Scottish Stroke Statistics
Year ending 31 March 2019
A National Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication date: 28 January 2020

About this release
This release by the Information Services Division provides an annual update on cerebrovascular disease in Scotland, including stroke, brain haemorrhage and ‘mini-stroke’. This publication includes information on hospital activity, operations, incidence, 30-day survival following first emergency admission, GP prescribing, mortality and ambulance service activity.

Main Points

- The incidence rate for cerebrovascular disease decreased over the last decade by 12%. Incidence rates were consistently 20% higher in males than females.

- There were 3,835 deaths in Scotland in 2018 where cerebrovascular disease, including stroke, was the underlying cause. In the last decade, the death rate for cerebrovascular disease decreased by 34%.

Cerebrovascular disease – age and sex adjusted death rates per 100,000 population, Scotland, 2009-2018
• The death rate for cerebrovascular disease in the most deprived areas was 52% higher than in the least deprived areas in 2018.

• The percentage of people surviving 30 days or more following their first emergency admission to hospital with a stroke improved slightly over the last ten years from 83% in 2009/10 to 86% in 2018/19.

• The number of patients receiving prescriptions for drugs to treat diseases of the circulation increased by 12.5% in the last ten years. Despite this increase, the cost of prescriptions dispensed for these drugs has fallen by 21% over the last ten years to £139.7 million in 2018/19, reflecting falls in drug prices for these conditions.

**Background**

Cerebrovascular disease develops as a result of problems with the blood vessels supplying oxygen rich blood to the brain.

Scotland has a high prevalence of the risk factors associated with cerebrovascular disease such as smoking and high blood pressure. Despite a substantial decrease in rates of death over the last decade, treating and preventing stroke is a national clinical priority for Scotland as outlined in the Stroke Improvement Plan.

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**Further Information**

The Information Services Division publishes a range of cerebrovascular disease-related information. You can find all our information on stroke section of the ISD website. More information is also available from the Scottish Stroke Care Audit. Further information can be found in the Stroke Statistics report.

Corresponding information on heart disease can be found on the heart disease section of the ISD website.

The next update of this publication will be in January 2021.

**ISD and Official Statistics**

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. [Further information about our statistics.](#)