

WHY WE CARE ABOUT HARM REDUCTION

1,187 people died of a drug related death (DRD) in 2018. 1,187 deaths which could have been prevented and lives that could have been saved. 1,187 people who loved and were loved, and who leave behind their friends and families. These people deserved care and deserved support. We want to empower you to make your own choices and do our best to make sure those choices are educated and coming from a place of self-respect.

WHAT IS A DRD?

A drug-related death (DRD) is generally a poisoning caused by the toxic effects of a controlled drug. Not every death related to the use of drugs is counted as a 'drug-related death' and the definition is not straightforward.

*For a more specific definition, visit:
<https://www.crew.scot/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Drugs-at-Crew-Trend-Report-2017-2019.pdf>*



Number of DRDs based on the 'baseline definition' by year:

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
614	706	868	934	1,187

SCOTTISH CRIME AND JUSTICE SURVEY

The latest report from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey states that "In 2017/18, 7.4% of respondents (aged 16 years and over) had used illicit drugs ... during the previous year, compared with 6.0% in 2014/15". The survey also reports that "individuals aged 16-24 were most likely to report using drugs in the last year (19.2%)" [14], therefore highlighting the need for early intervention and education



The current situation is not news for those who have experienced it, and those working with it every day. Scotland has had the highest drug related death rate in Europe for many years but nothing has changed for the better.

Source:

<https://www.crew.scot/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Drugs-at-Crew-Trend-Report-2017-2019.pdf>