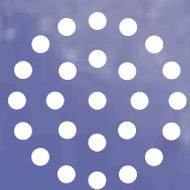


## Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI):

Prevalence of HCV and injecting  
risk behaviours among injecting  
drug users attending needle  
exchanges in Scotland, 2008/2009



Health  
Protection  
Scotland



## **The Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI): Prevalence of HCV and injecting risk behaviours among injecting drug users attending needle exchanges in Scotland, 2008/2009.**

University of the West of Scotland  
Health Protection Scotland, NHS National Services Scotland  
West of Scotland Specialist Virology Centre

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## Introduction

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The aim of the Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI) is to measure and monitor the prevalence of the Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and injecting risk behaviours among injecting drug users (IDUs) in Scotland. The initiative is funded by the Scottish Government as part of the Hepatitis C Action Plan, which stated that efforts to prevent HCV in Scotland must focus on preventing transmission of the virus among IDUs<sup>(1)</sup>. NESI will provide us with information to evaluate and better target interventions aimed at reducing the spread of infection among this population group. This report presents the results for the data collection period from June 2008 to June 2009, which covered the 11 mainland Scottish NHS Boards: these included Ayrshire & Arran (AA), Borders (BR), Dumfries & Galloway (DG), Fife (FF), Forth Valley (FV), Grampian (GR), Greater Glasgow & Clyde (GGC), Highland (HG), Lanarkshire (LN), Lothian (LO) and Tayside (TY). Data from Borders and Highland NHS Boards have been combined in this report due to the small numbers involved.

## Overview of methods

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A cross-sectional voluntary anonymous survey approach was used to recruit and interview IDUs. Trained interviewers recruited participants from selected needle exchange services and pharmacies that provide injecting equipment; these settings may also provide other harm reduction services, such as prescribed methadone. Clients attending these services were invited to take part if they had ever injected drugs and if it was the first time they had participated in the current survey (June 2008 - June 2009). After providing informed consent, participants completed a short interviewer-administered questionnaire (see Appendix 2) and then provided a voluntary blood spot sample for anonymous testing for HCV antibodies and RNA. IDUs who wished to know their HCV status were directed to the appropriate services. More detailed methods are provided in Appendix 1.

## Results

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### Sample characteristics (Table 1)

- A total of 2563 participants completed the survey during June 2008 through to June 2009, comprising 947 from GGC (37%), 472 from GR (18%), 311 from LO (12%), 200 from LN (8%), 192 from TY (7.5%), 138 from AA (5%), 104 from FF (4%), 89 from FV (3.5%), 67 from DG (3%), and 43 from HG/BR (2%) NHS Boards. The distribution of participants by NHS Board is by enlarge comparable to the estimated number of IDUs in mainland Scotland<sup>(2)</sup>, in 2006 (with 37% in GGC, 14% in LO, 13% in GR, 10% in AA, 7% in LN, 5% in FF and TY and 9% in the other NHS Boards).
- Almost three quarters (72%) of participants were male.
- The overall mean age of respondents was 33 years, with 14% aged 16-25 years, 24% aged 26-30 years, 28% aged 31-35 years and 34% aged over 35 years. Respondents from GGC and AA were the oldest (both with a mean age of 35) and those from HG/BR were the youngest (mean age 30).
- Overall 27% of respondents reported being homeless (defined as living in a hostel for the homeless, having no fixed abode or living on the streets) in the last six months; this proportion ranged from 20% in DG to 37% in HG/BR.
- The mean age at which respondents reported first injecting ranged from approximately 21 to 24 years across the 11 NHS Boards. In LN, LO, AA and FF, the sample included proportionally more IDUs who had commenced at the older end of the spectrum (22 years and above), which was reflected in a slightly higher mean and median age of commencement of injecting.

- Overall a third of respondents were recent initiates to injecting drug use (i.e. they had commenced injecting within the previous five years). Larger proportions of recent initiates to injecting drug use were recruited in LO, TY and HG/BR (44%-55%) compared with GGC, FV, DG and GR (20%-29%). A considerable proportion (25%) of GGC IDUs had been injecting for more than 15 years.
- Overall, 80% of respondents were current IDUs (i.e. reported having injected in the six months prior to interview).
- The vast majority of current IDUs reported injecting heroin in the last six months. In GGC, 31% of respondents reported injecting cocaine within the last six months, compared with 6% to 15% in other NHS Boards. Notably, more respondents reported injecting amphetamines in FF and FV (15% and 19%, respectively) than in other NHS Boards (2%-8%). Similarly, more respondents in GR (16%) reported injecting crack than in other Boards (2%-7%). Injection of Performance and Image Enhancing drugs was reported by 2% of the overall sample<sup>†</sup>.
- Overall 63% of current IDUs reported injecting at least daily in the last six months; this proportion ranged from 54% to 72% across NHS Boards.

## Injecting risk behaviour (Table 2)

- Overall 9% of current IDUs reported sharing a needle/syringe (i.e. injecting with a needle/syringe that had previously been used by someone else) in the four weeks prior to interview; 15% reported sharing of needles/syringes in the six months prior to interview. Sharing of needles/syringes in the six months before interview among current IDUs ranged from 9% to 20% across NHS Boards.
- The proportion of current IDUs who reported using a new needle/syringe for all injections in the last six months was 42% for the overall sample and ranged from 28% to 54% across NHS Boards.
- Twenty percent of current IDUs had passed on used needles/syringes to others in the six months prior to interview; this proportion ranged from 6% to 34% across NHS Boards. Overall 10% of current IDUs had passed on used needles/syringes to one other person, 9% to between two and five people and 2% to more than five people.
- Sharing of injecting equipment other than needles/syringes (i.e. spoons/cookers, filters and water) was more common: 36% of current IDUs reported sharing of such equipment in the last four weeks and 48% reported sharing such equipment in the last six months. The latter proportion ranged from 34% to 56% across NHS Boards.
- Comparatively lower rates of sharing of other injecting equipment (i.e. spoons/cookers, filters and water) were reported among current IDUs who had never injected with used needles/syringes although these were still high (overall 36% in the last six months).
- Overall 17% of current IDUs reported having shared any injecting equipment (needles/syringes, spoons/cookers, filters or water) with a known HCV-positive individual; 9% and 6% reported having shared with a known HCV-positive individual in the last six months and the last month, respectively.
- Forty percent of current IDUs reported reusing their own needles/syringes on average once or twice in the last six months; this proportion ranged from 26% to 50% across NHS Boards. A further 15% and 8% of current IDUs reused their own needles/syringe on average between three and five times and more than five times, respectively.
- Seventeen percent of current IDUs reported that in the last six months they had been injected by someone else (after that person had injected themselves or others); this proportion ranged from 14% to 31% across NHS Boards.

<sup>†</sup> Data not shown in tables due to potential risk of disclosure

## Imprisonment and injecting in prison (Table 3)

- Of the overall sample, 59% reported having been in prison since commencing injecting drug use and 17% had been imprisoned in the last six months; this latter proportion ranged from 10% to 23% across NHS Boards.
- Among respondents who had been imprisoned in the last six months, 19 (4%) indicated that they had injected while inside. This proportion was highest (at 8%) among respondents from GR. Among those who had injected in prison in the last six months, half (9/19) reported using a needle/syringe that had been previously used by someone else<sup>†</sup>.

## Uptake of services (Table 4)

- Sixty-eight percent of participants reported that they had received vaccination for Hepatitis B (at least one dose of); this proportion ranged from 36% to 81% across NHS Boards. Of those who had received Hepatitis B vaccination, 77% reported that they had received three or more doses of the vaccine.
- Approximately three quarters of the overall sample reported having ever been tested for HCV; this proportion ranged from 59% to 88% across NHS Boards. Thirty-five percent of all participants had been tested in the last year; this proportion ranged considerably from 26% to 60% across NHS Boards. When those who were diagnosed positive from a past test (prior to 12 months ago) were excluded, the overall percentage of respondents who had been tested for HCV in the last year increased to 49%\*.
- There was considerable variation between NHS Boards as to where participants received their last HCV test, with the majority of tests undertaken in general practices (29%), hospital (24%), drug treatment centres (21%) and prison (17%).
- Across all NHS Boards, 68% of respondents reported having ever been tested for HIV; this proportion ranged from 45% to 81% across NHS Boards. Only 30% of all participants had been tested in the last year; this proportion ranged from 23% to 49% across NHS Boards.
- Seventy-two percent of respondents reported receiving prescribed methadone in the last six months; this proportion ranged from 49% to 93% across NHS Boards. When only current IDUs were considered, 67% reported receiving prescribed methadone in the last six months; this proportion ranged from 49% to 90% across NHS Boards. When those who had attended the needle exchange site for methadone on the day of interview were excluded, the proportion of current IDUs who reported receiving prescribed methadone in the last 6 months reduced to 52%; this proportion ranged from 26% to 71% across NHS boards\*.
- Approximately 60% of respondents had received other forms of drug treatment (includes opiate substitute treatment excluding methadone, drug counselling, detox and residential rehabilitation) in the last six months; this proportion ranged from 24% to 90% across NHS Boards.
- Eight percent of current IDUs (and 13% of those who attended the needle exchange site for methadone on the day of the interview\*) had not obtained any needles/syringes directly from a needle exchange in the last six months; of these respondents, 98% had obtained sterile needles/syringes from other people<sup>†</sup>.
- The average number of sterile needles/syringes obtained by current IDUs in a week from either exchanges or other people were 21 per week; this number ranged from 18 to 39 across NHS Boards. Current IDUs reported obtaining the majority of their needles/syringes from either fixed site specialist exchanges (overall mean of 10 needles/syringes per week) or pharmacies (overall mean of 9 needles/syringes per week), however there was variation across NHS Boards with regard to location where current IDUs obtained their needles/syringes.

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<sup>†</sup> Data not shown in tables due to potential risk of disclosure

\* Data not shown

- Seventeen percent of current IDUs reported that they had received sterile needles/syringes from someone else in the last six months. The mean number of sterile needles/syringes obtained this way was 1 per week.
- In terms of injecting equipment other than needles/syringes, acidifiers, wipes/swabs and sharps bins had been obtained by the majority (overall 86%-89%) of current IDUs; respondents from FV NHS Board were the exception with only 29% and 26% reporting that they had obtained wipes/swabs and acidifiers in the last six months, respectively.

## Diagnosis and referral for HCV infection (Table 5)

- Approximately a quarter of all respondents reported themselves to be HCV positive; this proportion ranged from 9% to 39% across NHS Boards.
- Sixty percent of those respondents who reported their most recent HCV test as positive were referred to hospital. Of those who were referred to hospital, a high proportion (70%) attended their appointment.

## Prevalence of HCV infection (Table 6)

- A total of 2513 participants (98%) voluntarily provided a blood spot sample for testing for HCV antibodies. The overall prevalence of antibodies to HCV (hereafter referred to as HCV prevalence) for all mainland NHS boards in Scotland was 55%; the prevalence of HCV ranged from 31% in LO to 70% in GGC NHS Board.
- Overall, HCV prevalence was slightly lower among male (53%) compared to female (58%) participants.
- The prevalence of HCV among those aged under 25 years was 36% overall; this figure ranged from 14% to 60% across NHS Boards\*.
- Across all the NHS Boards, 24% of respondents who had commenced injecting within 3 years prior to interview had antibodies to HCV; the prevalence in this group ranged from 8% to 40% across NHS Boards\*. The prevalence of HCV increased to 32% among respondents who had commenced injecting within the last 5 years; this figure ranged from 11% to 44% across NHS Boards\*.
- Less than half (46%) of participants who tested HCV-antibody positive on dried blood spot were aware of their infection. The remaining HCV-antibody positive respondents had either never been tested, had not received their test result, or incorrectly reported their status as HCV-negative. The proportion who were unaware of their infection ranged from 40% to 59% across NHS Boards\*.

## Incidence of HCV infection

- In the very early stages of HCV infection, individuals have high levels of viraemia prior to developing antibodies (seroconverting); this is often referred to as the viraemic pre-seroconversion window period. During this relatively short period, individuals will test HCV antibody negative and HCV RNA positive.
- Of the 1140 respondents who tested HCV antibody negative, 1115 had a sufficient sample remaining for RNA testing; 21 of the 1115 (1.9%) were found to be HCV RNA positive. Assuming a viraemic pre-seroconversion window period of 51 days<sup>(3, 4)</sup>, the estimated incidence was 12 HCV infections per 100 person years across Scotland\*\*.

\* Data have been aggregated in tables due to potential risk of disclosure

\*\* The incidence of HCV was calculated using the formula  $I = \frac{[(365/T) \times n]}{[(N-n) + ((365/T) \times n)]}$ , where T = length of the window period in days, N = number of susceptibles (HCV antibody negatives), and n = number of recent HCV infections (HCV antibody negative and HCV RNA positive).

## Summary and Conclusions

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1. Respondents from all eleven NHS boards were predominately male. GGC and AA respondents were on average older than those from other NHS Boards. GGC and LO respondents were more likely to report recent homelessness than other NHS Board respondents. The average age at initiation of injecting was similar across NHS boards. The sample recruited in GGC had been injecting for the longest on average; while those recruited in LO and TY had been injecting for the least time on average. While heroin was injected by the large majority of respondents from all eleven NHS Boards, a larger proportion of those in GGC and GR reported recent injection of cocaine and crack, respectively. A higher percentage of respondents in FV and FF reported recent injection of amphetamines than in other areas.
2. Survey participants reported relatively low rates of sharing needles/syringes in most NHS Boards. These rates are similar to those reported for three NHS Boards (GGC, LO and LN) in the 2007 NESI survey<sup>(5)</sup> and are also consistent with those reported by IDUs in the rest of the UK<sup>(6)</sup>. The sharing of other injecting equipment, other than needles/syringes, however, remains highly prevalent across all NHS Boards, even among those respondents who report never having shared needles/syringes.
3. HCV prevalence remains high among IDUs across Scotland: overall, over half of the IDUs surveyed had been infected with HCV. There was, however, substantial geographical variation in prevalence, ranging from 31% in LO to 70% in GGC. In order to estimate the rate of new infections, the prevalence of HCV among young and recent onset IDUs can be used, since these individuals are more likely to represent recent exposure to infection. These indicators suggest that the rates of new HCV infection in Scotland are considerable, but, similarly, are subject to regional variation. IDUs aged <25 years in GGC, FV, DG, LN and GR were approximately twice as likely to be HCV-infected than young IDUs in the other board areas. Almost half of respondents in GGC and AA had acquired infection within 5 years of having commencing injecting drug use; this compares with only around 20% of participants in LO and TY who had acquired infection within 5 years. The survey suggests gender differences in HCV prevalence, with a slightly higher rate among female respondents compared to males.
4. Incidence of HCV infection in the past has been estimated mainly through cohort studies where individuals are followed up over a period of time and serial samples are tested. This method can be costly and individuals can be lost to follow up. The Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing approach to determine incidence, as applied here, only requires a sample at a single point in time, and thus is potentially more cost effective.

This survey found a total of 21 respondents to be HCV antibody negative and RNA positive, indicating recently acquired HCV infection. Based on these data, we estimate that the incidence of HCV infection was 12 per 100 person years among respondents. Similar rates have been estimated among IDUs in England, with an incidence of 12.9 per 100 person years<sup>(7)</sup>. Previously estimated rates in Scotland ranged from 11.9 per 100 person years among a prison population<sup>(8)</sup> to 29 per 100 person years among recent onset injectors in Glasgow<sup>(9)</sup>.

5. The high prevalence of undiagnosed HCV infection in all NHS Boards remains a concern; those who perceive themselves to be HCV-negative and those who have never been tested account for a large proportion of the undiagnosed individuals. With respect to the latter, approximately one in five respondents overall had never been tested for HCV. With respect to the former, only around a third of respondents reported having been recently tested for HCV (in the past year); it is likely that many undiagnosed IDUs acquired their infection subsequent to the past HCV-negative test. The locations where most respondents report being tested for HCV were general practices, hospitals, drug treatment centres and prison.
6. Among those who reported a past diagnosis of HCV, overall 60% had been referred to hospital for their infection, consistent with rates reported by IDUs surveyed in 2007. Among those referred to hospital, overall 70% reported attending the appointment which is higher than the proportion previously reported (53%)<sup>(5)</sup>.
7. Consistent with the low reported rates of sharing needles/syringes, there was a reasonably high reported uptake of sterile needles/syringes from needle exchanges. The majority of these needles/syringes

were obtained from either a fixed site exchange or pharmacy exchange, with the minority of needles/syringes obtained either through an outreach service or a secondary source. Although the numbers of needles/syringes obtained from other people were small, it highlights the role of peers in the distribution of needles/syringes.

A large proportion of respondents reported obtaining acidifiers, wipes/swabs, and sharps bins; consistent with previous data collected in the 2007 NESI survey<sup>(5)</sup>. Recent uptake of other injecting paraphernalia from needle exchanges, however, varied; in particular, high uptake of filters and cookers/spoons was achieved in TY, DG and LO NHS Boards. This likely reflects the availability of the items at needle exchange facilities in different NHS Boards during June 2008 to June 2009.

8. Uptake of other harm reduction services among the IDUs interviewed was generally high. A large proportion of respondents had been in contact with drug services in the past; 72% of the total sample and 67% of current IDUs reported being prescribed methadone in the last six months. This finding suggests that a substantial proportion of injectors continue to inject while on opiate substitution treatment (OST), and has implications for services that provide both OST and injecting equipment. Hepatitis B vaccine coverage (at least one dose) was 68% overall, but ranged from just over one third to three quarters of respondents; this is consistent with earlier surveys of IDUs in Scotland<sup>(5)</sup> and is similar to the rates reported elsewhere in the United Kingdom<sup>(6)</sup>.
9. Although nearly one in five respondents had been imprisoned in the last six months, only 4% of these individuals, overall, reported having injected while in prison. This may be attributable to the limited availability of drugs in prison and/or the uptake of treatment for drug addiction whilst in prison. Due to the lack of availability of sterile injecting equipment (particularly needles/syringes), injecting events in prison would likely involve shared equipment; however, the data presented here are based on very small numbers of injecting events in prison and should therefore be treated with caution.

**Table 1. Sample characteristics**

	Number of respondents	NHS Board										Scotland overall total N = 2563
		GGC	GR	LO	LN	TY	AA	FF	FV	DG	HG/BR	
Gender	Male Female No response	N = 947 681 (72%) 261 (28%) 5 (1%)	N = 472 361 (77%) 104 (22%) 7 (2%)	N = 311 234 (75%) 76 (25%) 1 (0%)	N = 200 137 (69%) 63 (32%) 0 (0%)	N = 192 136 (71%) 56 (29%) 0 (0%)	N = 138 86 (62%) 52 (38%) 0 (0%)	N = 104 69 (66%) 35 (34%) 0 (0%)	N = 89 58 (65%) 31 (35%) 0 (0%)	N = 67 43 (64%) 24 (36%) 0 (0%)	N = 43 32 (74%) 11 (26%) 0 (0%)	N = 2563 1837 (72%) 713 (28%) 13 (1%)
Age (years)	Mean/median	34.9/34.6	32.4/31.9	32.3/31.5	33.2/33.0	31.3/30.6	34.5/33.8	33.1/31.6	33.5/32.3	31.4/30.1	29.7/28.8	33.4/32.9
Age group	16-25 yrs 26-30 yrs 31-35 yrs >35 yrs	89 (9%) 159 (17%) 301 (32%) 398 (42%)	73 (15%) 136 (29%) 135 (29%) 128 (27%)	61 (20%) 89 (29%) 70 (23%) 91 (29%)	25 (13%) 52 (26%) 60 (30%) 63 (32%)	50 (25%) 51 (27%) 40 (21%) 51 (27%)	15 (11%) 27 (19%) 45 (33%) 51 (37%)	14 (13%) 34 (33%) 19 (18%) 37 (36%)	10 (11%) 29 (33%) 24 (27%) 26 (29%)	14 (21%) 28 (42%) 15 (22%) 10 (15%)	17 (40%) 6 (14%) 12 (28%) 8 (19%)	368 (14%) 611 (24%) 721 (28%) 863 (34%)
Homeless in the last 6 months <sup>a</sup>	Yes No	303 (32%) 643 (68%)	98 (21%) 374 (79%)	96 (31%) 215 (69%)	41 (21%) 159 (80%)	48 (25%) 144 (75%)	36 (26%) 102 (74%)	23 (22%) 81 (78%)	19 (21%) 70 (79%)	13 (19%) 53 (79%)	16 (37%) 27 (63%)	699 (27%) 1868 (73%)
Age first injected (years)	No response	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	2 (0%)
Age first injected	Mean/median	22.8/21.0	21.7/21.0	23.3/22.0	23.7/22.5	22.2/21.0	24.4/23.0	23.3/22.5	22.8/22.0	21.0/20.0	22.4/19.0	22.7/21.0
Time since onset of injecting (years)	Mean/median	11.6/10.4	10.2/9.8	8.6/7.7	9.1/8.4	8.6/6.1	9.6/8.5	9.3/8.6	10.2/9.9	9.9/9.3	6.8/5.3	10.2/9.9
Time since onset of injecting	<2 yrs 2-5 yrs 6-10 yrs 11-15 yrs >15 yrs	96 (10%) 152 (16%) 256 (27%) 205 (22%) 236 (25%)	39 (8%) 101 (21%) 131 (28%) 125 (27%) 76 (16%)	46 (15%) 91 (29%) 97 (31%) 31 (10%) 46 (15%)	18 (9%) 45 (23%) 71 (36%) 49 (25%) 17 (9%)	37 (19%) 57 (30%) 42 (22%) 20 (10%) 36 (19%)	19 (14%) 24 (17%) 39 (28%) 33 (24%) 23 (17%)	11 (11%) 22 (21%) 37 (36%) 26 (25%) 8 (8%)	7 (8%) 12 (13%) 37 (42%) 20 (22%) 13 (15%)	7 (10%) 10 (14%) 28 (42%) 14 (21%) 8 (12%)	8 (19%) 16 (37%) 11 (26%) 5 (12%) 3 (7%)	288 (11%) 530 (21%) 749 (29%) 528 (21%) 466 (18%)
Injected in the last 6 months	No response	2 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (0%)
Drugs injected in the last 6 months <sup>b,c</sup>	Heroin Cocaine Crack Amphetamines Temazepam/ Diazepam Other <sup>d</sup>	N = 704 (74%) 660 (94%) 220 (31%) 31 (4%) 24 (3%) 12 (2%) 25 (4%)	N = 421 (89%) 413 (98%) 25 (6%) 66 (16%) 10 (2%) 8 (2%) 11 (3%)	N = 275 (88%) 267 (97%) 16 (6%) 6 (2%) 10 (4%) 2 (1%) 8 (3%)	N = 149 (75%) 147 (99%) 17 (11%) 2 (1%) 7 (5%) 0 (0%) 1 (1%)	N = 162 (84%) 155 (96%) 12 (7%) 3 (2%) 13 (8%) 4 (3%) 11 (7%)	N = 110 (80%) 107 (97%) 12 (11%) 3 (3%) 4 (4%) 1 (1%) 3 (3%)	N = 81 (78%) 79 (98%) 11 (14%) 2 (3%) 12 (15%) 2 (3%) 6 (7%)	N = 65 (73%) 64 (95%) 6 (9%) 1 (2%) 12 (15%) 0 (0%) 2 (3%)	N = 52 (78%) 52 (100%) 8 (15%) 0 (0%) 2 (4%) 1 (2%) 1 (2%)	N = 41 (95%) 41 (100%) 6 (15%) 3 (7%) 3 (7%) 1 (2%) 2 (5%)	N = 2060 (80%) 1985 (96%) 333 (16%) 117 (6%) 97 (5%) 31 (2%) 70 (3%)
Average frequency of injecting in the last 6 months <sup>e</sup>	Less than weekly Weekly not daily Daily or more	120 (17%) 155 (22%) 429 (61%)	58 (14%) 71 (17%) 292 (69%)	41 (15%) 66 (24%) 168 (61%)	29 (20%) 28 (19%) 92 (62%)	40 (25%) 26 (16%) 96 (59%)	11 (10%) 20 (18%) 79 (72%)	23 (29%) 14 (17%) 44 (54%)	16 (25%) 13 (20%) 36 (55%)	10 (19%) 12 (23%) 30 (58%)	9 (22%) 9 (22%) 23 (56%)	357 (17%) 414 (20%) 1289 (63%)

<sup>a</sup> defined as living in a hostel for the homeless, having no fixed abode, or living on the streets  
<sup>b</sup> among injectors who reported injecting drugs in the last six months  
<sup>c</sup> percentages will add up to more than 100% as individuals may have reported use of more than one drug  
<sup>d</sup> Other includes: Performance and Image Enhancing drugs, Antihistamines, Ketamine and Ecstasy  
<sup>e</sup> during the months when injecting

**Table 2. Self-reported injecting risk behaviour**

	NHS Board											Scotland overall total N = 2060
	GCC	GR	LO	LN	TY	AA	FF	FV	DG	HG/BR		
	N = 704	N = 421	N = 275	N = 149	N = 162	N = 110	N = 81	N = 65	N = 52	N = 41		
Injected with a needle/syringe that had been previously used by someone else <sup>a</sup>	In the last month	45 (11%)	15 (6%)	7 (5%)	17 (11%)	13 (12%)	8 (10%)	10 (15%)	2 (4%)	3 (7%)	177 (9%)	
	In the last six months but not in the last month	38 (9%)	9 (3%)	7 (5%)	13 (8%)	7 (6%)	6 (7%)	6 (9%)	3 (6%)	1 (2%)	122 (6%)	
In the past but not in the last six months	Never	132 (32%)	77 (28%)	41 (28%)	54 (33%)	29 (26%)	25 (31%)	25 (39%)	23 (44%)	13 (32%)	635 (31%)	
	Never	388 (55%)	202 (48%)	171 (62%)	91 (61%)	61 (56%)	42 (52%)	28 (43%)	24 (46%)	23 (56%)	1108 (54%)	
How often used a new needle/syringe in the last six months <sup>a</sup>	No response	7 (1%)	4 (1%)	3 (1%)	3 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	18 (1%)	
	For all injections	378 (54%)	120 (28%)	92 (34%)	55 (37%)	72 (44%)	33 (30%)	40 (49%)	27 (42%)	19 (46%)	858 (42%)	
Most injections	247 (35%)	209 (50%)	146 (53%)	78 (52%)	81 (50%)	61 (56%)	33 (41%)	29 (45%)	24 (46%)	12 (29%)	920 (45%)	
	Half of injections	43 (6%)	60 (14%)	24 (9%)	9 (6%)	4 (3%)	10 (9%)	5 (6%)	3 (6%)	8 (20%)	172 (8%)	
Some injections	31 (4%)	30 (7%)	13 (5%)	7 (5%)	5 (3%)	6 (6%)	3 (4%)	3 (5%)	3 (6%)	2 (5%)	102 (5%)	
	Never	4 (1%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (0%)	
Number of different people used needles/syringes were received from in the last six months <sup>a</sup>	No response	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	
	More than five	5 (1%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	9 (0%)	
Two to five	25 (4%)	32 (8%)	4 (2%)	2 (1%)	8 (5%)	5 (5%)	3 (4%)	4 (6%)	2 (4%)	2 (5%)	87 (4%)	
	One	59 (8%)	51 (12%)	18 (7%)	12 (8%)	22 (14%)	13 (12%)	8 (12%)	2 (4%)	3 (7%)	198 (10%)	
None	594 (84%)	336 (80%)	249 (91%)	132 (89%)	132 (82%)	90 (82%)	67 (83%)	53 (82%)	47 (90%)	36 (88%)	1736 (84%)	
	None	573 (81%)	299 (71%)	232 (84%)	128 (86%)	114 (70%)	85 (77%)	43 (66%)	49 (94%)	32 (78%)	1620 (79%)	
Number of different people used needles/syringes were passed on to in the last six months <sup>a</sup>	No response	14 (2%)	1 (0%)	1 (0%)	3 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	15 (1%)	
	More than five	19 (3%)	12 (3%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	3 (2%)	2 (2%)	2 (3%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	41 (2%)	
Two to five	44 (6%)	64 (15%)	8 (3%)	6 (4%)	26 (16%)	6 (6%)	5 (6%)	12 (19%)	0 (0%)	5 (12%)	176 (9%)	
	One	54 (8%)	46 (11%)	32 (12%)	15 (10%)	19 (12%)	11 (14%)	8 (12%)	3 (6%)	3 (7%)	208 (10%)	
None	573 (81%)	299 (71%)	232 (84%)	128 (86%)	114 (70%)	85 (77%)	65 (80%)	43 (66%)	49 (94%)	32 (78%)	1620 (79%)	
	None	573 (81%)	299 (71%)	232 (84%)	128 (86%)	114 (70%)	85 (77%)	43 (66%)	49 (94%)	32 (78%)	1620 (79%)	
Used other injecting equipment that had previously been used by someone else <sup>a,b</sup>	No response	11 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	15 (1%)	
	In the last month	245 (35%)	182 (43%)	80 (29%)	47 (32%)	51 (32%)	55 (50%)	31 (38%)	27 (42%)	14 (27%)	741 (36%)	
In the last six months but not in the last month	89 (13%)	53 (13%)	32 (12%)	19 (13%)	16 (10%)	6 (6%)	5 (6%)	8 (12%)	6 (11%)	5 (12%)	247 (12%)	
	In the past but not in the last six months	180 (26%)	88 (21%)	52 (22%)	36 (24%)	33 (20%)	17 (16%)	14 (22%)	16 (31%)	10 (24%)	467 (23%)	
Never	179 (25%)	98 (23%)	103 (38%)	45 (30%)	62 (38%)	32 (29%)	23 (28%)	16 (25%)	16 (31%)	16 (39%)	590 (29%)	
	Never	179 (25%)	98 (23%)	103 (38%)	45 (30%)	62 (38%)	32 (29%)	16 (25%)	16 (31%)	16 (39%)	590 (29%)	
Number of different people used needles/syringes were passed on to in the last six months <sup>a</sup>	No response	11 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	15 (1%)	
	In the last month	117 (30%)	61 (30%)	31 (18%)	25 (28%)	16 (21%)	23 (38%)	12 (29%)	5 (18%)	7 (30%)	300 (27%)	
In the last six months but not in the last month	32 (8%)	27 (13%)	18 (11%)	9 (10%)	6 (8%)	2 (3%)	5 (12%)	3 (10%)	2 (8%)	0 (0%)	104 (9%)	
	In the past but not in the last six months	70 (18%)	34 (17%)	34 (20%)	17 (19%)	11 (14%)	8 (14%)	5 (18%)	5 (21%)	2 (9%)	192 (17%)	
Never	161 (42%)	80 (40%)	87 (51%)	40 (44%)	45 (58%)	28 (46%)	19 (45%)	15 (54%)	14 (58%)	14 (61%)	503 (45%)	
	Never	161 (42%)	80 (40%)	87 (51%)	40 (44%)	45 (58%)	28 (46%)	15 (54%)	14 (58%)	14 (61%)	503 (45%)	
Used a spoon or container for mixing which had been previously used by someone else <sup>a,c</sup>	No response	8 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	9 (1%)	
	In the last month	90 (23%)	52 (26%)	27 (16%)	24 (26%)	11 (14%)	18 (30%)	10 (24%)	4 (14%)	5 (22%)	243 (22%)	
In the last six months but not in the last month	26 (7%)	29 (14%)	15 (9%)	8 (9%)	5 (6%)	4 (7%)	5 (12%)	3 (11%)	2 (8%)	0 (0%)	97 (9%)	
	In the past but not in the last six months	72 (19%)	30 (15%)	34 (20%)	17 (19%)	10 (13%)	9 (15%)	7 (17%)	6 (25%)	2 (9%)	193 (17%)	
Never	195 (50%)	91 (45%)	95 (56%)	42 (46%)	52 (67%)	30 (49%)	20 (48%)	15 (54%)	14 (58%)	16 (70%)	570 (51%)	
	Never	195 (50%)	91 (45%)	95 (56%)	42 (46%)	52 (67%)	20 (48%)	15 (54%)	14 (58%)	16 (70%)	570 (51%)	
Used a filter which had been previously used by someone else <sup>a,c</sup>	No response	5 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (0%)	
	In the last month	71 (18%)	37 (18%)	15 (9%)	13 (14%)	12 (15%)	13 (21%)	7 (17%)	3 (11%)	1 (4%)	177 (16%)	
In the last six months but not in the last month	20 (5%)	18 (9%)	8 (5%)	4 (4%)	3 (4%)	1 (2%)	3 (7%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	58 (5%)	
	In the past but not in the last six months	53 (14%)	23 (11%)	23 (14%)	8 (9%)	7 (9%)	7 (17%)	3 (11%)	2 (8%)	1 (4%)	129 (12%)	
Never	241 (62%)	124 (61%)	125 (73%)	66 (73%)	56 (72%)	45 (74%)	25 (60%)	22 (79%)	20 (83%)	17 (74%)	741 (67%)	
	Never	241 (62%)	124 (61%)	125 (73%)	66 (73%)	56 (72%)	25 (60%)	22 (79%)	20 (83%)	17 (74%)	741 (67%)	
Prepared drugs or rinsed needles/syringes with water that had already been used by someone else <sup>a,c</sup>	In the last month	79 (20%)	29 (14%)	18 (11%)	13 (14%)	10 (13%)	14 (23%)	4 (14%)	1 (4%)	4 (17%)	178 (16%)	
	In the last six months but not in the last month	18 (5%)	4 (2%)	3 (8%)	5 (6%)	3 (4%)	1 (2%)	2 (7%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	50 (5%)	
In the past but not in the last six months	46 (12%)	20 (10%)	18 (11%)	7 (8%)	6 (8%)	4 (7%)	2 (5%)	4 (14%)	2 (8%)	0 (0%)	109 (10%)	
	Never	237 (61%)	149 (74%)	121 (71%)	66 (73%)	59 (76%)	42 (69%)	31 (74%)	20 (83%)	19 (83%)	762 (69%)	
No response	8 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	9 (1%)	
	8 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	9 (1%)	

**Table 2. continued**

	NHS Board										Scotland overall total N = 2060	
	GGC	GR	LO	LN	TY	AA	FF	FV	DG	HG/BR		
Number of respondents who injected in the last six months	In the last month											
	In the last six months but not in the last month											
	In the past but not in the last six months											
Shared any injecting equipment with a known HCV-positive person <sup>a,d</sup>	Never	32 (8%)	10 (4%)	8 (5%)	8 (5%)	8 (5%)	6 (7%)	6 (9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	131 (6%)
	Never	17 (4%)	3 (1%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	4 (3%)	3 (4%)	2 (3%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	51 (3%)
Injected with a needle/syringe that were not sure was own <sup>a</sup>	Never	41 (10%)	18 (7%)	11 (7%)	11 (7%)	8 (5%)	3 (4%)	10 (15%)	4 (8%)	4 (8%)	1 (2%)	156 (8%)
	No response	325 (77%)	241 (88%)	122 (82%)	122 (82%)	142 (88%)	69 (85%)	47 (72%)	46 (89%)	40 (98%)	0 (0%)	1683 (82%)
Number of times on average reused the same needle/syringe before discarding it in the last six months <sup>a</sup>	Once or twice	6 (1%)	3 (1%)	6 (4%)	6 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	39 (2%)
	Three to five times	76 (11%)	35 (13%)	14 (9%)	14 (9%)	24 (15%)	14 (17%)	13 (20%)	5 (10%)	4 (10%)	4 (10%)	250 (12%)
	More than five times	108 (15%)	35 (13%)	16 (11%)	16 (11%)	25 (15%)	9 (11%)	16 (25%)	8 (15%)	6 (15%)	6 (15%)	313 (15%)
Injected by someone else after they had injected themselves or others, in the last six months <sup>a</sup>	Never	495 (70%)	199 (72%)	115 (77%)	115 (77%)	109 (67%)	55 (68%)	36 (55%)	38 (73%)	29 (71%)	2 (5%)	1441 (70%)
	Never	25 (4%)	6 (2%)	4 (3%)	4 (3%)	4 (3%)	3 (4%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	56 (3%)
	Don't know/No response	233 (33%)	208 (49%)	126 (46%)	75 (50%)	57 (35%)	21 (26%)	25 (38%)	19 (39%)	17 (42%)	17 (42%)	819 (40%)
Injected by someone else after they had injected themselves or others, in the last six months <sup>a</sup>	Once or twice	93 (13%)	10 (4%)	4 (3%)	4 (3%)	9 (6%)	5 (6%)	5 (8%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	165 (8%)
	Three to five times	278 (40%)	93 (34%)	53 (36%)	53 (36%)	73 (45%)	42 (52%)	27 (42%)	22 (42%)	19 (46%)	0 (0%)	751 (37%)
	More than five times	7 (1%)	4 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	13 (0%)
Injected by someone else after they had injected themselves or others, in the last six months <sup>a</sup>	Yes	113 (16%)	39 (14%)	24 (16%)	24 (16%)	35 (22%)	17 (21%)	14 (22%)	16 (31%)	6 (15%)	6 (15%)	351 (17%)
	No	589 (84%)	344 (82%)	125 (84%)	125 (84%)	127 (78%)	64 (79%)	51 (79%)	36 (69%)	35 (85%)	35 (85%)	1701 (83%)
	No response	2 (0%)	5 (1%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (0%)

<sup>a</sup> among injectors who reported injecting drugs in the last six months

<sup>b</sup> other injecting equipment may include spoons/cookers, filters or water

<sup>c</sup> among those who had never shared needle/syringes

<sup>d</sup> any injecting equipment includes needles/syringes, spoons/cookers, filters or water

**Table 3. Imprisonment and injecting in prison**

	NHS Board											Scotland overall total N = 2563
	GCC N = 947	GR N = 472	LO N = 311	LN N = 200	TY N = 192	AA N = 138	FF N = 104	FV N = 89	DG N = 67	HG/BR N = 43		
Last in Prison <sup>a</sup>	Number of respondents											
	In the last six months											
	In the past but not in the last 6 months											
Never imprisoned	Don't Know/No Response											
	Don't Know/No Response											
Injected in prison in the last 6 months <sup>b</sup>	Yes											
	No											
	165 (17%)	80 (17%)	42 (14%)	30 (15%)	38 (20%)	32 (23%)	10 (10%)	9 (10%)	12 (18%)	9 (21%)	427 (17%)	
	449 (47%)	171 (36%)	125 (40%)	76 (38%)	70 (36%)	57 (41%)	46 (44%)	46 (52%)	27 (40%)	12 (28%)	1079 (42%)	
	332 (35%)	221 (47%)	144 (46%)	94 (47%)	84 (44%)	48 (35%)	48 (46%)	33 (37%)	28 (42%)	22 (51%)	1054 (41%)	
	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (0%)	
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	N = 427	
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	19 (4%)	
											408 (96%)	

<sup>a</sup> since commencing injecting drug use

<sup>b</sup> among those who were in prison in the last six months

\* indicates values that have been suppressed due to potential risk of disclosure

**Table 4. Uptake of harm reduction services**

		NHS Board											Scotland overall total N = 2563
		GCC	GR	LO	LN	TY	AA	FF	FV	DG	HG/BR		
Hepatitis B vaccination uptake	3+ doses	N = 947	N = 472	N = 311	N = 200	N = 192	N = 138	N = 104	N = 89	N = 67	N = 43	N = 43	N = 2563
	2 doses	493 (52%)	230 (49%)	196 (63%)	149 (75%)	75 (39%)	37 (27%)	38 (37%)	53 (60%)	45 (67%)	19 (44%)	19 (44%)	1335 (52%)
Never vaccinated	1 dose	86 (9%)	62 (13%)	32 (10%)	8 (4%)	19 (10%)	10 (7%)	14 (14%)	8 (9%)	3 (5%)	4 (9%)	246 (10%)	
	Never vaccinated	52 (6%)	33 (7%)	16 (5%)	4 (2%)	15 (8%)	3 (2%)	12 (12%)	5 (6%)	3 (5%)	3 (7%)	146 (6%)	
Tested for HCV	Don't Know/No Response	246 (26%)	136 (29%)	54 (17%)	28 (14%)	81 (42%)	75 (54%)	38 (37%)	22 (25%)	12 (18%)	17 (40%)	709 (28%)	
	In the last 12 months	70 (7%)	11 (2%)	13 (4%)	11 (6%)	2 (1%)	13 (9%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	4 (6%)	0 (0%)	127 (5%)	
Where last tested for HCV	In the past but not in the last 12 months	243 (26%)	146 (31%)	160 (51%)	77 (39%)	70 (37%)	38 (28%)	52 (50%)	43 (48%)	40 (60%)	23 (54%)	892 (35%)	
	Never tested	435 (46%)	200 (42%)	92 (30%)	73 (37%)	68 (35%)	43 (31%)	39 (38%)	27 (30%)	19 (28%)	12 (28%)	1008 (39%)	
Tested for HIV	Don't Know/No Response	225 (24%)	107 (23%)	46 (15%)	40 (20%)	51 (27%)	44 (32%)	13 (13%)	18 (20%)	6 (9%)	7 (16%)	557 (22%)	
	In the last 12 months	44 (5%)	19 (4%)	13 (4%)	10 (4%)	3 (2%)	13 (9%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	2 (3%)	1 (2%)	106 (4%)	
Received prescribed methadone	GP	N = 678	N = 346	N = 252	N = 150	N = 138	N = 81	N = 91	N = 70	N = 59	N = 35	N = 1900	
	Hospital	164 (24%)	122 (35%)	114 (45%)	26 (17%)	50 (36%)	16 (20%)	16 (18%)	12 (17%)	13 (22%)	13 (37%)	546 (29%)	
Received prescribed methadone (current IDUs only)	Prison	195 (29%)	75 (22%)	37 (15%)	39 (26%)	33 (24%)	27 (33%)	18 (20%)	18 (26%)	16 (27%)	6 (17%)	464 (24%)	
	Other	138 (20%)	34 (10%)	48 (19%)	60 (40%)	13 (9%)	14 (17%)	27 (30%)	33 (47%)	22 (37%)	7 (20%)	396 (21%)	
Number of sterile needles/syringes obtained per week from a needle exchange in the last six months <sup>b,c</sup>	Never tested	140 (21%)	64 (19%)	22 (9%)	23 (15%)	22 (16%)	17 (21%)	16 (18%)	7 (10%)	8 (14%)	8 (23%)	327 (17%)	
	Never received treatment	39 (6%)	51 (15%)	31 (12%)	2 (1%)	20 (15%)	7 (5%)	14 (15%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	165 (9%)	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	Don't Know/No Response	2 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (0%)	
	In the last six months	N = 947	N = 472	N = 311	N = 200	N = 192	N = 138	N = 104	N = 89	N = 67	N = 43	N = 2563	
Received drug treatment other than methadone <sup>a</sup>	In the last 12 months	222 (23%)	120 (25%)	147 (47%)	71 (36%)	54 (28%)	32 (23%)	36 (35%)	31 (35%)	33 (49%)	20 (47%)	766 (30%)	
	Never prescribed	389 (41%)	187 (40%)	107 (34%)	75 (38%)	81 (42%)	30 (22%)	39 (38%)	32 (36%)	21 (31%)	10 (23%)	971 (38%)	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	In the past but not in the last 12 months	299 (32%)	161 (34%)	47 (15%)	44 (22%)	57 (30%)	58 (42%)	27 (26%)	25 (28%)	10 (15%)	11 (26%)	739 (29%)	
	Never prescribed	37 (4%)	4 (1%)	10 (3%)	10 (5%)	0 (0%)	18 (13%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	3 (5%)	2 (5%)	87 (3%)	
Received drug treatment other than methadone <sup>a</sup>	In the last six months	759 (80%)	259 (55%)	215 (69%)	170 (85%)	115 (60%)	89 (65%)	86 (83%)	59 (66%)	62 (93%)	21 (49%)	1835 (72%)	
	Never prescribed	112 (12%)	109 (23%)	55 (18%)	22 (11%)	25 (13%)	15 (11%)	11 (11%)	15 (17%)	3 (5%)	6 (14%)	373 (15%)	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	In the past but not in the last 12 months	76 (8%)	104 (22%)	41 (13%)	8 (4%)	52 (27%)	34 (25%)	7 (7%)	15 (17%)	2 (3%)	16 (37%)	355 (14%)	
	Never prescribed	N = 704	N = 421	N = 275	N = 149	N = 162	N = 110	N = 81	N = 65	N = 52	N = 41	N = 2060	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	In the last six months	538 (76%)	217 (52%)	183 (67%)	123 (83%)	86 (53%)	62 (56%)	64 (79%)	38 (59%)	47 (90%)	20 (49%)	1378 (67%)	
	Never prescribed	99 (14%)	104 (25%)	52 (19%)	20 (13%)	25 (15%)	14 (13%)	11 (14%)	13 (20%)	3 (6%)	6 (15%)	347 (17%)	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	In the past but not in the last 12 months	67 (10%)	100 (24%)	40 (15%)	6 (4%)	51 (32%)	34 (31%)	6 (7%)	14 (22%)	2 (4%)	15 (37%)	335 (16%)	
	Never prescribed	N = 947	N = 472	N = 311	N = 200	N = 192	N = 138	N = 104	N = 89	N = 67	N = 43	N = 2563	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	In the last six months	574 (61%)	114 (24%)	198 (64%)	180 (90%)	127 (66%)	86 (62%)	78 (75%)	75 (84%)	58 (87%)	21 (49%)	1511 (59%)	
	Never received treatment	157 (17%)	153 (32%)	57 (18%)	14 (7%)	35 (18%)	8 (6%)	13 (13%)	5 (6%)	8 (12%)	6 (14%)	456 (18%)	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	Never received treatment	213 (23%)	204 (43%)	56 (18%)	6 (3%)	30 (16%)	44 (32%)	13 (13%)	9 (10%)	1 (1%)	16 (37%)	592 (23%)	
	No Response	3 (0%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (0%)	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	35+ per week	N = 704	N = 421	N = 275	N = 149	N = 162	N = 110	N = 81	N = 65	N = 52	N = 41	N = 2060	
	21-34 per week	109 (16%)	79 (19%)	40 (15%)	19 (13%)	16 (10%)	31 (28%)	16 (20%)	12 (19%)	7 (13%)	8 (20%)	337 (16%)	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	14-20 per week	75 (11%)	53 (13%)	33 (12%)	18 (12%)	30 (19%)	29 (26%)	4 (5%)	7 (11%)	4 (8%)	6 (15%)	259 (13%)	
	7-13 per week	164 (23%)	95 (23%)	78 (28%)	29 (20%)	32 (20%)	19 (17%)	20 (25%)	16 (25%)	11 (21%)	11 (27%)	475 (23%)	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	1-6 per week	146 (21%)	79 (19%)	38 (14%)	33 (22%)	29 (18%)	6 (6%)	12 (15%)	2 (3%)	12 (23%)	5 (12%)	362 (18%)	
	None	141 (20%)	79 (19%)	73 (27%)	39 (26%)	46 (28%)	17 (16%)	23 (28%)	22 (34%)	15 (29%)	8 (20%)	463 (23%)	
Number of harm reduction services used in the last six months	None	69 (10%)	36 (9%)	13 (5%)	11 (7%)	9 (6%)	8 (7%)	6 (7%)	6 (9%)	3 (6%)	3 (7%)	164 (8%)	

Table 4. continued

	Number of respondents	NHS Board										Scotland overall total N = 2060
		GCC N = 704	GR N = 421	LO N = 275	LN N = 149	TY N = 162	AA N = 110	FF N = 81	FV N = 65	DG N = 52	HG/BR N = 41	
Number of sterile needles/syringes obtained per week in the last six months from other people <sup>b, c</sup>	35+ per week 21 to 34 per week 14 – 20 per week 7 – 13 per week 1-6 per week None	1 (0%) 0 (0%) 10 (1%) 11 (2%) 92 (13%) 590 (84%)	0 (0%) 2 (1%) 8 (2%) 19 (5%) 108 (26%) 284 (68%)	0 (0%) 0 (0%) 1 (1%) 1 (1%) 14 (5%) 259 (94%)	0 (0%) 1 (1%) 1 (1%) 2 (1%) 9 (6%) 136 (91%)	0 (0%) 1 (1%) 0 (0%) 2 (1%) 23 (14%) 136 (84%)	2 (2%) 1 (1%) 1 (1%) 0 (0%) 6 (6%) 100 (91%)	0 (0%) 1 (1%) 0 (0%) 2 (3%) 13 (16%) 65 (80%)	0 (0%) 1 (2%) 1 (2%) 0 (0%) 9 (14%) 54 (83%)	0 (0%) 0 (0%) 1 (2%) 2 (4%) 3 (6%) 46 (89%)	0 (0%) 0 (0%) 1 (2%) 2 (5%) 12 (29%) 26 (63%)	3 (0%) 7 (0%) 24 (1%) 41 (2%) 289 (14%) 1696 (82%)
Average number of sterile needles/syringes obtained per week in the last six months from <sup>b, c</sup>	All, Mean (SD) Fixed site exchange, Mean (SD) Pharmacy exchange, Mean (SD) Outreach/mobile exchange, Mean (SD) Obtained from other people, Mean (SD)	20 (26) 7 (19) 13 (17) 1 (6) 1 (3)	23 (23) 15 (19) 4 (9) 2 (10) 2 (4)	19 (20) 10 (17) 7 (14) 1 (7) 0 (1)	19 (24) 7 (22) 9 (13) 1 (7) 1 (3)	18 (21) 5 (18) 12 (15) 1 (3) 1 (2)	30 (25) 13 (19) 6 (13) 10 (22) 1 (8)	23 (31) 11 (30) 11 (17) 0 (0) 1 (4)	20 (24) 7 (16) 12 (20) 1 (6) 1 (4)	21 (30) 3 (8) 10 (17) 8 (23) 1 (3)	39 (84) 23 (70) 14 (21) 0 (1) 2 (4)	21 (27) 10 (22) 9 (15) 2 (9) 1 (4)
Uptake of sterile injecting equipment from a needle exchange in the last six months <sup>a, b, c, d</sup>	Acidifier (e.g. citric acid, Vit C) Wipes/swabs Sharps bins Filters Cookers/spoons Sterile Water Tourniquets Colour coded syringes	609 (87%) 624 (89%) 615 (87%) 117 (17%) 109 (16%) 36 (5%) 10 (1%) 47 (7%)	368 (87%) 379 (90%) 373 (89%) 9 (2%) 14 (3%) 2 (1%) 2 (1%) 28 (7%)	254 (92%) 259 (94%) 254 (92%) 199 (72%) 199 (72%) 6 (2%) 1 (0%) 3 (1%)	138 (93%) 138 (93%) 137 (92%) 40 (27%) 39 (26%) 1 (1%) 0 (0%) 6 (4%)	146 (90%) 153 (94%) 147 (91%) 144 (89%) 144 (89%) 0 (0%) 0 (0%) 7 (4%)	79 (72%) 101 (92%) 99 (90%) 68 (62%) 0 (0%) 0 (0%) 48 (44%) 0 (0%)	72 (89%) 75 (93%) 74 (91%) 39 (48%) 41 (51%) 0 (0%) 0 (0%) 13 (16%)	17 (26%) 19 (29%) 57 (88%) 4 (6%) 4 (6%) 0 (0%) 0 (0%) 1 (2%)	49 (94%) 49 (94%) 46 (89%) 48 (92%) 48 (92%) 46 (89%) 3 (6%) 0 (0%)	38 (93%) 38 (93%) 38 (93%) 36 (88%) 36 (88%) 30 (73%) 0 (0%) 13 (32%)	1770 (86%) 1835 (89%) 1840 (89%) 704 (34%) 634 (31%) 121 (6%) 64 (3%) 118 (6%)
Average numbers of sterile injecting equipment obtained per week in the last six months from an exchange <sup>b, c</sup>	Filters, Mean (SD) Cookers/spoons, Mean (SD) Sterile water, Mean (SD)	4 (12) 3 (10) 1 (8)	0 (3) 0 (3) 0 (0.5)	15 (19) 15 (19) 1 (10)	9 (23) 9 (23) 0 (1)	16 (16) 16 (16) 0 (0)	24 (25) 0 (0) 0 (0)	9 (18) 10 (21) 0 (0)	0.5 (3) 0.5 (3) 0 (0)	21 (29) 22 (31) 21 (31)	38 (88) 38 (88) 33 (89)	8 (21) 7 (20) 2 (16)

<sup>a</sup> drug treatment includes opiate substitute treatment (excluding methadone), drug counselling (including addiction worker), detox and residential rehabilitation

<sup>b</sup> among injectors who reported injecting drugs in the last six months

<sup>c</sup> in a typical injecting week during the last six months

<sup>d</sup> percentages may add up to more than 100% as individuals may have reported obtaining more than one item

**Table 5. HCV testing and referral**

	Number of respondents	NHS Board										Scotland overall total N = 2563
		GCC	GR	LO	LN	TY	AA	FF	FV	DG	HG/BR	
Tested for HCV (self-report of result)	Positive	296 (31%)	104 (22%)	64 (21%)	44 (22%)	39 (20%)	33 (24%)	26 (25%)	23 (26%)	26 (39%)	4 (9%)	659 (26%)
	Negative	332 (35%)	222 (47%)	163 (52%)	98 (49%)	90 (47%)	43 (31%)	47 (45%)	41 (46%)	30 (45%)	29 (67%)	1095 (43%)
	Awaiting result	16 (2%)	9 (2%)	14 (5%)	2 (1%)	4 (2%)	1 (1%)	6 (6%)	4 (5%)	1 (2%)	2 (5%)	59 (2%)
	Did not get result	32 (3%)	11 (2%)	9 (3%)	5 (2%)	5 (3%)	6 (4%)	9 (9%)	2 (2%)	2 (3%)	0 (0%)	81 (3%)
	Don't know/No response	5 (1%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (3%)	1 (1%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	16 (1%)
	Never tested	266 (28%)	124 (26%)	59 (19%)	49 (25%)	54 (28%)	55 (40%)	13 (13%)	18 (20%)	7 (10%)	8 (19%)	653 (25%)
Referred to hospital for HCV <sup>a</sup>	Yes	<b>N = 296</b>	<b>N = 104</b>	<b>N = 64</b>	<b>N = 44</b>	<b>N = 39</b>	<b>N = 33</b>	<b>N = 26</b>	<b>N = 23</b>	<b>N = 26</b>	<b>N = 4</b>	<b>N = 659</b>
	No	185 (63%)	50 (48%)	40 (63%)	24 (55%)	24 (62%)	20 (61%)	14 (54%)	17 (74%)	18 (69%)	3 (75%)	395 (60%)
	Don't know /No response	99 (33%)	51 (49%)	20 (31%)	19 (43%)	14 (36%)	12 (36%)	11 (42%)	6 (26%)	8 (31%)	1 (25%)	241 (36%)
Attended hospital appointment <sup>b</sup>	Yes	<b>N = 185</b>	<b>N = 50</b>	<b>N = 40</b>	<b>N = 24</b>	<b>N = 24</b>	<b>N = 20</b>	<b>N = 14</b>	<b>N = 17</b>	<b>N = 18</b>	<b>N = 3</b>	<b>N = 395</b>
	No	124 (67%)	38 (76%)	30 (75%)	18 (75%)	13 (54%)	15 (75%)	10 (71%)	13 (76%)	13 (72%)	1 (33%)	275 (70%)
	No response	57 (31%)	12 (24%)	10 (25%)	5 (21%)	11 (46%)	5 (25%)	4 (29%)	4 (24%)	5 (28%)	2 (67)	115 (29%)
		4 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (1%)

<sup>a</sup> among participants who reported they were positive for HCV

<sup>b</sup> among participants who received a referral

**Table 6. Prevalence of HCV infection**

	NHS Board											Scotland overall total
	GGC	GR	LO	LN	TY	AA	FF	FV	DG	HG/BR		
HCV-antibody prevalence	N = 928 651 (70%)	N = 469 241 (51%)	N = 295 90 (31%)	N = 195 95 (49%)	N = 189 62 (33%)	N = 135 79 (59%)	N = 104 55 (53%)	N = 89 48 (54%)	N = 66 43 (65%)	N = 43 9 (21%)		N = 2513 1373 (55%)
HCV-antibody prevalence by gender												
Male	N = 667 463 (69%)	N = 359 180 (50%)	N = 220 69 (31%)	N = 134 56 (42%)	N = 135 44 (33%)			N = 286*				N = 1801 963 (53%)
Female	N = 256 186 (73%)	N = 103 56 (54%)	N = 74 21 (28%)	N = 61 39 (64%)	N = 54 18 (33%)			N = 151*				N = 699 403 (58%)
HCV-antibody prevalence by age group												
Aged <25 years	N = 52	N = 58	N = 44	N = 19	N = 39			N = 46*				N = 258
HCV-positive	31 (60%)	22 (38%)	10 (23%)	9 (47%)	8 (21%)			13 (28%)				93 (36%)
Aged 25+ years	N = 876	N = 411	N = 251	N = 176	N = 150			N = 391*				N = 2255
HCV-positive	620 (71%)	219 (53%)	80 (32%)	86 (49%)	54 (36%)			221 (57%)				1280 (57%)
HCV-antibody prevalence by time since onset of injecting												
<3.0 years	N = 124	N = 56	N = 68	*	N = 58			N = 94*				N = 400
HCV-positive	40 (32%)	14 (25%)	13 (19%)	*	6 (10%)			24 (26%)				97 (24%)
>5.0 years	N = 200	N = 109	N = 108	*	N = 82			N = 161*				N = 659
HCV-positive	87 (44%)	37 (34%)	23 (21%)	*	14 (17%)			47 (29%)				208 (32%)
Diagnosed and undiagnosed HCV infection <sup>a</sup>	N = 651	N = 241	N = 90	N = 95	N = 62			N = 234*				N = 1373
Self-reported HCV-positive	287 (44%)	100 (41%)	54 (60%)	43 (45%)	34 (55%)			109 (47%)				627 (46%)
Self-reported HCV-negative	170 (26%)	87 (36%)	21 (23%)	31 (33%)	17 (27%)			63 (27%)				389 (28%)
Self-reported unaware	194 (30%)	54 (22%)	15 (17%)	21 (22%)	11 (18%)			62 (26%)				357 (26%)

<sup>a</sup> among those who tested positive for HCV antibodies

\* Data have been aggregated due to the potential risk of disclosure; data on HCV-antibody prevalence by the time since onset of injecting for Lanarkshire (LN) have been combined with those from other NHS Boards (AA, FF, FV, DG, HG and BR).

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## Appendix 1: Survey methods

### Participants, eligibility and setting

Participants were recruited from selected needle exchanges and pharmacies that provide a needle exchange service. Clients attending the needle exchanges were approached by trained interviewers and assessed for eligibility: participants were eligible if they had injected drugs on at least one occasion and if it was the first time that they had participated in the current survey (June 2008-June 2009). All eligible participants were invited to take part in the survey: the interviewers first informed them about the purpose of the survey and explained that it is voluntary, anonymous and confidential. Upon giving informed consent, participants were then asked to complete a short questionnaire to elicit key demographic and behavioural information and to supply a blood spot sample to be tested anonymously for HCV and other blood-borne viruses. An individual's blood spot sample was linked to the corresponding questionnaire through an assigned study number. Participants who wished to find out their HCV status were referred to the appropriate services. Ethics approval for the survey was obtained from the West Glasgow Ethics Committee. Research & Development approval was obtained from all participating NHS Boards.

The survey was conducted during June 2008 to June 2009 and participants were recruited from 81 pharmacy needle exchanges and 22 agencies providing a fixed site exchange, mobile or outreach exchange service across the eleven mainland NHS Boards. In total, half of all services providing injecting equipment in mainland Scotland (103/208) as reported in a survey of injecting equipment provision in 2007/2008 across Scotland, participated as recruitment sites<sup>(10)</sup> (Table 7). Exchange services were selected if they were willing to take part in the initiative and if they had a private room in which interviews could be conducted.

**Table 7. Number of recruitment sites participating in the survey by NHS Board**

Health Board	Pharmacy sites		Agencies*		Total number of NESI recruitment sites
	In total (ISD survey, 2007/2008)	NESI recruitment sites	In total (ISD survey, 2007/2008)	NESI recruitment sites	
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	8	7	2	1	8
NHS Borders	6	0	1	1	1
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	8	3	3	1	4
NHS Fife	18	5	5	2	7
NHS Forth Valley	11	5	1	1	6
NHS Grampian	15	2	4	3	5
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	44	21	6	3	24
NHS Highlands	9	1	3	1	2
NHS Lanarkshire	18	17	2	2	19
NHS Lothian	21	12	9	5	17
NHS Tayside	11	8	3	2	10
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>103</b>

\* includes fixed site needle exchange, mobile and outreach services

## Participation

Approximately 63% of the potentially eligible needle exchange clients that were approached and had not already participated during the current survey, agreed to participate; this proportion ranged from 55% to 83% across NHS Boards. It should be noted that some individuals who initially refused to participate might have been included in the survey at a later visit.

All respondents were asked the main reason for their visit to the service (recruitment site) on that day (Table 8); fifty two percent of respondents reported attendance for the purpose of obtaining injecting equipment, 35% reported methadone prescription and a further 13% reported another reason; other reasons included attending an appointment, using the drop in service, to see harm reduction team, accompanying someone else or other prescription collection.

**Table 8. Reason for visit to service (recruitment site)**

Health Board	Reason for visit			
	Needle exchange N (%)	Methadone prescription N (%)	Other N (%)	No response N (%)
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	84 (61%)	46 (33%)	7 (5%)	1 (1%)
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	20 (30%)	46 (69%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
NHS Fife	37 (36%)	45 (43%)	22 (21%)	0 (0%)
NHS Forth Valley	26 (29%)	46 (52%)	17 (19%)	0 (0%)
NHS Grampian	367 (78%)	53 (11%)	50 (11%)	2 (0%)
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	361 (38%)	394 (42%)	185 (19%)	7 (1%)
NHS Highlands/ NHS Borders	29 (67%)	8 (19%)	6 (14%)	0 (0%)
NHS Lanarkshire	89 (45%)	97 (48%)	14 (7%)	0 (0%)
NHS Lothian	208 (67%)	75 (24%)	26 (8%)	2 (1%)
NHS Tayside	107 (56%)	75 (39%)	10 (5%)	0 (0%)
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>1328 (52%)</b>	<b>885 (35%)</b>	<b>338 (13%)</b>	<b>12 (0%)</b>

The main reason given for declining participation in the survey was 'too busy' (~76%). Approximately nine percent of individuals did not state a reason and a variety of other reasons were cited by the remaining non-participants, including 'collecting for someone else' and 'strung out'. Those who did and did not participate in the survey were similar in terms of age (mean age of 29 years for non-participants compared to 33 years for participants) and gender (72% of both non-participants and participants were male).

## Laboratory testing

HCV antibody testing was carried out using the methods described in Judd et al<sup>(11)</sup>.

Dried blood spots were extracted and tested in a modification of the Ortho Save 3.0 EIA. Samples generating an optical density >0.5 were considered positive for HCV antibodies and those between 0.2 & 0.5 were classified as weakly reactive; weak reactives were considered HCV antibody positive in this report.

HCV RNA was tested using an 'in house' PCR (polymerase chain reaction) assay using the bioMerieux extraction protocol for DBS on the Easymag and a real-time PCR. The assay detects to 1000 I<sub>u</sub>/ml in DBS. The testing was carried out in pools of 5 and all positive pools were then tested individually. The methods for HCV RNA detection in DBS and testing in pools are under evaluation as part of Action 12 of the Scottish HCV Action Plan and will be published in 2010.

## Appendix 2: Survey questionnaire

### Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative

# NESI 2008/09

E1	Have you ever injected drugs?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	↓ If no, REJECT						
E2	Have you participated in this study before?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	↓ If yes when was the last time you participated in this study? <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>M</td><td>M</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td> </tr> </table> If interviewed during June 2008 - March 2009 REJECT	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y				
E3	What is the reason for your visit today? <i>(Please tick all that apply)</i>	Needle exchange <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Methadone <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Other <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	↓ Please specify <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 40px;"> <tr> <td> </td> </tr> </table>						
	Time interview started:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>H</td><td>H</td><td>:</td><td>M</td><td>M</td> </tr> </table>	H	H	:	M	M	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">Attach sticker here</td> </tr> </table>	Attach sticker here
H	H	:	M	M					
Attach sticker here									

Site No:

Interviewer code:

Date:

V04/12/08

*I am first going to start by asking you some general questions about you*

1	What are your initials?	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
2	Sex	Male <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Female <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	
3	What is your date of birth?	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
4	In which area are you living at the moment?	<input type="text"/>	
5	What is the first part of your post code?	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
6	a) Have you <u>ever</u> lived in a hostel for the homeless, had no fixed abode or lived on the streets?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	↓ <i>If no, go to Q7</i>
	b) Has this been in the last 6 months?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	

*I am now going to ask you about drug services and healthcare you may have received*

7	Have you ever been vaccinated for Hepatitis B (Hep B jag)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2 DK <input type="checkbox"/> 8888	↓ If no/don't know, go to Q10
8	How many Hep B jags have you had?	1 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 3+ <input type="checkbox"/> 3 DK <input type="checkbox"/> 8888	
9	Where did you receive the vaccinations for Hepatitis B? <i>(tick all that apply)</i>	GP <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Drug treatment centre/Counselling service <input type="checkbox"/> 1 GUM clinic <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 1 In prison <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Needle exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Other <i>(please specify below)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="text"/>	
10	a) Have you ever been prescribed methadone?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2	↓ If no, go to Q11
	b) Are you currently on methadone?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2	
	c) For how many of the last 6 months have you been prescribed methadone?	<input type="text"/> months	
11	a) Have you ever received any other drug treatment (excluding methadone)? <b>(Show prompt card)</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2	↓ If no, go to Q12
	b) In the last 6 months, have you received any other drug treatment (excluding methadone)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2	↓ If no, go to Q12
	c) What treatment have you received (excluding methadone)? <b>(Show prompt card)</b>	<input type="text"/>	

*I would now like to ask you some questions about your alcohol and drug use. The first few questions are about alcohol*

<b>12</b>	In the past 12 months, how often did you have drink containing alcohol? (Show prompt card)	Never <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>0</sub> Once a month or less <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Twice a month <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> Once a week <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> 2 - 3 times a week <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> 4 - 5 times a week <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> 6 - 7 times a week <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>	↓ <i>If never go to Q15</i>
<b>13</b>	On a typical day when you drink, what do you drink?		
	<b>Drink</b>	<b>Size and Number</b>	<b>Units*</b>
<b>A</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Beer/lager/cider/shandy		
<b>B</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong beer/lager/cider (>6%)		
<b>C</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wine		
<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong wine (>15%) e.g. Buckfast		
<b>E</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Spirits and liqueurs		
<b>F</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcopops		
<b>G</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
<b>14</b>	<b>Total number of Units</b>		
	<b>*To be completed by interviewer after the interview</b>		

*I am now going to ask you about your injecting drug use*

15	How old were you when you first injected drugs?	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> years	
16	When did you last inject drugs?	<input type="text"/>	
17	Was this in the last 4 weeks?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	↓ <i>If yes, go to Q19</i>
18	Have you injected in the last 6 months?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	↓ <i>If no, go to Q25</i>
19	In the last 6 months, which of the following drugs have you injected? <i>(tick all that apply)</i>	Heroin <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Cocaine <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Crack <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Speed <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Temazepam or Valium <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Bodybuilding drugs e.g. steroids, HCG <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Other <i>(please specify below)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="text"/>	
20	In the last 6 months, which drug have you injected most often?	<input type="text"/>	
21	In how many of the last 6 months did you inject drugs? <i>Please fill in the number of months</i>	<input type="text"/> months	

22	In the months when you injected drugs how often on average did you inject them?	<p>1 to 3 times a month <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub></p> <p>About once a week <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub></p> <p>2 to 6 times a week <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub></p> <p>Once a day <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub></p> <p>2 to 3 times a day <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub></p> <p>4 or more times a day <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub></p>																							
23	Of all the needles and syringes that you have used to inject in the last 6 months, how many were new and unused (i.e. from a packet) on a scale of 0 to 10 (where 0 is none and 10 is all) ( <i>tick one box</i> )	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </table>													0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10															
24	In the last 6 months, did someone inject you after injecting themselves or others?	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub></p>																							

<b>Reminder to the interviewer:</b> Complete using the respondent's answers to Q17 and Q18. Has the respondent injected in the...			last 6 months? ( <i>see Q18</i> ) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <i>If no skip column B</i> ↓	last 4 weeks? ( <i>see Q17</i> ) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <i>If no skip column C</i> ↓
		<b>A - Ever</b>	<b>B - In the last 6 Months</b>	<b>C - In the last 4 weeks</b>
<b>25</b>	Have you ever injected with a needle/syringe that had already been used by someone else (including your partner)?  How many times have you injected with a needle/syringe that had already been used by someone else (including your partner)?  (Ask about the last 6 months and the last 4 weeks)	a)  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>  <i>If no, go to Q28b</i> ↓	b)  Never <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>0</sub> Once or twice <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> 3 to 5 times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> 5 to 19 times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> 20+ times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	c)  Never <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>0</sub> Once or twice <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> 3 to 5 times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> 5 to 19 times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> 20+ times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>
<b>26</b>	Have you shared needle/syringes with someone you knew had Hepatitis C?  If yes, was this in the last 6 months/last 4 weeks?	a)  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>  <i>If no, go to Q27</i> ↓	b)  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>  <i>If no, go to Q27</i> ↓	c)  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>
<b>27</b>	<b>From</b> how many different people, in total, have you received used needles/syringes (including your partner)?		b) <input type="text"/> people <i>If 0, go to Q28</i>	c) <input type="text"/> people
<b>28</b>	<b>To</b> how many different people, in total, have you passed on used needles/syringes (including your partner)?		b) <input type="text"/> people <i>If 0, go to Q29</i>	c) <input type="text"/> people
<b>29</b>	Have you ever injected with the same needle/syringe more than once before discarding it?  In the last 6 months, how many times, on average, did you use the same needle/syringe before discarding it?	a)  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>  <i>If no, go to Q30</i> ↓	b)  Never <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>0</sub> Once or twice <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> 3 to 5 times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> 5+ times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	
<b>30</b>	Have you ever injected with a used needle/syringe that you were not sure was your own?  In the last 6 months, how many times did you inject with a used needle/syringe that you were not sure was your own?	a)  Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> DK <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8888</sub>  <i>If no, go to Q31</i> ↓	b)  Never <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>0</sub> Once or twice <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> 3 to 5 times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> 5 to 19 times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> 20+ times <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	

		A - Ever	B - In the last 6 Months	C - In the last month
<b>Have you:</b>				
31	Used spoons or containers for mixing which had previously been used by someone else?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <i>If no, go to Q32 ↓</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <i>If no, go to Q32 ↓</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>
32	Used filters or cottons which had previously been used by someone else?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <i>If no, go to Q33 ↓</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <i>If no, go to Q33 ↓</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>
33	Prepared drugs or rinsed your works with water that had already been used by someone else?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <i>If no, go to Q34 ↓</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <i>If no, go to Q34 ↓</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>
34	Shared filters, spoons, cookers or water with someone who you knew had Hepatitis C?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <i>If no, go to Q35 ↓</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <i>If no, go to Q35 ↓</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>
35	a) In the last year, how many occasions were you present when someone injected for the first time?	<input type="text"/>		↓ <i>If 0, go to Q36</i>
	b) On the last occasion, how many other injectors were present (not including yourself or the first time injector)?	<input type="text"/>		

*I would now like to ask you some questions about Hepatitis C and HIV*

36	a) Have you ever had a hepatitis C test?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2 DK <input type="checkbox"/> 8888	↓ If no/don't know, go to Q41
	b) In which year did you last have a hepatitis C test?	Y   Y   Y   Y	
	c) Was that test in the last 12 months?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2	
37	Where were you last tested for hepatitis C?	GP <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Drug treatment centre/counselling service <input type="checkbox"/> 2 GUM clinic <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Prison <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Needle exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Other (please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> 7  <input type="text"/>	
38	Would you mind telling me the result of your last test?	Have hep C <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Did not have hep C <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Awaiting result <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Did not get result <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Do not want to say <input type="checkbox"/> 5 DK <input type="checkbox"/> 8888	↓ go to Q41
39	Did you get a letter asking you to attend a hospital appointment for your hepatitis C?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2 DK <input type="checkbox"/> 8888	↓ If no/don't know, go to Q41
40	a) Did you attend the appointment?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2	↓ If yes, go to Q41
	b) Why not?	<input type="text"/>	

41	a) Have you ever had an HIV test?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2 DK <input type="checkbox"/> 8888	↓ If no/don't know, go to Q43
	b) In which year did you last have an HIV test?	<input type="text"/>   <input type="text"/>   <input type="text"/>   <input type="text"/>	
	c) was that test in the last 12 months?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2	
42	Would you mind telling me the result of your last test?	Have HIV <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Did not have HIV <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Awaiting results <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Did not get result <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Do not want to say <input type="checkbox"/> 5 DK <input type="checkbox"/> 8888	

<b><i>I would like to now ask about any time you may have spent in prison or a young offenders' institution</i></b>			
43	How many times have you been in prison (or a young offenders' institution) since you first injected drugs?	<input type="text"/>	↓ If 0, go to Q49
44	a) When was the last time you were in prison? (Date of release)	<input type="text"/>   <input type="text"/>   <input type="text"/>   <input type="text"/>   <input type="text"/>   <input type="text"/>	
	b) Was this in the last 6 months?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2	
45	Did you ever inject drugs when you were in prison (or a young offenders' institution)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2	↓ If no, go to Q49
46	When you ever injected in prison (or a young offenders' institution), did you ever use a needle and/or syringe that had already been used by a fellow prisoner?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2 DK <input type="checkbox"/> 8888	
47	Did you inject drugs in prison in the last 6 months?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2 N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	↓ If no, go to Q49

48	When you injected in prison (or a young offenders' institution) in the last 6 months did you use a needle and/or syringe that had already been used by a fellow prisoner?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> DK <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8888</sub> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Reminder to the interviewer:</b> Has the respondent injected in the last 6 months		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> No <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	↴ <i>If no, go to end of questionnaire</i>

***And finally I would like to finish by asking a few quick questions about needle exchanges***

49	In an average week during the last 6 months, how many new and unused needles and syringes did you obtain for yourself from.... <b>a) A pharmacy exchange</b> <b>b) A fixed site, specialist needle exchange</b> <b>c) A mobile/outreach/other exchange</b> <b>d) Other people (e.g. friends, acquaintances, partners)</b>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
50	In an average week, during the last 6 months, how many of the following did you obtain from an exchange? <b>a) Filters</b> <b>b) Stericups</b> <b>c) Water ampoules</b> <b>d) Citric acid or vit C sachets</b> <b>e) Wipes/swabs</b>	<input type="text"/> If 0, were they available at an exchange that you attended? ↴ <input type="text"/> If 0, were they available at an exchange that you attended? ↴ <input type="text"/> If 0, were they available at an exchange that you attended? ↴ <input type="text"/> If 0, were they available at an exchange that you attended? ↴ <input type="text"/> If 0, were they available at an exchange that you attended? ↴ <input type="text"/> If 0, were they available at an exchange that you attended? ↴	Available <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Not available <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> DK <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8888</sub> Available <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Not available <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> DK <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8888</sub> Available <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Not available <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> DK <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8888</sub> Available <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Not available <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> DK <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8888</sub> Available <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Not available <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> DK <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8888</sub>
In an average week, during the last 6 months, did you obtain any of the following from an exchange?			

Q50 cont. overleaf, PTO.



## Appendix 3: Participating needle exchange sites

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### Ayrshire & Arran NHS Board

Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Ayr  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Girvan  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Irvine  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Ayr  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Kilwinning  
McCormick Pharmacy, Drongan  
Bentinck Centre, Kilmarnock  
Needle Exchange Outreach Network – Stevenson  
Needle Exchange Outreach Network – Irvine  
Needle Exchange Outreach Network – Ayr  
Needle Exchange Outreach Network – Cumnock  
Toll Pharmacy, Prestwick

### Borders NHS Board

The Big River Project, Galashiels

### Dumfries & Galloway NHS Board

Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Castle Douglas  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Newton Stewart  
Turning Point, Stranraer  
William Murray Pharmacy, Dumfries

### Fife NHS Board

Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, St Andrews  
Frontline Fife/Homes4Good, Leven  
Gordons Pharmacy, Cowdenbeath  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Methil  
Rowlands Pharmacy, Cupar  
St Clair Pharmacy, Kirkcaldy  
West Fife Community Drugs Team, Dunfermline

### Forth Valley NHS Board

Alliance Pharmacy, Tullibody  
Cornton Pharmacy, Stirling  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Grahams Road, Falkirk  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Marshall, Alloa  
Signpost, Denny  
Signpost, Grahams Road, Falkirk,  
Signpost, Locals Against Drug Abuse (LADA), Alloa  
Signpost, Salvation Army, Stirling  
Superdrug, Thistle Centre, Stirling

### Grampian NHS Board

Drugs Action (Centre & Outreach), Aberdeen  
Douglas Dickie Pharmacy, Aberdeen  
Substance Misuse Service, Fraserburgh

Tillydrone Pharmacy, Aberdeen  
Turning Point, Banff  
Turning Point, Peterhead  
Turning Point, Elgin

## **Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS Board**

Abbey Chemist, Trongate  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Alexandria  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Crown Street  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Johnstone  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Queen Margaret Drive  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Victoria Road  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Renfrew  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Shettleston  
Apple Pharmacy, Craigend  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Barrhead  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Clydebank  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Kirkintilloch  
Denis Houlihan Pharmacy, Possilpark  
Dickson's Pharmacy, Tollcross  
Glasgow Drug Crisis Centre  
Glenburn Pharmacy, Paisley  
Harmony Row Pharmacist, Govan  
Hughes Pharmacy, Admiral Street  
J. Gilbride Pharmacy, Ibrox  
Lennox Service, Dumbarton Joint Hospital  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Bridgeton  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Maryhill  
Red Road Pharmacy, Glasgow  
Renfrewshire Drug Service, Paisley

## **Highlands NHS Board**

Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Inverness  
Terrence Higgins Trust, Inverness

## **Lanarkshire NHS Board**

A&A Gilbride Pharmacy, High Blantyre  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Airdrie  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Coatbridge  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, East Kilbride  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Hamilton  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Larkhall  
Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Strathaven  
Crawford Pharmacy, Shotts  
Dickson Chemist Ltd Pharmacies, Uddingston  
DJ Coleman Pharmacy, Carnwath  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Chapelhall  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Coatbridge  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Motherwell  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Wishaw

McIntyre & Cairns Chemists, Wishaw  
New Stevenston Pharmacy, Motherwell  
Outreach Team: North – Central Health Centre, Cumbernauld  
Outreach Team: South – A73 Project, Lanark  
Sinclair Pharmacy, Coatbridge

### **Lothian NHS Board**

Alliance/Boots Pharmacy, Shandwick Place  
D&A McKinnon Pharmacy, Calder Road  
Deans Pharmacy, Livingston  
Ferguson Pharmacy, North Berwick  
Gordons Pharmacy, Gracemount Drive  
Lindsay & Gilmour, Leith Walk  
Lindsay & Gilmour, West Calder  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Livingston  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Wester Hailes Centre  
Mid & East Lothian Drugs Service (MELD)  
National Co-operative Chemists, Prestonpans  
Needle Exchange Outreach Network – Armadale  
Needle Exchange Outreach Network – Bathgate  
Needle Exchange Outreach Network – Howden  
Needle Exchange Outreach Network – Musselburgh  
North Edinburgh Drug Advice Centre (NEDAC)  
Rowlands Pharmacy, Loanhead  
Rowlands Pharmacy, Penicuik  
The Exchange – Lady Lawson Street  
Turning Point, Leith

### **Tayside NHS Board**

Cairns Centre, Dundee  
Co-operative Pharmacy, Fisheracre, Arbroath  
Co-operative Pharmacy, High Street, Arbroath  
Davidson's Chemist Pharmacy, Blairgowrie  
Davidson's Chemist Pharmacy, Forfar  
Davidson's Chemist, Perth  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Albert Street, Dundee  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Macalpine Road, Ardler, Dundee  
Lloyds Pharmacy, Whitfield Drive, Dundee  
Montrose Minor Injury Unit, Montrose

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