



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

### **Wirral Quarterly Report**

**1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September 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 (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 Wirral D(A)AT**

Gender	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	39	78.0
Female	11	22.0
<b>Age</b>		
Under 25	23	46.0
25+	27	54.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 16 (41.0%) males and 7 (63.6%) females were under 25 years.

**Table 2: Drug and offence of arrest within Wirral D(A)AT**

Drug of Arrest	Wirral	
	n	%
Cocaine	7	43.7
Crack	2	12.5
MDMA	1	6.3
Heroin	6	37.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Drug Offences</b>		
Possession of Class A	12	24.0
Supply of Class A	0	0.0
Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs	38	76.0
<i>Totals*</i>	<i>50</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 cocaine with 7 people being arrested for that offence (58.3% of arrests for Possession of Class A) followed by heroin with 3 people (25.0%) being arrested for Possession of that drug.

Arrests for Possession with Intent to Supply were primarily for heroin, with 3 people being arrested for that (75% of those arrested for Possession with Intent). There were no arrests for Supply of Class A in this period.

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 or available 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 Wirral D(A)AT**

Gender	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	40	80.0
Female	10	20.0
Age		
Under 25	4	8.0
25+	46	92.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 4 (10.0%) males and no females were under 25. It should be noted here that there were a number of assessments where consent was not given for information sharing. Consequently these are not included in the analyses.

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

Drug	Wirral	
	n	%
Cocaine	4	8.0
Crack	22	44.0
Heroin	29	58.0
Methadone	21	42.0

Alcohol is not included in analyses.

The original data allows for more than one drug to be recorded per individual. Consequently, the percentages given in Table 4 are as a proportion of the total number of individuals, as detailed in Table 3.

### Problem Drugs used by Arrestees

The individuals reported here were assessed and reported using the old style Arrest Referral form, as opposed to the recently introduced ITMDF. The old style form does not allow for recording of a 'main problem drug' (as with the ITMDF) but rather, records drugs used over the past 30 days. It can therefore be reported that 28 (56%) individuals reported more than one drug in the 30 days preceding their assessment and that 7 (14%) reported using 3 or more drugs in the same period.

## 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 in this area.

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 Wirral D(A)AT**

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	46	93.9
Female	3	6.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	255	91.1
Female	25	8.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 6: Individuals by Age Group, within Wirral D(A)AT**

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Under 25	12	24.5
25+	37	75.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	22	7.9
25+	258	92.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>100</i>

Twenty-one male clients and one female client were under 25 years old.

**Table 7: Exchanges within Wirral D(A)AT**

Attributable Exchanges	Wirral
	n
Syringes provided	33552
Returns	48453
Non-Attributable Exchanges	
Syringes	24707
Returns	34259

**Table 8: Main Drug of Use for Agency Syringe Exchange clients within Wirral D(A)AT**

Drug	Wirral			
	All		New	
	n	%	n	%
Heroin	127	45.4	15	30.6
Methadone	23	8.2	0	0.0
Amphetamines	10	3.6	0	0.0
Steroids	86	30.7	34	69.4
Cocaine*	8	2.8	0	0.0
Other	2	0.7	0	0.0
Unknown/Missing	24	8.6	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>100</i>

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

\*Including Crack

**Table 9: Total Visits within Wirral D(A)AT (Agency only)**

	Wirral	
	n	%
Attributable	408	38.1
Non Attributable	662	61.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>1070</i>	<i>100</i>

## PHARMACY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

**Table 10: Individuals, by Gender, Wirral D(A)AT**

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	103	85.1
Female	18	14.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	176	82.6
Female	37	17.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 11: Individuals, by Age Group, within Wirral D(A)AT**

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Under 25	6	5.0
25+	115	95.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	6	2.8
25+	207	97.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 4 males (2.3% of males) and 2 females (5.4% of females) were under 25 years.

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

	Wirral	
	n	%
Attributable	394	89.2
Non Attributable	48	10.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>442</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>	n	%
Male	136	87.7
Female	19	12.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Male	405	88.0
Female	55	12.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>460</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Age Group</b>		
<b>New Clients</b>	n	%
Under 25	18	11.6
25+	137	88.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Under 25	28	6.1
25+	432	93.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>460</i>	<i>100</i>

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

	Wirral	
	n	%
Attributable	802	53.0
Non Attributable	710	47.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1512</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	Wirral	
	No.	%
Male	112	76.2
Female	35	23.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	1303	69.7
Female	566	30.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>1869</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	Wirral	
	No.	%
Under 25	25	17.0
25+	122	83.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	268	14.3
25+	1601	85.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>1869</i>	<i>100</i>

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

New Clients	Wirral	
	No.	%
Male	104	75.9
Female	33	24.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	1324	69.6
Female	578	30.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>1902</i>	<i>100</i>

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

New Clients	Wirral	
	No.	%
Under 25	26	19.0
25+	111	81.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	284	14.9
25+	1618	85.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>1902</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 163 males (12.3% of males) and 121 females (20.5% of females), were under 25 years.

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

Ethnicity	Wirral			
	New Clients		All Clients	
	n	%	n	%
African	0	0.0	1	0.05
Caribbean	2	1.4	6	0.3
Other	0	0.0	2	0.1
Other Asian	0	0.0	1	0.05
Other Mixed	0	0.0	5	0.3
Other White	0	0.0	2	0.1
Other Black	0	0.0	2	0.1
White & Black Caribbean	0	0.0	5	0.3
White British	98	71.5	1738	91.4
White Irish	0	0.0	5	0.3
Unknown	37	27.0	135	7.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>1902</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 in time for publication of this report.

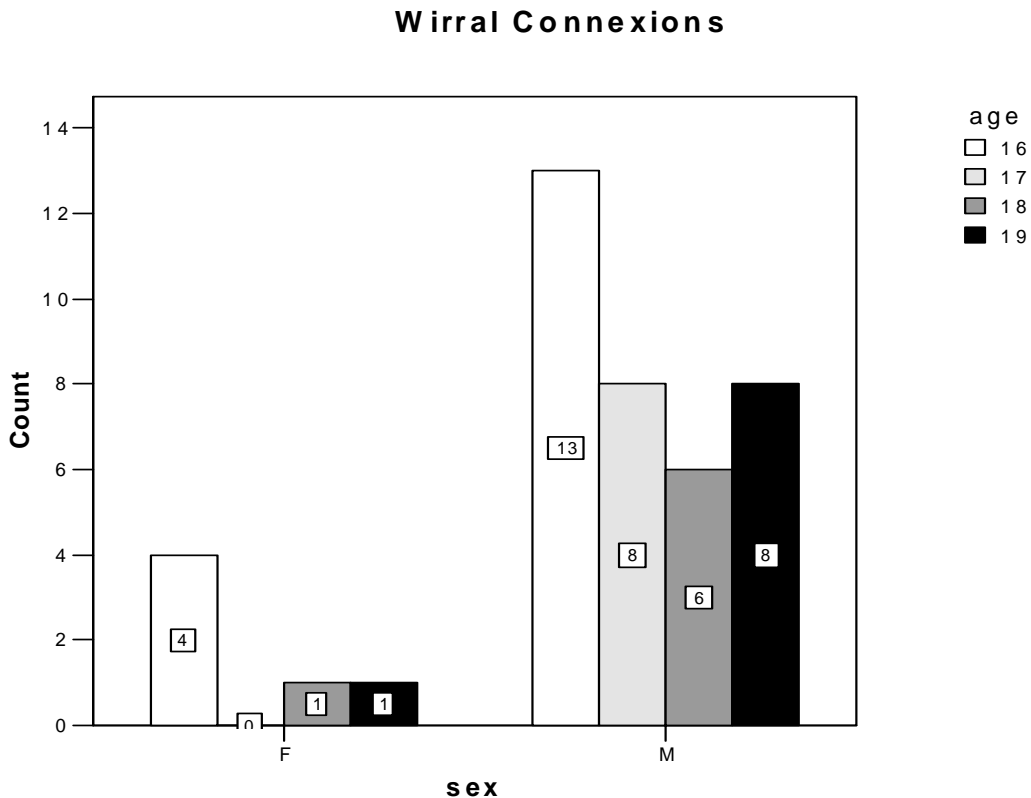
**Table 20: Gender by D(A)AT of contact**

	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	35	85.4
Female	6	14.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>100</i>

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

	Wirral	
	n	%
16	17	41.5
17	8	19.5
18	7	17.1
19	9	22.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>100</i>

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



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

	Wirral	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	22	53.7
Drugs	19	46.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>41</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**

Wirral		
Gender	n	%
Male	1767	72.2
Female	682	27.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2449</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
Under 25	501	20.5
25+	1948	79.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2449</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the second quarter of 2004/05, 337 (19.1%) were under 25. For female clients 164 (24.0%) were under 25.

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

