



Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database

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	28	100
Female	0	0
Age		
Under 25	13	46.4
25+	15	53.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>100</i>

All arrestees were male. Thirteen males (37.1% of males) were under 25 years.

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

Drug of Arrest	Liverpool	
	n	%
Cocaine	12	42.9
Crack	2	7.2
MDMA	8	28.6
Heroin	6	21.5
Other Class A	0	0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>100</i>
Drug Offences		
Possession of Class A	25	89.3
Supply of Class A	1	3.6
Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs	2	7.1
<i>Totals*</i>	<i>28</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 11 (44.0% of individuals arrested for Possession) being arrested for that offence, followed by MDMA with 8 (32.0%) individuals. Arrests for Possession with Intent to Supply Class A Drugs were equal for cocaine and heroin, with both reporting 1 individual (50.0% respectively) being arrested. There was one individual arrested for Supply of Class A drugs with crack as the drug of arrest.

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	843	72.2
Female	325	27.8
Age		
Under 25	127	10.9
25+	1041	89.31
<i>Total individuals</i>	<i>1168</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all arrestees 98 males (11.6% of males), and 29 females (8.9% 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	7	0.6
Cocaine	64	5.5
Crack	79	6.8
Heroin	857	73.4
Methadone	65	5.6
Cannabis	38	3.3
Benzodiazepines	1	0.1
Alcohol	21	1.8
Unknown/Other	36	3.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>1168</i>	<i>100</i>

Main Problem Drug by Gender

Amongst male arrestees the most common drug was heroin (70.8% of male arrestees), followed by crack (7.5%). The pattern for female arrestees was similar, with heroin being most common (80.0% of females), followed by methadone (7.7%).

Main Problem Drug by Age Group

Amongst arrestees under 25 years old, heroin was the most common drug (40.9% of arrestees under 25), followed by cannabis (20.5%). For those 25 years and older the most common drug was also heroin (77.3%), followed by crack (6.5%).

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 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 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 future reports will provide a more accurate picture of service activity.

The analyses presented here for Pharmacy based syringe exchange should therefore only be taken as reflecting the data available.

AGENCY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Changes in the way data is collected and processed from Agency based syringe exchange within Liverpool DAAT have prevented reliable analysis of the numbers and demographic profiles of new clients for this service. It is hoped that this situation will be rectified soon however, for the current report, it will not be possible to report on these individuals as distinct from ongoing clients. The analyses presented below therefore reflect all validated and attributable service activity at the two Liverpool fixed site syringe exchanges.

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

All Clients	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	413	89.2
Female	50	10.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>463</i>	<i>100</i>

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

All Clients	Liverpool	
	n	%
Under 25	79	17.1
25+	384	82.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>463</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all Agency based syringe exchange clients reported to the IAD for this period, 70 males (16.9% of males), and 9 females (18.0% of females) were under 25 years old.

Table 7: Main Drug of Use for Agency Syringe Exchange clients within Liverpool D(A)AT

Drug of Use	Liverpool	
	n	%
Heroin	33	13.6
Methadone	5	2.1
Steroids	133	55.0
Cocaine*	3	1.2
Various	68	28.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>242</i>	<i>100</i>

*Including Crack

Drug of use was only reported for a limited number of clients, hence the difference in numbers between those reported here and those in Tables 5-7.

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 29 were Male (12.7% of all Males reported) and 4 were Female (30.8% of Females). A total of 2 injecting heroin users (6.1% of heroin users) were under 25 with 31 (93.9%) being 25+.

A total of 132 steroid users were male (57.6 % of male injectors in the dataset), making steroids slightly more popular amongst male injectors than heroin, according to the data available. One female (7.7% of female injectors) was also reported as using steroids. Forty-nine steroid users were under 25, (90.7% of injectors under 25) with 84 being over 25 (44.7% of over 25s).

Total Visits within Liverpool D(A)AT

For the period from January 1st to March 31st 2005 there were a total of 1290 attributable visits to Agency syringe exchange in Liverpool. All data provided for this period was attributable.

PHARMACY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Table 8: Individuals, by Gender, within Liverpool D(A)AT

New Clients	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	128	85.9
Female	21	14.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	774	78.0
Female	218	22.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>992</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 9: Individuals, by Age Group, within Liverpool D(A)AT

New Clients	Liverpool	
	n	%
Under 25	10	6.7
25+	139	93.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	31	3.1
25+	961	96.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>992</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 23 males (3.0% of males) and 8 females (3.7% of females) were under 25 years old.

Visits to Pharmacy Syringe Exchange

The total number of visits to Pharmacy-based syringe exchange within Liverpool D(A)AT were 9,913.

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 10: Individuals in Syringe Exchange by D(A)AT of Syringe Exchange

Liverpool		
Gender		
New Clients	n	%
Male	113	85.0
Female	20	15.0
<i>Totals</i>	133	100
All Clients		
Male	1125	81.5
Female	255	18.5
<i>Totals</i>	1380	100
Age		
New Clients		
Under 25	11	8.3
25+	122	91.7
<i>Totals</i>	133	100
All Clients		
Under 25	109	7.9
25+	1271	92.1
<i>Totals</i>	1380	100

Total Visits by D(A)AT of Syringe Exchange (from combined dataset)

For the period from January 1st to March 31st 2005, the total number of visits to Agency and Pharmacy syringe exchange were 11,203.

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.

Table 11: Individuals in contact with treatment service by Gender and D(A)AT of Treatment

All Clients	Liverpool	
	No.	%
Male	2221	68.2
Female	1038	31.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>3259</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 12: Individuals in contact with treatment service by Age Group and D(A)AT of Treatment

All Clients	Liverpool	
	No.	%
Under 25	182	5.6
25+	3077	94.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>3259</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 13: Ethnicity of people in structured drug treatment by D(A)AT of Treatment

Ethnicity	All Clients	
	n	%
White British	2836	87.0
African	4	0.1
Caribbean	4	0.1
Chinese	8	0.3
Indian	2	0.06
Other	19	0.6
Other Mixed	5	0.2
Other White	35	1.1
Other Black	20	0.6
Pakistani	1	0.03
Other Asian	5	0.2
White & Asian	4	0.1
White & Black Caribbean	5	0.2
White and Black African	6	0.2
White Irish	12	0.4
Unknown	303	9.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>3259</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 14: Gender by D(A)AT of contact

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	85	85.9
Female	14	14.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 15: Age by D(A)AT of contact

	Liverpool	
	n	%
16	39	39.4
17	30	30.3
18	13	13.1
19	17	17.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 16: Drug/Alcohol problem by D(A)AT of contact

	Liverpool	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	23	23.2
Drugs	76	76.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>99</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. 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 17: Total Problem Drug Users (PDUs) reported to the IAD: by Gender and Age

Gender	Liverpool	
	n	%
Male	3405	72.1
Female	1315	27.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>4720</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
Under 25	491	10.4
25+	4229	89.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>4720</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the final quarter of 2004/05, 370 (10.9%) were under 25. For female clients 121 (9.2%) were under 25.

Fig 1: Distribution of PDUs by Age Group and Gender

