

Highlands and Islands Labour

Calculating the annual costs of alcohol misuse in H&I health board areas

The calculations use the same estimates (and assumptions) made by Scottish Government researchers in calculating the cost of alcohol misuse in Scotland to society at :

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/05/06091510/0>

(May 2008)

Assuming that these percentages at a Scottish level reflect the same level of misuse of alcohol in the NHS in the Highlands and Islands , then the following estimated costs to the NHS could occur.

Ambulance call outs

The data obtained from the Scottish Ambulance Service indicates that the number of emergency call outs in 2008-09 has been for each H&I health board

Highland 17,813

Orkney 824

Shetland 998

Western Isles 1,814

* Scottish Government researchers estimate that 25 per cent of ambulance incidents in Scotland are alcohol-related. (See “Scottish Government Research “ PDF file Section 3.3 Ambulance journeys ...” a figure of 25 % is used here)

* Estimated cost per call out

The estimated cost of an emergency ambulance call out in 2008-09 in the North area (Highlands & Islands, Grampian) is £298.51p (see attached Excel file |ISD Scotland under Accident and Emergency - North)

The estimated costs of alcohol misuse to the NHS through emergency call outs in each of these health board areas is calculated as follows :

The number of emergency call outs in a health board area x 25 per cent x £298 (the average cost of each call out)

NHS Highland

The estimated annual cost of alcohol misuse to the NHS in the NHS Highland area in 2008-09 to

ambulance resources is :

25 per cent of 17,813 x £298 = £1.33 million

NHS Orkney

The estimated annual cost of alcohol misuse to the NHS in the NHS Orkney area in 2008-09 to ambulance resources is

25 per cent of 824 x £298 = £61,388 or approximately £ 61,000

NHS Shetland

The estimated annual cost of alcohol misuse to the NHS in the NHS Shetland area in 2008-09 to ambulance resources is

25 per cent of 998 x £298 = £74,351 or approximately £ 74,000

NHS Western Isles

The estimated annual cost of alcohol misuse to the NHS in the NHS Western Isles area in 2008-09 to ambulance resources is

25 per cent of 1,814 x £298 = £135,143 or approximately £135,000

Attendances at Accident & Emergency Units

A&E attendances in H&I health boards areas in 2009 were :

Highland 94,885

Orkney 3,426

Shetland 8,875

Western Isles 8,599

See :

Rhoda Grant : To ask the Scottish Executive how many attendances there were at accident and emergency units in NHS (a) Highland, (b) Orkney, (c) Shetland and (d) Western Isles in each of the last three years.

Answered by Nicola Sturgeon (Wednesday, March 10, 2010): The numbers of accident and emergency (A&E) new and unplanned return attendances from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2009 are presented in the following table.

A&E departments are classified as either core or non-core sites. Core sites include all A&E departments within large hospitals. Non-core sites include minor injury units, small hospitals with manual systems and health centres in rural areas that carry out A&E type activity. Data has been collected from core sites since 1 April 2006 and from non-core sites 1 July 2007.

Table1: A&E Attendances per Calendar Year, 2007 to 2009

	2007	2008	2009
NHS Highland ^(a)	62,631	91,370	94,885
Core sites	35,638	35,685	36,251
Non-core sites	26,993 ^(a)	55,685	58,634
NHS Orkney ^(b)	2,404	2,522	3,426
Core sites	x	x	x
Non-core sites	2,404	2,522	3,426
NHS Shetland	8,880	8,802	8,875
Core sites	8,880	8,802	8,875
Non-core Sites	x	x	x
NHS Western Isles ^(a)	8,676	8,544	8,599
Core sites	7,885	7,089	7,013
Non-core sites	791 ^(a)	1,455	1,586

Source: ISD Scotland A&E data mart (1 July 2007 to 31 December 2009) and Weblogic reporting system (1 January 2007 to 30 June 2007).

Key to symbols:

x not applicable

Notes:

(a) NHS Highland and NHS Western Isles data for non-core sites was collected from 1 July 2007.

(b) NHS Orkney data was collected from 1 January 2007. Data prior to March 2009 is not fully reflective of activity due to incomplete recording. New processes have now been implemented to resolve this issue.

*Scottish Government researchers use an estimate of 25 per cent of all cases in Scotland being related to alcohol (See “Scottish Government research Section 3.8 A&E attendances ... “A figure of 25%...is used in these estimates”)

(Note also : “At peak times seven out of 10 accident and emergency admissions stem from alcohol abuse and the Department of Health estimates that about £1 in every £3 spent in A and E is alcohol-related.” Hansard, referring to the English Department of Health

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070515/halltext/70515h0001.htm>

*The estimated cost of an attendance at an Accident & Emergency unit in Scotland in 2008-09 is £100

See :

Marlyn Glen : To ask the Scottish Executive what the average cost was of an attendance at an accident and emergency unit in the last year for which information is available.

Answered by Nicola Sturgeon (Thursday, February 25, 2010): The average cost of an attendance at a hospital providing accident and emergency outpatient care in financial year 2008-09 was £100.

So the estimated annual cost of alcohol misuse to Accident & Emergency resources is :

The annual number of attendances x 25 per cent x £100

NHS Highland

Using the number of attendances at core sites only

Estimated annual cost of the misuse of alcohol to A&E resources is :

36,251 x 25 per cent x £100 = £ 906,275 (or approximately £900,000)

NHS Orkney

Estimated annual cost of the misuse of alcohol to A&E resources is :

3,426 x 25 per cent x £100 = £ 85,650 (or approximately £85,000)

NHS Shetland

Estimated annual cost of the misuse of alcohol to A&E resources is :

8,875 x 25 per cent x £100 = £ 221,875 (or approximately £221,000)

NHS Western Isles

Using the number of attendances at core sites only

Estimated annual cost of the misuse of alcohol to A&E resources is :

7,013 x 25 per cent x £100 = £214,975 (or approximately £215,000)

Outpatient appointments

The number of outpatient attendances in H&I health boards in 2009 were :

NHS Highland 71,694

NHS Orkney 3,286

NHS Shetland 5,445

Western Isles 6,791

Rhoda Grant :To ask the Scottish Executive how many new outpatient attendances there were in NHS (a) Highland, (b) Orkney, (c) Shetland and (d) Western Isles in each of the last three years.

Answered by Nicola Sturgeon (Tuesday, March 02, 2010): The number of new outpatient attendances for the last three financial years ending 31 March in Highland, Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles is shown in the following table.

Number of New Outpatient Attendances

NHS Board	2007	2008	2009
Highland	68,132	69,837	71,694
Orkney	3,094	3,175	3,286
Shetland	5,504	5,052	5,445
Western Isles	6,790	6,934	6,791

Source: ISD Scotland, ISD(s)1.

^PProvisional.

* The estimated percentage of outpatients appointments connected with alcohol-related conditions is 10 per cent (See Scottish Government researchers - Section 3.10 ... “ The number of OP visits associated with alcohol related disease (both direct and indirect) is estimated at 10%”

* The estimated cost of an outpatient attendance in 2008-09 is £112.

Marlyn Glen : To ask the Scottish Executive what the average cost was of a consultant outpatient appointment in the last year for which information is available.

Answered by Nicola Sturgeon (Thursday, February 25, 2010): The average cost of a consultant outpatient attendance at an NHSScotland location in financial year 2008-09 was £112.

The cost of alcohol misuse to outpatient resources is :

the number of attendances in each health board x 10 per cent x £112

NHS Highland

The estimated annual cost of alcohol misuse to outpatients resources is :

71,694 x 10 per cent x £112 = £802,297 (or approximately £800,000)

NHS Orkney

The estimated annual cost of alcohol misuse to outpatients resources is :

3,286 x 10 per cent x £112 = £36,803 (or approximately £36,000)

NHS Shetland

The estimated annual cost of alcohol misuse to outpatients resources is :
5,445 x 10 per cent x £112 = £60,984 (or approximately £60,000)

Western Isles

The estimated annual cost of alcohol misuse to outpatients resources is :
6,791 x 10 per cent x £112 = £76,059 (or approximately £76,000)

Days in which hospital beds are occupied

The number days in 2008-09 that beds in H&I hospitals were occupied by those with an alcohol-related condition where alcohol was either a primary or secondary reason were :

NHS Highland 12,568

NHS Orkney 704

NHS Shetland 542

NHS Western Isles 1,220

See : .

Alcohol Misuse

Rhoda Grant : To ask the Scottish Executive how many acute occupied bed days in hospitals in NHS (a) Highland, (b) Orkney, (c) Shetland and (d) Western Isles were directly associated with alcohol-related conditions in each of the last three years.

Answered by Nicola Sturgeon (Wednesday, March 10, 2010): Information on the number of acute occupied bed days which are directly attributable to alcohol-related conditions is not held centrally.

Information on acute occupied bed days is recorded on the SMR01 dataset. SMR01 has space for up to six diagnosis codes to be recorded, a main diagnosis and up to five secondary diagnoses. Alcohol-related problems will be recorded as either a main or a secondary diagnosis, so it is not possible to identify the cases where alcohol was directly attributed to the length of the admission.

Table 1: The total length of stay (bed days) of patients treated in general acute hospitals^{1,2} in NHS Highland, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles³ for alcohol-related conditions^{4,5,6}, 2006-07 to 2008-09^P:

2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 ^P
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Highland	14,949	14,335	12,568
Orkney	1,005	499	704
Shetland	572	240	542
Western Isles	2,762	1,732	1,220

Source: ISD Scotland (SMR01).

^PProvisional.

Notes:

1. Excludes mental illness hospitals, psychiatric units and maternity hospitals. 2. Figures in this table relate only to those individuals who are treated as inpatients or day cases in an acute hospital. They do not include individuals managed as outpatients. 3. Note that these figures include residents from other health boards that were treated in Highland and Island hospitals but do not include Highland and Island residents treated in other health boards. 4. Discharges where alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded as primary or secondary reasons for admission to hospital. 5. Diseases recorded using the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD10). - Alcohol-related: F10, K70, X45, X65, Y15, Y90, Y91, E24.4, E51.2, G31.2, G62.1, G72.1, I42.6, K29.2, K86.0, O35.4, P04.3, Q86.0, T51.0, T51.1, T51.9, Y57.3, R78.0, Z50.2, Z71.4, Z72.1. These codes were defined in a recent in-depth review of ISD's core alcohol related code set. Further information about the review and resulting consultation process is available at: Error! Reference source not found.. 6. Caution is necessary when interpreting these figures. The recording of alcohol-related problems may vary from hospital to hospital. Due to the way alcohol related conditions are recorded, we are unable to determine whether or not the reason for admission is directly attributable to alcohol. Therefore, this figure may be an overestimate. Information in the table relates to discharges from acute non-obstetric, non-psychiatric hospitals. It should be noted that patients with alcohol-related conditions may be admitted to mental illness hospitals. Statistics for these admissions are not included in the table.

*The average cost of an acute occupied bed day in 2008-09

See

Marlyn Glen : To ask the Scottish Executive what the average cost was of an acute occupied bed day in the last year for which information is available.

Answered by Nicola Sturgeon (Thursday, February 25, 2010): The average cost of an acute occupied bed day in an NHSScotland hospital in financial year 2008-09 was £569.

The estimated annual cost to NHS resources by the occupation of beds by those with alcohol-related conditions where alcohol is either a primary or a secondary factor per health board is :

the number of occupied bed days x the average cost of an acute occupied bed day

NHS Highland

The estimated annual cost is

the number of occupied bed days x the average cost of an acute occupied bed day

12,568 x £ 569 = £7,151,192 (or approximately £7.15 million)

NHS Orkney

The estimated annual cost is

the number of occupied bed days x the average cost of an acute occupied bed day

704 x £ 569 = £400,576 (or approximately £400,000)

NHS Shetland

The estimated annual cost is

the number of occupied bed days x the average cost of an acute occupied bed day

542 x £ 569 = £308,398 (or approximately £310,000)

NHS Western Isles

The estimated annual cost is

the number of occupied bed days x the average cost of an acute occupied bed day

1,220 x £ 569 = £694,180 (or approximately £690,000)

Note :

These estimates deal only with these four services and do not take account of the cost of alcohol excess to

*psychiatric bed use

* prescribed drugs,

*laboratory testing.

Neither do they taking into account the number of GP consultations for alcohol abuse. The latest annual Scotland-wide figure is 102,000.