



Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database

Liverpool Quarterly Report

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Introduction

The Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database (IAD), which was established by Merseyside Drug (and Alcohol) Action Teams, Merseyside Police and the Public Health Sector (now Centre for Public Health) in 1997, supports the need for local information on drug misuse. In particular the IAD aims to:

- Provide comprehensive reporting of problem drug users (PDUs) characteristics including a range of demographics and the types of drugs used.
- Reflect levels of service and intervention activity.
- Assist in D(A)AT's (and other responsible bodies) performance management.
- Facilitate the planning and development of services and interventions for PDUs.
- Identify gaps in service provision and delivery, as well as under-served groups as specified by the National Treatment Agency and Department of Health and by the Centre for Public Health, through interrogation of available data.
- Demonstrate client care pathways and crossover of clients between services by cross matching datasets.
- Highlight changes in levels, demographics and characteristics of drug users and drug use.
- Perform comparisons between geographical areas.
- Report back to both individual DATs and service providers in the form of audits and quarterly reports as well as responding to ad hoc requests.
- Provide Pan Merseyside reporting on an annual basis.

To enable the above the IAD collects data from as many agencies in contact with drug users as possible and is continually seeking to expand the range and scope of data providers. Data are currently collected from criminal justice services, needle exchange schemes (both pharmacy and agency-based) and the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) and now includes Connexions (young people). It is anticipated that data will also soon be available from Big Life (homeless).

Efforts are continually being made to expand the range of service providers that report to the IAD.

Attributable Data

Analysis of data depends on the provision of attributable information. Each service provider records first and last initials, date of birth and gender, for each individual they record a contact with. The combination of these details provides an identifier (attributor) for each individual (eg: HF07/12/1974M) This is a nationally recognised system and allows individuals to be tracked through different service providers and across time whilst retaining an acceptable degree of anonymity.

ARRESTS UNDER MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT (1971)

Introduction

Data are provided by Management Information Analysis (MIA), on behalf of Merseyside Police, relating to arrests for Class A drug offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971). (Possession of, Supply of, or Possession with intent to Supply, Class A drugs) Data are collated and analysed to enable the monitoring of problem drug users whose drug use has led to legal problems, but may not lead them into contact with treatment services.

Table 1: No arrested for Class A Drug offences, by Gender, within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

Gender	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	718	74.9
Female	241	25.1
Age		
Under 25	428	44.6
25+	531	55.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>959</i>	<i>100</i>

Of the Male arrestees 329 (45.8%) were 'Under 25' and 389 (54.2%) were 25+, with 99 (41.1%) of Females being 'Under 25'.

Table 2: Drug and offence of arrest within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

Drug of Arrest	Liverpool	
	n	%
Cocaine	40	42.5
Crack	9	9.6
MDMA	14	14.9
Heroin	27	28.8
Methadone	2	2.1
Other Class A	2	2.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>100</i>
Drug Offences		
Possession of Class A	76	82.6
Supply of Class A	6	6.5
Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs	10	10.9
<i>Totals*</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>100</i>

*Figures here may differ from totals reported above in the same table. This is due to errors or omissions in reporting of specific items.

Arrests for Possession of Class A were predominantly for cocaine with 35 (46.1%) individuals being arrested for that offence. Arrests for Possession with Intent to Supply were predominantly for heroin, with 5 (50%) individuals reported as being arrested for that offence. Supply of Class A drugs was split evenly between cocaine, crack and MDMA, with 2 individuals (33.3%) reported for each offence. It should be noted here that there are a number of omissions in the reporting of drugs and offences, arrested for. Consequently the figures here will not accurately reflect service activity, but may be taken as indicating possible trends in drug offences.

ARREST REFERRAL (AR)

Introduction

Data are provided by ARCH Initiatives for the Wirral and Merseyside Drug Council (now the Lighthouse Project) for all other Merseyside D(A)ATs, on assessments made at custody suites.

The total number of assessments figure is based on one person per location per date; this is to ensure duplicate data are not included. Duplicate records may appear for the same individual twice on the same day. In these circumstances data are aggregated to a single record. The same individual may however, be counted twice within the reporting period.

Table 3: Individuals assessed, by Gender and Age Group, within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

Gender	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	190	65.1
Female	102	34.9
Age		
Under 25	25	8.6
25+	267	91.4
Unknown	0	0.0
<i>Total individuals</i>	<i>292</i>	<i>100</i>

Of the Male arrestees 17 (8.9%) were 'Under 25' and 173 (91.1%) were 25+, with 8 (7.8%) Females being 'Under 25'.

Table 4: Total Assessments by Drug of use, within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

Drug of Use	Liverpool	
	n	%
Cocaine	7	2.4
Crack	16	5.5
Heroin	209	71.6
Methadone	21	7.2

Methodological note: Drugs may be represented multiple times within the dataset. Percentages in Table 4 are therefore a proportion of the total number of individuals (as detailed in Table 3)

SYRINGE EXCHANGE SERVICES

Introduction

Data is provided by service providers. Analysis of Syringe Exchange data allows performance monitoring of harm reduction services at both D(A)AT and service provider level. Such analysis also facilitates geographical analysis of both distribution and movement of injecting drug users. The tables presented here refer to attributable data only, unless otherwise specified. The pharmacy data in particular, is lacking attributable information for a large percentage of cases and therefore does not necessarily accurately reflect service activity.

Ages are calculated based on the last day of the month in which they were last seen.

AGENCY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Table 5: Individuals by Gender, within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

New Clients	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	96	95.0
Female	5	5.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	339	90.9
Female	34	9.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 6: Individuals by Age Group, within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

New Clients	Liverpool	
	n	%
Under 25	71	70.3
25+	30	29.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	304	81.5
25+	69	18.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>100</i>

Of the Male clients 64 (18.1%) were Under 25 and 275 (81.9%) were 25+, with 5 (14.7%) of Females assessed being Under 25.

Table 7: Exchanges within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

Attributable Exchanges	Liverpool
	n
Syringes provided	17373
Returns	10001
Non-Attributable Exchanges	
Syringes	270
Returns	-

¹ All data provided for St Helens, for this time period, was attributable.

² There are no figures available for Returns for this time period.

Table 8: Main Drug of Use for Agency Syringe Exchange clients within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

Drug of Use	Liverpool			
	New clients		All clients	
	n	%	n	%
Heroin	19	18.8	160	42.9
Methadone	0	0.0	3	0.8
Amphetamines	0	0.0	2	0.5
Steroids	80	79.2	196	52.5
Cocaine*	1	1.0	4	1.1
Other	1	1.0	8	2.1
Unknown/Missing	0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>100</i>

*Including Crack

Drug of use is not available for Pharmacy datasets at this time

The two main drugs of use reported by Agency syringe exchanges for this period were heroin and steroids. Of those reporting heroin as their main drug of use, a total of 132 were Male (38.9% of all Males reported) and 28 were Female (82.3% of Females). A total of 5 (7.2%) of injecting heroin users were Under 25 with 155 (51%) being 25+.

A total of 194 steroid users were male (57.2 % of male injectors in the dataset), making steroids slightly more popular amongst male injectors than heroin. Two females (5.8%) were also reported as using steroids. Sixty-three steroid users were Under 25, (91.3% of injectors under 25) with 133 being over 25 (43.75% of over 25s).

Table 9: Total Visits within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Attributable	876	99.4
Non Attributable	5	0.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>881</i>	<i>100</i>

PHARMACY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Table 10: Individuals, by Gender, within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

New Clients	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	107	88.4
Female	14	11.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	657	81.2
Female	152	18.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>809</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 11: Individuals, by Age Group, within Liverpool D(A)AT (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

	Liverpool	
	n	%
New Clients		
Under 25	33	27.3
25+	88	72.7
<i>Totals</i>	121	100
All Clients		
Under 25	71	8.8
25+	738	91.2
<i>Totals</i>	809	100

Of all clients 65 males (9.89% of males) were under 25, with 6 females (8.5% of female clients) being under 25.

Table 12: Total Visits (Pharmacy) (1st Apr '04 – 30th June '04)

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Attributable	3722	64.0
Non Attributable	2097	36.0
<i>Total</i>	5819	100

COMBINED PHARMACY AND AGENCY-BASED SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Table 13: Individuals in Syringe Exchange by D(A)AT of Syringe Exchange

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Gender		
New Clients		
Male	203	91.4
Female	19	8.6
<i>Total</i>	222	100
All Clients		
Male	996	84.3
Female	186	15.7
<i>Totals</i>	1182	100
Age		
New Clients		
Under 25	104	46.8
25+	118	53.2
<i>Totals</i>	222	100
All Clients		
Under 25	375	31.7
25+	807	68.3
<i>Totals</i>	1182	100

Table 14: Total Visits by D(A)AT of Syringe Exchange

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Attributable	4598	68.6
Non Attributable	2102	31.4
<i>Total</i>	6700	100

National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)

Background

The NDTMS is the official method for measuring the extent and nature of structured drug treatment in England and Wales. The system is commissioned by the NTA and is operated through nine regional centres – corresponding to the nine government offices for the regions.

Data here are aggregated to one individual, per year, per D(A)AT. Individuals presenting in more than one D(A)AT within the time period will therefore be represented more than once in the original data. The D(A)AT referred to is D(A)AT of treatment.

Table 15: Number of people in contact with treatment service by Gender (D(A)AT of Residence)

	Liverpool	
	No.	%
Male	1475	66.9
Female	731	33.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>2206</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 16: Individuals in contact with treatment service by Gender and Age (D(A)AT of Treatment)

Gender	Liverpool	
	No.	%
Male	1338	66.7
Female	667	33.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
Under 25	904	45.1
25+	1101	54.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all Male clients 581 (43.4%) were Under 25 and 757 (56.6%) were 25+, with 323 (48.4%) of Females being Under 25.

Table 17: Ethnicity of people in structured drug treatment by D(A)AT of Treatment

Ethnicity	Liverpool	
	n	%
African	1	0.05
Caribbean	5	0.2
Chinese	8	0.4
Indian	1	0.05
Other	17	0.8
Other Black	18	0.9
Other Mixed	4	0.2
Other White	13	0.6
White & Asian	1	0.05
White & Black African	1	0.05
White & Black Caribbean	1	0.05
White British	1654	82.5
White Irish	4	0.2
Unknown	277	13.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>100</i>

CONNEXIONS

Connexions provide a support service for young people, aged 13-19. The Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership provides data presented here. Further information is available from:

Table 18: Gender by D(A)AT of contact

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	14	93.3
Female	1	6.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 19: Age by D(A)AT of contact

Age	Liverpool	
	n	%
16	3	20.0
17	3	20.0
18	7	46.7
19	2	13.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 20: Drug/Alcohol problem by D(A)AT of contact

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	3	20.0
Drugs	12	80.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>100</i>

Combined Datasets

Introduction

Data presented here is drawn from a combination of datasets relating to Arrests under Misuse of Drugs Act (1971), Arrest Referrals, Syringe Exchange (Agency and Pharmacy), NDTMS and Connexions. The combined data are aggregated purely on attributer to produce overall figures for numbers of individuals presenting to any service reporting to the IAD. Figures presented here will therefore not necessarily reflect the combined totals of data presented earlier as the method of aggregating is somewhat different.

Table 21: Total Problem Drug Users reported to the IAD: by Gender and Age

Liverpool		
Gender	n	%
Male	1287	58.9
Female	897	41.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2184</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
Under 19	340	15.6
19-24	247	11.3
25+	1597	73.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2184</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the first quarter of 2004/05, 113 (8.8%) were under 19, 138 (10.7%) were between 19-24 years and 1036 (80.5%) were over 25. For female clients 227 (25.3%) were under 19, with 109 (12.2%) between 19-24 years and 561 (62.5%) over 25.

Fig 1: Distribution of PDUs reported to the IAD, by Gender and Age Group

