

HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C infection

HIV

In 1999, the number of reported HIV-infected injectors (twenty-one) was the lowest annual number on record (Table 73); the corresponding figures for 1998 and 1997 were 25 and 42 respectively. Of the 21, six were from Greater Glasgow, five from Lothian and two from Lanarkshire. The prevalence of HIV among injectors having a named HIV test in Scotland has also decreased to its lowest level. In 1999, 20 of 2 434 injectors tested (0.8 per cent) were antibody positive; this compares with prevalences of between 2 per cent and 3.7 per cent during 1989 and 1993 (data not shown), a constant prevalence of around 1.5 per cent during 1994-1997 and a prevalence of 0.9 per cent in 1998.

It would appear that the incidence of HIV among injectors in Scotland is lower now than it has been since infection was first introduced into the country's injecting populations in 1983. Interventions such as needle/syringe exchange and methadone maintenance programmes have been effective in making HIV transmission among injectors in Scotland a relatively rare occurrence. Indeed, apart from the outbreak of HIV among injector-inmates at HMP Glenochil in 1993, transmission among injectors in the 1990s has been sporadic not only in Scotland but elsewhere in the UK. There are signs, however, that the potential for a resurgence of HIV among injectors in Scotland is increasing (see sections on Hepatitis B and C below).

To the end of 1999, 1224 HIV infected injecting drug users had been reported by HIV testing laboratories to SCIEH (Table 75); 554 (45 per cent) were known to have died. Between January 1998 and December 1999, 484 HIV infected injectors were in specialised clinical care, as indicated by the fact that they underwent CD4 count testing to assess their immunological status and thus the stage of HIV disease they had reached (Table 77). The majority of cases (276) resided in Lothian. Of the 484, 173 (36 per cent) had a most recent CD4 count of between zero and 200 cells per mm³ (severe disease), 196 had a count of between 201 and 500 cells (moderate to mild disease), and 112 had a normal count which exceeded 500 cells per mm³.

Between one-third and one-half of HIV infected injectors who had their very first ever CD4 count during 1996 – 1999, had severe HIV disease as indicated by a count of less than 200 cells per mm³ (Table 79). Since the first CD4 count is usually performed within weeks of the individual becoming diagnosed, it would appear that a large proportion of infected injectors are discovering they are HIV positive at a late stage of their HIV disease progression.

Of the 484 HIV infected injectors who underwent immunological monitoring during January 1998 – December 1999, 233 (48 per cent) were prescribed two or more antiretroviral drugs during this period (Table 78). While we do not know how well these individuals were adhering to their therapeutic regimens, it is clear that most injectors who are eligible for therapy are actually receiving it. The impact of combination antiretroviral therapy (introduced in Scotland during 1996) on HIV disease progression is demonstrated by the recent reduction in AIDS cases and AIDS deaths among injecting drug users. During 1993 – 1995, the average annual number of AIDS registrations was 53 (Table 72); in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999, the number of registrations were 30, 36, 18 and 14 respectively. Likewise, only 13 AIDS deaths among injectors were recorded in 1999, compared to 20 in 1997, 42 in 1996 and 52 in 1995.

Hepatitis B

In 1999, 386 cases of Hepatitis B infection, the highest annual total since 1986, were reported by laboratories to SCIEH (Table 71); in 1997 and 1998, 215 and 295 cases respectively were reported. 115 of the 386 reports mentioned injecting drug use as the patient's principal risk factor but it is likely that the majority of cases acquired their infection through injecting practices. 65 of the 115 injecting-related cases were from Grampian. Further measures have been taken to reduce needle/syringe sharing among this city's injectors but it is concerning that Hepatitis B is so incident in an area which has one of the most comprehensive needle/syringe exchange schemes in Scotland. In 1999, the incidence of Hepatitis B infection associated with injecting drug use, also increased in Tayside and Greater Glasgow; health boards with large injecting populations. In Argyll

& Clyde, a decrease in the number of injecting-related reports from 17 in 1998 to 11 in 1999 was seen; this observation reflects the impact of interventions which were introduced to control the epidemic of Hepatitis B among injectors from Port Glasgow.

Following the identification of several cases of Hepatitis B infection in Scotland's prisons, the Scottish Prison Service introduced routine Hepatitis B vaccination within the prison setting, an initiative which became fully established in 1999. It is hoped that this measure and increased efforts to vaccinate injectors in the community will help to control the spread of Hepatitis B infection which has risen to levels approaching those seen in the mid-1980s. The Hepatitis B virus, however, is less virulent than HIV and Hepatitis C. Accordingly, it is important that we do not lose sight of the root problem – namely, injectors sharing injecting equipment. It is worrying that levels of needle/syringe sharing among injectors – as indicated by data held on Scotland's Drug Misuse Database – have increased during the mid-late 1990s; in 1999/00, 34 per cent of injectors registered with the above database, had shared a needle/syringe in the previous month. Despite more sterile needles and syringes being distributed to injectors than ever before, the frequency of "sharing" is high and increasing. It is essential that the reasons why injectors continue to place themselves at risk of acquiring bloodborne infections are elucidated and interventions to reduce levels of sharing are implemented.

Hepatitis C

To December 1998, 8 075 persons in Scotland had been diagnosed as having had Hepatitis C infection (Table 81); information on laboratory request forms indicated that 4 307 (53 per cent) were injecting drug users but it is likely that the majority of the 3 080 (38 per cent), for whom no risk information was available, also acquired their HCV through injecting practices. A total of 2 130 persons received their diagnosis in 1998; this compares with 1 499 in 1997 and 521 in 1993. Thirty-seven per cent of the 8 075 cases resided in Greater Glasgow, 19 per cent in Lothian, 9 per cent in Tayside and 11 per cent in Grampian.

Statistical models to estimate the total number of HCV infected persons in Scotland are being developed but preliminary work suggests that the overall figure is likely to be between 20 000 and 40 000. Since very large numbers were infected prior to 1990 and since the rate of progression to cirrhosis of the liver within 20 years of infection is estimated to be 20 per cent, several thousand individuals may present with symptoms of chronic liver disease to health services during the next 10 – 15 years.

Ribavirin and Interferon therapy, combined, leads to sustained clearance of HCV infection from the circulation in about 40 per cent of treated cases; infected injectors who continue to inject, however, are ineligible for treatment. While drug treatment will be used increasingly in the management of HCV infected persons, it is essential the prevention remains the principal goal. There is evidence to indicate that the incidence of HCV among injectors has declined during the era of needle/syringe exchange, methadone maintenance therapy and other harm reduction initiatives. Nevertheless, in many parts of Scotland, infections are still occurring; in Glasgow, for example, surveys indicated that the annual incidence of HCV among the city's injectors during the late 1990s was 20-30 per cent. The prevention of this infection among injectors – particularly in the absence of an HCV vaccine – is one of Scotland's greatest public health challenges. In recognition of this, the Scottish Executive commissioned a Scottish Needs Assessment Programme group on Hepatitis C infection and its report has just been published.

In Scotland:

- A total of 8 075 cases of Hepatitis C antibody positivity were known as of 31 December 1998; included are 55 persons under the age of 15 (Table 82)
- Eighty-six per cent (6 918) of the 8 075 were aged between 15 and 44 and 11 per cent (904) were aged 45 and over (Table 82)
- Of the 8 075 cases, 45 per cent (3 629) were diagnosed during 1997 and 1998 (Table 81)
- Fifty-three per cent (4 307) of all cases were known to have ever injected drugs and of the 3 080 cases for whom there was no risk information available, 75 per cent (2 315) were aged between 15 and 44 - the range within which most injecting drug users belonged - at the time of testing (Table 82)
- Thirty-seven per cent (2 986) of cases resided in Greater Glasgow, 19 per cent (1 518) in Lothian, and 9 per cent in Tayside (697) (Table 81).

71 | Hepatitis B infected injecting drug users : 1990 - 1999

health board ¹

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<i>Hepatitis B (Drug misuse cases)</i>										
Argyll & Clyde	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	15	17	11
Ayrshire & Arran	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Forth Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grampian	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	25	65
Greater Glasgow	44	41	17	14	11	12	7	7	13	20
Highland	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Lanarkshire	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lothian	1	5	1	3	1	2	1	-	-	1
Tayside	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	13
Not known	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	-
Scotland	52	50	21	17	17	14	20	24	58	115
<i>Hepatitis B (All cases)</i>										
Scotland	249	200	120	186	166	153	191	215	295	386

¹ 'Health board' refers to the person's health board of residence, or where this is not known the health board of source of specimen.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH).

72 | AIDS cases and deaths registered, and HIV-infection reports among injecting drug users ¹

as at 31 December of year indicated

	AIDS cases registered			AIDS deaths			HIV-infected reports		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
<i>IV drug user</i>									
1987	1	2	3	1	1	2	119	57	176
1988	5	1	6	1	-	1	47	24	71
1989	18	6	24	4	4	8	37	14	51
1990	22	3	25	8	5	13	31	7	38
1991	23	12	35	29	9	38	37	14	51
1992	16	8	24	23	1	24	27	11	38
1993	37	17	54	21	11	32	48	10	58
1994	43	13	56	32	17	49	19	8	27
1995	33	17	50	39	13	52	23	6	29
1996	21	9	30	30	12	42	29	5	34
1997	26	10	36	16	4	20	30	12	42
1998	16	2	18	10	1	11	20	5	25
1999	9	5	14	11	2	13	15	6	21
1999 (cumulative total)	270	106	376	225	80	305	860	364	1 224
<i>All Transmission Categories (cumulative total)</i>									
1999	802	201	1 003	614	131	745	2 309	718	3 027

¹ Figures are different to those presented in the past. Deaths relate to the number of deaths occurring during the given year - irrespective of when the case was registered. Figures include several males who have had sexual intercourse with other males.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH).
(Data are from SCIEH's AIDS and HIV-positive registers).

73 | HIV-infected injecting drug users : 1985, 1990 - 1999¹

health board², and year of report ; as at 31 December 1999

	1985	1986	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Scotland	164	242	38	51	38	58	27	29	34	42	25	21
Argyll & Clyde	1	3	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	1	-	1
Ayrshire & Arran	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Borders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Dumfries & Galloway	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fife	2	10	-	2	1	-	-	3	1	1	1	1
Forth Valley	3	5	-	2	-	5	-	-	2	1	-	1
Grampian	2	4	-	2	1	1	2	1	1	4	-	1
Greater Glasgow	9	30	8	7	6	15	4	9	8	8	7	6
Highland	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	3	-	-
Lanarkshire	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	2
Lothian	108	109	20	14	15	16	10	10	13	12	11	5
Tayside	34	79	9	22	13	15	9	4	8	11	3	4

¹ Figures are different to those presented in the past.

² 'Health board' refers to the person's health board of residence, or where this is not known the health board of source of specimen.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH).
(Data are from SCIEH's AIDS and HIV-positive registers).

74 | HIV-infected injecting drug users : 1985, 1990 - 1999¹

age at time of earliest positive specimen, and year of report ; as at 31 December 1999

	1985	1986	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total	164	242	38	51	38	58	27	29	34	42	25	21
15-19	27	45	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	-
20-24	63	98	15	12	12	16	2	3	2	6	3	4
25-29	43	50	8	20	11	18	8	8	9	4	6	5
30-34	18	31	6	11	8	16	6	11	13	18	5	6
35-39	9	11	4	6	3	3	6	6	7	6	8	2
40-44	-	1	1	-	3	3	4	1	-	3	3	3
45 and over	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3	2	-	1
Not Known	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Figures are different to those presented in the past.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH).
(Data are from SCIEH's AIDS and HIV-positive registers).

75 | HIV-infected injecting drug users¹

health board², gender and vital status ; as at 31 December 1999

	Male		Female		Total	
	Alive	Dead	Alive	Dead	Alive	Dead
Total	455	405	215	149	670	554
Argyll & Clyde	4	4	5	2	9	6
Ayrshire & Arran	2	1	2	-	4	1
Borders	1	1	-	-	1	1
Dumfries & Galloway	3	1	2	-	5	1
Fife	14	4	10	3	24	7
Forth Valley	11	5	6	1	17	6
Grampian	13	8	3	2	16	10
Greater Glasgow	76	34	34	21	110	55
Highland	2	2	3	-	5	2
Lanarkshire	8	4	2	1	10	5
Lothian	231	226	117	72	348	298
Tayside	90	115	31	47	121	162

1 Figures are different to those presented in the past.

2 'Health board' refers to the person's health board of residence, or where this is not known the health board of source of specimen.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH).
(Data are from SCIEH's AIDS and HIV-positive registers).

76 | HIV-infected persons undergoing immunological monitoring in Scotland - CD4 monitoring : 1992 - 1999¹

number of individuals monitored, health board of laboratory², and year of test ; as at 31 December 1999

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Scotland	959	1 027	1 010	974	941	1 055	1 129	1 205
Ayrshire & Arran	1	2	2	11	13	15	15	16
Grampian	18	31	42	41	46	55	60	60
Greater Glasgow	222	249	252	249	238	264	301	332
Highland	-	-	1	1	3	5	8	10
Lanarkshire	-	-	7	11	8	10	21	21
Lothian	564	578	557	540	521	578	592	626
Tayside	154	167	149	121	112	128	132	140

1 The data in the CD4 database is under constant review, which may result in some differences between this and previously published tables.

2 The only laboratories which analyse such data are based in the above named health board areas.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH).
(Data are from SCIEH's AIDS and HIV-positive registers).

77 | HIV-infected persons undergoing immunological monitoring ; most recent CD4 count ¹

health board of laboratory², risk group (persons monitored during 1998 and 1999 ; as at 31 December 1999)

		Most recent CD4 count			
	Risk Category	0 - 200	201 - 500	500+	Total
Scotland	Injecting Drug User	173	196	112	484
	Total	378	623	336	1 341
Ayrshire & Arran	Injecting Drug User	-	1	-	1
	Total	8	6	2	16
Grampian	Injecting Drug User	4	4	6	14
	Total	18	30	23	71
Greater Glasgow	Injecting Drug User	31	30	25	86
	Total	90	151	121	362
Highland	Injecting Drug User	1	1	-	2
	Total	5	6	-	11
Lanarkshire	Injecting Drug User	1	2	3	6
	Total	8	10	7	25
Lothian	Injecting Drug User	111	118	47	276
	Total	210	350	125	685
Tayside	Injecting Drug User	25	40	31	99
	Total	39	70	58	171

1 The data in the CD4 database is under constant review, which may result in some differences between this and previously published tables.

2 The only laboratories which analyse such data are based in the above named health board areas.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH).
(Data are from SCIEH's AIDS and HIV-positive registers).

78 | HIV-infected persons undergoing immunological monitoring ; by highest level of anti-retroviral therapy ¹

health board of laboratory ², risk group (persons monitored during 1998 and 1999 ; as at 31 December 1999)

Highest level of therapy during 1998/1999 (number of anti-retroviral drugs)

	Risk Category	Not known	None	Mono	Dual	Triple	Four or more	Total
Scotland	Injecting drug user	30	218	3	43	167	23	484
	Total	110	464	4	100	567	96	1 341
Ayrshire & Arran	Injecting drug user	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Total	1	6	-	-	7	2	16
Grampian	Injecting drug user	1	3	-	3	4	3	14
	Total	11	15	-	7	32	6	71
Greater Glasgow	Injecting drug user	7	37	-	11	27	4	86
	Total	39	118	-	25	147	33	362
Highland	Injecting drug user	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
	Total	-	3	-	3	4	1	11
Lanarkshire	Injecting drug user	-	2	-	-	3	1	6
	Total	1	8	-	-	14	2	25
Lothian	Injecting drug user	19	119	3	26	95	14	276
	Total	51	239	3	60	282	50	685
Tayside	Injecting drug user	3	57	-	2	36	1	99
	Total	7	75	1	5	81	2	171

¹ The data in the CD4 database is under constant review, which may result in some differences between this and previously published tables.

² The only laboratories which analyse such data are based in the above named health board areas.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH).
(Data are from SCIEH's AIDS and HIV-positive registers).

79 | HIV-infected injecting drug users undergoing immunological monitoring for the 1st time ; by first CD4 count¹ : 1996 - 1999

health board of laboratory², year of entry

	Year of 1st CD4 count	First CD4 count			Total
		0 - 200	201 - 500	500+	
Scotland	1996	18	9	8	35
	1997	15	13	10	38
	1998	10	9	7	26
	1999	12	8	7	27
Ayrshire & Arran	1996	-	-	-	-
	1997	1	-	-	1
	1998	-	-	-	-
	1999	-	-	-	-
Grampian	1996	2	-	-	2
	1997	-	-	1	1
	1998	-	-	-	-
	1999	-	-	-	-
Greater Glasgow	1996	4	1	2	7
	1997	2	10	3	15
	1998	5	2	1	8
	1999	5	3	-	8
Lanarkshire	1996	-	-	-	-
	1997	-	-	-	-
	1998	1	-	1	2
	1999	-	-	-	-
Lothian	1996	9	5	3	17
	1997	7	3	3	13
	1998	1	4	1	6
	1999	4	2	3	9
Tayside	1996	3	3	3	9
	1997	5	-	3	8
	1998	3	3	3	9
	1999	3	3	4	10

1 The data in the CD4 database is under constant review, which may result in some differences between this and previously published tables.

2 The only laboratories which analyse such data are based in the above named health board areas.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH).
(Data are from SCIEH's AIDS and HIV-positive registers).

80 | HIV prevalence among injecting drug users having a named HIV test : 1996 - 1999

health board ¹ and year of test ²

	1996			1997			1998			1999		
	Tests		New positives	Tests		New positives	Tests		New positives	Tests		New positives
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Scotland	1 472	22	1.49	1 496	24	1.60	2 019	19	0.94	2 434	20	0.82
Argyll & Clyde	41	-	-	29	-	-	105	-	-	94	-	-
Ayrshire & Arran	28	-	-	28	-	-	43	-	-	58	-	-
Borders	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	11	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	18	-	-	19	-	-	35	-	-	41	-	-
Fife	-	-	-	1	-	-	19	-	-	43	-	-
Forth Valley	105	1	0.95	89	1	1.12	100	2	2.00	121	1	0.83
Grampian	229	-	-	215	1	-	343	-	-	433	1	-
Greater Glasgow	465	6	1.29	489	8	1.64	731	5	0.68	867	9	1.04
Highland	27	1	3.70	56	2	3.57	52	-	-	64	-	-
Lanarkshire	50	-	-	52	-	-	87	1	1.15	112	2	1.79
Lothian	330	8	2.42	329	2	0.61	336	6	1.79	402	4	1.00
Shetland	1	-	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	9	-	-
Tayside	177	6	3.39	175	10	5.71	11	-	-	179	3	1.68
Western Isles	1	-	-	3	-	-	152	5	3.29	-	-	-
Not Known	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

1 'Health board' refers to the person's health board of residence, or where this is not known the health board of source of specimen.

2 For each individual tested, only the first test within a calendar year is included.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH).
(Data are from SCIEH's AIDS and HIV-positive registers).

81 | Hepatitis C infected persons by probable/possible route of transmission : 1991 - 1998

health board¹ and year of specimen

		Prior to 1991	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Total
Scotland	Total	64	278	383	521	827	1 132	1 241	1 499	2 130	8 075
	Injecting drug user	15	62	140	324	441	617	727	832	1 149	4 307
	Other ²	26	131	111	61	56	95	72	73	63	688
	Not known	23	85	132	136	330	420	442	594	918	3 080
Argyll & Clyde	Total	3	35	44	15	29	52	48	86	132	444
	Injecting drug user	-	4	7	5	5	23	25	39	91	199
	Other ²	1	20	21	3	3	7	2	6	1	64
	Not known	2	11	16	7	21	22	21	41	40	181
Ayrshire & Arran	Total	3	6	10	8	27	32	35	55	86	262
	Injecting drug user	1	1	5	3	6	8	7	16	37	84
	Other ²	2	4	3	3	6	2	6	3	1	30
	Not known	-	1	2	2	15	22	22	36	48	148
Borders	Total	-	2	8	5	7	13	5	6	8	54
	Injecting drug user	-	-	-	2	5	7	3	4	3	24
	Other ²	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	5
	Not known	-	-	7	2	2	5	2	2	5	25
Dumfries & Galloway	Total	-	2	1	5	18	23	13	22	28	112
	Injecting drug user	-	-	-	2	9	7	6	12	14	50
	Other ²	-	2	1	2	1	1	-	1	4	12
	Not known	-	-	-	1	8	15	7	9	10	50
Fife	Total	1	6	6	11	13	22	48	35	53	195
	Injecting drug user	-	-	2	2	9	16	32	24	36	121
	Other ²	-	5	3	1	1	1	2	3	2	18
	Not known	1	1	1	8	3	5	14	8	15	56
Forth Valley	Total	1	15	10	21	31	41	50	71	96	336
	Injecting drug user	-	3	3	10	14	16	20	25	38	129
	Other ²	-	9	1	1	2	4	-	3	3	23
	Not known	1	3	6	10	15	21	30	43	55	184
Grampian	Total	3	6	20	23	56	147	183	168	246	852
	Injecting drug user	-	1	9	9	35	100	135	121	181	591
	Other ²	2	5	5	6	7	16	7	7	7	62
	Not known	1	-	6	8	14	31	41	40	58	199
Greater Glasgow	Total	6	71	111	160	273	385	407	629	944	2 986
	Injecting drug user	4	22	38	91	98	174	219	323	484	1 453
	Other ²	2	31	32	18	12	17	12	21	15	160
	Not known	-	18	41	51	163	194	176	285	445	1 373
Highland	Total	-	-	9	1	7	30	22	49	38	156
	Injecting drug user	-	-	-	-	1	3	8	21	9	42
	Other ²	-	-	6	-	-	8	2	4	1	21
	Not known	-	-	3	1	6	19	12	24	28	93

1 'Health board' refers to the person's health board of residence, or where this is not known the health board of source of specimen.

2 'Other' includes sexual contact, tattoo/body piercing, needlestick, bite, perinatal transmission, and blood factor/blood transfusion risk. Any persons who acquired their infection through blood transfusion will have done so prior to the introduction of Hepatitis C antibody testing of blood donors in 1991.

/ continued

81 | **Hepatitis C infected persons by probable/possible route of transmission : 1991 - 1998**
continued | health board¹ and year of specimen

		Prior to 1991	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Total
Lanarkshire	Total	3	12	19	15	36	51	76	78	148	438
	Injecting drug user	1	-	3	6	9	24	36	39	71	189
	Other ²	-	6	11	5	1	5	7	1	1	37
	Not known	2	6	5	4	26	22	33	38	76	212
Lothian	Total	28	115	121	196	235	196	248	188	191	1 518
	Injecting drug user	9	30	61	147	186	143	160	123	108	967
	Other ²	5	42	21	17	16	17	21	19	15	173
	Not known	14	43	39	32	33	36	67	46	68	378
Orkney	Total	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	3	8
	Injecting drug user	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
	Other ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
	Not known	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	3
Shetland	Total	-	1	2	-	1	3	2	2	3	14
	Injecting drug user	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	6
	Other ²	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	4
	Not known	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	4
Tayside	Total	16	7	20	60	94	136	102	108	154	697
	Injecting drug user	-	1	12	47	64	94	76	82	72	448
	Other ²	14	4	4	4	7	15	11	4	13	76
	Not known	2	2	4	9	23	27	15	22	69	173
Western Isles	Total	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
	Injecting drug user	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Other ²	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Not known	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

1 'Health board' refers to the person's health board of residence, or where this is not known the health board of source of specimen.

2 'Other' includes sexual contact, tattoo/body piercing, needlestick, bite, perinatal transmission, and blood factor/blood transfusion risk. Any persons who acquired their infection through blood transfusion will have done so prior to the introduction of Hepatitis C antibody testing of blood donors in 1991.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH): Hepatitis C Register.

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age group at time of earliest positive specimen and probable/possible route of transmission (to 31 December 1998)

	Injecting drug user	Other ¹	Not known	Total
Total	4 307	688	3 080	8 075
Under 15	-	42	13	55
15 - 19	170	31	58	259
20 - 24	809	61	310	1 180
25 - 29	1 335	105	599	2 039
30 - 34	1 025	115	599	1 739
35 - 39	522	89	429	1 040
40 - 44	261	80	320	661
45 and over	105	151	648	904
Not known	80	14	104	198

¹ 'Other' includes sexual contact, tattoo/body piercing, needlestick, bite, perinatal transmission, and blood factor/blood transfusion risk. Any persons who acquired their infection through blood transfusion will have done so prior to the introduction of Hepatitis C antibody testing of blood donors in 1991.

Source : The Scottish Centre for Infection & Environmental Health (SCIEH): Hepatitis C Register.