

More young people are beating drug and alcohol problems



MORE young people are overcoming their problems with drug and alcohol misuse than ever before, according to the latest statistics for England released today (08/12/11). The national statistics and trends are analysed in an NTA report, Substance Misuse among Young People: 2010-11, which also shows that:

- The overall number of young people accessing specialist substance misuse services appears to have peaked, as numbers have fallen for the second year running (to 21,955 from a peak of 24,053 in 2008-9).
- Waiting times remain low, and government funding has been maintained at £25 million despite financial pressures, so any young person who needs specialist help can get it.
- The vast majority of these vulnerable under-18s (nine out of ten) primarily receive support for problems with cannabis or alcohol.
- Very few are treated for Class A drugs like heroin, cocaine or ecstasy, and this small number has more than halved to 770, compared to 1,859 five years ago.
- The only drug category to see any increase was amphetamines (from 256 to 639). These include mephedrone, now classified as a Class B banned drug

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Local government is going back to the future on drugs



Responsibility for public health will soon sit with local authorities. They should not ignore the benefits of investment in drug treatment.

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Payment by results update

The Department of Health has awarded a research contract for the independent evaluation of the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Payment by Results Pilots Programme to the University of Manchester. The successful evaluation team will be led by Dr Michael Donmall of the National Drug Evidence Centre (NDEC), and Professor Matthew Sutton of the School of Medicine. [More...](#)

Delivering a consensus on hepatitis C, substance misuse and health inequalities

Substance misuse skills
consortium second national



Partnerships must continue to prioritise reducing blood-borne viruses and drug-related deaths as part of a recovery-oriented treatment system.

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event

After the success of the Consortium's first national event, service managers, team leaders and other key treatment service staff are again invited to hear and share practical experience on how to deliver an inspirational recovery-orientated workforce. [Find out more](#)

Paul Hayes' speech to the DrugScope conference



The creation of a new locally-led public health service represents a chance to properly integrate drug treatment and recovery services in England, Paul Hayes told delegates at the DrugScope conference.

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Useful Links

- [Substance misuse skills consortium](#)
- [DrugScope](#)
- [FRANK](#)
- [Department of Health](#)

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