Statistics for alcohol treatment activity in England 2011-12

National Drug Treatment Monitoring System

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 agencies and general practitioners in England in 2011-12, and the proportion of clients exiting treatment that 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:

There were 108,906 clients in contact with structured treatment aged 18 and over who cited alcohol as their primary problematic substance in 2011-12.

There were a further 33,689 clients aged 18 and over who 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 2011-12 was 42 and 64% of clients in treatment were male.

Most clients were White British (88%), while other ethnic groups each accounted for no more than two percent of clients.

Where reported, 38% of clients starting in treatment were self-referrals and 19% were referrals from GPs. Onward referrals from other substance misuse services together accounted for 11%.

85% of all clients waited less than three weeks to commence treatment.

The most common intervention type received was ‘structured psychosocial’ with 51% of clients receiving this treatment modality in their latest journey.

Where reported, 4% of clients had No Fixed Abode on presenting for treatment; a further 10% had other housing problems.

Of the 66,894 clients exiting treatment in 2011-12; 38,174 (57%) were no longer dependent on alcohol (had completed treatment successfully); a further 4,261 (6%) were transferred for further treatment within the community, while 807 (1%) were transferred into appropriate treatment while in custody.

The overall number of clients in treatment in 2011-12 has decreased by 2119 from 111,025 in 2010-11. The number of new treatment journeys commencing in the year has increased by 1% from 73,705 clients in 2010-11 to 74,353 in 2011-12. The number and proportion of successful completions have also increased from 35,913 (54%) in 2010-11 to 38,177 (57%) in 2011-12.
These figures report data that was collected on adults whose treatment falls within the definition of structured alcohol treatment as defined by NTA’s 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 is available on the NTA website http://www.nta.nhs.uk/ndtms.aspx.

For media enquiries, please call 020 7972 1921.

For technical enquiries, please contact ndtmstechnicalqueries@nta-nhs.org.uk.