

B2 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 (RHAs), 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.

B2.1 Main and all drugs of misuse and numbers injecting^{1,2,3}; drug type : 1 October 2000 - 31 March 2001

Great Britain, Scotland, England and Wales

	New individual patients/clients (=100%)	Heroin	Methadone	Other Opiates	Barbiturates	Benzodiazepines	Amphetamines	Cocaine	Hallucinogens	Cannabis	Solvents	Alcohol	Anti-depressants	Other drugs	Not known/drug free
		<i>percentage</i>													
<i>Main drug reported</i>															
Great Britain	40 181	66	9	2	-	2	3	6	-	9	-	.	-	2	-
Scotland	4 993	61	17	7	-	5	1	1	-	5	-	.	-	1	-
England	33 234	67	8	2	-	2	3	7	-	9	-	.	-	2	-
Wales	1 954	49	8	4	-	7	9	1	-	15	1	.	1	5	-
<i>All drugs reported</i>															
Great Britain	40 181	73	17	8	-	20	7	21	1	27	1	12	2	8	-
Scotland	4 993	72	25	23	-	51	4	5	-	28	1	11	1	8	-
England	33 234	74	16	6	-	15	6	24	1	26	1	12	2	8	-
Wales	1 954	55	15	13	-	34	16	10	2	38	1	13	2	15	-

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.
 3 Scotland figures are based on all individual patients/clients as opposed to only those reporting, where appropriate, any illicit or prescribed drug. This is to ensure that the figures are comparable with England and Wales.
 '.', = not applicable.

Sources : Department of Health and Scottish Drug Misuse Database.

B2.2 New individual patients/clients ; age group : 1 October 2000 - 31 March 2001

gender ; Great Britain, Scotland, England and Wales

	All Ages	Under 15	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45 and over	
		<i>percentage</i>								
<i>Males and Females</i>										
Great Britain	40 181	1	12	25	25	19	10	4	4	
Scotland	4 993	1	11	27	29	18	9	3	2	
England	33 234	1	12	25	24	19	11	4	4	
Wales	1 954	2	14	25	24	17	9	4	3	
<i>Males</i>										
Great Britain	29 669	1	11	25	26	19	11	4	4	
Scotland	3 417	1	9	25	29	20	10	3	2	
England	24 777	1	11	25	25	20	11	5	4	
Wales	1 475	3	13	24	26	18	10	4	3	
<i>Females</i>										
Great Britain	10 512	1	15	28	23	17	9	4	3	
Scotland	1 576	1	14	30	28	15	8	3	2	
England	8 457	1	15	27	22	17	10	4	4	
Wales	479	2	17	30	21	14	8	5	4	

Sources : Department of Health and Scottish Drug Misuse Database.

Services & treatment