Statistics of drug-related deaths in 2020 and earlier years, broken down by age, sex, substances implicated in the death, underlying cause of death and NHS Board and Council areas.



Drug

-

related deaths in Scotland

in 20

20

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## Main Points

* In general, drug-related deaths have risen since 1996, and the rate has been particularly high since 2013.
* In 2000, males were more than 4 times as likely to have a drug-related death as females.  
  Overall, this gap has closed over the year. In 2020, males were 2.7 times as likely to have a drug-related death as females.
* In 2020, 31.29% of all drug-related deaths were of people aged between the ages of 45 and 54, and followed by 31.22% between between the ages of 35 and 44.
* In 2020, accidental poisonings accounted for 93.0% of all drug-related deaths.
* In 2020, more than one drug was found to be present in the body accounted for 93.0% of all drug-related deaths.
* In recent Year, there has been an increase in the number of deaths where one or more of the following substances were involved:  
    
  • death by ‘street’ benzodiazepines (such as etizolam), from 58 in 2015 to 879 in 2020  
  • death by methadone, from 251 in 2015 to 708 in 2020  
  • death by heroin/morphine, from 345 in 2015 to 605 in 2020  
  • death by gabapentin and/or pregabalin, from 131 in 2015 to 502 in 2020  
  • death by cocaine, from 93 in 2015 to 459 in 2020  
  • death by opiates/opioids (such as heroin/morphine and methadone), from 606 in 2015 to 1192 in 2020