



Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database

St Helens 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.

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 St Helens DAT

| Gender | St Helens | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Male | 44 | 81.5 |
| Female | 10 | 18.5 |
| Age | | |
| Under 25 | 25 | 46.3 |
| 25+ | 29 | 53.7 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>54</i> | <i>100</i> |

Of the male arrestees 22 (50%) were under 25, with 3 (30%) females being under 25.

Table 2: Drug and offence of arrest within St Helens DAT

| Drug of Arrest | St Helens | |
|--|-----------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Cocaine | 2 | 11.1 |
| Crack | 1 | 5.6 |
| MDMA | 3 | 16.6 |
| Heroin | 10 | 55.5 |
| Methadone | 1 | 5.6 |
| Other Class A | 1 | 5.6 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>18</i> | <i>100</i> |
| Drug Offences | | |
| Possession of Class A | 12 | 22.2 |
| Supply of Class A | 4 | 7.4 |
| Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs | 38 | 70.4 |
| <i>Totals*</i> | <i>54</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 8 people being arrested for that offence (66.7% of arrests for Possession of Class A). Arrests for Supply of Class A were equally split between cocaine, crack, MDMA and heroin with one person being arrested for each offence. Arrests for Possession with Intent to Supply Class A were equally split between heroin and 'other class A', with one person being arrested for each drug.

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 within St Helens DAT

| Gender | St Helens | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Male | 74 | 79.6 |
| Female | 19 | 20.4 |
| Age | | |
| Under 25 | 9 | 9.7 |
| 25+ | 84 | 90.3 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>93</i> | <i>100</i> |

Of all arrestees 7 (9.5% of males) males and 2 (10.5% of females) female, were under 25.

Table 4: Total Assessments by Main Drug of use

| | St Helens | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Other | 1 | 1.1 |
| Crack | 1 | 1.1 |
| Heroin | 85 | 91.4 |
| Methadone | 6 | 6.5 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>93</i> | <i>100</i> |

Alcohol is not included in this analysis

Main Problem Drug by Gender

The most common (main) drug amongst male arrestees was heroin (94.6%) followed by methadone (2.7%). This pattern was repeated for female arrestees with heroin being most common (78.9%) followed by methadone (21.1%).

Main Problem Drug by Age Group

The most common drug amongst the under 25 age group was also heroin (88.9%) followed by methadone (11.1%). Amongst the 25 years and older age group the pattern was repeated with heroin reported by 91.7% and methadone by 6.0% of arrestees in this age group.

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 pharmacy data in particular, is lacking attributable information for a large percentage of cases and therefore does not necessarily accurately reflect service activity.

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

Pharmacy syringe exchange data has not been presented 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 problems however, there is no data available for Pharmacy based syringe exchange within St Helens D(A)AT for the period July-September 2004.

AGENCY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Table 5: Individuals by Gender, within St Helens DAT

| New Clients | St Helens | |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Male | 19 | 90.5 |
| Female | 2 | 9.5 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>100</i> |
| All Clients | | |
| Male | 216 | 90.8 |
| Female | 22 | 9.2 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>238</i> | <i>100</i> |

Table 6: Individuals by Age Group, within St Helens DAT

| New Clients | St Helens | |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Under 25 | 8 | 38.1 |
| 25+ | 13 | 61.9 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>100</i> |
| All Clients | | |
| Under 25 | 31 | 13.0 |
| 25+ | 207 | 87.0 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>238</i> | <i>100</i> |

Of all clients 29 (13.4% of males) males and 2 (9.1% of females) females, were under 25.

Table 7: Exchanges within St Helens DAT

| Attributable Exchanges | St Helens |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| | n |
| Syringes provided | 9353 |
| Returns | 12591 |
| Non-Attributable Exchanges | |
| Syringes | N/A |
| Returns | N/A |

All Agency based syringe exchange data provided for this period was fully attributable.

Table 8: Main Drug of Use for Agency Syringe Exchange clients within St Helens DAT

| Drug of Use | St Helens | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | All | | New | |
| | n | % | n | % |
| Heroin | 105 | 44.1 | 5 | 23.8 |
| Methadone | 16 | 6.7 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Amphetamines | 19 | 8.0 | 1 | 4.8 |
| Steroids | 29 | 12.2 | 6 | 28.5 |
| Cocaine* | 2 | 0.8 | 1 | 4.8 |
| Other | 8 | 3.5 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Unknown/Missing | 32 | 13.4 | 8 | 38.1 |
| Various | 27 | 11.3 | 0 | 0.0 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>238</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>21</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 105 users (44.1% of all users) reporting it as their main, or only, drug of use. The next most common drug is steroids with 29 users (12.2% 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, 92 (87.6%) are male, whilst all steroid users reported here are male.

Table 9: Total Visits within St Helens DAT (Agency only)

| | St Helens | |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Attributable | 649 | 100 |
| Non Attributable | 0 | 0.0 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>649</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 | St Helens | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Male | 115 | 74.7 |
| Female | 39 | 25.3 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>154</i> | <i>100</i> |
| All Clients | | |
| Male | 591 | 73.0 |
| Female | 219 | 27.0 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>810</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 | St Helens | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Under 25 | 28 | 18.2 |
| 25+ | 126 | 81.8 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>154</i> | <i>100</i> |
| All Clients | | |
| Under 25 | 162 | 20.0 |
| 25+ | 648 | 80.0 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>810</i> | <i>100</i> |

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

| New Clients | St Helens | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Male | 69 | 80.2 |
| Female | 17 | 19.8 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>86</i> | <i>100</i> |
| All Clients | | |
| Male | 473 | 73.9 |
| Female | 167 | 26.1 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>640</i> | <i>100</i> |

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

| New Clients | St Helens | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Under 25 | 17 | 19.8 |
| 25+ | 69 | 80.2 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>86</i> | <i>100</i> |
| All Clients | | |
| Under 25 | 129 | 20.2 |
| 25+ | 511 | 79.8 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>640</i> | <i>100</i> |

Of all clients, 83 males (17.5% of males) and 46 females (27.5% of females), were under 25.

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

| | St Helens | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | New Clients | | All Clients | |
| | n | % | N | % |
| African | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.2 |
| Other | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.2 |
| Other Black | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.2 |
| White & Black African | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 0.2 |
| White British | 73 | 84.9 | 545 | 85.2 |
| Unknown | 12 | 13.9 | 91 | 14.2 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>86</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>640</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. No data was available for September 2004 at the time of publication.

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

| | St Helens | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Male | 10 | 71.4 |
| Female | 4 | 28.6 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>100</i> |

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

| | St Helens | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| | n | % |
| 16 | 5 | 35.7 |
| 17 | 5 | 35.7 |
| 18 | 3 | 21.4 |
| 19 | 1 | 7.1 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>100</i> |

Fig 1: Distribution of individuals by Age and Gender

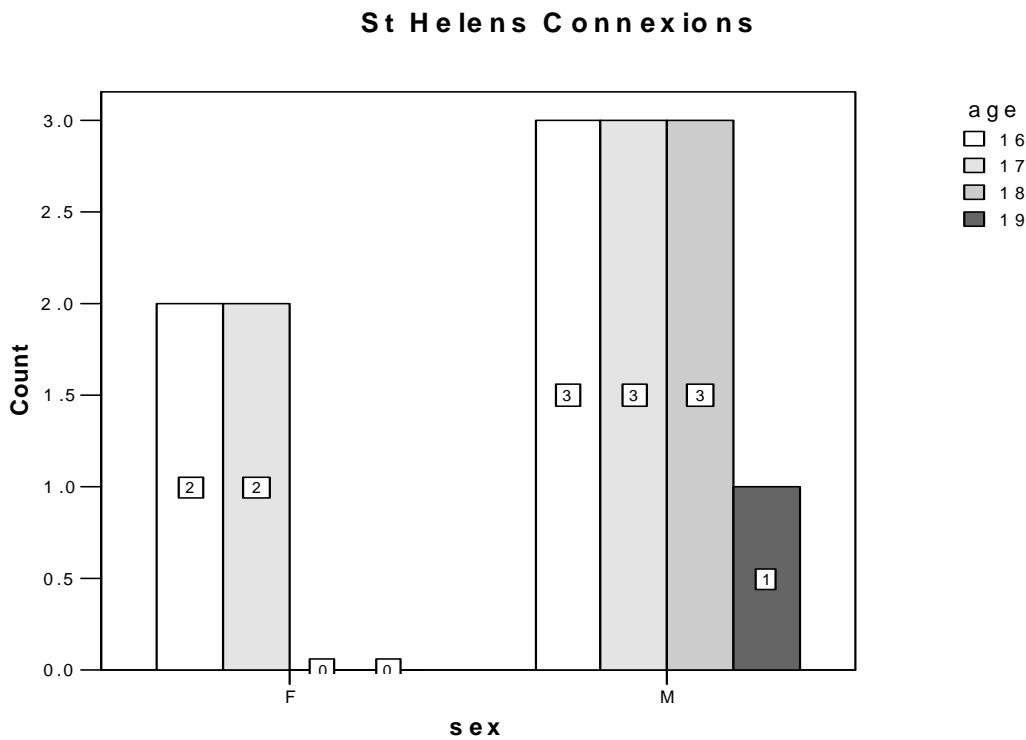


Table 22: Drug/Alcohol problem by D(A)AT of contact

| | St Helens | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| | n | % |
| Alcohol/Other | 9 | 64.3 |
| Drugs | 5 | 35.7 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>14</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 if required.

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

| St Helens | | |
|---------------|-----|------|
| Gender | n | % |
| Male | 755 | 77.4 |
| Female | 221 | 22.6 |
| <i>Totals</i> | 976 | 100 |
| Age | | |
| Under 25 | 252 | 25.8 |
| 25+ | 724 | 74.2 |
| <i>Totals</i> | 976 | 100 |

Of all males reported to the IAD for the second quarter of 2004/05, 185 (24.5%) were under 25. For female clients 67 (30.3%) were under 25.

Fig 2: Distribution of PDUs by Age Group and Gender

