

In our [latest report](#), drug-related harms in Scotland decreased compared to the previous quarter, but the drug supply remains highly variable, requiring ongoing vigilance and a heightened response.



NALOXONE ADMINISTRATIONS | SEP - NOV 24

- Average weekly number of ambulance service naloxone administration incidents **decreased** between September (61) and November (47).
- Total number of incidents was 700. This was 30% **lower** compared to the previous quarter (998), 24% **lower** compared to the same period in 2022 (917) and 34% **lower** than in 2023 (1,058).



A&E ATTENDANCES | SEP - NOV 24

- Total of 977 drug-related emergency department attendances were recorded.
- This was 10% **lower** than the previous quarter (1,090), 14% **lower** than the same period in 2022 (1,130) and 16% **lower** than in 2023 (1,162).



HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS | APR - JUN 24

- Total of 2,071 drug-related hospital admissions were recorded.
- This was 8% **lower** than the previous quarter (2,258), **similar** to the same period in 2022 (2,024) and 20% **lower** than in 2023 (2,577).



SUSPECTED DRUG DEATHS | SEP - NOV 24

- Total number of suspected drug deaths was 215, averaging 18 per week.
- This was 10% **lower** than the previous quarter (238), 20% **lower** compared to the same period in 2022 (268) and 15% **lower** than in 2023 (254).



TOXICOLOGY

Post-mortem testing

Jul - Sep 24

- Most common drug types were opioids (73%) and benzos (54%).
- Most common drugs were **cocaine** (34%), **heroin/morphine** (31%), **diazepam** and **methadone** (23%).
- **Bromazolam** decreased by 6%.
- **Nitazenes** were detected in 4% of deaths (25).
- **Xylazine** was detected in 1% (4).

Prison testing

Jan - Jul 24

- Most common drug type was **synthetic cannabinoids**.

Emergency department project (ASSIST)

Sep - Nov 24

- Most common drug type was **benzos** (53% of all detections).
- Most common drug was cocaine, detected in 60% of samples (13% of all detections).

SERVICES

Opioid substitution therapy

Jul - Sep 24

- Monthly average number of doses supplied was **similar** to the previous quarter, 7% **lower** than the same period in 2022 and **similar** to 2023.
- Methadone doses continued to **decrease**, while the number of injectable buprenorphine doses **increased**.

Treatment

Aug - Nov 24

- Number of referrals (6,578) was **similar** to the previous quarter (6,605), 7% **higher** than the same period in 2022 (6,166) and 5% **lower** than in 2023 (6,910).

Injecting equipment provision

Jul - Sep 24

- The number of transactions and the number of syringes and needles distributed was **similar** to the previous quarter.
- The number of transactions was **similar** to the same period in 2022 and 6% **lower** than 2023.

