

Drug Related Deaths Statistics:

These are some statistics that you might find helpful for your remembrance day, either as an awareness raising tool or in combination with a press release;

Across the UK, in the past 5 years over 10,000 people's deaths have been directly attributed to drug use in official statistics and we know this is the minimum because some drug related deaths are never recognized. So in the past 5 years it's as though the entire population of the City of Wells in Somerset had died.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	TOTAL
Scotland	280	216	232	204	280	299	1511
England and Wales	1137	1432	1495	1608	1573	1604	8849
	[N1]						
N Ire				52	22		74
ALL							10434

It can be useful here to use an analogy of just how many people this equates to e.g. a sports stadium or a local village. It helps to give realism to what might seem to some, rather dry statistics.

Table 1. Number of deaths in England related to drug misuse by gender

England	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Males	1,242	1,262	1,237	1,137	911	1,044
Females	242	303	291	319	270	295
Totals	1,484	1,565	1,528	1,456	1,181	1,339

Source: ONS, Health Statistics Quarterly 29, Spring 2006, p7

Table 3

Numbers of deaths related to drug misuse¹ by sex and country,² 2003–07

England and Wales

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
England and Wales ²	1,432	1,495	1,608	1,573	1,604
Males	1,118	1,177	1,260	1,250	1,287
Females	314	318	348	323	317
England	1,313	1,415	1,506	1,469	1,479
Males	1,018	1,110	1,182	1,161	1,194
Females	295	305	324	308	285
Wales	109	68	89	92	110
Males	92	55	70	78	80
Females	17	13	19	14	30
Drug misuse deaths as a percentage of all deaths on the database	55	54	58	61	61

1 As defined by the current headline indicator on drug misuse (Box Three).

2 Figures for England and Wales include deaths to non-residents. The separate figures for England and for Wales include only deaths to residents of those countries.

Scotland 'drug abuse' deaths

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files1/stats/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland-2007/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland-2007.pdf>

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2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
280	216	232	204	280	299
	1432	1495	1608	1573	1604

Northern Ireland

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
			52	22	

http://www.ndc.hrb.ie/directory/news_detail.php?cat_id=&news_id=3755&pointer=0

Blood Borne Viruses:

Regarding BBVs, The ACMD Hep C Report says on page 5:

"The hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a substantial public health problem. Globally, two percent of the population may be infected (Shepard, 2005). In the UK, HCV is one of the commonest chronic viral infections, predominantly spread via injecting drug use (Department of Health, 2002). It is likely that between 120,000 to 300,000 (mid estimate 190,000) people are infected with HCV in England and Wales and about 50,000 in Scotland – 85-90 per cent acquired through injecting drug use. Approximately one in five people recover with the rest becoming chronically infected. There is no vaccine against hepatitis C."

Source here:

<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/acmd/acmdhepcreport2?view=Binary>

The most up to date stats on HIV - would be 'Shooting up' - The 2008 update is here:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1224833091550

New reports of IDUs with HIV from 1990-2007 are on pages 16-17

Death Penalty for Drug Offenses:

Also attached is an IHRA report of use of the death penalty for drug offences. Pages 8 and 9, & 10- 12 indicate some of the numbers involved but, again, these are not collated in a way that makes it easy to summarise. However, it has very useful information and clearly states that many countries are flouting UN conventions on human rights when executing drug users for drug offences.

‘The Death Penalty for Drug Offences; A violation of international human rights law’
International Harm Reduction Association - Author Rick Lines.

“ In 1985, the death penalty for drug offences was in force in twenty-two countries. Ten years later, in 1995, this number had increased to twenty-six. By the end of 2000, at least thirtyfour states had enacted legislation providing for capital punishment for drug crimes, the majority of these being in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia Pacific regions. In a number of these countries, certain drug offences carry a mandatory sentence of death. The number of countries actually carrying out executions, and the number of people put to death annually for drug convictions, are more difficult figures to calculate. It is clear that not all of these countries are implementing the death sentences provided for in their legislation. Nevertheless, it is equally clear that a significant number of executions for drug offences take place each year. A review of various reports from UN agencies, non-governmental organisations and media outlets shows that in recent years executions for drug offences have been carried out in countries including China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait,¹⁰ Malaysia,¹¹ Saudi Arabia,¹² Singapore,¹³ Thailand¹⁴ and Viet Nam.¹⁵ Countries that also apply capital punishment to drug offenders also include,⁸⁵ India,⁸⁶ Iran,⁸⁷ Jordan,⁸⁸ Libya,⁸⁹ Philippines,⁹⁰ Sudan,⁹¹ Syria⁹² and USA. More countries than ever before now allow capital punishment for drug offences, and in many retentionist countries drug offenders comprise a significant percentage of executions each year.”

