



Centre for
Public Health

Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database

Sefton Quarterly Report

**Martin Chandler, Esther Shepherd,
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
<http://www.cph.org.uk>

Esther Shepherd
IAD Researcher

(0151) 231 4521

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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 Sefton DAT

Gender	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	26	89.7
Female	3	10.3
Age		
Under 25	13	44.8
25+	16	55.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all arrestees, 11 males (84.6% of males) and 2 females (15.4% of females) were under 25 years.

Table 2: Drug and offence of arrest within Sefton DAT

Drug of Arrest	Sefton	
	n	%
Cocaine	14	48.3
Crack	1	3.4
MDMA	1	3.4
Heroin	12	41.3
Other Class A	1	3.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>100</i>
Drug Offences		
Possession of Class A	19	65.5
Supply of Class A	5	17.2
Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs	5	17.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>100</i>

Arrests for Possession of Class A were predominantly for heroin and cocaine, with each having 8 individuals (42.1% of arrests for Possession of Class A) being arrested for that offence, followed equally by crack, methadone and MDMA with 1 individual (5.3%) being arrested for possession of those drugs.

Arrests for Possession with Intent to Supply Class A were primarily for heroin with 3 individuals (60.0% of those arrested for this offence) arrested for that drug, followed by cocaine with 2 individuals (40% of those arrested for this offence) being arrested for each of those offences respectively. Arrests for Supply of Class A were predominantly for cocaine with 4 people (80% of those arrested for Supply) being 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

Gender	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	245	74.2
Female	85	25.8
Age		
Under 25	40	12.1
25+	290	87.9
<i>Total individuals</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 33 males (13.5% of males) and 7 females (22.8% of females) were under 25 years old.

Table 4: Total Assessments by Drug of use

Drugs	Sefton	
	n	%
Benzodiazepines	1	.3
Cannabis	16	4.8
Cocaine	10	3.0
Crack	16	4.8
Heroin	237	71.8
Methadone	19	5.8
Amphetamines	3	0.9
Alcohol	23	7.0
Unknown/Other	5	1.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>100</i>

Main Problem Drug by Gender

The most common drug reported as the main problem drug amongst male arrestees was heroin (68.6% of male arrestees) followed by alcohol (8.6% of male arrested clients). Amongst female arrestees the most common drug was also heroin (81.2%) followed by crack (8.2%).

Main Problem Drug by Age Group

The most common drug amongst the under 25 arrestees was heroin (35.0% of those under 25). Amongst those 25 years and older, the most common drug was also heroin (76.9%).

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 December 2004, 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.

AGENCY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Table 5: Individuals by Gender, within Sefton DAT

New Clients	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	70	90.9
Female	7	9.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	358	86.5
Female	56	13.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 6: Individuals by Age Group, within Sefton DAT

New Clients	Sefton	
	n	%
Under 25	19	24.7
25+	58	75.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	65	15.7
25+	349	84.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients 30 males (13.3% of males) and 5 females (11.1% of females), were under 25.

Table 7: Main Drug of Use for Agency Syringe Exchange clients within Sefton DAT

Drug of Use	Sefton			
	All		New	
	n	%	n	%
Heroin	215	51.9	38	49.4
Methadone	28	6.8	0	0
Amphetamines	10	2.4	0	0
Steroids	145	35.0	34	44.2
Cocaine*	9	2.2	4	5.2
Other	5	1.2	1	1.3
Unknown/Missing	2	.5	0	0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>100</i>

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

*Including Crack

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 171 were Male (47.8% of all Males reported) and 44 were Female (78.6% of Females). A total of 12 (5.6%) of injecting heroin users were under 25 with 203 (94.4%) being 25+.

A total of 144 steroid users were male (40.2% of male injectors in the dataset). One female (1.8% of female injectors) was also reported as using steroids. Fifty-two steroid users were under 25, (80% of injecting drug users under 25) with 93 being over 25 (26.6% of over 25s).

Total Visits within Sefton DAT

For the period from January 1st to March 31st 2005 there were a total of 1533 attributable visits to Agency syringe exchange in Sefton. All data provided for this period was attributable.

PHARMACY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Table 8: Individuals, by Gender, within Sefton DAT

All Clients	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	12	100
Female	0	0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 9: Individuals, by Age Group, within Sefton DAT

All Clients	Sefton	
	n	%
Under 25	0	0
25+	12	100
<i>Totals</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>100</i>

All clients were male (100% of clients) and over 25 years old.

Visits to Pharmacy Syringe Exchange

The number of visits to Pharmacy-based syringe exchange within Sefton D(A)AT totalled 158.

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 DAT of Syringe Exchange

Sefton		
Gender		
New Clients	n	%
Male	70	90.9
Female	7	9.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	342	86.4
Female	54	13.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>396</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
New Clients		
Under 25	19	24.7
25+	58	75.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	58	14.6
25+	338	85.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>396</i>	<i>100</i>

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 1,691.

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

All Clients	Sefton	
	No.	%
Male	1071	69.7
Female	465	30.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>1536</i>	<i>100</i>

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

All Clients	Sefton	
	No.	%
Under 25	140	9.1
25+	1396	90.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>1536</i>	<i>100</i>

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

Ethnicity	All Clients	
	n	%
Caribbean	1	0.1
Other	2	0.1
Other Mixed	2	0.1
Other White	5	0.3
Other Black	2	0.1
White and Black Caribbean	2	0.1
White & Black African	5	0.3
White British	1154	75.1
White Irish	2	0.1
Unknown	361	23.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>1536</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

	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	24	77.4
Female	7	22.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>100</i>

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

	Sefton	
	n	%
16	11	35.5
17	9	29.0
18	7	22.6
19	4	12.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>100</i>

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

	Sefton	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	11	35.5
Drugs	20	64.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>31</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. Further information is available from the IAD Manager.

Table 17: Total Problem Drug Users (PDUs) reported to the IAD: by Gender and Age

Gender	Sefton	
	n	%
Male	1547	73.8
Female	550	26.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2097</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
Under 25	263	12.5
25+	1834	87.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2097</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the final quarter of 2004/05, 206 (13.3%) were under 25. For female clients 57 (10.4%) were under 25.

Fig 1: Distribution of PDUs by Age Group and Gender

