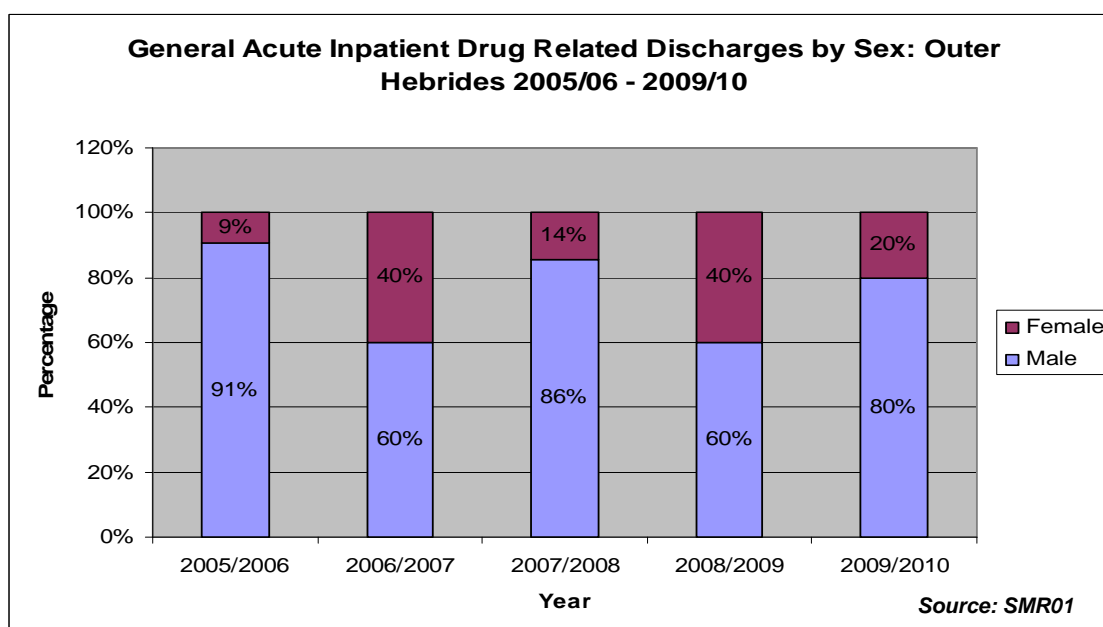


## Drug – Local Statistics: 2005-2010

The number of drug related discharges from both general acute hospitals and the psychiatric unit in the Outer Hebrides has always been relatively low.

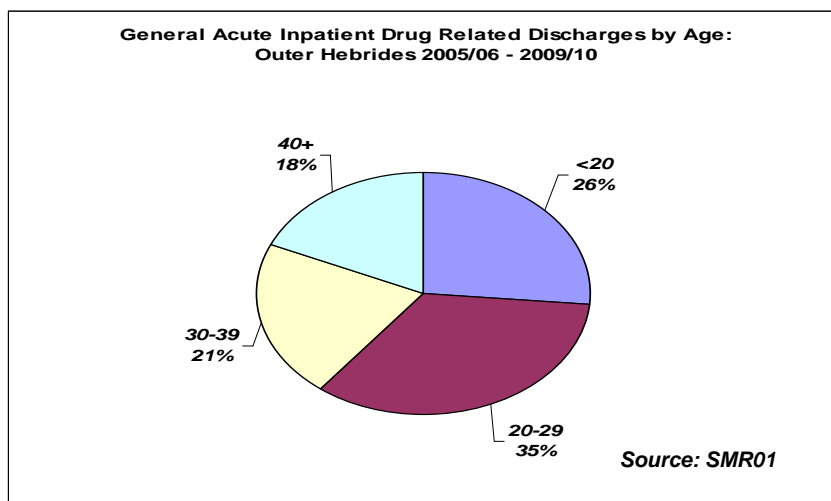
In the last five years there has been a decrease in the number of drug related discharges from general acute hospitals in the Outer Hebrides; it fell from 56 to 28 discharges per 100,000 population between 2005/2006 and 2009/2010. However there has been an increase in the number of drug related discharges from the psychiatric unit, increasing from 0 to 20 discharges per 100,000 population between 2005/2006 and 2009/2010. National figures show that over the last five years there has been an increase in the number of drug related discharges from general acute hospitals across Scotland, increasing from 91 to 115 discharges per 100,000. However the number of drug related discharges from psychiatric hospitals has been fluctuating in the last five years. It is important to note that there is no psychiatric hospital in the Outer Hebrides and that there is only an Acute Psychiatry Unit which has been reducing its bed numbers steadily over recent years. Therefore, caution must be taken when interpreting the data and when making comparisons to national figures.

In 2009/10, 80% of the drug related discharges from general acute hospitals in the Outer Hebrides were male. Over the last five years there has been a larger number of male drug related discharges than female, although the actual proportions have changed somewhat over that period. National figures are fairly similar with a larger number of male drug related discharges. However over the last five years the proportion of male drug related discharges from Scottish hospitals has remained reasonably stable, fluctuating from 68% – 71%.

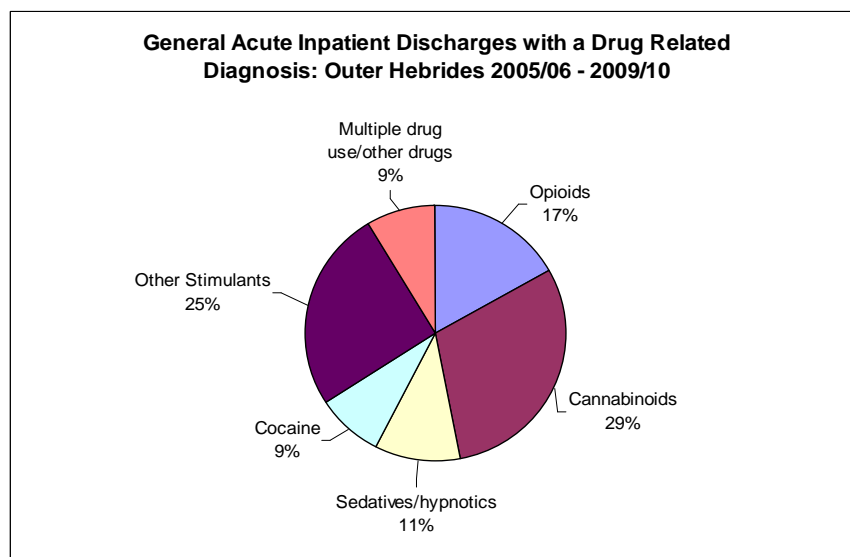


Within the Outer Hebrides the greatest incidence of drug related discharges between 2005/06 and 2009/10 occurred in the 20-29 years age group; followed by <20 years age group. This differs somewhat to national figures, where the greatest incidence of drug related discharges

occurred in the 30-39 years age group (39%); followed by 20-29 years age group (32%). Only 6% of the discharges from hospitals across Scotland between 2005/06 and 2009/10 were amongst those <20 years.

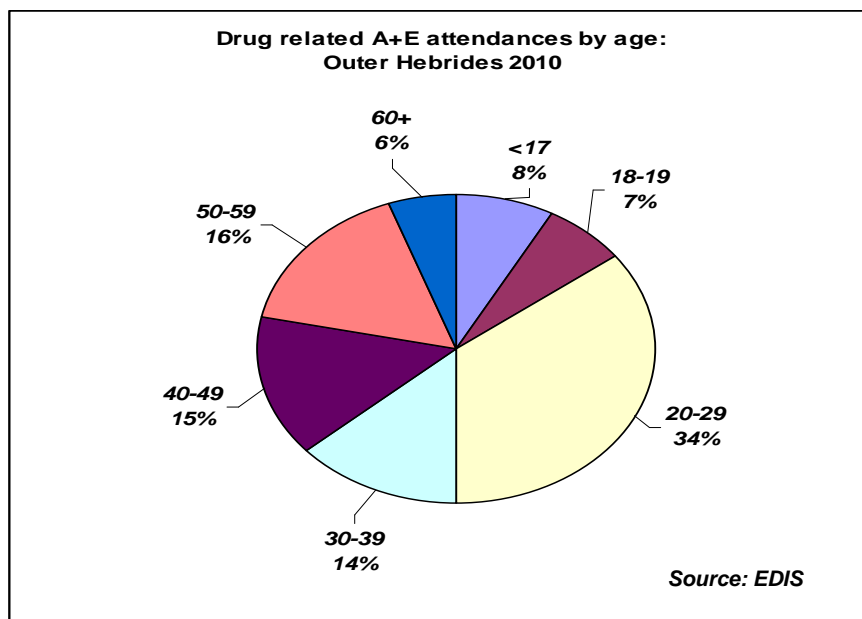


The majority of drug related discharges from general acute hospitals in Scotland was due to the use of opioids and accounts for 63% of the drug related discharges between 2005/06 and 2009/10. The proportion of drug related discharges due to opioid use is far smaller in the Outer Hebrides than it is on a national level. Opioid use accounts for only 17% of the drug related discharges in the Outer Hebrides between 2005/06 and 2009/10. Cannabis and stimulants appear to cause a greater problem in the Outer Hebrides than it is on a national level. In Scotland cannabinoids and stimulants account for 9% and 4% of the drug related discharges between 2005/06 and 2009/10 respectively. However, figures do show that the number of hospital admissions due to the use of opioids has been increasing in the Outer Hebrides in the last couple of years.

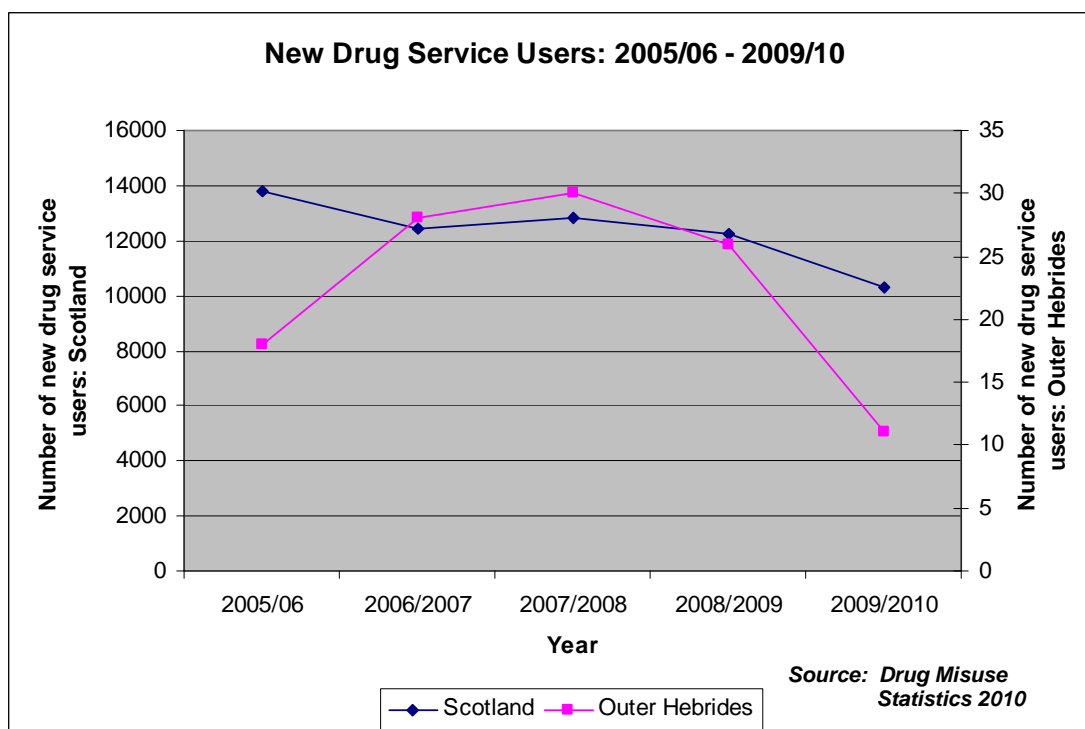


In 2010 there were 88 drug-related attendances at A+E in the Outer Hebrides – an average of 7.3 attendances per month. Attendees varied in age from 14 years to 89 years with the median age being 29.5. Over a third of attendees were aged 20-29. Source: SMR01. A proportion (67%) of these patients were subsequently admitted to hospital. Of all the drug related A+ E attendances that were recorded in the Outer Hebrides in 2010, there were 55 individual patients seen. Therefore the average number of alcohol related attendances per patient was 1.6, thus

suggesting that several patients were seen in A+E numerous times for alcohol-related issues during 2010. At least 10% of the attendees had also been drinking alcohol prior to attendance.



The Scottish Drug Misuse Database (SDMD) offers a profile of drug misusers based on reports submitted on individuals when they first attend a service for assessment of their drug misuse problem. A new client is defined as any person who, at the time of presenting to the service, is not currently in contact with a service that provides specialist assessment of a client’s drug misuse care needs. Over the last five years the number of new drug service users in the Outer Hebrides has fluctuated, peaking to 30 in 2007/08 and falling to 11 in 2009/10. Although the number of new drug service users has been fluctuating in recent years, the largest fall in numbers was experienced between 2008/09 and 2009/10. Between 2008/09 and 2009/10 the number of new drug service users fell from 135 to 55 per 100,000 population. Similarly the number of new drug service users across Scotland as a whole has been fluctuating somewhat in the last five years, with the largest fall in numbers between 2008/09 and 2009/10. Between 2008/09 and 2009/10 the number of new drug service users fell from 251 to 211 per 100,000 population.



The number of individuals reporting illicit drug use in the Outer Hebrides during 2009/10 has increased since 2008/09. In 2009/10, 91% of new drug service users reporting using illicit drugs while in 2008/09 a slightly smaller proportion of new drug service users (89%) reported using illicit drugs. Over the last five years the number of new drug service users in the Outer Hebrides reportedly using illicit drugs has been fluctuating, peaking in 2005/06 with 94%. The number of new drug service users across the whole of Scotland reportedly using illicit drugs has fallen in recent years with 78% of new drug service users in 2009/10 reporting that they are using illicit drugs.

The number of individuals reporting using prescribed drugs in the Outer Hebrides has been fairly constant since 2005/2006. In 2009/10, the number of new drug service users reporting using prescription drugs was below the permissible reportable level. However, in 2008/09 58% of new drug service users reported using prescription drugs. National figures show that 35% of new drug service users across the whole of Scotland report using prescription drug, thus suggesting that the Outer Hebrides has an substantial problem with prescription drug use in comparison to other areas of Scotland.

The number of drug related offences reported in the Outer Hebrides since 2005/06 has fallen significantly. The number of drug related offences has been falling year on year with 230 offences reported in 2005/06 (872 per 100,000 population) and only 60 offences reported in 2009/10 (229 per 100,000 population). The majority (87%) of the drug offences that were recorded in the Outer Hebrides in 2009/10 were for possession of drugs while only 13% of the offences recorded were for possession with intent to supply. On a whole the number of drug related offences across the whole of Scotland has fallen since 2005/06, although there was a slight increase in 2008/09. There were 44,247 drug related offences recorded in Scotland in 2005/06 (868 per 100,000 population) whereas in 2009/10 this number had fallen to 39,408 (759 per 100,000 population). Once again, the majority (74%) of the drug offences that were recorded in Scotland in 2009/10 were for possession of drugs while 23% of the offences recorded were for possession with intent to supply.

