



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

### **Knowsley 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 (e.g.: 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.

## 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 1: Individuals assessed by Gender and Age Group within Knowsley D(A)AT**

Gender	Knowsley	
	n	%
Male	12	80.0
Female	3	20.0
Age		
Under 25	2	13.3
25+	13	86.7
<i>Total individuals</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>100</i>

Of the male arrestees 2 (16.7% of males) were under 25 years. All female clients were 25 years or older.

**Table 2: Total Assessments by Drug of use within Knowsley D(A)AT**

Drug	Knowsley	
	n	%
Cocaine	3	21.1
Crack	1	7.3
Heroin	8	57.1
Methadone	1	7.3
Cannabis	1	7.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>100</i>

Alcohol was not included in this analysis.

### Main Problem Drug by Gender

The most common drug amongst male arrestees was heroin (41.7% of males) followed by cocaine (25.0%). Amongst female arrestees the drug of use was heroin (100%).

### Main Problem Drug by Age Group

For arrestees under 25 years, the main drug was split equally between cocaine (50%) and cannabis (50%)

# SYRINGE EXCHANGE SERVICES

## Introduction

Data are collected directly from syringe exchange providers. Analysis of syringe exchange data allows performance monitoring of harm reduction services at both D(A)AT and service provider level. This also facilitates geographical analysis of both distribution and movement of injecting drug users.

The D(A)AT referred to is the D(A)AT of the syringe exchange where the client was seen. Ages are calculated based on the last day of the month in which they were last seen.

## Pharmacy syringe monitoring

No data is presented for Pharmacy syringe exchange services in this report. There has been a significant downturn in reporting of Pharmacy based syringe exchange in the six months from July 2004 to December 2004, as well as a rise in the proportion of non-attributable data. Those involved in the provision and monitoring of this service are working to resolve these problems and it is anticipated that the IAD annual report for the year 2004/05 will provide a more accurate reflection of service activity in this area.

As a consequence of these transitional problems, there is no data available for the period from July-September 2004 for Knowsley DAT.

## AGENCY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

**Table 3: Individuals by Gender, within Knowsley D(A)AT**

New Clients	Knowsley	
	n	%
Male	16	84.2
Female	3	15.8
	19	100
All Clients		
Male	68	90.7
Female	7	9.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 4: Individuals by Age Group, within Knowsley D(A)AT**

New Clients	Knowsley	
	n	%
Under 25	5	26.3
25+	14	73.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	16	21.3
25+	59	78.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients 15 Males (22.1% of males) and 1 Female (14.3% of females), were under 25.

**Table 5: Exchanges within Knowsley D(A)AT**

Attributable Exchanges	Knowsley
	n
Syringes provided	2696
Returns	3282
Non-Attributable Exchanges	
Syringes	24
Returns*	-

\*All data for returns was attributable for this period.

**Table 6: Main Drug of Use for Agency Syringe Exchange clients within Knowsley D(A)AT**

Drug of Use	Knowsley			
	All		New	
	n	%	n	%
Heroin	29	38.7	7	36.8
Methadone	1	1.3	0	0.0
Amphetamines	1	1.3	1	5.3
Steroids	39	52.0	11	57.9
Cocaine*	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown/Missing	5	6.7	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>100</i>

Drug of use is not available for Pharmacy datasets

\*Including Crack

The most common drug of use reported to Agency Syringe Exchange is steroids with 39 (52%) of users reporting it as their main, or only, drug of use. The next most common drug is heroin with 29 (38.7%) of users reporting it as their main, or only, drug of use.

**Table 7: Total Visits within Knowsley D(A)AT (Agency only)**

	Knowsley	
	n	%
Attributable	114	99.1
Non Attributable	1	0.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>115</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 8: Number of people in contact with treatment service by Gender and D(A)AT of Residence**

	Knowsley	
	No.	%
<b>New Clients</b>		
Male	59	72.8
Female	22	27.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Male	466	72.0
Female	181	28.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>647</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 9: Number of people in contact with treatment service by Age Group and D(A)AT of Residence**

	Knowsley	
	No.	%
<b>New Clients</b>		
Under 25	17	21.0
25+	64	79.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Under 25	118	18.2
25+	529	81.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>647</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 10: Individuals in contact with treatment service by Gender and D(A)AT of Treatment**

	Knowsley	
	No.	%
<b>New Clients</b>		
Male	71	71.7
Female	28	28.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Male	535	70.3
Female	226	29.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>761</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 11: Individuals in contact with treatment service by Age Group and D(A)AT of Treatment**

	Knowsley	
	No.	%
<b>New Clients</b>		
Under 25	24	24.2
25+	75	75.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Under 25	151	19.8
25+	610	80.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>761</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 102 males (19.1% of males) and 49 females (21.7% of females), were under 25.

**Table 12: Ethnicity of people in structured drug treatment by D(A)AT of Treatment**

Ethnicity	Knowsley			
	New Clients		All Clients	
	n	%	n	%
Caribbean	0	0	3	0.4
Other	0	0	4	0.5
Other Black	3	3.0	7	0.9
Other Mixed	0	0	1	0.1
Other White	1	1.0	5	0.7
White & Black African	1	1.0	3	0.4
White British	80	80.8	649	85.3
White Irish	1	1.0	3	0.4
Unknown	13	13.1	86	11.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>761</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. There was no data available for September 2004 at the time of publication.

**Table 13: Gender by D(A)AT of contact**

	Knowsley	
	n	%
Male	17	100
Female	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 14: Age by D(A)AT of contact**

	Knowsley	
	n	%
16	8	47.1
17	4	23.5
18	0	0.0
19	5	29.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 15: Drug/Alcohol problem by D(A)AT of contact**

	Knowsley	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	14	82.4
Drugs	3	17.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>100</i>

## Combined Datasets

### Introduction

Data presented here are drawn from a combination of datasets relating to Arrest Referrals, Syringe Exchange (both Agency and Pharmacy based), NDTMS and Connexions. The combined data were aggregated on attributer and D(A)AT area 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 in this report, as the method of aggregating is somewhat different. Further information is available from the IAD Manager if required.

**Table 16: Total Problem Drug Users (PDUs) reported to the IAD: by Gender and Age**

Gender	Knowsley	
	n	%
Male	607	72.4
Female	231	27.6
Age		
Under 25	180	21.5
25+	658	78.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>838</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the second quarter of 2004/05, 131 (21.6%) were under 25 years old. For female clients 49 (21.2%) were under 25.

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

