

NATIONAL RECORDS OF  
SCOTLAND (NRS)  
REPORTED DRUG  
RELATED DEATHS (DRD)  
IN NORTH  
LANARKSHIRE IN 2022

A NORTH LANARKSHIRE FOCUSSED  
SUMMARY OF THE NRS DATA AND  
PUBLICATION

North Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership  
28 August 2023

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### ✦ THERE WERE SIXTY FIVE DRUG RELATED DEATHS IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE IN 2022.

This is fifteen less than 2021 and the third successive year showing a reduction. Deaths are still high however with almost thirty more deaths in North Lanarkshire in 2022 compared to ten years ago.

### ✦ DRUG RELATED DEATHS ARE MORE PREVALENT IN MALES THAN FEMALES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE IN 2022.

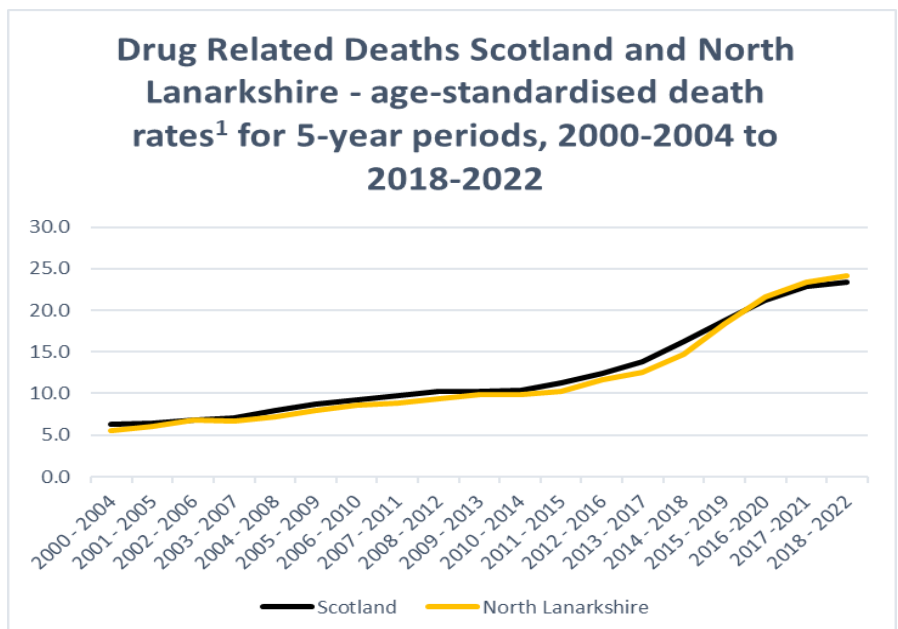
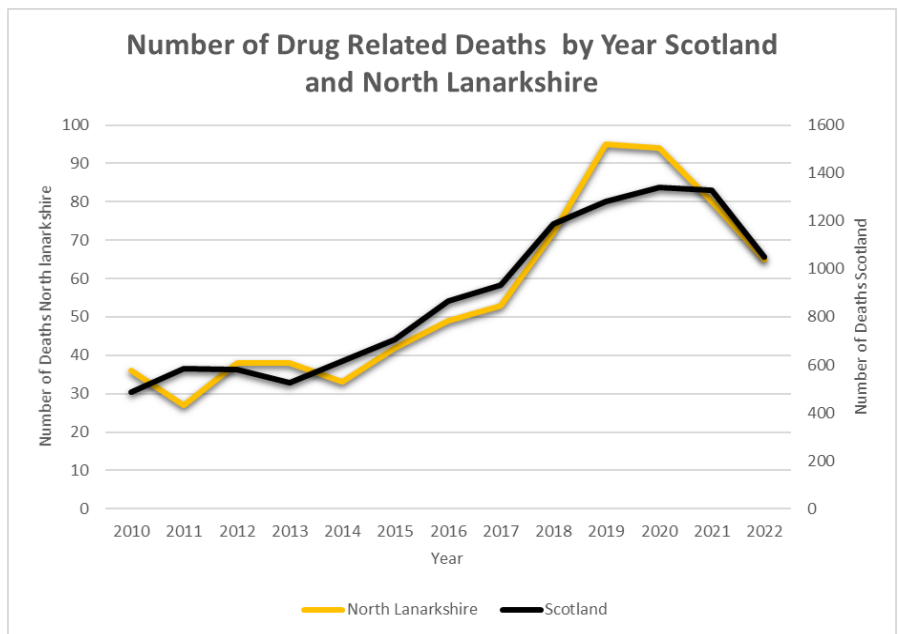
In North Lanarkshire in 2022 there were one and a half times more DRD reported for males than females. Whilst this is a considerable difference and both male and female DRD have shown a decrease from 2021 the proportional fall is much more marked in males. Ten years ago, in 2012, there were over four and a half more DRD reported for males in North Lanarkshire than females.

### ✦ OPIATES/ OPIOIDS ARE THE MOST COMMON GROUP OF DRUGS IMPLICATED IN DRD IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE IN 2022.

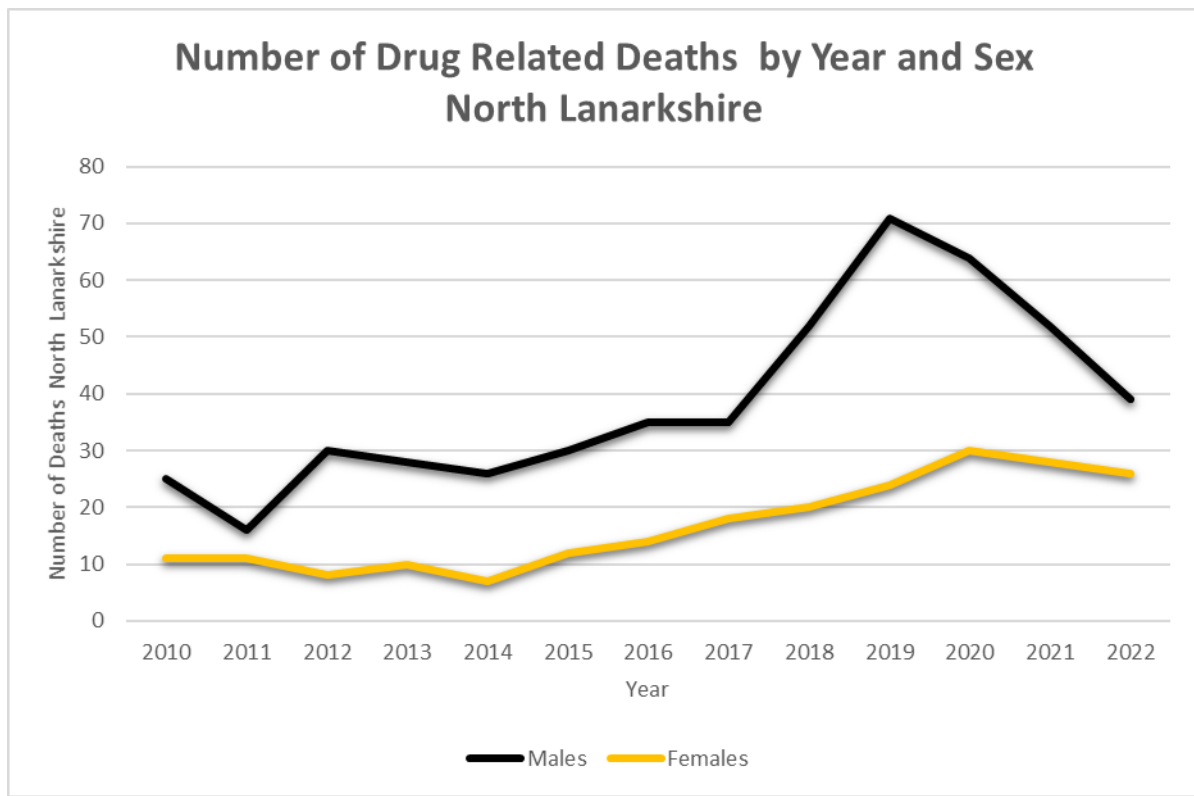
Whilst Opiates/Opioids are the most common drug implicated in DRD in North Lanarkshire, in 2022, the proportion is considerably less than that reported nationally (82% Scotland, 74% North Lanarkshire). The most commonly implicated Opiate/Opioid for DRD in 2022 in North Lanarkshire differs from what is seen nationally with Heroin/ Morphine being the most commonly implicated in North Lanarkshire and Methadone the most commonly implicated nationally.

Drug Related Deaths in North Lanarkshire remain high but have fallen in three successive years.

- Sixty five Drug Related Deaths in North Lanarkshire in 2022.
- Down nineteen percent (15 deaths) on 2021.
- Third fall in three successive years. (Highest number of deaths 95 in 2019).
- Fifth highest number of Drug Related Deaths on record.
- Five year average rate very similar to that seen nationally across the reporting period.



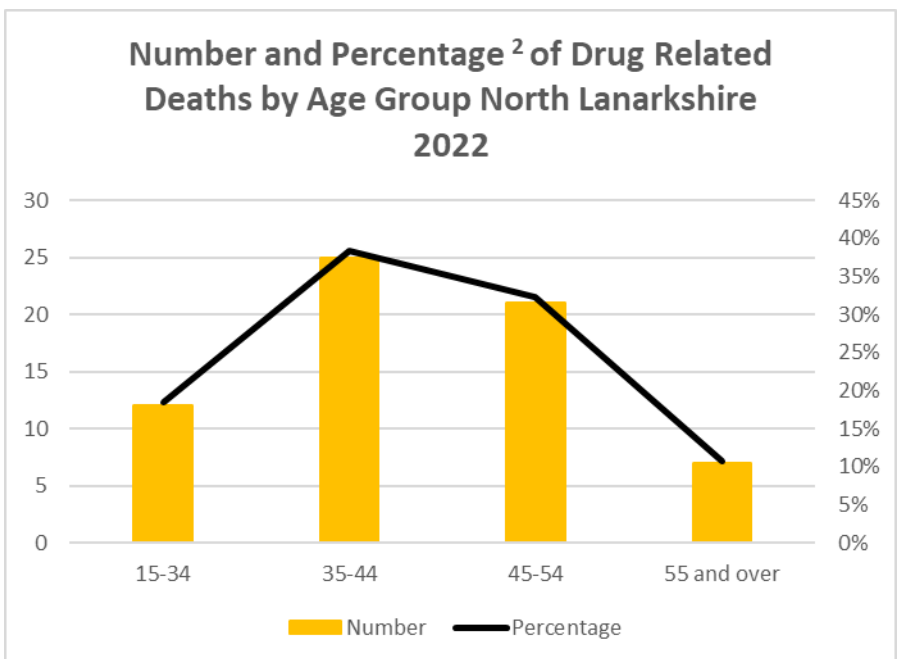
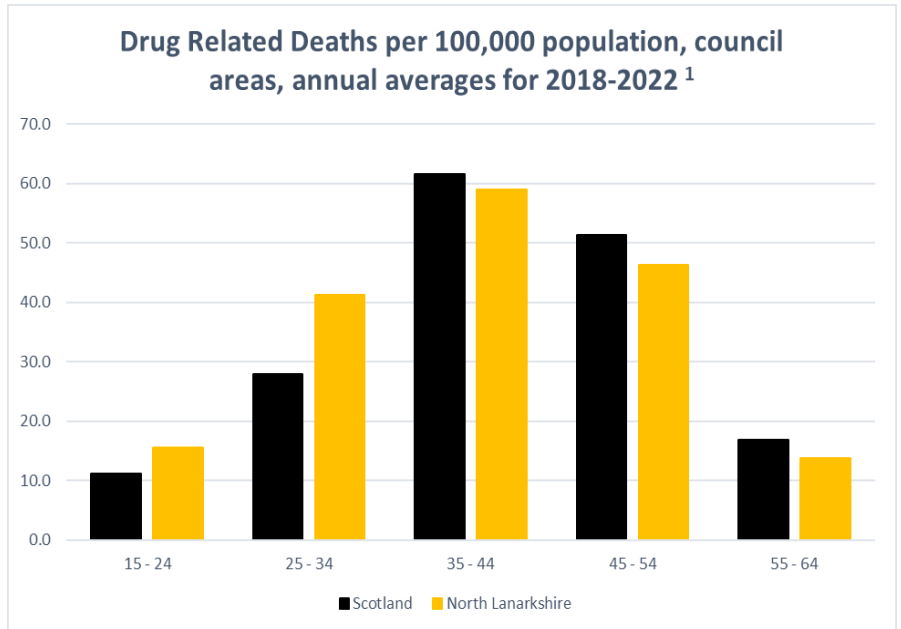
Reduction in deaths over six times greater in males than females.



- There were one and a half times the number of drug related deaths for males (39, 60%) compared to females (26, 40%) in 2022.
- The gap has narrowed, for the second consecutive year, with one point nine times the number of drug related deaths for males (52, 65%) compared to females (28, 35%) in 2021.
- Reduction in deaths over six times greater in males (13 less deaths) than females (2 less deaths).

Thirty eight percent of DRD in 2022 in North Lanarkshire occurred within the thirty five to forty four age group.

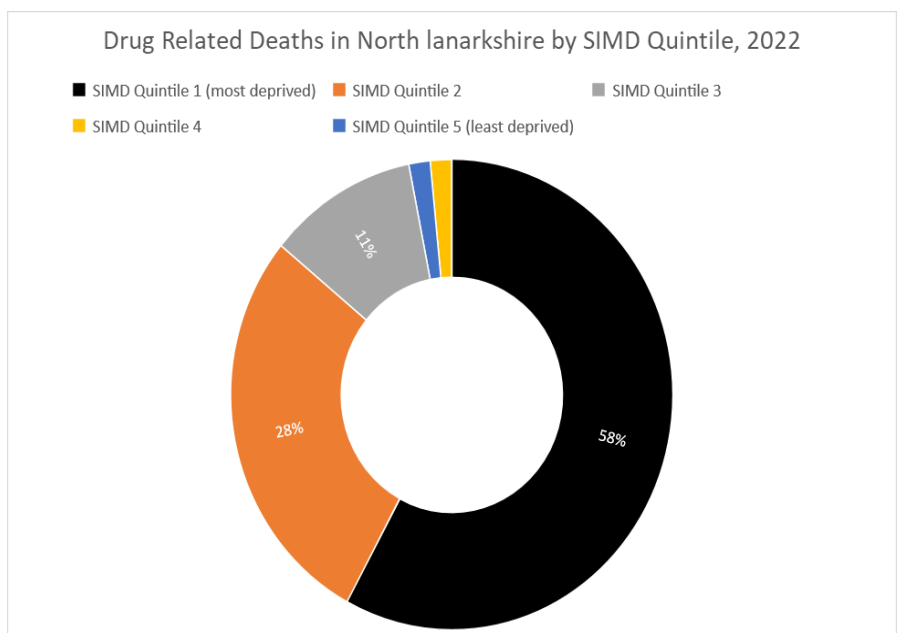
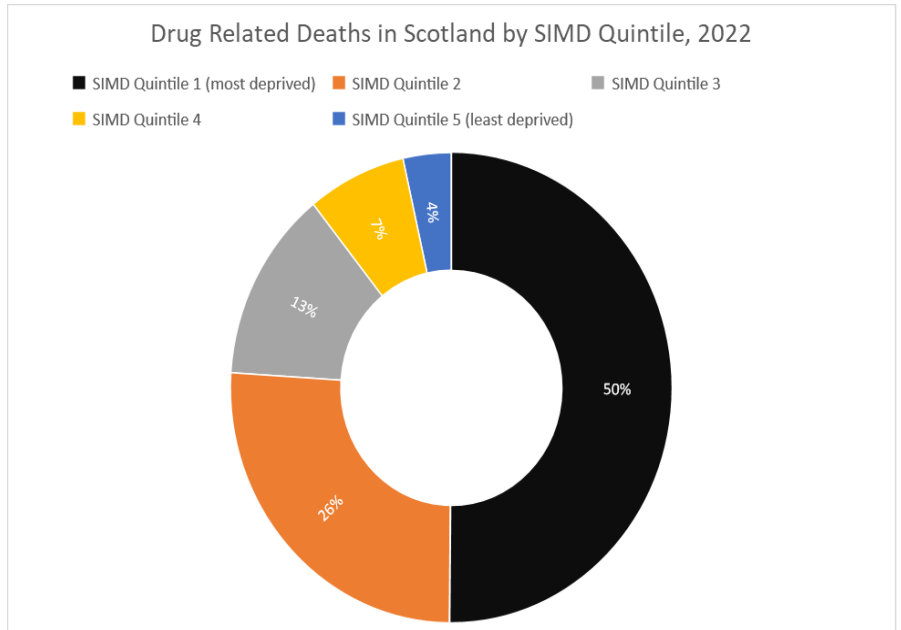
- The age profile in North Lanarkshire is broadly similar to the national profile for 2018-2022 averages per 100,000 population deaths.
- Deaths per 100,000 population in the 25-34 age group in North Lanarkshire is considerably higher than what is seen nationally for 2018-2022 averages (41.3 North Lanarkshire, 27.9 Scotland).
- In 2022 the age group with the largest proportion of deaths was the 35-44 age group (38%) followed by the 45-54 (32%) age group. This differs from 2021 where the this was reversed i.e. most deaths in 45-54 age group followed by 35-44 age group.



# DEPRIVATION

More than half (58%) of the DRD reported in 2022 in North Lanarkshire were for individuals living in the most deprived area (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1).

- Almost ninety percent (86%) of DRD in North Lanarkshire in 2022 were for individuals in the two most deprived areas (SIMD 1 and 2).
- In North Lanarkshire in 2022 there were ten percent more (86%) DRD in the two most deprived areas compared to Scotland as a whole (76%).
- Less than four percent of DRD in North Lanarkshire in 2022 were for individuals in the two least deprived areas (SIMD 4 and 5).



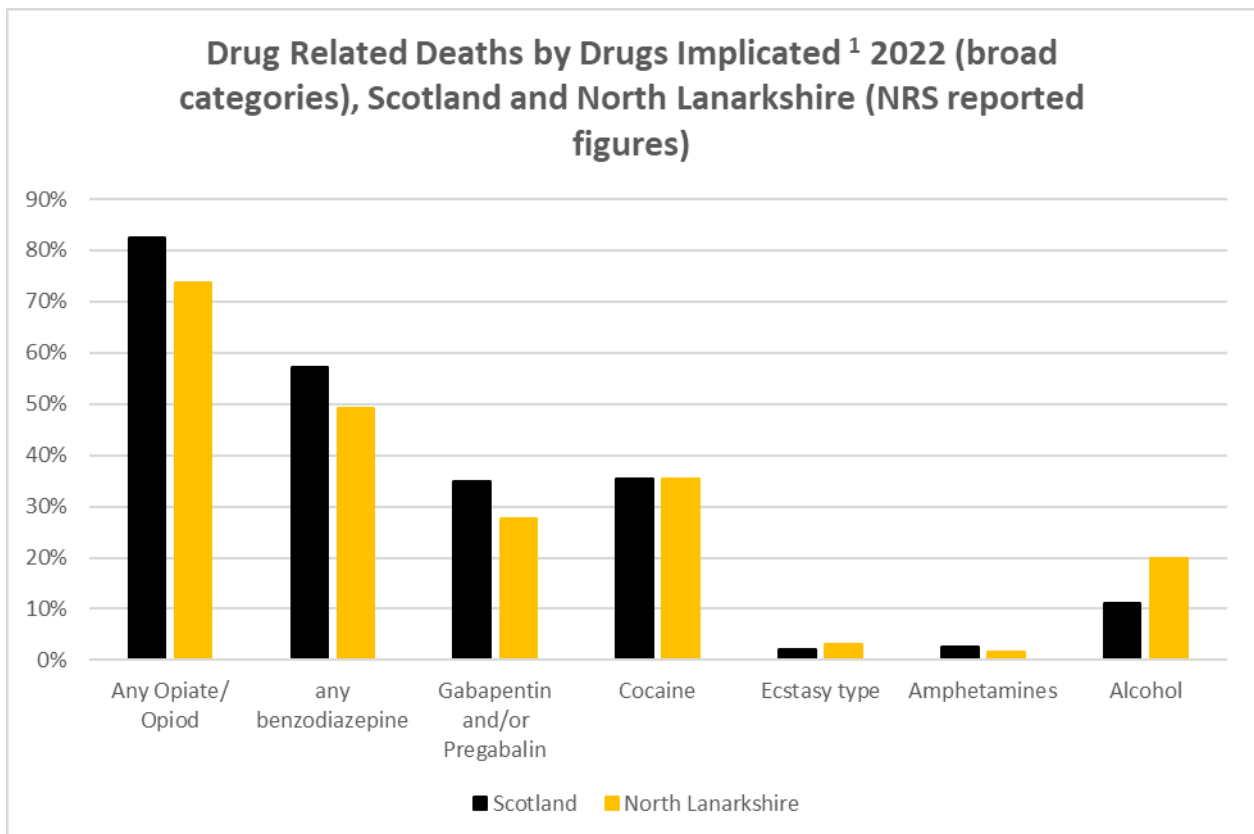
All localities in North Lanarkshire had five or more DRD in 2022.



- Four of the six localities in North Lanarkshire had a reduction in DRD in 2022 compared to the previous year.
- Airdrie Locality had largest reduction in DRD in 2022 compared to the previous year with ten less reported deaths.
- The only Locality with an increase in DRD (+5) in 2022 was Motherwell Locality.

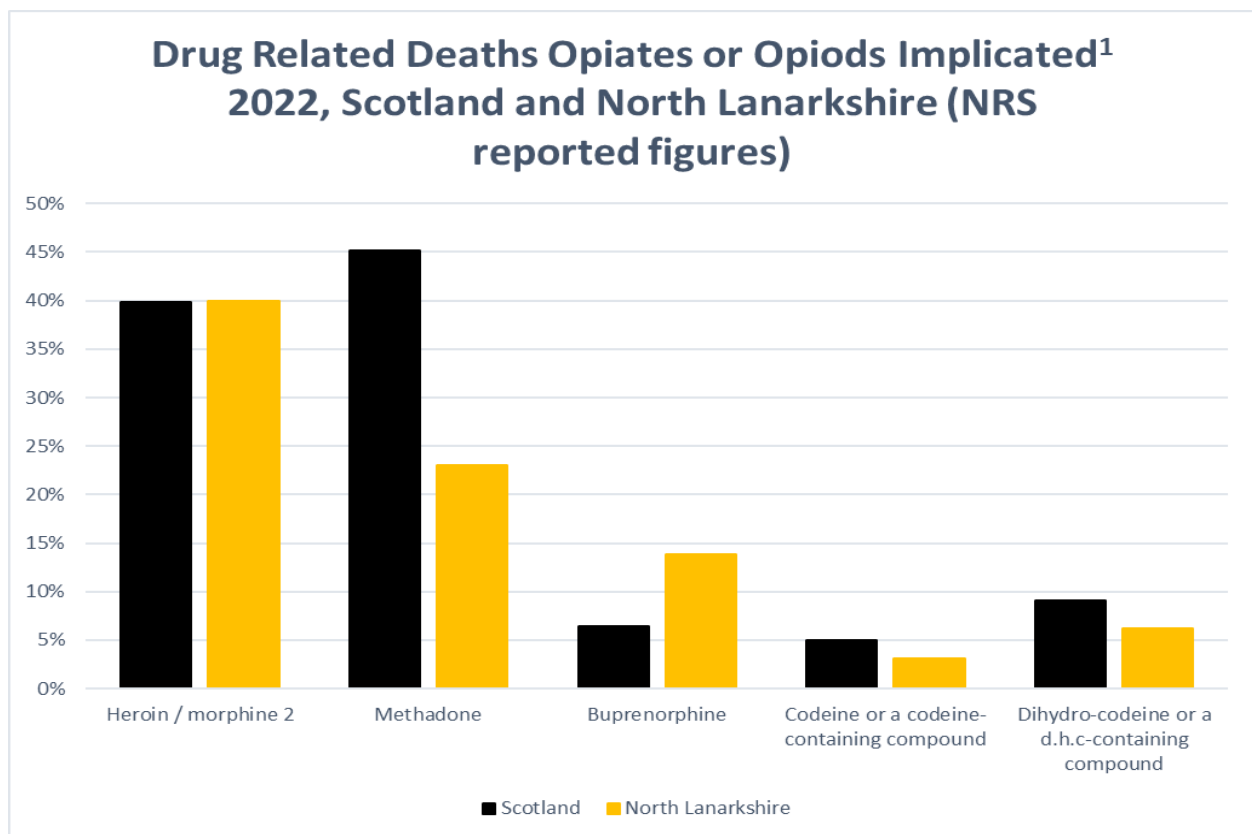


## Opiates/Opioids are the most common drug implicated in DRD in 2022 in North Lanarkshire.



- Whilst Opiates/Opioids are the most common drug implicated in DRD in North Lanarkshire in 2022 the proportion is considerably less than that reported nationally (82% Scotland, 74% North Lanarkshire).
- A similar relationship can be seen for benzodiazepines and Gabapentin and/or Pregabalin (Benzodiazepines 57% Scotland, 49% North Lanarkshire, Gabapentin and/or Pregabalin 35% Scotland, 28% North Lanarkshire).
- Alcohol was implicated in a considerably larger proportion of DRD in 2022 in North Lanarkshire compared to Scotland (20% North Lanarkshire, 11% Scotland).
- Over seventy percent (71%) of DRD in North Lanarkshire in 2022 had two or more substances implicated in the cause of death.

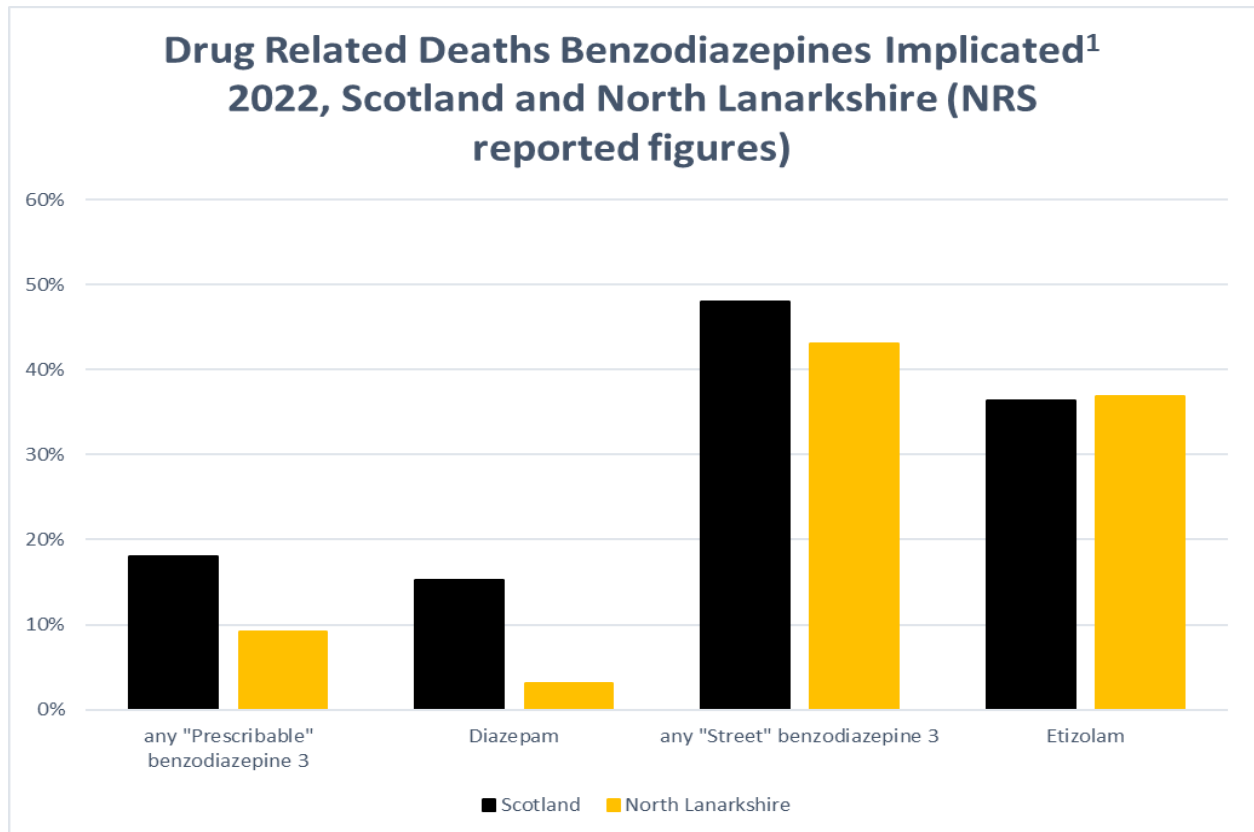
Methadone was implicated in almost half the proportion of DRD in North Lanarkshire (23%) compared to Scotland (45%) in 2022.



- Buprenorphine was implicated in more than double the proportion of DRD in North Lanarkshire (14%) compared to Scotland (6%) in 2022. Every DRD in North Lanarkshire in 2022 where Buprenorphine has been implicated was a poly drug death; on average there were 4 drugs implicated in every DRD where Buprenorphine was implicated.
- In North Lanarkshire in 2022 the most commonly implicated Opiate/ Opioid for DRD was Heroin/ Morphine (40%). This differs from Scotland where Methadone was the most commonly implicated Opiate/ Opioid (45%); Methadone was implicated in twenty-three percent of DRD in North Lanarkshire.

## BENZODIAZEPINES

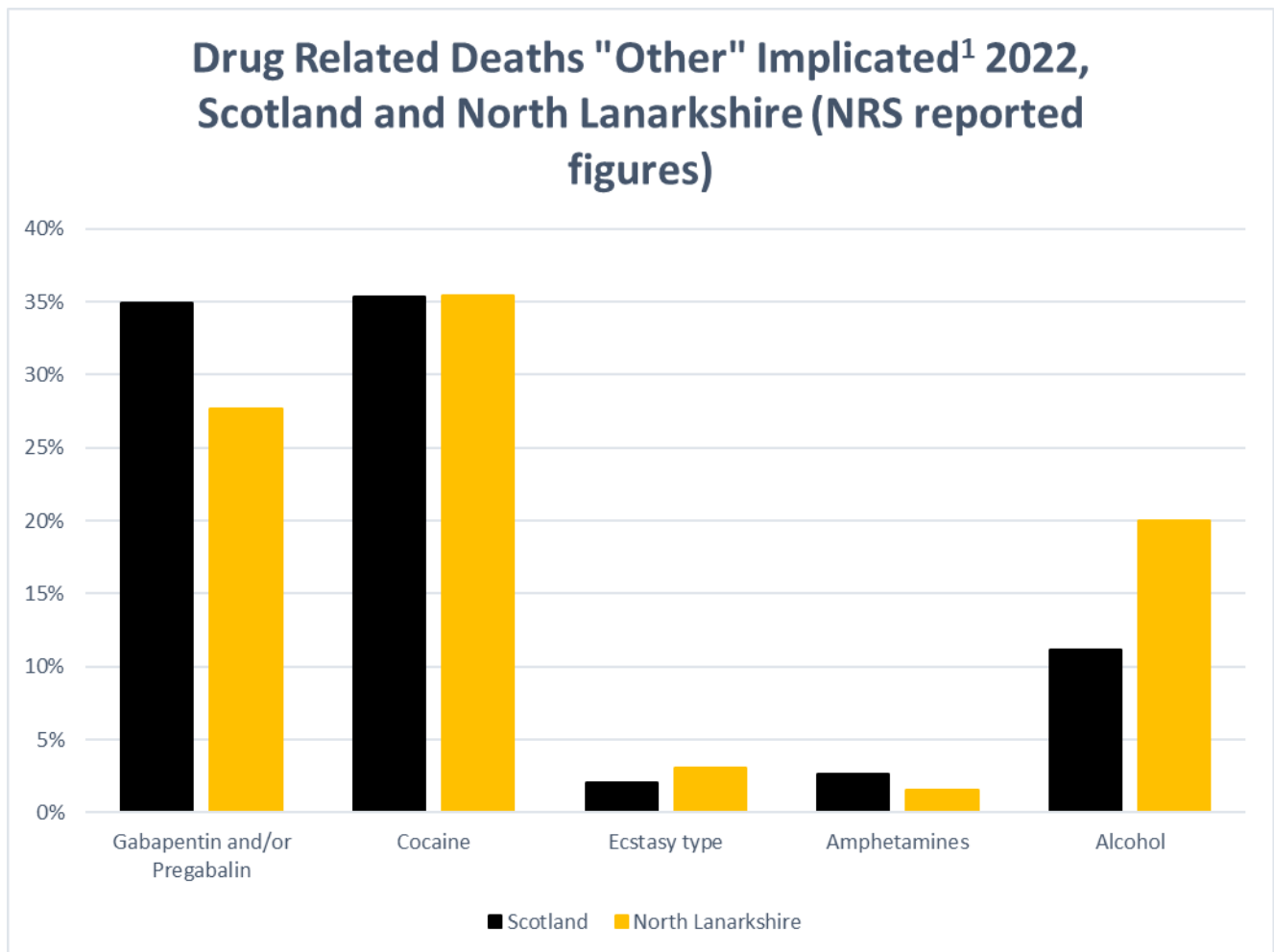
With the exception of Etizolam all categories of Benzodiazepines are implicated in a smaller proportion of DRD in North Lanarkshire in 2022 than across Scotland.



- Any "Prescribable" benzodiazepine were implicated in half (9%) the proportion of DRD in North Lanarkshire in 2022 compared to Scotland as a whole (18%).
- Diazepam was implicated in five times the proportion (15%) of DRD in 2022 across Scotland compared to North Lanarkshire (3%).

## OTHER SUBSTANCES

Alcohol was implicated in almost double the proportion (20%) of DRD in North Lanarkshire in 2022 compared to Scotland as a whole (11%).



- Cocaine was implicated in more than one in three (35%) of DRD in North Lanarkshire in 2022, which is identical to the proportion across Scotland.
- In 2021 Cocaine was implicated in twenty-seven percent of DRD in North Lanarkshire. Although this (35% reported in 2022) is a proportional increase of seven percent it equates to just one more DRD were Cocaine was implicated in 2022 (23 deaths) compared to 2021 (22 deaths).
- Gabapentin and/or Pregabalin was less commonly implicated (7% less) for DRD in 2022 in North Lanarkshire (28%) compared to Scotland as a whole (35%).

Pages 3 and 4

- 1) Populations for 2022 are not available at the time of publication so 2021 populations are used to calculate rates for 2022.

Page 4

- 2) Some age groups have been aggregated to protect anonymity.

Pages 7,8, 9 and 10

- 1) More than one drug may be reported per death. These are mentions of each drug, and will not add up to give total deaths.