

# Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database

Executive summary of  
Annual report 2000

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## Glossary of Terms

### Acronyms

AR	Arrest referral
CJS	Criminal justice system
DAT	Drug Action Team, in the case of Liverpool the Drug and Alcohol Action Team
(R)DMD	(Regional) Drug Misuse Database
HMYOI	Her Majesty's Young Offenders Institution
IAD	Merseyside Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database
NDTMS	National Drug Treatment and Monitoring System
RPT	Relapse prevention, education and training scheme
SDA	Specialist drug agency
SES	Syringe exchange scheme
SS	Social Services
YOT	Youth offending team

### Descriptive Terms

*Primary Drug* - the drug which is causing the individual the most problems at the point of contact **or** which is considered by them to be their main drug of use **or** which has been categorised by an agency (e.g. Police) as the main drug involved in the contact incident.

*Subsidiary Drug* - a drug of use/possession which has not been classed as the primary drug.

*Police incident* - a singular offence e.g. possession of cannabis.

*Drug Crime* - crime involving the physical presence of a controlled drug - i.e. possession, supply, production, cultivation (of cannabis) or similar charge under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

*Trafficking Offence* - supply, "possession with intent to supply", production, cultivation.

*Young People* - in this report refers to those under 25 years of age as categorised in the White Paper *Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain*.

## Time Periods Used in This Report

Period 1	1 July to 31 December 1997	(six months)
Period 2	1 January to 30 June 1998	(six months)
Period 3	1 July to 31 December 1998	(six months)
Period 4	1 January to 30 June 1999	(six months)
Period 5	1 July to 31 December 1999	(six months)
Period 6	1 April to 30 September 2000	(six months)
Period 7	1 October 2000 to 31 March 2001	(six months)

## Acknowledgements

The Drug Action Teams for, Sefton, St. Helens and Knowsley and Wirral, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team for Liverpool; Merseyside Police, Merseyside Probation Service and Liverpool Health Authority have all contributed to the establishment of the project and are represented on its steering group which has played a central role in the development of the database.

The authors would like to thank Caryl Beynon, Penny Cook, Diana Leighton and Jim McVeigh at the Public Health Sector. Staff at all the agencies involved for their assistance with data collection, and, not least, the data processing and administrative staff within the Public Health Sector at JMU, Clare Dickson, Ann Park, Pauline Rimmer, and Sharon Schofield.

## Introduction

The Inter Agency Drug Misuse Database (IAD), which was set up by the four Merseyside Drug (and Alcohol) Action Teams (DATs), Merseyside Police and the Public Health Sector in 1997, is intended to help fulfil the need for local information on drug misuse. In particular the IAD aims to enable DATs to report on local progress towards performance targets outlined in *Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain* (Department of Health, 1998). Unlike other local databases, the IAD reports data on drug misusers who come into contact with the criminal justice system (CJS), as well as health services. In addition, services that could enhance the information available to the IAD are continually being highlighted and encouraged to report. Since the last IAD report (Hounscome et al, 2001), three further agencies have commenced reporting.

The arrest referral scheme (AR) is now operating in all custody suites in Merseyside and have commenced reporting to the IAD. Between April 2000 and October 2000 most of these were in their early stages and the numbers of contacts reported were low. Since October 2000 these numbers have increased (from 349 reports to 1121 reports).

Liverpool Social Services (SS) also commenced reporting to the IAD in the year 2000. Reports are made of people seen by the substance misuse team.

Youth offending teams (YOTs) are now operating across Merseyside. However, due to national YOTs computing system problems only the Sefton YOT was able to commence reporting to the IAD. St. Helens YOT has been reporting since the last half of 1999, as they were a pilot scheme.

This report describes data from the two six-month periods between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2000 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2001. These reporting periods are different to those the IAD previously used (1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> December). These changes are due to the implementation of a new national drug monitoring system. Previously, the Drug Misuse Database (DMD) collected information on clients presenting at treatment settings for a new episode of treatment i.e. the first contact in at least six months. However, this has now been replaced with the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) which collects information on all clients seen at treatment agencies. This system is based on, and will replace, the Merseyside and Cheshire Period Prevalence database, a local

initiative that has collected this information in Merseyside and Cheshire for the last 5 years. Previously the information for specialist drug agencies (SDAs) used by the IAD was received from the Period Prevalence database. The information will now come from the NDTMS, which collects data from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

A further change in the IAD report this year is that only an Executive Summary will be published. The information formerly reported in the full publication will be disseminated to DATs as appropriate. If you require this information or any further analyses please contact either the IAD co-ordinator or your DAT co-ordinator. Requests are welcome.

## How many drug users are being seen by agencies? (Table 1) (Figure 1)

In P6, 12120 reports were made to the IAD, a 31% increase on the previous period. In P7, there was a decrease of 7% to 11288 reports. Whilst syringe exchange schemes (SEs) have reported steady numbers of around 2000 users in previous periods there has been a slight decrease since P5. Specialist drug agencies reported another increase in P6 (from 4950 reports to 5466 reports) but a reduction in P7 to 5003. When only those SDAs who have reported in each period since P2 are considered, there has been a decrease from 4651 (P5) to 4418 (P7) reports, as shown in Figure 1.

In P6, the Police reported an increase in the number of arrests made for drug crimes (from 998 arrests to 1293). However, due to changes in the reporting of data to the IAD, the numbers reported in P7 fell to 557 arrests. This is not representative of the number of arrests actually made (1563 for possession and 419 for supply). There is always some difference between the number of arrests made and the number reported to the IAD (e.g. 56% of arrests were reported in P6). However, in P7 this difference was far greater with only 28% of arrests being reported. The IAD is working with the Police information providers and aims to rectify the problem in time for the next report. The information provided by the Police is very valuable in understanding drug misuse in Merseyside especially when used with AR data.

The increase in the number of custody suites running AR schemes across Merseyside did not have much effect on the numbers reported to the IAD until P7 when the numbers increased from 226 in P5 to 1121 in P7.

**Table 1: Numbers of drug users reported by each agency type**

Count for each six-month period and Overall Counts (1st July 1997 - 31st March 2001)

Agency Type	Reports P1	Reports P2	Reports P3	Reports P4	Reports P5	Reports P6	Reports P7	Total Excluding* P7 Double Counting	% new** Reportees P6	% new** Reportees P7
SDA	3377	4770	4194	4929	4950	5466	5003	10006	22%	14.1%
SES	2065	2020	1868	2085	2040	1871	1779	5957	35%	26%
RPT	-	533	99	188	166	-	-	870	-	-
Police	1618	2100	1524	1234	998	1293	557	8194	79%	81%
Probation	43	77	84	1092	840	858	789	3042	73%	70%
Prison	-	345	286	-	-	-	-	597	-	-
AR	-	71	63	98	226	349	1121	1667	94%	81%
YOT	-	-	-	-	36	122	144	153	84%	10%
HMYOI	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	8	-	-
SS	-	-	-	-	-	129	109	238	100%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7103</b>	<b>9916</b>	<b>8118</b>	<b>9626</b>	<b>9264</b>	<b>12120</b>	<b>11288</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total indivs</b>	<b>6233</b>	<b>8387</b>	<b>7058</b>	<b>8015</b>	<b>7808</b>	<b>10408</b>	<b>9370</b>	<b>26706</b>	<b>37.2%</b>	<b>28.1%</b>

\*Double counting is excluded between time periods and between individual agencies but not between different types of agency.

\*\*New to the IAD from that agency type.

SDA = specialist drug agency, SES = syringe exchange scheme, RPT = relapse prevention, education and training scheme

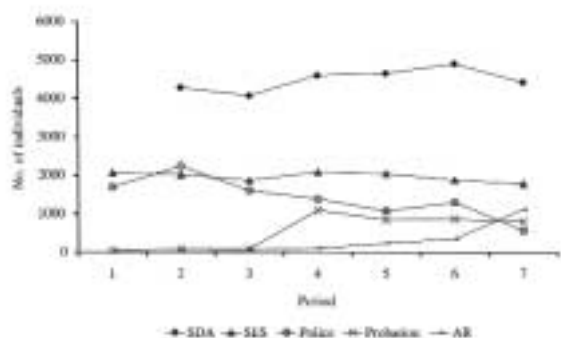
AR = arrest referral, YOT = youth offending teams, HMYOI = Her Majesty's Young Offenders Institution, SS = Social Services

Periods: P1 (1 Jul-31 Dec '97). P2 (1 Jan-30 Jun '98). P3 (1 Jul-31 Dec '98). P4 (1 Jan-30 Jun '99). P5 (1 Jul-31 Dec '99). P6 (1 April-30 Sept '00). P7 (1 Oct '00 - Mar '01)

The number of reports made by Probation increased slightly from 840 to 850 reports in P6 but decreased slightly in P7 to 789 reports.

The number of people reporting the use of drugs seen at St. Helens YOT increased from 36 in P5 to 122 clients in P6. In P7, Sefton YOT also reported their clients and consequently the number of drug misusers seen by the reporting YOTs increased to 144.

Social Services who began to report to the IAD in April 2000 reported 129 and 109 respectively for the two periods.



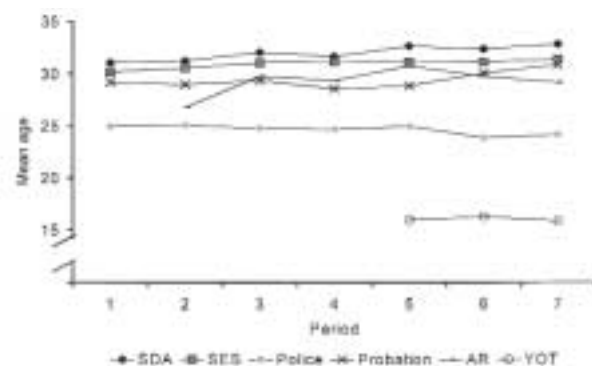
SDA = specialist drug agency, SES = syringe exchange scheme, AR = arrest referral

\*Analysis limited to agencies reporting every period since P2

**Figure 1: Number of people reported by SDA\*, SESs, Police, Probation and AR: all periods**

### What age are drug users? (Figure 2)

The mean age of individuals reported to the IAD has remained steady in the last year and a half at 31 years. In all five periods, mean ages of each agency type differed, as can be seen in Figure 2. SS, who commenced reporting in P6 reported the oldest cohort with a mean age 35 years. In previous reports, SDAs reported the oldest cohort with mean ages around 32 years. The SDAs continued reporting clients with a mean age of 32 years until P7 when the mean age increased to 33 years. The SESs reported the next oldest cohort, with average ages of these clients having risen until P3 when they levelled off at 31 years and remained steady in P6 and P7. Probation, who previously reported a mean age of 29 years, reported on average slightly older clients at a mean of 30 years in P6 and 31 years in P7. This still makes this cohort consistently younger than that reported by SESs but older than the Police cohort, whose mean age was 25 years in previous periods. The Police reported a decrease in the mean age of arrestees from 25 years P5 to 24 years in P6 and P7. AR clients fluctuated in their mean ages. These are likely to steady as the AR scheme becomes established. YOTs continued to report clients with a mean age of 16 years.



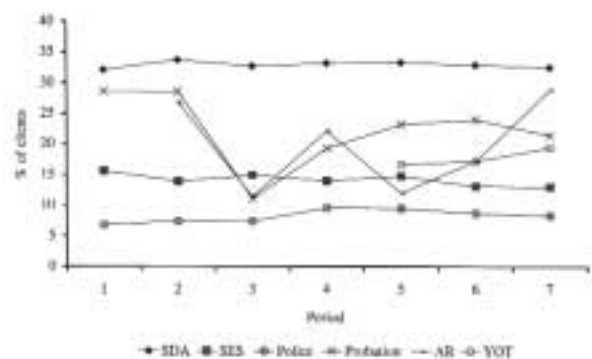
SDA = specialist drug agency, SES = syringe exchange scheme, AR = arrest referral, YOT = youth offending team

**Figure 2: Mean age of individuals reported to the IAD by each agency type**

### What percentage of reported drug users are female? (Figure 3)

There was a gradual increase in the proportion of female reportees over the first five periods (from 21.4% in P1 to 25.1% in P5), mainly due to an increase in the percentage of arrestees who were female. The increase in the percentage of females reported seems to have abated and is remaining steady at around 24%. The increase in the percentage of female arrestees reported has also subsided with there being a slight decrease in P6 and P7 (from 9.8% in P5 to 8.7% and 8.3% in P6 and P7 respectively). SESs also reported a decrease in the percentage of females from 14.8% to 13.0%. In P6 and P7, SDAs continued to report 33.3% females. The percentage of clients who were female reported by Probation increased to 24.0% in P6 but decreased to 21.4% in P7. The percentage of AR clients who were female increased in P6 and P7 from 12.0% (P5) to 17.2% (P6) and 19.4% (P7). The percentages of females reported to the IAD in each period are shown in Figure 3.

The reason for low percentages of females attending drug services has been suggested to be because female problematic drug users are reluctant to access services. However, recent research using capture recapture statistical methods, suggested that a greater proportion of the estimated population of female problematic drug misusers are accessing services than the comparative male population (Beynon et al., 2001).



SDA = specialist drug agency, SES = syringe exchange scheme, AR = arrest referral, YOT = youth offending teams

	Total no. of reportees						
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
SDA	3377	4752	4186	4929	4949	5466	5003
SES	1947	1932	1855	1966	1882	1871	1779
Police	1618	2098	1519	1333	997	1293	557
Probation	43	77	84	1092	840	850	789
AR		71	61	95	225	349	1121

**Figure 3: Percentage of females reported to the IAD by agency type across the seven periods**



Periods: P1 (1 Jul-31 Dec '97). P2 (1 Jan-30 Jun '98). P3 (1 Jul-31 Dec '98). P4 (1 Jan-30 Jun '99). P5 (1 Jul-31 Dec '99). P6 (1 April-30 Sept '00). P7 (1 Oct '00 - Mar '01)

## Which drugs are being misused? (Figures 4 - 9)

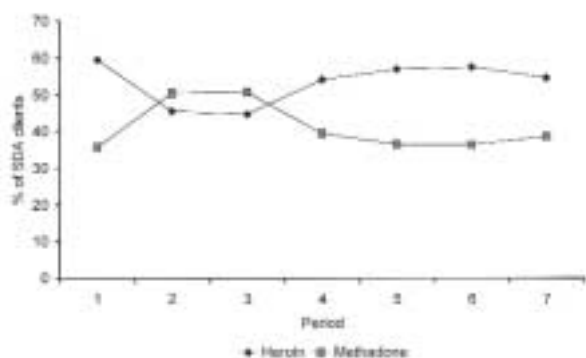
The drugs reported by the Police are the drugs involved in the arrest, and the primary drug is the drug that will result in the most serious offence. Drug data for SDAs are obtained from the DMD and are the drugs used at the time of the most recent episode of treatment, and the primary drug is the drug that is most problematic to the client. All SESs report the clients' main drug of use at their first presentation to services, therefore SDA and SES drug data may not be representative of a clients current drug use. However, where trends for new clients (which represent up to date information) differ from all clients, differences are highlighted.

### Primary drugs of use

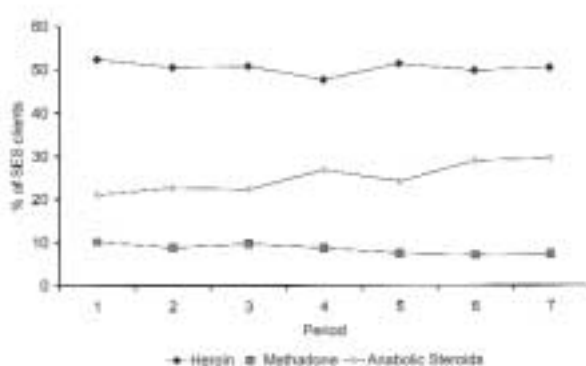
As in previous periods, Police data were dominated by cannabis arrests whilst SDAs and SESs reported high percentages of heroin and methadone and, in the case of SESs, anabolic steroid users.

During P6 SDAs continued to report a slight decrease in the percentage of users reporting methadone as their primary drug and a corresponding increase in primary heroin use. In P7, the opposite was true with a decrease in the percentage reporting primary heroin use and an increase in the percentage reporting primary methadone use (see Figure 4a). SESs continued to report heroin as the most frequent primary drug of use, followed by anabolic steroids and then methadone (see Figure 4b). SESs reported a gradual decline in primary methadone use between P1 and P5 (from 10.1% to 7.5%), but this has levelled off in P6 and P7. Anabolic steroid use has shown an overall increase during the three and a half years of reporting with 21% of clients reporting it as their primary drug in P1, and 29% reporting it as their primary drug in P7. There were no other consistent trends in the primary drugs of use.

a) SDA



b) SES

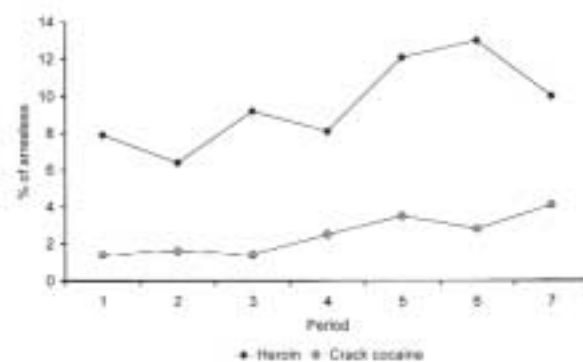


	Total no. of reportees whose drugs of use were reported						
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
SDA	3377	4278	3822	3823	3798	4274	3884
SES	1758	1729	1643	1694	1653	1552	1466
Police	1678	2173	1602	1345	1038	1258	540
YOT	-	-	-	-	36	122	144
AR	-	-	-	-	-	137	1076

SDA = specialist drug agency, SES = syringe exchange scheme, AR = arrest referral, YOT = youth offending teams

Figure 4: Primary drug of use for a) SDA and b) SES

Of the Police reports in P6, 69.4% involved cannabis; a decrease from 73.2% in P5. In P7, 73.5% of arrests were for crimes involving cannabis. The percentage of arrests involving primarily heroin continued to increase in P6 (from 12.1% to 13.0%) but decreased in P7 to 10.0%. Arrests involving primarily crack cocaine decreased in P6 (to 2.8%) but increased again in P7 to 4.1% the highest level since reporting began (Figure 5). The overall decrease in the number of arrests reported by the Police in P7 may account for some of the changes shown for this period.



For numbers see table in Figure 4 N.B. Only key trends are shown

Figure 5: Primary drug of use for arrestees

YOTs reported mainly primary cannabis use (52.8% in P5, 86.9% in P6 and 84.7% in P7). Primary heroin use has remained steady at 3% whereas primary cocaine and crack cocaine use have decreased (from 3% to 1% for cocaine and 3% to 0% for crack cocaine). Amphetamine use was high in P5 at 22.2% but decreased to 2.5% in P6. This decrease may be due to the small numbers of users reported in P5. There was a slight increase to 3.5% in P7. Primary ecstasy use has fluctuated between 3.3% and 8.3% and "other" drug use between 8.3% and 2.1%.

AR commenced reporting drugs of use in P6. Clients of AR are reporting mainly primary heroin use (62.8% and 77.7% in P6 and P7 respectively).

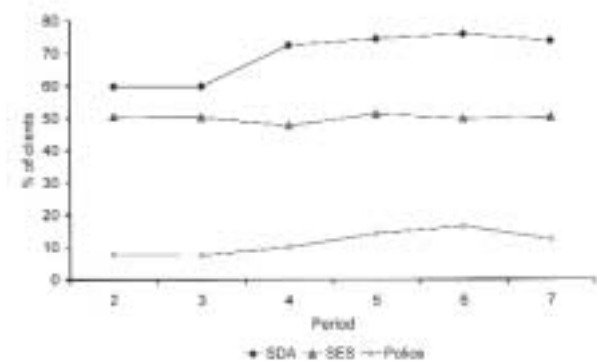


### All heroin and methadone (Figure 6)

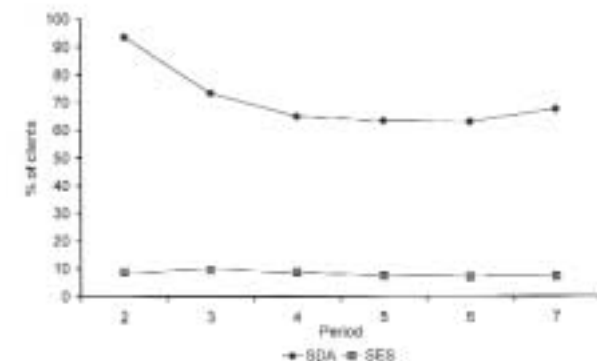
In P6, the percentage of people reporting heroin use continued to increase in SDAs and Police but decreased for SESs. In P7, SDAs and Police reported a decrease whereas SESs reported a slight increase (Figure 6a).

The percentage of users who reported using methadone decreased for both SDAs and SESs in P6 and increased in P7 (although only slightly for SESs) (Figure 6b).

a) Heroin



b) Methadone



SDA = specialist drug agency, SES = syringe exchange scheme  
 For numbers see table in Figure 4  
 Only data from P2 onwards shown due to the large increase in the range of agencies commencing reporting in P2

**Figure 6: Percentage of clients from each agency type who reported using a) heroin and b) methadone**

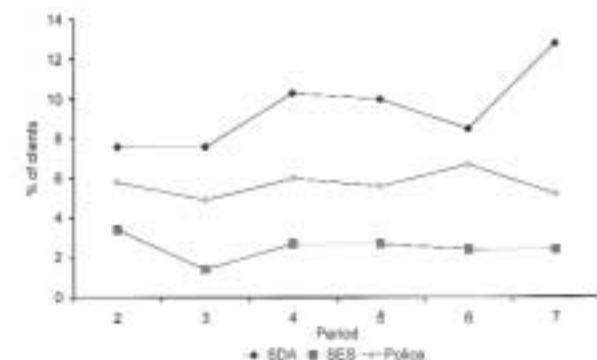
### All cocaine and crack cocaine (Figure 7)

The overall percentage of people who reported using cocaine continued to remain stable in P6 at 6.9% but increased in P7 to 9.3%. SDAs reported a decrease in the percentage of clients reporting the use of cocaine from 10.0% to 8.5% in P6 but a large increase in P7 to the highest level ever reported of 12.8%. Police reports continued to fluctuate, while reports from SESs remained relatively stable. (Figure 7a)

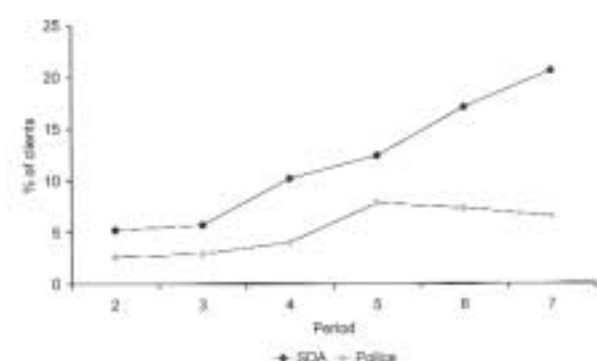
Reported crack cocaine use continued to rise from 8.5% in P5 to 11.7% in P6, although in P7 there was a decrease to 8.1%. Some of this change was due to the different agencies reporting. Previously i.e. prior to AR reporting, SDAs and the Police reported the largest percentage of crack cocaine users (Figure 7b) and in P6 and P7 SDAs continued to report an increase in reported crack cocaine use. The previous increase in reported arrests for drug crimes involving crack cocaine abated. The increase in the number of custody suites operating an AR in P6 resulted in higher levels of crack cocaine use than SDAs. Whereas SDAs reported 17.1% of

clients were using crack cocaine AR reported 21.2%. In P7 this level rose to 49.6%. This suggests that while AR clients report primarily heroin use, a large percentage used both heroin and crack cocaine (20.4% in P6 and 40.7% in P7). There has also been a continued increase in the percentage of SDA clients reporting heroin and crack cocaine use (Figure 8). This is due to the increase in reported heroin and crack cocaine use in new reportees (for when data on drug of use is more accurate). There are no differences between the sexes in terms of drugs of use until broken down by age. There was a greater percentage of females under 25 years old reporting the combined use of heroin and crack cocaine than there was for males.

a) Cocaine

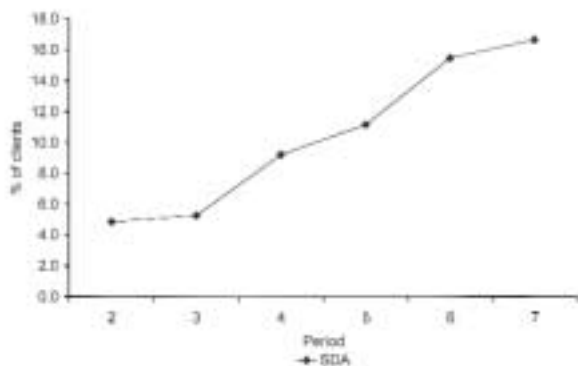


b) Crack cocaine



SDA = specialist drug agency, SES = syringe exchange scheme,  
 For numbers see table in Figure 4

**Figure 7: Percentage of clients within each agency type who reported using a) cocaine and b) crack cocaine**

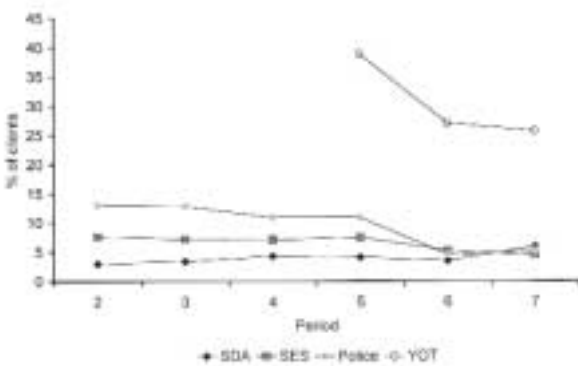


SDA = specialist drug agency  
 Only numbers from P2 onwards shown due to the large increase in the range of agencies commencing reporting in P2  
 For numbers see table in Figure 4

**Figure 8: Percentage of SDA clients reporting the use of both heroin and crack cocaine**

### All amphetamine (Figure 9)

Reported amphetamine use fell to 4.4% in P6 and then rose to 5.4% in P7. Police, who prior to YOTs data contribution reported the greatest percentage of amphetamine users, reported a further large decrease in P6 and a small increase in P7 (Figure 9). SESs, another agency type to report substantial numbers of amphetamine users, reported decreases in both P6 and P7. SDAs reported an increase in P7. The YOTs report by far the highest level of amphetamine use at 39% in P5 but this fell to 27% and 26% in P6 and P7.



SDA = specialist drug agency, SES = syringe exchange scheme, YOT = youth offending team For numbers see table in Figure 4  
 Only numbers from P2 onwards shown due to the large increase in the range of agencies commencing reporting in P2.

**Figure 9: Percentage of clients within each agency type who reported using amphetamine**

### All cannabis and other drugs

The main source of data on cannabis users continued to be the Police. In P6, there was an increase in the number of arrests involving cannabis from 72.2% to 73.9%, followed by a further increase in P7 to 75.6%. Other drugs reported included benzodiazepines (mainly SDAs), anabolic steroids (mainly SESs) and ecstasy (mainly the Police). AR reported 21.9% of clients using benzodiazepines in P6 and none in P7 when "other" was the most reported other drug. YOTs have reported ecstasy and "other" drug use in the last three periods.

## The government's ten-year strategy

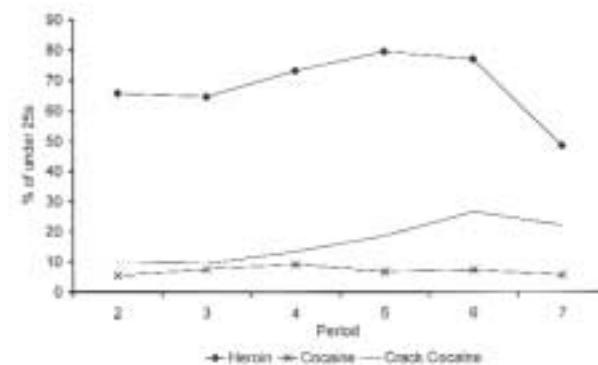
The IAD aims to enable the DATs on Merseyside to monitor progress towards the government's objectives as outlined in their ten-year strategy *Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain* (Department of Health, 1998). The following four sections discuss findings from the IAD, in the context of each of the four main objectives of the strategy: Young People, Treatment, Communities and Availability.

### Young people

An important focus of the government's ten-year strategy is on young people (those under the age of 25 years). The aim is to reduce substantially the proportion of people under 25 reporting use of illegal drugs in the last month and previous year. Specific targets are to reduce reported heroin and cocaine use by 25% by 2005 and 50% by the year 2008 (Department of Health, 1999).

### SDA

Of the 5466 SDA clients reported in P6, 9.9% (541 individuals) were under the age of 25. In P7, 8.3% (413 individuals) of SDA clients were under 25. The percentage of new clients (those not reported to the IAD previously) who were under 25 increased slightly for females but remained steady for males. The percentage of SDA clients under 25 who reported using heroin fell both in P6 and in P7 (from 79.6% in P5 to 77.1% in P6 and 48.4% in P7). The percentage of under 25s reporting the use of cocaine has fluctuated across previous periods between 5.5% and 9.2%. In P7 it was at 5.6%. The percentage of under 25s reporting the use of crack cocaine continued to increase in P6 from 18.6% in P5 to 26.6% in P6. There was a decrease to 22.0% in P7 (Figure 10).



Only data from P2 onwards shown due to the large increase in the range of agencies commencing reporting in P2

**Figure 10: Percentage of Under 25s reporting the use of heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine**

### SESs

SESs reported a decrease in the percentage of their clients who were under 25 year olds accessing their services in P7 (from 14.0% to 13.0%). The percentage of new clients under 25 is at present around 29% for males and 23% for females. The percentage of new clients under 25 has increased for males from a low of 22% in P3 and has fluctuated for females across the seven time periods (between 18.2% and 27.8%).

Overall, the percentage of clients under the age of 25 years using heroin has reduced from 45.5% in P1 to 29.2% in P7. Very few SES clients under 25 report using cocaine so any trend is difficult to determine. Anabolic steroid use in under 25s continued to increase sharply in P6 and P7 (from 61.3% to 66.9%).

### Probation

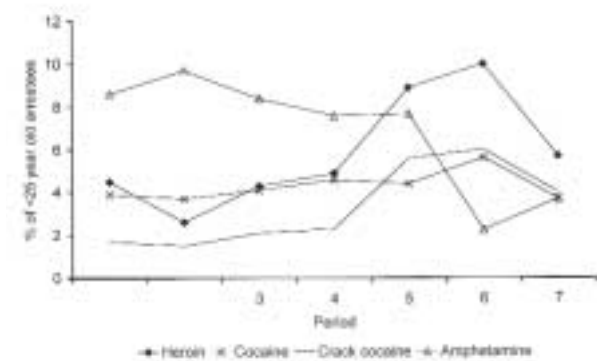
The percentage of Probation clients under 25 fell to 22.8% in P6 (from 25.6% in P5), and again to 17.1% in P7. The reasons for these changes are unknown.

### Arrest referral

AR reports of clients as under 25 years old continued to fluctuate with 29.2% of clients being under 25 in P6 and 23.8% in P7. When all the schemes become fully operational these percentages may stabilise.

### Police

The Police report one of the youngest cohort of users with a mean age of approximately 25 years. Therefore, the percentage of arrestees who are under the age of 25 years is high. In previous periods there has been a slight increase in the percentage of arrestees who were under 25 this continued in P6 and P7. In P7 63.2% of arrestees were under 25 compared to 55.1% in P1. The drug most commonly involved in arrests of under 25s, either as a primary or subsidiary drug, is cannabis (81.6% in P6 and 85.1% in P7). The percentage of young people arrested for heroin rose in each period from P2 to P6, as have arrests of young people for offences involving crack cocaine (Figure 11). In P7 there was a decrease in the percentage of under 25s arrested for offences involving heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine. There was an increase in the percentage arrested for amphetamine offences. It should be noted that changes in P7 may be due to a decrease in the number of reports made overall.

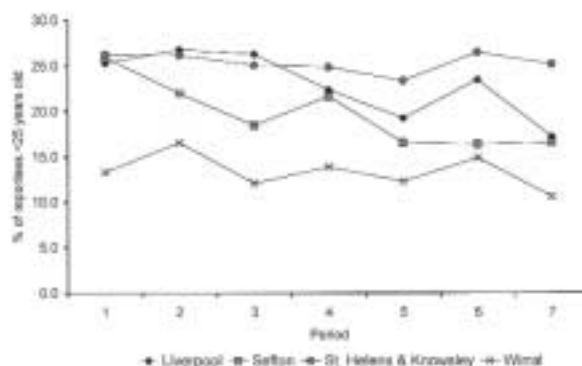


	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
N=	892	1149	890	734	585	756	345

**Figure 11: Percentage of young arrestees who were arrested for offences involving heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine or amphetamine**

### DAT areas

Analyses that include all agency types in each of the DAT areas show that in P6 agencies in Liverpool reported an increase in the percentage of young people in contact with services. However, the previous trend of decreases resumed in P7. Sefton reported a steady percentage of young people in P6 and P7. St. Helens & Knowsley agencies who have previously reported decreases, apart from a transient increase in P4, reported an increase in P6. Agencies within the Wirral DAT area continued to report fluctuating percentages of young people (Figure 12). Analyses by drug of use show no meaningful trends for any of the DATs with the percentages of heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine users fluctuating across periods.



**Figure 12: The percentage of clients reported by agencies in each DAT area who were under 25 years old**

### Communities

The government's key objective regarding communities is "To Reduce levels of repeat offending amongst drug misusing offenders". Due to difficulties with Police reporting, an analysis of the number of offenders re-offending would not be accurate. However, one of the key performance indicators for this key objective is an increase in the number of offenders referred to and entering treatment. Across all periods the percentage of arrestees who were also reported in the same period by SDA's, range from 4.0% to 6.9% with an average of 5.5%. The average percentage of arrestees reported by SDA's in subsequent periods shows a slight but consistent fall the further removed the period of the SDA report is from the arrest. There are no trends in the data over time, suggesting that the percentage of drug crime offenders accessing treatment services has changed little, staying at around 5%. An analysis carried out on the numbers and percentages of arrestees accessing SESs revealed similar patterns to the SDA's. However, the percentages were much lower, ranging from 1.5% to 2.9% (an average of 2.2%) of arrestees being reported by SESs in the same period as the arrest.

There has been a decreasing overlap between Probation and health services, until P4 for SDA's and P5 for SESs. In P1 42.9% of Probation clients were reported by SDA's in the same period whereas in P4 only 22.8% were reported at both agency types. The percentage of Probation clients reported at SDA's increased in P5 and is at 31.7% in P7. The percentage of Probation clients also reported by SESs decreased from 16.7% in P1 to 7.2% in P5. The percentage rose in P6 and P7 to 11.1% and 11.8% respectively. The effects of the changes in Probation's reporting method are as yet unclear, although future monitoring should confirm any trends.

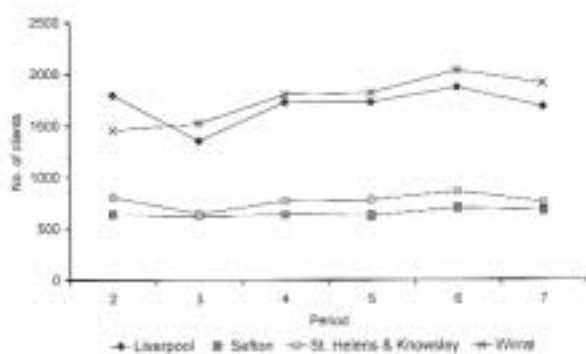
The percentage of people reported by AR who were also reported by SDA's in the same or subsequent periods is much larger than the percentage of Police arrestees also reported by SDA's (between 12.6% and 49.5% for AR compared to 0.7% and 7.1% for arrestees). This large percentage of AR clients being reported in treatment in the same and subsequent periods is encouraging. Until April 2000 only one AR had been running on Merseyside (Wirral) although new schemes that are now operating in Merseyside have started to report to the IAD.

### Treatment

The government strategy aims to increase the proportion of drug misusers accessing services. Monitoring this proportion requires measuring both the numbers of people accessing services and the numbers of users not in contact with services i.e. the hidden population. As, by definition, it is not possible to measure the size of the hidden population, estimates of the size of the population

have been made using capture-recapture techniques applied to IAD data (Beynon et al., 2001).

Using the data available to the IAD it is possible to monitor the number of drug misusers accessing services. The number of people reported by SDAs increased from 4950 individuals in P5 to 5466 individuals in P6 but fell to 5003 individuals in P7. Liverpool and Wirral both reported an increase in P6 but a decrease in P7. The number of people reported by Sefton SDAs has changed little over the periods, as have the numbers reported by St. Helens & Knowsley based SDAs (Figure 13).



Only numbers from P2 onwards shown due to the large increase in the range of agencies commencing reporting in P2

**Figure 13: Number of individuals reported by SDAs in each DAT area across the last seven periods**

Numbers reported by SESs have fallen slightly between P4 and P7 from 2085 individuals to 1779 individuals. The numbers of people reported by SES in Merseyside have changed little for any of the four DATs. However, there has been a gradual increase in the number of reports by St. Helens & Knowsley SESs until P7 when there was a decrease and Wirral SESs have reported a general decrease over the seven periods.

The government strategy also aims to decrease the number of users injecting drugs. In P6 and P7, SDAs and YOTs reported the route of administration of drugs. The percentage of SDA clients who reported injecting remained steady in P6 and P7, at between 32.0% and 33%. Of the youth agencies, four of 144 YOT clients were injecting drugs.

### Availability

The government's ten-year strategy aims to reduce access to drugs amongst 5 to 16 year olds and to increase the number of arrests for supply of illegal substances.

Despite the overall reported decrease in the number of arrests for drug crimes in Merseyside, the percentage for trafficking offences (i.e. supply, possession with intent to supply, production and cultivation) increased between P3 and P5 (from 13.4% in P3 to 23.6% in P5). In P6 the percentage stayed steady at 23.4% however, there was a decrease in P7 to 21.1%.

There have been fluctuations in the type of drugs involved in arrests for trafficking offences with heroin accounting for between 22.4% and 34.6% of trafficking arrests and cannabis accounting for between 30.0% and 53.3% of trafficking offences.

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In addition, because it is not possible to present all of the available data in a report of this kind, requests for additional clarification or analysis of specific data are welcome from colleagues in the drugs field. Members of Merseyside Drug Action Teams or Drug Reference Groups are also encouraged to give feedback on future developments of the Inter Agency Database directly or via their DAT Co-ordinator.

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