

## Snapshot of pan-Merseyside drug misuse data

Source: Liverpool John Moore's University inter-agency drug misuse database.

### Overall

- Problem drug users reported to the Inter Agency Database (IAD) for the period 2003/04 were predominantly male and over 25.
- Heroin was the most common reported drug of use.

### Class A drug arrests under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) during 2003/04

- A total of 1,356 arrests for class A drugs were reported.
- Of the arrestees reported, 89.2% were male and 39.9% were under 25.
- Heroin was the most common drug of arrest overall.
- For female clients in Merseyside the most common drug of arrest was MDMA (Methylenedioxymethamphetamine).
- The most common drug of arrest for female arrestees in Wirral was crack.
- Possession of class A drugs was the most common offence among arrestees in Merseyside during 2003/04.

### Arrest referral

- A total of 2,758 arrest referrals were reported to the IAD for the period 2003/04.
- Of all the arrest referral clients reported, 70% were male and 14% were under 25.
- The most common reported main drug of use was heroin.

### Syringe exchange schemes

#### 1. Pharmacy based

- A total of 2,730 clients were reported as attending the pharmacy syringe based exchange in Merseyside for the period 2003/04.
- Of the NEW clients reported by pharmacies; 81% were male and 20% were under 25. This pattern was repeated in all individual DAAT areas except Wirral, where only 4% were under 25.
- For ALL pharmacy clients; 80% were male and 14% were under 25. This was the same within all individual DAATs except Knowsley, where only 57% were male.

## **2. Agency based**

- A total of 3,296 clients were reported as attending an agency based syringe exchange in Merseyside in the period 2003/04.
- Of the NEW clients reported by agencies, 90% were male and 19% were under 25.
- For ALL agency clients, 89% were male and 19% were under 25.
- A similar pattern is found across all individual DAATs except Wirral, where only 11% under 25.
- Heroin is the most commonly reported main drug among ALL clients, followed by steroids, except in Knowsley where steroids are more commonly reported than heroin.
- Heroin was the most commonly reported main drug among ALL female clients.
- Heroin and steroids were equally reported among ALL male clients.
- Steroids was the most commonly reported main drug used by under 25s.
- For those in the 25+ age group, heroin was the most commonly reported main drug.

## **3. Combined syringe exchange data**

- Overall there were 3,325 clients attending the syringe exchange scheme (either type) during 2003/04.
- Of all clients reported across both types of syringe exchange, 84% were male and 50% were under 25.

## **National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)**

- A total of 8,257 clients reported for the period 2003/04.
- Of all clients reported to the NDTMS and to the IAD, 69% were male and 8% were under 25.

## **Probation Service**

- A total of 1,125 arrestees were reported to the IAD for the period 2003/04.
- Of all arrestees reported here, 77% were male and 18% were under 25.
- All female arrestees in Knowsley were 25 years or older.
- The most common drug offence reported here was intent to supply heroin or cocaine.