

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 past or present drug misuse, and volatile substance abuse deaths, 2004 to 2014

Cause of death	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
All drug-related deaths (on the 'wide' definition)	546	480	577	630	737	716	692	749	734	685	743
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))	356	336	421	455	574	545	485	584	581	527	613
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	6	12	13	10	23	22	33	16	14	22	22
(b) controlled substance was present only as part of a compound analgesic or a cold remedy	0	1	2	8	10	3	5	4	1	4	5
Other deaths counted as 'drug-related' by the 'wide' definition - but not on the basis used for this report ³	184	131	141	157	130	146	169	145	138	132	103
Deaths from some causes which may be associated with present or past drug misuse⁴											
Underlying cause of death, with its ICD10 ⁵ code(s):											
Hepatitis C (B18.2)	5	10	14	12	18	21	19	25	22	23	18
HIV (B20-24)	16	31	19	21	18	17	21	16	18	14	14
Total all deaths from the specified causes	21	41	33	33	36	38	40	41	40	37	32
Volatile Substance Abuse deaths											
Deaths in Scotland - International Centre for Drugs Policy (ICDP) figures ⁶	1	4	9	10	3	4	17

Footnotes

1) Paragraph A3 in Annex A 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.

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.