

A3

Information from general practice

Key Points

- In 2001, 1 in 100 (1.1 per cent) males in Scotland consulting a GP received a diagnosis of drug misuse compared to 1 in 200 (0.5 per cent) females. (Table A3.1)
- For both men and women with a drug misuse diagnosis, depression and anxiety disorders were the top two most common co-morbidities. (Table A3.3)
- There is a marked effect of deprivation on contact rates for patients with a diagnosis of drug misuse. For both 2000 and 2001 the contact rates rose as deprivation increased. (Table A3.4)

Introduction

Continuous Morbidity Recording (CMR) is a system which collects primary care morbidity data from general practices in Scotland. It became part of the National Dataset in April 1998. Data are collected from every face-to-face doctor-patient contact in approximately 80 practices covering 8 per cent of the Scottish population. This sample of the Scottish population is broadly representative of the whole of Scotland in terms of age, sex, deprivation and urban/rural mix. All contacts with practice patients (including temporary residents) are captured.

The data set includes:

Patient Identifier	Generated by GPASS ¹ and practice specific
Date of Birth	
Sex	
Postcode	
Diagnosis	Up to ten diagnoses can be recorded for each contact. Coded using the Read coding system.
Modifier	Describes whether it is the first time the problem has occurred, a recurrence of a previous problem or a persistent problem. This is attached to each diagnosis.
Date of Consultation	
Type of Encounter	Face-to-face patient / GP consultations. Telephone consultations are not included in any analysis
Clinician	Allows the identification of each GP. Contacts are recorded by every doctor (including locums)

Each practice receives feedback on its data together with national comparisons via quarterly and annual reports. An ad hoc service is also provided by ISD Scotland to these practices and to the NHSScotland in general.

Developments to Primary Care Information

Although the analysis in this publication is only based on work carried out by General Practitioners (GPs), there are currently developments in the collection and analysis of information from other members of the Primary Care team, e.g. Practice Nurses, Health Visitors, District Nurses and Community Midwives. This is now established in a small number of practices.

The collection of this Practice Team Information is a very practical way of establishing an electronic patient record held within the general practice. The recording of contacts by different members of a practice allows sharing of information for those providing care for an individual patient.

Discussions with more practices, LHCCs and Primary Care Trusts across Scotland are taking place and it is likely that data collection will be extended to further sites very shortly.

¹ General Practice Administration System for Scotland

Analysis & Definitions

The following analysis is based on data from 50 CMR practices for which data were available for the calendar years, 2000 and 2001.

It is important to note that the information presented in this section of the publication does not give a measure of how prevalent drugs misuse is in the community, as many people who misuse drugs do not visit their General Practice. It does, however, give an insight into some of the characteristics of those who misuse drugs and present to a GP.

For CMR, the diagnosis of drug misuse has been identified using the following set of Read codes:

E02	Drug Psychoses
E24	Drug Dependence (excluding Nicotine Withdrawal)
E25	Non-dependent Abuse of Drugs
Eu1	Mental and Behavioural Disorder Due to Psychoactive Substances (excluding Eu17 use of Tobacco)
SL96	Hallucinogen Poisoning
SL97	Psycho-stimulant Poisoning
SL9y	Other Psychotropic Poisoning
SL9z	Psychotropic Agent Poisoning not otherwise specified

Prevalence and Contact Rates; 2000 and 2001

Tables A3.1 and A3.2 show information for patients both with and without a diagnosis of drug misuse for the years 2000 and 2001. Table A3.1 presents the number of drug misuse patients and contacts as percentages of all patients and contacts. Table A3.2 includes prevalence and contact rates per 1 000 (practice) population. Contact rates for drug misuse by age and gender for 2001 are shown graphically in chart A3.1.

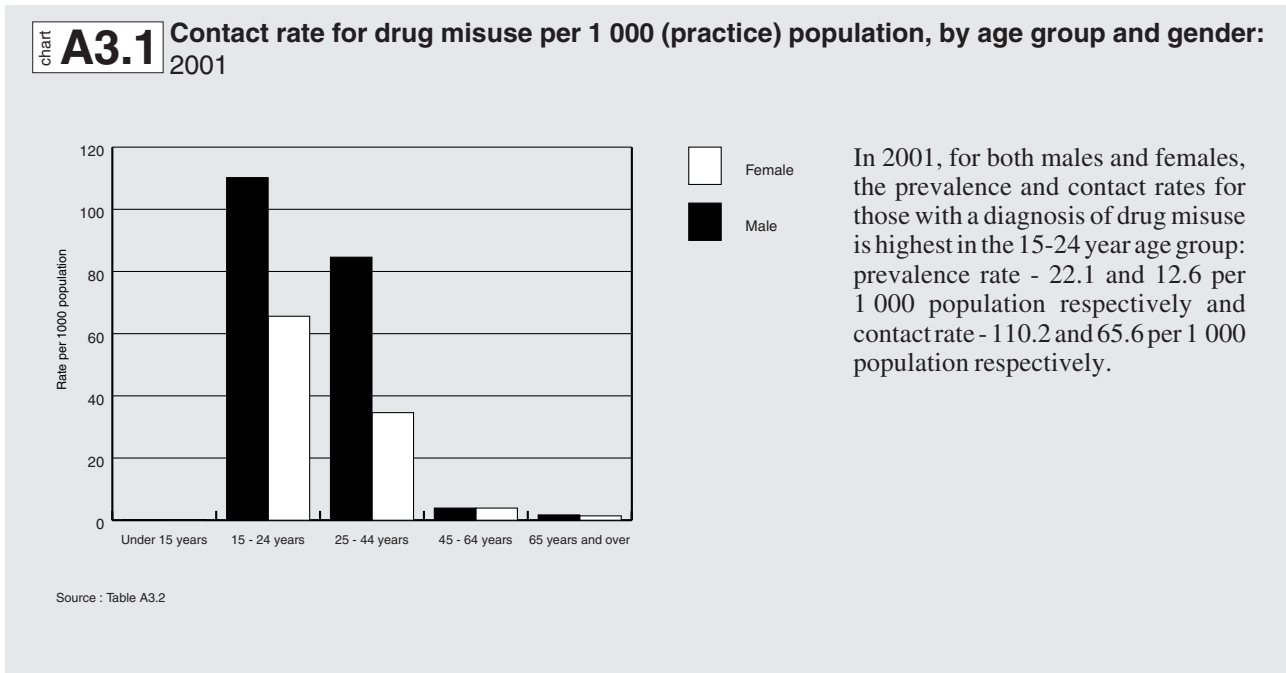
Of all patients attending this sample of GPs, those with a diagnosis of drug misuse account for a very small number of all patients attending their GP (Table A3.1). In 2001, 1 in 100 (1.1 per cent) males in Scotland consulting a GP received a diagnosis of drug misuse compared to 1 in 200 (0.5 per cent) females. These figures vary with age, for example, 3.3 per cent of males aged 15-24 years were recorded as having a drug misuse diagnosis compared with only 0.1 per cent aged 65 years and over.

In 2001, males accounted for 65 per cent of those individuals with a diagnosis of drug misuse, a similar percentage to that found by the Scottish Drug Misuse Database (67 per cent, table B1.6). This compares to 44 per cent of all patients attending in 2001 being male.

Fifty-nine per cent of male patients consulting with their drug misuse were aged 25-44 years, with over a third (35 per cent) aged between 15 and 24 years. Forty-nine per cent of females were aged between 25 and 44 years and 35 per cent aged 15-24 years old.

The prevalence and contact rates, per 1 000 population, for those patients with and without a drug misuse diagnosis in 2000 and 2001 are presented in Table A3.2.

Health impact



The average number of contacts per year¹ is higher in the younger age groups for those with a drug misuse diagnosis. In 2001, for the 15-24 age group, men with a diagnosis of drug misuse generated on average 5 contacts per year compared with an average of 2.5 for male patients without a diagnosis of drug misuse.

Overall, the drug misuse prevalence rates for both men and women have increased slightly from 2000 to 2001. However, while the female contact rate has increased from 18.8 to 19.1 (per 1 000 population), the male contact rate has decreased from 44.1 to 41.0 (per 1 000 population).

¹ The average number of contacts per year is calculated by dividing the prevalence rate by the contact rate.

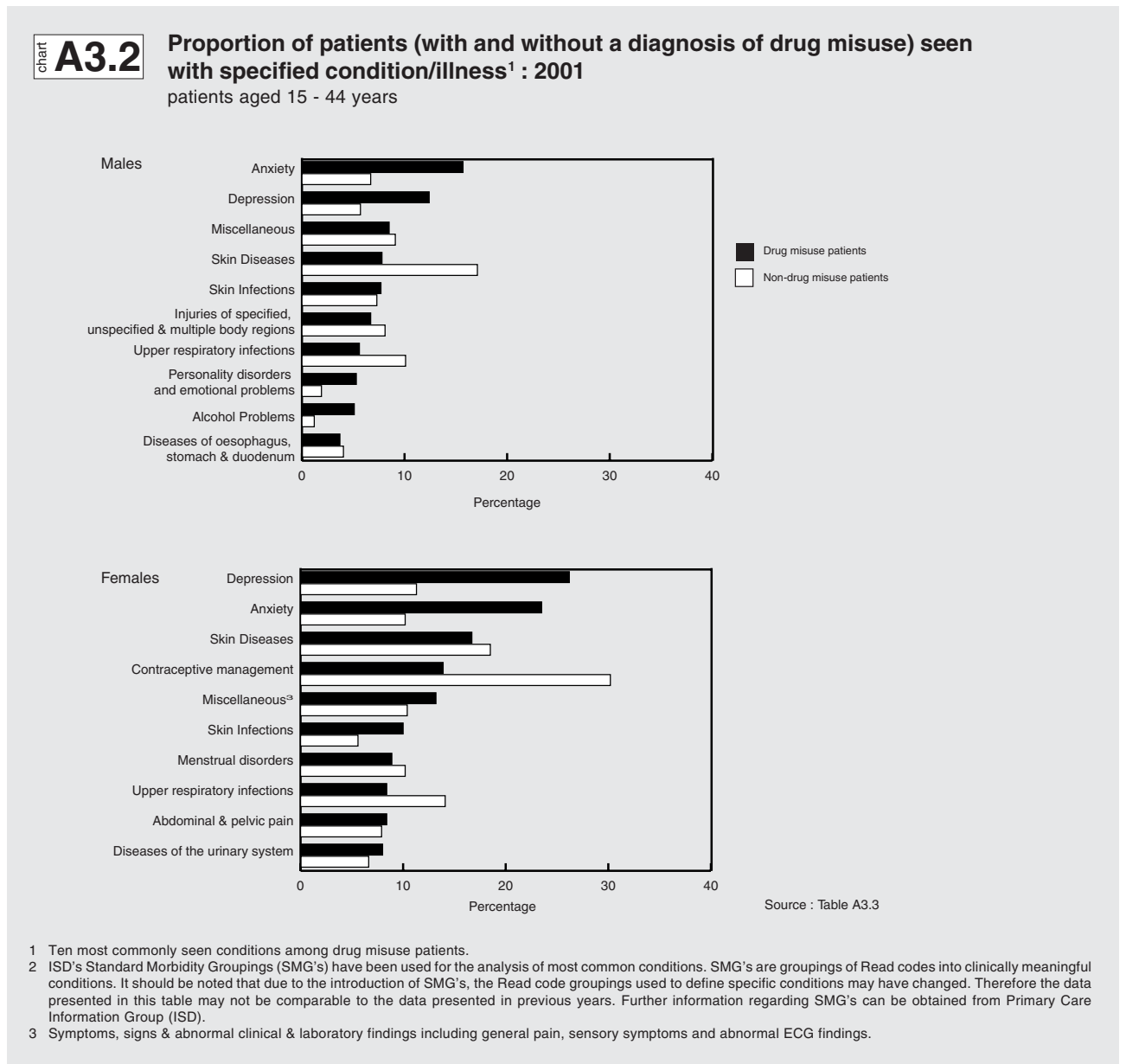
Co-morbidities

Table A3.3 (and Chart A3.2) provides information on the ten most common conditions seen among patients with a drug misuse diagnosis and the corresponding figures for those without a drug misuse diagnosis. The analysis is based on patients aged 15-44 years, the age group with the highest prevalence for drug misuse, and shows the number of patients (and percentage) seen for common conditions out of the total number of drug misuse patients, by gender.

For both men and women with a drug misuse diagnosis, depression and anxiety disorders were the top two most common co-morbidities. For males with a diagnosis of drug misuse, 15.7 per cent received a diagnosis of anxiety and 12.4 per cent of depression. For females, 23.5 per cent of those with a diagnosis of drug misuse were diagnosed with anxiety and 26.2 per cent were diagnosed with depression.

Alcohol problems also features in the top ten most common conditions for males with a diagnosis of drug misuse accounting for 5.1 per cent of all patients, compared with just 1.2 per cent of those without a diagnosis of drug misuse.

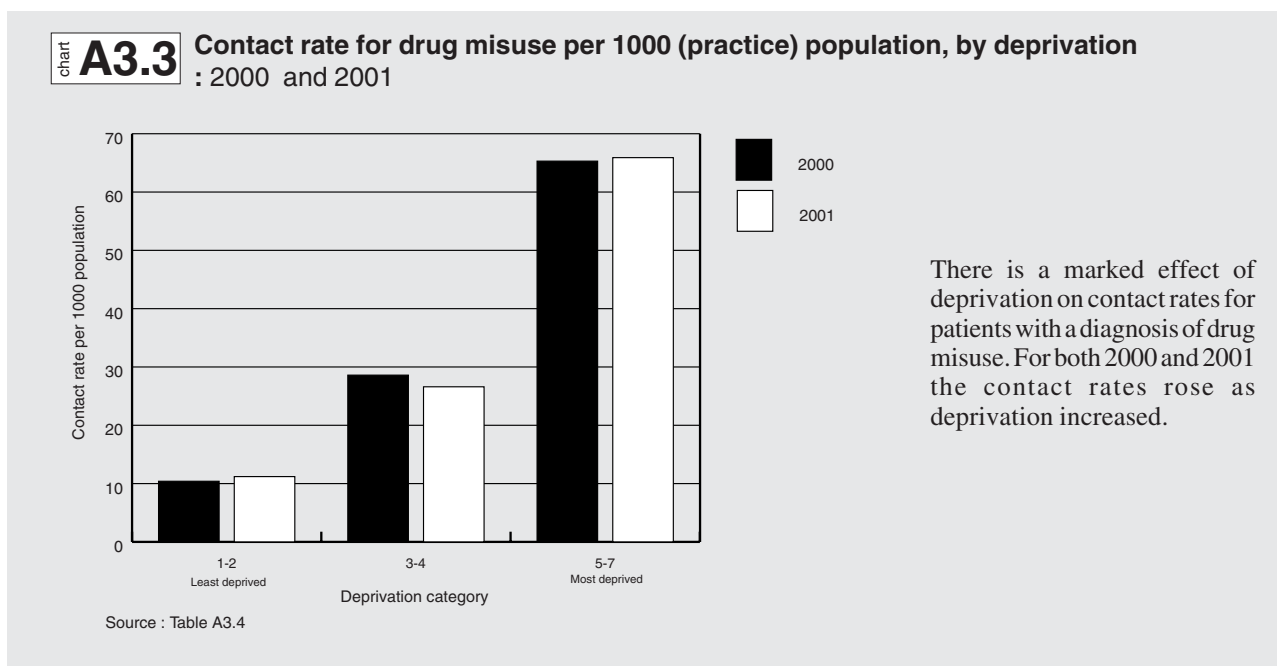
Only 13.9 per cent of female drug misuse patients were seen for Contraceptive Management compared with 30.2 per cent of female non-drugs misuse patients.



Analysis by Deprivation Category

Table A3.4 and chart A3.3 show contact and prevalence rates by deprivation category for the two years 2000 and 2001. Deprivation categories 1-2 are the most affluent, deprivation categories 5-7 being the least affluent.

Health impact



A3.1 Number and percentage of patients with a drug misuse diagnosis; number and percentage of patients of drug misuse contacts : 2000^r and 2001

		Males						Females					
		Total	Under 15 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 years and over	Total	Under 15 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 years and over
Number of patients attending in the period ¹	2000 ^r	108 341	21 643	12 855	29 933	27 347	16 563	137 990	21 006	17 909	41 591	33 257	24 227
	2001	110 221	21 884	12 872	30 463	28 101	16 901	138 921	21 133	17 957	41 567	33 782	24 482
Number of contacts in the period ²	2000 ^r	374 713	61 945	33 579	89 545	105 799	83 845	592 258	59 469	67 212	178 712	155 869	130 996
	2001	381 480	62 238	33 542	92 005	108 932	84 763	597 246	59 329	67 369	179 197	160 410	130 941
Patients with a first diagnosis of drugs misuse	Number												
	2000 ^r	318	3	150	155	8	2	174	1	94	55	18	6
2001	370	1	165	170	23	11	240	3	90	98	29	20	
Percentage ³	2000 ^r	0.3	0.0	1.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0
	2001	0.3	0.0	1.3	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1
Patients with a diagnosis of drugs misuse ⁴	Number												
	2000 ^r	1 178	10	460	667	35	6	571	3	238	267	50	13
2001	1 213	2	422	715	55	19	665	3	235	327	71	29	
Percentage ³	2000 ^r	1.1	0.0	3.6	2.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.1
	2001	1.1	0.0	3.3	2.3	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.0	1.3	0.8	0.2	0.1
Drug misuse contacts	Number												
	2000 ^r	6 821	11	2 491	4 145	151	23	3 004	3	1 389	1 467	124	21
2001	6 352	6	2 104	4 052	156	34	3 049	6	1 227	1 625	153	38	
Percentage ⁵	2000 ^r	1.8	0.0	7.4	4.6	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.1	0.8	0.1	0.0
	2001	1.7	0.0	6.3	4.4	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.8	0.9	0.1	0.0

1 Includes all patients i.e. not only those with a diagnosis of drug misuse.
 2 Includes all contacts i.e. not only those with a diagnosis of drug misuse.
 3 Based on total number of patients attending in the period.
 4 Number of patients with at least one diagnosis of drug misuse during the period.
 5 Based on total number of contacts in the period.

r Revised.

Note : Population source - ISD Scotland, General Medical Practitioner Database.

Source : ISD Scotland, Continuous Morbidity Recording (CMR).

A3.2 | Prevalence and contact rates for practice population¹: 2000^r and 2001

		Males					Females						
		Total	Under 15 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 years and over	Total	Under 15 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 years and over
		Number						Number					
Practice population	2000 ^r	154 504	28 970	19 156	48 054	39 097	19 227	159 379	27 461	18 670	47 185	38 763	27 300
	2001	154 846	28 738	19 095	47 881	39 693	19 439	159 456	27 288	18 712	46 917	39 225	27 314
Drug misuse²													
Prevalence rate ³	2000 ^r	7.6	0.3	24.0	13.9	0.9	0.3	3.6	0.1	12.7	5.7	1.3	0.5
per 1000 population	2001	7.8	0.1	22.1	14.9	1.4	1.0	4.2	0.1	12.6	7.0	1.8	1.1
Contact rate ⁴	2000 ^r	44.1	0.4	130.0	86.3	3.9	1.2	18.8	0.1	74.4	31.1	3.2	0.8
per 1000 population	2001	41.0	0.2	110.2	84.6	3.9	1.7	19.1	0.2	65.6	34.6	3.9	1.4
Non-drug misuse⁵													
Prevalence rate ³	2000 ^r	693.6	746.7	647.1	609.0	698.6	861.1	862.2	764.8	946.5	875.8	856.7	887.0
per 1000 population	2001	704.0	761.4	652.0	621.3	706.6	868.5	867.0	774.3	947.1	879.0	859.4	895.3
Contact rate ⁴	2000 ^r	2 381.1	2 137.9	1 622.9	1 777.2	2 702.2	4 359.6	3 697.2	2 165.5	3 525.6	3 756.4	4 017.9	4 797.6
per 1000 population	2001	2 422.6	2 165.5	1 646.4	1 836.9	2 740.4	4 358.7	3 726.4	2 174.0	3 534.7	3 784.8	4 085.6	4 792.5

- 1 It should be noted that prevalence & contact rates refer to practice population (not general population).
- 2 Patients with at least one diagnosis of drug misuse during the time period.
- 3 Prevalence rates are calculated by dividing the number of patients with at least one diagnosis of the specified condition (see table A3.1) by the practice population.
- 4 Contact rates are calculated by dividing the number of contacts recorded (see table A3.1) within the relevant time period by the practice population.
- 5 Excludes drug misuse patients. Number have been calculated using information from table A3.1.

r Revised.

Note: Population source - ISD Scotland, General Medical Practitioner database.

Source : ISD Scotland, Continuous Morbidity Recording (CMR).

A3.3 | Proportion of patients seen with specified condition/illness^{1,2} : 2001 patients aged 15 - 44 years

	Drug misuse patients		Non-drug misuse patients	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Males	(n = 1 137)		(n = 42 198)	
Anxiety	178	15.7	2 820	6.7
Depression	141	12.4	2 389	5.7
Miscellaneous ³	97	8.5	3 821	9.1
Skin diseases	89	7.8	7 205	17.1
Skin infections	87	7.7	3 095	7.3
Injuries of specified, unspecified & multiple body regions	76	6.7	3 406	8.1
Upper respiratory infections	64	5.6	4 242	10.1
Personality disorders and emotional problems	60	5.3	809	1.9
Alcohol problems	58	5.1	500	1.2
Diseases of oesophagus, stomach & duodenum	42	3.7	1 673	4.0
Females	(n = 562)		(n = 58 962)	
Depression	147	26.2	6 641	11.3
Anxiety	132	23.5	5 986	10.2
Skin diseases	94	16.7	10 918	18.5
Contraceptive management	78	13.9	17 783	30.2
Miscellaneous ³	74	13.2	6 158	10.4
Skin infections	56	10.0	3 306	5.6
Menstrual disorders	50	8.9	6 012	10.2
Abdominal & pelvic pain	47	8.4	4 651	7.9
Upper respiratory infections	47	8.4	8 318	14.1
Diseases of the urinary system	45	8.0	3 910	6.6

- 1 Ten most commonly seen conditions among drug misuse patients.
- 2 ISD's Standard Morbidity Groupings (SMG's) have been used for the analysis of most common conditions. SMG's are groupings of Read codes into clinically meaningful conditions. It should be noted that due to the introduction of SMG's, the Read code groupings used to define specific conditions may have changed. Therefore the data presented in this table may not be comparable to the data presented in previous years. Further information regarding SMG's can be obtained from Primary Care Information Group (ISD).
- 3 Symptoms, signs & abnormal clinical & laboratory findings including general pain, sensory symptoms and abnormal ECG findings.

Note: Population source - ISD Scotland, General Medical Practitioner database.

Source : ISD Scotland, Continuous Morbidity Recording (CMR).

A3.4 | Prevalence and contact rates per 1000 population by deprivation category¹ : 2000^r and 2001

Health impact

Deprivation category	Drug misuse					Non-drug misuse				
	Population	Number of patients	Prevalence rate	Number of contacts	Contact rate	Number of patients	Prevalence rate	Number of contacts	Contact rate	
2000 ^r										
1 - 2	73 442	153	2.1	765	10.4	57 486	782.7	209 697	2855.3	
3 - 4	175 187	839	4.8	5 011	28.6	136 645	780.0	546 447	3119.2	
5 - 7	54 110	616	11.4	3 531	65.3	41 846	773.4	178 084	3291.1	
9 ¹	11 144	141	12.7	518	46.5	8 605	772.2	22 918	2056.6	
Total	313 883	1 749	5.6	9 825	31.3	244 582	779.2	957 146	3049.4	
2001										
1 - 2	73 884	167	2.3	827	11.2	58 405	790.5	212 972	2882.5	
3 - 4	174 848	965	5.5	4 657	26.6	137 636	787.2	550 401	3147.9	
5 - 7	52 995	629	11.9	3 490	65.9	41 373	780.7	176 320	3327.1	
9 ¹	12 575	117	9.3	427	34.0	9 850	783.3	29 632	2356.4	
Total	314 302	1 878	6.0	9 401	29.9	247 264	786.7	969 325	3084.1	

¹ Deprivation category 9 is used to denote unknown postcodes.

^r Revised.

Note : Population source - ISD Scotland, General Medical Practitioner Database.

Source : ISD Scotland, Continuous Morbidity Recording (CMR).