



**Healthcare
Improvement
Scotland**

HEART DISEASE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

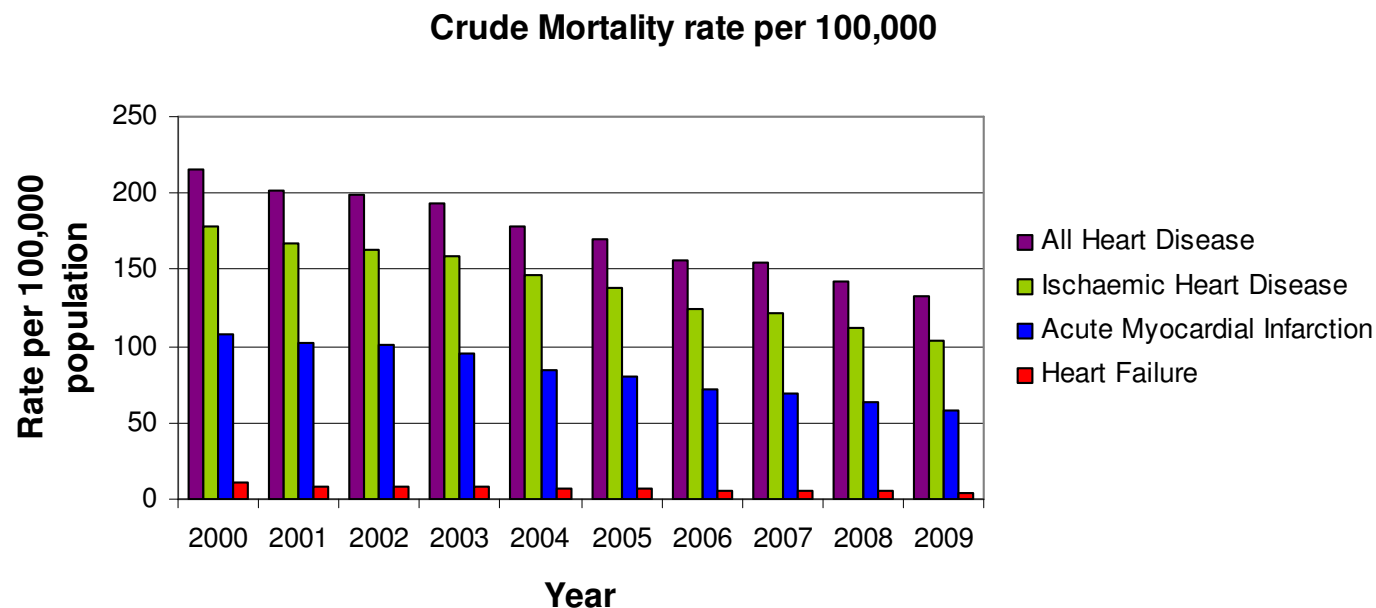
Report Findings

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HEART DISEASE IN SCOTLAND

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the UK.

The largest contribution to these deaths is due to coronary heart disease which results in nearly 10,000 deaths every year in Scotland.



Data source: Information and Statistics Division website February 2011

OUR PROJECT

The report is the culmination of three years work (started by our predecessor organisation, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland) measuring the performance of the NHS in Scotland against a set of clinical standards, in order to take stock of where we are now and where we should focus efforts towards further improvement.

OUR FINDINGS

- Many people who are potentially at high risk of heart disease are having this risk formally assessed by their GP
- Most people having a heart attack receive a high standard of care throughout their journey of care
- Most people admitted to hospital with heart failure receive a high standard of care but more can be done to improve this
- Care of people with heart rhythm problems is variable and needs to be improved

OUR FINDINGS

- For people with atrial fibrillation, we identified concerns about the prescribing of blood-thinning drugs, such as warfarin.
- While nearly 80% of people with this diagnosis receive some form of blood-thinning drug, less than half (47%) of higher risk patients are receiving the most appropriate treatment, warfarin.
- A third (31%) of low risk patients, who should be treated with aspirin alone, are receiving more powerful blood-thinning drugs which exposes them, unnecessarily, to a higher risk of bleeding complications.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- **NHS boards should review the prescribing of anticoagulants for all patients with atrial fibrillation in primary care.**
- **NHS boards should routinely collect data to measure their performance using the heart disease clinical indicators developed as a result of the Healthcare Improvement Scotland Heart Disease Improvement Programme.**

ANY QUESTIONS?

