



## **Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database**

### **St Helens Quarterly Report**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

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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, by Gender within St Helens DAT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

Gender	St Helens	
	n	%
Male	205	78.5
Female	56	21.5
<b>Age</b>		
Under 25	107	41.0
25+	154	59.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all arrestees 89 males (43.4% of males) and 18 females (32.1% of female arrestees) were under 25.

**Table 2: Drug and offence of arrest within St Helens DAT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

Drug of Arrest	St Helens	
	n	%
Cocaine	7	35.0
Crack	5	25.0
MDMA	2	10.0
Heroin	6	30.0
Methadone	0	0.0
Other Class A	1	5.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Drug Offences</b>		
Possession of Class A	11	52.4
Supply of Class A	5	23.8
Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs	5	23.8
<i>Totals*</i>	<i>21</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 heroin with 6 people being arrested for that offence (54.5% of arrests for Possession of Class A). Arrests for Supply and/or Possession with Intent to Supply were predominantly for cocaine and crack respectively with 5 people being arrested for cocaine (100% of those arrested for Supply of Class A).

## ARREST REFERRAL (AR)

### Introduction

Data is provided by ARCH Initiative for the St Helens and Merseyside Drug Council (now known as 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 St Helens DAT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

	St Helens	
Gender	n	%
Male	55	70.5
Female	23	29.5
Age		
Under 25	8	10.3
25+	70	89.7
Unknown	0	0.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients 6 (10.9% of males) Males and 2 (8.7% of females) Female, were under 25.

**Table 4: Total Assessments by Drug of use**

	St Helens	
Drug of Use	n	%
Cocaine	0	0.0
Crack	3	3.8
Heroin	63	80.8
Methadone	6	6

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 below 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 St Helens DAT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

New Clients	St Helens	
	n	%
Male	43	95.6
Female	2	4.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	301	91.8
Female	27	8.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>328</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 6: Individuals by Age Group, within St Helens DAT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

New Clients	St Helens	
	n	%
Under 25	33	73.3
25+	12	26.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	285	86.9
25+	43	13.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>328</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients 40 (13.3% of males) Males and 3 (11.1% of females) Female, were under 25.

**Table 7: Exchanges within St Helens DAT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

Attributable	St Helens <sup>1</sup>
	n
Syringes provided	6369
Returns	18181
Non-Attributable	
Syringes	N/A
Returns	N/A

<sup>1</sup> All data provided for St Helens, for this time period, was attributable.

**Table 8: Main Drug of Use for Agency Syringe Exchange clients within St Helens DAT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

Drug of Use	St Helens			
	All		New	
	n	%	n	%
Heroin	136	41.5	11	24.4
Methadone	19	5.8	1	2.2
Amphetamines	27	8.2	0	0.0
Steroids	56	17.1	11	24.4
Cocaine*	2	0.6	0	0.0
Other	37	11.3	0	0.0
Unknown/Missing	51	15.5	22	48.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>328</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>100</i>

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

\*Including Crack

The most common drug of use reported to Agency Syringe Exchange is heroin with 136 users (41.5% of all users) reporting it as their main, or only, drug of use. The next most common drug is steroids with 56 users (17.1% of all users) reporting it as their main, or only, drug of use. In both cases the distribution of users is predominantly male. For heroin users, 120 (88.2%) are male, whilst all steroid users reported here are male.

**Table 9: Total Visits within St Helens DAT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004) (Agency only)**

	St Helens	
	n	%
Attributable	1086	100
Non Attributable	0	0.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1086</i>	<i>100</i>

## PHARMACY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

**Table 10: Individuals, by Gender, within St Helens DAT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

New Clients	St Helens	
	n	%
Male	11	100
Female	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	21	100
Female	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 11: Individuals, by Age Group, within St Helens DAT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

New Clients	St Helens	
	n	%
Under 25	3	27.3
25+	8	72.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	3	14.3
25+	18	85.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 12: Total Visits (Pharmacy)**

	St Helens	
	n	%
Attributable	53	70.6
Non Attributable	22	29.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>100</i>

**COMBINED PHARMACY AND AGENCY-BASED SYRINGE EXCHANGE****Table 13: Individuals in Syringe Exchange by D(A)AT of Syringe Exchange**

	St Helens	
	n	%
<b>Gender</b>		
<b>New Clients</b>		
Male	54	96.4
Female	2	3.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Male	322	92.3
Female	27	7.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>349</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Age</b>		
<b>New Clients</b>	n	%
Under 25	36	64.3
25+	20	35.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Under 25	288	82.5
25+	61	17.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>349</i>	<i>100</i>

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

	St Helens	
	n	%
Attributable	1139	98.1
Non Attributable	22	1.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>1161</i>	<i>100</i>

## 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 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)**

	St Helens	
	No.	%
Male	438	72.8
Female	164	27.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>602</i>	<i>100</i>

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

	St Helens	
	n	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	412	73.0
Female	152	27.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>564</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Age</b>		
Under 25	160	28.4
25+	404	71.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>564</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients 101(24.5% of males) Males and 59 (38.8% of females) Female, were under 25.

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

<b>Ethnicity</b>	St Helens	
	n	%
African	1	0.2
Caribbean	1	0.2
Other	1	0.2
Other Black	2	0.4
White British	465	82.4
Unknown	94	16.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>564</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.

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

	St Helens	
	n	%
Male	4	80.0
Female	1	20.0
<i>Totals</i>	5	100

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

Age	St Helens	
	n	%
16	2	40.0
17	2	40.0
18	1	20.0
19	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	5	100

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

	St Helens	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	3	60.0
Drugs	2	40.0
<i>Totals</i>	5	100

# 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 is 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. Further information is available from the IAD Manager.

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

St Helens		
Gender	n	%
Male	391	63.9
Female	221	36.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>612</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
Under 19	82	13.4
19-24	72	11.8
25+	458	74.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>612</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the first quarter of 2004/05, 22 (5.6%) were under 19, 42 (10.7%) were between 19-24 years and 327 (83.6%) were over 25. For female clients 60 (27.1%) were under 19, with 30 (13.6%) between 19-24 years and 131 (59.3%) over 25.

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

