



"Addressing drugs and alcohol together"



---

# REDUCING THE HARM CAUSED BY SUBSTANCES A NORTHERN IRELAND UPDATE

---

Stephanie Hanlon, Joint Substance Use Lead  
Public Health Agency

# Strategic Context

- 4/5 Nations Approach to reduce the harm
- Programme for Government
- Preventing Harm, Empowering Recovery (21-31)
- Substance Use Commissioning & Implementation Plan (2024-2028)
- NI Harm Reduction Action Plan
- NICE and UK Clinical Guidelines

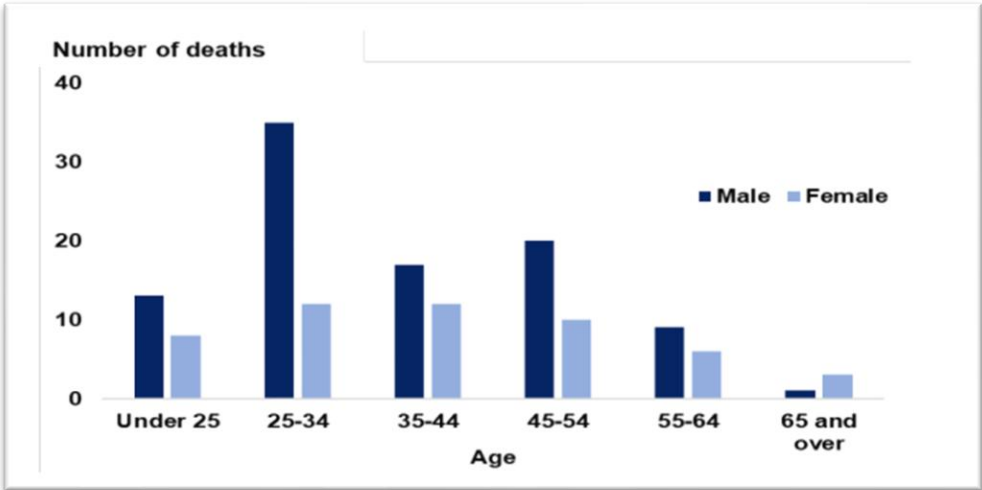
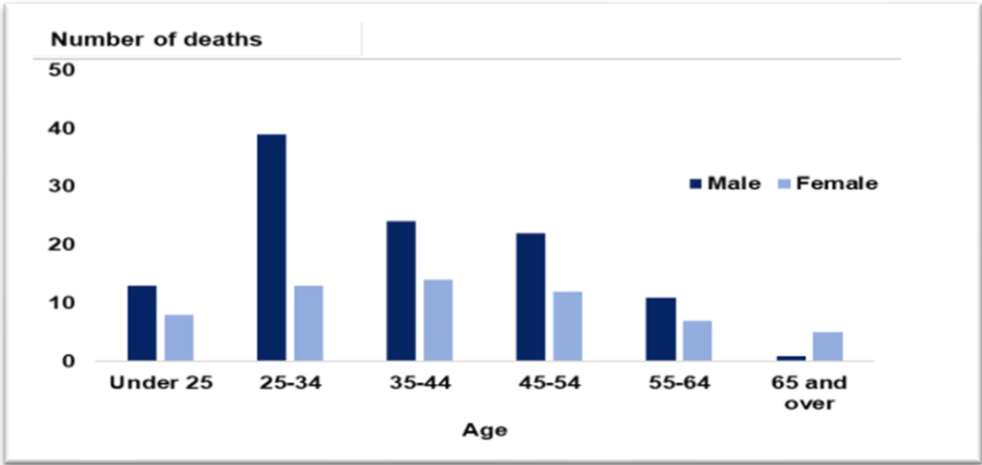
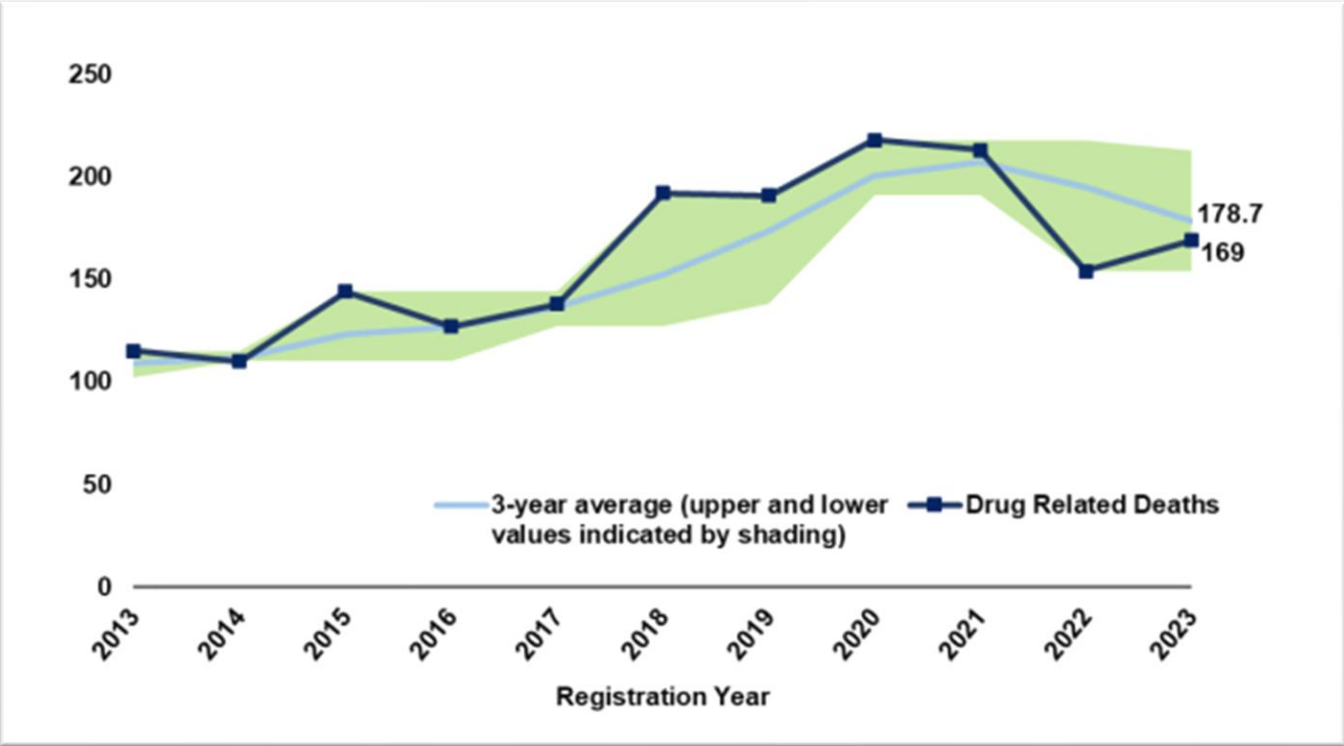


# Population Needs Analysis – In Service

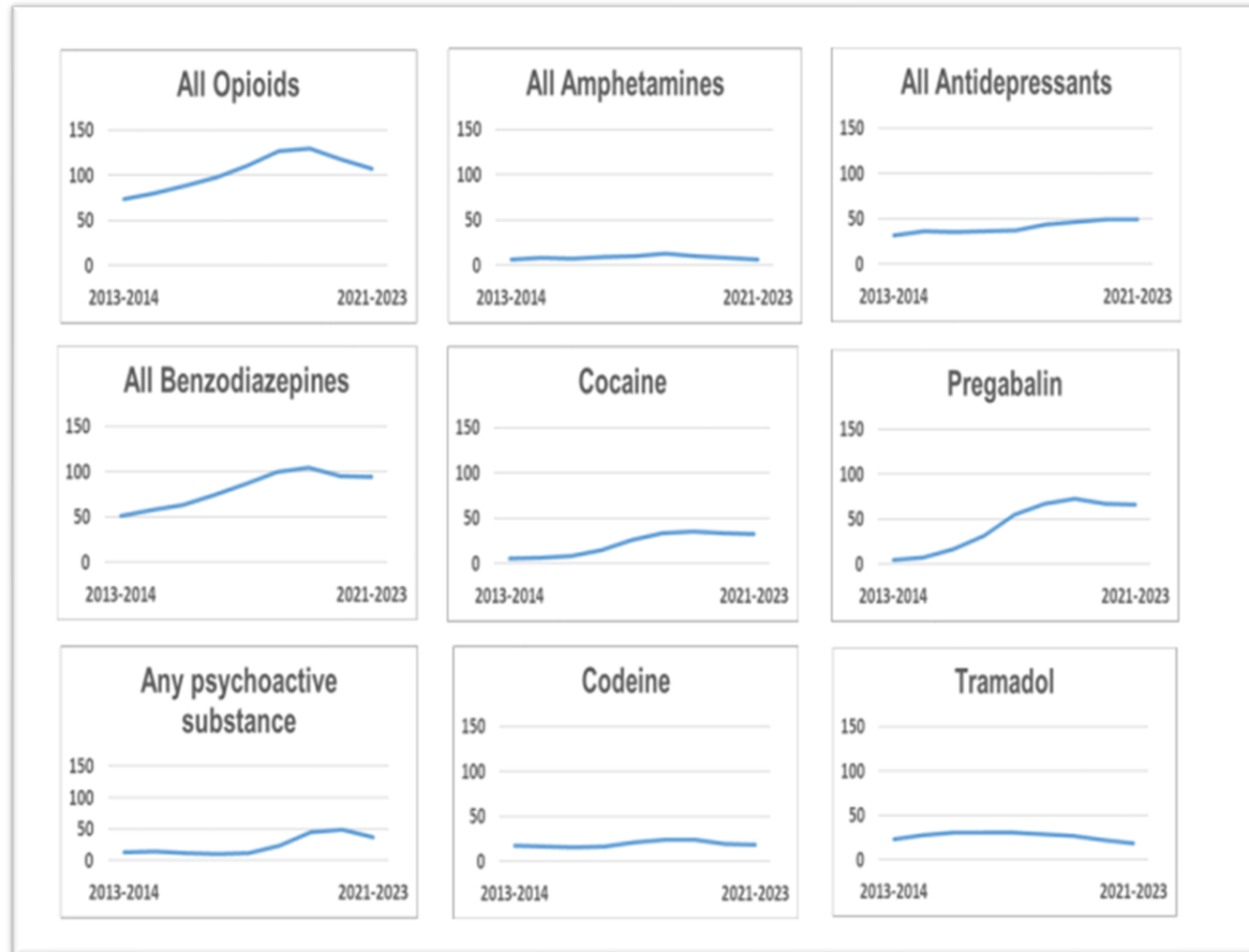
- Presentation of needs within substance use services
- Poly Drug Use
- Increasing complexity and trauma
- Age / Gender of most common presentations
- Ethnic Minority Groups



# NI Drug Related Deaths (23/24)



# Drug Related Deaths – by substance



# Opioid Statistics



Opioid Related Deaths



87%

Accidental Overdoses



75%

Poly Drug Use



5x

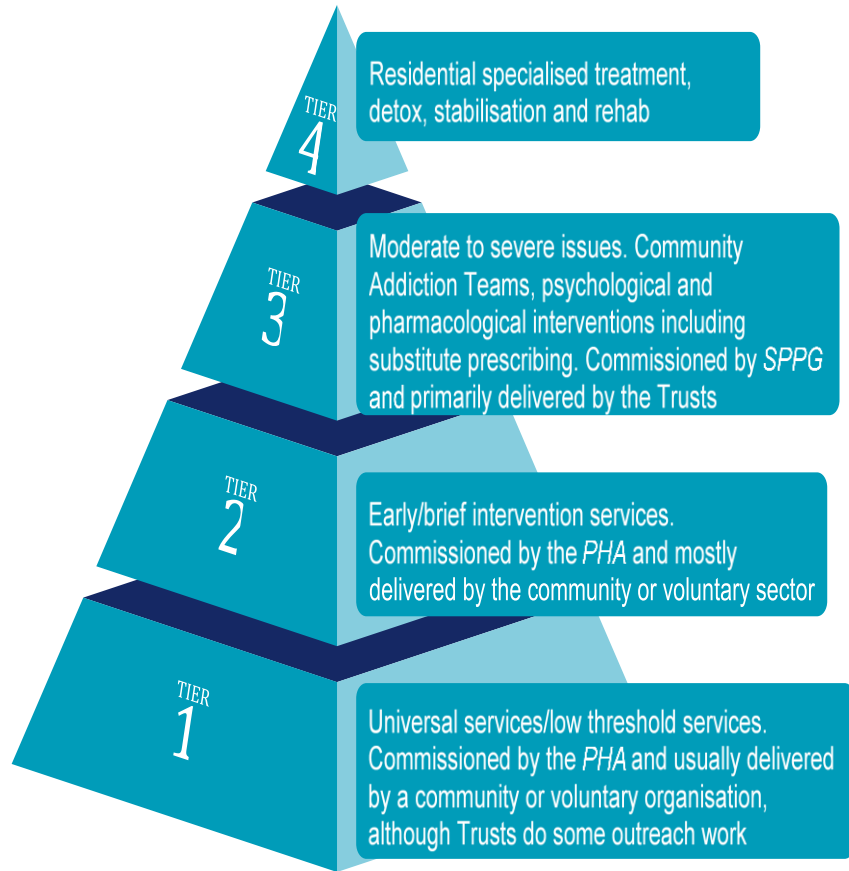
People Living in Deprived Communities



65%

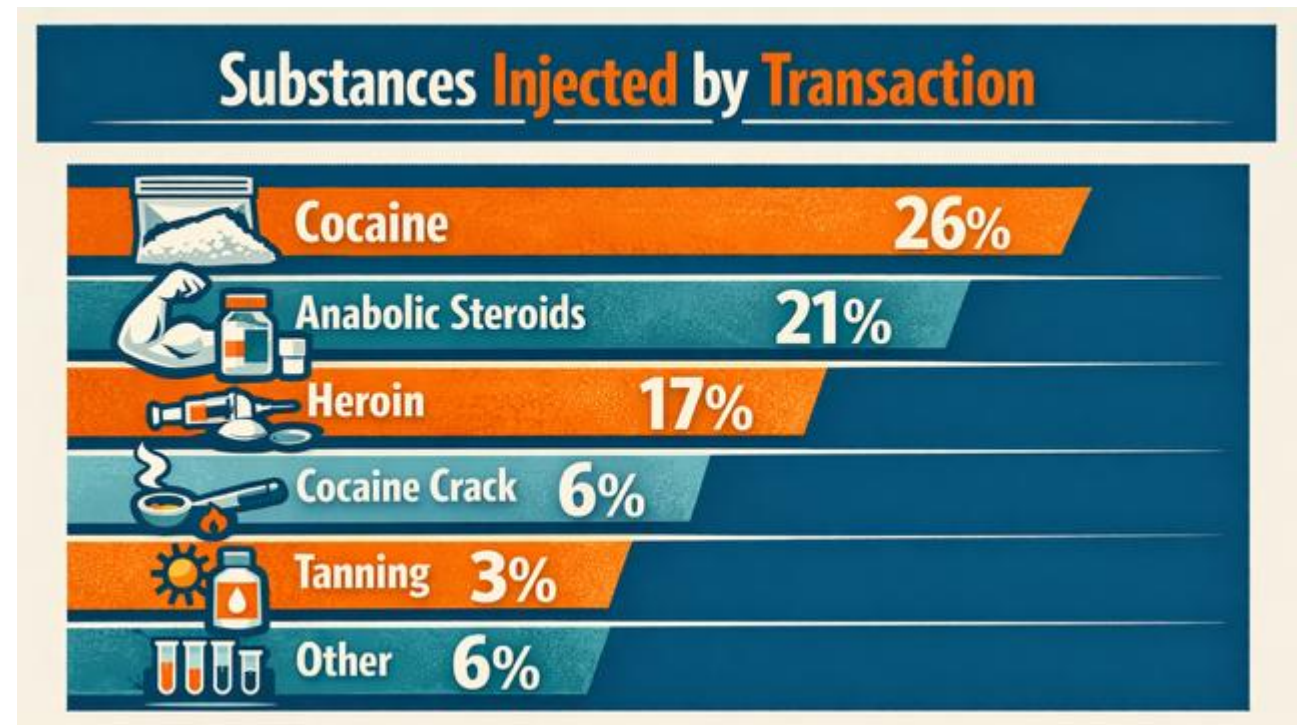
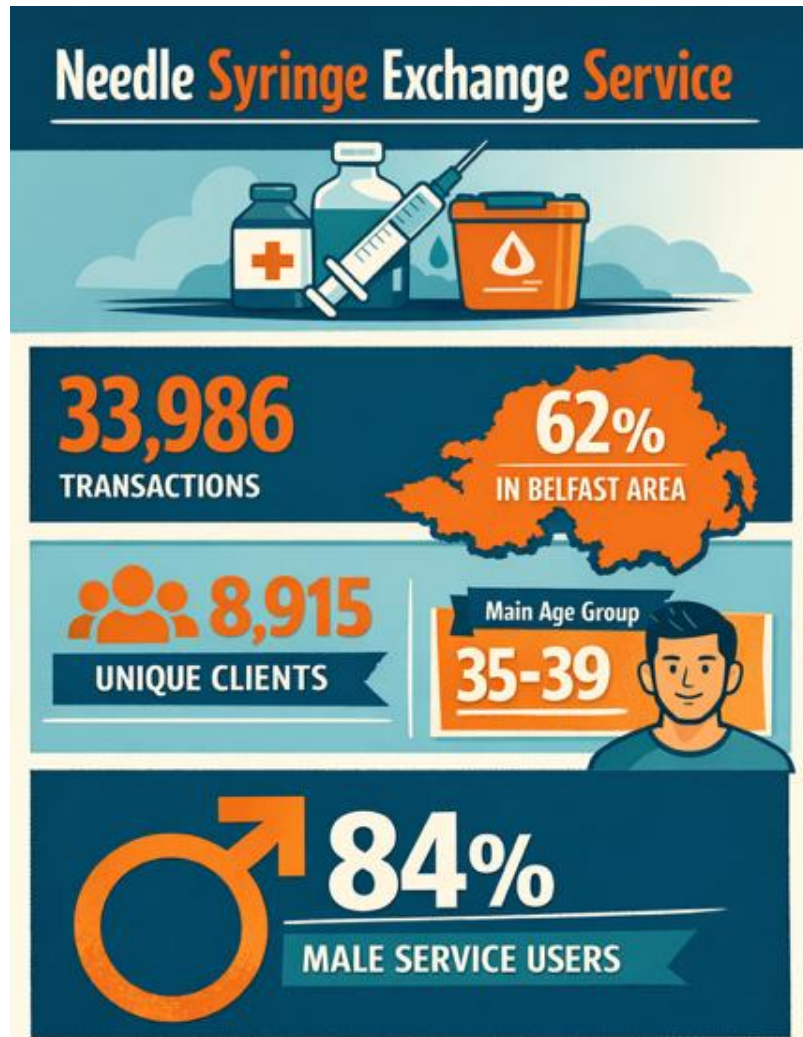
Males

# Substance Use Services

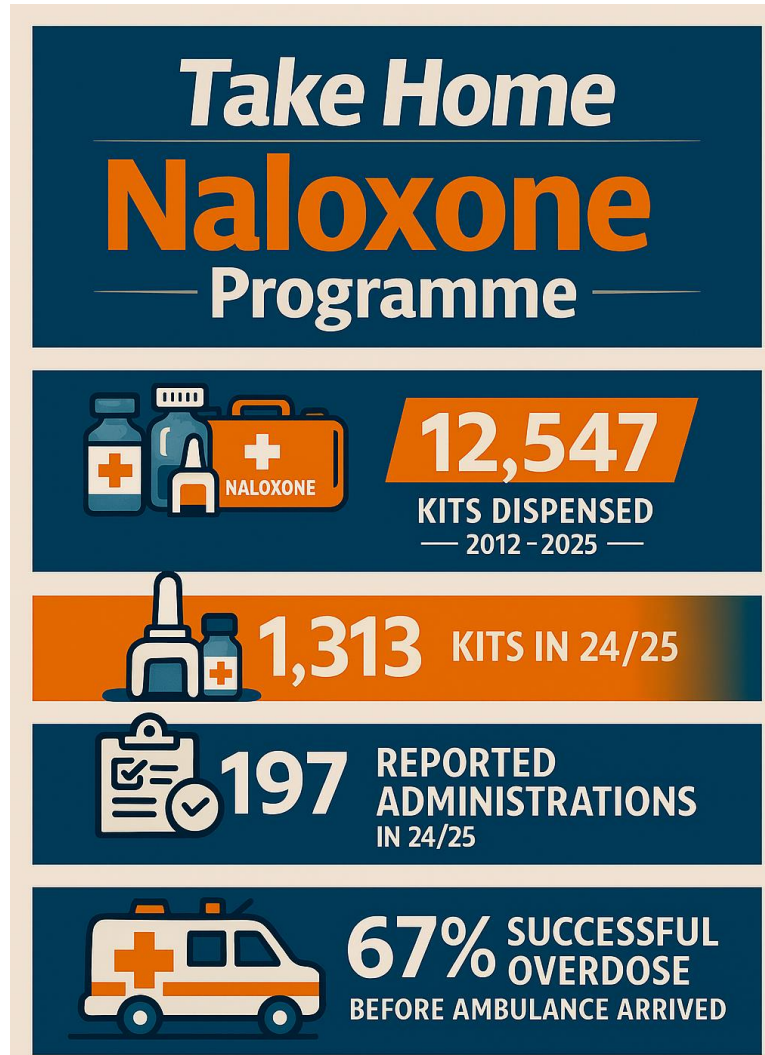


- **Tier 4** - Rehabilitation
- **Tier 3** - Substance Misuse Liaison Service & CAMHS/DAMHS
- **Tier 2** – Adult and Youth Treatment Services, Hidden Harm Services, Low Threshold Services, Harm Reduction NSES, Drug Outreach Team, Targeted Prevention Service
- **Tier 1** – Universal Youth Engagement Service, Connections Service and Workforce Development

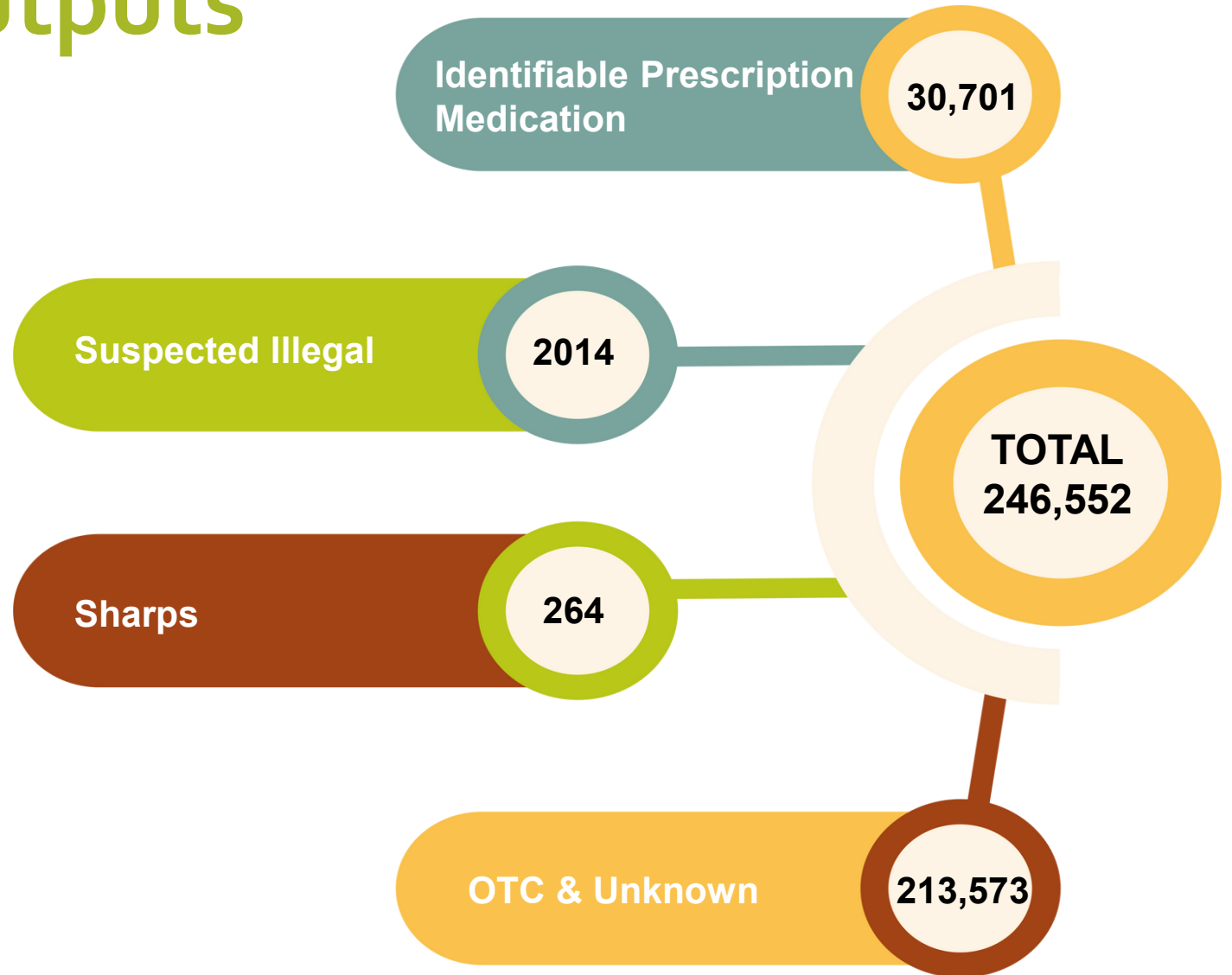
# Needle and Syringe Exchange Services 25/26



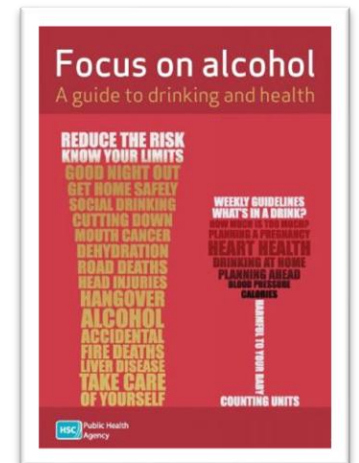
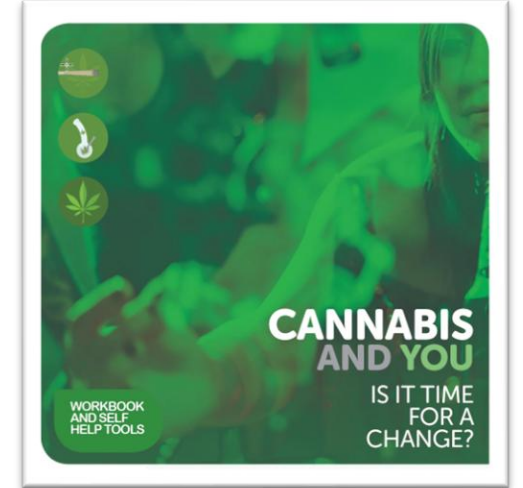
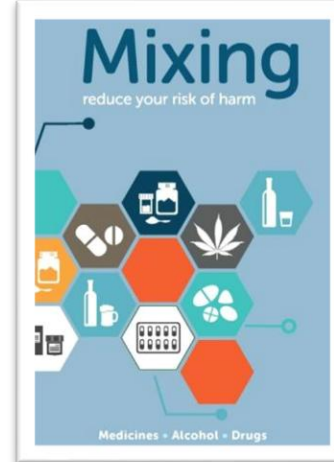
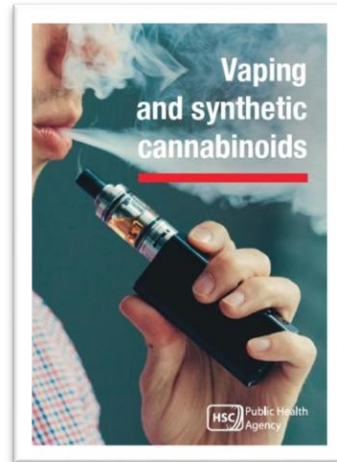
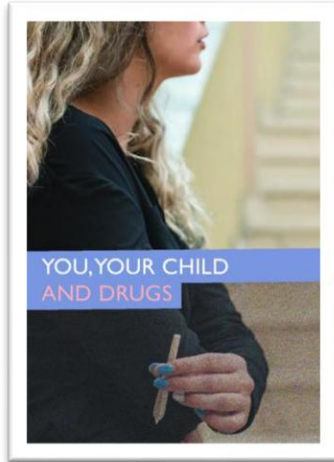
# Take Home Naloxone Programme



# 2024/25 RAPID Outputs



# Health Literacy



# Drug & Alcohol Monitoring Information System (DAMIS)

- DAMIS is an “early warning system” designed to identify, verify and assess emerging threats and potential trends in drug and alcohol misuse within Northern Ireland.
- These people can provide information on emerging issues at a **very early** stage and are also ideally placed to provide targeted harm reduction information to their clients. This is shared across the DAMIS Network in NI
- To register to the DAMIS network email [damis@hscni.net](mailto:damis@hscni.net) to get an application form

# What needs to change?

- Strengthen data collection and address missing data
- Expand harm reduction services
- Improved co-occurring models of care
- Inclusion health approach to substance use and address deprivation
- Challenge professional and public stigma of drug use and harm reduction approaches
- Targeted Evidence Based Interventions aimed at high risk groups
- Whole system action – not just drug services



"Addressing drugs and alcohol together"



# Contact Us

Stephanie Hanlon

Joint Substance Use Lead

Public Health Agency

Email: [Stephanie.Hanlon@hscni.net](mailto:Stephanie.Hanlon@hscni.net)

For more information on substance use services visit:

[Drugs and Alcohol - pha | NI](#)