

E3**Drug misuse and treatment in Scottish prisons****Key Points****Overview**

- In May 2003, 66 per cent of urine tests at reception into custody were positive for drugs (includes only those establishments who receive prisoners from court). (Table E3.1)
- Seventeen per cent of mandatory drug tests were positive in 2002/03 (excludes those who may have misused drugs before entry to prison for which they tested positive). (Table E3.2)
- In 2002/03, of the 19 875 prison receptions, 14 570 (73%) were referred to Addictions Services. Of these, 9 779 (67%) were offered an assessment, with 7 271 (50%) of prisoners undertaking an assessment. (Table E3.4)
- Of those who were referred to Transitional Care at the time of discharge (2 303 individuals), 1 245 (54%) attended first Transitional Care appointment. (Table E3.4)

Trends

- The percentage of positive drug tests (by urine testing at reception into custody) fell from 73 per cent in 1998/99 to 66 per cent in 2002/03. (Table E3.1)
- The fall in the percentage of positive drug tests (by urine testing at reception into custody) between 1998/99 to 2002/03 is reflected in detections of all drugs types apart from methadone and temgesic. (Table E3.1)
- The rate of positive mandatory drug testing over the past 5 years is unchanged at around 17 per cent. (Table E3.2)

Drugs

- Cannabis, benzodiazepines and opiates (excluding methadone) were the drugs most commonly detected by testing at reception into custody, 34 per cent, 30 per cent and 24 per cent of all tests taken. (Tables E3.1)
- The drugs most frequently detected by mandatory drug testing were cannabis and opiates, both 12 per cent of all random tests taken. (Table E3.2)

Background information**Urine testing at reception into custody**

During one month 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. It should be noted that these do not form a strictly random sample.

Table E3.1 includes information on testing at reception into custody direct from court. This does not give a complete picture as some establishments do not receive prisoners direct from court. In 2003, the Reception Study was expanded to cover all Scottish Prison Service establishments. Information from the extended study is not currently available.

In previous years, where possible, prisoners were also interviewed about their substance misuse. In 2003, no self-reporting was undertaken.

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.

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 E3.4 shows what was achieved under this strategy during the last three years.

E3.1 | Drugs detected by urine testing at reception into custody (direct from court¹): 1998/99 - 2002/03²

	Number tested	Percentage positive	Drugs detected as percentage of all tests taken ^{3,4}								
			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	-
2002/03 ¹	345	66	34	30	24	14	-	2	-	4	1

- 1 The reception testing study was expanded in 2002/03 to cover all establishments (Peterhead did not participate). Previous years only included those establishments who receive prisoners direct from court. In order to be comparable with previous years, this table only presents information for 2002/03 on urine testing of prisoners direct from court. (i.e. excludes data from Shotts, Glenochil, Noranside and Castle Huntly).
- 2 Information for 2002/03 refers to reception testing in May 2002. 2001/02 refers to October 2001. The exact months for the remaining studies are not known.
- 3 Drug percentages do not add up to 100% due to poly-drug misuse.
- 4 Including prescribed drugs.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

E3.2 | Mandatory drug testing results : 1997/98 - 2002/03

SPS aggregate; random tests of 10% of prison population

	Number tested	Percentage positive	Drugs detected as percentage of all random tests taken ¹									
			All tests	In-prison ²	Cannabis	Benzodiazepines	Opiates	Methadone	LSD	Amphetamines	Barbiturates	Cocaine
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
2002/03	7 529	23	17	12	4	12	1	-	0	0	0	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.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

E3.3 Mandatory drug testing results : 2002/03

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	Benzo-diazepines	Opiates	Methadone	LSD	Amphetamines	Barbiturates	Cocaine	Temgesic
Scottish Prison Service Total	7 529	23	17	12	4	12	1	-	0	0	0	1
Aberdeen	224	37	30	25	6	26	2	-	-	0	1	-
Aberdeen YO	12	27	-	17	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aberdeen Females	2	17	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barlinnie	1 250	17	8	7	6	8	0	-	-	0	1	0
Barlinnie YO	107	17	3	15	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Huntly	162	27	28	11	-	16	-	-	1	1	2	2
Cornon Vale	287	12	10	2	2	8	-	-	0	-	-	-
Dumfries Adults	136	19	19	13	3	15	1	-	-	1	-	-
Dumfries YO	37	4	11	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries Females	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh	867	28	21	18	5	16	2	-	0	-	1	2
Glenochil	660	15	15	5	1	9	0	0	-	-	0	2
Greenock	382	27	13	9	10	15	2	-	1	-	0	2
Inverness	172	16	9	6	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kilmarnock	649	29	12	4	2	18	1	-	0	0	0	1
Low Moss	276	37	32	14	5	24	2	-	-	-	1	0
Noranside	132	19	19	8	2	11	-	-	2	-	1	1
Perth	691	33	28	18	5	16	5	-	0	-	1	-
Peterhead	348	7	7	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polmont	542	15	13	11	2	3	1	-	1	0	0	0
Shotts	590	34	34	16	2	22	-	-	0	0	1	4

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.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).

E3.4 Scottish Prison Service Drug Strategy Outputs : 2000/01 - 2002/03¹

	Number of cases ⁶		
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 ¹
Total recorded prison receptions	23 472	25 101	19 875
Total addictions presentations ²	14 300	16 867	14 570
Offered assessment	9 800	9 289	9 779
Undertook assessment ³	7 600	6 110	7 271
Started treatment option ⁴	5 400	4 452	-
Referral to Transitional Care	600	1 210	2 303
Attended 1st Transitional Care appointment ⁵	175	615	1 245

1 2002/03 includes data for Jan - Dec 2002.

2 Prisoners identified as having an issue with substance (drug & alcohol) misuse and wishing to be referred to Addictions Services.

3 Clinical addictions assessments are not included for 2002/03. An additional 1482 prisoners disclaimed from participation (figures obtained from July-Dec 2002 only).

4 Information for 2002/03 is not available as data collation system is under review.

5 Individual client confirmed by community agency as having attended first post-release appointment. Information for 2002/03 include data from July - Dec 2002 only.

6 Drop out rate includes those released from custody.

Source : The Scottish Prison Service (SPS).