

Alcohol Brief Interventions 2010/11

This publication shows the total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered by Health Boards during 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 in accordance with the HEAT H4 target. The target states that Health Boards should carry out screenings in three priority settings, using an appropriate screening tool and followed by an alcohol brief intervention where required. Both the screening and the brief intervention (if applicable) are delivered in line with national reporting guidance, which is based on SIGN 74 Guidelines¹. All Health Boards have a target for the number of brief interventions to be carried out between 2008/09 and 2010/11. The targets are based upon estimates of the rates of alcohol-related presentations, in primary and secondary care, amongst adults over 16 years of age in Scotland.

Three settings were identified as appropriate for the delivery of alcohol brief interventions on the basis of the available evidence: primary care, antenatal and accident & emergency. National guidance describes the appropriate screening tools for use in the three settings.

National guidance defines an alcohol brief intervention as follows:

“an alcohol brief intervention is a short, evidence-based, structured conversation about alcohol consumption with a patient/ service user that seeks in a non-confrontational way to motivate and support the individual to think about and/ or plan a change in their drinking behaviours in order to reduce their consumption and/ or their risk of harm.”

The total number of alcohol brief interventions is presented at Scotland and Health Board level in table 1. The figures include alcohol brief interventions delivered in primary care, accident & emergency and antenatal settings during 2010/11 (year 3 of the three-year target). Updated figures from years 1 and 2 of the target (2008/09 and 2009/10) are also presented. The total number of alcohol brief interventions carried out in Scotland during 2010/11 was 88,138. The cumulative number of interventions carried out between 2008/09 and 2010/11 was 174,205.

Table 1: Total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered in primary care, antenatal and accident & emergency settings in Scotland, by Health Board; 2008/09^r – 2010/11

	2008/09 ^r	2009/10 ^r	2010/11	Total Number of Interventions
Scotland	30,310	55,757	88,138	174,205
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	3,001	3,475	7,591	14,067
NHS Borders	211	1,015	2,862	4,088
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	462	538	4,349	5,349
NHS Fife	3,110	2,685	4,773	10,568
NHS Forth Valley	3,939	4,071	4,094	12,104
NHS Grampian	797	3,635	11,224	15,656
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	7,603	13,682	15,465	36,750
NHS Highland	2,267	2,217	4,497	8,981
NHS Lanarkshire	994	10,163	7,813	18,970
NHS Lothian	3,826	11,128	14,930	29,884
NHS Orkney	40	627	155	822
NHS Shetland	35	46	287	368
NHS Tayside	3,703	1,689	9,563	14,955
NHS Western Isles	322	786	535	1,643

^r Figures for 2008/09 and 2009/10 have been revised from those previously published. Some Health Boards under-reported data and other Health Boards over-reported data in previous publications.

¹ The management of harmful drinking and alcohol dependence in primary care, Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network, 2003. Available at <http://www.sign.ac.uk/guidelines/fulltext/74/index.html>

Table 2 presents information on the HEAT H4 targets set at Scotland and Health Board level for the total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered and compares this against the actual number delivered over the three-year period.

Table 2: Total number of alcohol brief interventions delivered in primary care, antenatal and accident & emergency settings in Scotland, by Health Board; 2008/09 – 2010/11
Comparison with HEAT H4 Target number of alcohol brief interventions for 2008/09 – 2010/11 period

	Total Number of Interventions (2008/09 - 2010/11)	Target number of interventions (2008/09- 2010/11)
Scotland	174,205	149,449
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	14,067	10,697
NHS Borders	4,088	3,210
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	5,349	4,357
NHS Fife	10,568	10,452
NHS Forth Valley	12,104	8,254
NHS Grampian	15,656	15,496
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	36,750	34,902
NHS Highland	8,981	8,964
NHS Lanarkshire	18,970	16,057
NHS Lothian	29,884	23,594
NHS Orkney	822	577
NHS Shetland	368	622
NHS Tayside	14,955	11,495
NHS Western Isles	1,643	772

The HEAT H4 target on the number of alcohol brief interventions delivered was met at the Scotland level. The majority of Health Boards within Scotland met their specific target. However, NHS Shetland did not meet their target on the number of alcohol brief interventions delivered.