

Written Answers

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SOCIAL SERVICES

AIDS

Mr. Jopling: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services what is the probability of the incidence of AIDS in the United Kingdom at the present time for each adult male and female over 18 years.

females and rates of people with AIDS of 68 per million for males and 1.6 per million for females. It is necessary to interpret these figures carefully; some of the cases of AIDS will be included in the HIV figures and these HIV statistics include only those infected people who have presented themselves for testing.

Electro-convulsive Therapy

Mr. Newton: It is not possible to assess the probability of the incidence of AIDS in the United Kingdom at the present time for each adult male and female over 18 years. The latest published figures, which give the current prevalence of HIV infection at the end of March, show that 7,380 men and 797 women have been reported to the national surveillance centres as being HIV antibody positive. With regard to cases of AIDS, to the end of April 1,412 males and 27 females had been reported. The latest available figures for the population of the United Kingdom aged 18 and over are 20,747,900 males and 22,573,000 females. This represents rates of infection with HIV of 361 per million for males and 35 per million for

Ms. Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will list, by region, for each of the last three years for which figures are available (a) the number of male patients treated with electro-convulsive therapy and (b) the number of female patients treated with electro-convulsive therapy; and, in each case, what is the average number of treatments per patient.

Mrs. Currie: I am sorry that I cannot give the hon. Member the information she seeks in the form requested as no record is kept centrally of the number or sex of patients undergoing electro-convulsive therapy. The table shows the data held centrally.

ECT Statistics national and regional summary

Regional Health Authority	1984		1985		1986	
	Treatments ¹	Average Number of Treatments per course	Treatments ¹	Average Number of Treatments per course	Treatments ¹	Average Number of Treatments per course
Northern	11,127	6.44	12,242	6.71	10,346	6.98
Yorkshire	10,803	4.62	12,503	4.90	12,947	5.57
Trent	14,084	6.40	14,423	6.61	12,609	6.37
East Anglian	6,339	6.58	7,689	5.87	6,879	6.53
North West Thames	6,189	5.37	6,596	5.44	7,083	5.50
North East Thames	7,156	6.67	7,733	7.07	6,867	6.45
South East Thames	7,620	5.91	9,163	6.11	8,647	7.06
South West Thames	7,255	6.31	8,380	6.82	6,799	6.69
Yessex	11,611	6.89	13,031	7.19	12,905	6.96
Oxford	2,390	5.60	3,630	6.55	3,291	5.70
South Western	6,434	6.09	7,624	6.41	6,706	6.07
West Midlands	14,547	6.84	15,128	6.95	13,952	7.23
Mersey	4,852	5.86	5,404	6.39	5,572	6.20
North Western	13,862	5.43	13,653	5.67	14,412	6.74
England	124,269	6.03	137,199	6.26	129,015	6.47
Special Health Authority	826	8.18	565	4.59	524	4.40
England (including Special Health Authorities)	125,095	6.04	137,764	6.25	129,539	6.46
Special Hospitals	262	6.14	176	4.86	218	5.59
Total	125,357	6.04	137,940	6.25	129,757	6.46

¹ The number of treatments is not the same as the number of patients treated, as some patients may undergo more than one course of treatment during the year.

Ms. Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services what studies his Department has made of the effects of electro-convulsive therapy.

the number of ancillary staff employed in the National Health Service by scale and point or standard payroll system code under the terms and conditions of the ancillary staffs Whitley Council agreement.

Mrs. Currie: It is not generally the role of the Department to commission basic clinical research. This type of research falls within the remit of other agencies such as the Medical Research Council and individual clinical researchers.

Mr. Newton: The latest available information to this level of detail relates to staff in post at 31 March 1987. At this date, there were an estimated 119,000 (whole-time equivalent) ancillary staff employed by the NHS in England. Within this total, the estimated numbers by pay scale and incremental point were as shown in the table.

NHS Ancillary Staff

Mr. Campbell-Savours: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services what are the latest figures available for