

Merseyside DIP Demographics Report 06/07

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1.0 Introduction

The link between drug use and acquisitive crime is well established through research and addressed within UK Government policy. Research has demonstrated high levels of drug use among prison populations (Singleton et al, 1999, Liriano and Ramsey, 2003) and arrestees (Holloway and Bennett, 2004, O'Shea et al, 2003) and also high levels of offending among drug treatment samples (Gossop et al, 1998). Acquisitive crime aside, drug misusers frequently come into contact with the Criminal Justice System as the use of illegal drugs makes them liable for arrest (Gossop, 2005).

The Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) was developed as part of the Updated Drugs Strategy to break the link between drugs and crime and minimise the harm caused to individuals and society as a whole. It was introduced in April 2003 and, according to the Home Office, between then and June 2004 there was a fall in England and Wales of 12.9% in acquisitive crime. In that same time 8,000 drug misusing offenders entered treatment through DIP (Home Office, 2004). Research has suggested that treatment is effective with every £1 spent on treatment saving £9.50 in crime and health costs (Godfrey et al, 2004). There are various services available through DIP, including structured drug treatment, counselling, employment, housing and healthcare.

In April 2006, drug-testing provision was expanded in the 97 Basic Command Units testing on charge. The Drugs Act 2005 introduced new legislation allowing individuals arrested for trigger offences to be drug tested. This enabled testing to be conducted earlier in the custody process in the hope of engaging more people in DIP (Drugs Act 2005).

Whilst there has been an abundance of data produced about DIP, most of it has been performance management related. So far nationally there has been no data produced examining the characteristics of the clients coming into contact with DIP. There is however a wealth of information on this topic from other sources, some of which is outlined in the rest of this section.

Age of Drug Users

The 2005/06 British Crime Survey (BCS) estimated that 34.9% of 16 to 59 year olds had used one or more illicit drugs in their lifetime (Roe & Mann, 2006). The 2006/07

BCS found that 10% of 16-59 year olds had used illicit drugs in the previous year, which was the lowest it has been since 2003/04. This decline has been attributed to a continued fall in cannabis use. According to the 2006/07 BCS, Class A drug use amongst 16-59 year olds has, however, increased since 1997 from 2.7% to 3.4% due to a continued rise in the use of powder cocaine (Nicholas et al 2007). The 2005/06 BCS estimated that 45.1% of 16 to 24 year olds had used one or more illicit drugs in their lifetime, with 16.9% of those aged 16 to 24 having used a Class A drug at least once in their lifetime (Roe & Man, 2006). The 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 age groups also reported the highest levels of use in the last year of any drug (24.8% and 25.6%). These levels do, however, mark a decline since 1998 in the reports of drug use in the previous year for both the 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 age group, which in 1998 stood at 32.9% and 30.9% respectively (Roe & Man, 2006).

The 2005/06 BCS also found that between 1998 and 2005/06 the reported use of Class A drugs in the previous year increased amongst the older age groups. In the 30 to 34 age group Class A drug use rose from 1.5% in 1998 to 4.3% in 2005/06 and in the 35 to 44 age group from 0.7% in 1998 to 1.8% in 2005/06 (Roe & Man, 2006).

According to National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) data the median age for all clients in drug treatment for 2004/05 was 30 years, where the age was calculated at the year mid-point (30th September 2004). Over two-fifths of clients in treatment were aged between 25 and 34 years.

Table 1.1 Age of North West NDTMS clients in treatment 2006/07

Age	<16	16-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+
%	3%	3%	3%	8%	14%	21%	23%	15%	6%	4%

NB: Age calculated on last day of reporting period (31st March 2007) Source: Khundakar et al, 2007.

NDTMS data revealed that the main drug of use for individuals over 18 was heroin (67%) and cannabis for those under 18 (67%) (NTA, 2006).

Female drug users

The 2005/06 British Crime Survey indicated that men reported higher levels of illicit drug use over their lifetime, in the previous year and past month compared to women (Roe & Man 2006). Women are also less likely to be in contact with drug treatment services and have been highlighted as one of the groups for special focus in the National Treatment Agency's Models of Care framework (NTA, 2002). According to data reported to the NDTMS, just 28% of clients in residential

treatment and 28.7% of those in structured community treatment in England in 2003/04 were female (Best & Abdulrahim 2005). Despite their lower numbers, female problematic drug users have some specific issues as highlighted by Becker & Duffy (2002):

- Pregnancy and child care
- Sex working – “Women engaging in sex-for-money or sex-for-drugs exchanges are likely to be at greater risks of both negative health and social consequences”
- Sexual health needs, including unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
- Past experience of sexual and physical abuse
- Mental health needs.

A recent feasibility study has also identified the need for research into the impact of domestic abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse, past and current, on women’s engagement and retention in drug treatment. This should also include consideration of the specific difficulties of women from black ethnic and minority and different faith communities (Galvani & Humphreys, 2007). Recent research into drug use of women sex workers revealed that the majority (96.9%) of the study sample used Class A drugs, with over half (51.7%) injecting and over half stating that they had entered into prostitution to fund their addiction. This study found that The Women’s Project in Stoke-on-Trent assisted these women in access and retention in treatment by addressing known barriers such as waiting times, transport difficulties and financial hardship (Bloor et al, 2006).

Becker & Duffy (2002) have also highlighted some more generic barriers women may face in accessing drug treatment services, including:

- Stigmatisation and child protection issues
- Poor social support networks
- Weakness in maternity services
- Negative attitudes of health professionals
- Ineffective interagency working.

Despite potential barriers to engagement and retention in drug treatment, Best & Abdulrahim (2005) showed that although women enter treatment at different points in their drug use, with different needs and different problems, there is no evidence to indicate that women are under-represented in treatment services in England.

These findings are supported locally in the North West by Beynon et al (2001) and more recently in Liverpool and Sefton (Beynon et al, 2004).

Black and minority ethnic populations

There is a recognised lack of knowledge regarding the nature and extent of drug use amongst the UK's black and minority ethnic groups (BME) (Fountain et al, 2003). What is known is that a large majority of BME groups are in the most deprived inner city areas (Social Exclusion Unit, 1998) and they also figure disproportionately in those that are:

- Unemployed
- Living in poverty
- In the Criminal Justice System
- Detained under the Mental Health Act 1983
- In ill health
- Excluded from school and in care
- Vulnerable to homelessness (Fountain et al, 2003).

These social and economic circumstances make them more at risk of developing problematic drug use (Patel & Wibberley, 2002).

According to the British Crime Survey 2004/05, 27% of people from a mixed ethnic background had taken Class A drugs in the past year, compared with 12% from White groups, 9% of those from Black groups, 4% from an Asian background and 3% from Chinese or other groups (Aust and Smith, 2005).

According to the NDTMS the majority of clients (91%) in drug treatment in England in 2003/04 were White. Of the remainder, 3% were Black or Black British, 2% were of mixed race, 1% was Indian, 1% was Pakistani or Bangladeshi and 2% reported their ethnic background as 'other' (NTA, 2005). This national pattern is replicated in the North West, where the vast majority of all individuals were recorded as White British (95.8%). Of those who self-defined themselves as belonging to BME communications, a higher proportion were aged under 25 years (19.6%) compared to those individuals classed as White (16.2%) (Khundakar et al 2006).

Patterns of problematic drug use have been found to vary according to ethnic group. During 2005/06 in the North West, a higher proportion of White service users reported problematic use of heroin (66.9%) compared to BME service users (61.9%),

whilst higher proportions of BME service users reported problematic crack (26.8%) and cannabis use (23.70%) than White service users (20.5% and 20.1% respectively) (Khundakar et al, 2006).

The National Treatment Agency (Fountain et al, 2003) has summarised some of the potential barriers to BME individuals entering treatment to be:

- A Lack of acknowledgement of drug use by BME cultures
- The Ethnicity of staff
- A Lack of understanding of BME cultures
- Language barriers
- A Lack of awareness of drug services and their functions
- Concerns about confidentiality

Edmonds et al (2005) highlighted the need for drug services to be sited sensitively. There may be stigma attached to drug use in BME communities, therefore there is a greater need for confidentiality and more thought given to the preservation of family reputation. As for women drug users, users from BME backgrounds have been highlighted as a group for special focus by the NTA in the Models of Care framework (NTA, 2002).

Injecting use

Intravenous drug use is associated with generally more chaotic drug use and brings with it numerous additional risks, primarily those of blood borne infection. The prevalence of injecting drug use in England has been estimated at 0.3% of the total population (15-64 years olds) (Frischer et al, 2004). Sutton et al (2005) looked at the prevalence of injecting drug use in England and found that the mean age of first injection was 21 and that over 50% of injectors start injecting between the ages of 18-25. Of the clients in treatment in 2003/04 in England, half (50%) were injecting at the time that they presented for treatment (NTA, 2005). The estimate with confidence level (95%) of the North West injectors, was between 18,781 and 25,204 (Hay et al, 2006). In addition, Liverpool focused research estimated that in 2000/01, 1.5% of the total population between 15 and 44 were injecting drug users (Hickman et al, 2004).

Drug use and homelessness

Research has shown that alcoholism and other substance abuse is the most pervasive health problem for the homeless (Velasquez et al, 2000). Devine & Wright

(1997) labelled the link between homelessness and substance use as a “socio-economic leveller”, in that research shows that there is a pathway from drug use to job loss, family dissolution, social isolation and for many, homelessness. There is also the possibility that homelessness may lead to substance abuse to cope with the fear, deprivation, loss of dignity and depression associated with their situation (Orwin et al, 2005). A 2001 study of 389 homeless people in London found that over half attributed their becoming homeless to drugs or alcohol and that 96% reported using drugs or alcohol in the previous month, with heroin, alcohol and cannabis the three most preferred substances. Over a third of people in the total sample were dependent on heroin and a quarter were alcohol dependent. There were also high levels of injecting with 78% injecting amongst those who had used heroin in the previous month (Fountain & Howes, 2002).

Homeless people with substance misuse problems experience severe difficulties in accessing healthcare, education and employment assistance. They may be unaware of, or excluded from, supported accommodation and experience difficulties finding social housing due to rent arrears, poor tenancy records and lack of knowledge about how to apply for housing (Centre for Social and Economic Exclusion, 2005, Home Office, 2006). Research recommends providing more flexible, multi-agency services with wider use of care-plans and confidentiality policies, in addition to collecting information on homeless service users’ own views on available support (Centre for Social and Economic Exclusion, 2005).

Services for people who are homeless and those who have substance abuse difficulties, have traditionally developed separately (Home Office, 2006). The introduction of Contact and Assessment Teams (CATs) and specialist outreach drug workers is trying to bridge the gap in services to reach those on the streets (Home Office, 2006).

Drug use and Deprivation

It is commonly assumed that more problematic forms of drug use are linked to socio-economic deprivation (ACMD, 1998). Deprivation can involve poverty, inadequate housing, poor education and a lack of employment or social opportunities. There is no clear link between those that have ever tried drugs and deprivation but there does appear to be a link between problematic drug use and deprivation. Deprivation also appears to be linked to lower age of first use, progression to dependence, injecting drug use, risky use, health and social complications from use

and criminal involvement. It is also suggested that drug users are less likely to get care and treatment if they live in a deprived area (Drugscope, 2005).

Report Aim

This report aims to provide the Merseyside DIP teams with summary information regarding the characteristics of the clients that they had contact with between April 05 and March 07. It will present such data as:

- A year by year comparison between 05/06 and 06/07 for each D(A)AT
- A regional comparison between the five Merseyside D(A)ATs

2.0 Methodology

The following analysis has been performed on the basis of D(A)AT of contact, rather than D(A)AT of residence, for all clients seen by DIP staff in Merseyside between April 05 and March 07. Data has been taken from information collected by DIP staff on monitoring forms produced by the Home Office: Initial Contact Forms (ICF), Drug Interventions Records (DIR) and Activity Forms (AF). The primary purpose of these forms is to monitor the continuity of care of clients and the stages involved such as contact, assessment, care plan, changes to care plan, transfers of care plan and case closure. All three forms collect basic demographic information about clients such as age, gender and ethnicity and this information has been examined at four stages of DIP involvement with the client; contact, assessment, care plan and transfer into the team. More in-depth information about clients' drug use, treatment, offending and accommodation is only collected on the DIR at assessment stage.

It should be noted that although generally questions regarding equipment sharing relate to injecting equipment, the DIR does not specify this, therefore, 'sharing equipment' could potentially cover the sharing of non-injecting related paraphernalia.

The data presented in tables and figures represent the proportions of individuals who provided responses to the questions asked on the initial contact, DIR or activity forms. Individuals who did not provide information for the demographic categories under analysis were therefore excluded and the number of exclusions in each instance has been noted directly beneath tables and figures. Only individuals that have indicated using drugs in the month prior to assessment were counted for drugs used, weekly spend on drugs, injecting and sharing equipment. Please note, as clients could give more than one response for offending, percentages will add up to more than 100%.

The following sections focus on each of the five D(A)ATs in Merseyside in turn. For each area, trends across a two year period were analysed to offer comparisons between 05/06, pre Test on Arrest and 06/07, post Test on Arrest. These sections are followed by a comparison between the five areas for 06/07.

This document should be read in conjunction with other reports detailing through put and trends. This report is not only intended as an information resource for D(A)ATs but also as a prompt for further investigation. Many key points will require more in depth investigation to fully explain the trends highlighted.

3.0 Knowsley

3.1 Knowsley - Contacts

According to DIRs and Initial Contact Forms received in 05/06, 317 clients in total were offered DIP by Knowsley DIP team. In 06/07, total of 151 clients were offered DIP.

Ethnicity

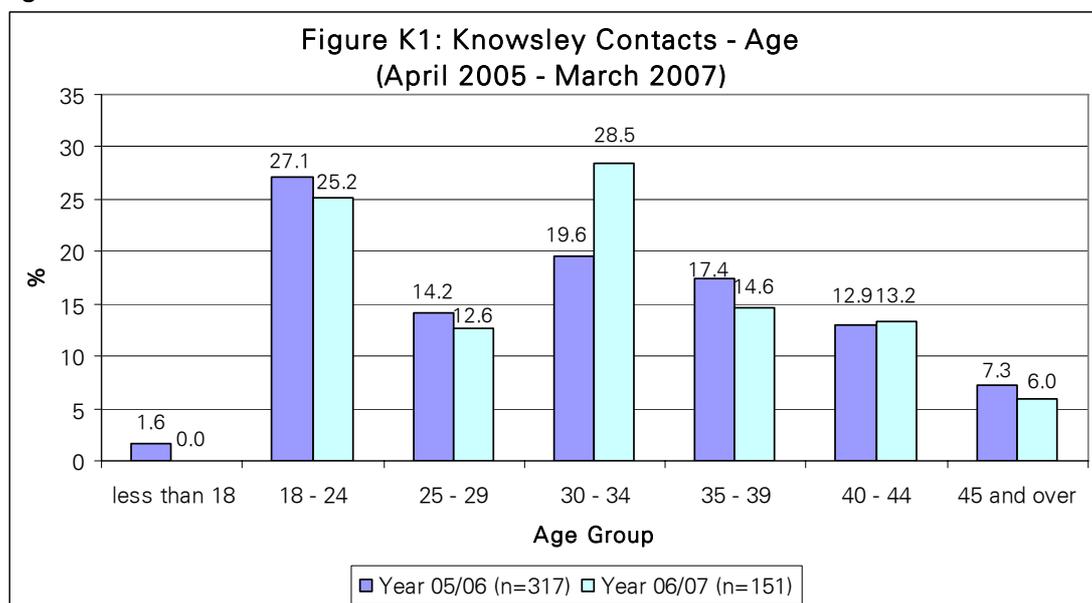
Table K1: Ethnic background of clients contacted in Knowsley (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Black	Mixed	White
05/06 (n=311)	Number	2	6	303
	%	0.6%	1.9	97.4%
06/07 (n=148)	Number	2		146
	%	1.4%		98.6%

NB: In 05/06, 6 clients did not provide information regarding ethnicity and in 06/07 three clients did not provide this information.

The vast majority of clients contacted in 05/06 and 06/07 (97.4% and 98.6% respectively), were white.

Age



Between April 05 and March 06, over a quarter (27.1%) of clients contacted by Knowsley DIP were aged between 18 and 24 years, with a similar proportion (25.2%) in this age group in the following year. In 05/06, a fifth (19.6%) of individuals contacted were aged between 30 and 34 years in 05/06. The proportion of individuals from this age group contacted in 06/07 was higher (28.5%).

Gender

The vast majority of individuals contacted by Knowsley DIP team in both 05/06 and 06/07 were male, (91.8% and 88.1% respectively).

3.2 Knowsley - Assessments

A total of 84 clients were assessed by the Knowsley DIP team in 05/06 compared to 139 clients 06/07.

Ethnicity

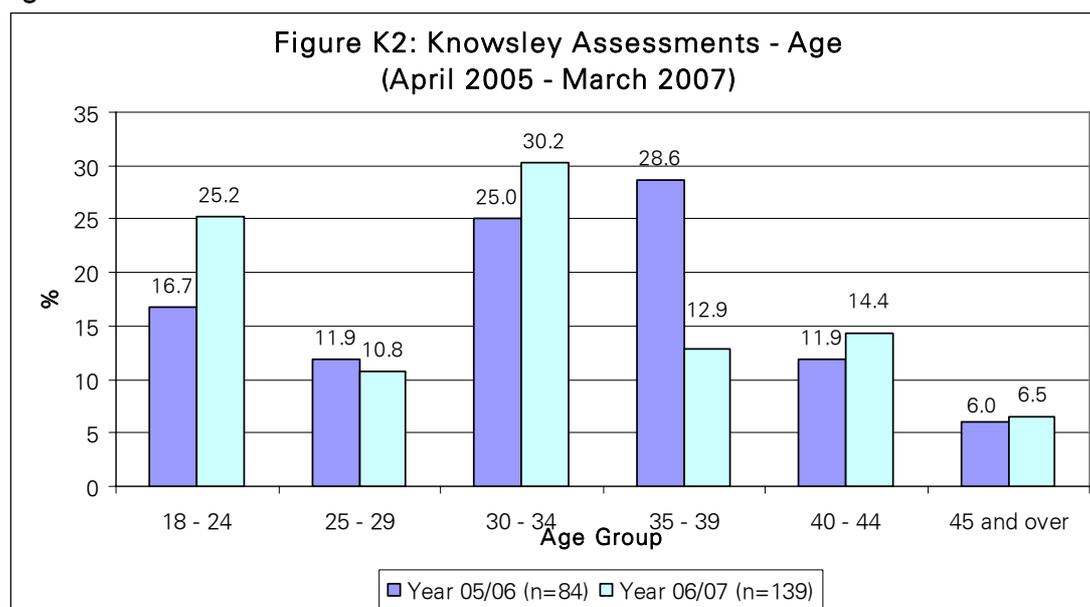
Table K2: Ethnic background of clients assessed in Knowsley (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Black	Mixed	White
05/06 (n=83)	Number	1	5	77
	%	1.2%	6.0%	92.8%
06/07 (n=136)	Number	2		134
	%	1.5%		98.5%

NB: In 05/06 one client did not provide information regarding ethnicity and in 06/07 three clients did not provide this information.

The vast majority of clients assessed in both 05/06 and 06/07 were white, 92.8% and 98.5% respectively.

Age



Over half (53.6%) of clients assessed in 05/06 were aged between 30 and 39. Clients assessed in 06/07 had a younger age profile than those in 06/06.

Gender

The majority of clients assessed in both 05/06 and 06/07 were male (81.1% and 87.1% respectively).

3.3 Knowsley - Care Plans

A total of 41 clients were care planned by Knowsley DIP team in 05/06 after a DIR recorded assessment in the Knowsley DAT area. A total of 37 were care planned in the following year. Knowsley residents assessed elsewhere and referred back to Knowsley DAT for DIP case management will be reported on in the next section on transfers (3.4).

Ethnicity

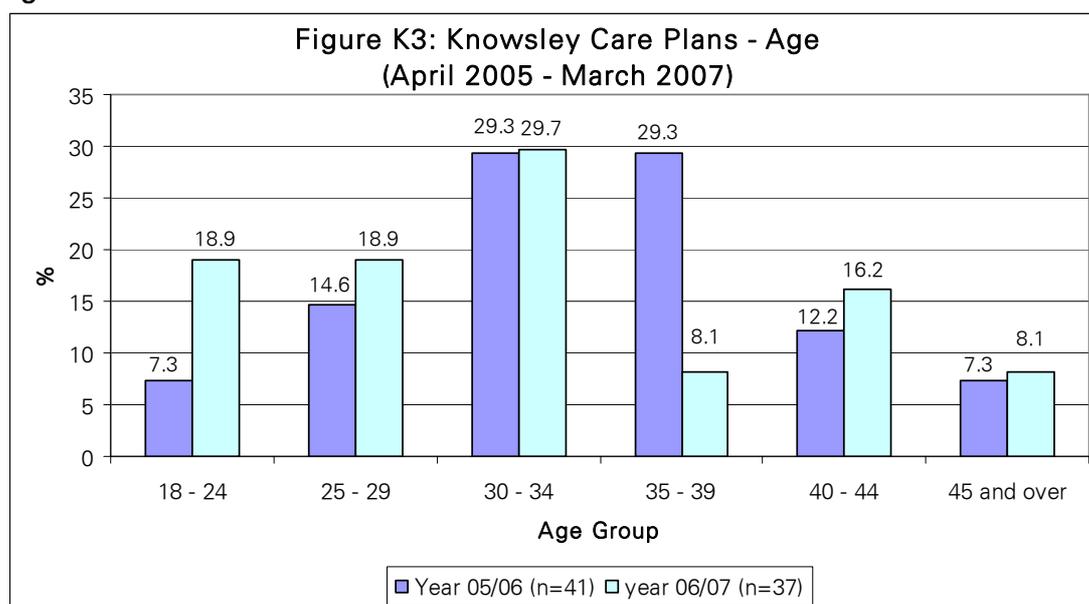
Table K3: Ethnic background of clients care planned in Knowsley (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Mixed	White
05/06	Number	1	39
(n=40)	%	2.5%	97.5%
06/07	Number		37
(n=37)	%		100%

NB: In 05/06 one client did not provide information regarding ethnicity.

Knowsley did not care plan the minority of assessed BME clients.

Age



Over half (58.6%) of clients who agreed care plans with by Knowsley DIP in 05/06 were aged between 30 and 39 years. The distribution for the following year shifted towards the lower age groups, with 18.9% of under 25 year olds care planned.

Gender

Over three-quarters of clients who were care planned in 05/06 (78.0%) and in the following year between 06/07 (78.4%) were male.

3.4 Knowsley – Transfers in

This section examines Knowsley residents assessed or care planned in another area or prison and referred to the Knowsley DIP team for case management. In 05/06, 54 clients were transferred into the Knowsley DIP team. This increased in 06/07 when a total of 75 clients were transferred in.

Ethnicity

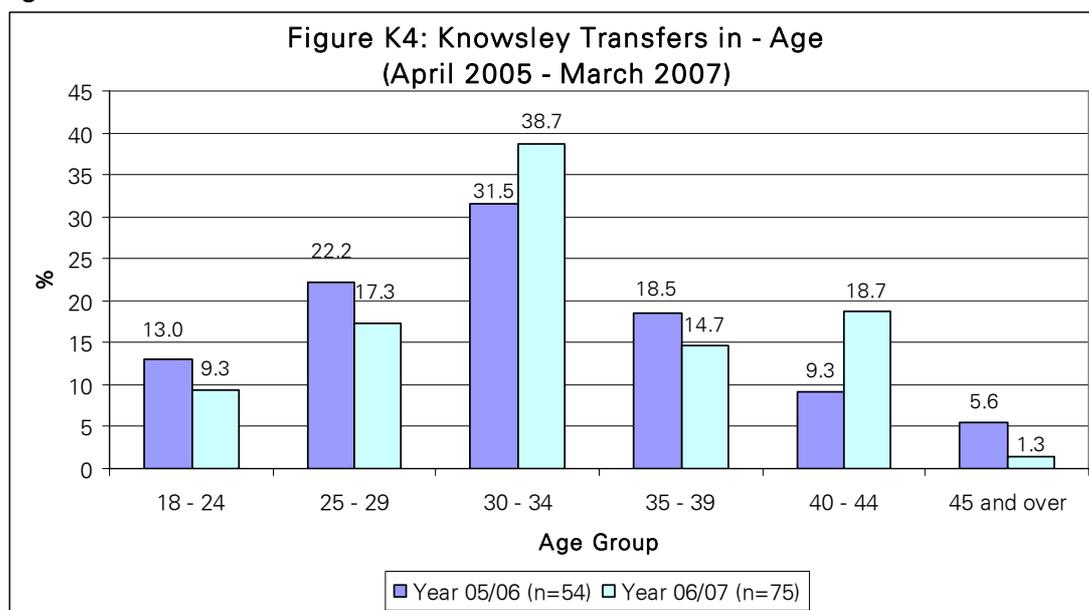
Table K4: Ethnic background of clients transferred into Knowsley (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Mixed	White
05/06 (n=52)	Number		52
	%		100%
06/07 (n=75)	Number	1	74
	%	1.3%	98.7%

NB: In 05/06 two clients did not provide information on their ethnicity.

The majority of clients transferred into Knowsley DIP team in 05/06 and 06/07 were white, 100% and 98.6% respectively.

Age



The age profile of clients transferred in, in both years was similar. Approximately a third (31.5%) of clients transferred into Knowsley in 05/06 were aged between 30 and 34 years, which was also the case in 06/07 (38.7%). However, there were more clients transferred in, in 06/07 who were between 40 and 44 (18.7%) than in 05/06 (9.3%).

Gender

The majority (79.0%) of clients transferred into Knowsley in 05/06 were male. The same was true for the following year when 88.0% were male.

3.5 Knowsley – Drug Use, Offending and Accommodation

The following analysis has been performed on data collected on the DIR as part of the client's assessment. This information was not collected as part of the initial contact or for clients transferred into the team and is therefore not representative of all Knowsley clients examined previously.

Drug Use

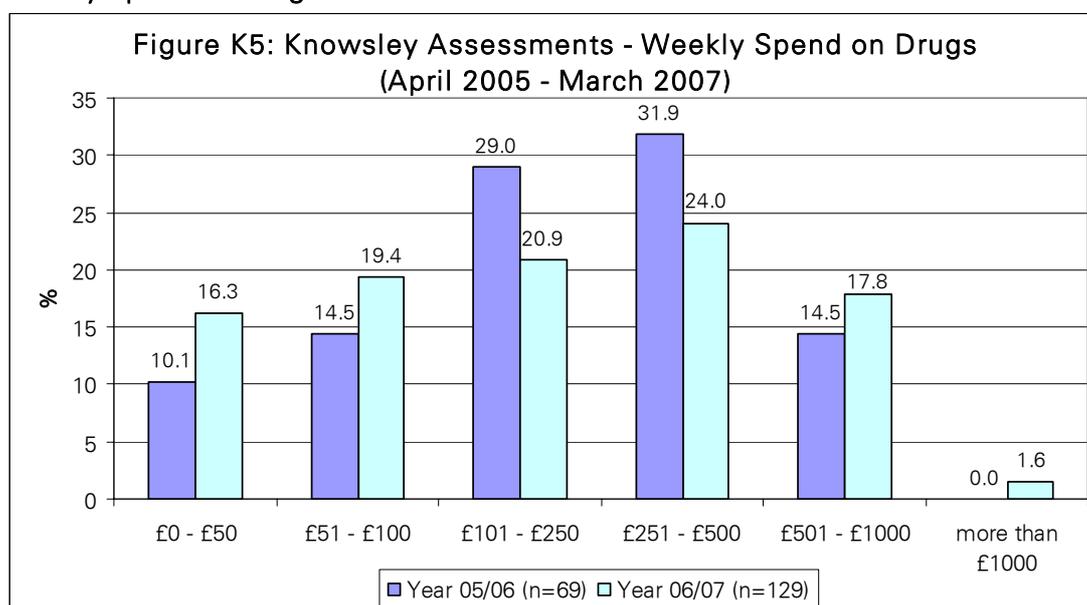
Table K5: Assessed clients' drug use in Knowsley (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Amphet.	Benzo.	Cannabis	Cocaine	Crack	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methadone	Other
05/06 (n=72)	n	1	3	11	16	34		51	4	1
	%	1.4%	4.2%	15.3%	22.2%	47.2%		70.8%	5.6%	1.4%
06/07 (n=135)	n	3	10	32	45	64	6	78	14	2
	%	2.2%	7.4%	23.7%	33.3%	47.4%	4.4%	57.8%	10.4%	1.5%

NB: Figures will add up to greater than 100% as clients are allowed to indicate more than one drug of use

The increase in the number of assessments in 06/07 led to an increase in numbers of clients using all drugs specifically greater numbers of cocaine and cannabis, which has affected the proportion of drug used by each client. Over two-thirds (70.8%) of clients assessed in 05/06 reported using heroin, with the next most commonly used drugs being crack (47.2%) and cocaine (22.2%). These drugs were also those most commonly used in 06/07. There was, however, a lower proportion (57.8%) of clients reporting heroin use and a higher proportion using cocaine (33.3%) in 06/07 compared to the previous year. Increased proportions of clients also reported using illicit methadone (10.4%) and cannabis (23.7%) in 06/07 compared to 05/06.

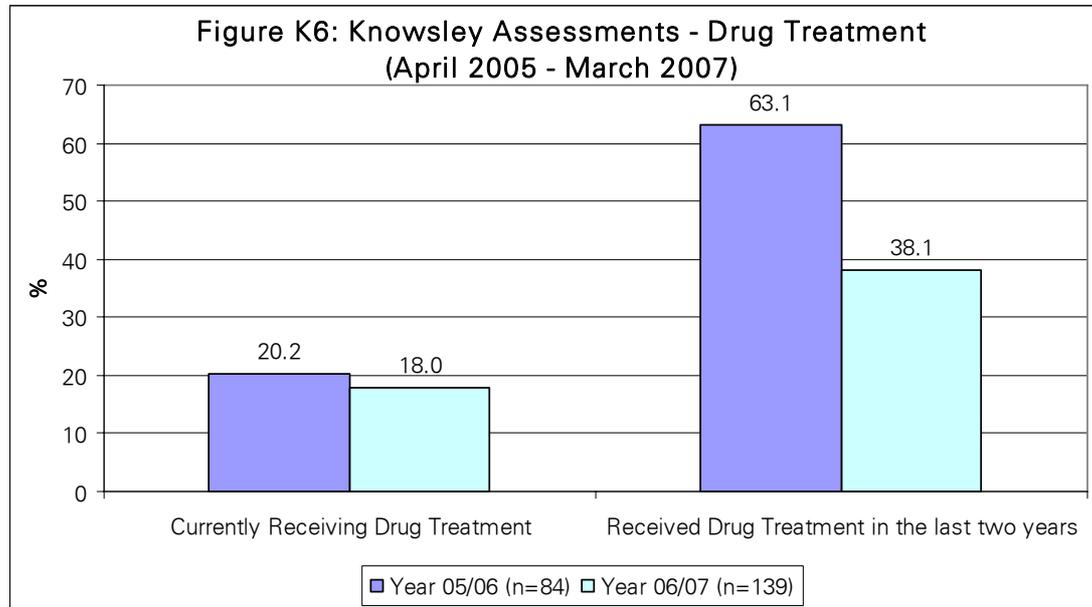
Weekly Spend on Drugs



NB: Three clients in 05/06 and six 06/07 did not answer this question.

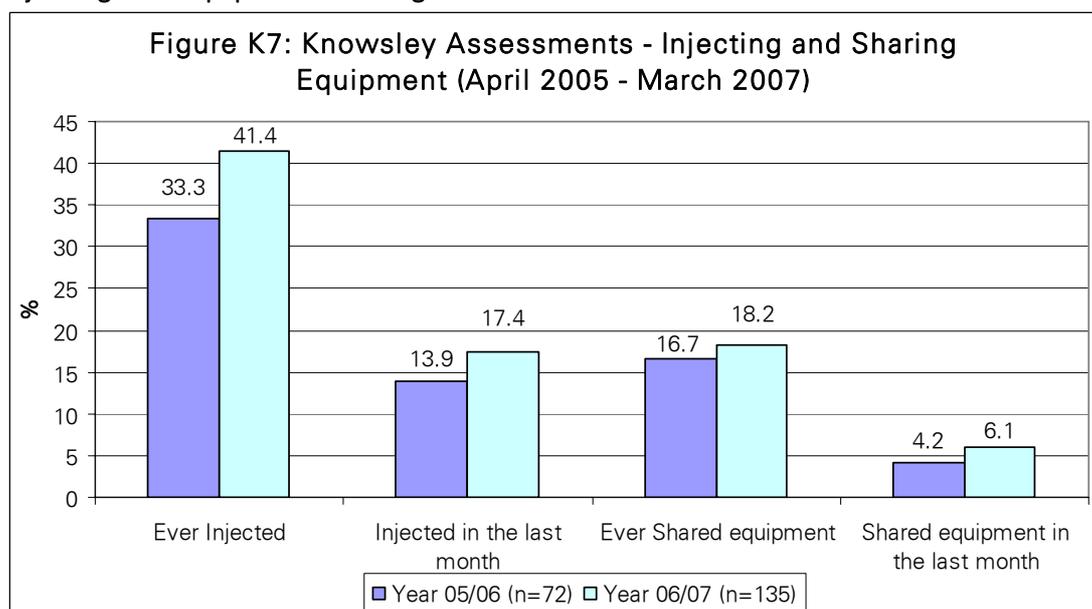
Just under two-thirds (60.9%) of clients in 05/06 reported spending in the mid-range of £101 to £500 per week. A more even distribution of weekly spend in 06/07 indicated slightly higher proportions of clients spending at the lower and higher end of the spectrum compared to the previous year.

Drug Treatment



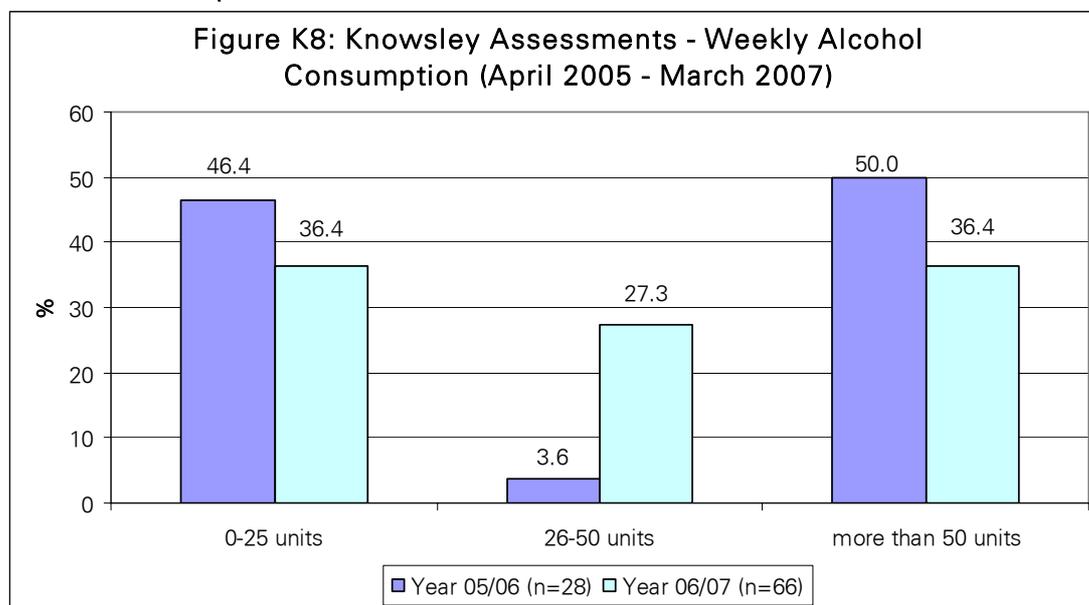
Around a fifth of clients assessed in both years were currently receiving treatment at the time of assessment. There was however, a marked difference in the proportions of clients reporting having received drug treatment in the two years prior to assessment, with 63.1% having received treatment previously in 05/06 compared to 38.1% in 06/07.

Injecting and Equipment Sharing



The proportions of clients reporting injecting in their lifetime and injecting in the month prior to assessment were slightly higher in 06/07 compared to 05/06, as were the proportions reporting having ever shared equipment and having shared equipment in the last month.

Alcohol Consumption



NB: 56 clients did not report alcohol use in 05/06 and 73 clients did not report alcohol use in 06/07.

The 28 assessed clients who reported their alcohol consumption in 05/06 were predominantly divided between the lower category of 0-25 units per week (46.4%) and the upper consumption category of more than 50 units per week (50.0%). The 66 clients reporting their alcohol consumption in 06/07 were more evenly distributed across the three consumption categories.

Knowsley Assessments – Offences committed

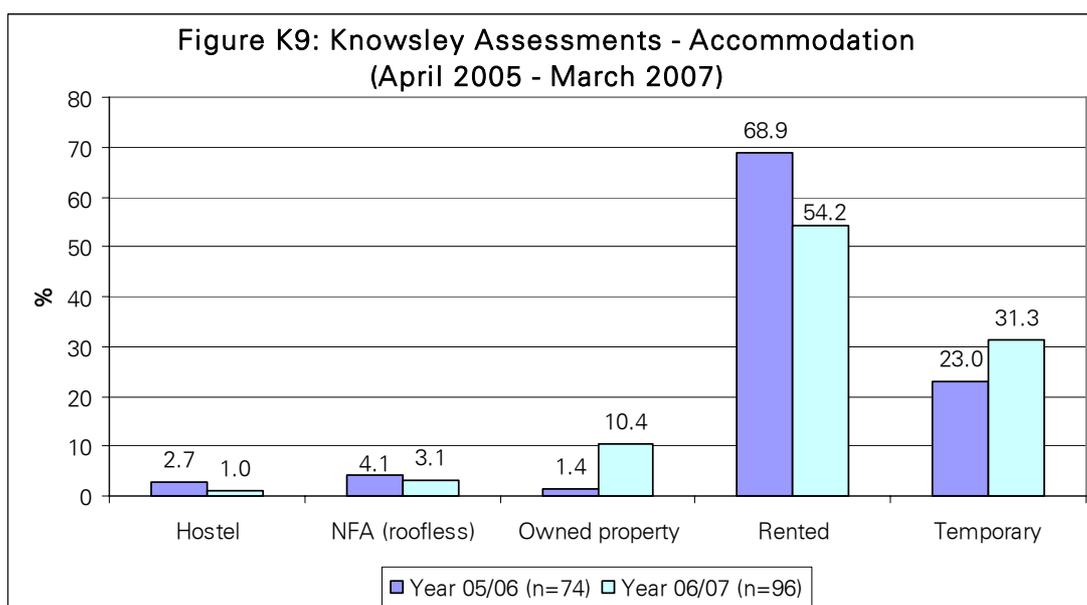
Table K6: Offending that led to contact with Knowsley DIP (05/06 and 06/07)

Offence	Offending 05/06 (n=81)		Offending 06/07 (n=133)		Percentage difference between 05/06 and 06/07
	Number	%	Number	%	
Breach	9	11.1%	17	12.8%	1.7%
Burglary	8	9.9%	13	9.8%	-0.1%
Driving Offence	4	4.9%	6	4.5%	-0.4%
MDA	5	6.2%	21	15.8%	9.6%
Other	16	19.8%	19	14.3%	-5.5%
Public Order	4	4.9%	7	5.3%	0.4%
Theft – other	7	8.6%	3	2.3%	-6.3%
Theft – shoplifting	35	43.2%	51	38.3%	-4.9%
Violence	4	4.9%	14	10.5%	5.6%
Warrant	1	1.2%	5	3.8%	2.6%

NB: In 05/06 three clients did not provide information on offending and six did not provide it in 06/07.

The most common offence committed by clients assessed by Knowsley DIP in both years was shoplifting, with over two in five clients in 05/06 (43.2%) coming into contact with the criminal justice system as a consequence of shoplifting and a similar proportion in 06/07 (38.3%). There was a 9.6% increase in 06/07 in offenders entering DIP due to Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences (including supply, possession and possession with intent to supply). In addition, there was a 5.6% increase in those committing violent crimes (including wounding or assault).

Accommodation



There was a decrease in the proportion of clients in rented accommodation from 05/06 to 06/07. The latter year presented a different accommodation profile with client's accommodation status becoming both less and more stable. Where there was an important increase in the proportion of clients who owned their own property in 06/07, there was a worrying increase in the proportion of clients living in unstable, temporary accommodation (31.3%).

3.6 Knowsley Summary

- There was an increase in the number of assessments completed 06/07 compared to 05/06, reflecting the introduction of Test on Arrest.
- The majority of clients contacted and assessed in both 05/06 and 06/07 were white males. In addition, there was an increase in the proportion of assessed and care planned clients under 25 in 06/07 when compared to the previous year.
- Overall there was an increase in the numbers of drugs reported which affected the proportions of drugs used in 06/07 compared to 05/06.
- Of the clients assessed the weekly expenditure on drugs was lower in 06/07 than in 05/06.
- A quarter of clients who had ever shared drug using equipment were still sharing.
- In both 05/06 and 06/07, levels of drinking were potentially harmful and in conjunction with drugs, particularly opiates, suggests a risk of overdose. However, it is only among relatively small proportion of the overall group assessed.
- There was a considerable increase in violent and MDA offences in 06/07, showing a possible change in offender profile.
- Overall, in 06/07 there was a shift among assessed clients from stable to unstable accommodation, with a decrease in rented and an increase in temporary accommodation.

4.0 Liverpool

4.1 Liverpool - Contacts

According to DIRs and Initial Contact Forms received, in 05/06, 2397 clients in total were offered the DIP service by Liverpool DIP team. This number increased in 06/07, when a total of 3129 clients were offered DIP.

Ethnicity

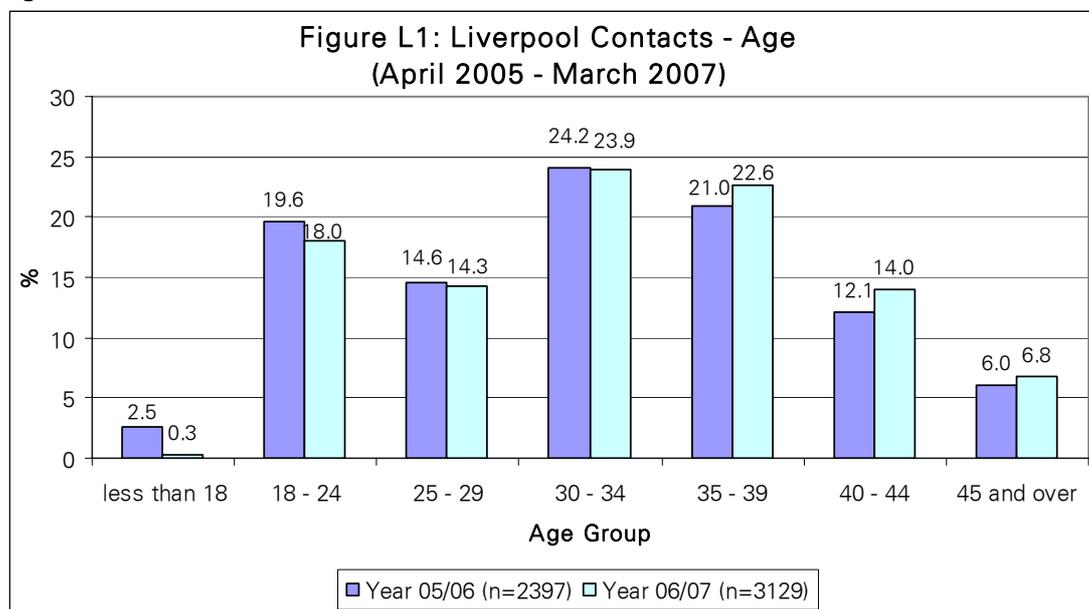
Table L1: Ethnic background of clients contacted in Liverpool (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Asian	Black	Mixed	White	Other
05/06 (n=2363)	Number	11	78	64	2205	5
	%	0.5%	3.3%	2.7%	93.3%	0.2%
06/07 (n=3113)	Number	11	111	49	2940	2
	%	0.4%	3.6%	1.6%	94.4%	0.1%

NB: In 05/06 34 clients did not provide information regarding ethnicity and 16 clients did not provide this information in 06/07.

In 05/06, the majority of clients who came into contact with Liverpool DIP services were white (93.3%). The same was true for the subsequent year 06/07 (94.4%).

Age



The age profile of individuals contacted in both years was similar. The highest proportion of individuals contacted in both 05/06 and 06/07 were between 30 and 34 years (24.2% and 23.9% respectively). The most noticeable difference was in the lower proportion of individuals contacted who were less than 18 years old in 06/07 (0.3%) compared to the previous year (2.5%).

Gender

Over three-quarters of individuals contacted by Liverpool DIP services in both 05/06 and 06/7 were male (77.1% and 76.5% respectfully).

4.2 Liverpool - Assessments

In 05/06, 1134 clients were assessed by Liverpool DIP. This rose to 2457 assessments in 06/07.

Ethnicity

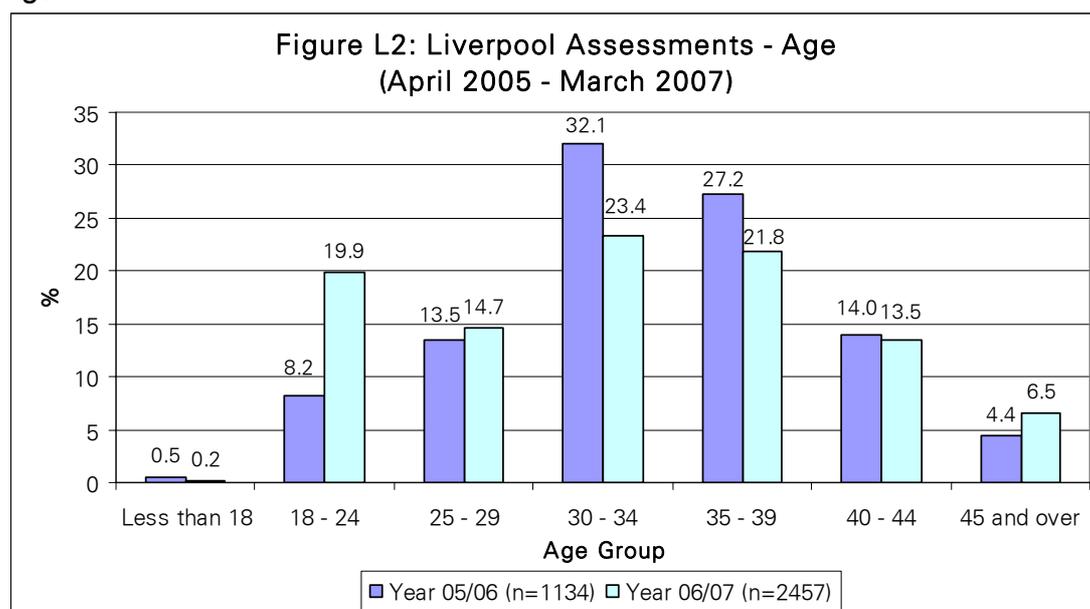
Table L2: Ethnic background of clients assessed in Liverpool (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Asian	Black	Mixed	White	Other
05/06	Number	2	32	22	1068	
(n=1124)	%	0.2%	2.8%	2.0%	95%	
06/07	Number	7	85	42	2311	1
(n=2446)	%	0.3%	3.5%	1.7%	94.5%	<0.1%

NB: In 05/06 ten clients did not provide information regarding ethnicity and 11 did not provide this information in 06/07.

The majority of clients assessed by Liverpool DIP in 05/06 and 06/07 were white (95.0% and 94.5% respectively).

Age



The age profiles of clients assessed were similar for both years, with the highest proportions of clients aged between 30 and 39 in both 05/06 and 06/07. There was, however, a marked increase in the proportion of clients assessed aged between 18 and 24 years in 06/07 (19.9%) compared to the previous year 05/06 (8.2%).

Gender

Just over two-thirds of clients assessed in 05/06 were male (68.3%), whereas over three-quarters were male in 06/07 (76.9%).

4.3 Liverpool - Care Plans

Care plans were drawn up for a total of 393 clients in 05/06 and 398 clients in 06/07. Liverpool residents assessed elsewhere and referred back to Liverpool DAT for DIP case management will be reported on in the next section on transfers (4.4).

Ethnicity

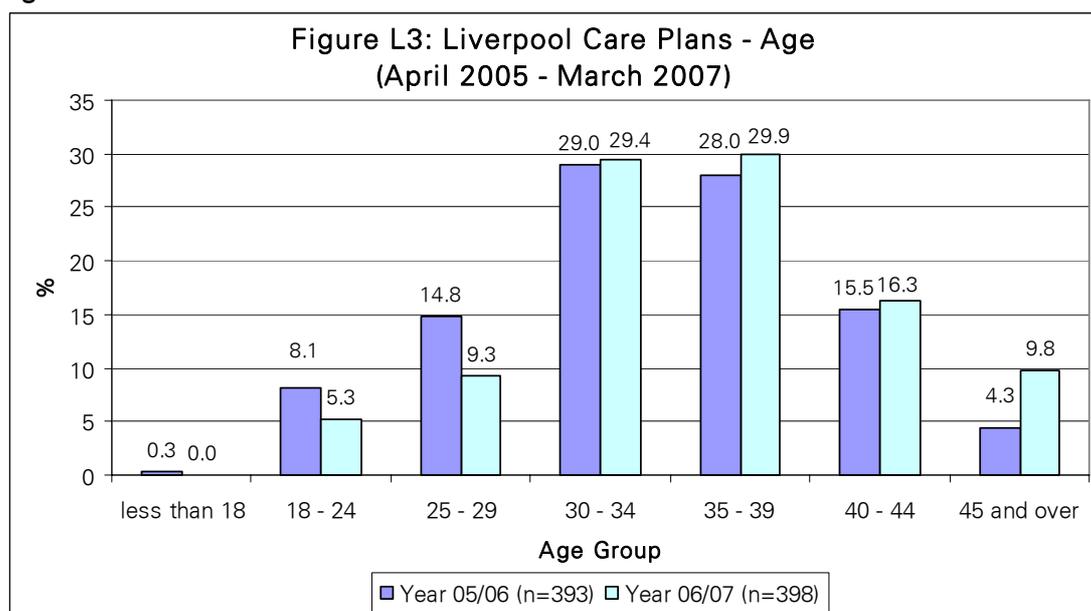
Table L3: Ethnic background of clients care planned in Liverpool (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Asian	Black	Mixed	White	Other
05/06 (n=387)	Number	2	12	8	365	
	%	0.5%	3.1%	2.1%	94.3%	
06/07 (n=398)	Number		14	9	374	1
	%		3.5%	2.3%	94.0%	0.3%

NB: In 05/06 six clients did not provide information regarding ethnicity.

The majority of clients who were care planned in both 05/06 and 06/07 were white (94.3% and 94.0% respectively).

Age



Over half of clients care planned in 05/06 (57.0%) and in 06/07 (59.3%) were aged between 30 and 39 years. Clients care planned in 05/06 tended to be younger with over a fifth (22.9%) aged between 18 and 29 years compared to 14.6% in 06/07. In 06/07 a higher proportion of clients were aged 45 years and over (9.8%) than in 05/06 (4.3%).

Gender

Two-thirds (66.2%) of clients care planned in 05/06 were male, whereas the proportion of male clients was slightly higher (70.6%) in 06/07.

4.4 Liverpool – Transfers in

This section examines Liverpool residents assessed or care planned in another area or prison and referred to the Liverpool DIP team for case management. A total of 466 clients were transferred into Liverpool DIP in 05/06. The number of transfers in was lower in 06/07, with a total of 297 transfers.

Ethnicity

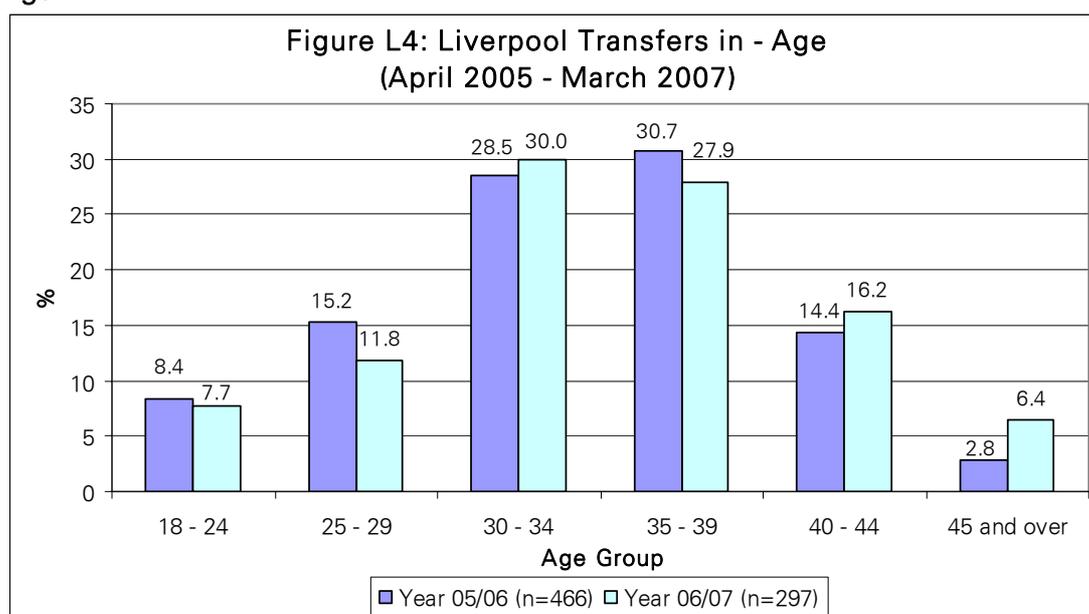
Table L4: Ethnic background of clients transferred into Liverpool (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Black	Mixed	White	Other
05/06 (n=233)	Number	10	5	217	1
	%	4.3%	2.1%	93.1%	0.4%
06/07 (n=297)	Number	5	1	291	
	%	1.7%	0.3%	98.0%	

NB: In 05/06 233 clients did not provide information on ethnicity.

The number of BME clients transferred in, in 06/07 halved compared to 05/06.

Age



The age profile of clients transferred into Liverpool DIP for both time-periods was similar, with over half of clients in 05/06 (59.2%) and 06/07 (57.9%) aged between 30 and 39 years. As seen with those clients care planned, clients transferred into Liverpool DIP in 05/06 tended to be younger than those transferred in during 06/07.

Gender

Just under three-quarters (73.0%) of clients transferred into Liverpool DIP during 05/06 were male, a similar proportion to that in 06/07 (71.0%).

4.5 Liverpool - Drug Use, Offending and Accommodation

The following analysis has been performed on data collected on the DIR as part of the client's assessment. This information is not collected as part of the initial contact or for clients transferred into the team and is therefore not representative of all Liverpool clients examined previously.

Drug Use

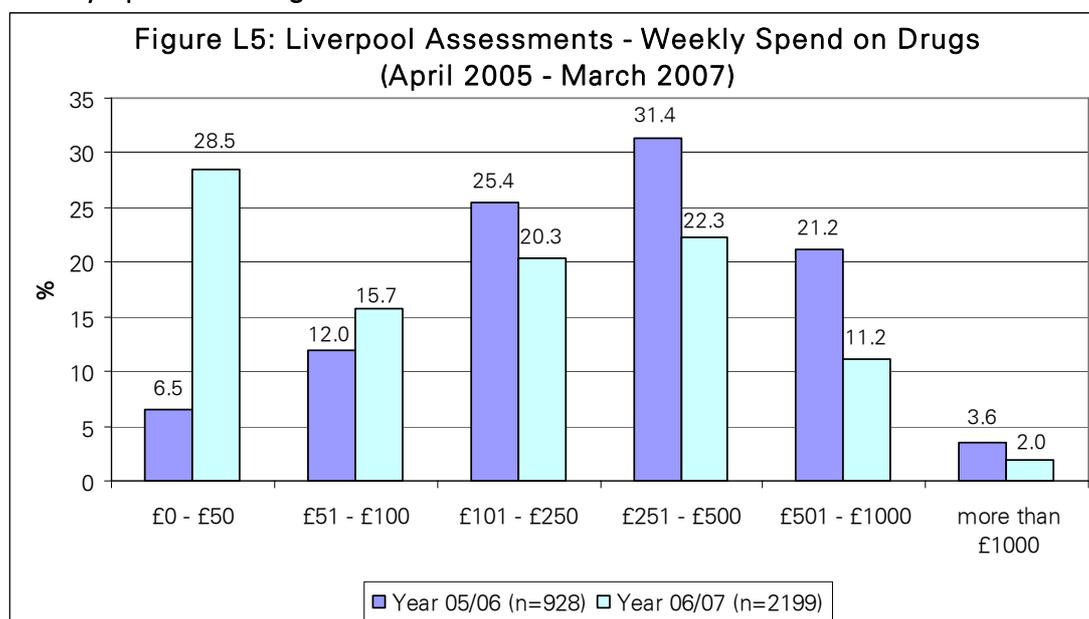
Table L5: Assessed clients' drug use in Liverpool (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Amphet.	Benzo.	Cannabis	Cocaine	Crack	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methadone	Other
05/06 (n=1010)	n	4	41	58	56	699	1	841	142	5
	%	0.4%	4.1%	5.7%	5.5%	69.2%	0.1%	83.3%	14.1%	0.5%
06/07 (n=2307)	n	13	70	271	736	1255	22	1446	194	21
	%	0.6%	3.0%	11.7%	31.9%	54.4%	1.0%	62.7%	8.4%	0.9%

NB: Figures will add up to greater than 100% as clients are allowed to indicate more than one drug of use

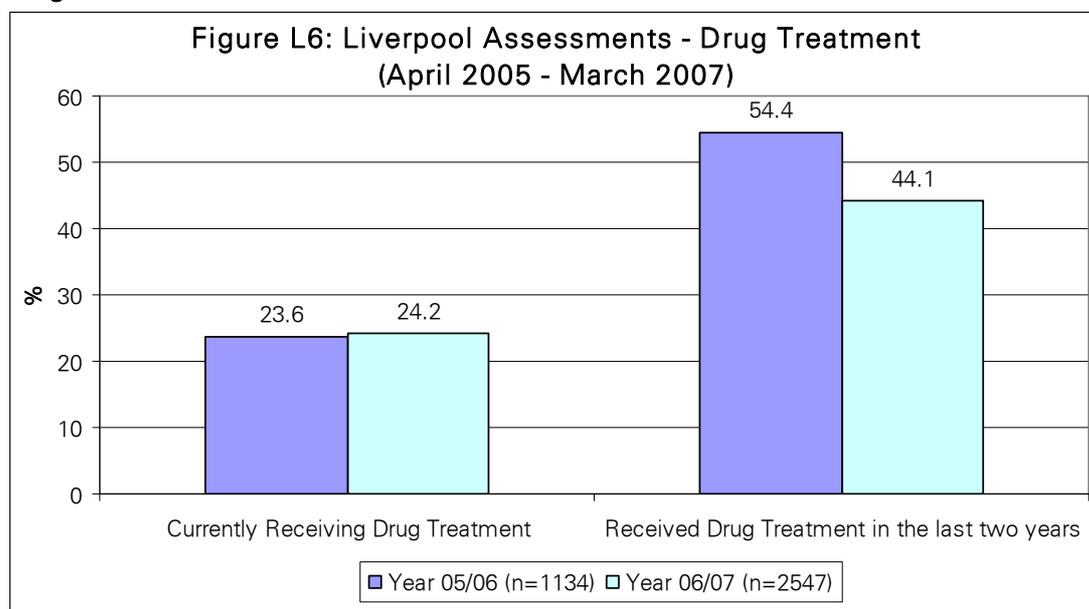
The majority of clients assessed by Liverpool DIP in 05/06 reported using heroin (83.3%). The next most commonly used illicit drugs were crack (69.2%) and methadone (14.1%). Patterns of drug use amongst assessed clients were different for 06/07. Although heroin was still the most commonly used drug (62.7%) with an increase in the numbers of heroin users in 06/07, the proportion of clients using heroin was lower than for the previous year as was the proportion of clients using methadone. The numbers of cannabis and cocaine users increased considerably between 05/06 and 06/07. In addition, the proportion of clients reporting cannabis use more than doubled (5.7% and 11.7% respectively) with also a marked increase in the proportion of clients reporting using powder cocaine rising from 5.5% in 05/06 to 31.9% in 06/07.

Weekly Spend on Drugs



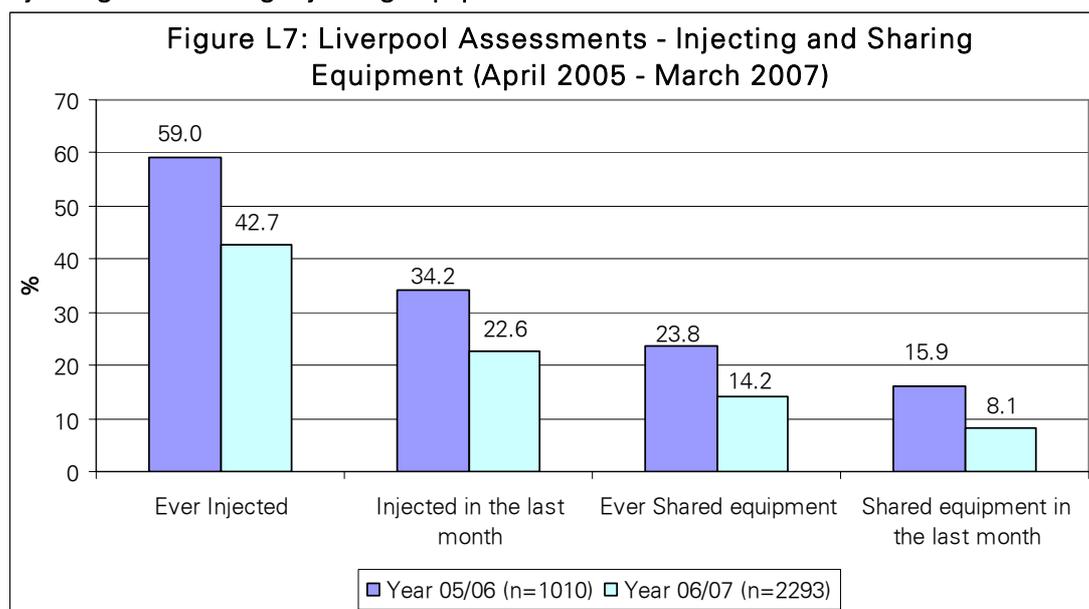
In 05/06 just over half (56.8%) of clients assessed were spending between £101 and £500. There was a reduction in the amount spent in 06/07 (42.6%). There was a considerable increase in the proportions of clients spending at the lower end of the scale with 28.5% spending between £0 and £50 in 06/07 compared to 6.5% in 05/06.

Drug Treatment



Around a fifth of clients in both 05/06 and 06/07 (23.6% and 24.2% respectively) were currently in drug treatment at the time of assessment. Slightly fewer assessed clients in 06/07 had received treatment in the previous two years than in 05/06.

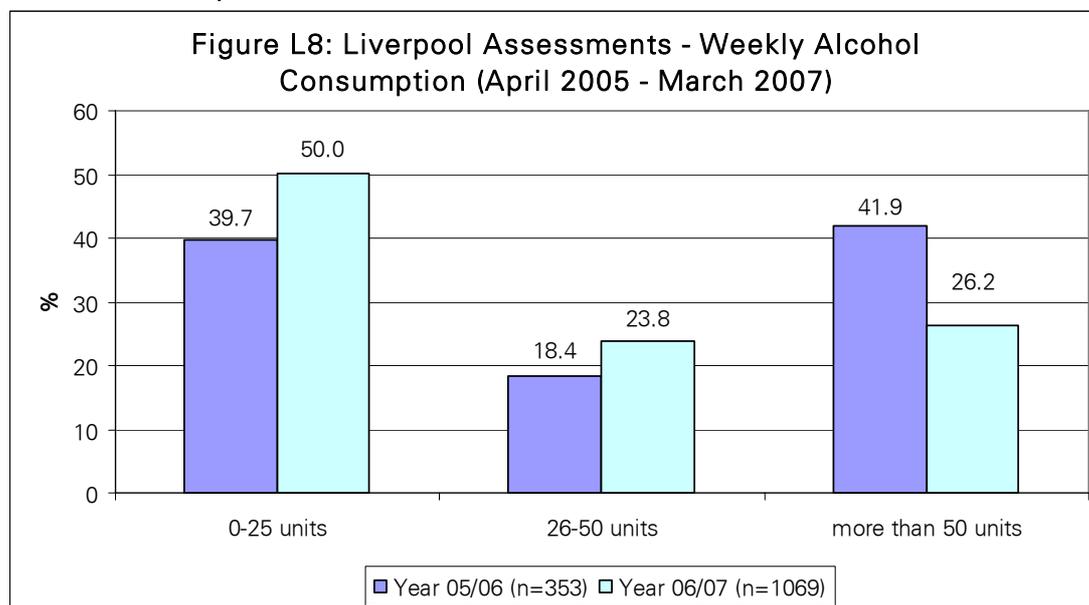
Injecting and Sharing Injecting Equipment



Generally there were lower proportions of assessed clients reporting injecting and sharing equipment either ever or in the last month in 06/07 compared to 05/06.

However, still the case that in 06/07 almost a quarter of clients assessed (22.6%) were currently injecting and just under a tenth (8.1%) were sharing equipment.

Alcohol Consumption



NB: In 05/06, 781 clients did not report alcohol use and 1388 clients did not report in 06/07.

Levels of drinking among clients assessed in 06/07 were lower than those in 05/06. There was a decrease in the proportion of clients drinking more than 26 units in a week in 06/07 (50.0%), compared to 05/06 (60.3%), showing that a lower number of clients were drinking above the weekly recommended limit.

Liverpool Assessments – Offences committed

(See Table L6, p.32)

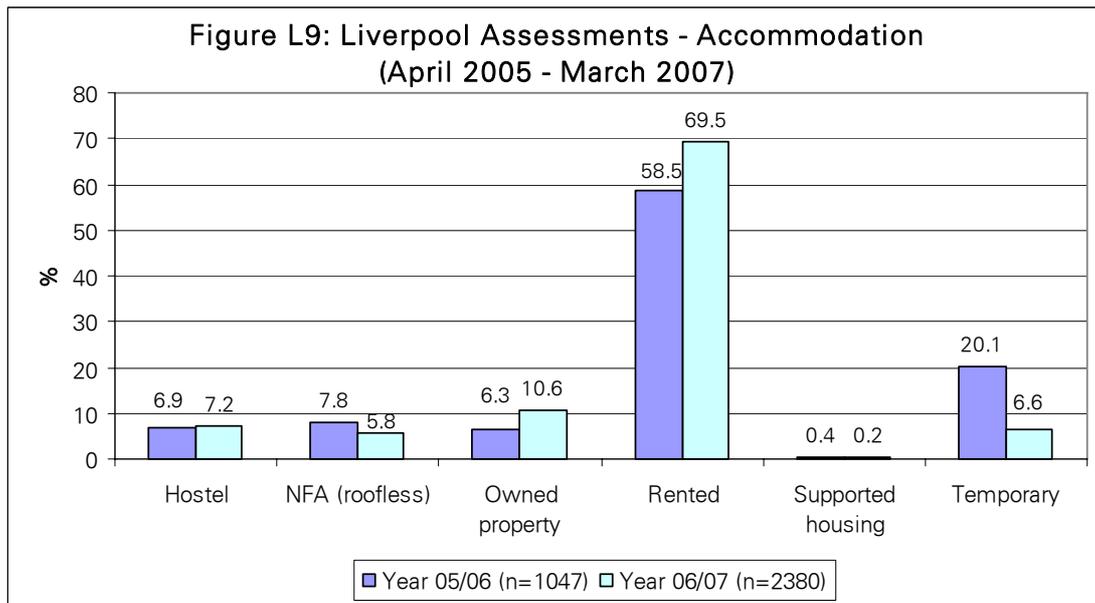
The most common offence that led to clients contact with DIP in 05/06 was shoplifting (32.9%) followed by warrant (12.3%) and Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences (10.1%). For 06/07, although shoplifting was still the most common offence (27.8%), MDA offences were the next most common (19.8%), followed by burglary (11.1%). The proportions of offenders entering DIP on MDA and theft of a vehicle offences rose considerably between 05/06 and 06/07 (9.7%). Increases were also evidenced in the proportion of clients committing burglary (2.6%) and theft-other (2.7%). In contrast, the proportion of clients coming into contact with DIP due to warrants fell by 6.4%, those committing shoplifting fell by 5.1% and offences categorised as 'other' decreased by 3.5%.

Table L6: Offending that led to contact with Liverpool DIP (05/06 and 06/07)

Offence	Offending 05/06 (n=1097)		Offending 06/07 (n=2422)		Percentage Change Between 05/06 and 06/07
	Number	%	Number	%	
Begging	39	3.6%	115	4.7%	1.1%
Breach	85	7.7%	108	4.5%	-3.2%
Burglary	93	8.5%	270	11.1%	2.6%
Criminal Damage	4	0.4%	18	0.7%	0.3%
Deception	11	1.0%	23	0.9%	-0.1%
Driving offence	26	2.4%	35	1.4%	-1.0%
Fraud	10	0.9%	10	0.4%	-0.5%
Going equipped	16	1.5%	32	1.3%	-0.2%
Handling	23	2.1%	50	2.1%	0.0%
MDA	111	10.1%	479	19.8%	9.7%
Obstruction	4	0.4%	10	0.4%	0.0%
Other	57	5.2%	41	1.7%	-3.5%
Prostitution	16	1.5%	14	0.6%	-0.9%
Public Order	18	1.6%	40	1.7%	0.1%
Robbery	41	3.7%	117	4.8%	1.1%
Soliciting	24	2.2%	2	0.1%	-2.1%
Theft - of a vehicle	23	2.1%	158	6.5%	4.4%
Theft - other	84	7.7%	251	10.4%	2.7%
Theft - shoplifting	361	32.9%	673	27.8%	-5.1%
Violence	32	2.9%	49	2.0%	-0.9%
Warrant	135	12.3%	144	5.9%	-6.4%
Weapons/ Firearms	12	1.1%	18	0.7%	-0.4%

NB: In 05/06 37 clients did not provide information on offending and 35 clients did not provide this information in 06/07.

Accommodation



Client's accommodation status was similar in both years. The highest proportion of clients in 05/06 (58.5%) and 06/07 (69.5%) resided in rented accommodation. Around a fifth (20.1%) of clients were resident in temporary accommodation in 05/06, whereas this fell to 6.6% in 06/07.

4.6 Liverpool Summary

- There was an increase in the number of assessments completed 06/07 compared to 05/06, reflecting the introduction of Test on Arrest.
- The majority of clients contacted, assessed, care planned and transferred in, in both years was white males. In addition, there was an increase in males being assessed in 06/07, compared to 05/06. Whilst the age profile for clients contacted was similar for both 05/06 and 06/07, assessed clients' age profile varied. There was an increase in the clients under 25 in 06/07 compared to 05/06 and a decrease in clients over 30. Despite an increase in the proportion of clients assessed who were under 25, there was no corresponding increase in the proportion under 25 year olds who were care planned.
- There was an increase in the number of heroin users, yet, a decrease in the *proportion* of heroin users assessed in 06/07. In contrast, there was a substantial increase in the proportion of cocaine and cannabis users assessed.
- The introduction of Test on Arrest has brought about an increase in the proportion of clients getting tested as a result of possession, theft - other and burglary offences.
- There was a lower weekly expenditure on drugs in 06/07 compared to 05/06. Lower levels of alcohol consumption were found in 06/07 when compared to 05/06.
- Although there was a decrease in the proportion of clients who had ever or were currently injecting in 06/07, almost a quarter of clients assessed who had ever injected were currently injecting.
- With an increase in the proportion of clients who owned their property or were in rented accommodation, clients seen in 06/07 were in a more stable accommodation situation than in 05/06.

5.0 Sefton

5.1 Sefton – Contacts

According to DIRs and Initial Contact Forms, between April 05 and March 06, a total of 1224 clients were offered DIP by Sefton DIP team. The number of contacts decreased in the subsequent year to 776 clients.

Ethnicity

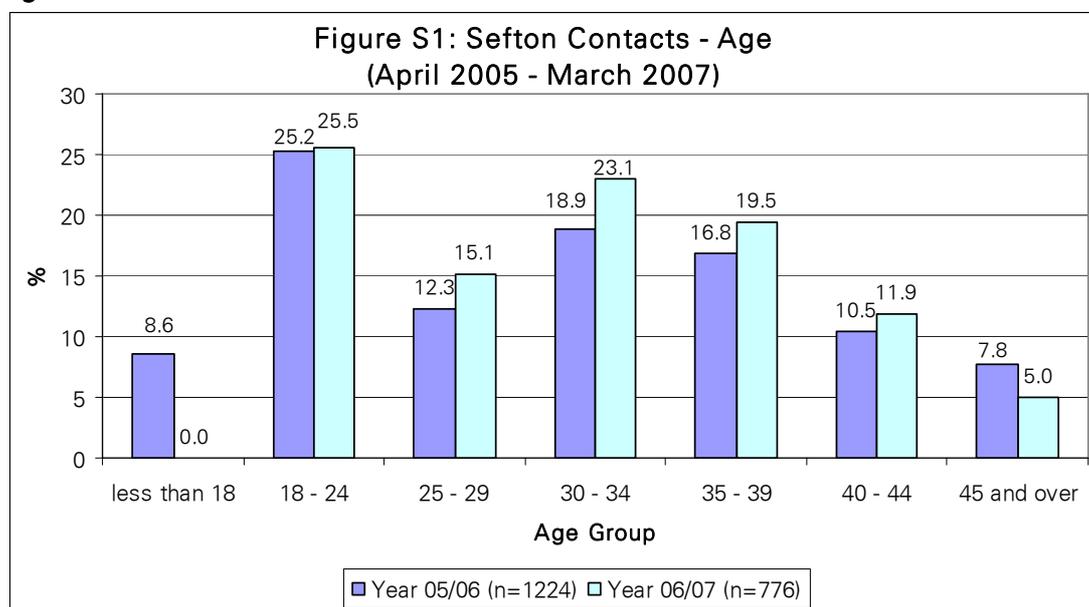
Table S1: Ethnic background of clients contacted in Sefton (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Asian	Black	Mixed	White	Other
05/06 (n=1208)	Number	4	8	9	1186	1
	%	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%	98.2%	0.1%
06/07 (n=765)	Number		4	4	756	1
	%		0.5%	0.5%	98.8%	0.1%

NB: In 05/06 16 clients did not provide information on ethnicity and 11 clients did not provide this information in 06/07.

The majority of clients who were contacted by Sefton DIP in 05/06 (98.2%) and 06/06 (98.8%) were white.

Age



The age profile of individuals contacted by Sefton DIP in both years was similar. The highest proportion of clients in both years were between 18 and 24. Contacts in 05/06 evidenced a higher proportion of clients aged under 18 (8.6%) whilst 06/07 evidenced no clients contacted under the age of 18.

Gender

The majority (84.2%) of clients contacted by Sefton DIP in 05/06 were male, whilst in 06/07 three-quarters of contacts (76.9%) were male.

5.2 Sefton - Assessments

In 05/06 290 clients were assessed by Sefton DIP. This increased to 714 assessments in the following year.

Ethnicity

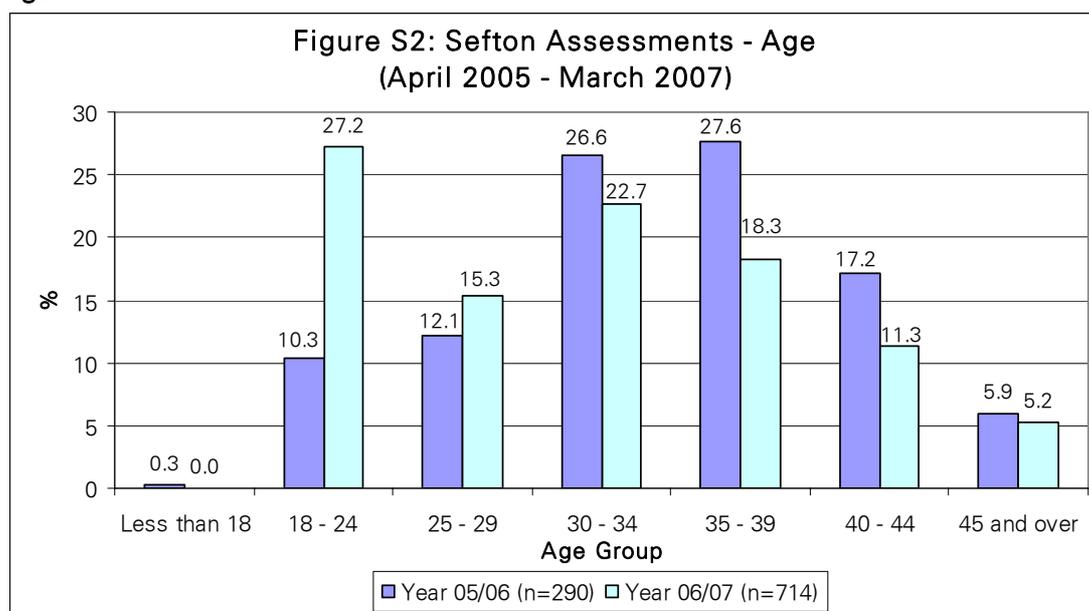
Table S2: Ethnic background of clients assessed in Sefton (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Black	Mixed	White	Other
05/06 (n=287)	Number	2	4	281	
	%	0.7%	1.4%	97.9%	
06/07 (n=704)	Number	3	4	696	1
	%	0.4%	0.6%	98.9%	0.1%

NB: In 05/06 three clients did not provide information on ethnicity and ten clients did not provide this information in 06/07.

The majority of clients assessed in 05/06 (97.9%) and 06/07 (98.9%) were white.

Age



Over half (54.2%) of clients assessed by Sefton DIP in 05/06 were aged between 30 and 39 years, compared to two-fifths (41.0%) in 06/07. Clients assessed in 06/07 tended to be younger, with 27.2% of clients aged between 18 and 24 years compared to 10.3% in 05/06.

Gender

Around three-quarters of clients assessed in 05/06 (73.2%) and 06/07 (78.4%) were male.

5.3 Sefton - Care Plans

Care plans were drawn up by Sefton DIP for a total of 192 clients in 05/06 and for 231 clients in the following year. Sefton residents assessed elsewhere and referred back to Sefton DIP for case management will be reported on in the next section on transfers (5.4).

Ethnicity

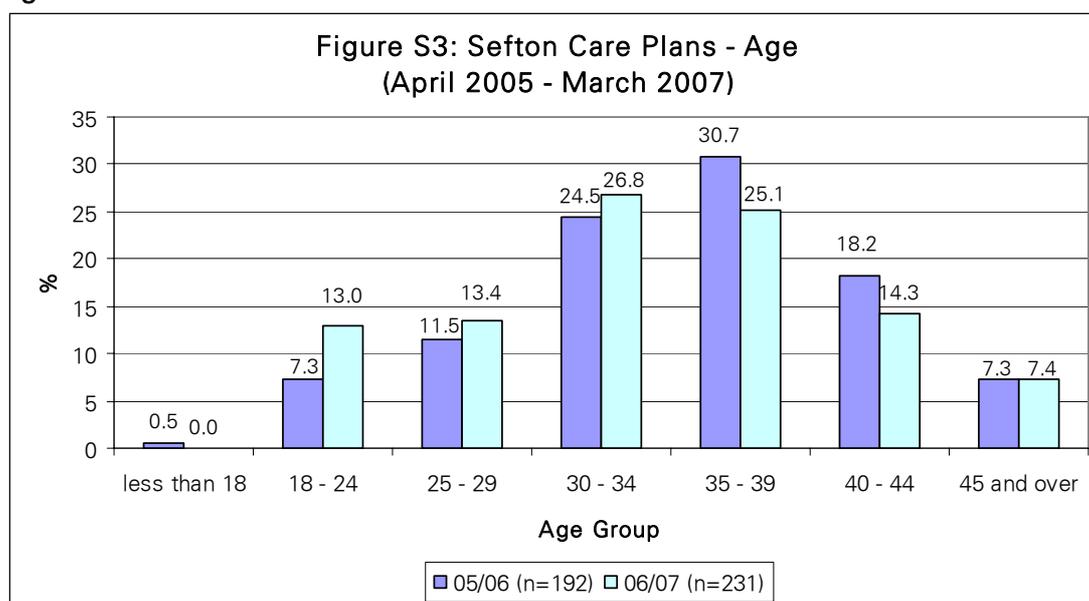
Table S3: Ethnic background of clients care planned in Sefton (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Black	Mixed	White
05/06 (n=189)	Number	1	1	187
	%	0.5%	0.5%	98.9%
06/07 (n=225)	Number	1		224
	%	0.4%		99.6%

NB: In 05/06 three clients did not provide information on ethnicity and six clients did not provide this information in 06/07.

The majority of clients who were care planned were white in 05/06 and 06/07 respectively (98.9% and 99.6%).

Age



Over half (55.2%) of clients who were care planned in 05/06 were aged between 30 and 39, with a similar proportion (51.9%) falling into these age categories in 06/07. There was an increased proportion (13.0%) of clients aged 18 to 24 care planned in 06/07 compared to 05/06 (7.3%).

Gender

Just under three-quarters of clients who were care planned in 05/06 (70.2%) and 06/07 (73.2%) were male.

5.4 Sefton – Transfers in

This section examines Sefton residents assessed or care planned in another area or prison and referred to the Sefton DIP team for case-management. A total of 125 clients were transferred into Sefton DIP in 05/06 and 113 clients were transferred in the following year.

Ethnicity

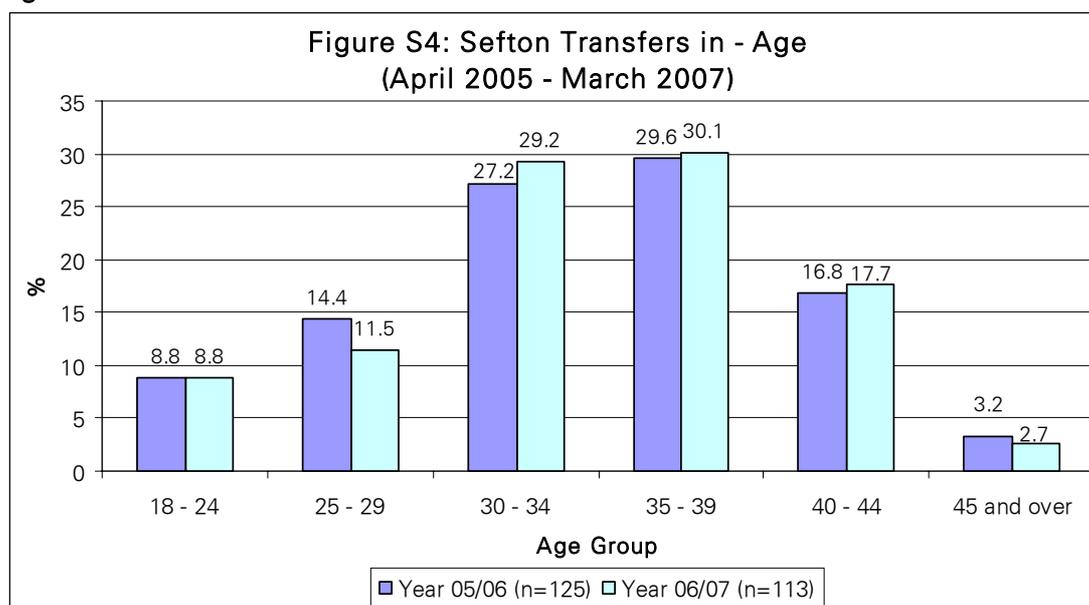
Table S4: Ethnic background of clients transferred into Sefton (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Mixed	White
05/06 (n=53)	Number		53
	%		100%
06/07 (n=112)	Number	1	111
	%	0.9%	99.1%

NB: In 05/06 72 clients did not provide information on ethnicity and one client did not in 06/07.

The majority of the clients transferred to Sefton DIP in 05/06 and 06/07 were white (100% and 99.1%, respectively).

Age



The age profile of clients who were transferred in to Sefton DIP was similar for 05/06 and 06/07, with the highest proportions of clients aged between 30 and 39 years (56.8% and 59.3% respectively).

Gender

In 05/06 just under two-thirds (64.8%) of clients transferred in were male. This rose to 71.7% in 06/07.

5.5 Sefton - Drug Use, Offending and Accommodation

The following analysis has been performed on data collected on the DIR as part of the client's assessment. This information is not collected as part of the initial contact or for clients transferred into the team and is therefore not representative of all Sefton clients examined previously.

Drug Use

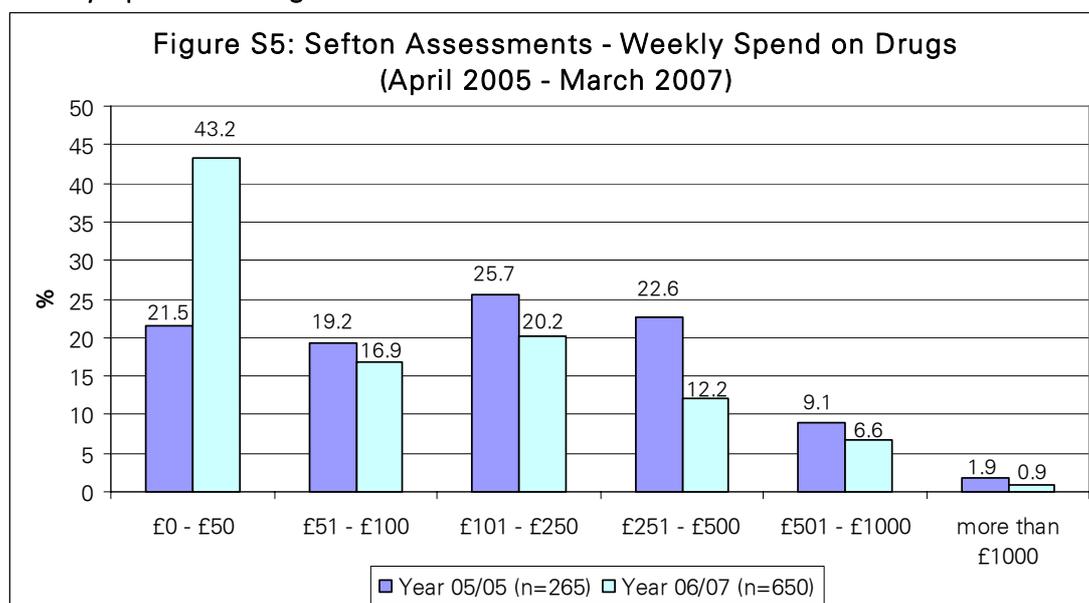
Table S5: Assessed clients' drug use in Sefton (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Amphet.	Benzo.	Cannabis	Cocaine	Crack	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methadone	Other
05/06 (n=270)	n	6	25	36	43	164	2	224	22	3
	%	2.2%	9.3%	13.3%	15.9%	60.7%	0.7%	83.0%	8.1%	1.1%
06/07 (n=660)	n	1	12	130	277	284	7	361	47	2
	%	0.2%	1.8%	19.7%	42.0%	43.0%	1.1%	54.7%	7.1%	0.3%

NB: Figures will add up to greater than 100% as clients are allowed to indicate more than one drug of use.

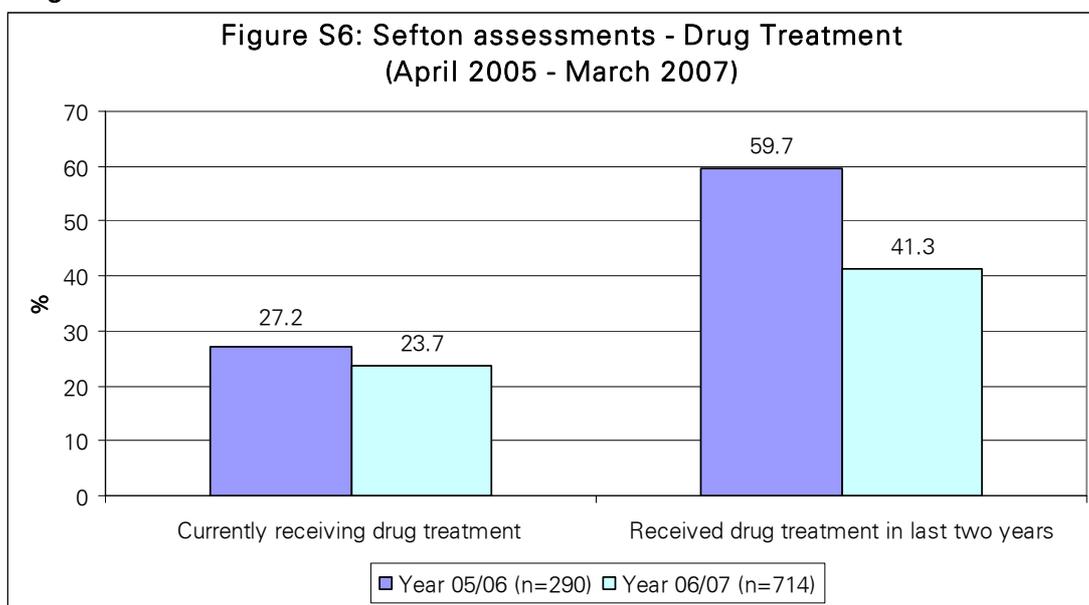
The most commonly used drug amongst clients assessed by Sefton DIP team in 05/06 was heroin (83.0%) followed by crack (60.7%) and cocaine (15.9%). Although there was an increase in the number of clients using crack in 06/07, proportionally it decreased. Heroin was still the most commonly used drug in 06/07 (54.7%) with an increase in numbers, however, proportions of clients using heroin in 06/07 declined to 54.7%. In contrast, the proportion of clients using cocaine more than doubled (42.0%). There was also an increase in the proportion of clients using cannabis, rising from 13.3% in 05/06 to 19.7% in 06/07.

Weekly Spend on Drugs



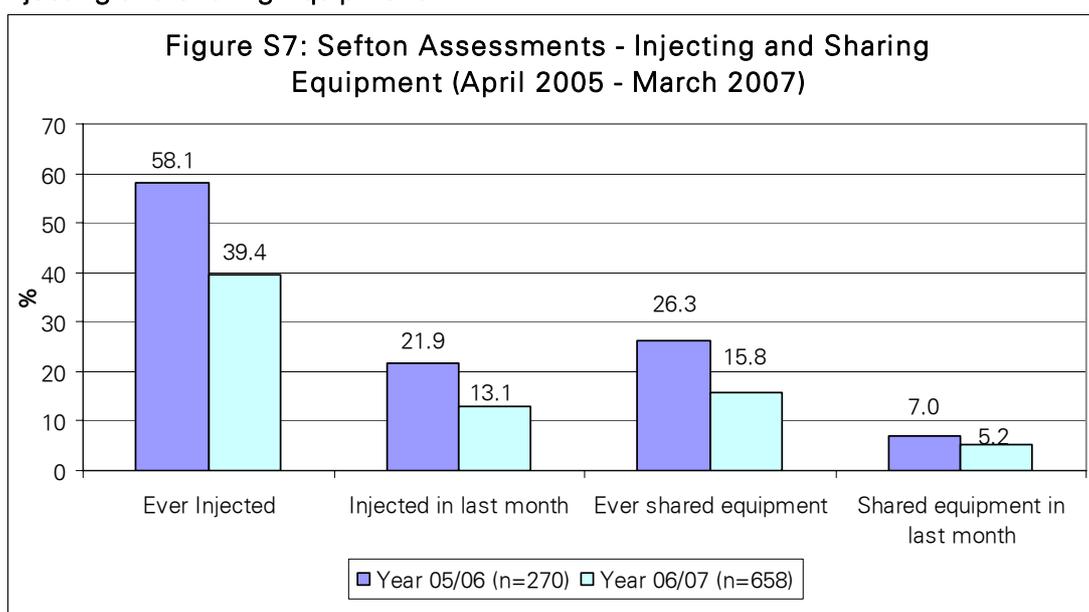
The weekly spend on drugs was fairly evenly distributed across the categories between £0 to £50 and £500 in 05/06. However, in 06/07, two-fifths (43.2%) of clients were spending between £0 and £50, over double the proportion of clients spending at that level in 05/06.

Drug Treatment



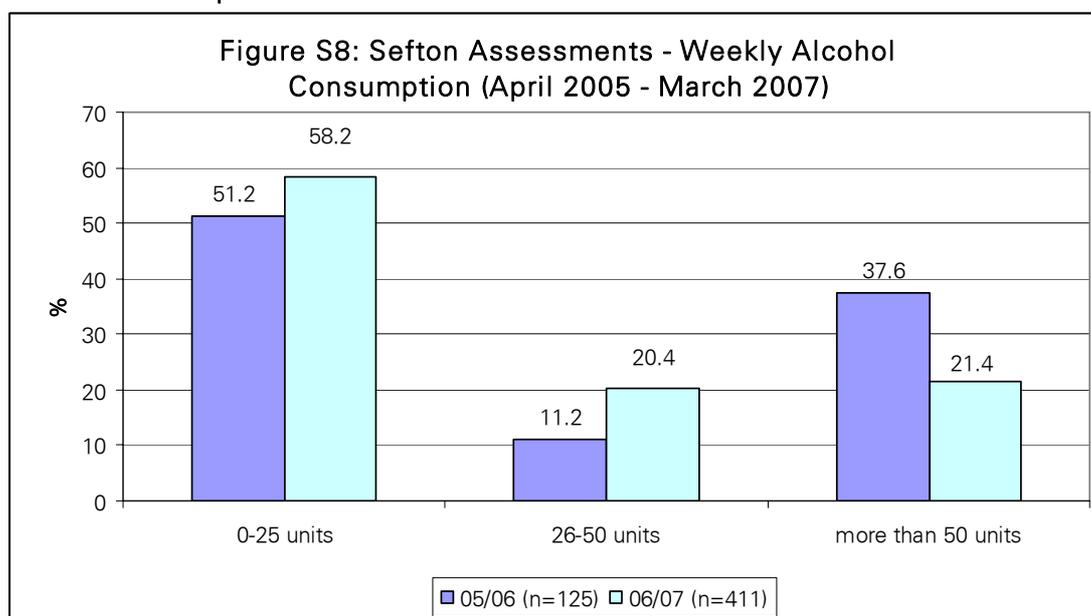
Around a quarter of clients assessed in both 05/06 (27.2%) and 06/07 (23.7%) were currently receiving treatment at the time of assessment. The proportion of clients having been in treatment in the two years prior to their DIP assessment declined from 59.7% in 05/06 to 41.3% in 06/07.

Injecting and Sharing Equipment



Lower proportions of assessed clients reported ever injecting or having injected in the last month in 06/07 compared to 05/06, and the same was true for reports of ever having shared injecting equipment and sharing equipment in the last month.

Alcohol Consumption



NB: 165 clients did not report alcohol use in 05/06 and 303 clients did not report in 06/07.

Over half of clients who reported on their alcohol use were consuming 0 to 25 units per week in 05/06 (51.2%) and 06/07 (58.2%). The proportion of clients reporting high end consumption of more than 50 units per week declined from 37.6% in 05/06 to 21.4% in 06/07.

Sefton Assessments – Offences committed (See Table S6, below, p.42)

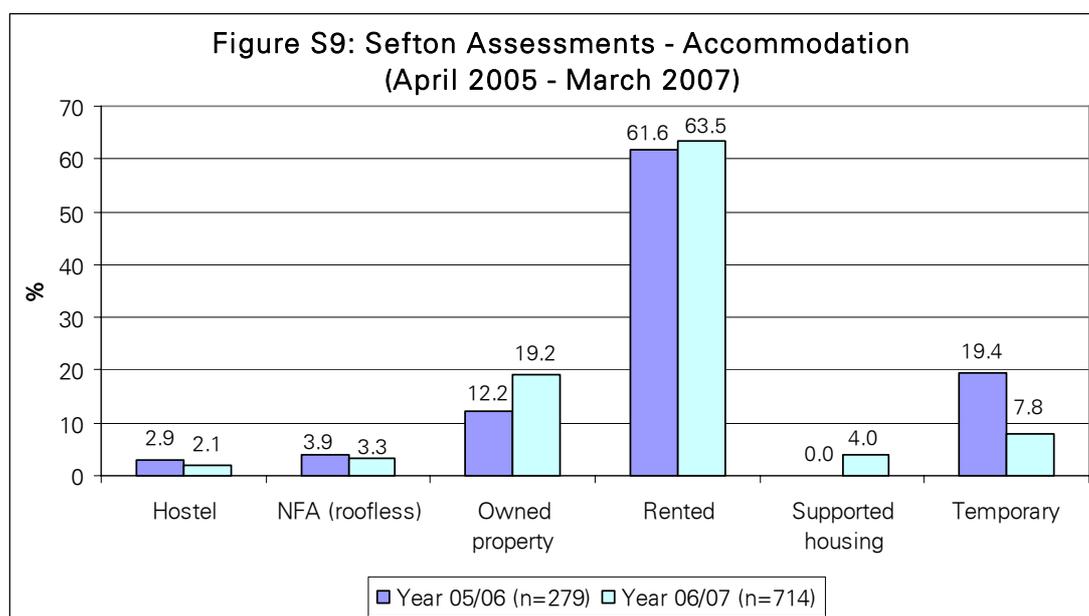
The most common offence that led to contact with DIP for both years was shoplifting, with over a two in five (40.8%) offenders committing shoplifting offences in 05/06 and over one in three (34.6%) in 06/07. The next most common offences in both 05/06 and 06/07 were Misuse of Drugs Act offences (15.3% and 20.1% respectively). A 4.8% increase was shown between the two years for this offence. Burglary was the third most common offence in both years with a 2.5% increase between 05/06 and 06/07. Breach offences evidenced the most marked decrease, declining by 7.6% between 05/06 and 06/07.

Table S6: Offending that led to contact with Sefton DIP (05/06 and 06/07)

Offence	Offending 05/06 (n=262)		Offending 06/07 (n=667)		Percentage difference between 05/06 and 06/07
	Number	%	Number	%	
Breach	27	10.3%	18	2.7%	-7.6%
Burglary	28	10.7%	88	13.2%	2.5%
Criminal Damage	3	1.1%	5	0.7%	-0.4%
Driving offence	12	4.6%	8	1.2%	-3.4%
Fraud	2	0.7%	6	0.9%	0.2%
Handling	8	3.1%	13	1.9%	-1.2%
MDA	40	15.3%	134	20.1%	4.8%
Other	17	6.5%	43	6.4%	0.1%
Public order	2	0.7%	8	1.2%	0.5%
Robbery	10	3.8%	23	3.4%	-0.4%
Theft - of a vehicle	8	3.1%	38	5.7%	2.6%
Theft - other	27	10.3%	58	8.7%	-1.6%
Theft - shoplifting	107	40.8%	231	34.6%	-6.2%
Violence	18	6.9%	42	6.3%	-0.6%
Warrant			7	1.0%	
Weapons / Firearms			8	1.2%	

NB: In 05/06 28 clients did not provide data on offending and 47 clients did not provide this information in 06/07.

Accommodation



Clients accommodation status was similar for both years with just under two thirds in 05/06 (61.6%) and 06/07 (63.5%) living in rented accommodation. However, just under a fifth (19.4%) of clients were resident in temporary accommodation in 05/06 compared to 7.8% in 06/07.

5.6 Sefton Summary

- There was an increase in the number of assessments completed 06/07 compared to 05/06, reflecting the introduction of Test on Arrest.
- The majority of clients contacted, assessed and care planned in both 05/06 and 06/07 were white males.
- DIP should not be offered to individuals under 18, yet a number of arrestees in this age group were contacted in 05/06 by Sefton DIP team. Reassuringly, no clients from this age group were contacted in 06/07.
- Analysis revealed an increase in the proportion of under 25 year olds assessed in 06/07, this was reflected in an increase in the proportion of under 25 year olds care planned.
- Whilst numbers of heroin users increased, proportions of heroin users decreased with a considerable increase in cocaine and cannabis use in 06/07 when compared to 05/06.
- There was a lower weekly expenditure on drugs in 06/07 compared to 05/06.
- There was a lower level of lifetime and current injecting in 06/07 than in 05/06, but a similar sharing profile.
- Levels of alcohol consumption decreased in 06/07 compared to 05/06.
- The introduction of Test on Arrest led to more MDA and theft of a car offenders being tested.
- The majority of clients assessed in both 05/06 and 06/07 were in stable accommodation which was reflected specifically in 06/07 by an increase in assessed clients who were in owned property.

6.0 St Helens

6.1 St Helens - Contacts

According to DIRs and Initial Contact forms received between April 05 and March 06, a total of 1759 clients were offered DIP by St Helens' DIP team. This decreased in 06/07 to 612 clients.

Ethnicity

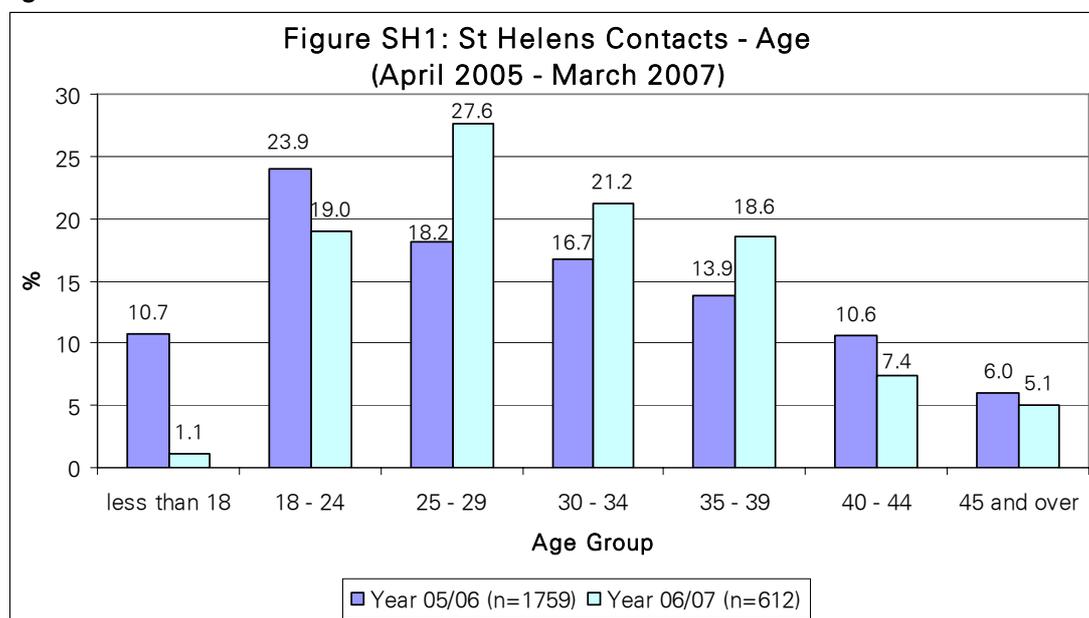
Table SH1: Ethnic background of clients contacted in St Helens (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Asian	Black	Mixed	White	Other
05/06 (n=1740)	Number	4	4	1	1729	2
	%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	99.4%	0.1%
06/07 (n=607)	Number				607	
	%				100.0%	

NB: In 05/06 19 clients did not provide information on ethnicity and five clients did not provide this information in 06/07.

The majority of clients contacted by St Helens DIP in 05/06 were white (99.4%) and all were white in 06/07.

Age



Clients contacted in 05/06 by St Helens DIP tended to be younger than those contacted in 06/07, with a third (34.6%) under the age of 25 years in 05/06 compared to a fifth (20.1%) in 06/07. Clients contacted in 06/07 tended to fall into the mid-range age categories, with two-thirds (67.4%) aged between 25 and 39 years compared to under half (48.8%) in 05/06.

Gender

The majority of clients contacted in 05/06 (86.7%) and 06/07 (81.0%) were male.

6.2 St Helens - Assessments

The numbers of clients assessed remained relatively constant over both years, with a total of 220 clients assessed in 05/06 and 224 in 06/07.

Ethnicity

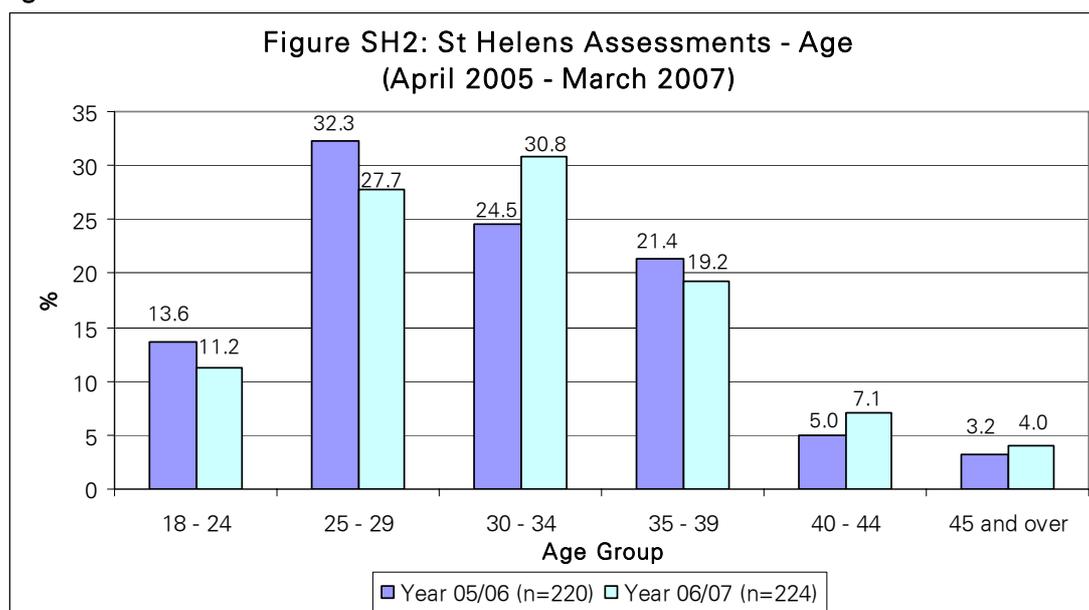
Table SH2: Ethnic background of clients assessed in St Helens (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Black	White
05/06 (n=219)	Number	2	217
	%	0.9%	99.1%
06/07 (n=222)	Number		222
	%		100.0%

NB: One client did not provide ethnicity information in 05/06 and two clients did not provide this information in 06/07.

The majority of clients assessed in 05/06 were white (99.1%) and all clients assessed in 06/07 were white.

Age



As with clients contacted, those clients who were assessed in 05/06 tended to be younger than those assessed in 06/07, with just under a third (32.3%) aged between 25 and 29 years compared to a similar proportion (30.8%) aged 30 to 34 years in 06/07.

Gender

The majority of clients assessed in 05/06 (78.6%) and in 06/07 (82.6%) were male.

6.3 St Helens - Care Plans

Care plans were drawn up for a total of 96 clients in St Helens during 05/06 and 93 clients in the subsequent year. St Helens residents assessed elsewhere and referred back to St Helens for DIP case management will be reported on in the next section on transfers (6.4).

Ethnicity

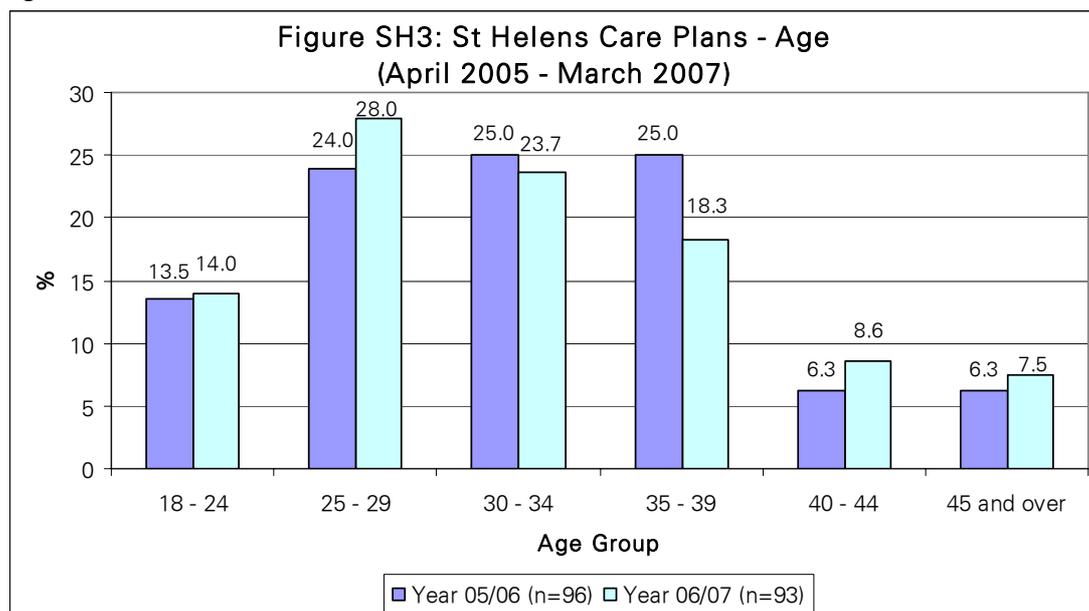
Table SH3: Ethnic background for clients care planned in St Helens (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Black	White
05/06 (n=95)	Number	1	94
	%	1.1%	98.9%
06/07 (n=92)	Number		92
	%		100.0%

NB: One client did not provide information on ethnicity in 05/06 and one client did not provide ethnicity information in 06/07.

The majority of clients care planned in 05/06 (98.9%) and all of those care planned in 06/07 were white.

Age



The age profile of clients care planned was similar for both years, with the majority of clients being aged between 25 and 39 years. A higher proportion (28.0%) of clients were aged between 25 and 29 years in 06/07 compared to the previous year (24.0%), whilst the proportion of clients aged 35 to 39 years fell from 25.0% in 05/06 to 18.3% in 06/07.

Gender

Three-quarters (76.0%) of clients care planned in 05/06 were male. This proportion increased to 84.9% in 06/07 (84.9%).

6.4 St Helens – Transfers in

This section examines St Helens residents assessed or care planned in another area or prison and referred to St Helens DIP for case management. A total of 128 clients were transferred into St Helens DIP in 05/06 and this reduced to 77 clients in 06/07.

Ethnicity

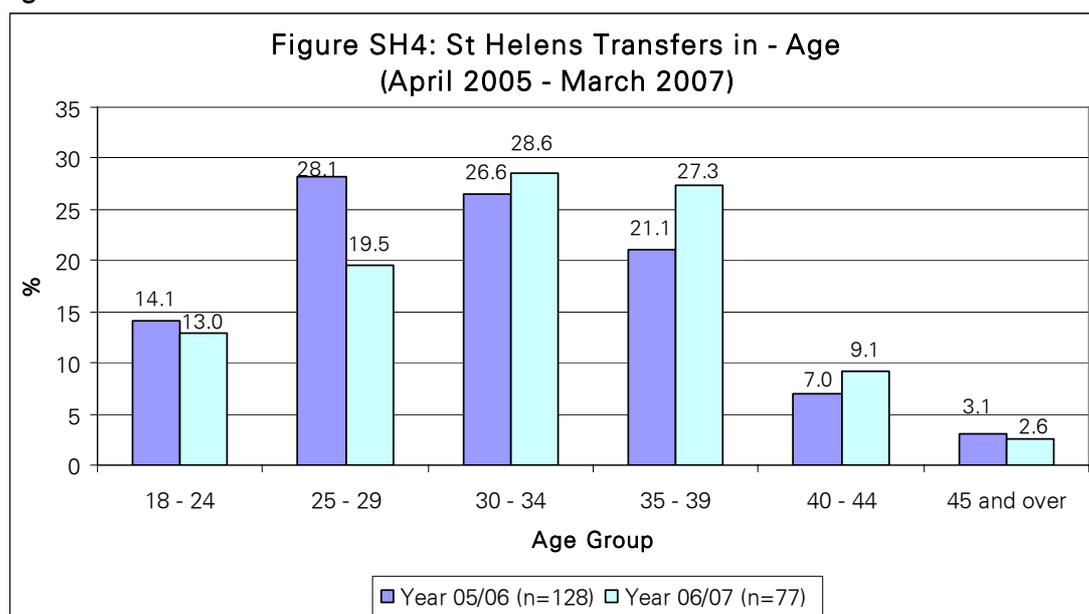
Table SH4: Ethnic background for clients transferred into St Helens (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		White
05/06 (n=90)	Number	90
	%	100.0%
06/07 (n=76)	Number	76
	%	100.0%

NB: In 05/06 38 clients did not provide information about their ethnicity and one client did not provide this information in 06/07.

All clients transferred into St Helens DIP during 05/06 and 06/07 were white.

Age



The age profile of clients transferred into St Helens DIP was similar for both 05/06 and 06/07, with the majority of clients aged between 25 and 39 years. The highest proportion of clients in 05/06 were aged between 25 and 29 years whereas clients transferred in during 06/07 tended to be older with over half (55.9%) aged between 30 and 39 years compared to 47.7% in 05/06.

Gender

The majority of clients transferred into St Helens in 05/06 (80.5%) and 06/07 (84.4%) were male.

6.5 St Helens - Drug Use, Offending and Accommodation

The following analysis has been performed on data collected on the DIR as part of the client's assessment. This information is not collected as part of the initial contact or for clients transferred into the team and is therefore not representative of all St Helens clients examined previously.

Drug Use

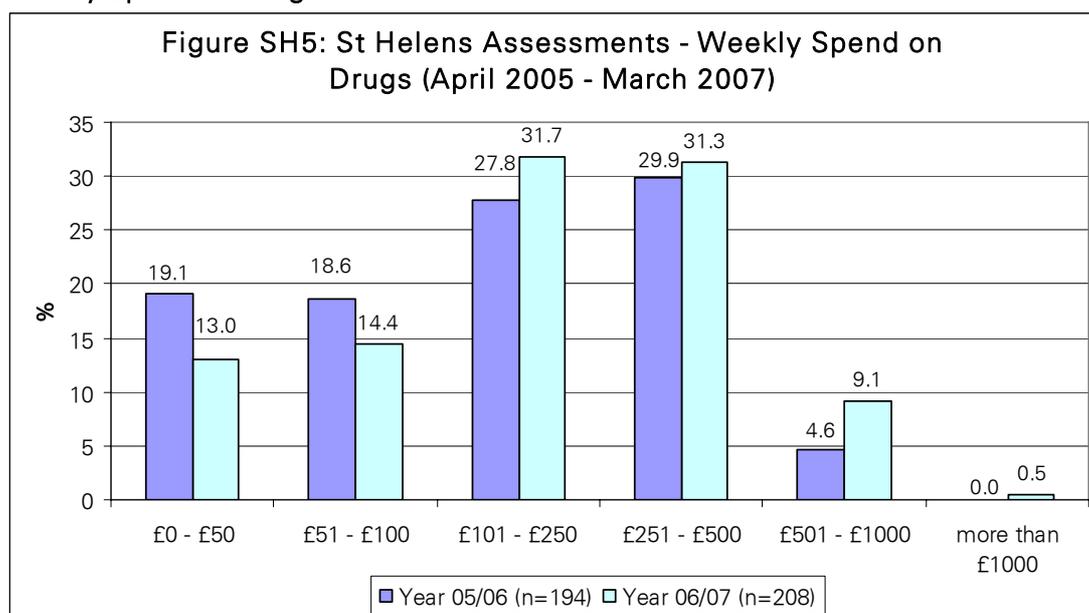
Table SH5: Assessed clients' drug use in St Helens (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Amphet.	Benzo.	Cannabis	Cocaine	Crack	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methadone	Other
05/06	n	7	31	9	20	85	2	151	63	6
(n=202)	%	3.5%	15.3%	4.5%	9.9%	42.1%	1.0%	74.8%	31.2%	3.0%
06/07	n	12	24	15	39	84	2	185	35	4
(n=211)	%	5.7%	11.4%	7.1%	18.5%	39.8%	0.9%	87.7%	16.6%	1.9%

NB: Two clients were removed from the 05/06 data as they were alcohol only clients. Figures will add up to greater than 100% as clients are allowed to indicate more than one drug of use

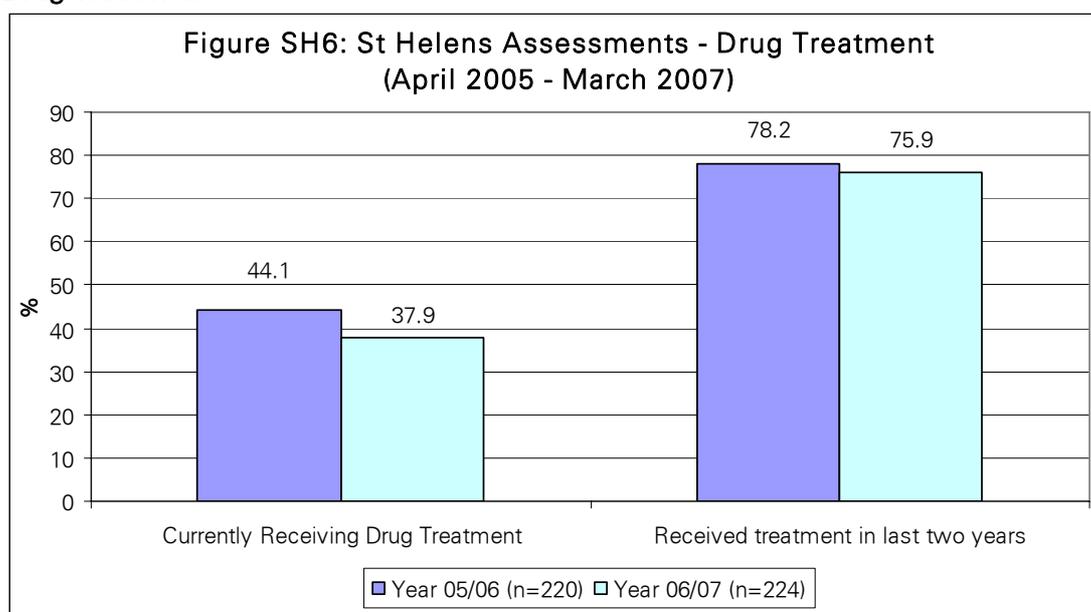
The most common drug used by clients assessed by St Helens DIP in 05/06 was heroin (74.8%) with the next most commonly used drugs being crack (42.1%) and methadone (31.2%). Unlike with other areas of Merseyside, the use proportion of clients assessed by St Helens using heroin increased in 06/07 to 87.7%. Crack (39.8%) remained the second most commonly used drug in 06/07 and, in line with other Merseyside areas, the use of cocaine increased, with the proportion of clients reporting cocaine use doubling to 18.5%.

Weekly Spend on Drugs



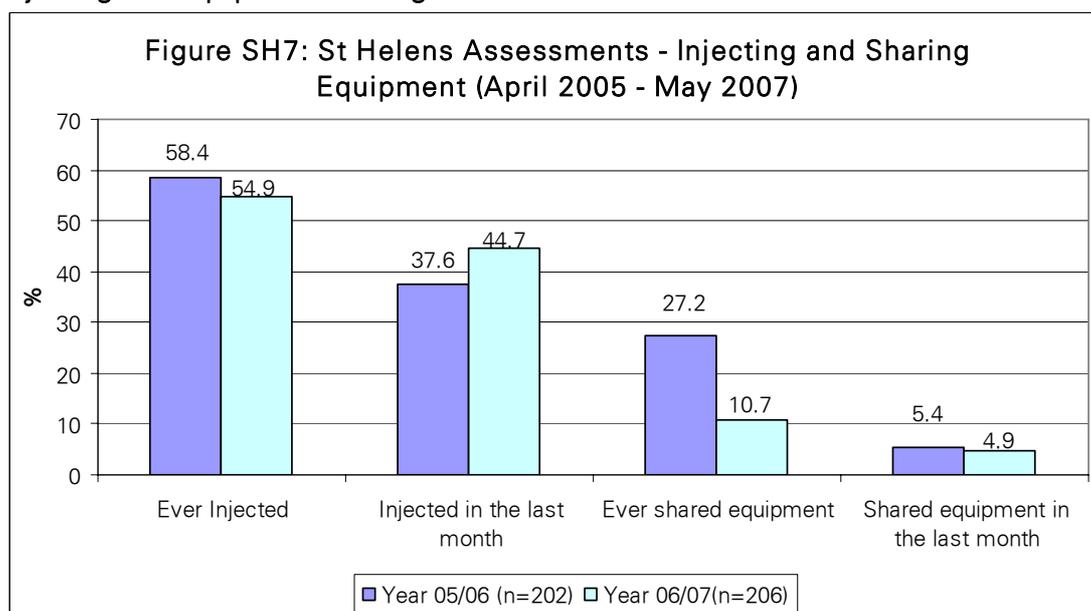
Clients' weekly spend on illicit drugs was similar for both years, with the highest proportion of assessed clients spending in the mid-range, between £101 and £500. Slightly more clients (37.7%) were spending between £0 and £100 in 05/06 compared to 06/07 (27.4%), whereas the proportion of clients spending at the upper end of the spectrum more than doubled in 06/07 (9.6%) compared to 05/06 (4.6%).

Drug Treatment



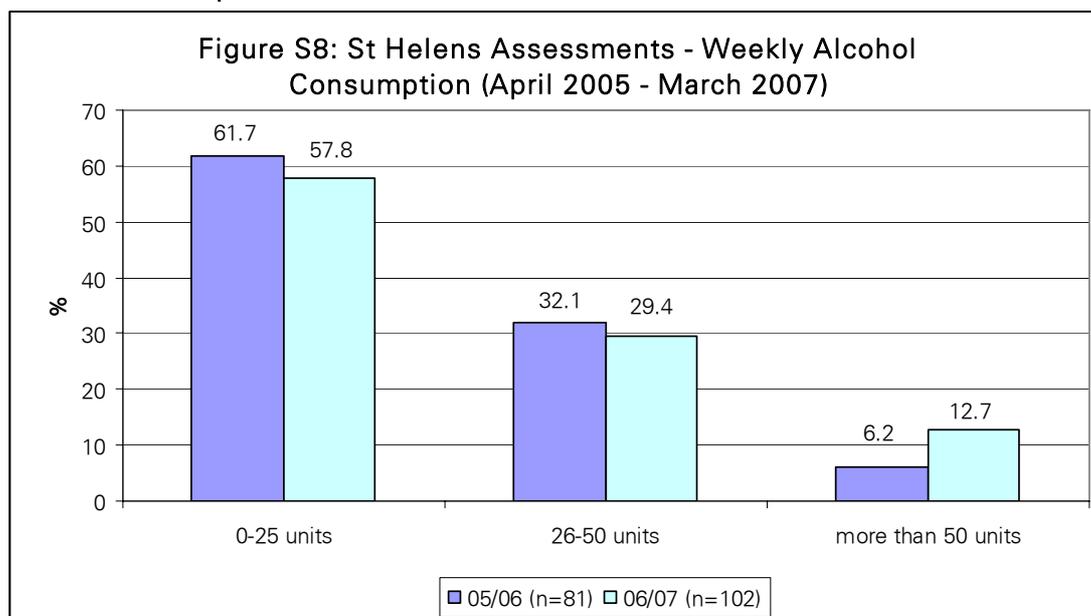
Proportions of clients receiving treatment at the time of assessment in 05/06 and 06/07 and proportions of clients reporting having received treatment during the previous two years in 05/06 and 06/07 were similar.

Injecting and Equipment Sharing



The proportions of lifetime injectors decreased (54.9%) in 06/07 compared to 05/06 (58.4%). However, the proportion of current injectors increased in 06/07 (44.7%) from 05/06 (37.6%). In 06/07 the proportion of clients having ever shared equipment (10.7%) considerably decreased from 05/06 (27.2%). However, levels of current sharing remained similar across the two year periods.

Alcohol Consumption



NB: 139 clients did not report alcohol use in 05/06 and 122 clients did not report in 06/07.

Clients' alcohol consumption was similar for both years with around six in ten consuming between 0 and 25 units per week. Twice as many clients reported consuming over 50 units per week in 06/07 (12.7%) compared to 6.2% in 05/06.

St Helens assessments - Offences committed

(See Table SH6 below, p.53)

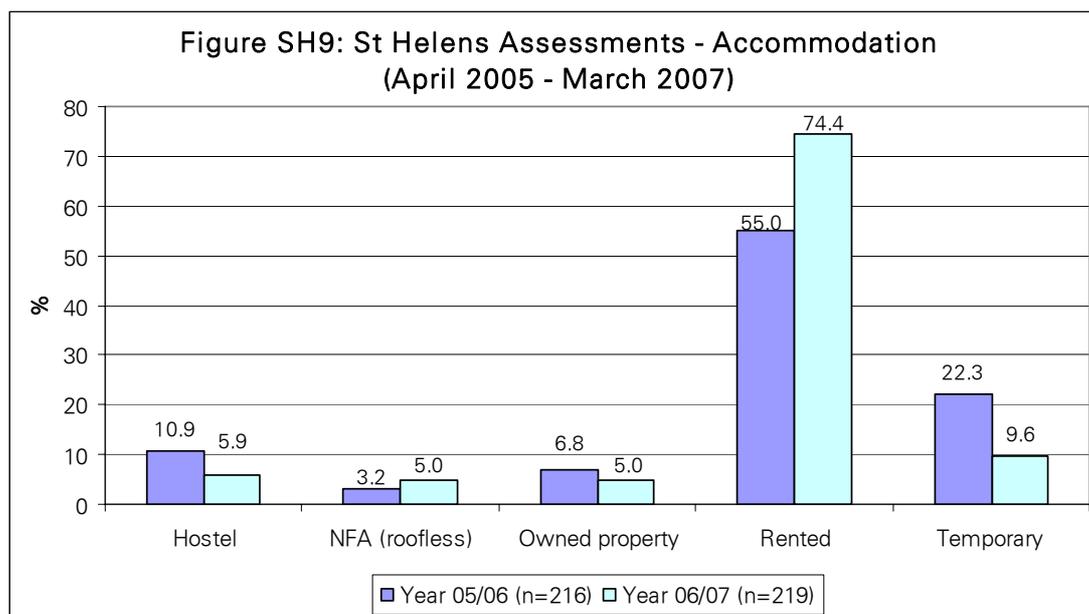
The most common offence committed by clients assessed by St Helens DIP in both 05/06 (47.3%) and 06/07 (43.0%) was shoplifting. In 05/06 the next most common offences were breach offences (14.0%) and Misuse of Drugs Act offences (12.6%). For 06/07 the next most common offences were warrant offences (15.0%) followed by burglary (12.6%). Between 05/06 and 06/07, the most marked increases were in warrant offences (14.0%) and burglary (3.4%).

Table SH6: Offending that led to contact with St Helens DIP (05/06 and 06/07)

Offence	Offending 05/06 (n=207)		Offending 06/07 (n=214)		Percentage Difference between 05/06 and 06/07
	Number	%	Number	%	
Breach	29	14.0%	19	8.9%	-5.1%
Burglary	19	9.2%	27	12.6%	3.4%
Driving offence	8	3.9%	6	2.8%	-1.1%
Handling	7	3.4%	1	0.5%	-2.9%
MDA	26	12.6%	23	10.7%	-1.9%
Other	18	8.7%	14	6.5%	-2.2%
Public Order	3	1.4%	4	1.9%	0.5%
Robbery	4	1.9%	8	3.7%	1.8%
Theft - other	17	8.2%	17	7.9%	-0.3%
Theft - shoplifting	98	47.3%	92	43.0%	-4.3%
Violence	18	8.7%	13	6.1%	-2.6%
Warrant	2	1.0%	32	15.0%	14.0%
Weapons / Firearms	14	6.8%	4	1.9%	-4.9%

NB: In 05/06 13 clients did not provide information on offending and ten clients did not provide this information in 06/07.

Accommodation



Clients' accommodation status was similar for both years. Over half (55.0%) of clients assessed in 05/06 reported residing in rented accommodation and this increased to just under three-quarters (72.8%) in 06/07. Over a fifth (22.3%) of clients in 05/06 were resident in temporary accommodation and this declined in 06/07 to 9.6%.

6.6 St Helens Summary

- The majority of clients screened, assessed, care planned and transferred in, in 05/06 were white males. In 06/07, all clients were white at all stages of the DIP process.
- Clients contacted and assessed tended to be older in 06/07 than in 05/06.
- There was an increase in the proportion of heroin use in 06/07 compared to 05/06.
- There was an increase in the proportion of warrant and burglary offences in 06/07 compared to 05/06 among clients assessed by DIP.
- The levels of alcohol consumption were relatively similar across the two years, with most clients consuming lower levels of alcohol. However, there was an increase in higher levels of alcohol consumption in 06/07 which is potentially hazardous.
- Overall, there was an increase in accommodation stability from 05/06 to 06/07.

7.0 Wirral

7.1 Wirral - Contacts

According to DIRs and Initial Contact forms received between April 05 and March 06, a total of 1063 clients were offered DIP in Wirral. In the following year the total number of clients contacted was 1066.

Ethnicity

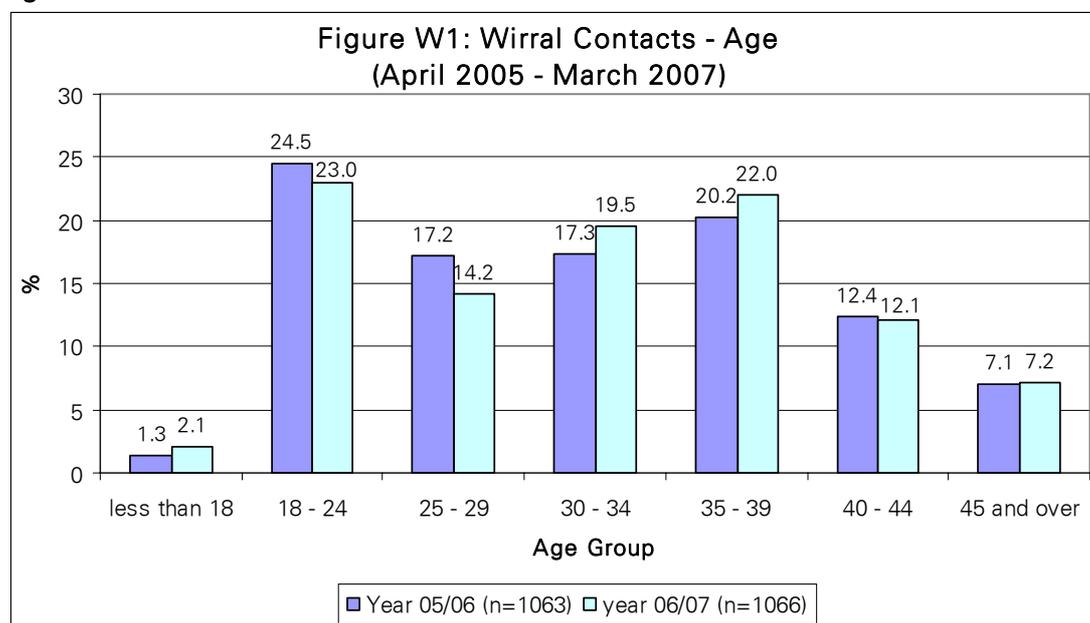
Table W1: Ethnic background for clients contacted in Wirral (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Asian	Black	Mixed	White	Other
05/06 (n=1059)	Number	2	7	5	1042	3
	%	0.2%	0.7%	0.5%	98.4%	0.3%
06/07 (n=1016)	Number	1	7	6	1000	2
	%	0.1%	0.7%	0.6%	98.4%	0.2%

NB: In 05/06 four clients did not provide data on ethnicity and 50 clients did not provide it in 06/07.

The majority of clients who came into contact with Wirral DIP services in 05/06 and 06/07 were white (98.4% in both years).

Age



The age profile of clients contacted by Wirral DIP in 05/06 and 06/07 was similar, with around a quarter of clients aged between 18 and 24 (24.5% and 23.0% respectively) and a fifth aged between 35 and 39 (20.2% and 22.0%).

Gender

The majority of clients contacted in 05/06 (88.6%) and 06/07 (81.5%) were male.

7.2 Wirral - Assessments

A total of 486 clients were assessed by Wirral DIP between April 05 and March 06. This increased to 617 assessments in 06/07.

Ethnicity

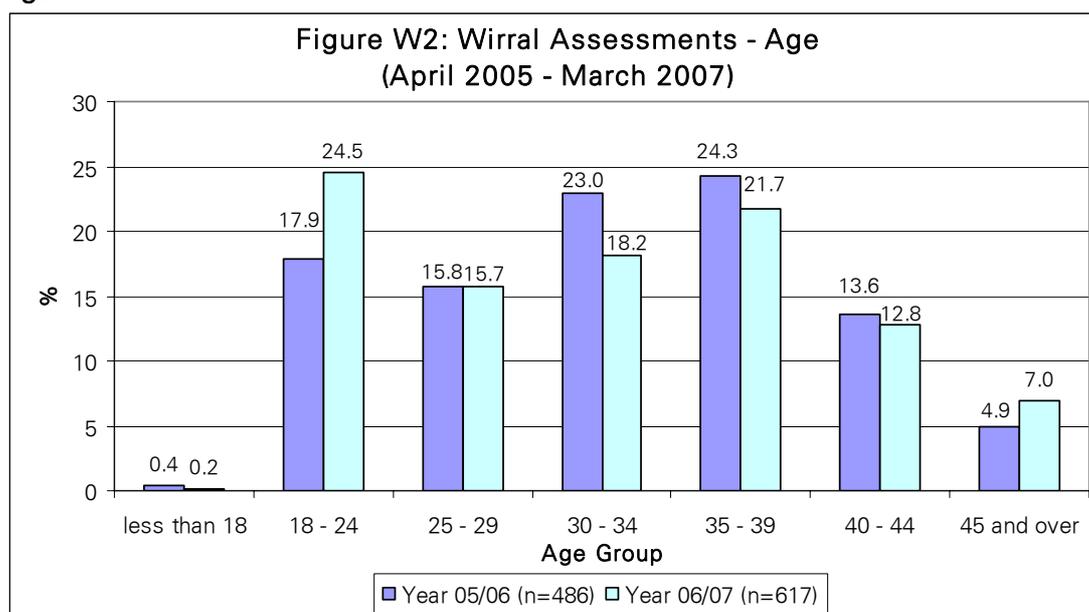
Table W2: Ethnic background for clients assessed in Wirral (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Black	Mixed	White	Other
05/06 (n=482)	Number	5	3	473	1
	%	1.0	0.6%	98.1	0.2%
06/07 (n=616)	Number	4	3	609	
	%	0.6%	0.5%	98.9	

NB: In 05/06 four clients did not provide information on ethnic background and one client did not provide this information in 06/07.

The majority of clients assessed by Wirral DIP in 05/06 (98.1%) and 06/07 (98.9%) were white.

Age



There was a rise in the proportion of 18 to 24 year olds who were assessed in 06/07 (24.5%) compared to 05/06 (17.9%). The highest proportion of clients assessed in 05/06 (24.3%) were aged between 35 and 39 years of age.

Gender

The majority of clients assessed by Wirral DIP in 05/06 (85.0%) and 06/07 (83.5%) were male.

7.3 Wirral - Care Plans

Care plans were drawn up for a total of 191 clients in Wirral during 05/06 and for 216 clients in the subsequent year. Wirral residents assessed elsewhere and referred back to Wirral for DIP case management will be reported on in the next section on transfers (7.4).

Ethnicity

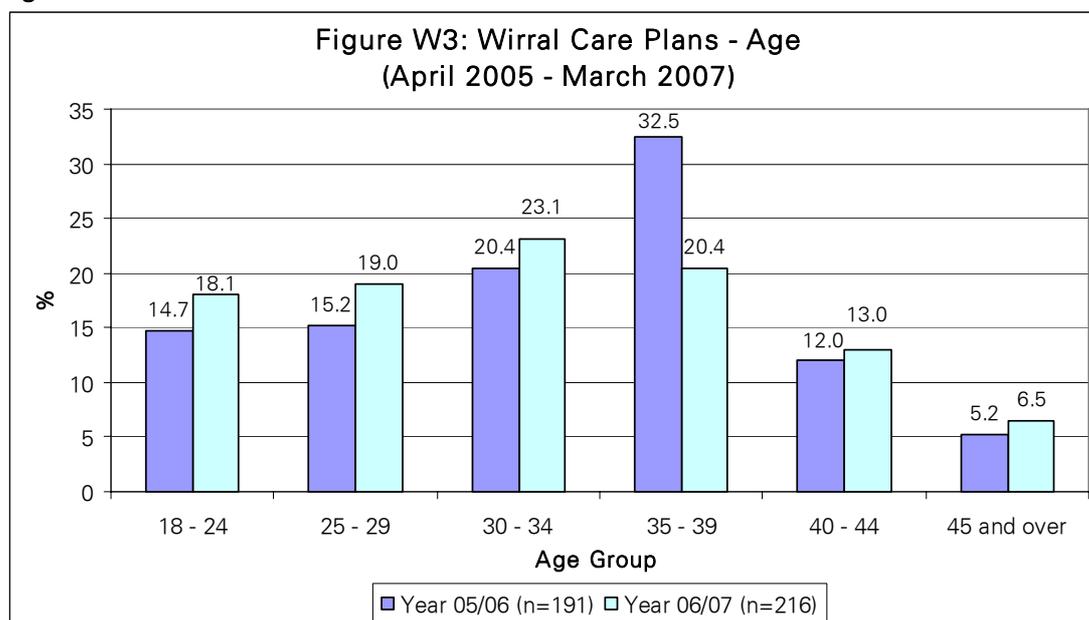
Table W3: Ethnic background for clients care planned in Wirral (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Black	Mixed	White	Other
05/06 (n=190)	Number		1	188	1
	%		0.5%	98.9%	0.5%
06/07 (n=215)	Number	1		213	1
	%	0.5%		99.1%	0.5%

NB: One client did not provide information on ethnic background in both 05/06 and 06/07.

The vast majority of clients care planned by Wirral DIP in 05/06 (98.9%) and 06/07 (99.1%) were white.

Age



Nearly a third (32.5%) of clients care planned in 05/06 were aged between 35 and 39 years. There was a more even age distribution among care planned clients in 06/07.

Gender

The majority of clients care planned by Wirral DIP in 05/06 (80.1%) and 06/07 (83.8%) were male.

7.4 Wirral – Transfers in

This section examines Wirral residents assessed or care planned in another area or prison and referred to Wirral DIP. A total of 169 clients were transferred into Wirral DIP in 05/06, decreasing to 43 clients in 06/07.

Ethnicity

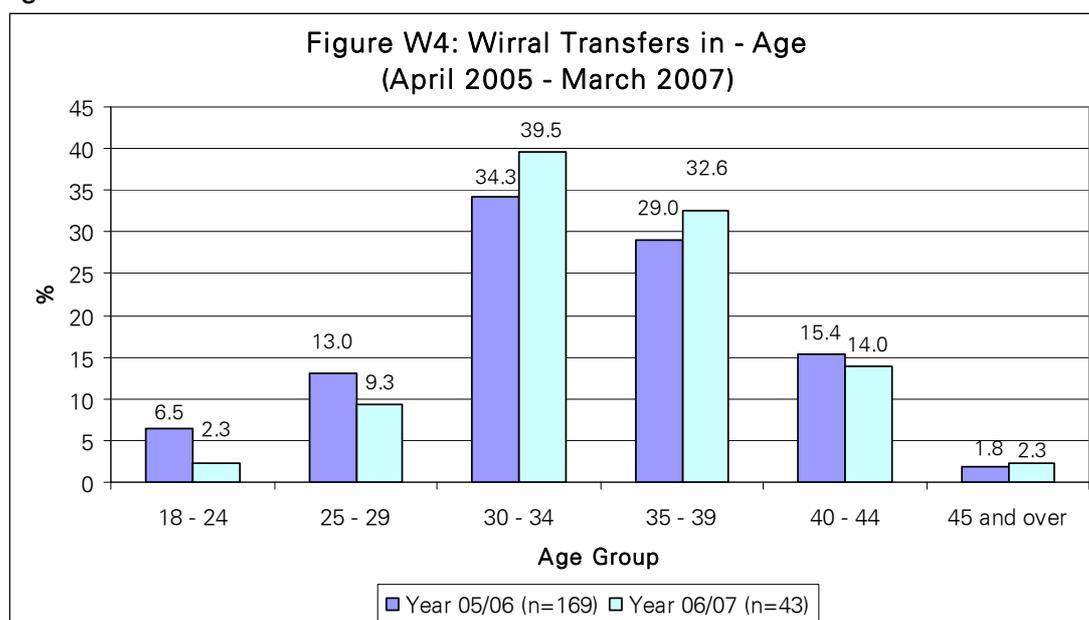
Table W4: Ethnic background for clients transferred into Wirral DIP (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Black	White
05/06 (n=74)	Number	1	73
	%	1.4%	98.6%
06/07 (n=43)	Number		43
	%		100%

NB: Information on ethnic background was not available for 95 clients in 05/06.

The majority of clients transferred into Wirral DIP in 05/06 (98.6%) for whom information on ethnic background was available were white, whilst all clients transferred in during 06/07 were white.

Age



The age distribution for clients transferred into Wirral DIP services was similar for both 05/06 and 06/07. However, whilst almost two-thirds of clients assessed in 05/06 were aged between 30 and 39 years (63.3%) this proportion increased in 06/07 to 72.1%.

Gender

Three-quarters (74.6%) of clients transferred into Wirral DIP services in 05/06 were male and this proportion rose in 06/07 to 81.4%.

7.5 Wirral - Drug Use, Offending and Accommodation

The following analysis has been performed on data collected on the DIR as part of the client's assessment. This information is not collected as part of the initial contact or for clients transferred into the team and is therefore not representative of all Wirral DIP clients examined previously.

Drug Use

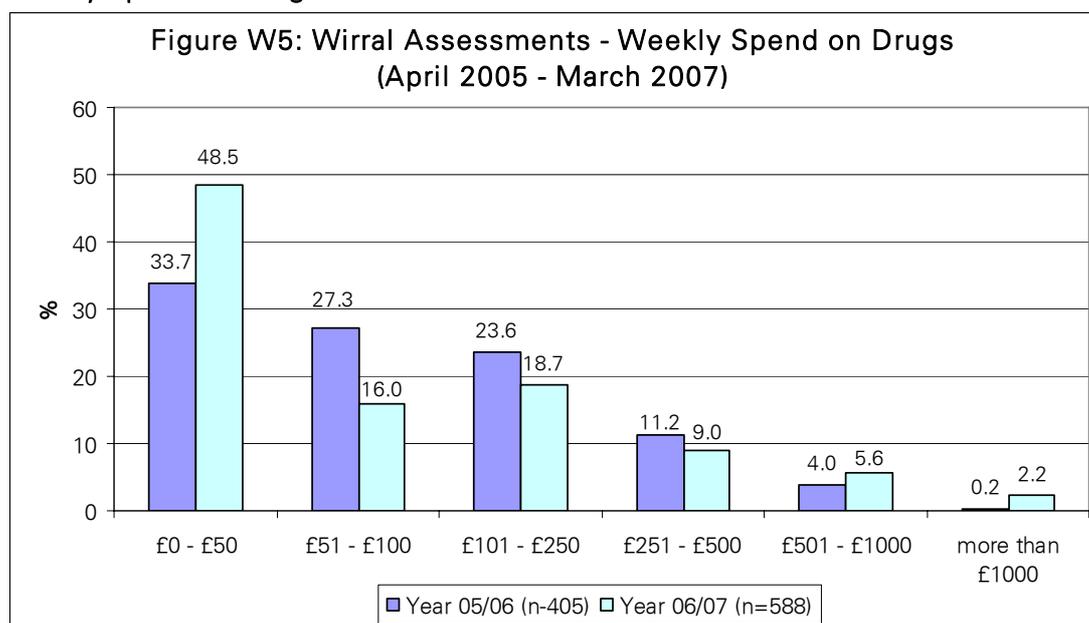
Table W5: Assessed clients' drug use in Wirral (05/06 and 06/07)

Year		Amphet.	Benzo.	Cannabis	Cocaine	Crack	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methadone	Other
05/06 (n=412)	n	14	14	96	106	192	14	252	109	1
	%	3.4%	3.4%	23.3%	25.7%	46.6%	3.4%	61.2%	26.5%	0.2%
06/07 (n=595)	n	18	29	198	270	232	30	310	104	8
	%	3.0%	4.9%	33.3%	45.4%	39.0%	5.0%	52.1%	17.5%	1.5%

NB: Figures will add up to greater than 100% as clients are allowed to indicate more than one drug of use

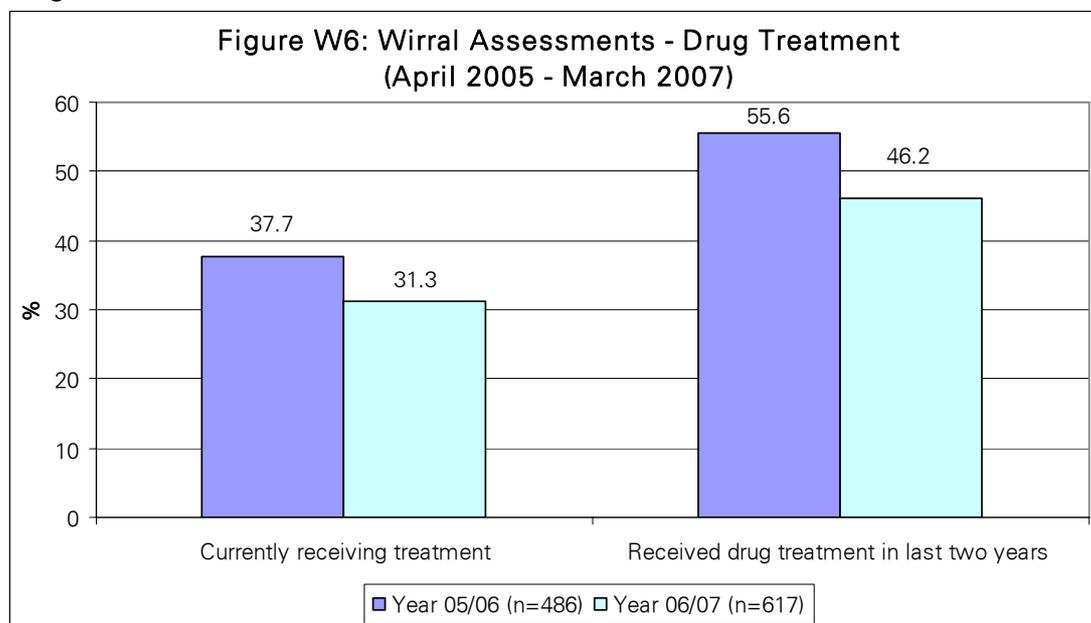
In 05/06 the drug most commonly used by assessed clients was heroin (61.2%), followed by crack (46.6%) and illicit methadone (26.5%). Heroin (52.1%) was still the most commonly used drug in 06/07, with increased numbers from 05/06 but the next most commonly used drug was cocaine, with the proportions of clients using it almost doubling to 45.4% from the previous year. Between 05/06 and 06/07 the proportions of clients using crack fell slightly in 06/07 to 39.0% and the proportion using illicit methadone dropped to 17.5% from 26.5%. In contrast, the proportion of clients using cannabis increased by 10% to 33.3%.

Weekly Spend on Drugs



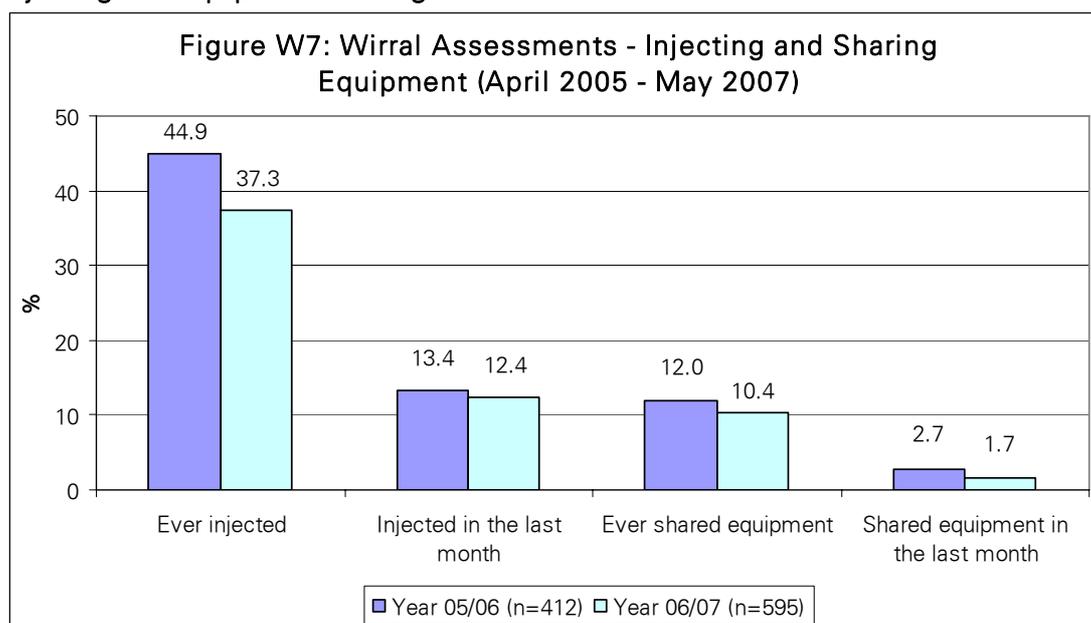
Clients' weekly spend on illicit drugs was skewed towards the lower end of the scale in both years. This was particularly pronounced in 06/07 when nearly half (48.5%) of clients reported spending under £50 per week.

Drug Treatment



Proportions of clients receiving treatment at the time of assessment in 05/06 and 06/07 and proportions of clients reporting having received treatment during the previous two years in 05/06 and 06/07 were similar.

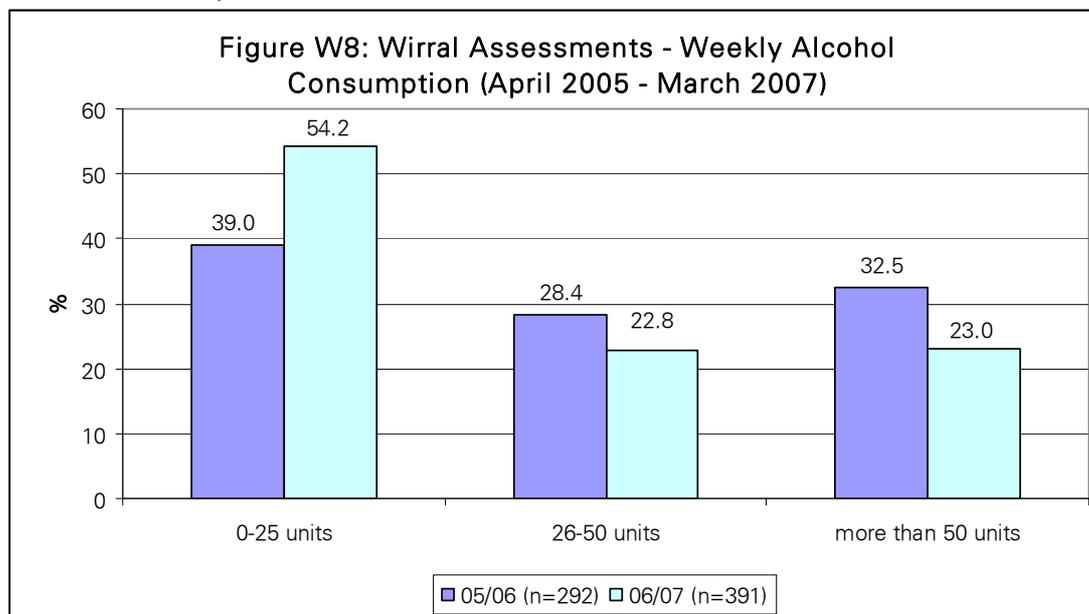
Injecting and Equipment Sharing



NB: Two clients were alcohol only clients so they have been removed from the data set.

Proportions of clients who reported ever injecting decreased in 06/07 (37.3%) compared to 05/06 (44.9%). Rates of current injecting were similar in 05/06 and 06/07. The same was true for lifetime injecting and both current and lifetime equipment sharing.

Alcohol Consumption



NB: In 05/06 194 clients did not report alcohol use and 226 clients did not report this information in 06/07.

Over half (54.2%) of clients reported consuming less than 25 units per week in 06/07 compared to 39.0% consuming at this level in 05/06. By contrast, a higher proportion of clients consumed more than 50 units per week in 05/06 (32.5%) compared to 06/07 (23.0%).

Wirral assessments - Offences committed

(See Table W6 below, p.62)

The most common offence committed by assessed clients in 05/06 was shoplifting (30.4%) followed by Misuse of Drugs Act offences (16.5%) and violent offences (11.4%) (See Table W6). Offending trends for 06/07 differed with Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences accounting for a quarter (27.4%) of all offences and shoplifting accounting for another quarter (26.9%). The next most common offence was burglary which evidenced a 4.8% increase in 06/07 compared to 05/06, rising to 16.0% of all offences from 11.2%. The most notable increase was, however, in MDA offences which rose by 10.9%, although other increases were also evident in the theft of a vehicle (4.8%) and theft other (6.7%) offence categories.

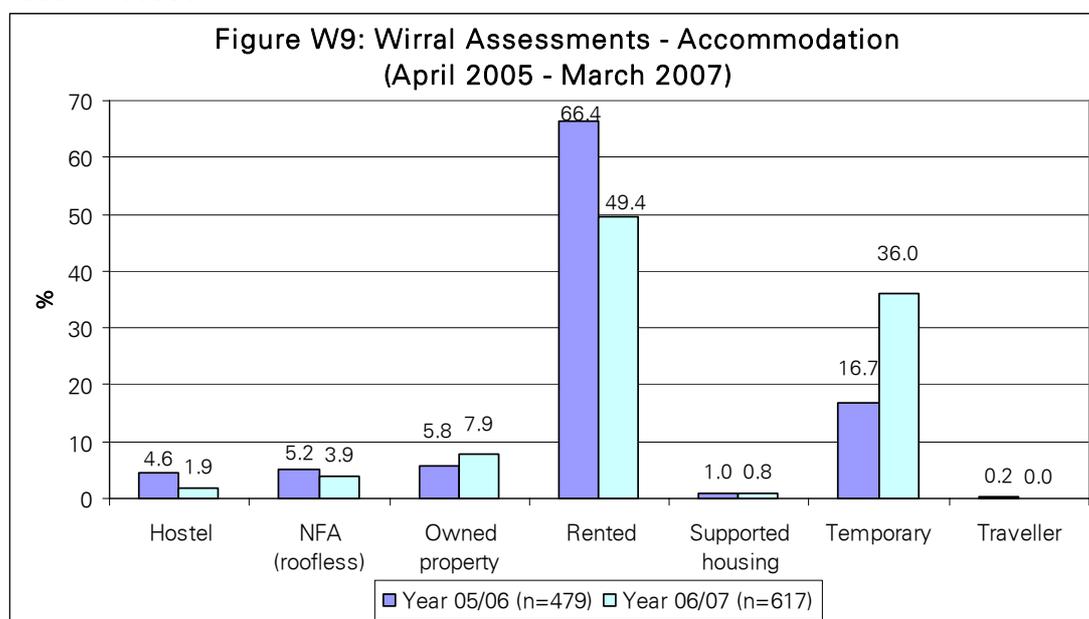
There was also a substantial decrease in the proportion of clients who committed violent offences (-9.6%).

Table W6: Offending that led to contact with Wirral DIP (05/06 and 06/07)

Offence	Offending 05/06 (n=484)		Offending 06/07 (n=614)		Percentage difference between 05/06 and 06/07
	Number	%	Number	%	
Breach	18	3.7%	11	1.8%	-1.9%
Burglary	54	11.2%	98	16.0%	4.8%
Criminal Damage	8	1.7%	3	0.5%	-1.2%
Deception	6	1.2%	8	1.3%	0.1%
Driving offence	23	4.8%	6	1.0%	-3.8%
Going equipped	3	0.6%	6	1.0%	0.4%
Handling	13	2.7%	6	1.0%	-1.7%
MDA	80	16.5%	168	27.4%	10.9%
Other	17	3.5%	11	1.8%	-1.7%
Public Order	17	3.5%	3	0.5%	-3.0%
Robbery	6	1.2%	23	3.7%	2.5%
Theft - of a vehicle	16	3.3%	50	8.1%	4.8%
Theft - Other	44	9.1%	97	15.8%	6.7%
Theft - shoplifting	164	33.9%	165	26.9%	-7.0%
Violence	55	11.4%	11	1.8%	-9.6%
Warrant	16	3.3%	6	1.0%	-2.3%

NB: In 05/06 two clients did not provide information on offending and three clients did not provide this information in 06/07.

Accommodation



The swing from rented to temporary accommodation between 05/06 and 06/07 shows a shift to less stable accommodation. Two-thirds (66.4%) of clients reported living in rented accommodation in 05/06 compared to just under half (49.4%) in

06/07. Over twice as many clients were residing in temporary accommodation in 06/07 (36.0%) compared to 05/06 (16.7%).

7.6 Wirral Summary

- The majority of clients contacted, assessed and care planned were white males. There was an increase in the number of assessments completed 06/07 compared to 05/06, reflecting the introduction of Test on Arrest.
- The age profile of clients assessed was younger than that of those care planned.
- There were increased numbers of heroin users, with a lower proportion compared to 05/06, due to increased levels of cocaine and cannabis use in 06/07. In addition, lower weekly expenditure on alcohol was demonstrated in both 05/06 and 06/07. However, there were still high proportions of clients drinking at levels higher than is considered healthy.
- There was a considerable increase in the proportion of MDA, theft – other, burglary and theft of a vehicle offences in 06/07, pre Test on Arrest, when compared to 05/06, post Test on Arrest.
- There was a shift from 05/06 to 06/07 in accommodation status, from rented to temporary accommodation showing a less stable housing or reporting issues.

8.0 Merseyside D(A)AT Comparison

This section will compare and contrast demographic information from 06/07 across the Merseyside D(A)ATs.

8.1 Merseyside - Contacts

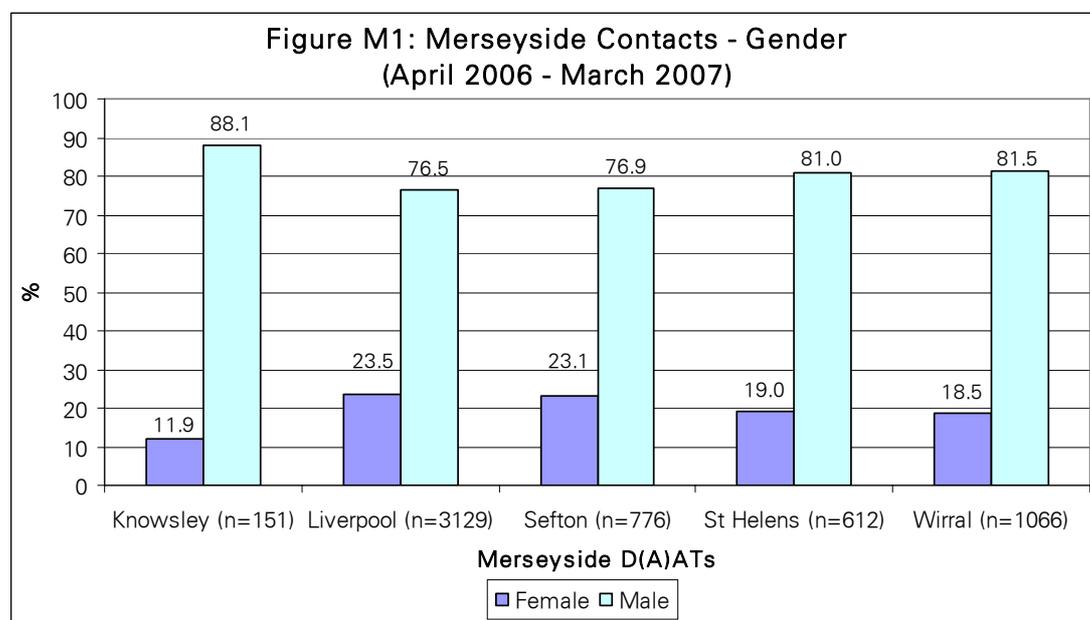
Age

Table M1: Age of clients contacted (06/07) - Merseyside Comparison

	less than 18	18 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 and over
Knowsley (n=151)		25.2%	12.6%	28.5%	14.6%	13.2%	6.0%
Liverpool (n=3129)	0.3%	18.0%	14.3%	23.9%	22.6%	14.0%	6.8%
Sefton (n=776)		25.5%	15.1%	23.1%	19.5%	11.9%	5.0%
St Helens (n=612)	1.1%	19.0%	27.6%	21.2%	18.6%	7.4%	5.1%
Wirral (n=1066)	2.1%	23.0%	14.2%	19.5%	22.0%	12.1%	7.2%
Merseyside (n=5734)	0.7%	20.2%	15.8%	22.8%	21.4%	12.6%	6.4%

Across Merseyside just under a quarter of clients (22.8%) who were screened were between 30 and 34 years of age. Liverpool DIP contacted the lowest proportion of under 25 year olds in 06/07 compared to Knowsley (25.2%), Sefton (25.5) and Wirral (25.1%). St Helens DIP contacted the lowest proportion of over 30 years old compared to the other Merseyside D(A)ATs.

Gender



Knowsley DIP contacted a higher proportion of male clients than any other (88.1%) Merseyside in 06/07.

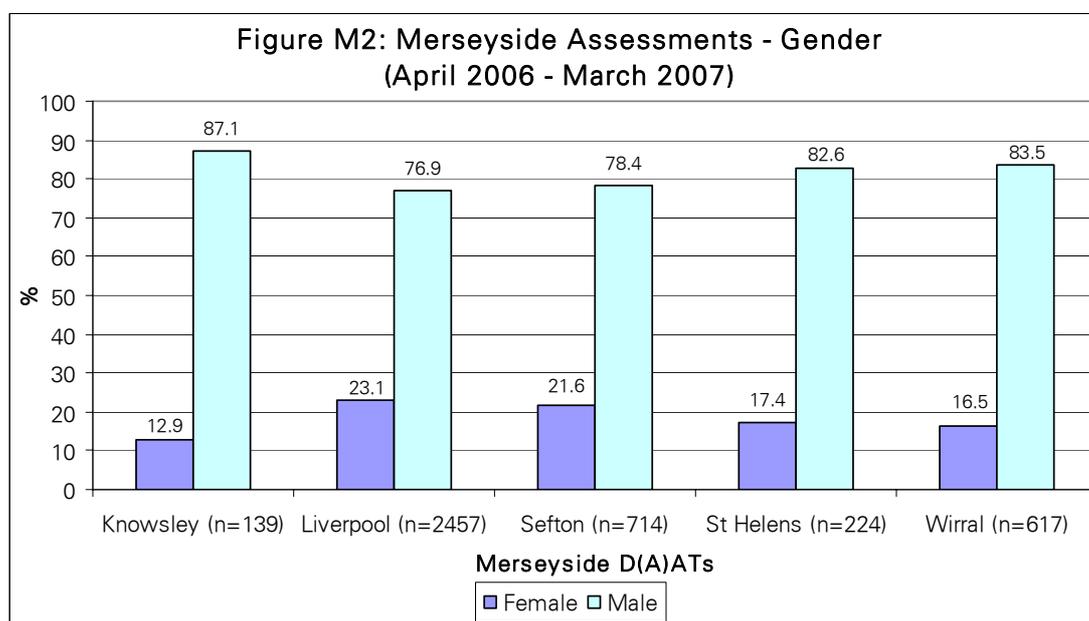
8.2 Merseyside - Assessments

Age

Table M2: Age clients assessed (06/07) - Merseyside Comparison

	less than 18	18 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 and over
Knowsley (n=139)		25.2%	10.8%	30.2%	12.9%	14.4%	6.5%
Liverpool (n=2457)	0.2%	19.9%	14.7%	23.4%	21.8%	13.5%	6.5%
Sefton (n=714)		27.2%	15.3%	22.7%	18.3%	11.3%	5.2%
St Helens (n=224)		11.2%	27.7%	30.8%	19.2%	7.1%	4.0%
Wirral (n=617)	0.2%	24.5%	15.7%	18.2%	21.7%	12.8%	7.0%
Merseyside (n=4151)	0.1%	21.5%	15.5%	23.2%	20.8%	12.7%	6.2%

Almost a quarter of clients assessed (23.2%) across Merseyside were between 30 and 34 years of age. St Helens DIP assessed just over one in ten clients (11.2%) under 25, the lowest proportion across Merseyside. Sefton DIP assessed the lowest proportion of over 30 year olds in 06/07, with St Helens DIP assessing the lowest proportion of clients aged between 40 and 44 (7.1%) when compared to the other Merseyside D(A)ATs.



As was the case for all contacts Knowsley DIP assessed a higher proportion of male clients (87.1%) in 06/07 than the other Merseyside DIP teams.

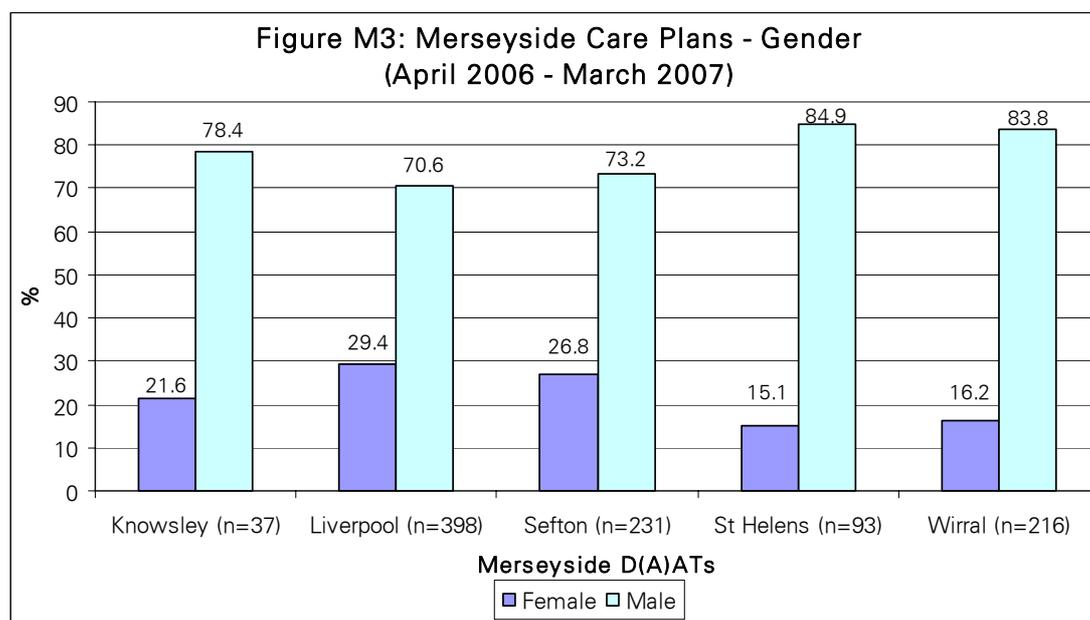
8.3 Merseyside - Care Plans

Age

Table M3: Age of clients care planned (06/07) – Merseyside Comparison

	18 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 and over
Knowsley (n=37)	18.9%	18.9%	29.7%	8.1%	16.2%	8.1%
Liverpool (n=398)	5.3%	9.3%	29.4%	29.9%	16.3%	9.8%
Sefton (n=231)	13.0%	13.4%	26.8%	25.1%	14.3%	7.4%
St Helens (n=93)	14.0%	28.0%	23.7%	18.3%	8.6%	7.5%
Wirral (n=216)	18.1%	19.0%	23.1%	20.4%	13.0%	6.5%
Merseyside (n=975)	11.3%	14.6%	26.9%	24.7%	14.4%	8.2%

Across Merseyside the highest proportion of care planned clients were between 30 and 34 years of age (26.9%). Liverpool care planned the lowest proportion of clients who were under 25 years of age (5.3%), with Knowsley care planning the highest (18.9%). St Helens DIP care planned the lowest proportion of over 30 year olds (58.1%) and the lowest proportion 40 to 44 year olds (8.6%) in 06/07 compared to the other Merseyside D(A)ATs.



Liverpool DIP care planned the highest proportion of female clients (29.4%) in 06/07 with St Helens DIP care planning the highest proportion of male clients (84.9%).

8.4 Merseyside - Transfers

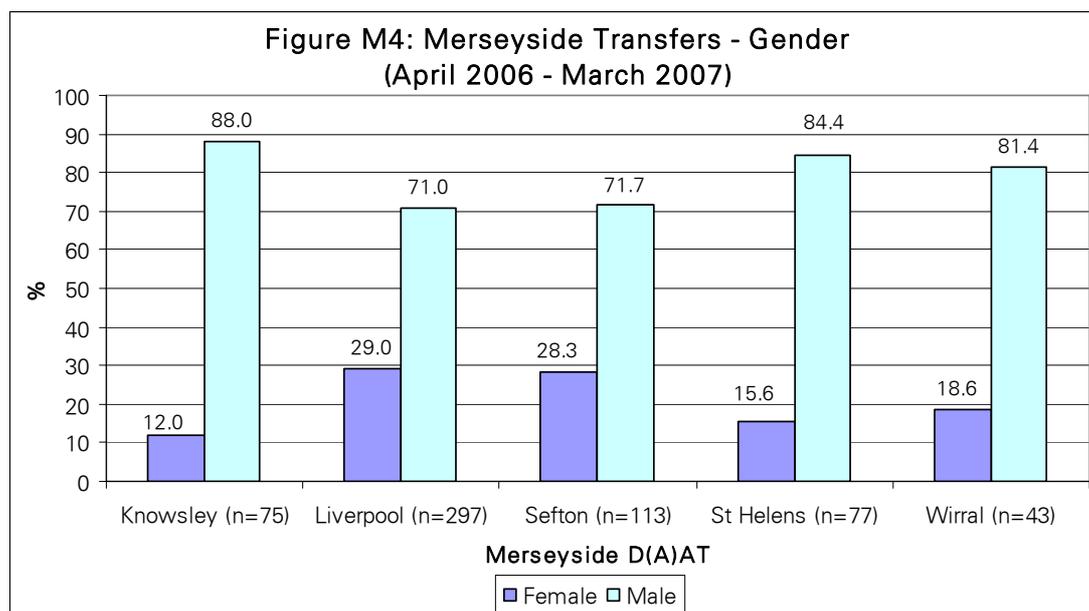
Age

Table M4: Age of clients transferred in (06/07) – Merseyside Comparison

	18 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 and over
Knowsley (n=75)	9.3%	17.3%	38.7%	14.7%	18.7%	1.3%
Liverpool (n=297)	7.7%	11.8%	30.0%	27.9%	16.2%	6.4%
Sefton (n=113)	8.8%	11.5%	29.2%	30.1%	17.7%	2.7%
St Helens (n=77)	13.0%	19.5%	28.6%	27.3%	9.1%	2.6%
Wirral (n=43)	2.3%	9.3%	39.5%	32.6%	14.0%	2.3%
Merseyside (n=605)	8.4%	13.2%	31.4%	26.9%	15.7%	4.3%

A third of clients who were transferred (31.4%) into the Merseyside DIP teams in 06/07 were between 30 and 34 years old. Wirral DIP had the lowest proportion of clients under 25 years of age (2.3%), with St Helens DIP having the highest (13.0%). St Helens DIP transferred the lowest proportion of clients under 30 (67.6%) and had the lowest proportion of clients (9.1%) between 40 and 44 years of age compared to the other Merseyside D(A)ATs.

Gender



Compared to the other Merseyside teams Knowsley have a higher proportion of males among the clients that were transferred in (88.0%). Both Liverpool (29.0%) and Sefton DIP (28.3%) had high proportions of female clients transferred in when compared to the other Merseyside DIP teams.

8.5 Merseyside - Drug Use, Offending and Accommodation

Drug Use

Table M5: Drug Use – Merseyside Comparison

	Amphet.	Benzos.	Cannabis	Cocaine	Crack	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methadone	Other
Knowsley (n=135)	2.2%	7.4%	23.7%	33.3%	47.4%	4.4%	57.8%	10.4%	1.5%
Liverpool (n=2307)	0.6%	3.0%	11.7%	31.9%	54.4%	1.0%	62.7%	8.4%	0.9%
Sefton (n=660)	0.2%	1.8%	19.7%	42.0%	43.0%	1.1%	54.7%	7.1%	0.3%
St Helens (n=211)	5.7%	11.4%	7.1%	18.5%	39.8%	0.9%	87.7%	16.6%	1.9%
Wirral (n=595)	3.0%	4.9%	33.3%	45.4%	39.0%	5.0%	52.1%	17.5%	1.5%
Merseyside (n=3908)	1.2%	3.7%	16.5%	35.0%	49.1%	1.7%	60.9%	10.1%	1.0%

NB: Figures will add up to greater than 100% as clients are allowed to indicate more than one drug of use

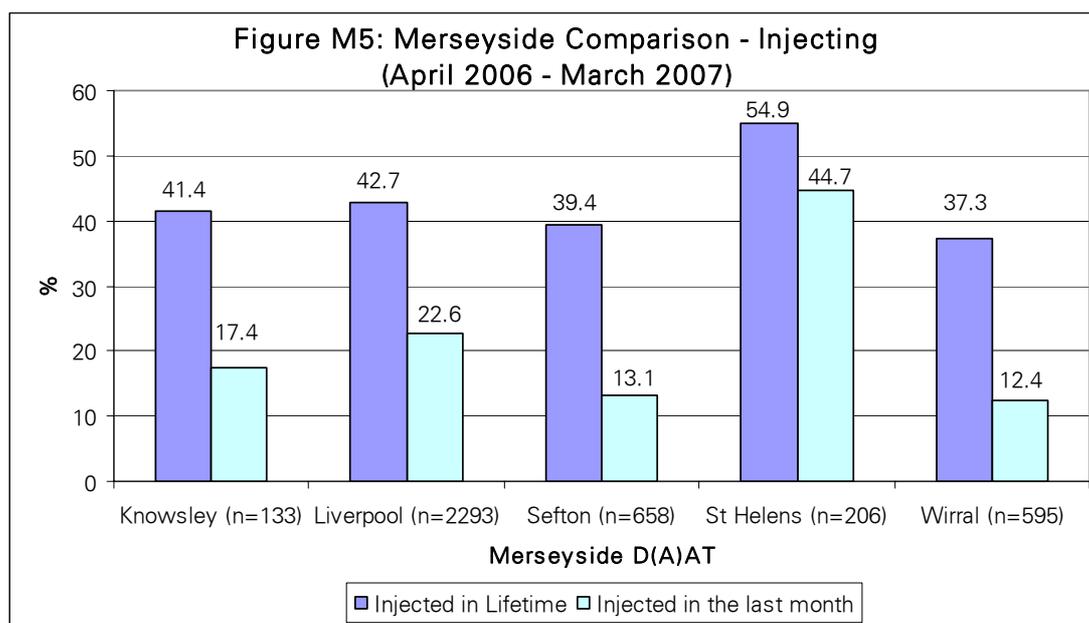
The most common drug used at the time of assessment across Merseyside was heroin (60.9%). St Helens DIP the highest proportion of heroin users (87.7%) and the lowest proportion of cocaine (18.5%) and cannabis users (7.1%) compared to the other Merseyside D(A)ATs. Wirral DIP had the highest proportion of cocaine users (45.4%) and the lowest proportion of heroin users (52.1%) compared to the other D(A)ATs. In addition, a third of clients assessed (33.3%) by Wirral DIP recorded cannabis use, a larger proportion than among clients assessed by the other DIP teams. Liverpool DIP assessed the highest proportion of crack users (54.4%), with St Helens (39.8%) and Wirral DIP (39.0%) reporting a lower proportion of crack users than the other D(A)ATs. Methadone usage was particularly high in St Helens (16.6%) and Wirral DIP (17.5%) compared to the other Merseyside DIP teams, showing a possible leakage of methadone in the community.

Table M6: Weekly expenditure in drugs (06/07) - Merseyside Comparison

	£0 - £50	£51 - £100	£101 - £250	£251 - £500	£501 - £1000	more than £1000
Knowsley (n=129)	16.3%	19.4%	20.9%	24.0%	17.8%	1.6%
Liverpool (n=2199)	28.5%	15.7%	20.3%	22.3%	11.2%	2.0%
Sefton (n=650)	43.2%	16.9%	20.2%	12.1%	6.6%	0.9%
St Helens (n=208)	13.0%	14.4%	31.7%	31.3%	9.1%	0.5%
Wirral (n=588)	48.5%	16.0%	18.7%	9.0%	5.6%	2.2%
Merseyside (n=3775)	32.9%	20.7%	19.0%	9.6%	16.0%	1.7%

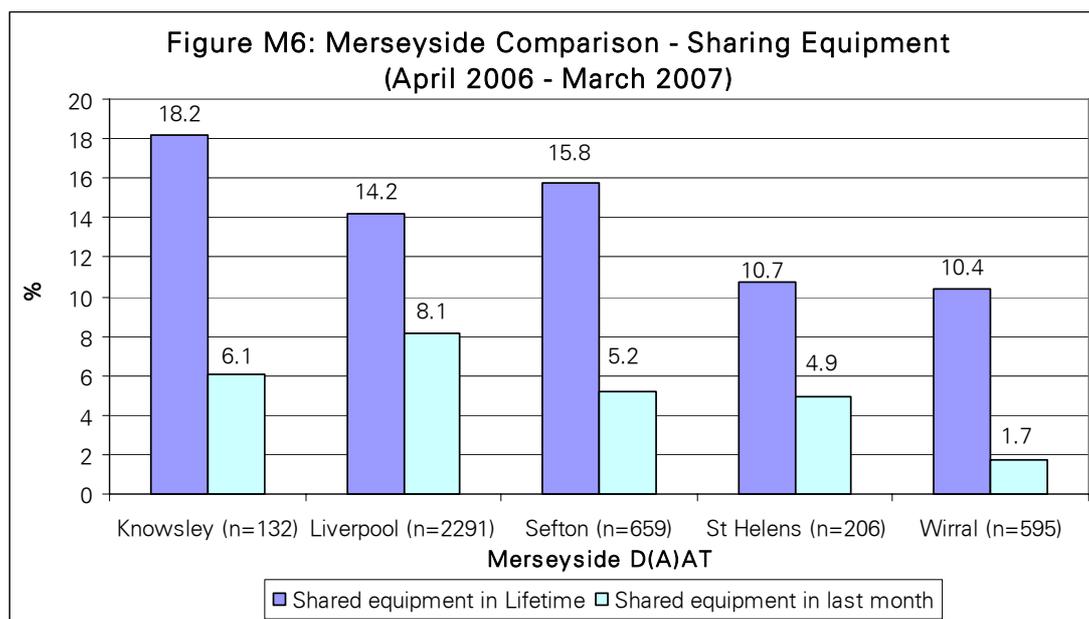
Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral DIP had high proportions of clients spending less than £50 in a week compared to Knowsley and St Helens. A third of clients assessed (32.9%) across Merseyside indicated their weekly spend to be between £0 and £50. St Helens DIP assessed the highest proportion of clients spending between £51 and £500 (77.4%). Knowsley DIP had a higher proportion of clients spending more than £501 (19.4%) compared to the other Merseyside D(A)ATs.

Injecting



St Helens DIP assessed the highest proportion of clients who injected in their lifetime (54.9%) and in the last month (44.7%) when compared to clients assessed in the rest of Merseyside. Wirral DIP assessed the lowest proportion of clients who are currently injecting (12.4%) and have injected in the clients' lifetime (37.3%).

Sharing Equipment



Knowsley had the highest proportion of clients who had shared equipment in their lifetime (18.2%). Wirral DIP assessed the lowest proportion of clients who both shared equipment in their lifetime (10.4%) or in the last month (1.7%). Liverpool DIP has the highest proportion of current sharers of equipment but still less than 10% of all clients assessed.

Alcohol Consumption

Table M7: Alcohol consumption per week (06/07) - Merseyside Comparison

Area	Units consumed each week		
	0-25 units	26-50 units	more than 50 units
Knowsley (n=64)	36.4%	27.3%	36.4%
Liverpool (n=990)	50.0%	23.8%	26.2%
Sefton (n=387)	58.2%	20.4%	21.4%
St Helens (n=95)	57.8%	29.4%	12.7%
Wirral (n=378)	54.2%	22.8%	23.0%
Merseyside (n=1914)	51.3%	24.7%	23.9%

Almost half of clients assessed in Merseyside (48.6%), consumed over 25 units of alcohol each week, well over the recommended weekly limit. St Helens DIP assessed a lower proportion of clients (12.7%) who reported drinking at levels above 50 units than the other areas.

Merseyside assessments - Offences committed

(See Table M9, p.69)

The most common offence that led to contact with DIP across Merseyside was shoplifting (29.9%). St Helens DIP recorded the highest proportion of shoplifting offences (43.0%) when compared to the other D(A)ATs. The second most commonly recorded group of offences across Merseyside were MDA offences (20.4%). In particular, Wirral DIP assessed the highest proportion of MDA offenders (27.4%) and clients who committed burglary (16.0%) when compared to the other Merseyside DIP teams. Although warrant offences were not common in Merseyside as a whole, almost a sixth of St Helens clients (15.0%) committed warrant offences, a larger proportion than in any other area. The proportion of breaches (12.8%), public order offences (5.3%) and violent offences (10.5%) was the highest in Knowsley compared to the other Merseyside DIP teams. Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral DIP had the considerably higher proportions of theft of a vehicle offences compared to Knowsley and St Helens.

Accommodation

Table M8: Accommodation of clients assessed (06/07) – Merseyside Comparison

	Hostel	NFA (roofless)	Owned property	Rented	Supported housing	Temporary
Knowsley (n=96)	1.0%	3.1%	10.4%	54.2%		31.3%
Liverpool (n=2380)	7.2%	5.8%	10.6%	69.5%	0.2%	6.6%
Sefton (n=702)	2.1%	3.3%	19.2%	63.5%	4.0%	7.8%
St Helens (n=219)	5.9%	5.0%	5.0%	74.4%		9.6%
Wirral (n=617)	1.9%	3.9%	7.9%	49.4%	0.8%	36.0%
Merseyside (n=4014)	5.3%	5.0%	11.4%	65.3%	0.9%	12.1%

Almost two thirds of clients assessed (65.3%) across Merseyside in 06/07 were in rented accommodation. St Helens DIP had a larger proportion of clients in rented accommodation than the other Merseyside D(A)ATs. Sefton assessed a higher proportion of clients living in their own property compared to the other Merseyside D(A)ATs. There was a higher proportion of clients living in temporary accommodation in both Knowsley (31.3%) and Wirral DIP (36.0%).

Table M9: Offence that led to contact with DIP (06/07) – Merseyside Comparison

Offence	Knowsley (n=133)	Liverpool (n=2422)	Sefton (n=667)	St Helens (n=214)	Wirral (n=614)	Merseyside (n=4050)
Begging		4.7%	0.1%		0.2%	2.9%
Breach	12.8%	4.5%	2.7%	8.9%	1.8%	4.3%
Burglary	9.8%	11.1%	13.2%	12.6%	16.0%	12.2%
Criminal Damage	3.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%
Deception	0.0%	0.9%	0.6%	0.5%	1.3%	0.9%
Driving offence	4.5%	1.4%	1.2%	2.8%	1.0%	1.5%
Fraud	1.5%	0.4%	0.9%		0.2%	0.5%
Going equipped		1.3%	0.4%		1.0%	1.0%
Handling	2.3%	2.1%	1.9%	0.5%	1.0%	1.8%
MDA	15.8%	19.8%	20.1%	10.7%	27.4%	20.4%
Obstruction		0.4%	0.3%	0.9%	0.0%	0.3%
Other	3.8%	1.7%	4.5%	4.2%	1.1%	2.3%
Prostitution		0.7%				0.4%
Public Order	5.3%	1.7%	1.2%	1.9%	0.5%	1.5%
Robbery	2.3%	4.8%	3.4%	3.7%	3.7%	4.3%
Soliciting		0.1%	0.4%			0.2%
Theft - of a vehicle		6.5%	5.7%	0.5%	8.1%	6.2%
Theft – other	2.3%	10.4%	8.7%	7.9%	15.8%	10.3%
Theft - shoplifting	38.3%	27.8%	34.6%	43.0%	26.9%	29.9%
Violence	10.5%	2.0%	6.3%	6.1%	1.8%	3.2%
Warrant	3.8%	5.9%	1.0%	15.0%	1.0%	4.8%
Weapon / Firearm	1.5%	0.7%	1.2%	1.9%	0.3%	0.8%

Please note, as clients could give more than one response, percentages will not add up to more than 100%.

9.0 Summary and Recommendations

The aim of this report was to provide some useful information to each of the DIP, D(A)AT and commissioning teams in Merseyside on the nature of clients contacted through DIP. The findings of this report highlight temporally and geographically influenced demographic trends across Merseyside. This is in addition to highlighting variations in client profiles at different stages of the DIP process i.e. initial contact, assessment, care planning and transfers in from other teams.

Variations in client profile according to DIP stage

- Clients who went on to have a care plan drawn up tended to be older than those initially contacted and offered DIP services.
- The majority of DIP clients at all stages, from contact through assessment to care plan tended to be male. Findings would suggest that Knowsley, Liverpool and Sefton contact a greater proportion of females from assessment to care plan than St Helens and Wirral.
- The majority of clients at all DIP stages tended to be white, although clients care planned tended to be less ethnically diverse than those contacted initially. DIP areas need to examine why the small number of BME clients that are contacted do not move through to care plan.
- Clients transferred into DIP services reflected the demographic profile of those care planned, tending to be aged between 30 and 39 years, white and male.

Demographic trends between 05/06 and 06/07

- There was an increase in the number of assessments completed in all areas with Test on Arrest in 06/07, (Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral), however, Liverpool and Sefton saw a much higher proportional increase than Wirral DIP.
- With the introduction of Test on Arrest, there was an increase in numbers of males and females assessed; however, there was a greater increase in numbers of males. In addition, there was generally a younger client profile across the areas.
- Fewer offenders under 18 were offered DIP services in 06/07 in all areas, except for Wirral where it remained stable at a low level. This suggests an improvement in DIP workers' understanding of their target group.

- There was an increase in cocaine and cannabis use among DIP clients, across Merseyside DIP teams. The increase in the proportion of cocaine users assessed is indicative of the impact of Test on Arrest but may also be indicative of an increase in use of this drug. The most recent Home Office Arrestee Survey report showed increases in reporting of cocaine use between 03/04 and 05/06 i.e. before Test on Arrest was introduced, (Boreham, et al, 2007).

Recommendation: Increasing cocaine and cannabis use suggests a different group being attracted into DIP, therefore, DIP teams need to be sure services and interventions are suitable for this client group and more consideration given to the wraparound services that might be suitable for these clients.

- There was a general increase in numbers of reported heroin, crack and illicit methadone use in all Merseyside areas after assessment with the exception of St Helens, with a decrease in proportion, due to the increase in proportion of cocaine and cannabis use.
- Clients' reported weekly spend on drugs tended to be lower in all areas in 06/07 when compared to 05/06. The exception to this was among clients assessed by St Helens DIP. Lower weekly spend suggests a less problematic group, therefore tackling their drug using may not have an impact on their offending behaviour, as the link between their drug use and offending is not as linear.

Recommendation: New strategies to tackle more general social and behavioural issues are required, many of which will not sit within drug treatment services.

- Proportions of clients reporting current or lifetime injecting or sharing equipment were generally lower for drug testing areas in 06/07 indicating a less problematic client group. Overall, Test on Arrest has brought in a population of less problematic users who are less likely to inject and therefore are at a lower risk of being effected by the various harms that this practice brings. The non-testing areas showed a difference in patterns of injecting and sharing behaviour. Knowsley reported an increase in injecting and sharing behaviour in 06/07 compared to 05/06 and reported proportions of clients currently injecting in St Helens were higher in 06/07 than in 05/06.

- The proportions of clients who reported that they were in treatment at the time of their DIP assessment decreased for all areas in 06/07, except for Liverpool and Knowsley where it remained level.
- The proportion of clients reporting being in treatment in the last two years declined for all Merseyside D(A)AT areas in 06/07. This decline may be due to the change in the profile of clients being engaged by DIP.
- The proportion of clients reporting a weekly alcohol consumption exceeding 50 units declined in all areas, except in St Helens where such high-end alcohol consumption increased, although the proportion of clients reporting drinking at this level was relatively low. Levels of drinking among clients assessed in all areas were above recommended levels. However, it should be remembered that many clients assessed reported no drinking at all.
- Proportions of shoplifters decreased in Liverpool, Sefton and Knowsley in 06/07. The proportions of Misuse of Drug Act (MDA) offences increased across all areas with the exception of St Helens DIP. The proportion of DIP clients committing burglaries in 06/07 increased in all D(A)AT areas, except for Knowsley

Recommendation: All areas except Knowsley may need to examine whether there is an issue with burglary in their area. In particular, burglary committed among a less problematic drug using community of young cocaine using males (Cuddy and Duffy, 2008).

- Proportions of theft of a vehicle offences increased in 06/07, showing the impact of Test on Arrest. This increase reflects the younger age profile of Merseyside DIP clients in 06/07.
- Clients' accommodation status fluctuated between the years and across the Merseyside DIP areas, specifically for clients in rented and temporary accommodation at the time of their DIP assessment.

Recommendation: For Knowsley and Wirral, where proportions of clients living in temporary accommodation increased, DIP teams need to consider housing issues among the client group. Work is already underway in many areas regarding this, however, these findings emphasize how important an issue it is.

Merseyside Comparisons 06/07

Age

- Across the Merseyside areas, the highest proportion of clients at all stages of the DIP process were between 30 and 34 years of age.
- Liverpool DIP contacted the lowest proportion of under 25 year olds, with St Helens contacting the lowest proportion of over 30s.
- St Helens assessed the lowest proportion of under 25 year olds compared to the other Merseyside DIP areas. Sefton DIP assessed the lowest proportion of over 30 year olds across Merseyside DIP teams.

Recommendation: With the introduction of Test on Arrest, clients with a different age profile are presenting to DIP, both St Helens and Knowsley DIP will need to consider the appropriate services and interventions for the different client group now that they have introduced Test on Arrest.

- Knowsley DIP care planned the highest proportion of clients under 25 in Merseyside, with Liverpool DIP care planning the lowest proportion of younger clients.

Recommendation: Liverpool DIP should identify the characteristics of their younger client group to determine whether they are suitable for DIP or how DIP can be adjusted to suit their specific needs.

- Wirral DIP transferred in the lowest proportion and St Helens DIP transferred the highest proportion of clients under 25, compared to the other D(A)ATs.

Gender

- Across contact, assessments and transfers in, Knowsley DIP contacted and assessed the lowest proportion of female clients.

Recommendation: It would appear that Knowsley DIP are relatively successful at moving the female clients they contact through to care plan. Therefore, Knowsley need to investigate whether they are 'missing' clients in the custody suite or whether the findings reflect their drug user population.

- Liverpool DIP care planned the highest proportion of female clients compared to the other Merseyside D(A)ATs. The proportion of females care planned was greater than the proportion assessed for Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton but less for Wirral and St Helens.

Recommendation: DIP teams need to examine reasons why females in the latter two areas are not being taken on to the caseload.

Drug Use

- Heroin (60.9%) was the most commonly recorded drug across Merseyside in 06/07 followed by crack (49.1%) and then cocaine (35.0%). St Helens DIP assessed the highest proportion of heroin users (87.7%) and the lowest proportion of cocaine (18.5%) and cannabis users (7.1%) compared to the other areas. The low levels of cocaine use by St Helens clients can be reflected in the absence of Test on Arrest which has had an impact elsewhere. Nevertheless, Knowsley has levels of cocaine and cannabis use similar to that of the Test on Arrest areas. Therefore, Knowsley are already identifying this potentially less problematic group within the Criminal Justice System. Knowsley DIP should make sure services are suitable for these potentially less problematic users. Wirral DIP assessed the lowest proportion of heroin users (52.1%) and the highest proportion of cocaine (45.4%) and cannabis (33.3%) users. Use of methadone was more common among clients assessed by St Helens and Wirral than among clients in the other Merseyside areas.

Recommendation: These two teams should identify why this is the case and seek to identify potential issues with leakage of methadone onto the illicit market.

Weekly Spend on Drugs

- A third of clients (32.9%) across Merseyside spent between £0 and £50 a week on drugs. The drug testing areas (Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral) showed lower levels of expenditure compared to the non-testing areas, (Knowsley and St Helens DIP) reflecting the introduction of Test on Arrest. A high proportion of clients assessed (17.8%) in Knowsley DIP spent between £501 and £1000 per week compared to the other D(A)ATs.

Recommendation: Knowsley DIP should investigate why it has a population of such high end users and give consideration to the amount of damage these individuals are doing to themselves and the local community.

Injecting Behaviour

- Compared to the other teams, St Helens DIP assessed the highest proportion of clients (54.9%) who had injected in their lifetime and in the past

month (44.7%). This will relate to the high proportion of clients reporting heroin use.

Recommendation: The similarity in these two percentages suggests that work is needed to determine why there is such a large proportion of lifetime injectors who are still current injectors.

- The lowest proportion of clients both injecting in their lifetime and in the past month, were assessed in Wirral DIP (37.3%, 12.4%). In addition, Wirral had the lowest proportion of clients who had injected in their lifetime who were currently injecting.

Recommendation: The other Merseyside DIP teams should investigate whether this is a product of the specific client group in Wirral or if Wirral's response to injecting has been more effective.

Sharing Equipment

- Knowsley DIP (18.2%) assessed the highest proportion of clients who shared equipment in their lifetime when compared to the other areas. However, their proportion of clients currently sharing was much lower, suggesting the effectiveness of their harm reduction work. Despite this the relatively high proportion who have shared at some point in the past means Knowsley must give consideration to the potential for a high prevalence of Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) in their population among the clients they assessed. Liverpool DIP assessed the highest proportion of clients (8.1%) who recorded sharing equipment in the last month, with Wirral DIP recording the lowest (1.7%) compared to the other Merseyside D(A)ATs.

Recommendation: Liverpool DIP need to consider increased or alternative in work to reduce the level of equipment sharing.

Alcohol Consumption

- Across the Merseyside DIP teams just under half of the clients assessed were drinking at well above the recommended limits. Teams need to ensure appropriate interventions are available to tackle hazardous and problematic drinking. This is particularly important given the role alcohol has been shown to play in opiate overdose (Coffin et al, 2003, Seal et al, 2001, Strang et al, 1999, McGregor et al, 1998).

- Knowsley DIP recorded high levels of heavy alcohol consumption with St Helens recording lower levels than the other Merseyside D(A)ATs.

Offending Behaviour

- Across Merseyside, the most common offence among clients assessed was shoplifting (29.9%) with St Helens DIP recording the highest proportion of shoplifting offences (43.0%) compared to the other D(A)ATs. The proportion of shoplifting offences can be linked to the high levels of heroin use in over 25 year olds assessed in St Helens (Cuddy and Duffy, 2008). The second most common offence across Merseyside was MDA offences (20.4%).

Accommodation

- The most common type of accommodation in Merseyside in 06/07 for assessed clients was rented accommodation (65.3%). Almost three-quarters of clients (74.4%) assessed by St Helens DIP were in rented accommodation the highest proportion across Merseyside.
- Both Knowsley (31.3%) and Wirral DIP (36.0%) assessed a high proportion of clients in temporary accommodation compared to the other Merseyside D(A)ATs.

Recommendation: DIP teams need to examine their accommodation provision as recommended earlier.

- Almost a fifth of clients assessed in Sefton (19.2%) recorded that they lived in a property that either they or the person they were living with owned. This was the highest proportion across the areas.

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