Learning Disability Inpatient Activity
Financial years 1997/98 – 2018/19

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) provides long term trend (1997/98 to 2018/19) information on patients with learning disabilities that were treated as inpatients in Scottish psychiatric hospitals.

Revision to published data as at 27 February 2020: Patients treated in 2013/14 were erroneously assigned to a deprivation quintile using the 2016 version of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). This has now been changed to the 2012 version of SIMD. The affected output has been highlighted in red and changes the previously quoted figure: people living in the most deprived areas are three, not three and a half, times more likely to experience inpatient care.

Main Points
• Discharges from the Learning Disability specialty fell sharply from around 4,700 in 1997/98 to around 1,700 in 2005/06. The decrease continues gradually with 2018/19 having the lowest number of discharges (819) over the 22 years for which there is data. This reflects changes in service delivery, moving away from long term hospital care towards more community based care.

Discharges from the Learning Disability specialty in Scotland, 1997/98-2018/19
• Respite care, rather than treatment, was the main reason that people with learning disabilities were admitted to psychiatric hospitals between 2013/14 and 2018/19.

• 71.8% of the discharges from the Learning Disability specialty between 2013/14 and 2018/19 were in the under 25 age group; the number of discharges then tails off sharply as age increases.

• In the period 2013/14-2018/19, people with a learning disability who lived in the most deprived areas were three times more likely to experience an episode of inpatient care in the Learning Disability specialty compared to those living in the least deprived areas.

• 56% of patients treated in the Learning Disability specialty between 2013/14 and 2018/19 were male.

Background
This publication relates to learning disability patients receiving inpatient care in mental health (psychiatric) hospitals. This information was previously published within the Hospital inpatient care of people with mental health problems in Scotland report. Charts and tables featured in the previous version of this release are available on request.

ISD Scotland would like to engage with the users of this publication and gather feedback on its release; contact details are provided below.

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Further Information
Find out more in the full report. Data from this publication is available to download from our web page and from the NHS Scotland Open Data platform.

For related topics, please see the mental health section of the ISD website.

The next release of this publication will be late 2020.