



Centre for  
Public Health

## Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database

### Wirral 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 Wirral D(A)AT**

Gender	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	19	95.0
Female	1	5.0
Age		
Under 25	8	40.0
25+	12	60.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all arrestees, 8 were males under 25 years (100% of arrests in this age group).

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

Drug of Arrest	Wirral	
	n	%
Cocaine	4	20.0
Crack	0	0
MDMA	6	30.0
Heroin	10	50.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>100</i>
Drug Offences		
Possession of Class A	15	75.0
Supply of Class A	1	5.0
Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs	4	20.0
<i>Totals*</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>100</i>

Arrests for Possession of Class A were predominantly for heroin and MDMA equally, with 6 people being arrested for each these offences (40.0% of arrests for Possession of Class A respectively), followed by cocaine with 3 people (20.0%) being arrested for Possession of that drug.

Arrests for Possession with Intent to Supply were primarily for heroin, with 3 people being arrested for that (75% of those arrested for Possession with Intent). There was 1 (100%) arrest for Supply of Class A with that individual arrested for heroin.

## 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 Wirral D(A)AT**

Gender	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	145	82.4
Female	31	17.6
Age		
Under 25	24	13.6
25+	152	86.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>176</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 21 males (14.5% of males) and 3 females (9.7% of females) were under 25 years old.

**Table 4: Total Assessments by Drug of use**

Drug	Wirral	
	n	%
Amphetamines	5	2.8
Benzodiazepines	1	0.6
Cannabis	9	5.1
Cocaine	18	10.2
Crack	20	11.4
Heroin	95	54.0
Methadone	7	4.0
Alcohol	18	10.2
Unknown/Other	3	1.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>176</i>	<i>100</i>

### Main Problem Drug by Gender

The most common (main) drug amongst male arrestees was heroin (53.8% of male arrestees) followed by alcohol (11.0% of male arrestees). The pattern for female arrestees was similar with heroin being most common (54.8%) followed by crack (19.4%).

### Main Problem Drug by Age Group

The most common drug amongst the under 25 age group was cocaine (50.0%) followed by cannabis (16.7%). For those 25 years and older the most common drug was heroin (61.2%) followed by crack (11.8% in this age group).

# 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 the IAD annual report for the year 2004/05 will provide a more accurate reflection of service activity in this area.

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 Wirral D(A)AT**

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	15	93.8
Female	1	6.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	246	91.4
Female	23	8.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>269</i>	<i>100</i>

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

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Under 25	8	50.0
25+	8	50.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	29	10.8
25+	240	89.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>269</i>	<i>100</i>

Twenty-eight male clients (11.4% of all males) and one female client (4.3% of females) were under 25 years old.

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

Drug	Wirral			
	All		New	
	n	%	n	%
Heroin	121	45.0	1	6.3
Methadone	22	8.2	0	0
Amphetamines	8	3.0	0	0
Steroids	83	30.9	14	87.5
Cocaine*	9	3.3	1	6.3
Morphine	2	0.7	0	0
Other	3	1.1	0	0
Unknown/Missing	21	7.8	0	0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>269</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>16</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 107 were Male (43.5% of all Males reported) and 14 were Female (60.9% of Females). Of all injecting heroin users 3 (2.5%) were under 25 with 118 (97.5%) being 25+.

A total of 82 steroid users were male (33.3% of male injectors in the dataset). One female (4.3% of female injectors) was also reported as using steroids. Twenty-six steroid users were under 25 (89.7% of injectors under 25) with 57 being over 25 (23.8% of over 25s).

#### Total Visits within Wirral D(A)AT

For the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2005 there were a total of 879 attributable visits to Agency syringe exchange in Wirral. All data provided for this period was attributable.

## PHARMACY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

**Table 8: Individuals, by Gender, Wirral D(A)AT**

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	74	90.2
Female	8	9.8
<i>Totals</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Male	232	85.0
Female	41	15.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>273</i>	<i>100</i>

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

New Clients	Wirral	
	n	%
Under 25	7	8.5
25+	75	91.5
<i>Totals</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>100</i>
All Clients		
Under 25	10	3.7
25+	263	96.3
<i>Totals</i>	<i>273</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all clients, 9 males (3.9% of males) and 1 female (2.4% of females) were under 25 years.

## Visits to Pharmacy Syringe Exchange

The number of visits to Pharmacy-based syringe exchange within Wirral D(A)AT totalled 1692.

## COMBINED PHARMACY AND AGENCY-BASED SYRINGE EXCHANGE

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

Wirral		
<b>Gender</b>		
<b>New Clients</b>	n	%
Male	63	92.6
Female	5	7.4
<i>Totals</i>	68	100
<b>All Clients</b>		
Male	406	88.5
Female	53	11.5
<i>Totals</i>	459	100
<b>Age Group</b>		
<b>New Clients</b>	n	%
Under 25	14	20.6
25+	54	79.4
<i>Totals</i>	68	100
<b>All Clients</b>		
Under 25	36	7.8
25+	423	92.2
<i>Totals</i>	459	100

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

For the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2005, the total number of visits to Agency and Pharmacy syringe exchange were 2,571.



## 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	Wirral	
	No.	%
Male	1721	71.4
Female	690	28.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>2411</i>	<i>100</i>

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

All Clients	Wirral	
	No.	%
Under 25	239	9.9
25+	2172	90.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>2411</i>	<i>100</i>

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

Ethnicity	All Clients	
	n	%
African	1	0.04
Bangladeshi	1	0.04
Caribbean	2	0.1
Chinese	2	0.1
Indian	1	0.04
Other	3	0.1
Other Asian	4	0.2
Other Mixed	6	0.3
Other White	6	0.3
Other Black	2	0.1
White & Black Caribbean	5	0.2
White & Black African	2	0.1
White & Asian	1	0.04
White British	2269	94.1
White Irish	7	0.3
Unknown	99	4.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2411</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**

	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	40	69.0
Female	18	31.0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>100</i>

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

	Wirral	
	n	%
16	19	32.8
17	24	41.4
18	5	8.6
19	10	17.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>100</i>

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

	Wirral	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	25	43.1
Drugs	33	56.9
<i>Totals</i>	<i>58</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 if required.

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

Gender	Wirral	
	n	%
Male	1989	73.3
Female	724	26.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2713</i>	<i>100</i>
Age		
Under 25	333	12.3
25+	2380	87.7
<i>Totals</i>	<i>2713</i>	<i>100</i>

Of all males reported to the IAD for the final quarter of 2004/05, 245 (12.3%) were under 25. For female clients 88 (12.2%) were under 25.

**Fig 1: Distribution of PDUs by Age Group and Gender**

