

# Drug Deaths in Tayside

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# Background

- Drug deaths in Tayside have continued to rise
- Result of non-intentional overdose of illicit or illicitly obtained controlled substances
- Deaths should be avoidable
- NHS Tayside publish drug death findings annually

# Methods

- Case study method: empirical research
- Police SDR; NHS data; Post mortem and toxicology
- Service questionnaires
- Multi-agency review group

# Drug related and social harms identified

- Poly-substance use
- Availability of substances
- 73% suffered diagnosed mental ill-health
- 80% suffered adverse childhood and/or adulthood events
- 46% in prison or on remand
- 60% of deaths in areas of highest economic deprivation

# Gender related harms raised in research

- 3:1 male to female
- Abuse
- Homelessness
- Number of females dying has doubled since 2011
- Effect of children being looked after elsewhere
- Relationship pressures