

“TACKLING DRUGS IN SCOTLAND ACTION IN PARTNERSHIP”

Interim National Key Indicators Report

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September 1999

Introduction

“Tackling Drugs in Scotland - Action in Partnership” sets out objectives and action priorities for tackling drug misuse, as agreed by the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse (SACDM). The objectives are aligned under the four overarching UK aims and key objectives agreed by Ministers in all four countries in the White Paper, “Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain”.

Drug Action Teams : Corporate Action Plans

The enhanced drugs strategy also put in place new arrangements for planning and monitoring progress, based on information supplied by Drug Action Teams. In future years information from the Corporate Action Plan (CAP) template will be used to monitor the implementation of the strategy at both local and national level.

Whilst work on the new information template for DATs progresses, this report presents a set of interim national key indicator data in support of each of the four UK Aims. This is based on ISD’s work over the last year in developing key indicator information, utilising national sources of data. The key indicators presented here are either identical, or very close to indicators included in the CAP template.

How the data are presented

The ‘key indicators’ are ordered according to the UK Aim which they are designed to measure. For each of these indicators, the following information is provided :

- A description of what the indicator reports;
- The source of the data presented ;
- The key indicator information : a short commentary, together with charts and/or tables ;
- More detailed background information ;
- Notes on definitions and any limitations of the data.

Where the exact data is not currently available, the data presented represents the ‘best fit’.

Wherever possible, figures have been included for the previous two years, for comparison. The majority of the key indicator information is based on financial years, however in some cases the data is available for calendar years only. Other indicators are based on survey data, rather than routine data collection. In these cases the information cannot be updated annually.

UK Aim 1 : YOUNG PEOPLE

To help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society.

UK Key Objective

Reduce proportion of people under 25 reporting use of illegal drugs in the last month and previous year.

Scotland's Objectives

1. Establish a consistent, co-ordinated, evidence-based approach to drug education, prevention and harm reduction which takes account of individual and community needs.
2. Implement education strategies and initiatives and provide public information which increase knowledge and promote avoidance of drug misuse.
3. Reduce the acceptability and incidence of drugs misuse among children and young people.
4. Ensure that every school pupil in Scotland has effective drug education including accurate and up-to-date information on the consequences of drug misuse.
5. Reduce the harm arising from drug misuse and in particular by encouraging positive alternative lifestyles.
6. Increase access to information and services for vulnerable groups - including school excludees, truants, looked after children, young offenders, young homeless, very young children at risk of drug misuse and children of drug misusing parents.

Currently Available Key Indicators :

- Reported percentage use of any illicit drug ever and within the last month among young people of secondary school age.
- Reported age of first use of any drug.
- Reported percentage use of any illicit drug ever and within the last year among young people aged 16 to 24.
- Percentage of Scottish schools providing drug education for every pupil.
- Percentage of Scottish schools with agreed procedures for managing incidents of drug misuse.

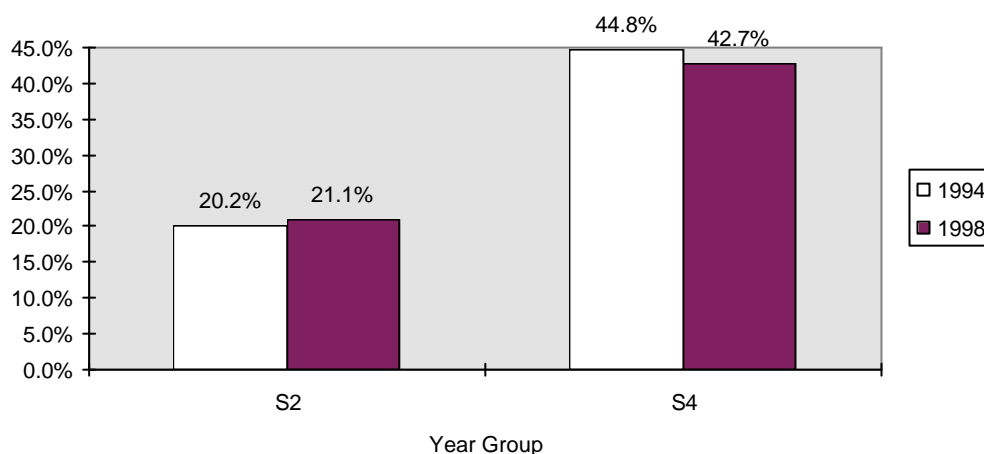
1. Reported percentage use of any illicit drug ever and within the last month among young people of secondary school age

In 1994 and 1998, the Research Unit in Health and Behavioural Change at the University of Edinburgh (RUHBC) conducted a survey of health behaviours of Scottish schoolchildren¹. As part of this study, young people were asked if they had 'ever' used certain drugs and, if so, which of these drugs they had used 'in the previous four weeks'. The survey did not ask about drug use 'within the last year'.

Indicator

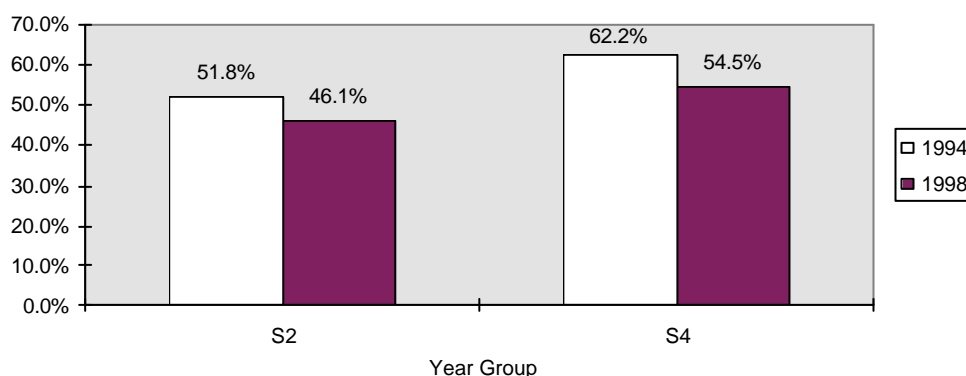
Comparisons between the 1994 and 1998 surveys reveal little change in overall levels of reported drug use 'ever', rising from 20.2% to 21.1% for pupils in Secondary 2 (average age 13.5 years) and from 44.8% down to 42.7% for pupils in Secondary 4 (average age 15.5 years), [Figure 1.1](#).

Figure 1.1 : Percentage of young people in S2 and S4 who had 'ever' used any drug



In 1998, of young people who had 'ever' used drugs, 46.1% of young people in S2 and 54.5% of young people in S4 reported having used drugs 'in the previous four weeks'. These percentages are lower than the 1994 survey, [Figure 1.2](#).

Figure 1.2: Respondents who had 'ever' used drugs - percentage who had used drugs 'in previous four weeks'



1 Currie C, Todd J and Smith R (1999) *Health Behaviours of Scottish Schoolchildren*. RUHBC, Edinburgh

Background

The drug most likely to have been tried by young people was cannabis (15.0% of pupils in S2 and 40.2% of pupils in S4, in 1998), [Table 1.1](#). In 1998, of young people who had ‘ever’ tried cannabis, more than one in three S2 pupils (35.9%) and over half of those in S4 (51.6%) reported having used it ‘in the previous four weeks’, [Table 1.2](#).

Table 1.1 : Drug use ‘ever’ among young people in S2 and S4

Drug used	% ever used drug S2		% ever used drug S4	
	1994 (n=949)	1998 (n=1,029)	1994 (n=825)	1998 (n=970)
Cannabis	13.5	15.0	38.0	40.2
Glue/solvents	9.2	10.3	20.0	15.2
Magic Mushrooms	6.8	4.0	13.9	10.0
LSD	5.9	2.1	18.2	4.5
Amphetamines	4.0	2.5	14.0	11.2
Ecstasy	2.5	0.8	5.2	2.7
Tranquillisers	2.5	2.4	9.1	6.3
Cocaine	0.7	0.8	1.4	1.6
Heroin	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.6
Any Drug	20.2	21.1	44.8	42.7

Table 1.2 : Respondents who had ‘ever’ used drugs - percentage reporting drug use ‘in previous four weeks’

Drug used	% used drug in previous four weeks S2		% used drug in previous four weeks S4	
	1994 (n=191)	1998 (n=217)	1994 (n=370)	1998 (n=413)
Cannabis	30.9	35.9	54.1	51.6
Glue/solvents	16.2	15.7	11.1	6.1
Magic Mushrooms	4.7	7.8	2.4	2.4
LSD	12.0	2.8	14.6	2.2
Amphetamines	6.8	5.1	11.9	7.3
Ecstasy	5.2	0.0	3.5	2.2
Tranquillisers	5.2	2.8	5.9	4.1
Cocaine	2.1	0.9	0.3	0.7
Heroin	2.1	0.5	0.3	0.2
Any Drug	51.8	46.1	62.2	54.5

Source : RUHBC (1999) “*Health Behaviours of Scottish Schoolchildren*”

Notes

One of the limitations of the information presented above is the absence of data for Strathclyde. In 1994, questions about the use of illegal drugs were not permitted in the questionnaires for Strathclyde region. In order to compare percentages in 1998 with those in 1994, data from education authorities comprising the former Strathclyde region have been excluded from the 1998 percentages.

A fictitious drug (‘Mop’ in 1994, and ‘Nariam’ in 1998) was included in the list of drugs in the survey questionnaire to test the validity of the responses given. The drug use data of respondents who reported using a fictitious drug has been excluded from the results. Questions on drug use ‘in the last year’ were not included in this particular survey.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) conducted a larger national survey of smoking, drinking and drug taking among secondary school children, S1 to S4, in late 1998. The results from this study will be available in October 1999.

2. Reported age of first use of any drug

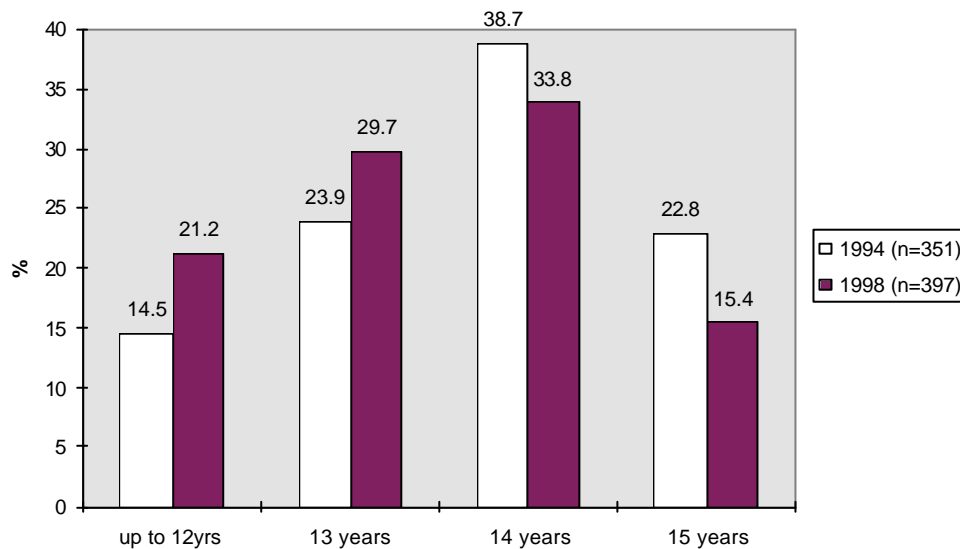
The RUHBC survey of health behaviours of Scottish schoolchildren, conducted in 1998, identified 21.1% of pupils in Secondary 2 and 42.7% of pupils in Secondary 4 as 'ever' having tried drugs.

Indicator

For those Secondary 4 pupils (average age 15.5 years) who reported 'ever' having used drugs, the peak age of first use (33.8% of the total) was 14 years. However, 29.7% had first tried drugs at 13 years of age and 21.2% at 12 years or younger.

Comparison with the previous survey, in 1994, reveals a shift towards younger ages of first use amongst those young people who had 'ever' tried drugs, [Figure 1.3](#).

Figure 1.3 : Age at which drugs were first used - S4 pupils



Source : RUHBC

3. Reported percentage use of any illicit drug ever and within the last year among young people aged 16 to 24

The 1996 Scottish Crime Survey (SCS)¹ provides information about levels and patterns of drug taking among adults throughout Scotland. As part of this survey, just over 3,000 respondents aged 16 to 59 self-completed a questionnaire about their knowledge and use of drugs of misuse².

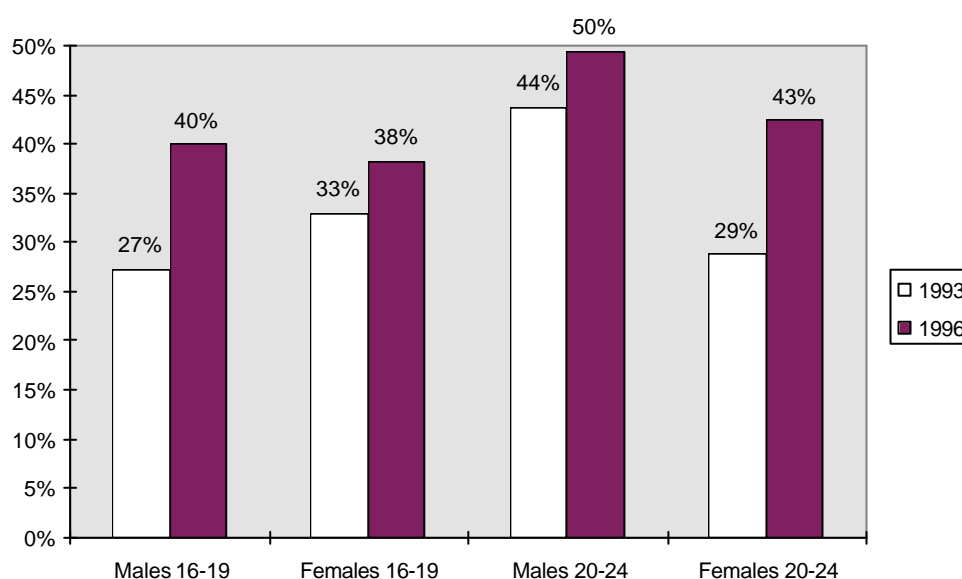
Indicator

Focussing on the 16 to 24 years age group, Figures 1.4 and 1.5 give an indication of levels of drug taking based on usage 'ever' and 'in the last 12 months'. The survey did not ask about drug use 'in the last month'. Among male respondents, levels of drug use 'ever' were 40.1% for those aged 16 to 19, and 49.5% for those aged 20 to 24. The proportion of females who said they had 'ever' used drugs was 38.2% for those under 20, and 42.5% for the age group 20 to 24.

In terms of drug use 'in the last 12 months', the percentages for males were 26.4% for those aged 16 to 19, and 37.1% for those aged 20 to 24. The corresponding figures for females were 19.8% and 20.9%.

Comparisons with the last Scottish Crime Survey, in 1993, reveal an increase in levels of reported drug use for males and females in both age groups based on use 'ever' and use 'in the last 12 months'.³

Figure 1.4 : Reported drug use 'ever'

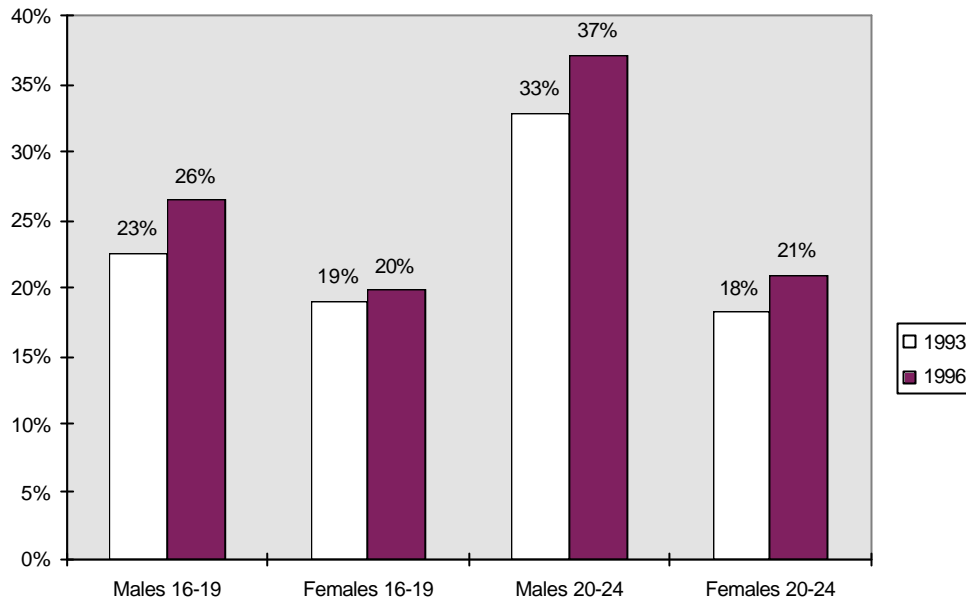


1 MVA (1998) *Main Findings from the 1996 Scottish Crime Survey*, The Scottish Office, Edinburgh

2 Including glue/solvents and excluding drugs taken by prescription.

3 Anderson S and Frischer M (1997) *Drug Misuse in Scotland : Findings from the 1993 and 1996 Scottish Crime Surveys*. The Scottish Office, Edinburgh

Figure 1.5 : Reported drug use 'in the last 12 months'



Background

In 1996, among those young people who had ‘ever’ used drugs, the average number of substances tried was 4.1 for 16 to 19 year olds and 4.6 for 20 to 24 year olds (males and females). Approximately 40% of all 16 to 24 year olds had ‘ever’ tried cannabis (amphetamines 19%, LSD 16% and ecstasy 15%). One in four (25%) 16 to 24 year olds had used cannabis ‘in the last 12 months’ (amphetamines 12%, ecstasy 9% and LSD 6%).

Table 1.3 : Use of drugs by respondents aged 16 to 24 (1996)

Drug	% Ever used		% Ever used		% Used in last 12 months		% Used in last 12 months	
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	16-19	20-24	16-19	20-24	16-19	20-24	16-19	20-24
Cannabis	38.6	45.0	35.7	38.5	24.9	36.1	19.1	18.6
Amphetamines	14.2	23.0	16.3	21.4	8.2	17.9	9.9	11.0
LSD	15.9	22.8	11.5	12.2	6.0	6.8	5.1	4.6
Magic mushrooms	15.0	25.7	7.7	5.8	9.4	8.9	3.0	1.7
Ecstasy	12.7	22.7	8.8	11.9	6.6	15.5	3.5	7.5
Temazepam	8.5	16.6	7.6	9.9	6.1	5.8	1.3	4.1
Valium	2.9	11.6	4.2	7.1	1.9	4.6	2.9	2.8
Glue/solvents	6.6	8.2	3.2	4.8	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine	2.2	12.1	6.4	5.3	1.2	7.6	2.1	3.9
Crack cocaine	0.0	1.6	3.4	1.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.2
Heroin	0.0	3.5	3.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Methadone	1.0	4.0	3.6	1.3	0.0	1.9	0.4	0.8

Source : 1996 Scottish Crime Survey

Notes

As a measure of the prevalence of drug use, and particularly hard drug use, the Scottish Crime Survey has a number of limitations. The findings presented so far are based on a sample of less than 500 adults aged 16 to 24 across Scotland, in each survey year, Table 1.4.

Table 1.4 : Sample sizes for 1993 and 1996 Scottish Crime Surveys, weighted and (unweighted)¹

Age Group	1993			1996		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
16-19	131 (62)	129 (77)	260 (139)	130 (66)	126 (68)	256 (134)
20-24	193 (117)	215 (173)	408 (290)	188 (117)	192 (141)	380 (258)
16-24	324 (179)	344 (250)	668 (429)	318 (183)	318 (209)	636 (392)

As the SCS is a household survey, it will tend to under-represent certain groups of the population, such as homeless persons and those in prisons, hospitals and other residential establishments. Respondents may choose to under-report their drug use because of its criminal nature or its social unacceptability. Neither the 1993 nor 1996 Survey asked about drug use 'within the last month'. Nevertheless, the SCS provides a useful minimum prevalence level of drug use in Scotland.

¹ Weighting was applied to correct possible sampling and response biases and to correct imbalances created by the survey method.

4. Percentage of Scottish schools providing drug education for every pupil

In 1996, increasing concern about drug misuse led HM Inspectors of Schools (HMI) to establish arrangements for monitoring the provision of drug education¹ through surveys of schools involved in the general inspection programme. The schools chosen for the general inspection programme provide a representative sample of provision in Scottish schools.

Indicator

Based on general inspection of 80 primary and 20 secondary schools in 1998/1999, 67.5% of primary schools and 90% of secondary schools provided drug education for every pupil, in line with national advice, Table 1.5

Table 1.5 : Number and percentage of schools providing drug education for every pupil (1998/99)^P

General Inspection Programme	Number of schools inspected	Number and % providing drug education for every pupil
Primary schools	80	54 (67.5%)
Secondary schools	20	18 (90.0%)
Special schools	4	4 (100%)
Totals	104	76 (73.1%)

Overall, 73.1% of all schools surveyed in 1998/99 (primary, secondary and special) provided drug education for every pupil. The comparable figure for the two previous years combined was 68.4%, Table 1.6.

Table 1.6 : Number and percentage of schools providing drug education for every pupil (1996/97 and 1997/98)

General Inspection Programme	Number of schools inspected	Number and % providing drug education for every pupil
Primary schools	222	135 (60.8%)
Secondary schools	59	58 (98.3%)
Special schools	4	2 (50.0%)
Totals	285	195 (68.4%)

Source : *The Scottish Executive, HMI*

Notes

Consultation is currently taking place on the introduction of a new annual schools census on drug education. The census will ask every school in Scotland if they provide education on the use of controlled drugs, whether every pupil in the school will receive drug education and whether their drug education is in line with both current national advice and advice from their local authority.

¹ Drugs are defined as mood changing substances including medicine, alcohol, nicotine, solvents and controlled drugs such as cannabis, cocaine and heroin.

^P Provisional.

5. Percentage of Scottish schools with agreed procedures for managing incidents of drug misuse

In 1996, increasing concern about drug misuse led HM Inspectors of Schools (HMI) to establish arrangements for monitoring the provision of drug education¹ through surveys of schools involved in the general inspection programme. The schools chosen for the general inspection programme provide a representative sample of provision in Scottish schools.

Indicator

Based on general inspection of 80 primary and 20 secondary schools in 1998/1999, whilst 90.0% of secondary schools had agreed procedures for dealing with incidents of drug misuse, in HMI's view 42.5% of primaries still relied on insecure, informal arrangements, [Table 1.7](#).

Table 1.7 : Number and percentage of schools with agreed procedures for dealing with incidents of drug misuse by pupils (1998/99)^P

General Inspection Programme	Number of schools inspected	Number and % with agreed procedures for dealing with incidents of drug misuse
Primary schools	80	46 (57.5%)
Secondary schools	20	18 (90.0%)
Special schools	4	4 (100%)
Totals	104	68 (65.4%)

Comparing results from the general inspection programme in 1998/99 with those from the previous two years, HMI has concluded that there has been some improvement, but that much still remains to be done, [Table 1.8](#).

Table 1.8 : Number and percentage of schools with agreed procedures for dealing with incidents of drug misuse by pupils (1996/97 and 1997/98)

General Inspection Programme	Number of schools inspected	Number and % with agreed procedures for dealing with incidents of drug misuse
Primary schools	222	76 (34.2%)
Secondary schools	59	50 (84.7%)
Special schools	4	1 (25.0%)
Totals	285	127 (44.6%)

Source : The Scottish Executive, HMI

Notes

Consultation is currently taking place on the introduction of a new annual schools census on drug education. The census will ask every school in Scotland whether they have 'written procedures for managing incidents of drug misuse' and if so, whether these procedures are in line with both current national advice and advice from their local authority.

¹ Drugs are defined as mood changing substances including medicine, alcohol, nicotine, solvents and controlled drugs such as cannabis, cocaine and heroin.

P Provisional.

UK Aim 2 : COMMUNITIES

To protect our communities from drug related anti-social and criminal behaviour.

UK Key Objective

Reduce levels of repeat offending amongst drug misusing offenders.

Scotland's Objectives

1. Strengthen and protect communities from drug related crime and the fear of drug related crime.
2. Reduce the level of drug misuse in prisons.
3. Develop constructive alternatives to prosecution and imprisonment for offences related to drug misuse problems.
4. Support partnerships between professionals, local people and businesses in the development of local initiatives for tackling drug misuse.
5. Promote drug awareness and the development of drug policies and health promotion within the workplace.
6. Ensure that drug misuse is addressed within the wider context of area regeneration and social inclusion.

Currently Available Key Indicators :

- Percentage of positive tests under the Random Mandatory Drug Testing programme in Scottish prisons.

1. Percentage of positive tests under the Random Mandatory Drug Testing programme in Scottish prisons.

The Scottish Prison Service conducts a programme of Random Mandatory Drug Testing. Each month, 10% of the 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.

Mandatory Drug Testing schemes were piloted at Edinburgh and Cornton Vale prisons in early 1996, followed by a rolling programme which extended the initiative to all prisons by March 1997. Consequently, national data is available only from 1997 onwards.

Indicator

In 1998/99, of a total of 7,162 Random Mandatory Drug Tests conducted in Scottish prisons, 25% tested positive on one or more drugs of misuse¹. The underlying rate, which excludes those who may have misused the drugs for which they were tested before entry to prison, was 18%.

These rates are lower than the comparable percentages for 1997/98, which were 29% and 23%, respectively, [Table 2.1](#).

Table 2.1 : Results of Random Mandatory Drug Testing in Scottish Prisons

Year	Number of tests conducted	Percentage Positive	
		All tests	Underlying ²
1997/98	7,070	29%	23%
1998/99	7,162	25%	18%

Background

Cannabis was detected in 15% of all tests taken in 1998/99, followed by opiates (12%) and benzodiazepines (6%). In the previous year, cannabis was detected in 20% of all tests (opiates 13% and benzodiazepines 5%).

1 There are nine drugs of misuse which are tested for. These are : cannabis, benzodiazepines, opiates, methadone, LSD, amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine and temgesic.

2 The underlying rate excludes those who may have misused the drug(s) for which they were tested positive before entry to prison.

UK Aim 3 : TREATMENT

To enable people with drug problems to overcome them and live healthy and crime-free lives.

UK Key Objective

Increase participation of problem drug misusers, including prisoners, in drug treatment programmes which have a positive impact on health and crime.

Scotland's Objectives

1. Reduce the health risks to individuals and communities from drug misuse, and reduce related infectious diseases.
2. Increase the number of drug misusers becoming and remaining drug free, and promote their inclusion in society.
3. Reduce the incidence of injecting, sharing and polydrug misuse among drug misusers.
4. Reduce the number of drug related deaths.
5. Increase the proportion of drug misusers in contact with services, including those in prison, through the development of good, accessible, responsive and effective services.
6. Reduce the numbers of drug misusers who have no quick access to appropriate treatment.

Currently Available Key Indicators :

- Number of new problem drug misusers seen by services and reported to the Scottish Drug Misuse Database.
- Number of new reported cases of HIV infection among injecting drug users.
- Number of new reported cases of hepatitis B among injecting drug users
- Number of reported cases of hepatitis C among injecting drug users
- Percentage of drug misusers recorded by the Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD) who had injected in the previous month.
- Percentage of drug misusers recorded by the SDMD who had injected in the previous month who reported sharing equipment in the previous month.
- Percentage of drug misusers recorded by the SDMD who reported that they had injected in the past, but not in the previous month.
- Number of deaths attributable to drug misuse.

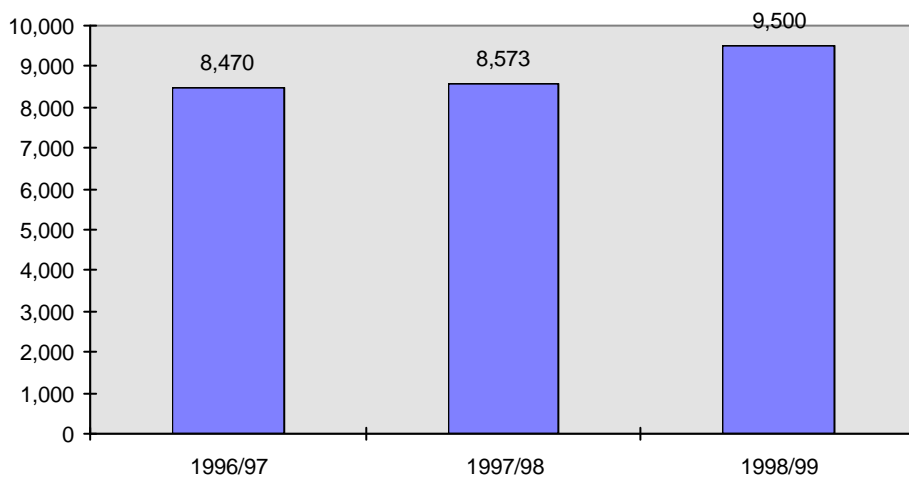
1.Number of new problem drug misusers seen by services and reported to the Scottish Drug Misuse Database

The Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD) offers a profile of the misuse of drugs, based on anonymous information about new problem drug users seen at a broad range of services across Scotland¹.

Indicator

There were a total of 9,500 new problem drug users seen by services and reported to the Scottish Drug Misuse Database during 1998/99. This compares with 8,470 in 1996/97, which represents an increase of 12.2% over two years ², [Figure 3.1](#). The period since the inception of the Database, in 1990, has seen a continual growth in compliance by services, whilst the introduction of revised data collection forms in April 1995 has helped to improve the completeness and validity of information recorded.

Figure 3.1: Number of new problem drug users seen by services and reported to the SDMD



Source : *Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD)*

1 Services contributing to the Database include medical services (general practice, hospitals etc.), statutory and non-statutory specialist drug services and social work services. The definition of 'new' is (a) the person is attending the particular agency for the first time ever, or (b) the person has attended before, but not within the previous six months.

2 Information on penal establishment inmates, i.e. data from prisons and data from agencies reporting individuals seen in prison, have been excluded, due to incomplete data.

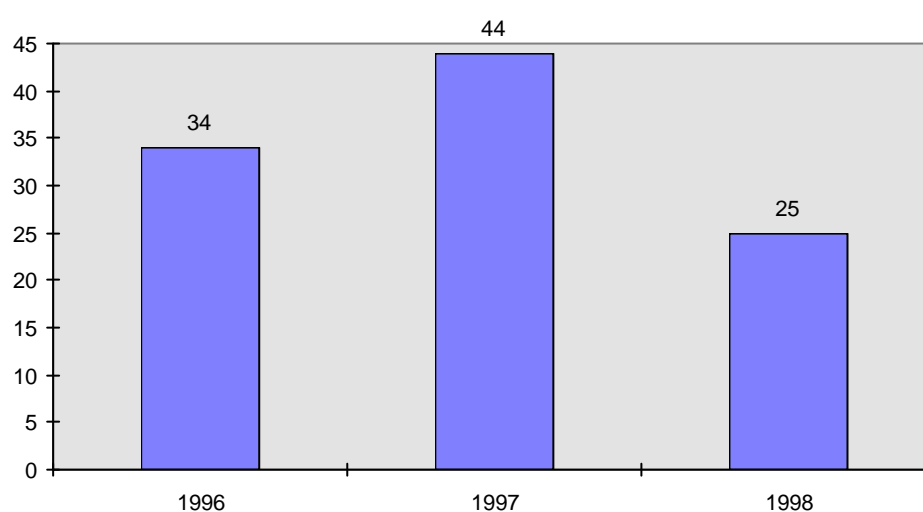
2. Number of new reported cases of HIV infection among injecting drug users

Information on HIV infection in Scotland is collected by the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health (SCIEH).

Indicator

There were 25 new notifications of HIV infection among injecting drug users in Scotland during 1998, compared with 44 in 1997 and 34 in 1996, [Figure 3.2](#). The number of new notifications in 1998 was the lowest of the last ten years.

Figure 3.2 : Number of new reported cases of HIV infection among injecting drug users



As at 31 December 1998, there were a total of 1,210 reports of HIV infection in Scotland among injecting drug users, [Table 3.1](#). Injecting drug users accounted for 41.9% of all known cases of HIV infection in Scotland.

Table 3.1 : Number of reports of HIV infection among injecting drug users in Scotland 1

Reports of HIV infection among injecting drug users	1996	1997	1998
New cases notified during the year	34	44	25
Cumulative totals (to 31 December)	1,141	1,185	1,210

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

1 Figures include 29 males who also had sexual intercourse with other males.

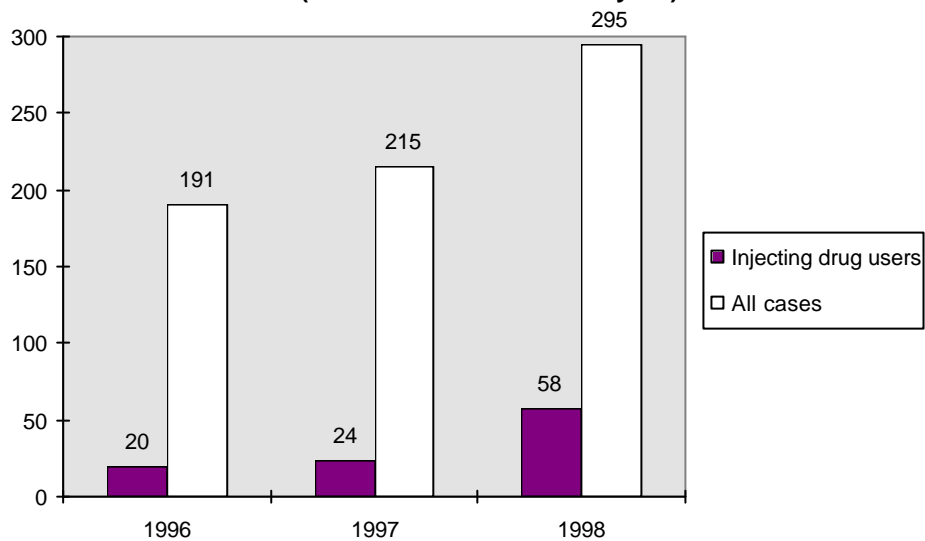
3. Number of new reported cases of hepatitis B among injecting drug users

Information on hepatitis B infection in Scotland is collected by the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health (SCIEH).

Indicator

In 1998, there were 58 new notifications of hepatitis B infection among injecting drug users in Scotland, compared with 24 in 1997 and 20 in 1996. Injecting drug users accounted for 19.7% of all cases notified in 1998, [Figure 3.3](#).

Figure 3.3 : Number of new reported cases of hepatitis B infection (to 31 December of each year)



Source : *The Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health (SCIEH)*

4. Number of reported cases of hepatitis C among injecting drug users

The Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health (SCIEH) and principal hepatitis C testing laboratories throughout Scotland have established a database of persons diagnosed hepatitis C antibody positive.

Indicator

As at 31 December 1997, there were 6,367 known cases of hepatitis C antibody positive in Scotland, of which 3,076 cases (48%) were known to have injected drugs.

For 2,630 of the total known cases, however, there was no risk information available. The majority of these (71%) were aged between 15 and 44, the range within which most injecting drug users belonged at the time of testing.

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

Notes

SCIEH estimate that the number of unknown hepatitis C cases exceeds the number of known cases several-fold.

5. Injecting and sharing behaviour

This section combines data on the three key indicators related to injecting drug use and sharing of injecting equipment.

These are :

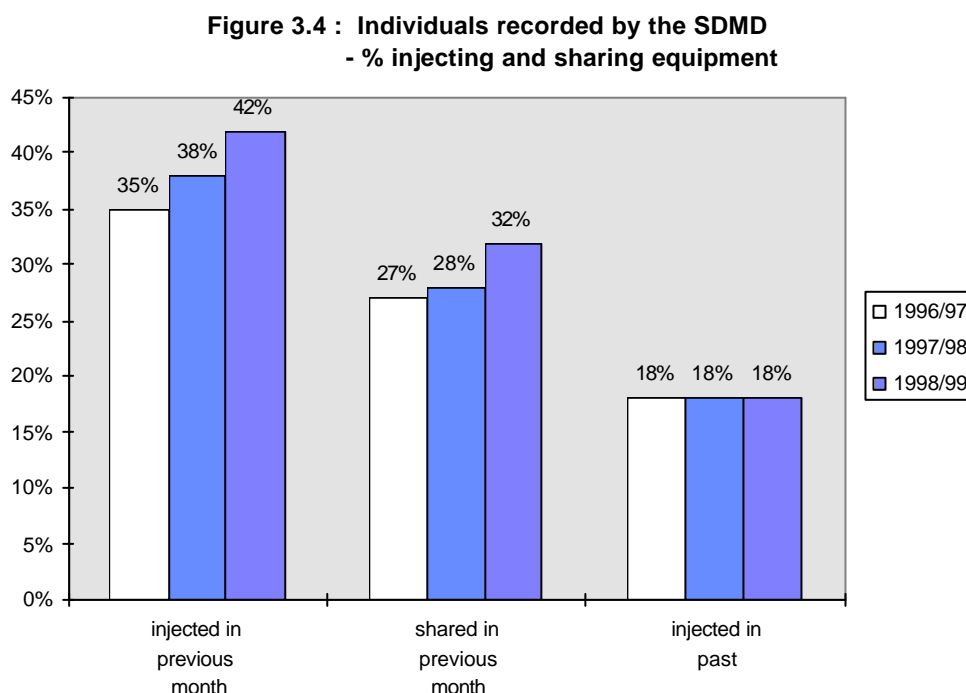
- the percentage of drug misusers recorded by the Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD) who had injected in the previous month ;
- the percentage of drug misusers recorded by the SDMD who had injected in the previous month who reported sharing equipment in the previous month ;
- and the percentage of drug misusers recorded by the SDMD who reported that they had injected in the past, but not in the previous month.

Indicators

Of new clients reported to the Scottish Drug Misuse Database during 1998/99, 42% reported that they had injected in the previous month. This represents an increase of 7% on the figure for 1996/97, [Figure 3.4](#).

In 1998/99, of those who had injected in the previous month, 32% (almost one in three) reported sharing equipment in the previous month. This compares with 28% in the previous two years, [Figure 3.4](#).

At the same time, the proportion of drug misusers reported to the SDMD who reported injecting in the past, but not in the previous month, remained at 18%, [Figure 3.4](#).



Source : Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD)

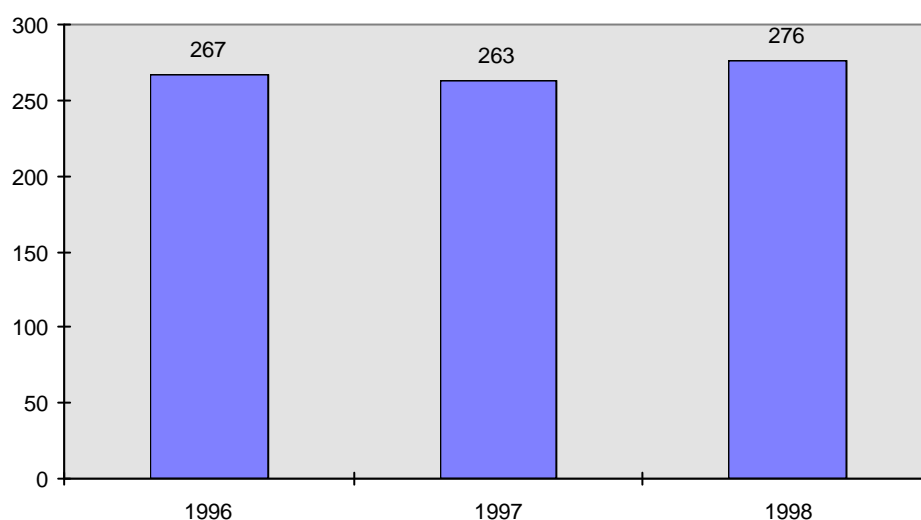
6. Number of deaths attributable to drug misuse

Annual statistics on drug related deaths are compiled by the General Register Office for Scotland (GRO).

Indicator

There were 276 drug related deaths in Scotland in 1998, compared with 263 in 1997 and 267 in 1996, [Figure 3.5](#). The majority of these (64.9%) were known or suspected to be drug dependent.

Figure 3.5 : Number of drug related deaths in Scotland



Background

In 1998, as in previous years, the majority of drug related deaths were of persons under 45, with over half (54.3%) aged between 25 and 44 and over one third (34.1%) aged under 25.

For 253 of the 276 drug related deaths in 1998, the GRO was able to provide information on the drug (or, more usually, drugs) involved. Heroin/morphine¹ was listed on 114 occasions, diazepam 105 and methadone 64.

¹ In previous years heroin and morphine were shown separately. However, it is believed that for the overwhelming majority of cases where morphine has been identified in post-mortem toxicological tests its presence is as a result of heroin use. For analysis purposes, therefore, the totals for heroin and morphine are combined.

UK Aim 4 : AVAILABILITY

To stifle the availability of illegal drugs on our streets.

UK Key Objective

Reduce access to drugs amongst 5-16 year olds.

Scotland's Objectives

1. Reduce access to drugs amongst all age groups.
2. Enforcement agencies to continue to identify, investigate and obtain evidence for the prosecution of persons engaged in drug trafficking and supply.
3. Reduce the amount of drugs entering Scotland by targeting distribution networks and dismantling organised trafficking.
4. Support constructive community involvement in reducing the availability of drugs locally.
5. Reduce the availability of drugs in prisons.

Currently Available Key Indicators :

- Number of seizures of controlled drugs by the police.
- Number of recorded drugs related offences of 'possession with intent to supply', per 100,000 population.
- Number of recorded drugs related offences of 'possession', per 100,000 population.
- Number of convictions, in Scottish courts, for 'possession with intent to supply drugs'.
- Percentage of positive tests under the Random Mandatory Drug Testing programme in Scottish prisons.

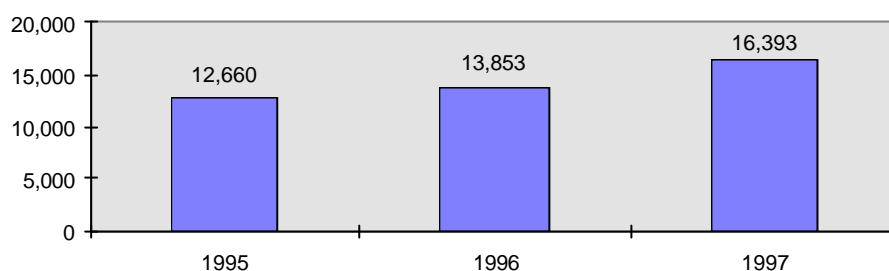
1. Number of seizures of controlled drugs by the police

Statistics on seizures of controlled drugs are collected by the Home Office. These cover seizures by the police, by officials of HM Customs and Excise and other bodies. The statistics presented below relate only to seizures made by Scottish police forces¹.

Indicator

Scottish police forces made a total of 16,393 drug seizures in 1997, compared with 13,853 in 1996 and 12,660 in 1995, **Figure 4.1**. This represents an increase of 3,733 (or 29.5%) between 1995 and 1997. Statistics for 1998 are still to be published.

Figure 4.1 : Number of seizures of controlled drugs by Scottish police forces



Source : *The Home Office*

Background

In 1997, as in previous years, the vast majority of reported seizures (87.0%) involved class B drugs, alone or with class A or C drugs. Over three-quarters of all seizures (78.4%) involved cannabis. Heroin was involved in 10.8% of all drug seizures.

Notes

Changes in drugs seizures do not necessarily imply similar changes in the prevalence of the misuse of controlled drugs. Drug misuse is a largely clandestine activity and the numbers of seizures are affected by both changes in the amount, direction and effectiveness of enforcement effort and by changes in recording procedures.

¹ Seizures from joint operations involving HM Customs and Excise and the police are generally recorded against HM Customs and Excise

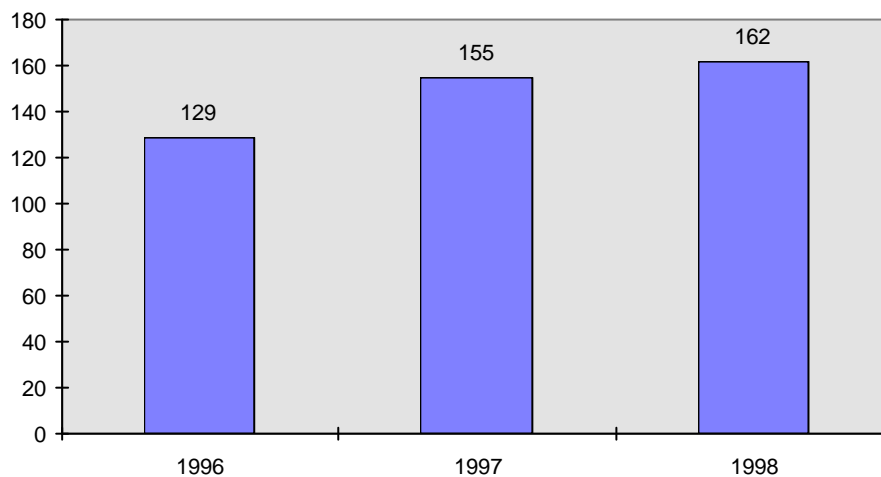
2. Number of recorded drugs related offences of ‘possession with intent to supply’, per 100,000 population

Statistics on drugs offences recorded by the police are available from quarterly statistical returns made by the Scottish police forces to the Scottish Executive Justice Department.

Indicator

Scottish police forces recorded a total of 8,290 drugs offences of ‘possession with intent to supply’ during 1998, a rate per 100,000 population in Scotland of 162. This compares with a rate per 100,000 population of 155 in 1997 and 129 in 1996, [Figure 4.2](#).

Figure 4.2: Recorded drugs offences of 'possession with intent to supply' - rate per 100,000 population in Scotland



Background

There were a total of 8,290 drugs offences of ‘possession with intent to supply’ recorded by Scottish police forces in 1998, compared with 6,638 in 1996. This represents an increase of 1,652, or 24.9% over the two years.

Table 4.1 : Number of recorded offences of ‘possession with intent to supply’ drugs and rate per 100,000 population in Scotland¹ (under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

Recorded offences of possession with intent to supply drugs	1996	1997	1998
Number of offences	6,638	7,915	8,290
Rate per 100,000 population	129	155	162

¹ Based on the General Register Office for Scotland (GRO) Mid-Year Population Estimates

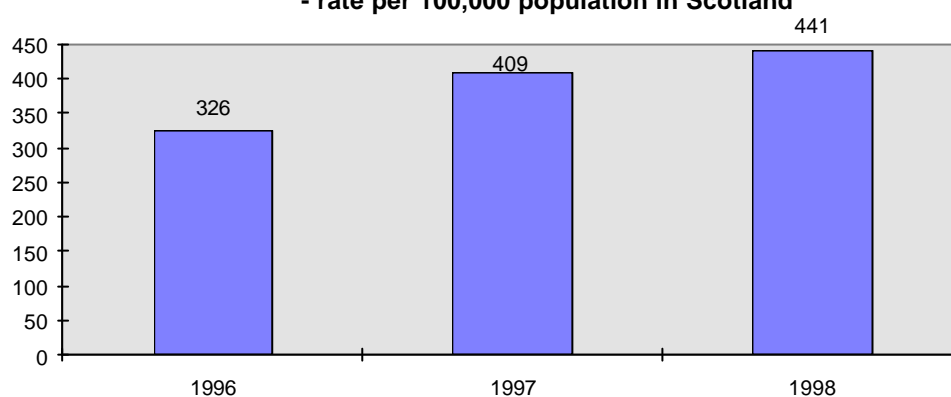
3. Number of recorded drugs related offences of ‘possession’, per 100,000 population

Statistics on drugs offences recorded by the police are available from quarterly statistical returns made by the Scottish police forces to the Scottish Executive Justice Department.

Indicator

Scottish police forces recorded a total of 22,588 offences of possession of drugs during 1998, a rate per 1000,00 population in Scotland of 441. This compares with a rate per 100,000 population of 409 in 1997 and 326 in 1996, [Figure 4.3](#).

Figure 4.3 : Recorded offences of possession of drugs - rate per 100,000 population in Scotland



Background

There were a total of 22,588 offences of possession of drugs recorded by Scottish police forces in 1998, compared with 16,739 in 1996. This represents an increase of 5,849 or 34.9% over the two years.

Table 4.2 : Number of recorded offences of possession of drugs and rate per 100,000 population in Scotland¹ (under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

Recorded offences of possession of drugs	1996	1997	1998
Number of offences	16,739	20,929	22,588
Rate per 100,000 population	326	409	441

¹ Based on the General Register Office for Scotland (GRO) Mid-Year Population Estimates

4. Number of convictions, in Scottish courts, for ‘possession with intent to supply drugs’

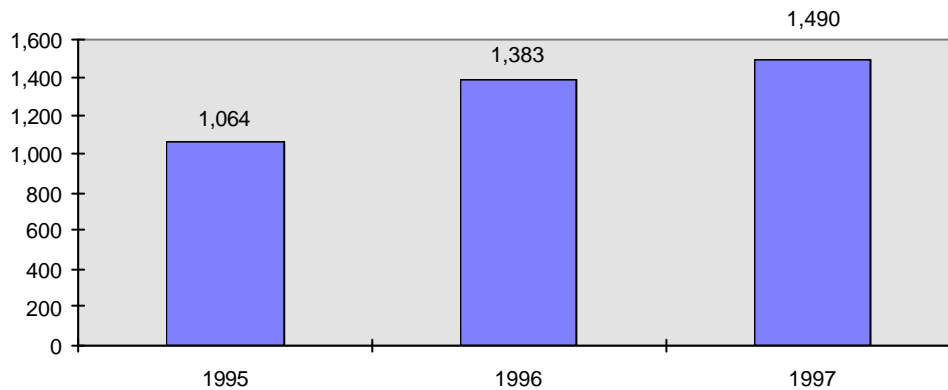
Statistics on persons convicted of drugs related offences are available from the Scottish Executive Justice Department’s court proceedings database. They are derived from the information on court proceedings held on the police operational computer at the Scottish Criminal Record Office.

Indicator

In 1997, there were 1,490 persons¹ convicted in Scottish courts for ‘possession with intent to supply drugs’². The corresponding figures for 1996 and 1995 were 1,383 and 1,064 respectively, **Figure 4.4**. The number of convictions increased by 40.0% between 1995 and 1997.

Statistics for 1998 are still to be published.

Figure 4.4 : Number of persons convicted in Scottish courts for ‘possession with intent to supply drugs’



Source : The Scottish Executive Justice Department (court proceedings database)

1 If a person was convicted of drugs offences on more than one occasion during a single year, each occasion would be recorded separately

2 Where main offence

5. Percentage of positive tests under the Random Mandatory Drug Testing programme in Scottish prisons.

The Scottish Prison Service conducts a programme of Random Mandatory Drug Testing. Each month, 10% of the 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.

Mandatory Drug Testing schemes were piloted at Edinburgh and Cornton Vale prisons in early 1996, followed by a rolling programme which extended the initiative to all prisons by March 1997. Consequently, national data is available only from 1997 onwards.

Indicator

In 1998/99, of a total of 7,162 Random Mandatory Drug Tests conducted in Scottish prisons, 25% tested positive on one or more drugs of misuse¹. The underlying rate, which excludes those who may have misused the drugs for which they were tested before entry to prison, was 18%.

Comparable percentages for 1997/98 were 29% and 23%, respectively, [Table 4.3](#).

Table 4.3 : Results of Random Mandatory Drug Testing in Scottish Prisons

Year	Number of tests conducted	Percentage Positive	
		All tests	Underlying ²
1997/98	7,070	29%	23%
1998/99	7,162	25%	18%

Background

Cannabis was detected in 15% of all tests taken in 1998/99, followed by opiates 12% and benzodiazepines 6%. In the previous year, cannabis was detected in 20% of all tests, opiates 13% and benzodiazepines 5%.

1 There are nine drugs of misuse which are tested for. These are : cannabis, benzodiazepines, opiates, methadone, LSD, amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine and temgesic.

2 The underlying rate excludes those who may have misused the drug(s) for which they were tested positive before entry to prison.