

Improving Drug and Alcohol Services - Aggregated persona, Drug Related Death (DRD) - 2019/20

Risk profile of drug-related deaths in Scotland based on Public Health Scotland (PHS) analysis data, released in October 2024 from the most recent reporting period (2019/20)

Demographics

- Lived in their own home (76%) as a sole occupant (63%)
- Resided in the most deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland (54%)
- Were a parent/ parental figure to one or more children under 16 (32%), very few (21%) lived in the same home as their children.
- Had experience of prison (46%)

Service touchpoints (previous 6 months)

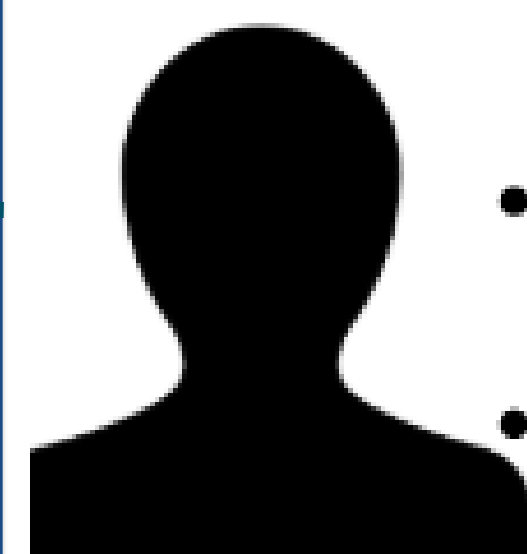
- Service with potential to address problematic drug use or deliver harm reduction interventions (65%)
- Social work/housing (41%)
- Discharge from general acute hospital (31%)

Circumstances of death

- Had consumed the drugs in (72%) and died in (66%) their own home
- Had previously been supplied with Naloxone and had it available at the place of their death (52%)
- Other people were present at the place of death (51%)

Substance Use history

- Previously known to have used drugs (84%) for 11+ years (69%)
- Had previously experienced a non-fatal overdose (47%)
- Known to have injected drugs (45%)
- Had a drug detox within previous 12 months (7%)



Male, 43

- 73% of deaths amongst males
- Average age of 43

Toxicology (implicated in cause of death)

- Multiple drugs (96%)
- Opioids (79%)
- Prescribed & non-prescribed benzos (60%)
- Methadone (53%)

Medical/Psychiatric History and Significant Life Events

- Recorded medical condition in previous 6 months (52%)
 - Respiratory illness (20%), Blood-borne virus (9%) Epilepsy (7%)
- Recorded psychiatric condition in previous 6 months (46%)
 - Depression (28%), Anxiety (20%)
- Experienced a significant life event in previous 6 months (41%)

Prescribing data

- Prescribed OAT at time of death (46%)
- Supervised consumption (71%) and within recommended dosage (62%)

References:

The National Drug-Related Deaths Database (Scotland) Report: Analysis of Deaths Registered in 2019 and 2020, Public Health Scotland (2024). Online resource. Available from: https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/29629/2024-10-08_ndrdd_report.pdf