News

- Mental Health: Guardianship cases continue to fall in England, new figures show
- Cancer patients' support and choice of treatment is affected by where they live, says national audit
- Ambulance response times: all trusts meet eight minute national standard for first time
- HSCIC to attend UK/US Open Health Data Summit
- HSCIC speak at this year's Annual NICE Conference
- Weight-loss stomach surgery up 12 per cent in a year, says new report
- Wide regional variation in percentage of women who smoke at the time of delivery
- More than half of A&E attendances stay for longer than two hours, say new figures from the NHS Information Centre
- Public consultation launched to help develop Mental Health Act statistics
- Big decline in sterilisations shown by contraception report, which also highlights 93 per cent rise in male clinic visits in the last decade
- Archived news
- Have your say on the future of our website
- Sickness absence rate among NHS workers falls to 4.12 per cent
- Quarter of bowel cancer patients diagnosed after emergency admission to hospital

Events

Number of Mental Health detentions and Community Treatment Order rises

The number of detentions and Community Treatment Orders (CTOs) under the Mental Health Act increased last year according to a new report.

The figures come from *Inpatients formally detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983, and patients subject to supervised community treatment, annual figures, England 2011/12*.

They show the number of detentions in NHS and independent hospitals reached 48,600 last year, an increase of 2,300 (five per cent) on 2010/11.

The report also showed the number of CTOs rose to 4,200 in 2011/12, an increase of 400 (ten per cent) on the previous year.

Today's report presents for the first time estimates of the number of place of safety orders made under Section 136 of The Act where the person was taken to a police custody suite.

It shows there were an estimated 8,700 orders of this type made in 2011/12 - approximately one in three of reported Section 136 place of safety orders.

Combined with the 14,900 orders where the person was taken to hospital as a place of safety, we can estimate that the total number of Section 136 place of safety orders last year was at least 23,600.

The report also shows that in 2011/12 there were:

3,600 detentions in independent sector hospitals; an increase of 600 (21 per cent) on the previous year (3,000), largely due to a 45 per cent increase in detentions under Section 2 (a rise of 300 from the previous year).

15,200 uses of place of safety orders to hospitals (considering both Section 136 and also Section 135, for which police custody data is not available); an increase of 800 (six per cent) on the previous year (14,400).

2,100 CTO recalls; an increase of 500 (30 per cent) on the previous year (1,600). Approximately 70 per cent of such recalls in 2011/12 ended in a revocation, compared to around 60 per cent in the previous year.

HSCIC chief executive Tim Straughan said: “This is the first time figures have been available showing the total number of detentions in police custody under the Mental Health Act of people in need of a place of safety."

"Many people working in the area of mental health will be interested to know the extent to which police custody is being used and the fact that more than one in three place of safety orders is to police custody rather than a hospital.”

The report is at www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/inpatientdetmha1112

Notes to Editors

1. The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) was formerly known as The NHS Information Centre for health and social care (The NHS IC). It is England's authoritative, central, independent source of health and social care information. It works with a wide range of health and social care providers nationwide to provide the facts and figures that help the NHS and social services run effectively. Its role is to collect data, analyse it and convert it into useful information which helps providers improve their services and supports academics, researcher, regulators and policymakers in their work. The NHS IC also produces a wide range of statistical publications each year across a number of areas including: primary care, health and lifestyles, screening, hospital care, population and geography, social care and workforce and pay statistics.

2. Detentions under the Mental Health Act are defined in the report as:

(1) Detentions on admission to hospital under Part II (Sections 2 and 3) and Part III of

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the Mental Health Act 1983, and under previous legislation (Fifth Schedule) and other Acts;

(2) Detentions subsequent to admission (uses of Part II Sections 2 and 3, following a change of legal status from Section 4, 5 or informal stay in hospital);

(3) Detentions under Part II Sections 2 and 3 following the use of Section 136;

(4) Detentions following a CTO revocation. Uses of short term detention orders (Section 4, 5 or place of safety orders made under Sections 135 or 136) are excluded from this total. 3. Estimates on Section 136 place of safety orders to police custody were based on figures extracted from the computer systems of individual police forces, for which there may be additional uncertainty due to variations in the precise definitions used. These statistics are therefore classed as 'experimental statistics'. They exclude place of safety orders used by British Transport Police. Information on place of safety orders made to police custody suites under Section 135 is not currently available, but we hope to facilitate its inclusion in the future.

4. The Mental Health Act 2007 (which amended the Mental Health Act 1983) introduced Community Treatment Orders (CTOs, sometimes referred to as supervised community treatment). Patients detained in hospital for treatment under Section 3 (and certain Part III Sections) can be discharged from detention onto a CTO to continue their treatment in the community. While on a CTO, they can, if necessary, be recalled to hospital for up to 72 hours for assessment and/or treatment ('CTO recall'). If they need to remain detained in hospital for more than 72 hours, their CTO can be revoked. If that happens, they go back to being detained under the Section they were on before going onto the CTO ('CTO revocation'). A discharge from CTO occurs when a patient's CTO ends without being revoked. Community Treatment Orders were introduced on 3 November 2008.

5. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100. Percentage changes may not equate to these rounded numbers as they are calculated using the exact figures, which are available in the report.

6. For media enquires please call 0845 257 6990 or contact mediaenquiries@ic.nhs.uk

Cervical screening: little change in a decade with around one in five women still not screened within five years »

Go back to 'News'

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