

Health Inequalities Tool for Scotland

Modelling the impact of interventions on health inequalities

Cost Briefing

The Health Inequalities Tools for Scotland require users to specify the average cost of delivery per intervention. This approach is intended to ensure that current local costs are used to inform modelling wherever possible, and that careful consideration is given to cost inputs, particularly where comparisons are being made between interventions. However, robust local information is often unavailable, in which case the following estimates may be useful in providing plausible estimates.

The following estimates are based on current information on costs at a national level as of August 2012. These estimated costs have also formed the basis of illustrative results presented in the Health Inequalities Tool for Scotland Commentary.

Please note that the following estimates are approximate, subject to change over time and are not necessarily based on actual data from routine practice in Scotland. Similarly, they are based on delivery within an established programme (i.e. they do not include overheads & start-up costs).

Table 1 Estimated costs per individual intervention delivered

Intervention	Estimated cost	Source	Notes
NHS Smoking Cessation Services	£98	Evaluation of quit4u, NHS Health Scotland 2012 (available at http://www.healthscotland.com/documents/5827.aspx).	
Alcohol Brief Interventions	£25	Approximation, based on NICE public health guidance #24, 2010	Original figure of £23.85 published in 2010 and relates to delivery by a GP; the estimated cost of delivery by a practice nurse was approximately half this total.
Counterweight	£72	Counterweight Project Team, personal communication based on work carried out by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland for the 'National Planning Forum Obesity Treatment Costing Report'	Excluding start-up / training costs, estimated to apply for the first two years

It is worth emphasising that these costs suggest that the cost of delivering an NHS Smoking Cessation Services intervention and the cost of delivering a Counterweight intervention are similar, whereas the cost of delivering an ABI is just over a quarter of the estimates for these other interventions. This has important implications for comparing interventions.