

Cocaine Implicated Deaths Liverpool & Wirral

April 2020 - March 2023

“Cocaine deaths rise for the tenth consecutive year” (ONS)

Office of National Statistics analysis of cocaine related deaths for 2021 saw an increase of 8.1% from 777 to 840, with males accounting for 77% (n=645).

- ▶ It is suggested that the rise in cocaine related deaths is a consequence of the increasing prevalence in cocaine use with the UK known as the ‘Cocaine capital of Europe’
- ▶ Latest information available shows Europe and the UK are amongst the highest global consumers of cocaine
- ▶ Global production of pure cocaine increased by 16% to over 2000 tonnes in 2021
- ▶ Estimate of 117 tonnes of cocaine available across Great Britain (2021)
- ▶ Cocaine has been readily available for a long time at low prices and high purity
- ▶ A dominant risk of cocaine use is its impact on cardiac and circulatory function

1) <https://academic.oup.com/jat/article/47/3/207/6972462?login=true>

2) https://www.unodc.org/res/wdr2022/MS/WDR22_Booklet_1.pdf

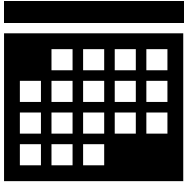
3) <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/533-national-strategic-assessment-of-serious-and-organised-crime-2021/file>

4) https://www.unodc.org/res/WDR-2023/Special_Points_WDR2023_web_DP.pdf

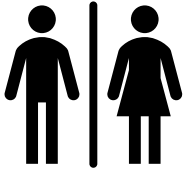
5) https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/edr/trends-developments/2022_en

6) <https://academic.oup.com/jat/article/47/3/207/6972462?login=true>

Liverpool cocaine related deaths



56 records reported to IMS between April 2020 and March 2023 where cocaine was an implicated substance



84% of cases reported were male (n=47)



Individuals ranged from age 28-71 (average of 49)



71% (n=40) of cases were reported by the coroner

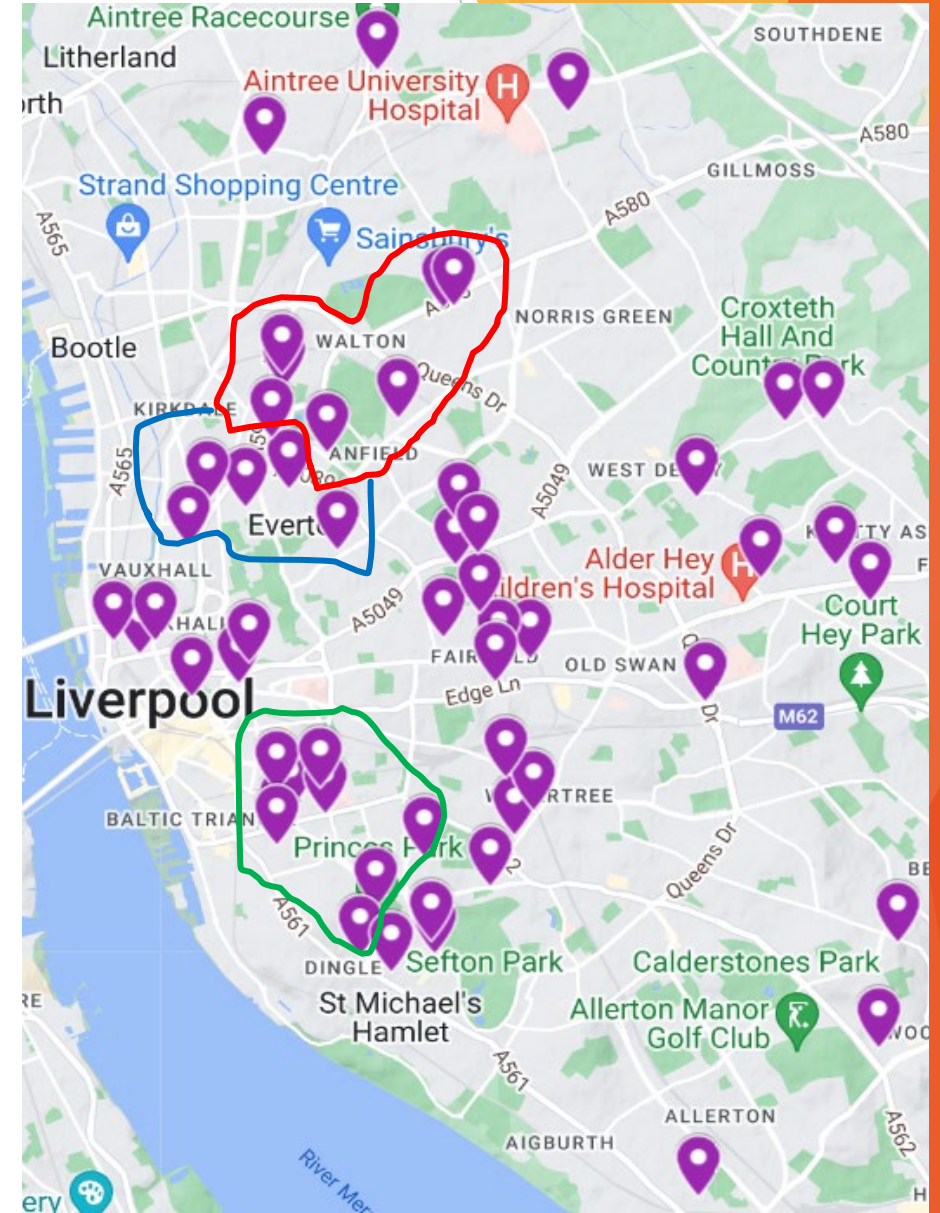
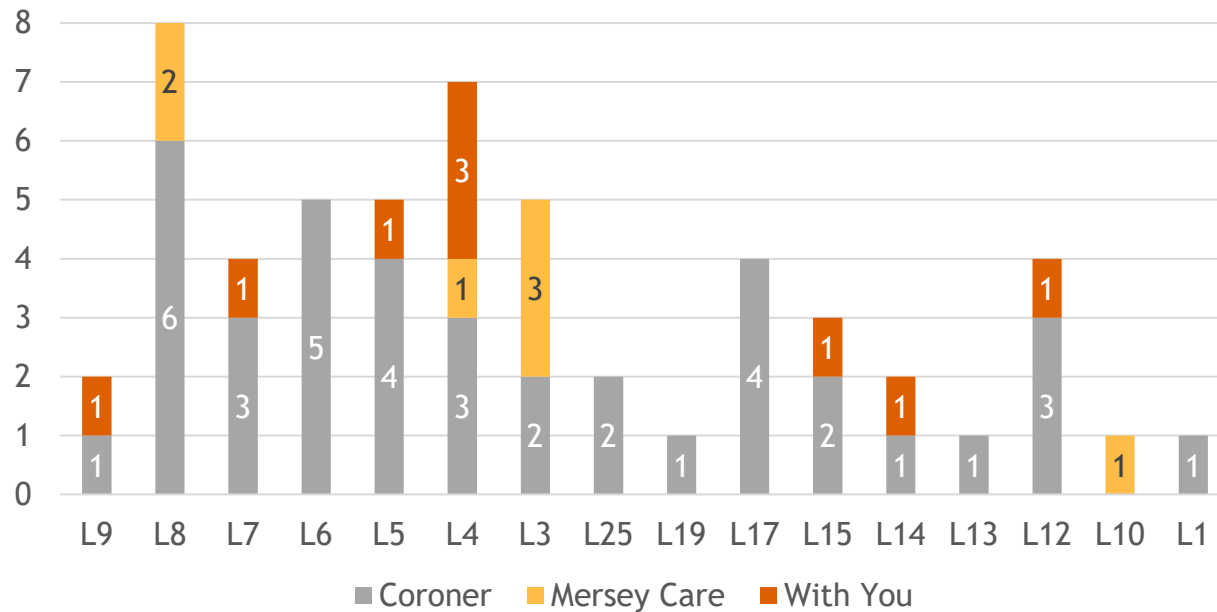
Residing area

L8 Postcode area total of 8 (14% of total cases)

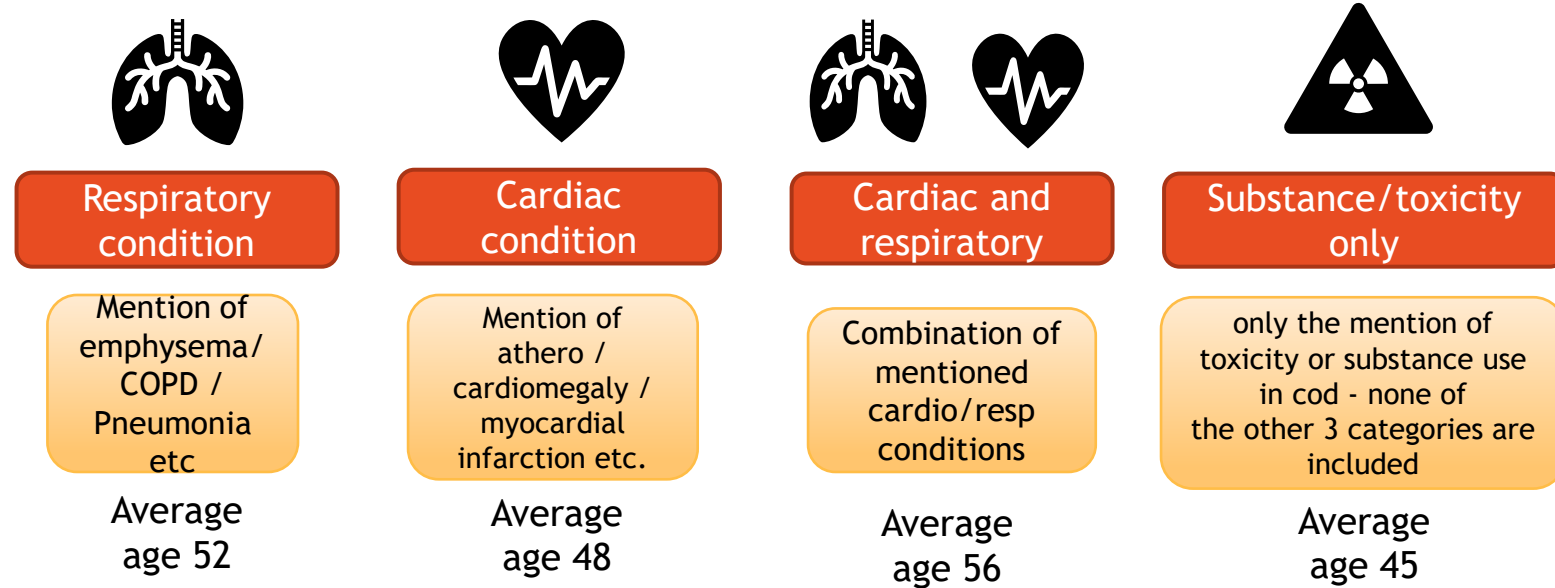
L4 area total of 7 records

L5 area - 5 records with 4 reported by the coroner

Cocaine implicated deaths by residing postcode



Cause of death

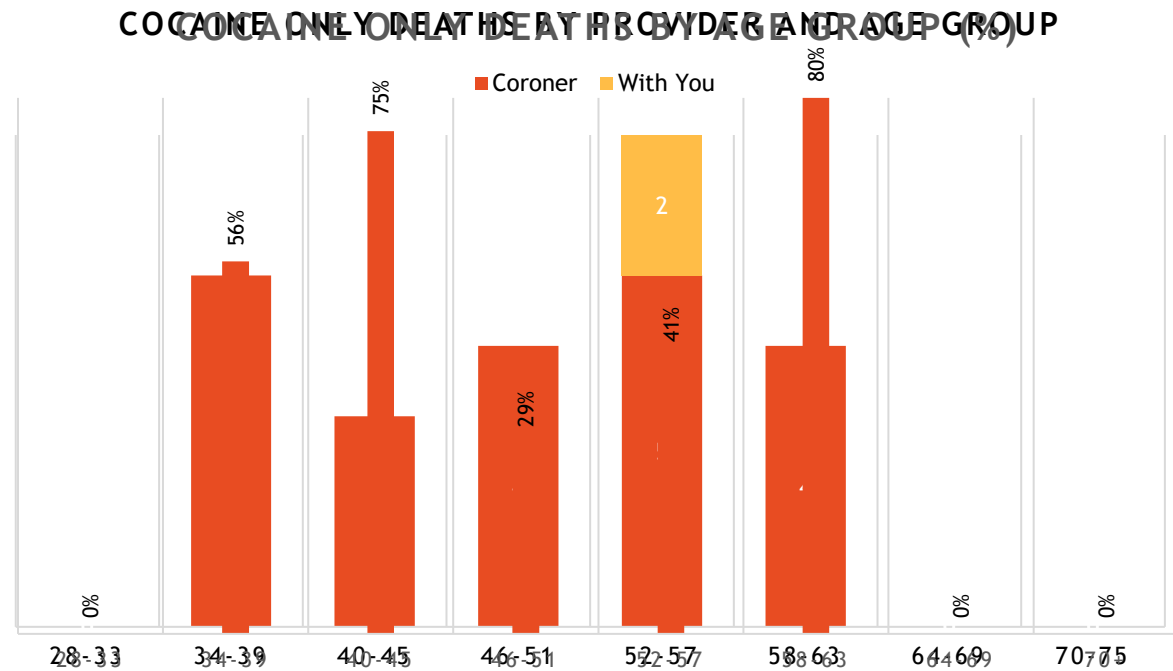


The average Benzoylcegonine (BZE) levels for individuals in the Substance /Toxicity only category was 3809ng/mL compared to 1558ng/mL for the remaining 35 DRD cases where BZE was detected.

Those aged 52-57 had the highest number of cardiac deaths (n=8).

Cocaine only deaths

- ▶ 41% (n=23) individuals had cocaine listed as the only implicated substance
- ▶ 52-57 age group had the highest number of cocaine only deaths (n=7)
- ▶ 80% of the overall cohort of those aged 58-63 had cocaine as the only implicated substance

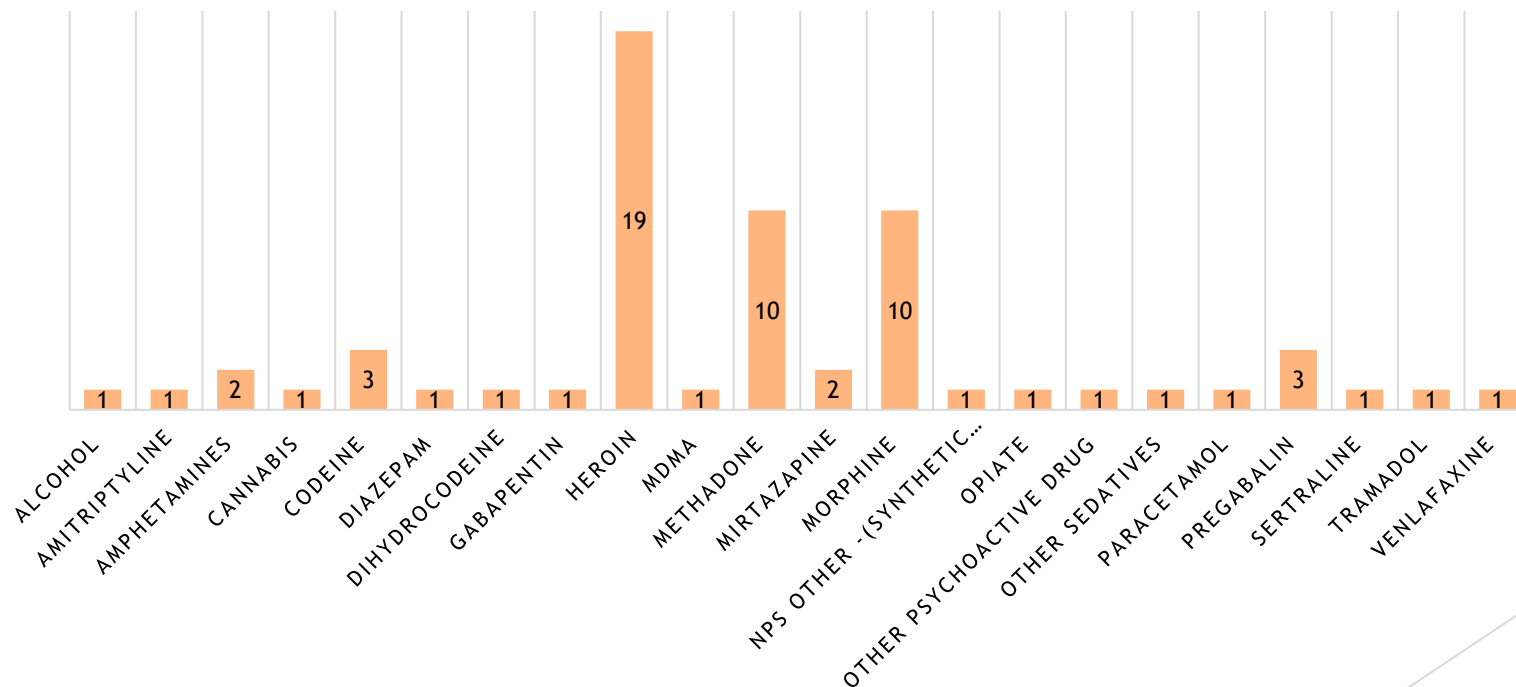


Other implicated substances

> 22 other substances were recorded alongside cocaine a total of 54 times with 72% of these being heroin, morphine and methadone (n= 39)

> Heroin was the highest substance recorded with cocaine having occurred in 19 DRD cases

OTHER IMPLICATED SUBSTANCES



What is happening in Liverpool?



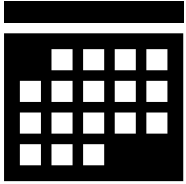
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Anyone who comes into treatment at Brook Place has a full physical assessment and an ECG

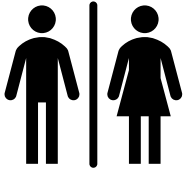


In process of developing a pathway that supports those who are using cocaine including full health and wellbeing assessments and ECGs

Wirral Cocaine related deaths



31 records reported to IMS between April 2020 and March 2023 where cocaine was an implicated substance



77% (n=24) of cases reported were male (n=24)



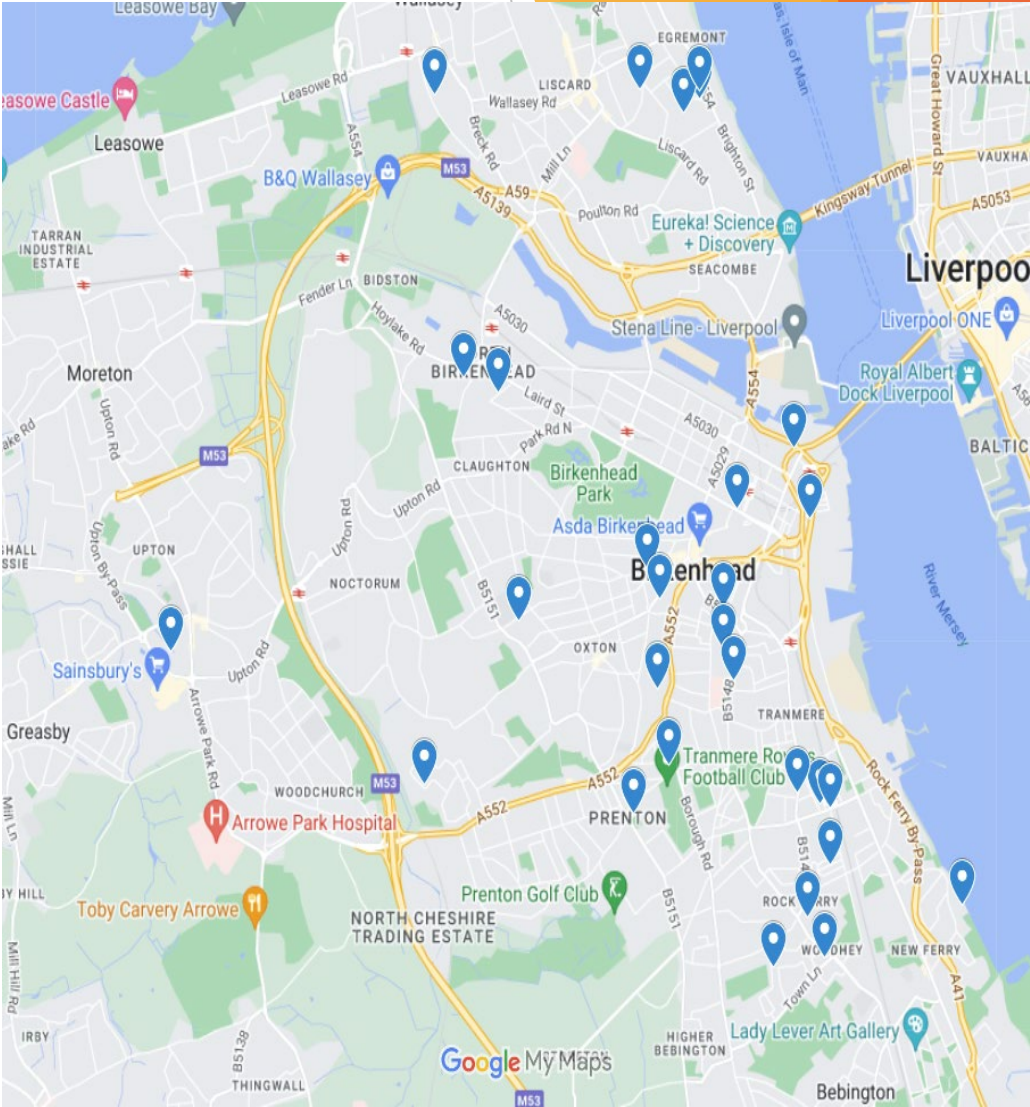
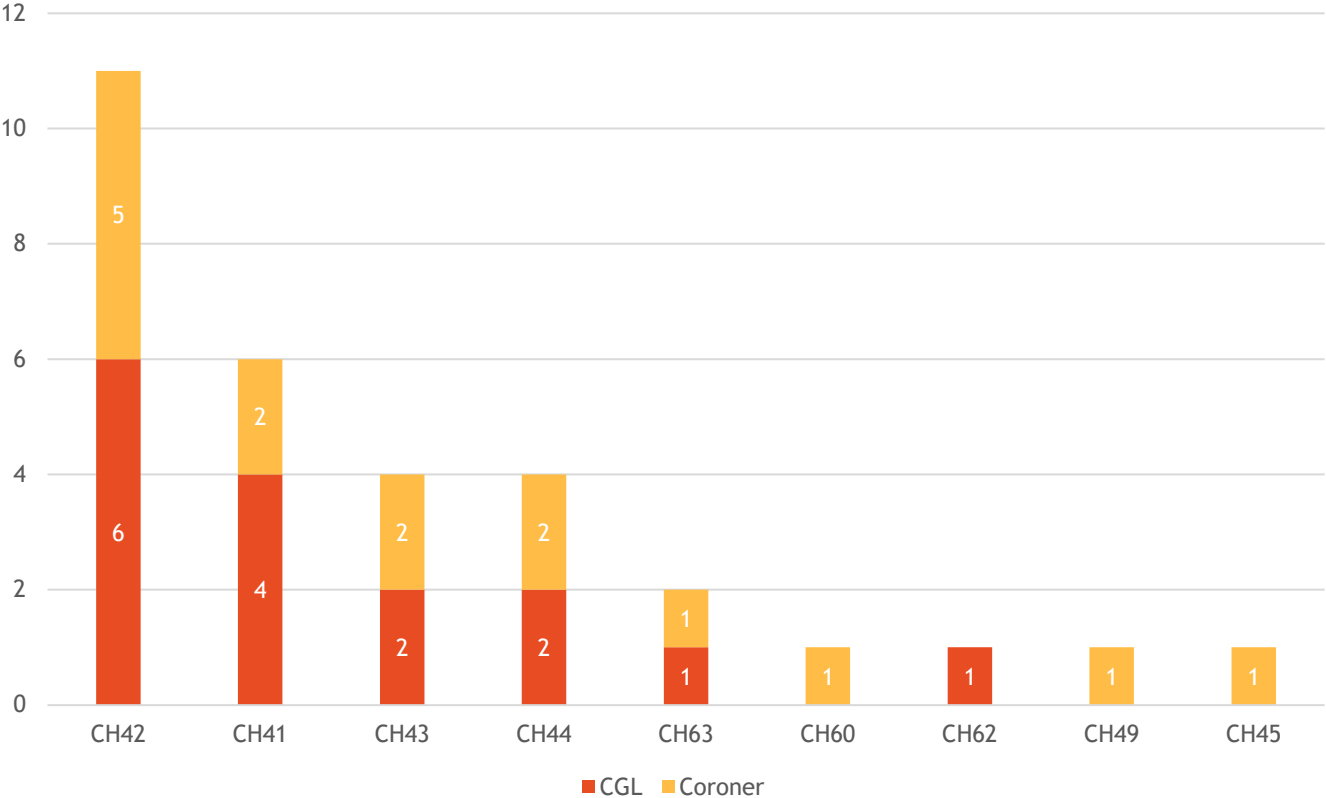
Individuals ranged from age 20-56 (average of 43)



48% (n=15) of cases were reported by the coroner

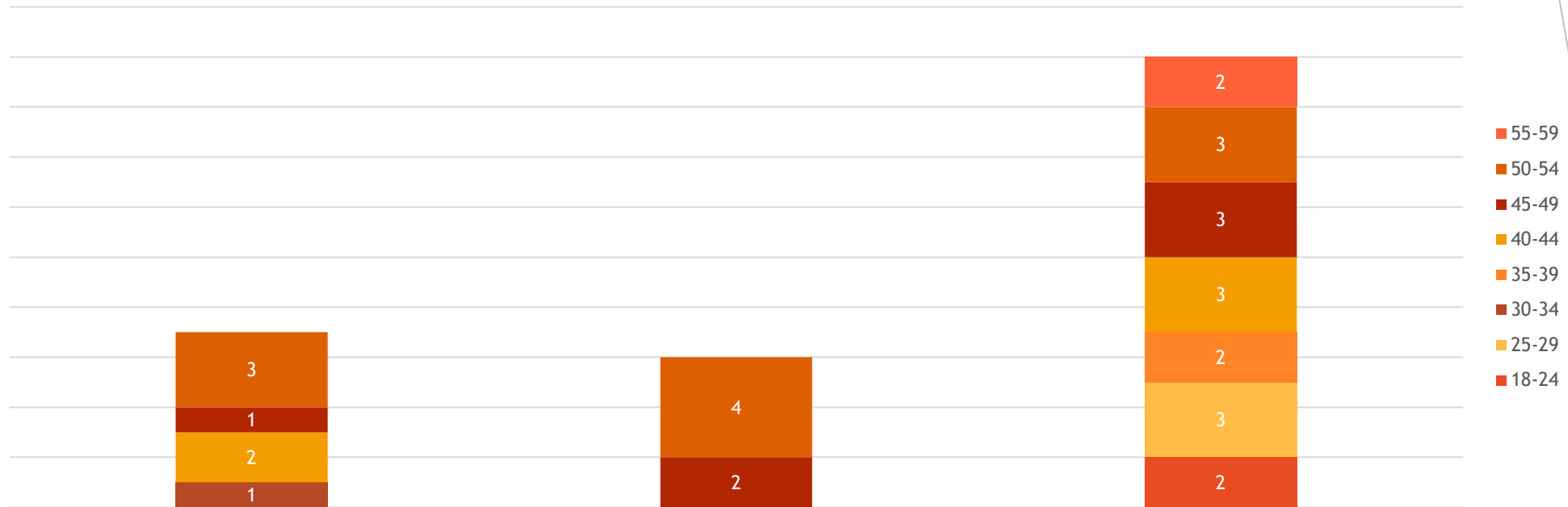
Residing area

Wirral cocaine related deaths Apr 20 - Mar 23 by reporting agency and postcode



Cause of death

Wirral cocaine related deaths Apr 20 - Mar 23 by cause of death



Cardiac
condition

Average
age 45



Respiratory
condition

Average
age 51



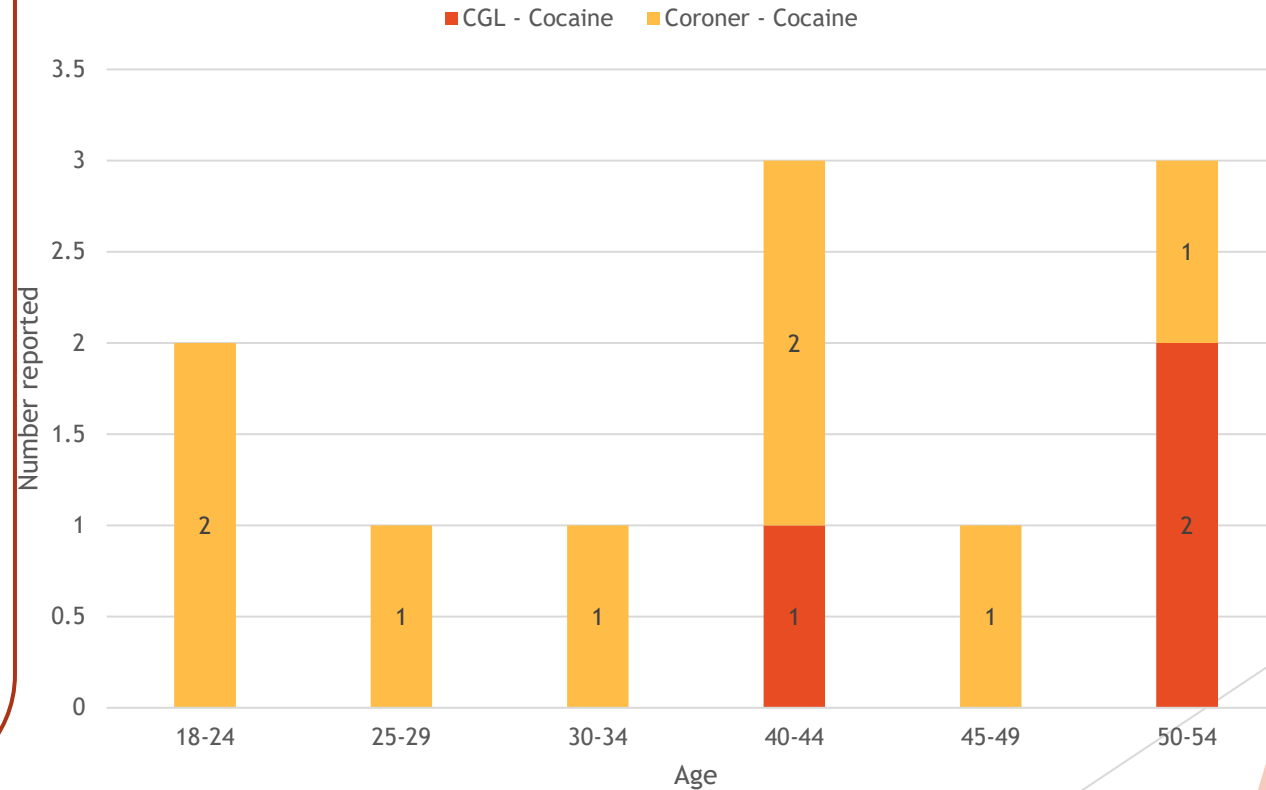
Substance/toxicity
only

Average
age 41

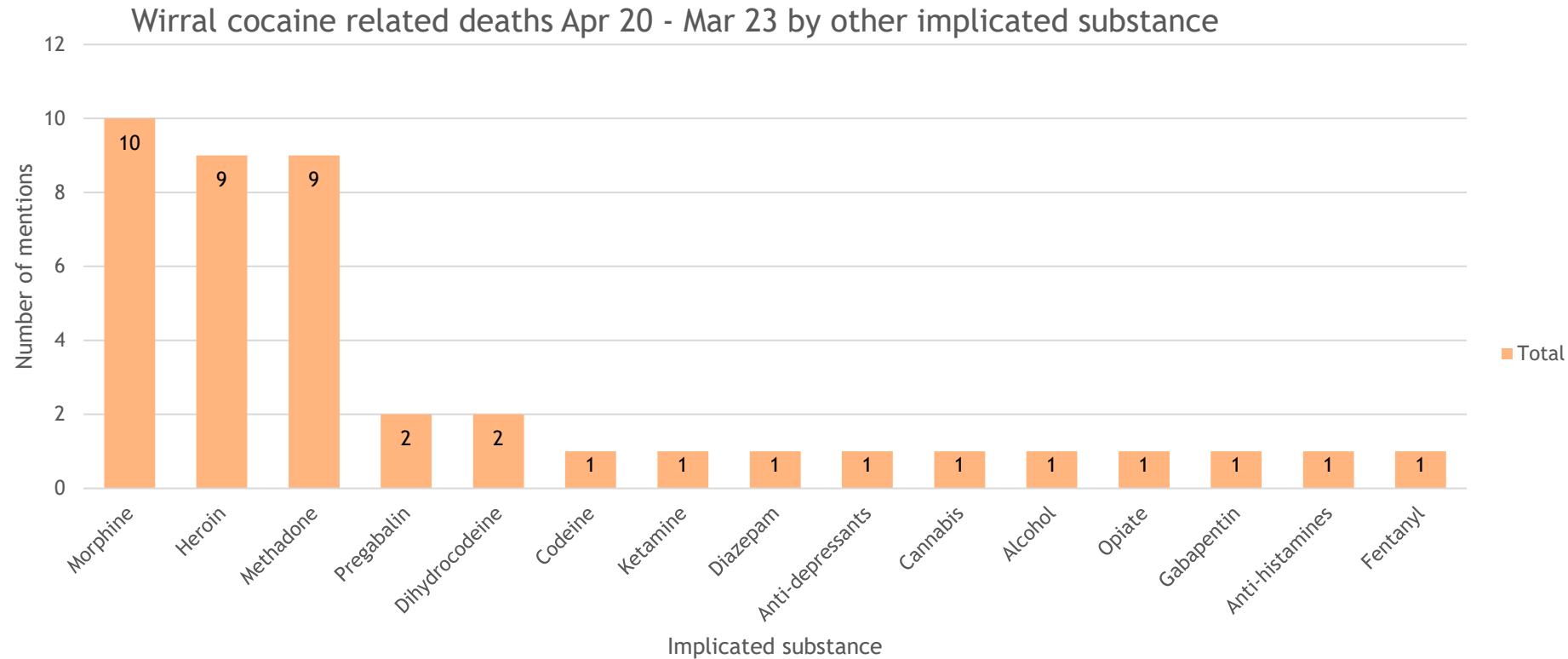
Cocaine only deaths

- ▶ 35% (n=11) of the individuals had cocaine listed as the only implicated substance
- ▶ CGL reported 3 male deaths aged between 42 and 53.
- ▶ The coroner recorded 3 female deaths and 5 male deaths aged between 20 and 51

Wirral cocaine only deaths Apr 20 - Mar 23 by reporting agency and age



Other implicated substances



- There were 12 other implicated substances recorded alongside cocaine, a total of 42 times 67% (n= 28) of these being heroin, morphine and methadone
- > Heroin was the highest substance recorded with cocaine having occurred in 10 DRD cases, with methadone and morphine being the next highest having occurred in 9 DRD cases each.

What is happening in Wirral?



**Change
Grow
Live**

- ▶ Ethics are being submitted for a Participatory Action Research Project co-developing an early intervention; to engage non-dependent recreational cocaine users into service.

- ▶ NHS health checks and QRISK3 to be completed with new and existing clients identified as potentially high-risk cocaine users and referred to their GP for ECG screenings. Clinical reviews can be booked for those identified as really high risk.



**Any
Questions?**