	15.7	12.4
Renfrewshire East	196	256	300	**	1	4	3	**	5.1	15.6	10.0	**
Stirling	225	262	274	305	1	2	1	7	4.4	7.6	3.6	23.0
Island Councils <sup>3</sup>	255	298	294	**	-	-	-	**	-	-	-	-
Other <sup>2</sup>	63	61	148	351	1	-	1	8	15.9	-	6.8	22.8

1 A baby may be admitted to and discharged from neonatal care more than once. Figures relate to the total number of discharges, not to the number of individual babies.

2 Area of residence "not known" or outwith Scotland.

3 Eileen Siar, Orkney and Shetland councils.

4 Drug misuse is defined using the following International Classification of Disease (10th Revision) codes: O35.5, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F18, and F19.

5 Numbers are lower than expected due to under recording, particularly in Greater Glasgow and Western Isles health board areas.

r Revised.

p Provisional.

\*\* Data not available.

Source : Scottish Morbidity Record (SMR11)