



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

### **Wirral Quarterly Report**

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

**Martin Chandler,  
Jim McVeigh, Tony Bullock, Paul Duffy**

Martin Chandler  
IAD Manager  
Centre for Public Health  
Faculty of Health & Applied Social Sciences  
Liverpool John Moores University  
8 Marybone  
Liverpool  
L3 2AP  
(0151) 231 5855  
[m.chandler@livjm.ac.uk](mailto:m.chandler@livjm.ac.uk)  
<http://www.cph.org.uk>

# Contents

	<u>Page</u>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Arrests under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971)</b>	<b>2</b>
Table 1: No. arrested, by Gender, within Wirral D(A)AT	
Table 2: Drug and offence of arrest within Wirral D(A)AT	
<b>Arrest Referral</b>	<b>3</b>
Table 3: Individuals assessed, by Gender and Age Group, within Wirral D(A)AT	
Table 4: Total Assessments by Drug of use, within Wirral D(A)AT	
<b>Syringe Exchange Services (Both Pharmacy and Agency)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Agency</b>	
Table 5: Individuals by Gender, within Wirral D(A)AT	
Table 6: Individuals by Age Group, within Wirral D(A)AT	
Table 7: Exchanges within Wirral D(A)AT	
Table 8: Main Drug of Use for Agency Syringe Exchange clients within Wirral D(A)AT	
Table 9: Total Visits within Wirral D(A)AT	
<b>Pharmacy</b>	
Table 10: Individuals, by Gender, within Wirral D(A)AT	
Table 11: Individuals, by Age Group, within Wirral D(A)AT	
Table 12: Total Visits (Pharmacy)	
<b>Combined</b>	
Table 13: Individuals in Syringe Exchange by D(A)AT of Syringe Exchange	
Table 14: Total Visits by D(A)AT of Syringe Exchange	
<b>Structured Drug Treatment (NDTMS)</b>	<b>7</b>
Table 15: Number of people in contact with treatment service by Gender (D(A)AT of Residence)	
Table 16: Individuals in contact with treatment service by Gender and Age (D(A)AT of Treatment)	
Table 17: Ethnicity of people in structured drug treatment by D(A)AT of Treatment	
<b>Connexions</b>	<b>8</b>
Table 18: Gender by D(A)AT of contact	
Table 19: Age by D(A)AT of contact	
Table 20: Drug/Alcohol problem by D(A)AT of contact	
<b>Combined Datasets</b>	<b>9</b>
Table 21: Total Problem Drug Users reported to the IAD: by Gender and Age	

## 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 Wirral D(A)AT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

Gender	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	279	76.2
Female	87	23.8
<b>Age</b>		
Under 25	162	44.3
25+	204	55.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>366</i>	<i>100</i>

Of the Male arrestees 140 (50.2%) were Under 25 and 139 (49.8%) were 25+, with 22 (25.3%) Females being Under 25.

**Table 2: Drug and offence of arrest within Wirral D(A)AT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

Drug of Arrest	Wirral	
	n	%
Cocaine	4	19.0
Crack	5	23.8
MDMA	4	19.0
Heroin	6	28.6
Methadone	1	4.8
Other Class A	1	4.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Drug Offences</b>		
Possession of Class A	13	61.9
Supply of Class A	2	9.5
Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs	6	28.6
<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 5 people being arrested for that offence (38.5% of arrests for Possession of Class A). Arrests for Supply and/or Possession with Intent to Supply were predominantly for crack and cocaine respectively with 2 people being arrested for crack (100% of those arrested for Supply of Class A).

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 is provided by ARCH Initiative for the Wirral 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 Wirral D(A)AT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

Gender	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	43	75.4
Female	14	24.6
Age		
Under 25	14	24.6
25+	42	73.7
Unknown	1	1.8
<i>Total individuals</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients 13 (30.9% of males) Males and 1 (7.1% of females) Female, were under 25.

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

Drug of Use	Wirral	
	n	%
Cocaine	6	10.5
Crack	23	40.3
Heroin	33	57.9
Methadone	1	1.7

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 Wirral D(A)AT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	33	91.7
Female	3	8.3
<i>Totals</i>	36	100
All Clients		
Male	202	84.9
Female	36	15.1
<i>Totals</i>	238	100

**Table 6: Individuals by Age Group, within {DAT} for {Time period}**

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Under 25	22	61.1
25+	14	38.9
<i>Totals</i>	36	100
All Clients		
Under 25	209	87.8
25+	29	12.2
<i>Totals</i>	238	100

Of all clients 29 (14.3% of males) Males and no Females, were under 25.

**Table 7: Exchanges within Wirral D(A)AT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

Attributable	Wirral
	n
Syringes provided	11873
Returns	27304
Non-Attributable	
Syringes	2146
Returns	820

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

Drug of Use	Wirral			
	All		New	
	n	%	n	%
Heroin	96	40.3	9	25.0
Methadone	18	7.6	0	0.0
Amphetamines	12	5.0	1	2.8
Steroids	74	31.1	25	69.4
Cocaine*	12	5.0	1	2.8
Other	6	2.5	0	0.0
Unknown/Missing	20	8.4	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>238</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>36</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 96 users (40.3% of all users) reporting it as their main, or only, drug of use. The next most common drug is steroids with 74 users (31% 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, 78 (81.3%) are male, whilst 73 steroid users (98.6%) are male.

**Table 9: Total Visits within Wirral D(A)AT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004) (Agency only)**

	Wirral	
	n	%
Attributable	607	91.4
Non Attributable	57	8.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>664</i>	<i>100</i>

## PHARMACY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

**Table 10: Individuals, by Gender, Wirral D(A)AT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	69	79.3
Female	18	20.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	170	81.0
Female	40	19.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 11: Individuals, by Age Group, within Wirral D(A)AT (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004)**

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Under 25	1	1.1
25+	86	98.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	3	1.4
25+	207	98.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 3 Males (1.8% of males) and no Females were Under 25.

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

	Wirral	
	n	%
Attributable	1245	89.6
Non Attributable	145	10.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>1390</i>	<i>100</i>

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

	Wirral	
	n	%
<b>Gender</b>		
<b>New Clients</b>		
Male	102	82.9
Female	21	17.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Male	372	83.0
Female	76	17.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>448</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Age</b>		
<b>New Clients</b>		
Under 25	23	18.7
25+	100	81.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Under 25	212	47.3
25+	236	52.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>448</i>	<i>100</i>

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

	Wirral	
	n	%
Attributable	1852	90.2
Non Attributable	202	9.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>2054</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)**

	Wirral	
	No.	%
Male	1202	69.6
Female	525	30.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>1727</i>	<i>100</i>

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

Gender	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	1173	69.2
Female	522	30.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>1695</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
Under 25	342	20.2
25+	1353	79.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>1695</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 212 Males (18.1% of males) and 130 Females (25.0% of females) were Under 25.

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

Ethnicity	Wirral	
	n	%
African	-	-
Caribbean	4	0.2
Chinese	1	0.1
Indian	-	-
Other	2	0.1
Other Asian	1	0.1
Other Black	1	0.1
Other Mixed	4	0.2
Other White	2	0.1
White & Asian	-	-
White & Black African	-	-
White & Black Caribbean	4	0.2
White British	1583	93.4
White Irish	4	0.2
Unknown	89	5.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>1695</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**

	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	7	87.5
Female	1	12.5
<i>Totals</i>	8	100

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

	Wirral	
	n	%
16	5	62.5
17	2	25.0
18	1	12.5
19	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	8	100

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

	Wirral	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	2	25.0
Drugs	6	75.0
<i>Totals</i>	8	100

## Combined Datasets

### Introduction

Data presented here are 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**

Wirral		
Gender	n	%
Male	491	58.3
Female	351	41.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>842</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
Under 19	145	17.2
19-24	68	8.1
25+	629	74.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>842</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the first quarter of 2004/05, 30 (6.1%) were under 19, 43 (8.8%) were between 19-24 years and 418 (85.1%) were over 25.

For female clients 115 (32.8%) were under 19, with 25 (7.1%) between 19-24 years and 211 (60.1%) over 25.

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

