

A5 Blood-borne viruses

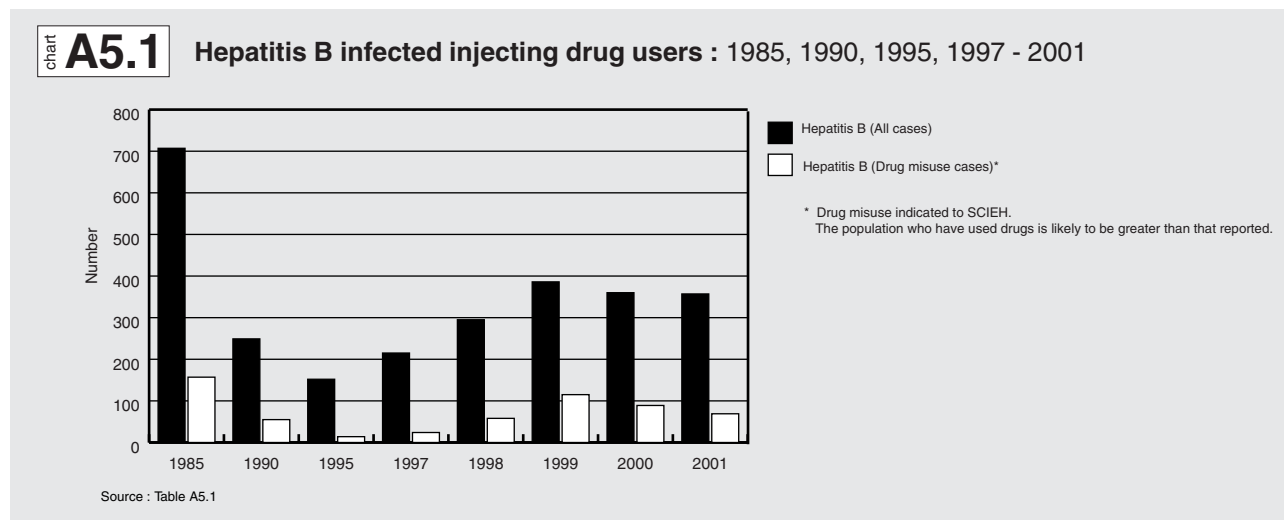
Key Points

- Of the 357 cases of Hepatitis B infection reported to SCIEH in 2001, 69 cases (19 per cent) mentioned injecting drug use as the patient's probable route of transmission. However, it is thought likely that the majority of the cases acquired their infection through injecting practices. (Table A5.1)
- As of 31 December 2001, there have been 1 266 reports of HIV infection in Scotland where injecting drug use was identified as the probable route of transmission. Injecting drug users make up 38 per cent of all reports of HIV infection. (Table A5.2)
- Of the 13 535 known cases of Hepatitis C Virus in Scotland as at 31 December 2001, 8 153 (60 per cent) have 'Injecting drug users' identified as the probable route of transmission. It is thought likely that a further 4 431 (33 per cent) cases 'unknown' cause of transmission will also include a high proportion of injecting users. These figures almost certainly underestimate the true extent of the problem. (Table A5.7)

Health impact

Hepatitis B

In 2001, 357 cases of Hepatitis B infection were reported by laboratories to SCIEH; a decrease from 2000 when 360 cases were reported (Chart A5.1, Table A5.1). In 1999, 386 cases were reported, the highest annual total since 1986. In 2001, 69 of the 357 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.

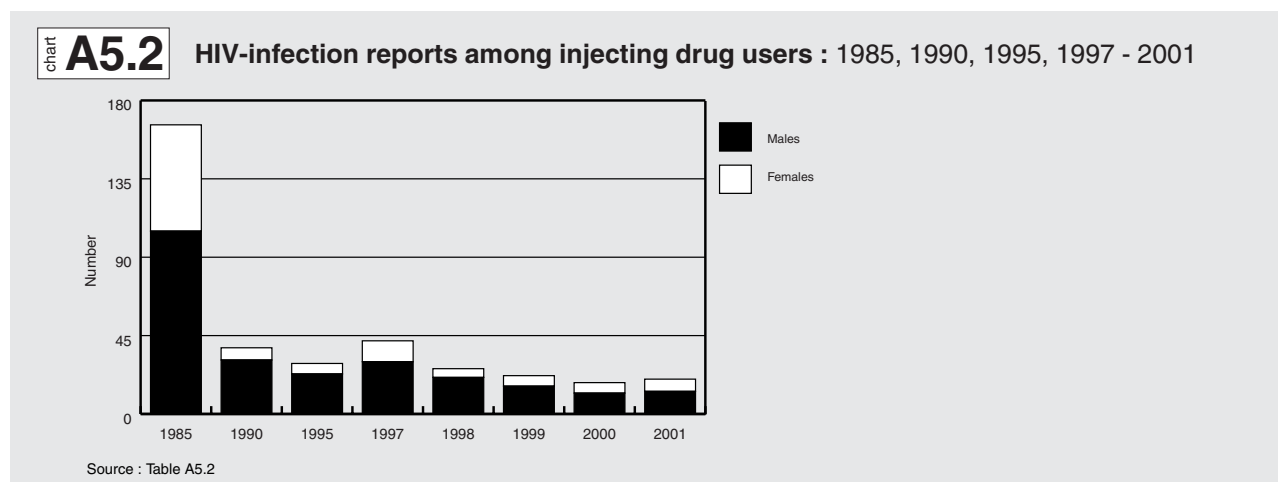


Nineteen of the 69 (28 per cent) injecting-related cases in 2001 were from Grampian, this was a decrease from that in 2000 (58 per cent). In 2001, the incidence of Hepatitis B infection associated with injecting drug use in Greater Glasgow increased from 20 cases in both 1999 and 2000 to 29 cases in 2001. In Argyll & Clyde, a decrease in the number of injecting-related reports from 17 in 1998 and 11 in 1999 and 7 in 2000, to 4 in 2001 continues to be 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 that 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 that 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.

HIV

In 2001, the number of reported HIV-infected injectors increased slightly from 18 in 2000 to 20 in 2001 (Chart A5.2, Table A5.2); figures for 1999 and 1998 were 22 and 26 respectively.

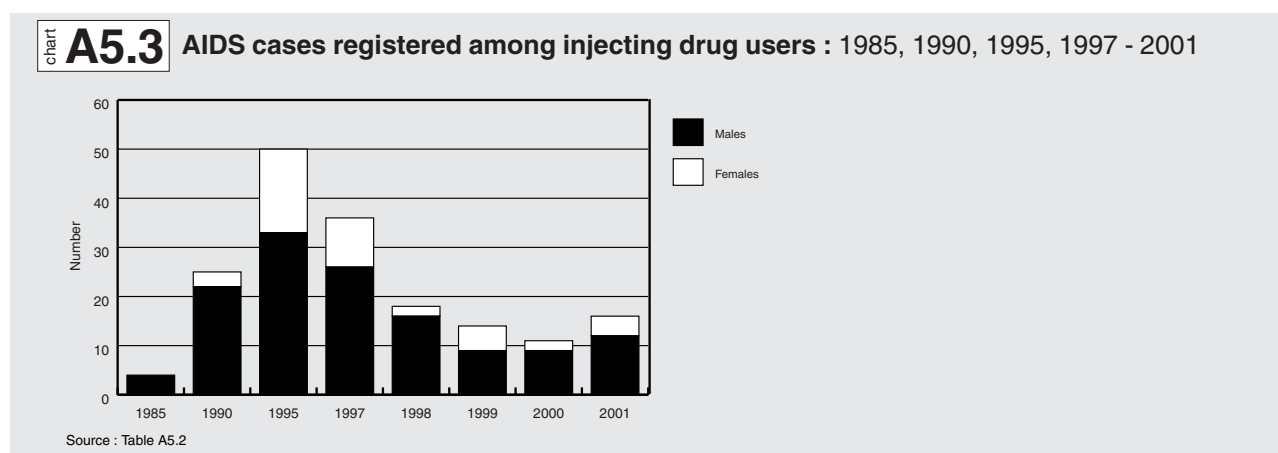


Of the 20 in 2001, nine were from Lothian, four from Greater Glasgow and four from Tayside (Table A5.3). In 2001, 18 of 2 154 injectors tested (0.8 per cent) were antibody positive (Table A5.6); this compares with a prevalence of between 2 per cent and 3.7 per cent during 1989 and 1993, a constant prevalence of around 1.5 per cent during 1994-1997 (some data not shown), and a prevalence of 0.9 per cent, 0.6 per cent and 0.7 per cent in 1998, 1999 and 2000 respectively.

The incidence of HIV among injectors in Scotland is low in comparison to when 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 above and C below).

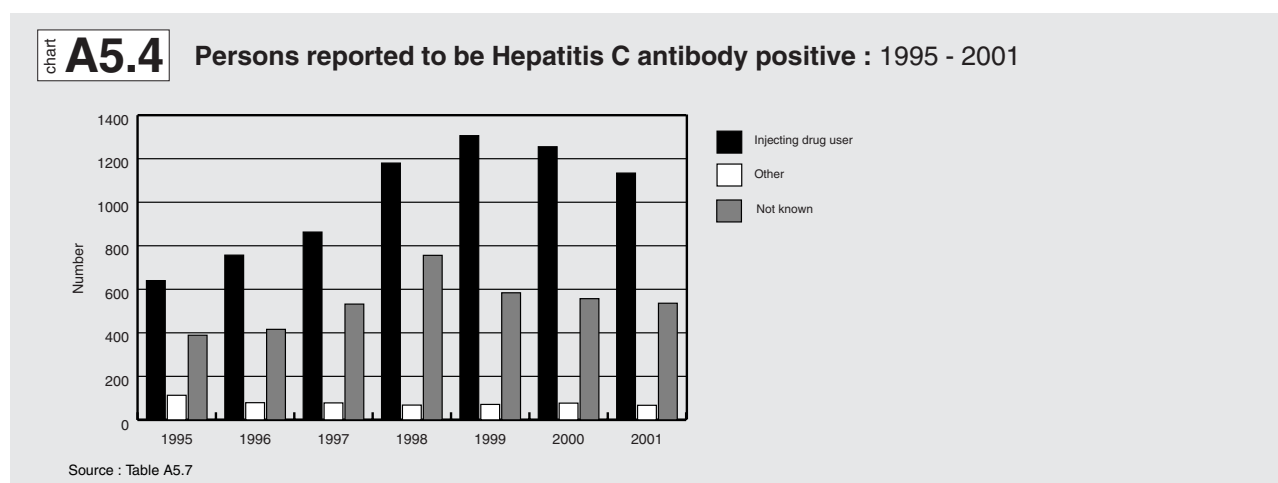
To the end of 2001, 1 266 HIV infected injecting drug users had been reported by HIV testing laboratories to SCIEH (Table A5.3); 617 (49 per cent) were known to have died. The number of HIV-infected injecting drug users in clinical care, as indicated by the fact that they underwent CD4 count testing to assess their immunological status and thus stage of HIV disease they had reached, was at its lowest level in 2001 (Table A5.5). The majority of cases (234) resided in Lothian.

The impact of combination antiretroviral therapy (introduced in Scotland during 1996) on HIV disease progression is demonstrated by the recent reduction in AIDS cases registered among injecting drug users. During 1993 – 1995, the average annual number of AIDS registrations was 54; in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001, the number of registrations were 36, 18, 14, 11 and 16 respectively (Chart A5.3, Table A5.2).



Hepatitis C

To the end of 2001, 13 535 persons in Scotland had been diagnosed as having Hepatitis C infection (Chart A5.4, Table A5.7); information on laboratory request forms indicated that 8 153 (60 per cent) were injecting drug users but it is likely that the majority of the 4 431 (33 per cent) for whom no risk information was available, also acquired their HCV through injecting practices.



A total of 1 737 persons received their diagnosis in 2001; this compares with 1 889 in 2000, 1 961 in 1999, 2 004 in 1998 and 1 142 in 1995. 37 per cent of the 13 535 cases resided in Greater Glasgow, 15 per cent in Lothian, 12 per cent in Grampian and 8 per cent in Tayside.

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 around 40 000. The rate of progression to moderate hepatitis (a stage of disease which when reached makes people eligible for drug treatment) within 20 years of infection is estimated to be 60 - 70 per cent. Therefore, since very large numbers were infected prior to 1990 several thousand injectors who have stopped injecting will be eligible for therapy over the next 10 - 15 years.

Ribavirin and Interferon therapy, combined, leads to sustained clearance of HCV infection from the circulation in about 50 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 1999-2001 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 in association with HEBS and SCIEH are preparing awareness campaigns aimed at the general population and persons who have ever injected drugs.

In Scotland:

- A total of 13 535 cases of Hepatitis C antibody positivity were known as of 31 December 2001.
- Eighty-seven per cent (11 734) of the 13 535 were aged between 15 and 44, and 11 per cent (1 427) were aged 45 and over. (Table A5.8)
- Of the 13 535 cases, 56 per cent (7 591) were diagnosed between January 1998 and the end of Dec 2001.(Table A5.7)
- Sixty per cent (8 153) of all cases were known to have ever injected drugs and of the 4 431 cases for whom there was no risk information available, 75 per cent (3 313) were aged between 15 and 44 - the range within which most injecting drug users belonged - at the time of testing. (Table A5.8)

A5.1 Hepatitis B infected injecting drug users¹ : 1985, 1990, 1995, 1997 - 2001

NHS board²

	1985	1990	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<i>Hepatitis B (Drug misuse cases)</i>								
Scotland	157	55	14	24	58	115	89	69
Argyll & Clyde	6	-	-	15	17	11	7	4
Ayrshire & Arran	2	1	-	-	1	-	2	1
Borders	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Fife	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forth Valley	7	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Grampian	10	1	-	1	25	65	52	19
Greater Glasgow	99	47	12	7	13	20	20	29
Highland	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1
Lanarkshire	7	1	-	-	-	2	3	7
Lothian	21	1	2	-	-	1	2	4
Tayside	4	2	-	-	1	13	2	2
<i>Hepatitis B (All cases)</i>								
Scotland	707	249	152	215	295	386	360	357

1 Persons are categorised as IDU if mentioned on request form.

2 Refers to the person's NHS board of residence or, where this is not known, the NHS board of source of specimen.

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

A5.2 HIV-infection reports and deaths¹ among injecting drug users and AIDS cases registered^{2,3} : 1985, 1990, 1995, 1997 - 2001⁴

as at 31 December of year indicated

	HIV-infected reports			Deaths among HIV-infected IDU's			AIDS cases registered		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
<i>Injecting drug user</i>									
1985	105	61	166	4	1	5	4	-	4
1990	31	7	38	28	10	38	22	3	25
1995	23	6	29	54	24	78	33	17	50
1997	30	12	42	28	7	35	26	10	36
1998	21	5	26	24	5	29	16	2	18
1999	16	6	22	22	6	28	9	5	14
2000	12	6	18	16	5	21	9	2	11
2001	13	7	20	15	1	16	12	4	16
Cumulative Total (to 31 Dec 2001)	889	377	1 266	455	162	617	292	112	404
<i>All transmission categories</i>									
Cumulative Total (to 31 Dec 2001)	2 537	812	3 349	1 037	241	1 278	868	221	1 089

1 Deaths relate to the number of deaths occurring during the given year - irrespective of when the case was registered. Cause of death may not necessarily be related to the persons HIV status.

2 Totals include cases reported prior to 1987.

3 Figures include several males who have had sexual intercourse with other males.

4 Year of diagnosis.

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

A5.3 HIV-infected injecting drug users : 1985, 1990, 1995, 1997 - 2001

NHS board¹ and year of diagnosis; as at 31 December 2001

	1985	1990	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Cumulative to 31 Dec 2001		
									Total	Alive	Dead
Scotland	166	38	29	42	26	22	18	20	1 266	649	617
Argyll & Clyde	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	15	9	6
Ayrshire & Arran	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	4	2
Borders	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	2	1
Dumfries & Galloway	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	1
Fife	3	-	3	1	1	1	-	1	32	24	8
Forth Valley	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	20	14	6
Grampian	3	-	1	4	2	1	2	-	30	19	11
Greater Glasgow	9	8	9	8	7	6	3	4	171	101	70
Highland	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	7	5	2
Lanarkshire	1	1	2	-	1	2	-	2	19	13	6
Lothian	108	20	9	13	11	5	8	9	665	337	328
Tayside	34	9	4	11	2	6	3	4	292	116	176

1 Refers to the person's NHS board of residence or, where this is not known, the NHS board of source of specimen.

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

A5.4 HIV-infected injecting drug users : 1985, 1990, 1995, 1997 - 2001¹

age at time of earliest specimen ; as at 31 December 2001

	1985	1990	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Scotland	166	38	29	42	26	22	18	20
Under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	27	4	-	3	-	-	1	1
20 - 24	65	15	3	6	3	4	3	2
25 - 29	43	8	8	4	6	5	1	4
30 - 34	18	6	11	18	6	7	5	2
35 - 39	9	4	6	6	8	2	4	8
40 - 44	-	1	1	3	3	3	1	2
45 and over	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	1
Not known	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Median Age	24	25	31	32	33	31	33	37

1 Year of diagnosis.

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

A5.5 HIV-infected injecting drug users in clinical care¹ : 1992 - 2001²number of individuals monitored, NHS board of laboratory³ ; as at 31 December 2001

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Scotland	559	581	519	459	424	425	430	433	434	416
Ayrshire & Arran	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Grampian	5	7	10	8	9	9	11	12	11	11
Greater Glasgow	77	97	88	88	77	82	84	90	94	90
Highland	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	2	-
Lanarkshire	4	7	6	8	5	6	12	10	14	12
Lothian	366	355	319	281	264	255	244	247	242	234
Tayside	107	115	96	74	69	69	76	73	71	69
Scotland (all risks)	961	1 034	1 024	987	958	1 060	1 133	1 221	1 314	1 397

Health impact

- 1 Indicated that persons are undergoing immunological monitoring in Scotland - CD4 monitoring.
- 2 Year of test.
- 3 The only laboratories which analyse such data are based in the above named NHS boards.

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

A5.6 HIV prevalence among injecting drug users having a named HIV test : 1990, 1995, 1997- 2001¹

NHS board²

	1990			1995			1997			1998		
	Tests	New positives		Tests	New positives		Tests	New positives		Tests	New positives	
		No.	Prevalence %		No.	Prevalence %		No.	Prevalence %		No.	Prevalence %
Scotland	1 273	38	3	1 446	22	2	1 496	24	2	2 015	19	1
Argyll & Clyde	19	-	-	25	-	-	29	-	-	104	-	-
Ayrshire & Arran	24	-	-	27	-	-	28	-	-	43	-	-
Borders	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	24	-	-	21	-	-	19	-	-	35	-	-
Fife	12	1	8	13	1	8	1	-	-	19	-	-
Forth Valley	74	1	1	64	-	-	89	1	1	100	2	2
Grampian	97	-	-	144	-	-	215	1	-	343	-	-
Greater Glasgow	480	9	2	550	9	2	489	8	2	731	5	1
Highland	1	-	-	24	-	-	56	2	4	52	-	-
Lanarkshire	22	-	-	52	-	-	52	-	-	87	1	1
Lothian	335	19	6	292	8	3	329	2	1	335	6	2
Orkney	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Shetland	1	-	-	2	-	-	11	-	-	11	-	-
Tayside	179	8	4	232	4	2	175	10	6	150	5	3
Western Isles	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-
	1999			2000			2001					
	Tests	New positives		Tests	New positives		Tests	New positives				
		No.	Prevalence %		No.	Prevalence %		No.	Prevalence %			
Scotland	2 429	15	1	2 262	16	1	2 154	18	1			
Argyll & Clyde	94	-	-	78	-	-	87	1	1			
Ayrshire & Arran	58	-	-	78	-	-	108	-	-			
Borders	11	-	-	15	-	-	13	-	-			
Dumfries & Galloway	41	-	-	80	-	-	86	-	-			
Fife	43	-	-	42	-	-	66	1	2			
Forth Valley	120	-	-	80	-	-	48	-	-			
Grampian	433	1	-	404	1	-	301	1	-			
Greater Glasgow	866	8	1	814	5	1	711	3	-			
Highland	64	-	-	53	1	2	89	-	-			
Lanarkshire	111	1	1	122	-	-	145	-	-			
Lothian	402	4	1	327	5	2	341	9	3			
Orkney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Shetland	9	-	-	13	-	-	11	-	-			
Tayside	177	1	1	154	4	3	148	3	2			
Western Isles	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-			

¹ For each individual tested, only the first test within a calendar year is included.

² Refers to the person's NHS board of residence or, where this is not known, the NHS board of source of specimen.

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

A5.7 Persons reported to be Hepatitis C antibody positive : 1995 - 2001

NHS board¹, probable/possible route of transmission

Health impact

		Prior to 1995	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Scotland	Total	2 077	1 142	1 252	1 473	2 004	1 961	1 889	1 737	13 535
	Injecting drug user	1 018	640	757	863	1 180	1 306	1 255	1 134	8 153
	Other ²	398	113	79	78	68	71	77	67	951
	Not known	661	389	416	532	756	584	557	536	4 431
Argyll & Clyde	Total	118	54	52	80	120	160	147	127	858
	Injecting drug user	21	23	28	37	89	115	97	82	492
	Other ²	45	7	3	6	-	4	9	-	74
	Not known	52	24	21	37	31	41	41	45	292
Ayrshire & Arran	Total	57	31	37	51	82	118	145	104	625
	Injecting drug user	16	10	10	15	35	46	72	45	249
	Other ²	20	2	6	3	1	5	1	2	40
	Not known	21	19	21	33	46	67	72	57	336
Borders	Total	20	12	6	6	5	2	6	2	59
	Injecting drug user	6	6	3	4	2	-	3	1	25
	Other ²	4	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	7
	Not known	10	5	2	2	3	2	2	2	27
Dumfries & Galloway	Total	25	23	12	20	30	34	58	87	289
	Injecting drug user	11	10	5	11	17	17	41	61	173
	Other ²	6	5	-	1	4	1	-	1	18
	Not known	8	8	7	8	9	16	17	25	98
Fife	Total	41	24	49	37	49	62	45	49	356
	Injecting drug user	14	17	34	26	35	43	30	31	230
	Other ²	12	1	2	3	2	1	-	2	23
	Not known	15	6	13	8	12	18	15	16	103
Forth Valley	Total	76	39	45	65	88	90	97	82	582
	Injecting drug user	27	15	18	24	39	42	48	35	248
	Other ²	15	4	1	3	1	2	3	-	29
	Not known	34	20	26	38	48	46	46	47	305
Grampian	Total	106	144	178	160	231	276	256	249	1 600
	Injecting drug user	53	101	133	122	179	195	167	197	1 147
	Other ²	24	18	9	7	10	5	4	7	84
	Not known	29	25	36	31	42	76	85	45	369
Greater Glasgow	Total	635	390	414	617	887	747	684	645	5 019
	Injecting drug user	293	193	239	339	513	576	528	470	3 151
	Other ²	95	19	13	27	17	30	35	30	266
	Not known	247	178	162	251	357	141	121	145	1 602
Highland	Total	16	32	22	50	31	39	32	46	268
	Injecting drug user	1	3	8	22	8	27	17	24	110
	Other ²	6	11	2	4	2	1	3	3	32
	Not known	9	18	12	24	21	11	12	19	126
Lanarkshire	Total	85	49	79	77	149	111	132	92	774
	Injecting drug user	19	23	40	44	80	45	75	41	367
	Other ²	26	5	7	1	1	3	-	1	44
	Not known	40	21	32	32	68	63	57	50	363
Lothian	Total	686	200	251	191	188	191	149	147	2 003
	Injecting drug user	429	142	162	128	108	108	100	94	1 271
	Other ²	105	22	21	18	17	9	9	19	220
	Not known	152	36	68	45	63	74	40	34	512
Orkney	Total	2	1	2	1	3	-	-	1	10
	Injecting drug user	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	4
	Other ²	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
	Not known	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Shetland	Total	4	3	2	2	3	1	3	2	20
	Injecting drug user	-	2	-	1	3	1	3	2	12
	Other ²	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
	Not known	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Tayside	Total	203	140	103	115	138	130	135	104	1 068
	Injecting drug user	128	95	77	88	70	91	74	50	673
	Other ²	35	17	12	4	13	10	12	2	105
	Not known	40	28	14	23	55	29	49	52	290
Western Isles	Total	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
	Injecting drug user	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	Other ²	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Not known	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

¹ Refers to the person's NHS board of residence or, where this is not known, the NHS board of source of specimen.

² Includes sexual contact, body piercing/tattoo, 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.

A5.8 Persons reported to be Hepatitis C antibody positive ; probable/ possible route of transmission¹

NHS board² and age group ; to 31 December 2001

		Injecting drug user	Other ²	Not known	Total
Scotland	Under 15	1	49	16	66
	15 - 29	4 298	259	1 414	5 971
	30 - 44	3 465	399	1 899	5 763
	45 - 59	247	126	574	947
	60 and over	9	86	385	480
	Not known	133	32	143	308
	Total	8 153	951	4 431	13 535
	Median Age	29	33	34	30
Argyll & Clyde	Under 15	1	5	-	6
	15 - 29	299	22	98	419
	30 - 44	173	27	125	325
	45 - 59	6	10	38	54
	60 and over	1	6	24	31
	Not known	12	4	7	23
	Total	492	74	292	858
	Median Age	27	33	34	29
Ayrshire & Arran	Under 15	-	3	-	3
	15 - 29	134	13	142	289
	30 - 44	99	12	139	250
	45 - 59	8	6	23	37
	60 and over	-	5	18	23
	Not known	8	1	14	23
	Total	249	40	336	625
	Median Age	28	31	30	30
Borders	Under 15	-	-	-	-
	15 - 29	13	1	6	20
	30 - 44	10	2	9	21
	45 - 59	2	2	6	10
	60 and over	-	1	4	5
	Not known	-	1	2	3
	Total	25	7	27	59
	Median Age	29	44	44	34
Dumfries & Galloway	Under 15	-	1	1	2
	15 - 29	96	4	32	132
	30 - 44	47	5	35	87
	45 - 59	5	2	17	24
	60 and over	-	5	7	12
	Not known	25	1	6	32
	Total	173	18	98	289
	Median Age	25	39	35	29
Fife	Under 15	-	1	1	2
	15 - 29	145	8	25	178
	30 - 44	81	10	36	127
	45 - 59	3	3	20	26
	60 and over	-	-	21	21
	Not known	1	1	-	2
	Total	230	23	103	356
	Median Age	27	31	41	29
Forth Valley	Under 15	-	2	-	2
	15 - 29	153	8	132	293
	30 - 44	80	13	112	205
	45 - 59	10	3	31	44
	60 and over	-	3	22	25
	Not known	5	-	8	13
	Total	248	29	305	582
	Median Age	27	38	32	29
Grampian	Under 15	-	4	2	6
	15 - 29	760	28	144	932
	30 - 44	346	27	135	508
	45 - 59	36	11	61	108
	60 and over	-	11	13	24
	Not known	5	3	14	22
	Total	1 147	84	369	1 600
	Median Age	26	32	33	27

/continued over

A5.8 Persons reported to be Hepatitis C antibody positive ; probable/ possible route of transmission¹

continued

NHS board² and age group ; to 31 December 2001

Health impact

		Injecting drug user	Other ³	Not known	Total
Greater Glasgow	Under 15	-	12	6	18
	15 - 29	1 645	78	544	2 267
	30 - 44	1 371	125	752	2 248
	45 - 59	66	27	137	230
	60 and over	2	17	98	117
	Not known	67	7	65	139
	Total	3 151	266	1 602	5 019
	Median Age	29	32	32	30
Highland	Under 15	-	2	-	2
	15 - 29	48	7	36	91
	30 - 44	58	11	58	127
	45 - 59	2	4	17	23
	60 and over	-	7	14	21
	Not known	2	1	1	4
	Total	110	32	126	268
	Median Age	31	36	36	33
Lanarkshire	Under 15	-	2	1	3
	15 - 29	193	11	114	318
	30 - 44	165	20	152	337
	45 - 59	7	9	57	73
	60 and over	-	2	28	30
	Not known	2	-	11	13
	Total	367	44	363	774
	Median Age	29	38	34	31
Lothian	Under 15	-	9	3	12
	15 - 29	467	49	83	599
	30 - 44	719	93	205	1 017
	45 - 59	82	38	117	237
	60 and over	1	23	91	115
	Not known	2	8	13	23
	Total	1 271	220	512	2 003
	Median Age	32	35	41	34
Orkney	Under 15	-	-	-	-
	15 - 29	1	-	1	2
	30 - 44	2	2	1	5
	45 - 59	1	-	1	2
	60 and over	-	1	-	1
	Not known	-	-	-	-
	Total	4	3	3	10
	Median Age	38	33	40	37
Shetland	Under 15	-	-	1	1
	15 - 29	6	1	-	7
	30 - 44	4	3	-	7
	45 - 59	2	-	1	3
	60 and over	-	-	2	2
	Not known	-	-	-	-
	Total	12	4	4	20
	Median Age	27	36	57	31
Tayside	Under 15	-	7	1	8
	15 - 29	338	29	57	424
	30 - 44	310	48	139	497
	45 - 59	16	11	48	75
	60 and over	5	5	43	53
	Not known	4	5	2	11
	Total	673	105	290	1 068
	Median Age	29	32	38	31
Western Isles	Under 15	-	1	-	1
	15 - 29	-	-	-	-
	30 - 44	-	1	1	2
	45 - 59	1	-	-	1
	60 and over	-	-	-	-
	Not known	-	-	-	-
	Total	1	2	1	4
	Median Age	47	20	35	34

1 Risk group identified at time of earliest positive specimen.

2 Refers to the person's NHS board of residence or, where this is not known, the NHS board of source of specimen.

3 Includes sexual contact, body piercing/tattoo, 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.