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Coverage
United Kingdom
Theme
Health and Care

Alcohol-related death rate highest in Scotland

Health Statistics Quarterly Spring 2007

In Scotland, the alcohol-related death rates for males and females were around double the rates for the UK as a whole in 2002-2004, according to new analysis published today by the Office for National Statistics in Health Statistics Quarterly 33 (Spring 2007).

Across the UK as a whole, the alcohol-related death rate for males was double the rate for females, and the gap between the sexes has widened since 1991.

These are among the conclusions of a study of the geographical variation in alcohol-related death rates in the UK between 1991 and 2004.

In 2004 there were 8,221 alcohol-related deaths in the UK, almost double the total of 4,144 in 1991.

Among both men and women, the alcohol-related death rate rose most rapidly among those aged 35 – 54 between 1991 and 2004, though the death rate for both sexes was highest in the 55 – 74 age group.

At a local level, Glasgow City had the highest alcohol-related death rate among both men and women in 1998-2004. Fifteen of the 20 UK local areas with the highest male alcohol-related death rates were in Scotland, with three in England and two in Northern Ireland. Merthyr Tydfil, the highest-ranked local area in Wales, was 50th in the UK.

For women, 14 of the top 20 local areas were in Scotland, with four in England and two in Northern Ireland. Denbighshire was the highest-ranking Welsh local area, at 26th in the UK.

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Health Statistics Quarterly 33 contains new statistics on births, deaths and other health-related topics.

In this issue there are new reports on:

- Conceptions in England and Wales, 2005
- Health expectancies in the United Kingdom, 2003
- Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2001–2005
- Deaths involving MRSA: England and Wales, 2001–2005
- Deaths related to drug poisoning: England and Wales, 1993–2005

There are feature articles on:

- Trends and geographical variations in alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom 1991–2004
- Pilot linkage of NHS Numbers for Babies data with birth registrations
- Teenage conceptions by small area deprivation in England and Wales, 2001–2002

There are annual updates on:

- 2005 Mortality statistics: cause (England and Wales)
- Congenital anomaly statistics: notifications, 2005, England and Wales

New statistics in this issue include:**Conceptions in England and Wales, 2005**

This report contains provisional estimated numbers and rates of conceptions for women usually resident in England and Wales in 2005.

Key findings show:

- There were an estimated 837,000 conceptions in England and Wales in 2005, compared with 826,000 in 2004, an increase of 1.3 per cent.
- As in previous years, nearly four-fifths of these conceptions in 2005 resulted in a maternity.
- Ninety-three per cent of conceptions within marriage resulted in a maternity compared with 65 per cent of conceptions outside marriage.
- Between 2004 and 2005, the largest increase in conception rates occurred within the 35–39 age group, rising from 51.0 conceptions per thousand women aged 35–39 to 52.8 per thousand, an increase of 3 per cent.

There is a separate news release on the reports on deaths involving MRSA: England and Wales, 2001 – 2005 and Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2001 – 2005:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdffdir/deaths0207.pdf>

Feature articles in this issue include:**Teenage conceptions by small area deprivation in England and Wales, 2001–2002**

This article examines the relationship between teenage conceptions and deprivation in England and Wales in 2001–2002 using data at ward level. It concludes that:

- There is a strong association between deprivation and teenage conceptions. The teenage conception rate in the most deprived wards in England and Wales is over four times that in the least deprived wards (70.9 per thousand girls aged 15–17 compared with 16.2 per thousand). This ratio increased to fivefold for the under 16s.

- Teenagers in the most deprived areas were much more likely to have conceptions leading to a maternity than those in the least deprived areas. In the least deprived areas, 71 per cent of conceptions by girls aged under 18 ended in an abortion, while the proportion in the most deprived areas was 39 per cent. Among the under-16s, the proportions were 77 per cent and 50 per cent respectively.
- There were large differences in teenage conception rates between the least and most deprived wards within regions of England and Wales.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Health Statistics Quarterly 33 (spring 2007) is available free on the National Statistics website:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725>
2. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
3. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2007.