This statistical release presents key results from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) on the number of adults (18 and over) in contact with alcohol treatment providers and general practitioners in England in 2012-13, and the proportion of clients exiting treatment who completed their treatment having overcome their dependency. These figures do not include clients treated in prisons.

The results provided here are produced by Manchester University National Drug Evidence Centre (NDEC) from data collected by the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System, and form part of National Statistics. These results show that:

109,683 clients aged 18 and over in contact with structured treatment cited alcohol as their primary problematic substance in 2012-13

A further 33,814 clients aged 18 and over cited alcohol misuse as an adjunctive problem to a range of other primary problematic substances

Clients’ median age at their first point of contact with treatment in 2012-13 was 42; 64% in treatment were male

Where reported, most clients were white British (87%), while other ethnic groups each accounted for no more than 3% of clients in treatment

Where reported, 40% of clients starting treatment were self-referrals and 18% were referrals from general practitioners (GPs). Onward referrals from other substance misuse services accounted for 8%

89% of all clients waited under three weeks to start treatment

Where reported, 4% of clients had an urgent housing problem (no fixed abode) on presenting for treatment. A further 10% had other housing problems

Of the 70,194 clients exiting treatment in 2012-13, 40,908 (58%) were no longer dependent on alcohol (had completed treatment successfully). A further 5,109 (7%) were transferred for further treatment within the community, while 913 (1%) were transferred into appropriate treatment while in custody

The overall number of clients in treatment in 2012-13 increased by 1% (777) from 108,906 in 2011-12. The number of new treatment journeys starting increased by 2% (1,420) from 74,353 clients in 2011-12 to 75,773 in 2012-13. The number and proportion of successful completions also increased from 38,174 (57% of all 66,894 exits) in 2011-12 to 40,908 (58% of all 70,194 exits) in 2012-13

These figures report data that was collected on adults whose treatment falls within the definition of structured alcohol treatment as defined by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse’s (NTA) Models of Care as “treatment following assessment and delivered according to a care plan, with clear goals, which is regularly reviewed with the client”.

Background information on NDTMS is available on the Public Health England (PHE) website, www.nta.nhs.uk/ndtms.aspx

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