



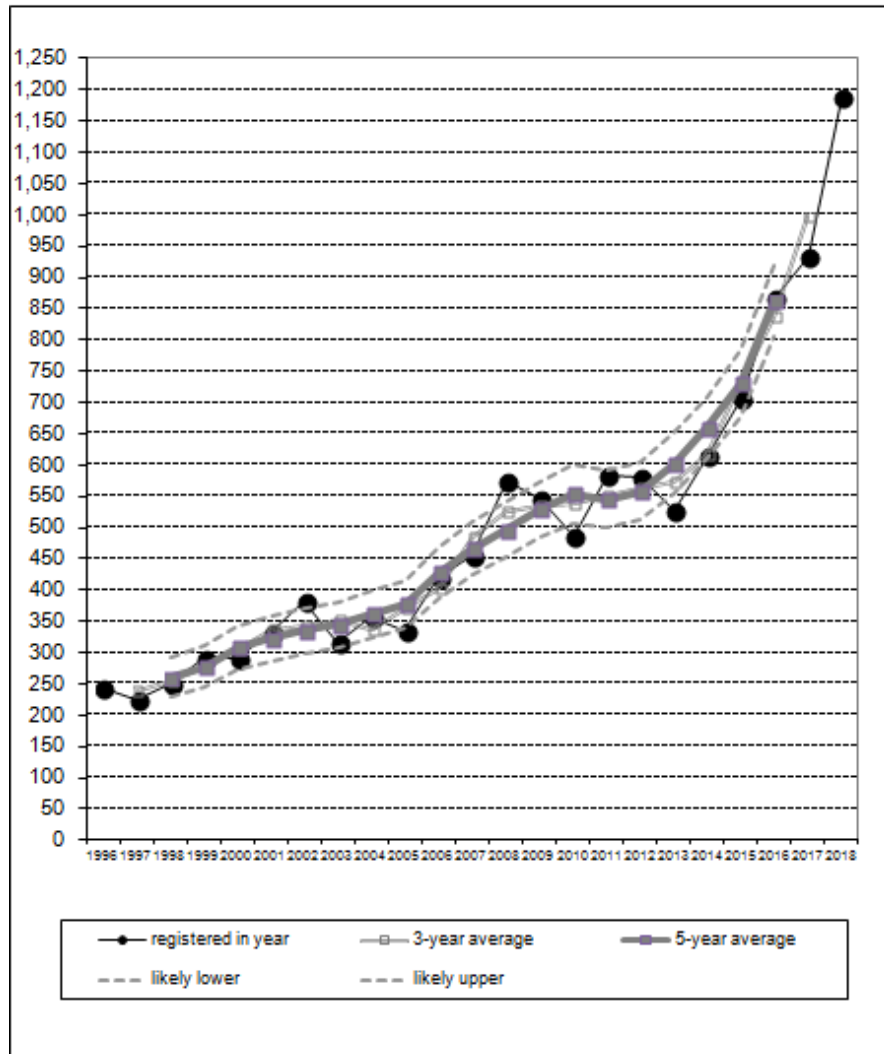
Drug Related Death Data and Intelligence

**Drug Death Task Force,
17 September 2019**

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ISD Scotland**

NRS DRD figures

Figure 1: Drug-related deaths in Scotland, 3- and 5-year moving averages, and likely range of values around 5-year moving average

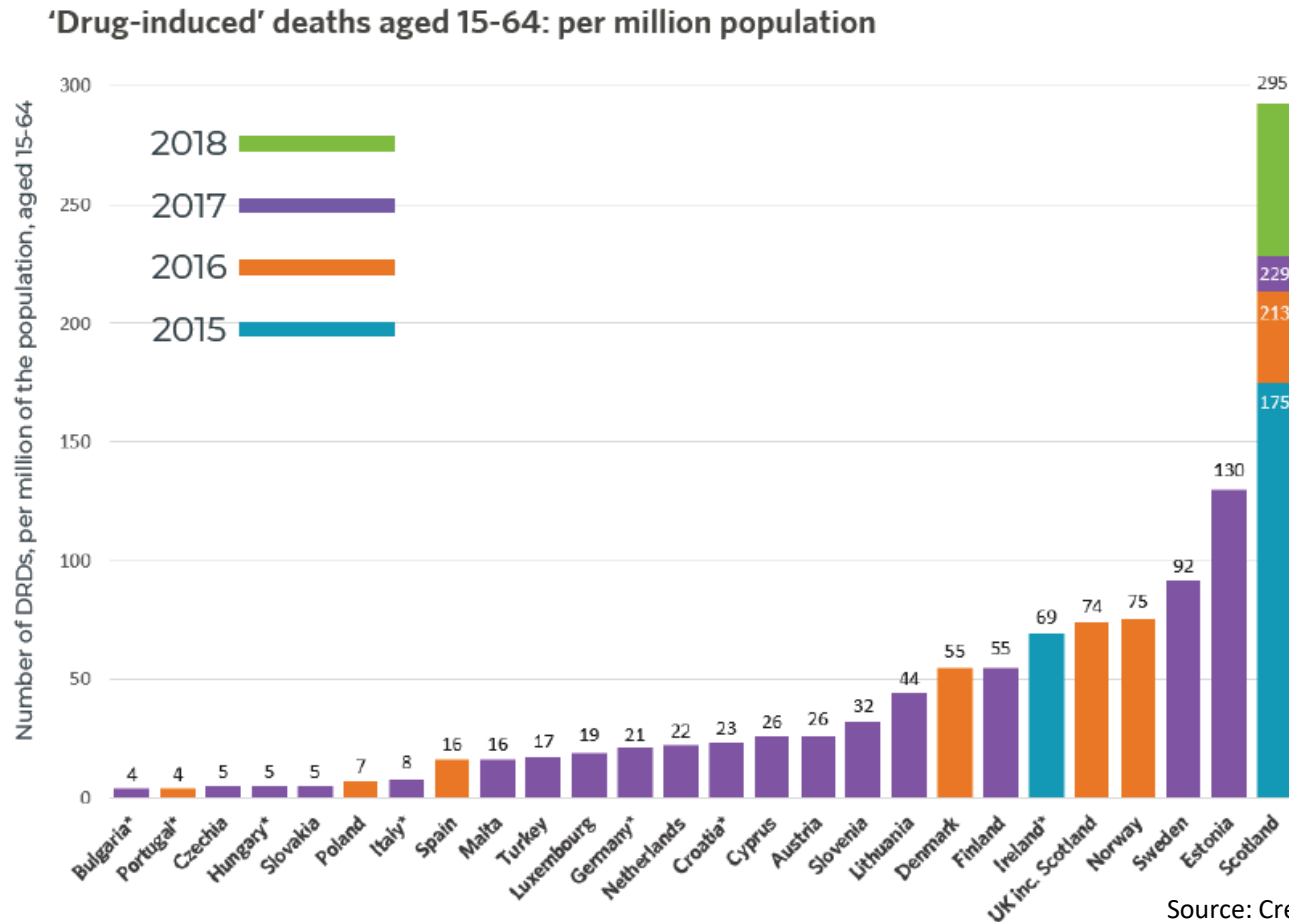


- 2018: 1,187 DRDs
- 107% increase since 2008 (574)
- 72% male
- 37% aged 35-44
- 86% (1,012) opiate/opioid deaths
- 57% 'street' benzo deaths

DRD Comparisons

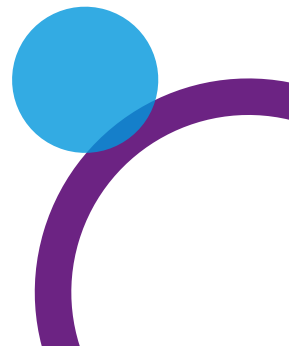
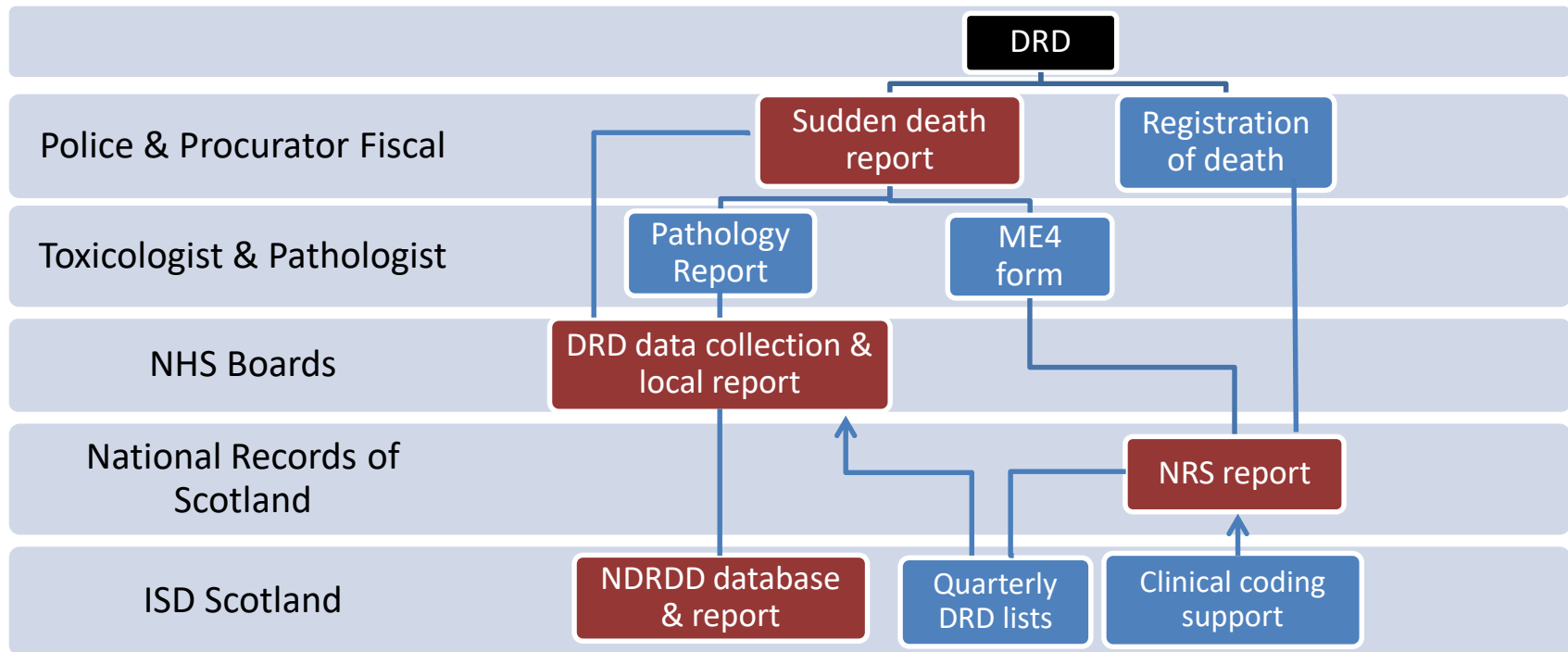
NRS publish data on three DRD definitions:

- UK Drugs Strategy (main 'drug misuse' definition)
- ONS 'wide' definition (drug poisonings)
- EMCDDA drug-induced death definition (used for EU comparison)



Source: Crew 2000

DRD Information Flows in Scotland



Police Sudden Death Reports

Generated **same day** as discovery of death

'Suspected' DRD until 'confirmed' by path/tox findings (≥ 3 months)

Starting point of local DRD investigations

Pre-2013:

- Database managed by Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency
- DRD numbers routinely shared with National Forum on DRDs
- Numbers of confirmed DRDs published in NDRDD report

2013:

- Police Scotland formed
- Legacy force-level reporting systems merged

Since 2015:

- Police Scotland DRD Database - consistent national recording

Intelligence data:

- Shared with local drug trend/DRD groups,
- Not routinely shared with ISD, NRS or national advisory groups

NHS Board reports

- NHS Boards notified of suspected DRDs via Police sudden death reports
- DRDs reviewed by multi-agency NHS Board level groups
- DRD Data Collection Co-ordinators gather data on:
 - Cases classed as DRDs by NRS or meeting local definition
 - Dataset scope dependent on NDRDD, local interests
 - Data from: **Police, Prison, GP, Drug Treatment, Social Work, Path/tox,**
 - Little/no data linkage
- NHS Board is 'data controller' of local data collection
- NHS Board is 'data supplier' to NDRDD
- Reporting:
 - Bespoke internal reports
 - Public reports
 - NDRDD data submission (often delayed)
 - Local media

National Records of Scotland report

- Annual National Statistics
- 1996 to present
- Based on year of registration of death

- Data from death registrations & pathology (ME4) forms
- Collaboration with ISD clinicians to agree case inclusion
- Published in July/August of year following registration of death
- From 6 to 18 months between death and publication

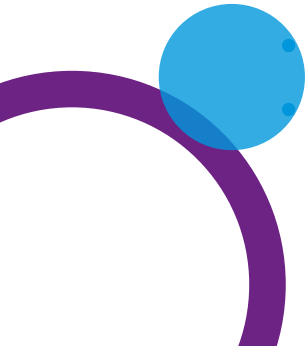
- Focus on:
 - National/local totals and rates
 - Substances implicated
 - Demographic details



ISD report:

National Drug-Related Deaths Database

- Biennial Official Statistics
- Established following 'Road to Recovery' (2008)
- 2009 to present (used NRS definition since 2012)
- Based on year of death (approximately same cohort as NRS)
- Data gathered by NHS Board DRD Data Collection Co-ordinators
- Should be submitted to ISD by August of year after death (7-19 months after death)
- From 17 to 41 months between death and publication
- Focus on:
 - Non-intentional deaths
 - Circumstances of death
 - Contact with services
 - Medical/prescribing history



Public Health Surveillance

The ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health-related data essential to planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice, closely integrated with the *timely dissemination* of these data to those responsible for prevention and control



Evidence into action

Public Health Surveillance of Drug Related Deaths

	Current Situation	Enhanced Surveillance
Early Warning System (days to weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Scotland suspected DRD figures • Local DRD group case studies • Toxicology from sudden deaths (7/7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust national system led by national agency with UK and international links
Timely reporting (months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local DRD reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspected DRDs from police figures at national level • NRS quarterly provisional figures • Shared learning from local DRD groups
Public Health Intelligence (months to years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISD NDRDD reports • NRS reports • ISD Naloxone reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug death data review • Drug data linkage -risk factors -all cause mortality • Mortality post high risk transition points

Public Health Surveillance of Drug Problems

	Current Situation	Enhanced Surveillance
Early Warning System (days to weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police led testing from drug seizures and drug crimes • Clinical testing of patients • User testing • Non Fatal Overdoses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust national system led by national agency with UK and international links
Timely reporting (months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various quarterly management information (e.g. THN/IEP/DAWTD) • Police Scotland Drug Trends bulletin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly reporting from DAISy including waits to effective Rx • ?Quarterly DRHS
Public Health Intelligence (months to years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methadone Rx and estimates • Naloxone reports • Drug Related Hospital Admissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug data linkage -risk factors -care pathways



Questions?

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