

Drug-related hospital statistics

2020-2021

1 Recommendations

1.1 The ADP Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Note the timely establishment of the Hospital Drug and Alcohol Care Team.
- 2) Note the evidence justifying inclusion of Action 178 in the delivery plan.
- 3) Note the evidence justifying inclusion of Action 126 in the delivery plan.
- 4) Support the addition of an 'Equalities' section to the delivery plan documentation.

2 Background

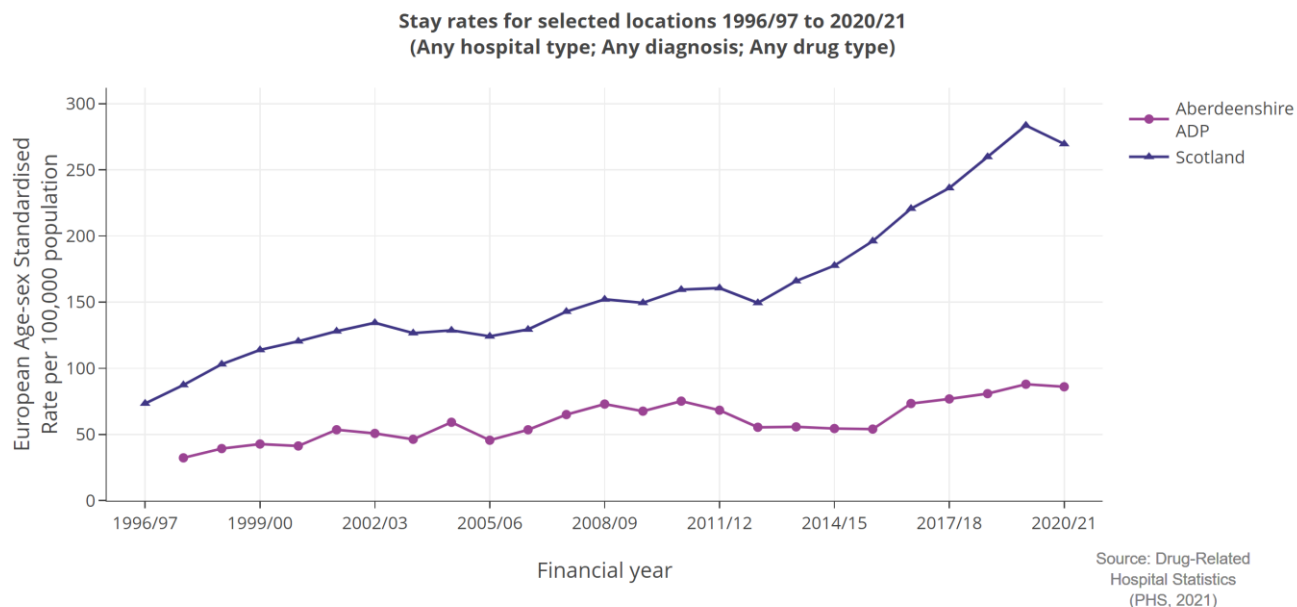
2.1 Public Health Scotland have published the latest data on drug related hospital activity from the period 1996/97 to 2020/21. The full report can be obtained [here](#).

3 Aim

3.1 The purpose of this report is to compare Aberdeenshire and Scottish trends and highlight points of note.

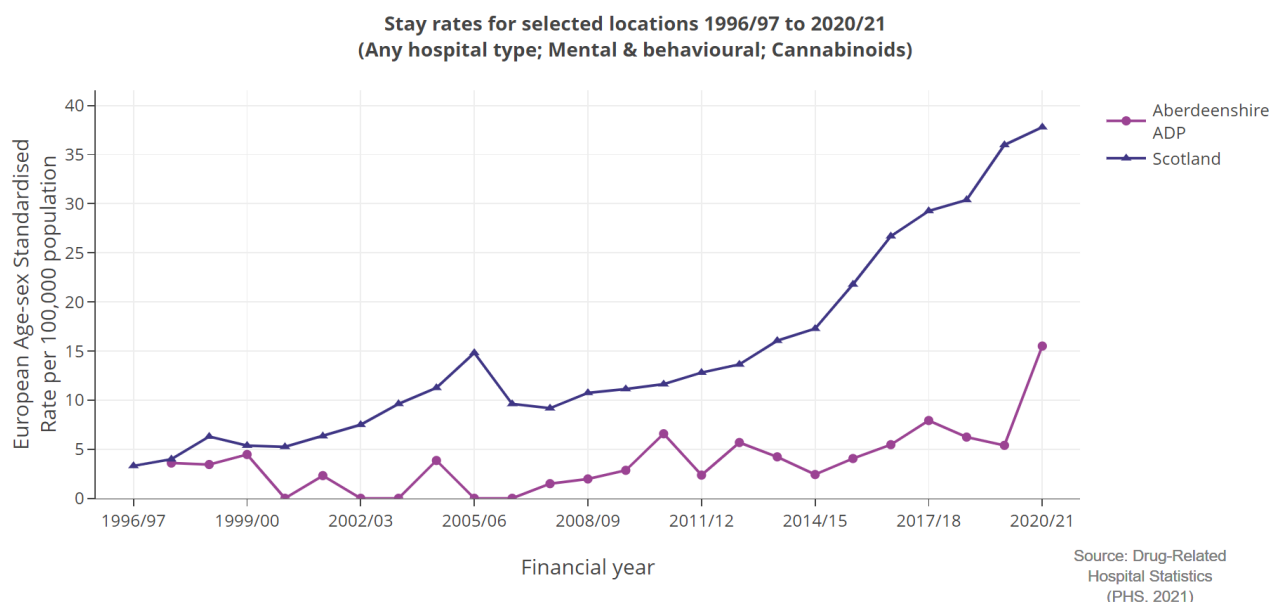
4 Discussion

4.1 Following more than 20 years of increase, Scotland saw a reduction in drug related stays, most likely due to measures put into place to respond to COVID-19. The reduction in Aberdeenshire was not so marked. Aberdeenshire's drug related hospital stay rate (204 total admission in 20/21), is about a third of the national rate per head of population. Long term trends nationally and locally show ongoing increases in drug related hospital activity.

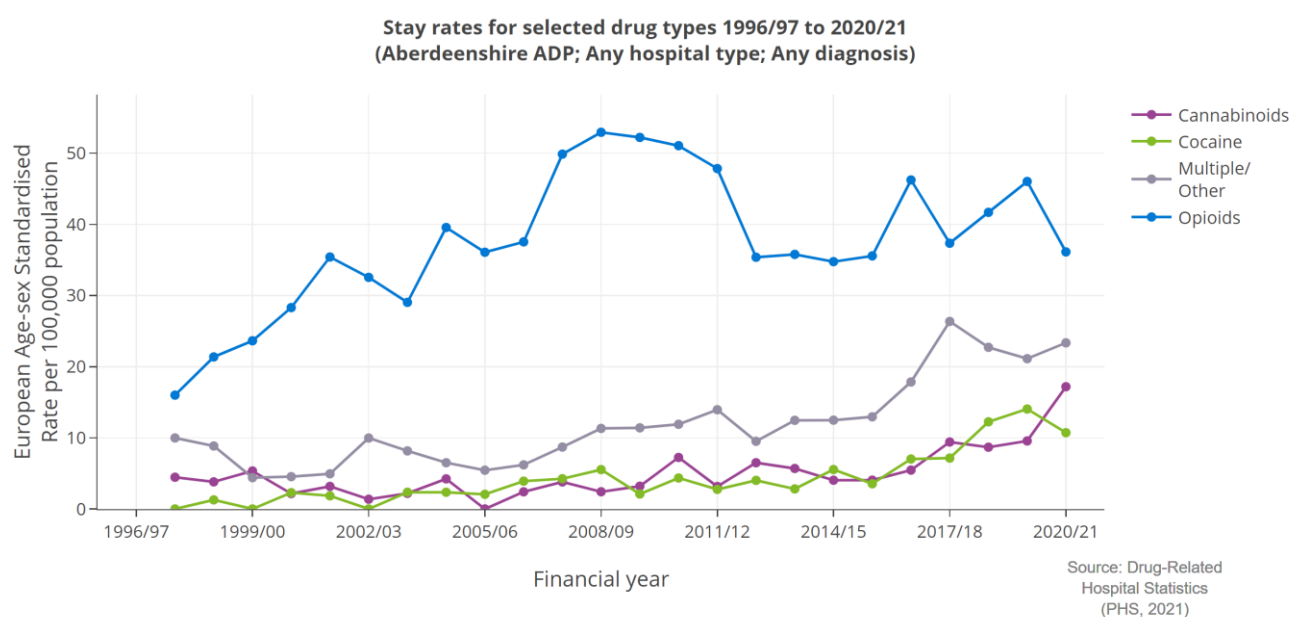


4.2 Differences between Aberdeenshire's experience and Scotland's as a whole can mainly be explained by differential changes in opioid and cannabinoid use.

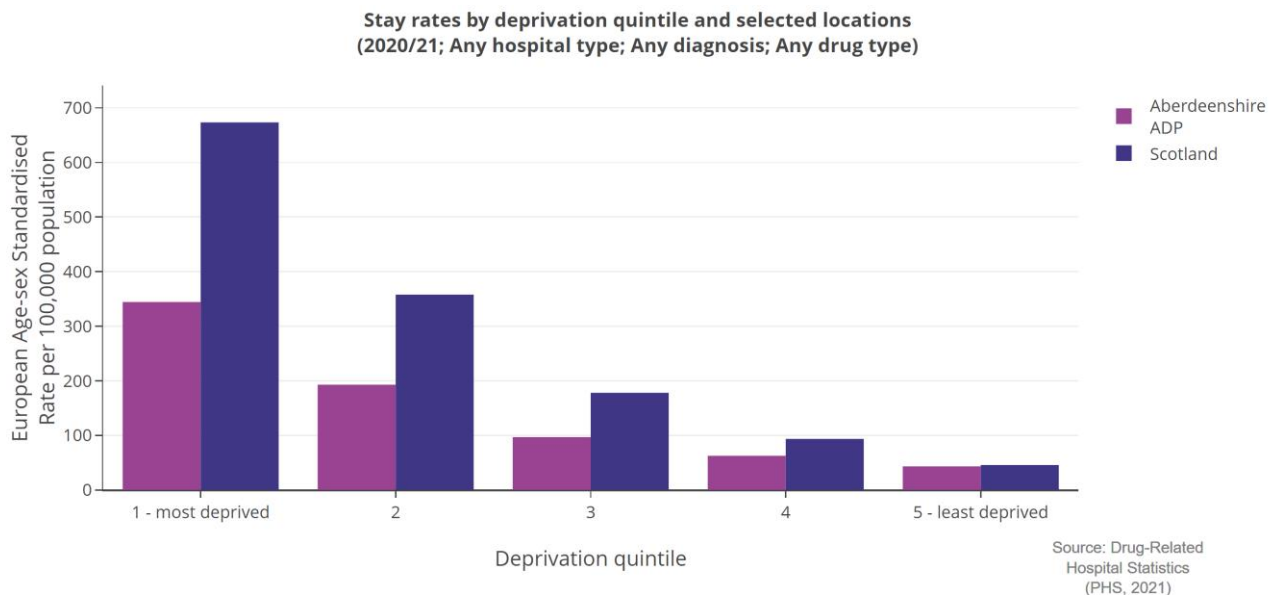




4.3 Opioids, poly drug use, cannabinoids and cocaine continue to be the most significant implicated drugs.



4.4 In keeping with the rest of Scotland, admissions correlate with deprivation for all drug types, including cocaine.



5 Key Messages

- 1) Hospital drug related activity continues to increase, justifying the establishment of the new ARI based Hospital Drug and Alcohol Care Team (DACT). The DACT has completed its recruitment of new staff and is busily implementing its establishment plan under the supervision of a steering group including Aberdeenshire practitioners.
- 2) Whilst it is pleasing to see stabilisation in the Aberdeenshire opioid related admission trend compared to an increasing Scottish trend, Aberdeenshire witnessed a tripling of the cannabinoid related rate in 20/21. This confirms the validity of [Action 178](#) in the delivery plan.
- 3) Aberdeenshire continues to see drug harms disproportionately in the most deprived communities. The recent [Annual Report to Scottish Government](#) highlighted Aberdeenshire's lack of equalities impact assessment. [Action 126](#) in the delivery plan as well as the proposed addition of an equality assessment section to the delivery plan is therefore justified.



Action Plan, Risk & Equalities Assessment

Overview

Owner/Plan

Equalities

Funding/Risk

Progress

This section is pending and will be updated in due course.

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24/11/2021