



Quarterly report summary - July 2023

Overall, healthcare indicators of harm and service use remained **broadly stable** up to May 2023.

The predominant picture of drug harms in Scotland continues to be **polydrug use** involving **benzodiazepines**, **cocaine** and **opioids**.

Current alerts: [New benzodiazepines - bromazolam](#) (July 2023) and [Nitazene-type opioids](#) (March 2023)



NALOXONE ADMINISTRATIONS | MAR 23 - MAY 23

- Average weekly number of ambulance service incidents **increased** between March (66) and May (79).
- Total number of incidents (973) **lower** compared to the same period in 2021 (1,223) and **similar** to 2022 (959).



SUSPECTED DRUG DEATHS | MAR 23 - MAY 23

- Average of 100 suspected drug deaths per month.
- This was **lower** compared to approximately the same period in 2021 (116) and **similar** to the same period 2022 (102).



A&E ATTENDANCES | MAR 23 - MAY 23

- Total of 1,081 drug-related attendances recorded.
- This was **similar** compared to the same period in 2021 (1,058) and 13% **higher** than in 2022 (954).



HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS | JAN 23 - MAR 23

- Average weekly number of drug-related hospital admissions **decreased** during this time period.
- Total number of admissions (1,654) was **lower** than expected, compared to the same period in 2021 (3,040) and 2022 (2,136) (decreases of 23% and 46% respectively).



TOXICOLOGY

Emergency departments

Feb 23 - May 23

Most common drug types detected were **benzodiazepines** (60%), followed by **opioids** (17%).

Post-mortem testing

Oct 22 - Dec 22

Most common drug types detected were **opioids** (75%) and **benzodiazepines** (62%).

Bromazolam was detected in 15% of deaths.

Prison testing

Jan 23 - Mar 23

Most common drug types detected were **benzodiazepines** (21%) and **synthetic cannabinoids** (19%).

SERVICES

Treatment

Feb 23 - May 23

Average weekly number of referrals to specialist drug treatment services was **broadly stable**.

Number of referrals (5,573) was **lower** than the same period in 2021 (6,531) and **similar** to 2022 (5,625).

Opioid Substitution Therapy

Jan 23 - Mar 23

Average number of doses supplied per month was **stable**.

Number of doses supplied was **slightly lower** than the same period in 2021 and 2022.

Injecting Equipment Provision

Jan 23 - Mar 23

Average weekly number of IEP transactions and number of syringes and needles distributed were **broadly stable**.

Number of transactions during this time period was **lower** than the same period in 2021 and 2022.

