



Anti-Seizure Medicines in Pregnancy

April 2018 - September 2023

An Official Statistics in development release for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Public Health Scotland reports on anti-seizure medicines (ASMs) prescribed to females in Scotland aged 0-54 and pregnant women. Further details can be found in the publication [report](#) and [data tables](#). Information on future developments can also be found in the publication [report](#) under 'Planned Developments'.

Main points

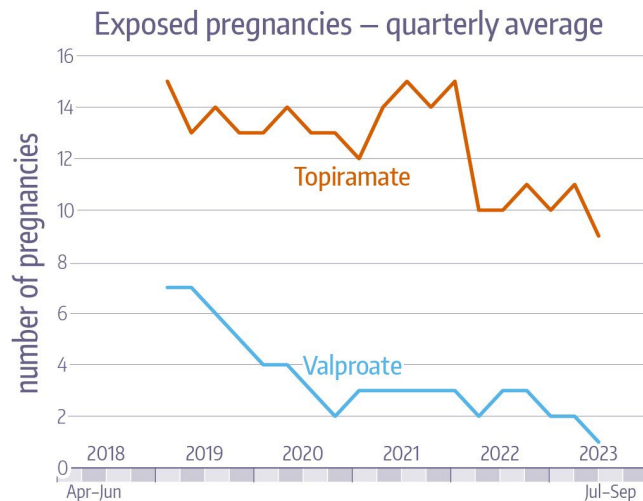
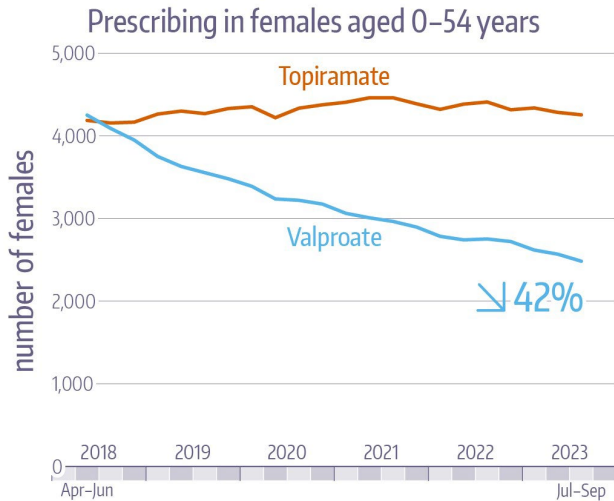
Of the 146,632 females aged 0-54 prescribed an anti-seizure medicine between April 2018 and September 2023:

- 58,329 females were prescribed an anti-seizure medicine in the most recent quarter reported (July – September 2023). This figure has remained stable in all quarters during the full period reported (April 2018 – September 2023).

Valproate

- 5,929 females were prescribed valproate between April 2018 and September 2023.
- 2,482 were prescribed valproate in the most recent quarter reported (July – September 2023). This figure has decreased steadily by 42% (from 4,249) since the quarter April – June 2018.
- 75 pregnancies (to 69 women) conceived between April 2018 and September 2023 had been exposed to valproate by 30 September 2023. Of these, 1 was conceived in the most recent 6-month period (April – September 2023).
- Of the 75 valproate-exposed pregnancies conceived between April 2018 and September 2023, 73 (97%) had been exposed during early pregnancy (first trimester).
- In 5 of the 75 valproate-exposed pregnancies conceived between April 2018 and September 2023, valproate was started during pregnancy after the woman had no prescription in the year before pregnancy. It is possible that some of these women had had previous prescriptions, but the prescribing record was not available for our analysis. Of these 5 pregnancies, none were a new starter in the most recent 6 months, April-September 2023

- In 55 pregnancies conceived between April 2018 and September 2023 the woman had a prescription for valproate in the year before pregnancy but none during pregnancy.



* Quarterly average is based on the average of the previous four quarters.

Topiramate

- 15,456 females were prescribed topiramate between April 2018 and September 2023.
- 4,253 were prescribed topiramate in the most recent quarter reported (July – September 2023). This figure has remained level since the quarter April – June 2018.
- 268 pregnancies (to 240 women) conceived between April 2018 and September 2023 had been exposed to topiramate by 30 September 2023. Of these, 10 were conceived in the most recent 6-month period (April – September 2023).
- Of the 268 topiramate-exposed pregnancies conceived between April 2018 and September 2023, 264 (99%) had been exposed during early pregnancy (first trimester).
- In 40 of the 268 topiramate-exposed pregnancies conceived between April 2018 and September 2023, topiramate was started during pregnancy after the woman had no prescription in the year before pregnancy. It is possible that some of these women had previous prescriptions, but the prescribing record was not available for our analysis. Of these 40 pregnancies, one was a new starter in the most recent 6 months, April-September 2023
- In 572 pregnancies conceived between April 2018 and September 2023 the woman had a prescription for topiramate in the year before pregnancy but none during pregnancy.

Background

Information on anti-seizure medicines dispensed in community pharmacies and by dispensing doctors, administered during hospital stays, and supplied through Home Care services were

PHS and official statistics

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. PHS is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'.

combined with pregnancy and births data. Further information on the data can be found in the main [report](#).

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Further information

Data from this publication are available from the [publication page](#) on our website.

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). Official Statistics in development are official statistics which are undergoing a development.

Visit our website for [further information about our statistics and PHS as an Official Statistics producer](#).

The next release of this publication will be October 2024.

Other formats of this publication are available on request by calling 0131 314 5300 or emailing phs.otherformats@phs.scot.

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