National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times Summary
1 October – 31 December 2019

A National Statistics publication for Scotland
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About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) reports on the waiting times for people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services between October and December 2019. It contains information on the number of people seen for treatment, types of treatment accessed, and length of time waited. The Scottish Government set a standard that 90% of people referred for help with their drug or alcohol problem will wait no longer than three weeks for treatment that supports their recovery.

Main Points

- 95% of the 9,171 people who started their first drug or alcohol treatment during the quarter waited 3 weeks or less, with quarterly trends demonstrating consistent performance in recent years.
  - 95.1% of the 5,012 people seeking alcohol treatment waited 3 weeks or less
  - 95% of the 4,159 people seeking drug treatment waited 3 weeks or less

People Starting Drug and Alcohol treatment in Scotland during October – December 2019: % waited 3 weeks or less, by NHS Board

- For the 2,173 people who were still waiting to start drug or alcohol treatment at the end of the quarter, 10.8% had been waiting for more than 6 weeks
- 92.5% of the 796 people in prison who started their first drug or alcohol treatment between October and December 2019 waited 3 weeks or less.
• 39.6% of the 101 people in prison still waiting to start drug or alcohol treatment at the end of the quarter had been waiting for more than 6 weeks.

Background

The data in this publication is a snapshot of a dynamic database. This means that data for previous quarters may not be the same as found in previous publications for the same time period. Updated data for the most recent quarter is provisional and may be revised in future publications.

Please see News and Updates section of our website for more details.

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Further Information

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication is available to download from our web page. Other relevant ISD publications can be found here. The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) provides information on various aspects of drug misuse in Scotland: ScotPHO drug misuse section.

The next release of this publication will be 30 June 2020.

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 Statistics. Further information about our statistics.