



Centre for
Public Health

Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database

Knowsley 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.

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 1: Individuals assessed by Gender and Age Group within Knowsley D(A)AT

Gender	Knowsley	
	n	%
Male	45	76.3
Female	14	23.7
Age		
Under 25	8	13.6
25+	51	86.4
<i>Total individuals</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>100</i>

Of the male arrestees 8 (17.8% of males) were under 25 years. All female clients were 25 years or older.

Table 2: Total Assessments by Drug of use within Knowsley D(A)AT

Drug	Knowsley	
	n	%
Alcohol	2	3.4
Crack	6	10.2
Heroin	35	59.3
Methadone	2	3.4
Cannabis	7	11.9
Cocaine	7	11.9
Other	0	0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>100</i>

Main Problem Drug by Gender

The most common drug amongst male arrestees was heroin (51.1% of males) followed by cannabis (15.6% of male arrestees). Amongst female arrestees the most common drug of use was also heroin (85.7%).

Main Problem Drug by Age Group

For arrestees under 25 years, the main drug was cannabis (62.5% of those under 25). For those age 25 years and older the most common drug was heroin (68.6%).

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 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

No data is presented for Pharmacy syringe exchange services in this report. There has been a significant downturn in reporting of Pharmacy based syringe exchange, 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 transitional problems, there is no data available for the period from January-March 2005 for Knowsley DAT.

AGENCY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Table 3: Individuals by Gender, within Knowsley D(A)AT

New Clients	Knowsley	
	n	%
Male	58	95.1
Female	3	4.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	193	94.6
Female	11	5.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 4: Individuals by Age Group, within Knowsley D(A)AT

New Clients	Knowsley	
	n	%
Under 25	16	26.2
25+	45	73.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	36	17.6
25+	168	82.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients 15 Males (22.1% of males) and 1 Female (14.3% of females), were under 25.

Table 5: Main Drug of Use for Agency Syringe Exchange clients within Knowsley D(A)AT

Drug of Use	Knowsley			
	All		New	
	n	%	n	%
Heroin	55	27.0	11	18.0
Methadone	2	1.0	0	0
Amphetamines	5	2.5	0	0
Steroids	82	40.2	33	54.1
Cocaine*	4	2.0	0	0
Temgesic	1	0.5	0	0
Various	1	0.5	0	0
Unknown/Missing	54	26.5	17	27.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>100</i>

Drug of use is not available for Pharmacy datasets

*Including Crack

The two main drugs of use reported by Agency syringe exchanges for this period were steroids and heroin. Of those reporting steroids as their main drug of use, a total of 80 were Male (41.5% of all Males reported) and 2 were Female (18.2% of Females). A total of 30 (36.6%) of steroid users were under 25 with 52 (63.4%) being 25+.

Of all heroin users, 50 were male (25.9% of male injectors in the dataset). Five females (45.5% of female injectors) were also reported as using heroin. One heroin user was under 25, (2.8% of injecting drug users under 25) with 54 being over 25 (32.1% of over 25's).

Total Visits within Knowsley D(A)AT (Agency only)

For the period from January 1st to March 31st 2005 there were a total of 507 attributable visits to Agency syringe exchange in Knowsley. All data provided for this period was attributable.

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

All Clients	Knowsley	
	No.	%
Male	577	73.7
Female	206	26.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>783</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 7: Individuals in contact with treatment service by Age Group and D(A)AT of Treatment

All Clients	Knowsley	
	No.	%
Under 25	91	11.6
25+	692	88.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>783</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 8: Ethnicity of people in structured drug treatment by D(A)AT of Treatment

Ethnicity	All Clients	
	n	%
Caribbean	4	0.5
African	1	0.1
Other Black	8	1.0
Asian	1	0.1
Other White	4	0.5
White & Black Caribbean	2	0.3
White British	615	78.5
White Irish	1	0.1
Unknown	142	18.1
Other	5	0.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>783</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 9: Gender by D(A)AT of contact

	Knowsley	
	n	%
Male	21	80.8
Female	5	19.2
<i>Totals</i>	26	100

Table 10: Age by D(A)AT of contact

	Knowsley	
	n	%
16	6	23.1
17	10	38.5
18	4	14.4
19	6	23.1
<i>Totals</i>	26	100

Table 11: Drug/Alcohol problem by D(A)AT of contact

	Knowsley	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	4	15.4
Drugs	22	84.6
<i>Totals</i>	26	100

Combined Datasets

Introduction

Data presented here are drawn from a combination of datasets relating to Arrest Referrals, Syringe Exchange (both Agency and Pharmacy based), NDTMS and Connexions. The combined data were 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 in this report, as the method of aggregating is somewhat different. Further information is available from the IAD Manager if required.

Table 12: Total Problem Drug Users (PDUs) reported to the IAD: by Gender and Age

Knowsley		
Gender	n	%
Male	802	77.9
Female	228	22.1
Age		
Under 25	159	15.4
25+	871	84.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>1030</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the final quarter of 2004/05, 136 (17.0%) were under 25 years old. For female clients 23 (10.1%) were under 25.

Fig 1: Distribution of PDUs reported to the IAD, by Age Group and Gender

