



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

**1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004**

### **St Helens Quarterly Report**

**Martin Chandler,  
Jim McVeigh, Adam Marr 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>

# Contents

	<u>Page</u>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Arrests under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971)</b>	<b>2</b>
Table 1: No. arrested for Class A drug offences, by gender, within St Helens DAT	
Table 2: Drug and drug offence of arrest within St Helens DAT	
<b>Arrest Referral</b>	<b>3</b>
Table 3: Individuals assessed, by gender and age group, within St Helens DAT	
Table 4: Total assessments by main drug of use, within St Helens DAT	
<b>Syringe Exchange Services</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pharmacy</b>	
Table 5: Individuals by gender, within St Helens DAT	
Table 6: Individuals by age group, within St Helens DAT	
Table 7: Total visits within St Helens DAT	
<b>Structured Drug Treatment (NDTMS)</b>	<b>5</b>
Table 8: Individuals in contact with treatment services in St Helens by gender and D(A)AT of residence	
Table 9: Individuals in contact with treatment services in St Helens by age group and D(A)AT of residence.	
Table 10: Individuals in contact with treatment services in St Helens by gender and D(A)AT of treatment.	
Table 11: Individuals in contact with treatment services in St Helens by age group and D(A)AT of treatment.	
Table 12: Ethnicity of people in structured drug treatment in St Helens by DAT of treatment	
<b>Connexions</b>	<b>7</b>
Table 13: Clients by gender within St Helens DAT	
Table 14: Clients by age within St Helens DAT	
Table 15: Number of Connexions clients with drug or alcohol problems in St Helens DAT	
Fig 1: Distribution of clients by Age and Gender	
<b>Combined Datasets</b>	<b>8</b>
Table 16: Total problem drug users (PDU's) reported to the IAD for St Helens DAT, by gender and age	
Fig 2: Distribution of PDUs by age group and gender	

## 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	49	89.1
Female	6	10.9
Age		
Under 25	23	41.8
25+	32	58.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>100</i>

Of the male arrestees 21 (42.9%) were under 25, with 2 (33.3%) females being under 25.

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

Drug of Arrest	St Helens	
	n	%
Cocaine	12	21.8
Crack	1	1.8
Heroin	5	9.0
Methadone	1	1.8
Unknown	36	65.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>100</i>
Drug Offences		
Possession of Class A	19	34.5
Other charge	36	65.5
<i>Totals*</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>100</i>

Arrests for Possession of Class A were predominantly for cocaine with 12 people being arrested for that offence (63.2% of arrests for Possession of Class A). There were no recorded arrests for either Supply or Possession with Intent to Supply Class A.

## 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	37	82.2
Female	8	17.8
Age		
Under 25	8	82.2
25+	37	17.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients 6 (16.2% of males) males and 2 (25.0% of females) female, were under 25.

**Table 4: Total assessments by main drug of use within St Helens DAT**

	St Helens	
	n	%
Amphetamines	4	8.9
Cannabis	1	2.2
Heroin	37	82.2
Methadone	3	6.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>100</i>

Alcohol is not included in this analysis

### Main problem drug by gender

The most common (main) drug amongst male clients was heroin (86.5%) followed by amphetamines (8.1%). For female clients heroin was most common (62.5%) with amphetamines and cannabis equal second (12.5% each).

### Main problem drug by age group

The most common drug amongst the under 25 age group was also heroin (62.5%). Amongst the 25 years and older age group heroin was also reported as their main drug (86.5%).

# 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.

## Agency syringe exchange monitoring

Due to technical problems there is no data for agency based syringe exchange within St Helens for the period October – December 2004. The Centre for Public Health and the IAD are working closely with St Helens CDT to resolve the problems as they make the transition from paper based monitoring to an electronic database. The majority of problems have been resolved and it is anticipated that reporting will resume as normal for the next quarterly report.

## PHARMACY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

### Pharmacy syringe monitoring

There has been a significant downturn in reporting of Pharmacy based syringe exchange in the six 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 in this area.

**Table 5: Individuals by gender, within St Helens DAT**

New Clients*	St Helens	
	n	%
Male	-	-
Female	-	-
<i>Totals</i>	-	-
All Clients		
Male	5	100
Female	0	0.0
<i>Totals</i>	5	100

\*There were no new clients reported for pharmacy based syringe exchange in this period. This is based on attributable information only.

**Table 6: Individuals by age group, within St Helens DAT**

All Clients	St Helens	
	n	%
Under 25	0	0.0
25+	5	100
<i>Totals</i>	5	100

**Table 7: Total visits within St Helens DAT**

	St Helens	
	n	%
Attributable	6	85.7
Non Attributable	1	14.3
<i>Total</i>	7	100

## 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 unless otherwise specified.

**Table 8: Individuals in contact with treatment services in St Helens, by gender and D(A)AT of residence**

	St Helens	
<b>New Clients</b>	No.	%
Male	86	73.5
Female	31	26.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Male	511	73.0
Female	189	27.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 9: Individuals in contact with treatment services in St Helens, by age group and D(A)AT of residence**

	St Helens	
<b>New Clients</b>	No.	%
Under 25	18	15.4
25+	99	84.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Under 25	141	20.1
25+	559	79.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 10: Individuals in contact with treatment services in St Helens, by gender and D(A)AT of treatment**

	St Helens	
<b>New Clients</b>	No.	%
Male	68	70.8
Female	28	29.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Male	475	72.7
Female	178	27.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>653</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 11: Individuals in contact with treatment services in St Helens, by age group and D(A)AT of treatment**

	St Helens	
<b>New Clients</b>	No.	%
Under 25	17	17.7
25+	79	82.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>All Clients</b>		
Under 25	132	20.2
25+	521	79.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>653</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients (based on D(A)AT of treatment), 90 males (18.9% of males) and 42 females (23.6% of females), were under 25.

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

Ethnicity	St Helens			
	New Clients		All Clients	
	n	%	n	%
African	0	0.0	1	0.2
Other	0	0.0	2	0.3
Other Black	0	0.0	2	0.3
White & Black Caribbean	0	0.0	1	0.2
White British	87	90.6	615	94.2
Unknown	9	9.4	32	4.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>653</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 13: Clients by gender within St Helens DAT**

	St Helens	
	n	%
Male	9	64.3
Female	5	35.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>100</i>

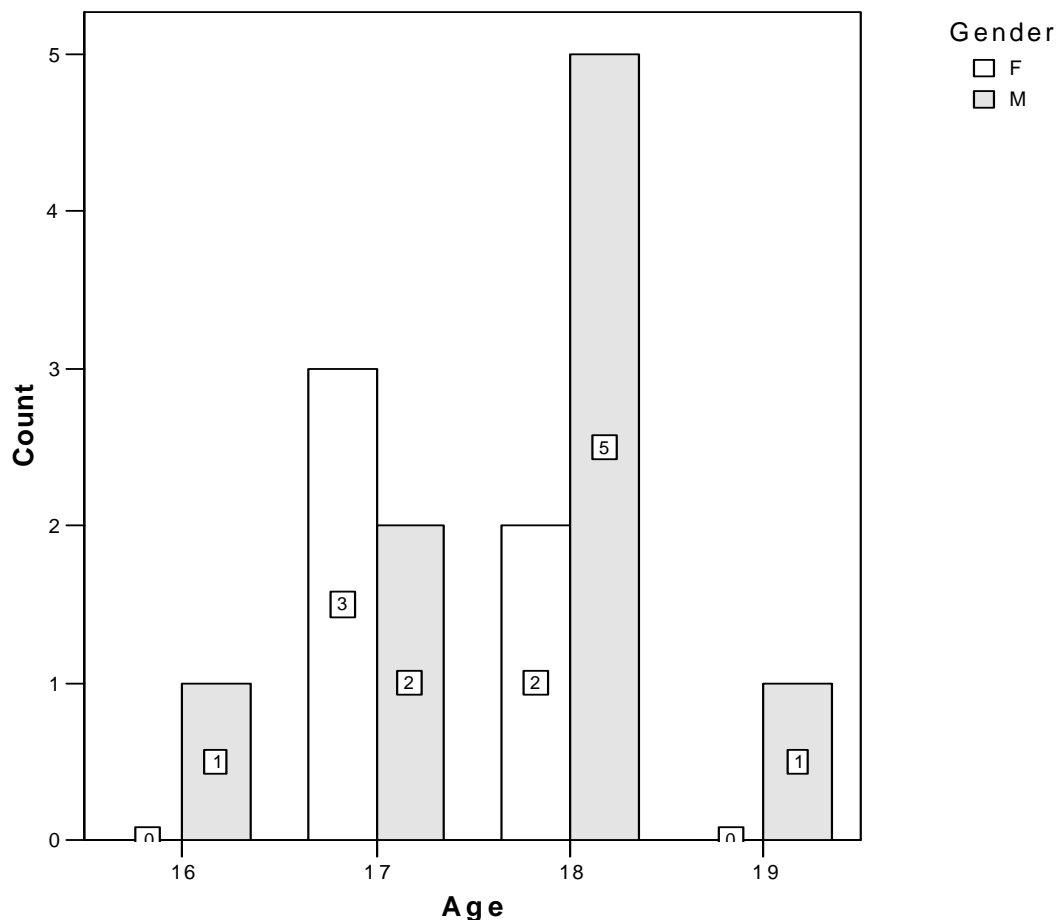
**Table 14: Clients by age within St Helens DAT**

	St Helens	
	n	%
16	1	7.1
17	5	35.7
18	7	50.0
19	1	7.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>100</i>

**Table 15: Number of Connexions clients with drug or alcohol problems in St Helens DAT**

	St Helens	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	7	50.0
Drugs	7	50.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>14</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. Further information is available from the IAD Manager if required.

**Table 16: Total problem drug users (PDUs) reported to the IAD for St Helens DAT, by gender and age**

Gender	St Helens	
	n	%
Male	546	73.8
Female	194	26.2
Age		
Under 25	172	23.2
25+	568	76.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>740</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the third quarter of 2004/05, 122 (22.3%) were under 25. For female clients 50 (25.8%) were under 25.

**Fig 2: Distribution of PDU's reported to the IAD for St Helens DAT, by age group and gender**

