

A3**Information from general practice****Key Points****Health impact****Overview from general practice**

- In 2002, there were nearly 6 GP patients with a diagnosis of drug misuse per 1 000 practice population. (Table A3.2)
- In 2002, of the 1133 291 consultations (face-to-face contacts) between patient and GP, 11 439 (1 per cent) related to drug misuse. (Table A3.1)
- Of the 2 263 patients with a diagnosis of drug misuse, 28 per cent (623 patients) had a first diagnosis of drug misuse i.e. it was the first time they had seen the GP for their drug problem. (Table A3.1)
- The average number of GP consultations per year for all patients is 3.8. For those with a diagnosis of drug misuse, the average number of drug misuse GP consultations per year is 5.1. (Table A3.1)
- The average number of drug misuse consultations and non-drug misuse consultations are broadly similar for females (4.7 compared to 4.2) but wider differences can be seen for males (5.3 to 3.4). (Table A3.1)
- More males than females consult their GP for drug-related problems (nearing 2:1), reflecting the greater number of male drug users in the general population. (Table A3.1)
- For both years of analysis, the rates for non-drug misuse consultations increase with age whereas the rates for drug misuse consultations were highest in the 15 - 44 age groups. (Table A3.2)
- For both men and women with a drug misuse diagnosis, depression and anxiety disorders were the top two most common co-morbidities. It is also interesting to see the comparison with non-drug misuse patients concerning 'Mental & behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol'. Among males, drug misusers are over 5 times more likely than non-drug misuse patients to have a diagnosis of alcohol misuse. (Table A3.3)
- The percentage of patients consulting a GP due to drug misuse increases as deprivation increases, the consultation rate in 2002 was 11.7 for deprivation categories 1 – 2 and 53.2 for deprivation categories 5 – 7 (Carstairs and Morris deprivation categories). (Table A3.4)

Background information

Continuous Morbidity Recording (CMR) is a system that collects primary care morbidity data from general practices in Scotland. It became part of the National Dataset in April 1998. Data are collected in a number of practices covering 6% of the Scottish population from every face-to-face doctor-patient consultation. This sample is broadly representative of the Scottish population in terms of age, sex, deprivation and urban/rural mix.

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)

¹ General Practice Administration System for Scotland.

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), CMR practices are now involved in the collection and analysis of information from other members of the Primary Care team, e.g. Practice Nurses, Health Visitors and District Nurses. From April 2003 CMR became Practice Team Information (PTI), which will enable a much wider, more accurate, picture of the activity in general practice. Data from this extended data collection will be available from Autumn 2004.

The collection of 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 the practice team allows sharing of information for those providing care for an individual patient. It will also allow more complete and accurate estimates of the incidence and prevalence of conditions presenting in general practice, providing means for population based analysis of prevalence of illness.

Analysis & Definitions

The following analysis is based on data from 60 CMR practices for which data were available for the calendar years, 2001 and 2002.

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. 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-stimulants Poisoning
SL9y	Other Psychotropic Poisoning
SL9z	Psychotropic Agent Poisoning not otherwise specified.

A3.1 Number and percentage of GP patients with a drug misuse diagnosis; number and percentage of drug misuse consultations¹: 2001 and 2002

Health impact

		2001 ^r			2002		
		Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Number of GP patients attending in the period ²							
	Total	299 017	132 409	166 608	296 636	130 728	165 908
	Under 15 years	51 394	26 178	25 216	49 896	25 235	24 661
	15-24	37 020	15 462	21 558	36 348	15 006	21 342
	25-44	87 485	37 090	50 395	86 203	36 325	49 878
	45-64	73 974	33 630	40 344	74 607	33 889	40 718
	65 years and over	49 144	20 049	29 095	49 582	20 273	29 309
Number of GP consultations in the period ³							
	Total	1 170 972	456 639	714 333	1 133 291	443 034	690 257
	Under 15 years	145 712	74 841	70 871	138 658	70 814	67 844
	15-24	120 361	40 100	80 261	115 286	37 511	77 775
	25-44	326 566	111 232	215 334	314 667	108 349	206 318
	45-64	321 423	129 793	191 630	314 193	127 171	187 022
	65 years and over	256 910	100 673	156 237	250 487	99 189	151 298
GP patients with a first diagnosis of drugs misuse							
Number	Total	712	442	270	623	390	233
	Under 15 years	5	2	3	7	6	1
	15-24	295	195	100	237	148	89
	25-44	317	206	111	326	215	111
	45-64	62	26	36	38	18	20
	65 years and over	33	13	20	15	3	12
Percentage ⁴	Total	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
	Under 15 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	15-24	0.8	1.3	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.4
	25-44	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2
	45-64	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
	65 years and over	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
GP patients with a diagnosis of drugs misuse ⁵							
Number	Total	2 283	1 477	806	2 263	1 438	825
	Under 15 years	7	4	3	12	9	3
	15-24	786	505	281	760	446	314
	25-44	1 293	883	410	1 339	914	425
	45-64	144	61	83	115	56	59
	65 years and over	53	24	29	37	13	24
Percentage ⁴	Total	0.8	1.1	0.5	0.8	1.1	0.5
	Under 15 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	15-24	2.1	3.3	1.3	2.1	3.0	1.5
	25-44	1.5	2.4	0.8	1.6	2.5	0.9
	45-64	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
	65 years and over	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Drug misuse GP consultations							
Number	Total	10 989	7 427	3 562	11 439	7 571	3 868
	Under 15 years	15	9	6	14	10	4
	15-24	3 849	2 465	1 384	3 549	2 030	1 519
	25-44	6 683	4 715	1 968	7 495	5 328	2 167
	45-64	342	176	166	293	156	137
	65 years and over	100	62	38	88	47	41
Percentage ⁶	Total	0.9	1.6	0.5	1.0	1.7	0.6
	Under 15 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	15-24	3.2	6.1	1.7	3.1	5.4	2.0
	25-44	2.0	4.2	0.9	2.4	4.9	1.1
	45-64	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
	65 years and over	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1 Face-to-face contact between GP and patient.

2 Includes all patients i.e. not only those with a diagnosis of drug misuse.

3 Includes all consultations i.e. not only those with a diagnosis of drug misuse.

4 Based on total number of patients attending in the period.

5 Number of patients with at least one diagnosis of drug misuse during the period.

6 Based on total number of GP consultations in the period.

r Revised.

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

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

A3.2 | Drug misusing GP patient and consultation rates for practice population¹ : 2001 and 2002

	2001 ^r			2002		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
<i>Practice population</i>						
Total	380 719	188 070	192 649	382 981	189 352	193 629
Under 15 years	67 488	34 589	32 899	67 223	34 413	32 810
15-24	45 897	23 251	22 646	46 470	23 576	22 894
25-44	116 550	59 162	57 388	116 167	58 991	57 176
45-64	94 967	47 852	47 115	96 640	48 764	47 876
65 years and over	55 817	23 216	32 601	56 481	23 608	32 873
<i>Drug misuse²</i>						
<i>Drug misusing GP patients³ per 1 000 practice population</i>						
Total	6.0	7.9	4.2	5.9	7.6	4.3
Under 15 years	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1
15-24	17.1	21.7	12.4	16.4	18.9	13.7
25-44	11.1	14.9	7.1	11.5	15.5	7.4
45-64	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.2	1.1	1.2
65 years and over	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7
<i>Drug misuse GP consultations⁴ per 1 000 practice population</i>						
Total	28.9	39.5	18.5	29.9	40.0	20.0
Under 15 years	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
15-24	83.9	106.0	61.1	76.4	86.1	66.3
25-44	57.3	79.7	34.3	64.5	90.3	37.9
45-64	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.0	3.2	2.9
65 years and over	1.8	2.7	1.2	1.6	2.0	1.2
<i>Non-drug misuse⁵</i>						
<i>Non drug misuse GP consultations⁴ per 1 000 practice population</i>						
Total	3 046.8	2 388.5	3 689.5	2 929.3	2 299.8	3 544.9
Under 15 years	2 158.9	2 163.5	2 154.0	2 062.4	2 057.5	2 067.7
15-24	2 538.6	1 618.6	3 483.0	2 404.5	1 505.0	3 330.8
25-44	2 744.6	1 800.4	3 718.0	2 644.2	1 746.4	3 570.6
45-64	3 381.0	2 708.7	4 063.8	3 248.1	2 604.7	3 903.5
65 years and over	4 600.9	4 333.7	4 791.2	4 433.3	4 199.5	4 601.3

1 It should be noted that prevalence & consultations rates are calculated from practice populations (not general population).

2 Patients with at least one diagnosis of drug misuse during the time period.

3 Drug misusing patient 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 consultations recorded (see table A3.1) within the relevant time period by the practice population. Consultations include face-to-face contact between GP and patient.

5 Excludes drug misuse patients. Figures 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 GP patients seen with specified condition/illness^{1,2} : 2002 patients aged 15 - 44 years

Health impact

	Drug misuse patients		Non-drug misuse patients	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Males	(n = 1 360)		(n = 49 971)	
Anxiety & other neurotic, stress-related, & somatoform disorders	213	15.7	4 453	8.7
Depression & other affective disorders	199	14.6	2 996	5.8
Diseases of the skin & subcutaneous tissue excluding infections & malignancies	131	9.6	8 540	16.6
Miscellaneous ³	109	8.0	4 605	9.0
Injuries of specified, unspecified & multiple body regions ⁴	107	7.9	3 682	7.2
Infections of the skin & subcutaneous tissue	96	7.1	3 669	7.1
Mental & behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	77	5.7	539	1.1
Acute upper respiratory infections excluding acute pharyngitis, acute tonsillitis, acute laryngitis & tracheitis	69	5.1	4 453	8.7
Mental & behavioural disorders ⁵	69	5.1	966	1.9
Persons encountering health services for other reasons	57	4.2	791	1.5
Females	(n = 739)		(n = 70 481)	
Depression & other affective disorders	227	30.7	7 846	11.0
Anxiety & other neurotic, stress-related, & somatoform disorders	203	27.5	7 639	10.7
Contraceptive management	121	16.4	20 572	28.9
Diseases of the skin & subcutaneous tissue excluding infections & malignancies	105	14.2	12 693	17.8
Miscellaneous ³	89	12.0	7 562	10.6
Infections of the skin & subcutaneous tissue	76	10.3	4 043	5.7
Diseases of the urinary system ⁶	67	9.1	4 587	6.4
Abdominal & pelvic pain	58	7.8	5 193	7.3
Menstrual disorders	56	7.6	6 891	9.7
Acute upper respiratory infections excluding acute pharyngitis, acute tonsillitis, acute laryngitis & tracheitis	53	7.2	9 009	12.6

- Ten most commonly seen conditions.
- 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).
- Symptoms, signs & abnormal clinical & laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified.
- Excluding fractures, dislocations, sprains & strains, injury of eye & orbit, intracranial injury, injury of other internal organs, crushing injuries & traumatic amputations.
- Excluding dementia, alcohol or psychoactive substance use, schizophrenia, schizotypal, delusional disorders, depression, affective disorders, anxiety, stress-related & somatoform disorders, & learning disability.
- Excluding glomerular & renal tubulo-interstitial disease, renal failure, urolithiasis, cystitis & malignancies.

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

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

A3.4 Drug misusing GP patient and consultation rates per 1 000 population by deprivation category : 2001 and 2002

	2001 ^r	Deprivation Category					2002	Deprivation Category				
	Total	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 7	9 ³	Total	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 7	9 ³		
Practice population	380 719	79 800	209 457	74 537	16 925	382 981	81 101	212 804	78 509	10 567		
Drug misuse												
Number of drug misusing GP patients	2 283	184	1 143	801	155	2 263	218	1 166	781	98		
Drug misusing GP patients ¹ per 1 000 practice population	6.0	2.3	5.5	10.8	9.2	5.9	2.7	5.5	9.9	9.3		
Number of drug misuse GP consultations	10 989	884	5 424	4 143	538	11 439	946	6 017	4 174	302		
Drug misuse GP consultations ² per 1 000 practice population	28.9	11.1	25.9	55.6	31.8	29.9	11.7	28.3	53.2	28.6		
Non-drug misuse												
Number of non-drug misuse GP consultations	1 159 983	228 512	656 066	237 721	37 684	1 121 852	225 656	637 433	241 130	17 632		
Non drug misuse GP consultations ² per 1 000 practice population	3 046.8	2 863.6	3 132.2	3 189.3	2 226.5	2 929.3	2 782.4	2 995.4	3 071.4	1 668.6		

- Drug misusing GP patient rates are calculated by dividing the number of patients with at least one diagnosis of the specified condition by the practice population.
- Consultation rates are calculated by dividing the number of consultations recorded within the relevant time period by the practice population. Consultations include face to face contact between GP and patient.
- Deprivation category 9 is used to denote unknown postcodes. Category 1 - 2 denotes most affluent, 5 - 7 least affluent.

^r Revised.

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

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