

Table Z: Drug-related deaths, on the basis of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 'wide' definition, by how they relate to the Drug Strategy 'baseline' definition, deaths from some causes which may be associated with present or past drug misuse, and volatile substance abuse deaths, 2001 to 2011

Cause of death	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All drug-related deaths (on the 'wide' definition)	551	566	493	546	480	577	630	737	716	692	749
of which:											
on the basis used for this report's statistics (i.e. the Drug Strategy 'baseline' definition, as implemented by National Records of Scotland (NRS))	332	382	317	356	336	421	455	574	545	485	584
deaths within the Drug Strategy 'baseline' definition, but excluded from this report's statistics because: ¹											
(a) cause of death was a secondary infection or a related complication ²	9	10	9	6	12	13	10	23	22	33	16
(b) controlled substance was present only as part of a compound analgesic or a cold remedy	4	6	0	0	1	2	8	10	3	5	4
other deaths counted as 'drug-related' by the 'wide' definition - but not on the basis used for this report ³	206	168	167	184	131	141	157	130	146	169	145
Deaths from some causes which may be associated with present or past drug misuse ⁴											
Underlying cause of death, with its ICD10 ⁵ code(s):											
Hepatitis C (B18.2)	2	3	5	5	10	14	12	18	21	19	25
HIV (B20-24)	33	33	33	16	31	19	21	18	17	21	16
Total all deaths from the specified causes	35	36	38	21	41	33	33	36	38	40	41
Volatile Substance Abuse deaths											
Deaths in Scotland - International Centre for Drugs Policy (ICDP) figures ⁶	9	8	6	1	4	9	10	3

Footnotes

1) Paragraph A3 in Annex A of Drug-related Deaths in Scotland in 2011, available on the National Records of Scotland website, explains why these kinds of deaths are excluded from the standard definition of 'drug-related death' figures produced by NRS.

2) Including (e.g.) deaths caused by infections that resulted from the use of heroin which was contaminated by, say, anthrax.

3) Including (e.g.) accidental deaths which were caused by the use of drugs which were not controlled at the time, such as those before 16 April 2010 which resulted from using mephedrone (assuming that no controlled drugs were found in the body).

4) Only a proportion of deaths from these causes can be attributed to drug misuse - more information can be found in paragraph B8 of Annex B.

5) 'ICD10' is the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision the figures that appeared in the previous edition for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) deaths in 2009 (27) and the total below it (48) were wrong: they have been corrected in this edition.

6) More information can be found in paragraph B13 of Annex B about the statistics that it produces. A few deaths per year may be counted both in the 'ICDP' figures and in the standard drug-related death statistics produced by NRS.