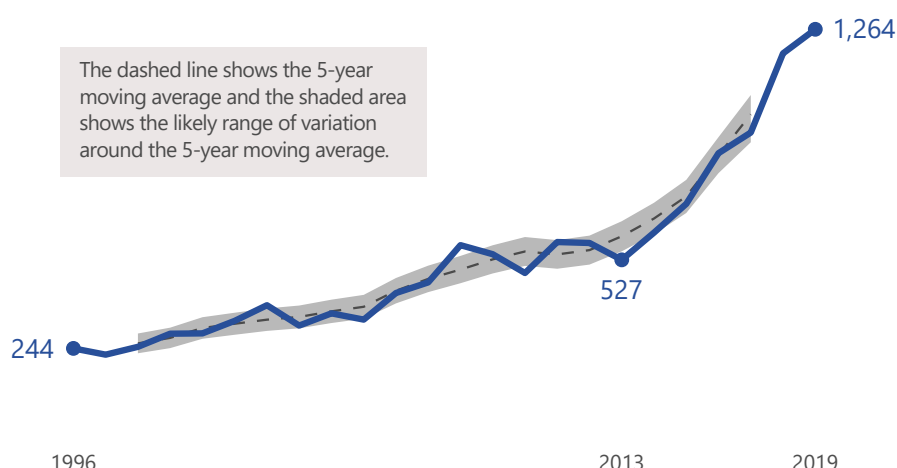


Drug-related deaths continue to increase

The number of drug-related deaths has increased almost every year. In 2019 there were 1,264, which is the largest number ever recorded and more than double the number recorded a decade ago.

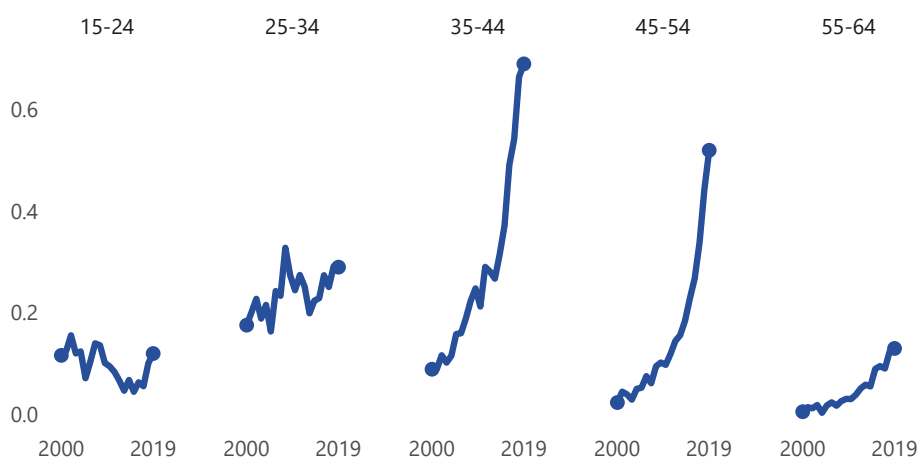
Drug-related deaths, 1996 to 2019



Largest increase was in 35-54 year olds

Most of the increase in drug related death rates* has occurred in the 35-44 year old and 45-54 year old age groups.

Drug-related death rates by age group, 2000 to 2019

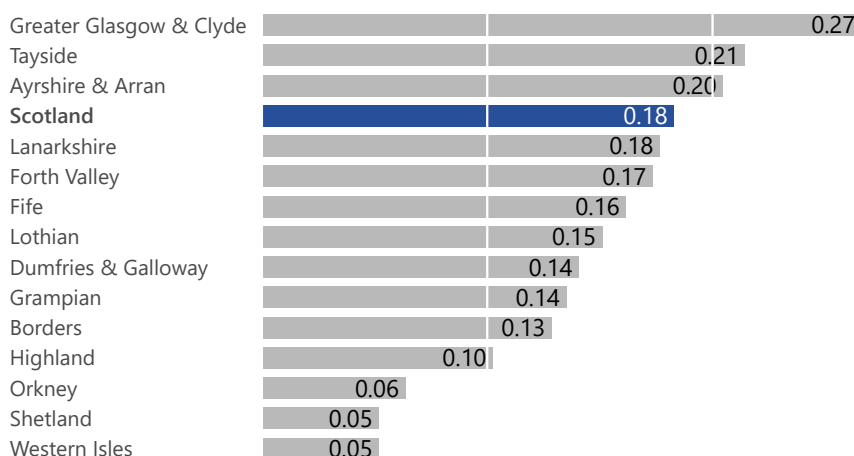


* Deaths per 1,000 people

Death rates vary geographically

Greater Glasgow & Clyde had the highest rate* at 0.27 per 1,000 population, followed by Tayside and Ayrshire & Arran with rates of 0.21 and 0.20 per 1,000 population respectively.

Drug-related death rates by health board, 2015 to 2019



* Rates are based on 5-year averages to reduce year-to-year fluctuations.