

# Alcohol and Drug Snapshot

August 2024



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## Together We Can: voices are stronger, louder, and the most impactful when brought together.



The 31st August marks international Overdose Awareness Day the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose. Together we can learn how to respond to an overdose, spread prevention messages across communities, reduce stigma, remember our missed loved ones and make change.

All drugs, including alcohol and pharmaceutical medications, can cause an overdose and it happens when a person has more of a drug, or a combination of drugs, than their body can manage.

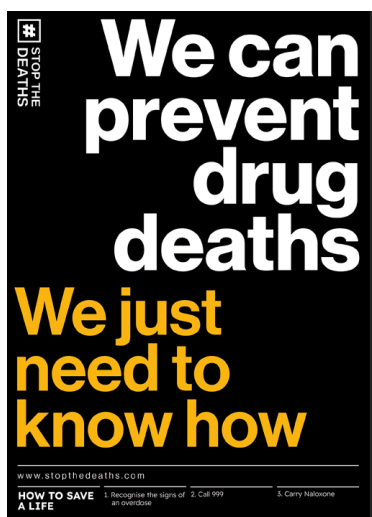
The current drug market is even more unstable than in previous years with the introduction of a range of new drugs including synthetic opioids, and an increasing range of benzodiazepines and other drugs, as well as changing patterns of drug use. To find out about some of the recently identified drugs and the risks and harms that may be associated with them as well as recent alerts and harm reduction information you can visit RADAR.



In 2023, there were 355 drug related deaths across Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GG&C), an increase of 18.3% on 2022. Whilst this number is still large it should be noted that similar to Scotland this is the second lowest number recorded since 2017. The highest number of deaths were recorded for those living in the most deprived communities of NHS GG&C (68.6% in SIMD Quintile 1). The full report for Scotland can be accessed via the NRS website.



## Recognising the signs of an overdose



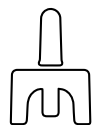
The Scottish Drugs Forum recently developed a resource that provides information on how to identify and respond to an overdose.



Recognise the signs of an overdose



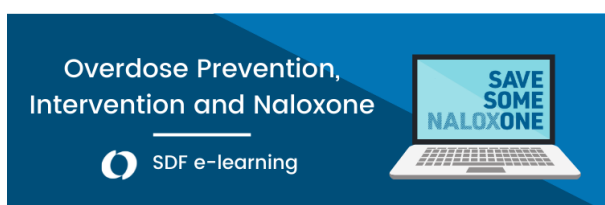
Call 999



Carry Naloxone

## Naloxone

Naloxone is a drug that can reverse the effects of opioid drugs like heroin, methadone, opium, codeine, morphine and buprenorphine. It is only effective for opioid overdoses and won't work with any other drug. Although naloxone works on opioids, as most drug related deaths involve poly drug use, the use of naloxone will do no harm and may increase the chances of survival until medical help can be sourced. Naloxone kits are available to anyone who may be supporting someone at risk or likely to witness an overdose. Naloxone can come as either Prenoxad, which is a pre-filled syringe or as Nyxoid, which is a nasal spray.



This short e-learning course will show you how to administer Naloxone. You will learn facts about drug-related deaths in Scotland, how to identify a and respond to an overdose.



Scottish Families provide a 'Click & Deliver' take-home naloxone service to anyone living in Scotland who is over the age of 16 (for injection kit) and 14 (for nasal kit).

Every pharmacy in Scotland also has Naloxone available for use in an emergency either within the premises or for anyone overdosing near the premises. The pharmacy can administer the Naloxone or provide the kit to a member of the public who has had training in Naloxone and allow them to administer.

# Overdose Awareness Local Events

Below are some of the ways that the communities across Greater Glasgow and Clyde are marking the day.

## Glasgow

Wednesday 28th August , 12-4pm

Parkhead Addiction Recovery Cafe, Parkhead Nazarene Church, 12-14 Burgher Street  
Glasgow, G31 4TB

## Renfrewshire

Saturday 31st August, 10am- 1pm

Information stands at

- Piazza Shopping Centre Paisley
- Asda Linwood, Phoenix Retail Park
- Paisley Gilmour Street
- Royal Alexandra Hospital

These stalls will be followed by a processional walk to a memorial service

## Inverclyde

Thursday 29th August, 11-4pm

Hope in the Square

Clyde Square

Friday 30th August , 10-3pm

Greenock Oak Mall

## West Dunbartonshire

Wednesday 28th August, 11:30-2pm

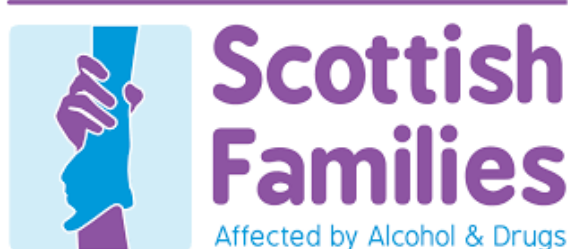
Building Bridges, Haldane Youth Services, Annexe Building, Old Jamestown Primary, Main St, Jamestown, G83 8PN

**In remembrance of the 1172 people across Scotland who have tragically lost their life, there will be a number of buildings across Greater Glasgow and Clyde that will be lit up in purple.**

- Glasgow City Chambers
- Bishopbriggs Library
- William Patrick Library (Kirkintilloch)
- Lennoxton Hub
- Titan Crane
- West Dunbartonshire Council Offices
- Renfrew Town Hall
- Bascule Bridge in Renfrew
- Houston Square Bandstand in Johnstone
- Tweedie Hall in Linwood

## Bereavement Support

Every bereavement can be difficult and painful. When someone dies as a result of drug or alcohol use there are some factors such as stigma, traumatic circumstances and suddenness that can cause additional stress. Support is available to anyone who is affected by an Alcohol or Drug related death.



Scottish Families affected by Alcohol and Drugs (SFAD) offer support to anyone in Scotland who is bereaved through alcohol or drugs.



Cruse Scotland offers a range of specialist services including bereavement counselling and a bereavement helpline.

## Alcohol and Drug recovery Services



Alcohol and Recovery Drug Services (ARDS) provide a range of treatment and care options for individuals who are affected by their own or someone else's alcohol and/or drug use.