



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

### **Sefton Quarterly Report**

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

Martin Chandler  
IAD Manager  
Centre for Public Health  
Faculty of Health & Applied Social Sciences  
Liverpool John Moores University  
Castle House  
North Street

(0151) 231 4531  
[m.chandler@livjm.ac.uk](mailto:m.chandler@livjm.ac.uk)  
<http://www.cph.org.uk>

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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.

## 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 Sefton DAT**

Gender	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	75	85.2
Female	13	14.8
<b>Age</b>		
Under 25	46	52.3
25+	42	47.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all arrestees, 40 (53.3%) males and 6 (46.2%) females were under 25 years.

**Table 2: Drug and offence of arrest within Sefton DAT**

Drug of Arrest	Sefton	
	n	%
Cocaine	2	9.1
Crack	4	18.2
MDMA	3	13.6
Heroin	10	45.5
Other Class A	3	13.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Drug Offences</b>		
Possession of Class A	47	20.7
Supply of Class A	29	12.8
Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs	151	66.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>227</i>	<i>100</i>

Arrests for Possession of Class A were predominantly for heroin, with 4 (40% of arrests for Possession of Class A) being arrested for that offence, followed equally by cocaine and MDMA with 2 (20%) individuals each being arrested for those possession of those drugs.

Arrests for Possession with Intent to Supply were primarily for heroin with 4 (57.1% of those arrested for this offence) individuals arrested for that drug, followed equally by crack and MDMA with one individual (14.3% of those arrested for this offence) being arrested for each of those offences respectively. Arrests for Supply of Class A were predominantly for crack with 3 people (60% of those arrested for Supply) being arrested for that.

It should be noted here that there were a large number of cases in the dataset for whom the listed offence was Possession with Intent to Supply Class A drugs but for which there were no recognisable home office codes to determine the drug for which they were arrested. There were also a small proportion of Supply of Class A offences for which this was also a problem. Whilst efforts are being made to resolve this, the information was not available in time for the production of this report. These cases have therefore been excluded from analysis in this report.

## 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**

Gender	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	51	78.5
Female	14	21.5
Age		
Under 25	7	10.8
25+	58	89.2
<i>Total individuals</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients 7 males (16.1% of males) were under 25. No females reported for this period were under 25 years old.

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

Drugs	Sefton	
	n	%
Benzodiazepines	1	1.6
Cannabis	2	3.3
Cocaine	5	8.2
Crack	4	6.5
Heroin	46	75.4
Methadone	3	4.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>100</i>

Alcohol is not included in this analysis.

### Main Problem Drug by Gender

The most common drug reported as the main problem drug amongst male arrestees was heroin (70.6% of male arrestees) followed equally by cocaine (9.8%). Amongst female arrestees the most common drug was also heroin (71.4%).

### Main Problem Drug by Age Group

The most common drug amongst the under 25 arrestees was cocaine (42.9%). Amongst those 25 years and older, the most common drug was heroin (75.9%).

# 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 tables refer to attributable data only, unless otherwise specified.

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

Due to transitional problems with the Pharmacy based syringe exchange monitoring process, the analyses presented here under the Pharmacy section should not be taken as indicative of actual service activity. 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.

The analyses presented here for Pharmacy based syringe exchange should therefore only be taken as reflecting the data available.

## AGENCY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

**Table 5: Individuals by Gender, within Sefton DAT**

New Clients	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	48	88.9
Female	6	11.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	226	83.4
Female	45	16.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>271</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 6: Individuals by Age Group, within Sefton DAT**

New Clients	Sefton	
	n	%
Under 25	12	22.2
25+	42	77.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	35	12.9
25+	236	87.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>271</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients 30 males (13.3% of males) and 5 females (11.1% of females), were under 25.

**Table 7: Exchanges within Sefton DAT**

Attributable Exchanges	Sefton
	n
Syringes provided	12771
Returns	14069
Non-Attributable Exchanges	
Syringes	258
Returns	55

**Table 8: Main Drug of Use for Agency Syringe Exchange clients within Sefton DAT**

Drug of Use	Sefton			
	All		New	
	n	%	n	%
Heroin	152	56.1	30	55.6
Methadone	23	8.5	1	1.9
Amphetamines	10	3.7	1	1.9
Steroids	76	28.0	19	35.2
Cocaine*	4	1.5	1	1.9
Other	4	1.5	1	1.9
Unknown/Missing	2	0.7	1	1.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>271</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>100</i>

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

\*Including Crack

The main drug of use reported by Agency syringe exchange for this period was heroin (56.1%), followed by steroids (28%). Of those reporting heroin as their main drug of use, a total of 117 were Male (51.8% of all Males reported) and 35 were Female (77.8% of Females). A total of 9 (25.7%) injecting heroin users were Under 25.

**Table 9: Total Visits within Sefton DAT**

	Sefton	
	n	%
Attributable	759	98.1
Non Attributable	15	1.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>774</i>	<i>100</i>

## PHARMACY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

**Table 10: Individuals, by Gender, within Sefton DAT**

	Sefton	
	n	%
<b>New Clients</b>		
Male	6	100
Female	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Male	176	82.6
Female	37	17.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 11: Individuals, by Age Group, within Sefton DAT**

	Sefton	
	n	%
<b>New Clients</b>		
Under 25	2	33.3
25+	4	66.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Under 25	7	11.5
25+	54	88.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 6 males (11.5% of males) and 1 female (11.1% of females) were under 25 years old.

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

	Sefton	
	n	%
Attributable	79	28.5
Non Attributable	198	71.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>277</i>	<i>100</i>

**COMBINED PHARMACY AND AGENCY-BASED SYRINGE EXCHANGE**

Analyses here are based on a combination of the aggregated Agency and Pharmacy-based datasets. Data are aggregated by attributor and D(A)AT to one person per D(A)AT area. Individuals who appear in more than one D(A)AT area may therefore appear more than once in the final dataset.

**Table 13: Individuals in Syringe Exchange by DAT of Syringe Exchange**

	Sefton	
	n	%
<b>Gender</b>		
<b>New Clients</b>		
Male	51	89.5
Female	6	10.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Male	272	83.4
Female	54	16.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>326</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Age</b>		
<b>New Clients</b>		
Under 25	14	24.6
25+	43	75.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Under 25	42	12.9
25+	284	87.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>326</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 14: Total Visits by DAT of Syringe Exchange**

	Sefton	
	n	%
Attributable	326	52.7
Non Attributable	292	47.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>618</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 and D(A)AT of Residence**

New Clients	Sefton	
	No.	%
Male	140	71.1
Female	57	28.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	885	68.5
Female	407	31.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>1292</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 16: Number of people in contact with treatment service by Age Group and D(A)AT of Residence**

New Clients	Sefton	
	No.	%
Under 25	35	17.8
25+	162	82.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	242	18.7
25+	1050	81.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>1292</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 17: Individuals in contact with treatment service by Gender and D(A)AT of Treatment**

New Clients	Sefton	
	No.	%
Male	129	72.1
Female	50	27.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	901	69.1
Female	402	30.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>1303</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 18: Individuals in contact with treatment service by Age Group and D(A)AT of Treatment**

New Clients	Sefton	
	No.	%
Under 25	31	17.3
25+	148	82.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	214	16.4
25+	1089	83.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>1303</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 148 males (16.4% of males) and 66 females (16.4% of females), were under 25 years old.

**Table 19: Ethnicity of people in structured drug treatment by D(A)AT of Treatment**

Ethnicity	Sefton			
	New Clients		All Clients	
	n	%	n	%
African	0	0.0	1	0.1
Indian	0	0.0	1	0.1
Other	1	0.6	3	0.2
Other Mixed	3	1.7	3	0.2
Other White	2	1.1	7	0.5
Other Black	1	0.6	2	0.1
White & Black African	0	0.0	5	0.4
White British	144	80.4	1014	77.8
White Irish	0	0.0	3	0.2
Unknown	28	15.6	264	20.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>1303</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.

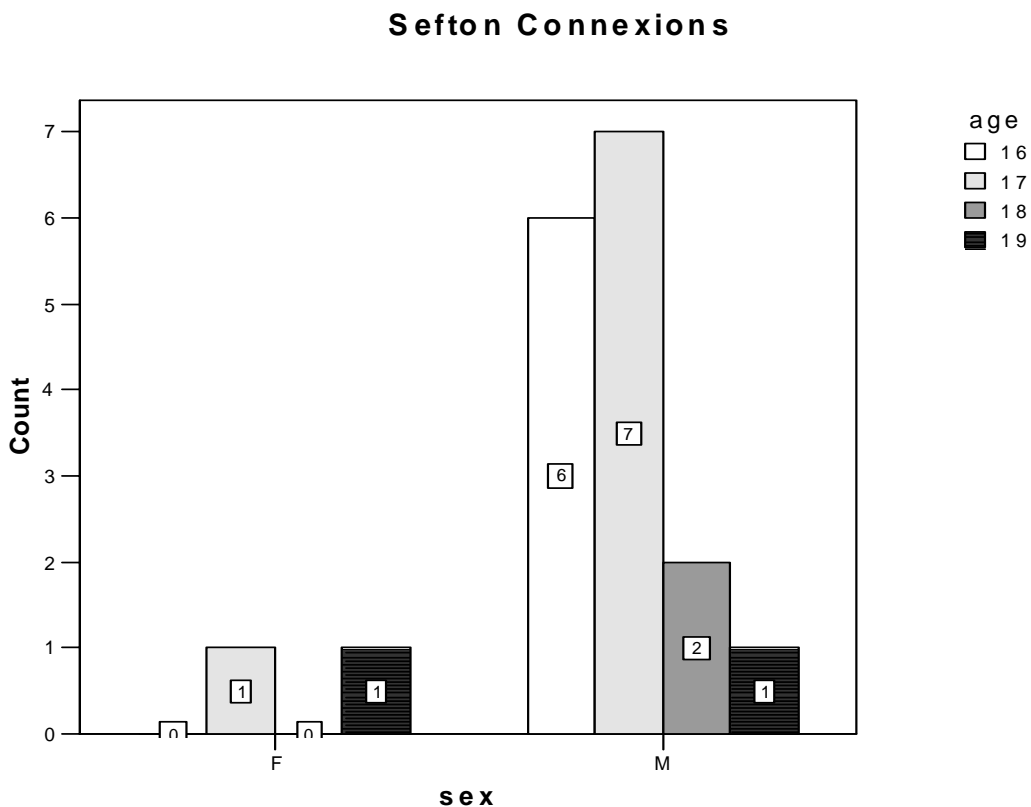
**Table 20: Gender by D(A)AT of contact**

	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	16	88.9
Female	2	11.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 21: Age by D(A)AT of contact**

	Sefton	
	n	%
16	6	33.3
17	8	44.4
18	2	11.1
19	2	11.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>100</i>

**Fig 1: Distribution of individuals by Age and Gender**



**Table 22: Drug/Alcohol problem by D(A)AT of contact**

	Sefton	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	13	72.2
Drugs	5	27.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>18</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 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 as the method of aggregating is somewhat different. Further information is available from the IAD Manager.

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

Gender	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	1449	71.8
Female	570	28.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
Under 25	455	22.5
25+	1564	77.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the second quarter of 2004/05, 336 (23.2%) were under 25. For female clients 119 (20.9%) were under 25.

**Fig 2: Distribution of PDUs by Age Group and Gender**

