

Table 7: Drug-related deaths involving only one drug by sex, age and selected drugs reported¹, Scotland, 2015

	Any drug: all such deaths	Heroin / morphine ²	Methadone	Heroin / morphine, Methadone or Buprenorphine	Codeine or a codeine-containing compound	Dihydro-codeine or a d.h.c.-containing compound	Any opiate or opioid	Benzodiazepines of which:		Cocaine	Ecstasy-type	Amphetamines	Any other drug ³	Alcohol (with only one drug - refer to the examples given in footnote ¹)
								Any benzo-diazepine	Diazepam					
(i) only one drug (and, perhaps, alcohol) was found to be present in the body														
All such deaths	73	22	5	30	2	6	47	5	4	4	1	1	15	26
Males	59	19	4	26	1	4	39	5	4	3	1	1	10	24
Females	14	3	1	4	1	2	8	0	0	1	0	0	5	2
Under 25	2	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25-34	16	5	1	6	0	0	7	0	0	3	1	0	5	6
35-44	22	6	1	8	0	1	11	2	2	1	0	1	7	7
45-54	16	4	2	7	2	2	12	3	2	0	0	0	1	5
55 and over	17	6	0	7	0	3	15	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Males														
Under 25	2	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25-34	11	3	1	4	0	0	5	0	0	2	1	0	3	5
35-44	19	6	1	8	0	1	11	2	2	1	0	1	4	7
45-54	12	3	1	5	1	2	8	3	2	0	0	0	1	4
55 and over	15	6	0	7	0	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Females														
Under 25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-34	5	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
35-44	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
45-54	4	1	1	2	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
55 and over	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(ii) only one drug (and, perhaps, alcohol) was implicated in, or potentially contributed to, the cause of death (other drugs may have been reported as being present, but were not considered to have had any direct contribution to the death)														
All such deaths	248	109	34	148	6	25	197	6	4	14	2	6	23	50
Males	183	89	23	117	4	14	150	5	4	10	2	3	13	41
Females	65	20	11	31	2	11	47	1	0	4	0	3	10	9
Under 25	7	4	1	5	0	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25-34	58	34	6	41	0	2	45	0	0	6	1	0	6	15
35-44	84	40	12	53	0	5	63	2	2	4	1	4	10	17
45-54	65	20	13	35	4	10	54	4	2	2	0	2	3	9
55 and over	34	11	2	14	2	6	28	0	0	2	0	0	4	8
Males														
Under 25	5	3	1	4	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25-34	41	28	3	32	0	1	34	0	0	3	1	0	3	12
35-44	62	33	7	41	0	3	48	2	2	4	1	2	5	14
45-54	48	15	10	27	3	6	40	3	2	2	0	1	2	6
55 and over	27	10	2	13	1	3	23	0	0	1	0	0	3	8
Females														
Under 25	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-34	17	6	3	9	0	1	11	0	0	3	0	0	3	3
35-44	22	7	5	12	0	2	15	0	0	0	0	2	5	3
45-54	17	5	3	8	1	4	14	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
55 and over	7	1	0	1	1	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

Footnotes

1) Part (i) of this table gives the number of deaths for which each of the specified drugs was the only drug found to be present in the body. For example, a death for which:

(a) both cocaine and alcohol were implicated would be counted twice: once under 'cocaine' and once under 'alcohol'.

(b) both cocaine and alcohol were implicated, and methadone was found to be present in the body but was not considered to have had any direct contribution to the death, would not be counted at all in the upper part of the table.

The final column of part (i) gives the number of drug-related deaths for which alcohol was found to be present in the body together with only one drug.

Part (ii) of this table gives the number of deaths for which each of the specified drugs was the only drug which was considered to have been implicated in, or potentially contributed, to the cause of death. The pathologist may have reported that other drugs were present in the body - but, if so, the pathologist did not consider that they had any direct contribution to the death.

The final column of part (ii) gives the number of drug-related deaths for which alcohol was thought, by the pathologist, to be implicated in the cause of death together with only one drug. For example, a death for which:

(a) both cocaine and alcohol were implicated would be counted twice: once under 'cocaine' and once under 'alcohol'.

(b) both cocaine and alcohol were implicated, and methadone was found to be present in the body but was not considered to have had any direct contribution to the death, would also be counted under 'cocaine' and 'alcohol' (but not under methadone).

(c) cocaine, methadone and alcohol were all implicated would not be counted at all in this table.

Note: Almost all the deaths which are counted in part (i) of the table are also counted in part (ii) of the table.

However, there may be a few exceptions:

A drug-related death for which National Records of Scotland (NRS) was told that only one drug (and, perhaps, alcohol) was found to be present, and for which NRS was not told that it was considered to have been implicated in (or potentially contributed to) the cause of the death, will be counted in part (i) of the table but not in part (ii).

As a result, an occasional figure in part (i) of the table may be larger than the corresponding figure in part (ii) of the table.

2) More information can be found in paragraph 3.3.1 of the commentary.

3) For example, any kind of drug other than an opiate or opioid, a benzodiazepine, cocaine, an ecstasy-type drug or an amphetamine.