

- 1 One in four people in England from age 18 upwards (11.5 million people/ 26% of the adult population) is prescribed a dependence-forming drug in any given year. Those include antidepressants, benzodiazepines, z-drugs, gabapentinoids and opioids
- 2 A Public Health England Report called the situation 'a significant public health issue'
- 3 Rates of prescribing in 2020/21 were higher for women (1.5 times those of men), and the rates generally increased with age and areas of higher deprivation according to NHS England data
- 4 A significant number of people have difficulty in withdrawing from these drugs, but there is generally a lack of appropriate services to support these patients
- 5 The adverse consequences of prescribed drug dependence can be life-changing for sufferers and their families



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