



Statistics for drug treatment activity in England 2012-13 from the 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 drug treatment providers and GPs in England in 2012-13, and the proportion of clients exiting treatment who completed 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 NDTMS, and form part of National Statistics.

These results show that:

Of the 193,575 clients aged 18 and over in treatment during 2012-13, 181,994 were in for 12 weeks or more or completed free of dependency before 12 weeks (94%)

29,025 (47%) of clients exiting treatment in 2012-13 completed, defined as having overcome their dependency. A further 8,019 (13%) were transferred for treatment within the community, while 6,602 (11%) were transferred into structured treatment while in custody

Of those heroin-only clients with a six-month review in 2012-13, 49% were abstinent from heroin and 23% were classified as reliably improved. 3% had deteriorated

58% of crack-only clients with a six-month review in 2012-13 were abstinent from crack cocaine and a further 7% were classified as reliably improved. 2% had deteriorated

Clients' median age at their first point of contact in their latest treatment journey in 2012-13 was 35. 73% of clients in treatment were male

Most clients were white British (83%), the next most common ethnicity was 'white – other' (4%). No other ethnic groups accounted for more than 2%

Most clients in treatment were using heroin (80%). Cannabis was the primary drug for 8%, and powder cocaine for 5%

The most common routes into treatment for clients starting in 2012-13 were self-referrals (42%) and referrals from the criminal justice system (28%). Onward referrals from other drug services together accounted for 12%

85% of clients starting new treatment journeys in 2012-13 were either in treatment for 12 weeks or more or completed free of dependency before 12 weeks

Nearly all clients waited under three weeks to commence treatment (98%)

Of the clients starting treatment (and where reported) just over half (56%) have never injected while 17% were injecting at the time of presentation

Where reported, 9% of clients starting new journeys had no fixed abode on presenting for treatment, and a further 15% had other housing problems

These figures report data collected on adults whose treatment falls within the definition of structured drug treatment as defined by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse's (NTA) Models of Care: "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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