

E3

Drug misuse and treatment in Scottish prisons

Key Points

- The percentage of positive drug tests (by urine testing) at reception into custody has remained similar for the last 4 years at around 75 per cent. (Table E3.1)
- Positive cannabis tests (by urine testing) at reception into custody noticeably decreased in 2001/02 to its lowest level for the past 4 years. (Table E3.1)
- The rate of positive mandatory drug testing over the past 4 years is unchanged at around 17 per cent. (Table E3.4)

Urine testing at reception into custody

Each year, random samples of prisoners are tested on admission to prison from the community. These samples cover only a small proportion of prison admissions (totalling around 25,000 each year), and are therefore indicative rather than definitive. It should be noted that due to the period between last drug use and testing after entry to prison, urine test results may under-report hard drug use (e.g. heroin) at the expense of cannabis use. Positive rates, and proportions of the drugs found, over the period 1998/99 to 2001/02 are presented in Table E3.1. However, it should be noted that these do not form a strictly random sample.

It was recognised that the majority of these samples came from Aberdeen and Perth prisons, with only a small number taken from other locations. In order to address this, in October 2001, a separate random sample of 369 prisoners were tested from a spread of prisons which more closely reflect the intake of prisoners to each establishment in the Scottish Prison Service. While the numbers are still a very small proportion of prison admissions, they may give a more accurate indication of the substances used by prisoners entering prisons. Positive rates, and proportions of the drugs found, in this October 2001 sample are presented in Table E3.2.

Where possible, these prisoners were also interviewed about their substance misuse and the results of 312 such interviews are shown in Table E3.3. The other interviews were not completed for a variety of reasons, including refusal to co-operate and release from prison. These results, shown in Table E3.3 add useful additional information to the urine tests. Note: The results of these interviews are indicative only as they depend on the prisoners' willingness to divulge information.

Random mandatory drug testing (MDT) results

Each month, 10% of the prisoner population in each prison in Scotland is randomly selected for a urine drug test. Other reasons for targeted testing exist, but are not reported here. Table E3.5 show the rates of positive results and the drugs found, by prison establishment, in 2001/02. Table E3.4 shows aggregate results for the service as a whole for the last five years.

Drug treatment in prisons

In June 2000 the SPS launched its revised drug strategy. This aims to keep drugs out of prisons; to bring prisoners into drug treatment; to keep them in contact with treatment services; and to manage effectively transition between prison and community. Table E3.6 shows what was achieved under this strategy during the last two years.

E3.1 | Drugs detected by urine testing at reception into custody : 1998/99 - 2001/02

	Number tested	Percentage positive	Drugs detected as percentage of all tests taken ^{1,2}								
			Cannabis	Benzodiazepines	Opiates	Methadone	LSD	Amphetamines	Barbiturates	Cocaine	Temgesic
1998/99	286	73	49	43	42	8	-	3	-	4	-
1999/00	282	75	55	42	34	11	-	3	-	3	1
2000/01	593	77	63	52	39	12	-	2	-	5	1
2001/02	369	75	45	48	44	10	-	4	1	9	-

1 Drug percentages do not add up to 100% due to poly-drug abuse.
2 Including prescribed drugs.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

E3.2 | Drugs detected by urine testing at reception into custody : October 2001 Scottish Prison Service establishment

	Number tested	Percentage positive	Drugs detected as percentage of all tests taken ^{2,3}									
			Cannabis	Benzodiazepines	Opiates	Methadone	LSD	Amphetamines	Barbiturates	Cocaine	Temgesic	Alcohol
Scottish Prison Service Total	369	75	45	48	44	10	-	4	1	9	-	-
Aberdeen	14	86	57	57	71	21	-	-	-	29	-	-
Barlinnie	110	79	47	56	49	15	-	1	3	9	-	1
Dumfries ¹	13	54	8	31	31	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh	66	80	64	41	36	8	-	6	2	3	-	-
Greenock	29	83	41	66	41	7	-	-	-	10	-	-
Inverness	23	52	26	30	13	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Kilmarnock	52	83	48	50	62	6	-	4	-	25	-	-
Low Moss	45	51	20	29	36	7	-	2	-	2	-	-
Perth	7	100	57	100	57	43	-	29	14	-	-	-
Polmont	10	90	60	50	20	-	-	20	-	-	-	-

1 Adult prisoners only.
2 Including prescribed drugs.
3 Drug percentages do not add up to 100% due to poly-drug abuse.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

E3.3 | Self-reported substance misuse and drugs detected by urine testing at reception into custody : 2001/02 (all sample, indicative only)

	Percentage of self-reporting	Percentage of self-reporting plus drug test ¹
Scottish Prison Service Total (n = 312)	64	85
Aberdeen	86	93
Barlinnie	74	86
Dumfries	92	92
Edinburgh	45	85
Greenock	62	83
Inverness	91	91
Kilmarnock	50	88
Low Moss	49	67
Perth	86	100
Polmont	80	90

1 Percentage of prisoners at reception who either tested positive for substance misuse and/or self-reported as a substance misuser.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

E3.4 | Mandatory drug testing results : 1996/97 - 2001/02

SPS aggregate ; random tests of 10% of prison population

	Number tested	Percentage positive		Drugs detected as percentage of all tests taken ¹								
		All tests	In-prison ²	Cannabis	Benzodiazepines	Opiates	Methadone	LSD	Amphetamines	Barbiturates	Cocaine	Temgesic
1996/97	2 364 ³	36	29	29	9	16	1	-	-	-	-	3
1997/98	7 070	29	23	20	5	13	1	-	-	-	-	2
1998/99	7 162	25	18	15	6	12	-	-	-	-	-	1
1999/00	6 605	22	15	11	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	1
2000/01	5 647	21	15	9	4	11	1	-	-	-	-	2
2001/02	6 974	22	17	9	4	14	1	-	-	-	-	1

1 Drug percentages do not add up to 100% due to poly-drug misuse.

2 In-prison rate excludes those who may have misused the drugs for which they tested positive before entry to prison.

3 Due to the gradual phasing in of this data collection in 1996/97, this figure is lower than subsequent years and figures are indicative only.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

E3.5 | Mandatory drug testing results : 2001/02

random tests of 10% of prison population

	Number tested	Percentage positive		Drugs detected as percentage of all tests taken ²								
		All tests	In-prison ³	Cannabis	Benzodiazepines	Opiates	Methadone	LSD	Amphetamines	Barbiturates	Cocaine	Temgesic
Scottish Prison Service Total	6 974	22	17	9	4	14	1	-	-	-	-	1
Aberdeen	201	31	26	12	4	23	-	-	-	-	1	2
Aberdeen YO	9	33	-	33	17	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aberdeen Females	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barlinnie	1 407	19	11	5	8	10	2	-	1	-	-	-
Barlinnie YO	79	24	9	18	16	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Huntly	130	14	14	9	1	8	1	-	1	-	1	-
Cornston Vale	251	13	13	3	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	-
Dumfries Adults	55	20	18	7	2	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries YO	86	9	7	2	1	7	-	-	1	-	-	-
Dumfries Female	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh	650	26	19	14	3	16	-	-	-	-	-	2
Glenochil	611	17	17	3	2	14	2	-	-	-	-	2
Greenock	343	22	15	5	4	17	-	-	-	-	-	1
Inverness	113	21	15	15	1	9	1	-	-	-	-	1
Kilmarnock	645	29	18	7	4	24	1	-	1	-	-	7
Low Moss	362	30	26	13	5	22	3	-	1	-	1	1
Noranside	109	19	19	5	1	12	-	-	-	-	2	1
Perth	530	29	20	18	5	16	2	-	-	-	-	1
Peterhead	312	7	7	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polmont	516	15	22	8	3	4	-	-	1	-	-	-
Shotts	559	35	35	9	2	30	-	-	1	-	1	6
Kilmarnock ¹												
1999-2000	499	34	23	22	7	14	-	-	-	-	-	1
2000-2001	611	24	16	11	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	-

1 Information for Kilmarnock for 1999/00, 2000/01 (not previously published) :

2 Drug percentages do not add up to 100% due to poly-drug misuse.

3 In-prison rate excludes those who may have misused the drugs for which they tested positive before entry to prison.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

E3.6 | Scottish Prison Service drug strategy outputs : 2000/01-2001/02

	Number of cases ⁶	
	2000/01	2001/02
Total recorded prison receptions ¹	23 472	25 101
Total addictions presentations ²	14 300	16 867
Offered assessment	9 800	9 289
Undertook assessment ³	7 600	6 110
Started treatment option ⁴	5 400	4 452
Throughcare appointment made	600	1 210
Attended throughcare appointment ⁵	175	615

1 Strategy monitoring process established early during 2000/01, and does not include all cases for that year.

2 Prisoners identified as having an issue with substance misuse.

3 Clinical addictions assessments not included for 2001/02.

4 Individuals who began working on the first item in their individualised care-plan.

5 Individual client confirmed by community agency as having attended first post-release appointment.

6 Drop-out rate includes those released from custody.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

F

Contacts

Contact names for data sources

A HEALTH IMPACT OF DRUG MISUSE**A1 General acute hospital inpatient statistics**

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A2 Psychiatric inpatient statistics

Information & Statistics Division
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Telephone: 0131 551 8204
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A3 Information from general practice

Information & Statistics Division
Trinity Park House, South Trinity Road
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Telephone: 0131 551 8808
www.show.scot.nhs.uk/isd

A4 Drug misuse in pregnancy

Information & Statistics Division
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Telephone: 0131 551 8126
www.show.scot.nhs.uk/isd

A5 Blood-borne viruses

Scottish Centre For Infection & Environmental Health
Clifton House, Clifton Place
Glasgow, G3 7LN

Telephone: 0141 300 1100
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A6 Drug-related deaths

General Registers Office for Scotland
Ladywell House
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B SERVICES AND TREATMENT FOR DRUG MISUSERS**B1 Scottish Drug Misuse Database**

Drug Misuse Information Strategy Team
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Telephone: 0131 551 8715
www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org

B2 GB Regional Drug Misuse Databases

Department of Health
Skipton House
80 London Road
London, SE1 6LH

Telephone: 0207 972 5551
www.doh.gov.uk/drugs

B3 Prescription statistics

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B4 Criminal justice interventions

Scottish Executive Justice Department
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C DRUG EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS**C1 Drug education in schools**

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D PREVALENCE OF DRUG MISUSE**D1 Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS), 2002**

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E DRUGS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**E1 Drug-related offences and court proceedings**

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E2 Seizures of controlled drugs

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E3 Drug misuse and treatment in Scottish prisons

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