



Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database

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Liverpool D(A)AT

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 Liverpool D(A)AT

Gender	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	303	89.1
Female	37	10.9
Age		
Under 25	200	58.8
25+	140	41.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all arrestees, 188 (62.0%) males and 12 (32.4%) females were under 25 years.

Table 2: Drug and drug offence of arrest within Liverpool D(A)AT

Drug of Arrest	Liverpool	
	n	%
Cocaine	46	13.5
Crack	21	6.2
MDMA	20	5.9
Methadone	2	0.6
Heroin	23	6.8
Other Class A	14	4.1
Unknown	214	62.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>100</i>
Drug Offences		
Possession of Class A	101	29.7
Supply of Class A	23	6.8
Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs	2	0.6
Other Charge	214	62.9
<i>Totals*</i>	<i>340</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 43 (42.6% of individuals arrested for Possession) individuals being arrested for that offence, followed equally by heroin and MDMA with 20 (19.8%) individuals. Arrests for Possession with Intent to Supply Class A Drugs were all for 'Other Class A', with 2 (100% of those arrested for this offence) individuals reported as being arrested for that drug. Arrests for Supply of Class A drugs were primarily for 'Other Class A' with 10 (43.5% of those arrested for this offence) followed by crack with 7 (30.4%) individuals arrested for that drug.

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 Liverpool D(A)AT

Gender	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	139	67.8
Female	66	32.2
Age		
Under 25	14	6.8
25+	191	93.2
<i>Total individuals</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all AR clients 10 males (7.2% of males) and 4 females (6.1% of females) were under 25 years old.

Table 4: Total assessments by drug of use, within Liverpool D(A)AT

Drug of Use	Liverpool	
	n	%
Amphetamines	2	1.0
Cocaine	4	1.9
Crack	9	4.4
Heroin	153	74.6
Methadone	14	6.8
Cannabis	8	3.9
Unknown/other	15	7.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>100</i>

Alcohol was not included in this analysis.

Main problem drug by gender

Amongst male AR clients the most common drug was heroin (72.7% of male AR clients). The pattern for female AR clients was much the same, with heroin being most common (78.8%).

Main problem drug by age group

Amongst AR clients under 25 years old cannabis was the most common drug (50% of those under 25). For those 25 years and older the most common drug was heroin (98.7%).

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.

AGENCY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Table 5: Individuals by gender, within Liverpool D(A)AT

New Clients	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	57	82.6
Female	12	17.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	363	87.9
Female	50	12.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>413</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 6: Individuals by age group, within Liverpool D(A)AT

New Clients	Liverpool	
	n	%
Under 25	5	7.2
25+	64	92.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	62	15.0
25+	351	85.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>413</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all Agency based syringe exchange clients reported to the IAD for this period, 59 males (16.3% of males) and 3 females (6.0% of females) were under 25 years old.

Table 7: Exchanges within Liverpool D(A)AT

Attributable Exchanges	Liverpool
	n
Syringes provided	17723
Returns	16233
Non-Attributable Exchanges	
Syringes	9111
Returns	28918

Table 8: Main drug of use for Agency syringe exchange clients within Liverpool D(A)AT

Drug of Use	Liverpool			
	All clients		New clients	
	n	%	n	%
Heroin	140	33.9	42	60.9
Methadone	4	1.0	2	2.9
Amphetamines	24	5.8	0	0.0
Steroids	157	38.0	20	29.0
Cocaine*	5	1.2	2	2.8
Other	76	18.4	3	4.3
Unknown/Missing	7	1.7	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>413</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>100</i>

*Including Crack

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

The two main drugs of use reported by Agency syringe exchanges for this period were heroin and steroids. Of those reporting heroin as their main drug of use, a total of 113 were Male (31.1% of all Males reported) and 27 were Female (54.4% of Females). A total of 4 (6.5%) of injecting heroin users were under 25.

A total of 155 steroid users were male (42.7 % of male injectors in the dataset). Two female (4.0% of female injectors) was also reported as using steroids. Fifty-four steroid users were under 25, (87.1% of injectors under 25).

Table 9: Total visits within Liverpool D(A)AT

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Attributable	504	58.7
Non Attributable	354	41.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>858</i>	<i>100</i>

PHARMACY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

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 nine months from July 2004 to March 2005, 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.

Table 10: Individuals, by gender, within Liverpool D(A)AT

New Clients	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	105	85.4
Female	18	14.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	576	78.8
Female	155	21.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>731</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 11: Individuals, by age group, within Liverpool D(A)AT

	Liverpool	
	n	%
New Clients		
Under 25	10	8.1
25+	113	91.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	31	4.2
25+	700	95.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>731</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 24 males (4.2% of males) and 7 females (4.5% of females) were under 25 years old.

Table 12: Total visits within Liverpool D(A)AT (Pharmacy only)

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Attributable	1150	62.1
Non Attributable	703	37.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>1853</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: Total number of individuals in syringe exchange within Liverpool D(A)AT

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Gender		
New Clients		
Male	163	84.5
Female	30	15.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	916	82.3
Female	197	17.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>1113</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
New Clients		
Under 25	16	8.3
25+	177	91.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	92	8.3
25+	1021	91.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>1113</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 14: Total visits within Liverpool D(A)AT

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Attributable	1654	61.0
Non Attributable	1057	39.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>2711</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 original data. The D(A)AT referred to is D(A)AT of treatment unless otherwise specified. Figures are provisional.

Table 15: Number of people in contact with treatment services in Liverpool, by gender and D(A)AT of residence

	Liverpool	
	No.	%
New Clients		
Male	359	74.3
Female	124	25.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>483</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	1938	68.0
Female	913	32.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>2851</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 16: Number of people in contact with treatment services in Liverpool, by age group and D(A)AT of residence

	Liverpool	
	No.	%
New Clients		
Under 25	44	9.1
25+	439	90.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>483</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	335	11.8
25+	2516	88.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>2851</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 17: Individuals in contact with treatment services in Liverpool, by gender and D(A)AT of treatment

	Liverpool	
	No.	%
New Clients		
Male	343	72.7
Female	129	27.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>472</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	1887	67.7
Female	902	32.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>2789</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 18: Individuals in contact with treatment services in Liverpool, by age group and D(A)AT of treatment

	Liverpool	
	No.	%
New Clients		
Under 25	36	7.6
25+	436	92.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>472</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	317	11.4
25+	2472	88.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>2789</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients (based on D(A)AT of treatment), 186 males (9.9% of males) and 131 females (14.5% of females), were under 25 years old.

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

Ethnicity	Liverpool			
	New Clients		All Clients	
	n	%	n	%
African	3	0.8	6	0.2
Caribbean	1	0.2	5	0.2
Chinese	0	0.0	8	0.3
Indian	0	0.0	1	0.1
Other	8	1.7	22	0.7
Other Asian	1	0.2	2	0.1
Other Black	2	0.4	16	0.5
Other Mixed	1	0.2	7	0.3
Other White	4	0.8	38	1.4
Pakistani	2	0.4	2	0.1
White & Asian	0	0.0	2	0.1
White & Black African	0	0.0	2	0.1
White & Black Caribbean	1	0.2	3	0.1
White British	366	77.5	2330	83.4
White Irish	0	0.0	10	0.4
Unknown	83	17.6	335	12.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>472</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>2789</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 20: Clients by gender within Liverpool D(A)AT

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	56	75.7
Female	18	24.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>100</i>

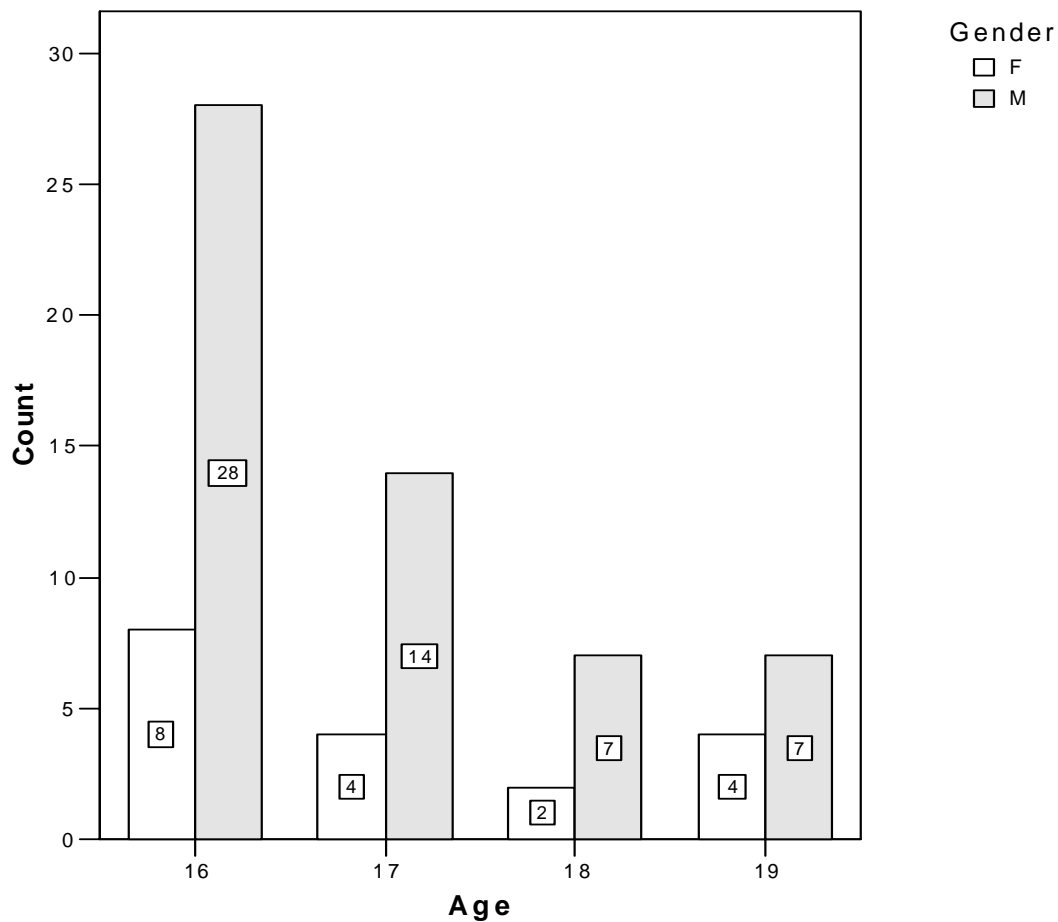
Table 21: Clients by age within Liverpool D(A)AT

	Liverpool	
	n	%
16	36	48.6
17	18	24.3
18	9	12.2
19	11	14.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 22: Number of clients with drug or alcohol problems within Liverpool D(A)AT

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	22	29.7
Drugs	52	70.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>100</i>

Fig 1: Distribution of clients by Age and Gender



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. Note that, for those in the Connexions dataset, only individuals with a reported drug problem were included.

Further information is available from the IAD Manager.

Table 21: Total Problem Drug Users (PDUs) reported to the IAD for Liverpool D(A)AT, by gender and age

Gender	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	2899	72.3
Female	1113	27.7
Age		
Under 25	645	16.1
25+	3367	83.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>4012</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the third quarter of 2004/05, 477 (16.5%) were under 25. For female clients 168 (15.1%) were under 25.

Fig 2: Distribution of PDUs by age group and gender

