Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database

St Helens 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.

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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 St Helens DAT

	St Helens	
Gender	n	%
Male	5	100
Female	0	0
Age		
Under 25	1	20.0
25+	4	80.0
Totals	*5*	*100*

Of all arrestees, 1 male (20.0% of all males) was under 25. There were no females arrested.

Table 2: Drug and offence of arrest within St Helens DAT

	St Helens	
Drug of Arrest	n	%
Cocaine	0	0
Crack	1	20.0
MDMA	1	20.0
Heroin	3	60.0
Methadone	0	0
Other Class A	0	0
Totals	*5*	*100*
Drug Offences		
Possession of Class A	4	80.0
Supply of Class A	1	20.0
Possession W/I to Supply Class A drugs	0	0
*Totals**	*5*	*100*

*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 heroin with 2 people being arrested for that offence (50.0% of arrests for Possession of Class A). The Arrest for Supply of Class A was also for heroin with 1 person being arrested for offence (100% of arrests for this offence). There were no Arrests for Possession with Intent to Supply Class A Drugs.

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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 St Helens DAT

	St Helens	
Gender	n	%
Male	165	75.3
Female	54	24.7
Age		
Under 25	31	14.2
25+	188	85.8
Total	*219*	*100*

Of all arrestees 25 males (15.2% of males) and 6 females (11.1% of females), were under 25.

Table 4: Total Assessments by Main Drug of use

	St Helens	
	n	%
Amphetamines	6	2.7
Benzodiazepines	1	0.5
Cannabis	3	1.4
Cocaine	4	1.8
Crack	8	3.7
Heroin	178	81.3
Methadone	15	6.8
Alcohol	0	0
Unknown/Other	4	1.8
Totals	*219*	*100*

Main Problem Drug by Gender

The most common (main) drug amongst male arrestees was heroin (83.6%) followed by methadone (4.8% of male arrestees). This pattern was repeated for female arrestees with heroin being most common (74.1%) followed by methadone (13.0%).

Main Problem Drug by Age Group

The most common drug amongst the under 25 age group was also heroin (83.9%) followed by cannabis (6.5%). Amongst the 25 years and older age group the pattern was repeated with heroin reported by 80.9%. Methadone followed with 7.4% of arrestees in this age group.

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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 pharmacy data in particular, is lacking attributable information for a large percentage of cases and therefore does not necessarily accurately reflect service activity.
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.

Agency syringe monitoring

Due to ongoing data collection and validation problems the data presented in this report is not indicative of the true level of Agency service activity. These problems should now be resolved but the historical nature of the data will not reflect these current changes. Therefore, the analyses provided here for Agency based syringe exchange should only be taken as reflecting the data available.

Pharmacy syringe monitoring

Pharmacy syringe exchange data has not been presented in this report due to transitional problems from July 2004 to March 2005. Those involved in the provision and monitoring of this service have now resolved these problems, yet the results of this more accurate reflection of service activity will not be indicated in this quarter's data.
As a consequence there is no data available for Pharmacy based syringe exchange within St Helens D(A)AT for the period January-March 2005.

AGENCY SYRINGE EXCHANGE

Table 5: Individuals by Gender, within St Helens DAT

	St Helens	
New Clients	n	%
Male	15	100
Female	0	0
Totals	*15*	*100*
All Clients		
Male	22	100
Female	0	0
Totals	*22*	*100*

Table 6: Individuals by Age Group, within St Helens DAT

	St Helens	
New Clients	n	%
Under 25	4	26.7
25+	11	73.3
Totals	*15*	*100*
All Clients		
Under 25	7	31.8
25+	15	68.2
Totals	*22*	*100*

Of all clients 7 males (31.8% of males) were under 25. No females were reported.

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

	St Helens			
	All		New	
Drug of Use	n	%	n	%
Heroin	4	18.2	3	20.0
Methadone	0	0	0	0
Amphetamines	1	4.5	1	6.7
Steroids	16	72.7	11	73.3
Cocaine*	1	4.5	0	0
Unknown/Missing	0	0	0	0
Various	0	0	0	0
Totals	*22*	*100*	*15*	*100*

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 steroids and heroin. Of those reporting steroids as their main drug of use, a total of 16 were Male (72.7% of all Males reported) and none were Female. A total of 7 steroid users (43.8% of all steroid users) were under 25 with 9 (56.3%) being 25+.
All 4 injecting heroin users were male (18.2% of male injectors in the dataset) and over 25 (26.7% of 25+ injectors).

Total Visits within St Helens D(A)AT
For the period from January 1st to March 31st 2005 there were a total of 22 attributable visits to Agency syringe exchange in St Helens. All data provided for this period was attributable.

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

	St Helens	
All Clients	n	%
Male	591	72.5
Female	224	27.5
Total	*815*	*100*

Table 10: Individuals in contact with treatment service by Age Group and D(A)AT of Treatment

	St Helens	
All Clients	n	%
Under 25	157	19.3
25+	658	80.7
Total	*815*	*100*

Table 11: Ethnicity of people in structured drug treatment by D(A)AT of Treatment

	All Clients	
	N	%
African	1	0.1
Other	2	0.2
Other Black	1	0.1
White & Black Caribbean	1	0.1
White British	773	94.8
Pakistani	1	0.1
Unknown	36	4.4
Totals	*815*	*100*

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CONNEXIONS

Connexions provide a support service for young people, aged 13-19. The Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership provides data presented here.

Table 12: Gender by D(A)AT of contact

	St Helens	
	n	%
Male	20	57.1
Female	15	42.9
Totals	*35*	*100*

Table 13: Age by D(A)AT of contact

	St Helens	
	n	%
16	5	14.3
17	13	37.1
18	15	42.9
19	2	5.7
Totals	*35*	*100*

Table 14: Drug/Alcohol problem by D(A)AT of contact

	St Helens	
	n	%
Alcohol/Other	14	40.0
Drugs	21	60.0
Totals	*35*	*100*

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Combined Datasets

Introduction

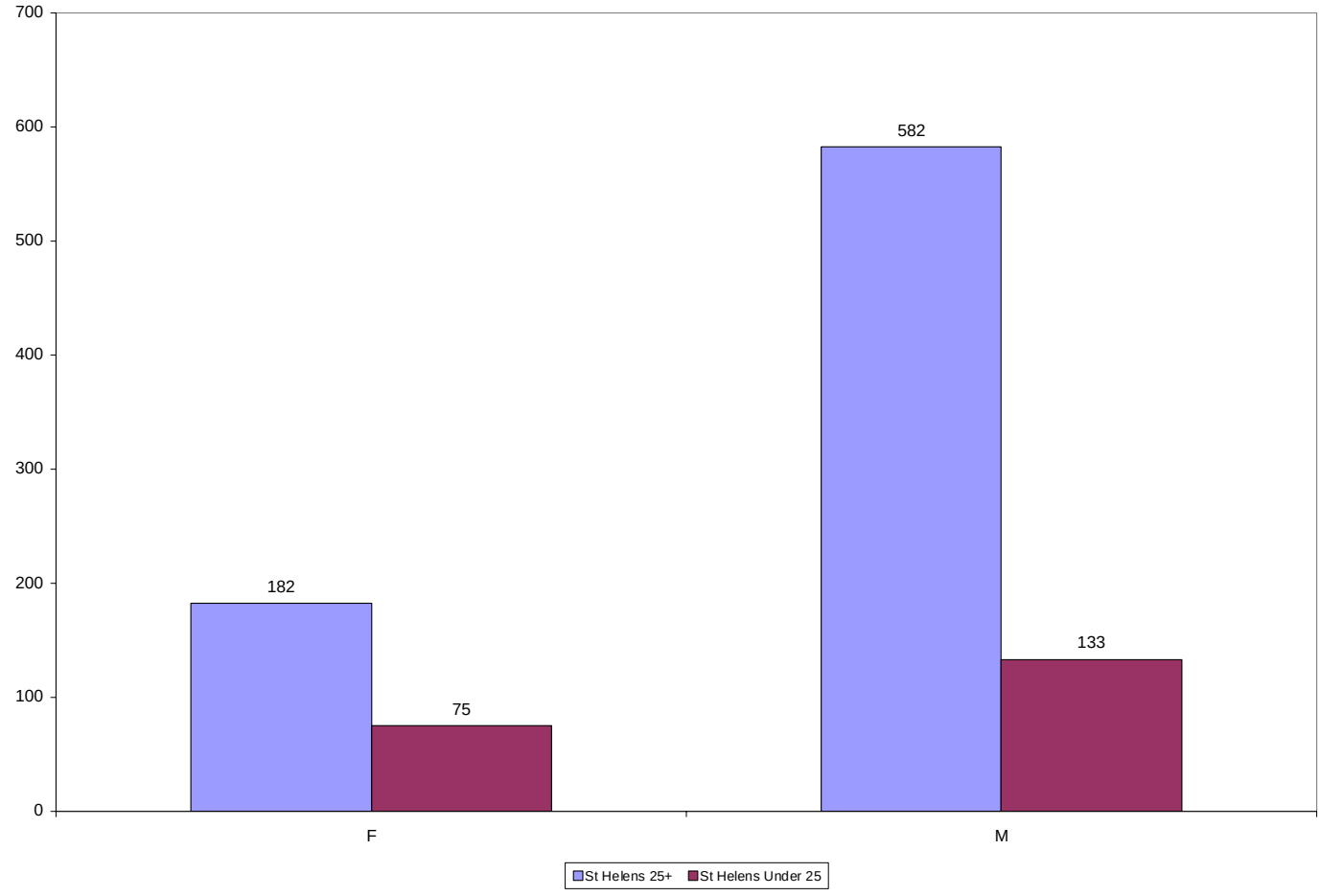
Data presented here is drawn from a combination of datasets relating to Arrests under Misuse of Drugs Act (1971), Arrest Referrals, Syringe Exchange (Agency and Pharmacy), NDTMS and Connexions. The combined data are aggregated on attributer and D(A)AT area to produce overall figures for numbers of individuals 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 15: Total Problem Drug Users (PDUs) reported to the IAD: by Gender and Age

	St Helens	
Gender	n	%
Male	715	73.6
Female	257	26.4
Totals	*972*	*100*
Age		
Under 25	208	21.4
25+	764	78.6
Totals	*972*	*100*

Of all males reported to the IAD for the final quarter of 2004/05, 133 (18.6%) were under 25. For female clients 75 (29.2%) were under 25.

Fig 1: Distribution of PDUs by Age Group and Gender



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