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# Why invest?

How drug treatment and recovery services  
work for individuals, communities and society

# What is drug addiction?

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Drug addiction is a complex but treatable condition

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Those affected use drugs compulsively, damaging themselves and those around them

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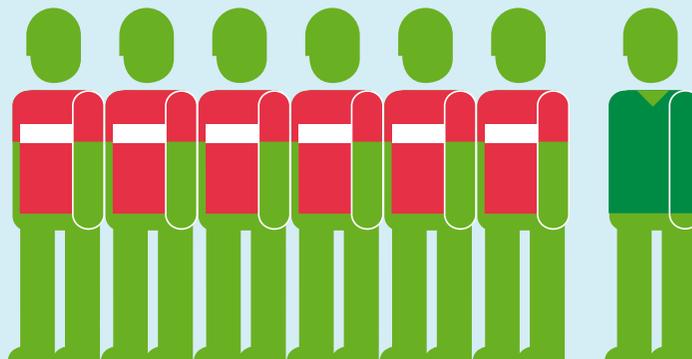
Drug addiction goes hand in hand with poor health, homelessness, family breakdown and offending

# Drug addiction is rare but concentrated



**306,000**  
heroin and  
crack users  
in England

The level of  
heroin and crack  
use in urban  
Middlesbrough is  
**six times** that of  
rural Wiltshire

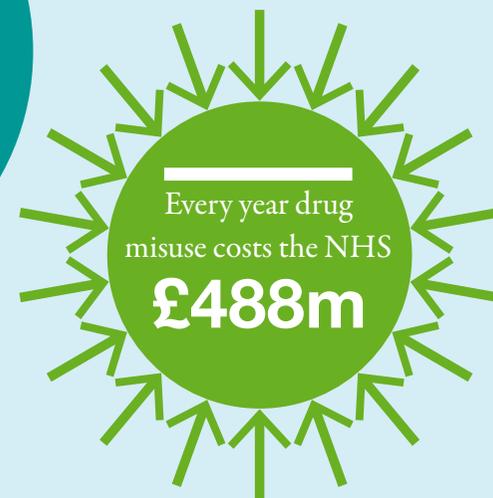
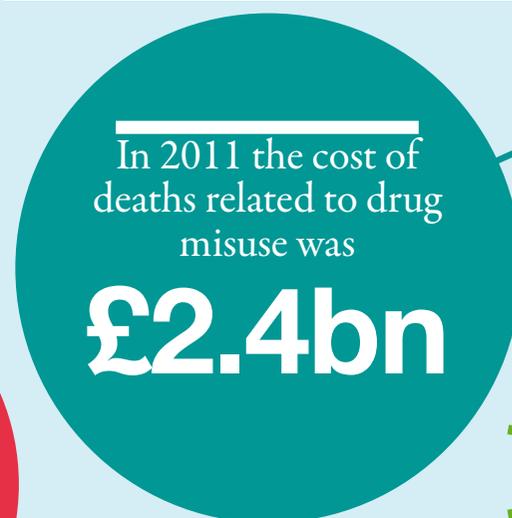
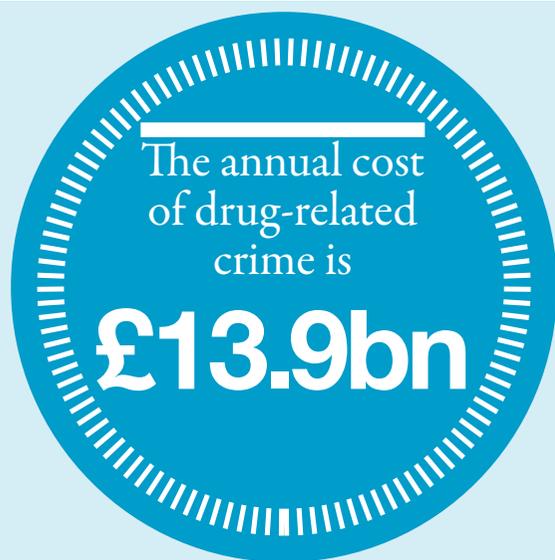


**1,200,000**  
affected by drug  
addiction in their  
families – mostly in  
poor communities

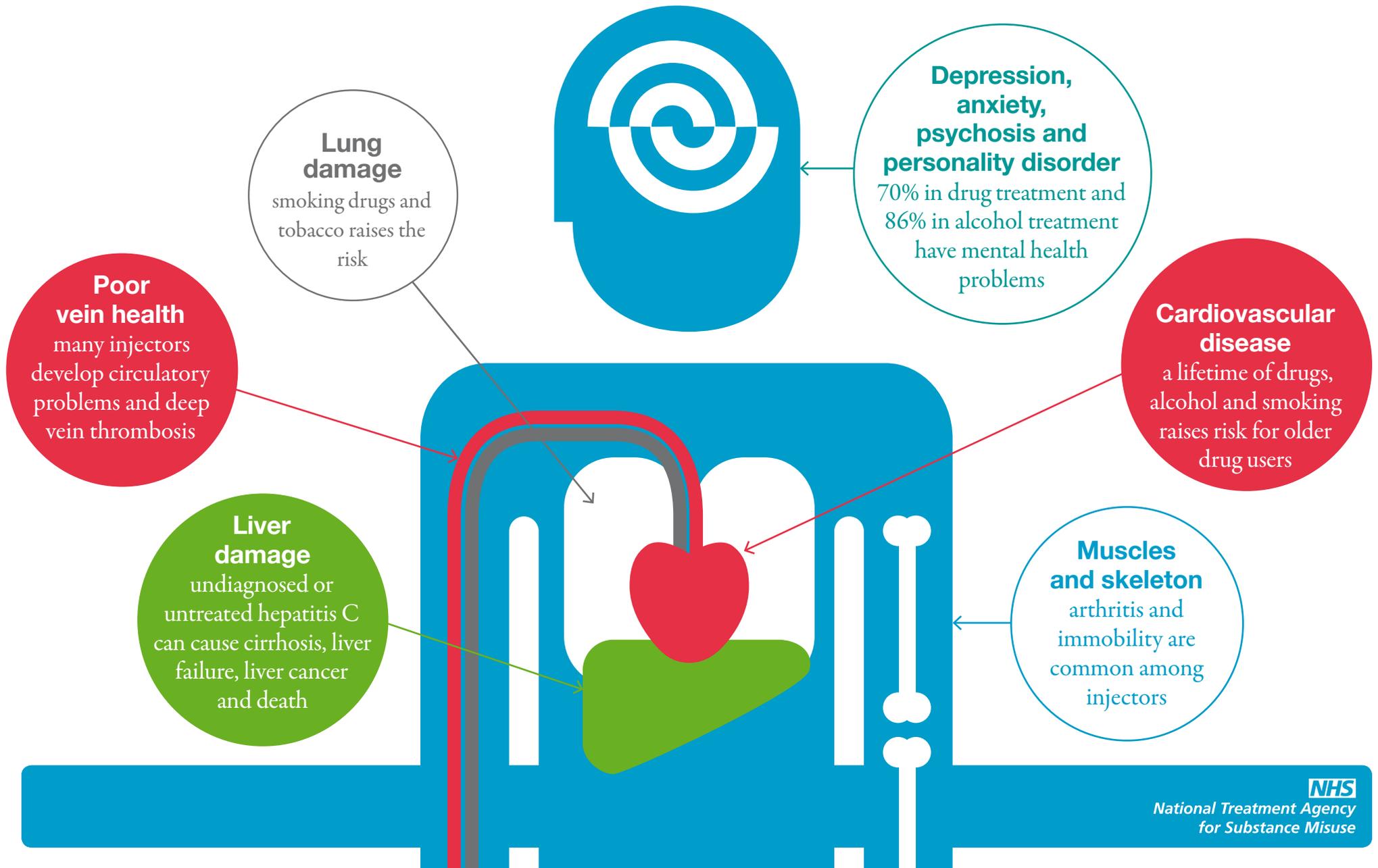
# The overall cost of drug addiction is huge

Every year it costs society

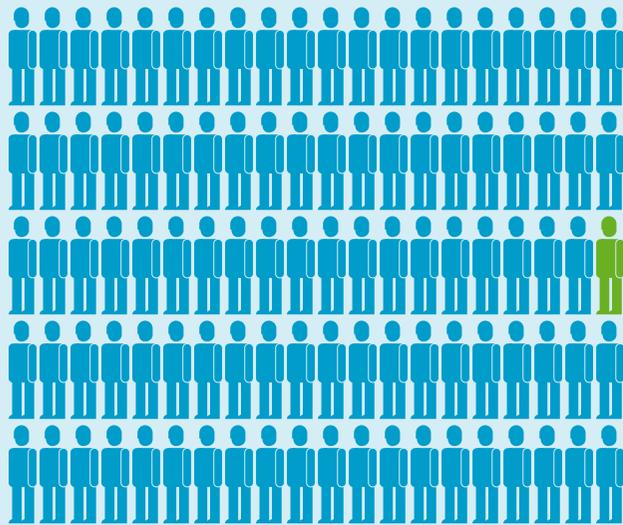
# £15,400,000,000



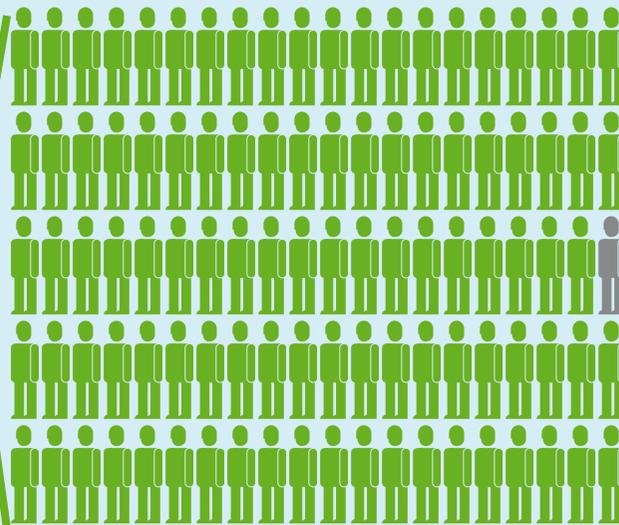
# Drug misuse damages physical and mental health



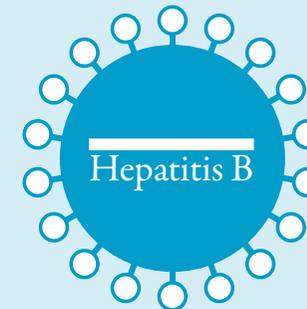
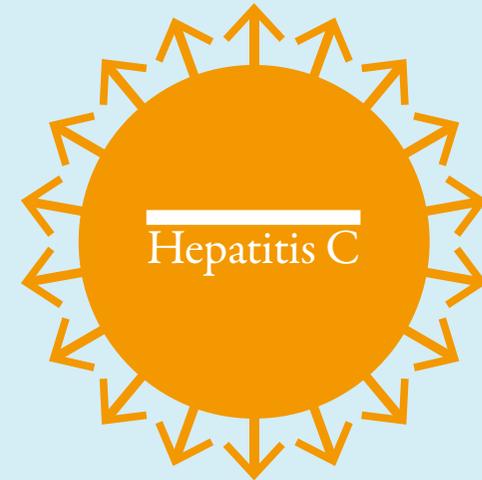
# Drug misuse causes deaths and spreads diseases



Fewer than **1%** of all adults use heroin

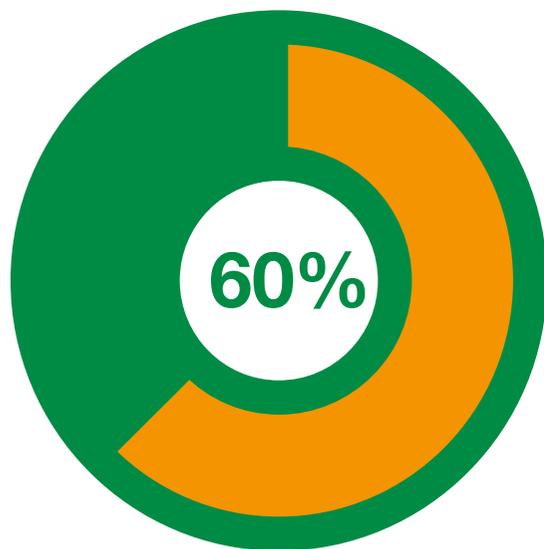


But every year about **1%** of them die (10 times the equivalent death rate in the general population)

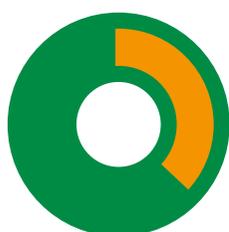


# Drug treatment improves health 1

60% of heroin users in England are in treatment – a foundation for public health gains



45% Italy



37% Netherlands

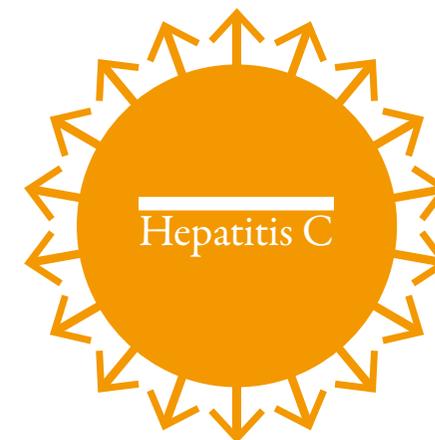


Fewer injectors  
**137,000** 2004-05  
**103,000** 2009-10

Fewer sharing needles

**33%**  
2001

**17%**  
2011



No vaccine for hepatitis C or HIV, so early testing and identification is vital

In 2001 **55%** were tested for both: by 2011 **83%** were tested for hepatitis C and **77%** for HIV

# Drug treatment improves health 2

## Drug treatment helps save lives

Deaths related to drug misuse escalated in the 1990s

Since the treatment system was expanded, deaths have stabilised at around

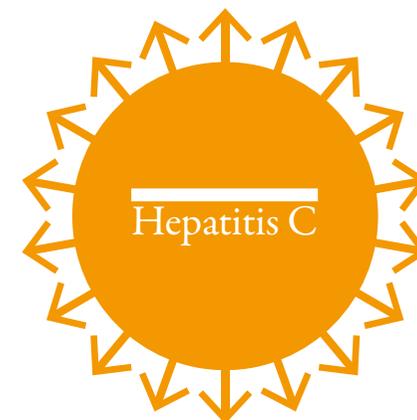
**1,500** (1,461 in 2011).



## Drug treatment and needle exchanges since 1980s:

Only 1.3% of drug injectors in England have HIV

Germany 3%  
Sweden 2%  
Russia 37%



45% of injectors have hepatitis C: stable since 2002 and comparatively low

Germany 75%  
Sweden 60%  
Russia 73%

# Drug treatment brings major health savings



**NICE says drug treatment is cost effective**

**All the people in drug treatment in 2010-11**

**=£230m**

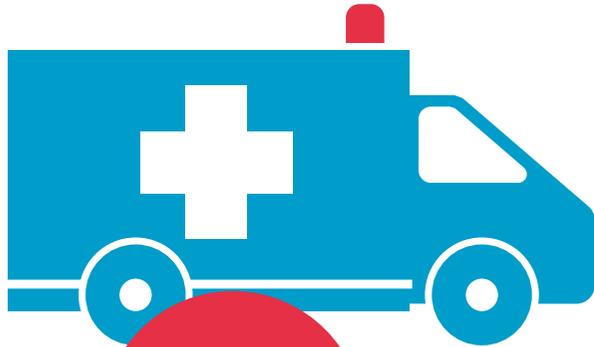
savings for the NHS

**Drug treatment also prevented over 300 deaths in 2010-11, with a value of life of over**

**=£500m**



# Drug treatment can improve other outcomes



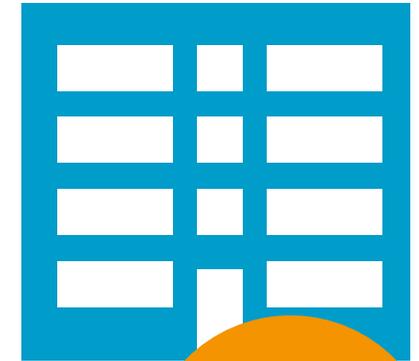
Stops emergency admissions



Improves wellbeing



Cuts crime



Cuts homeless figures



Prevents suicide, self-harm and accidents

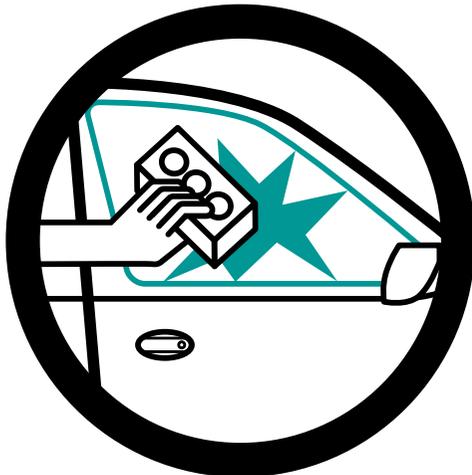
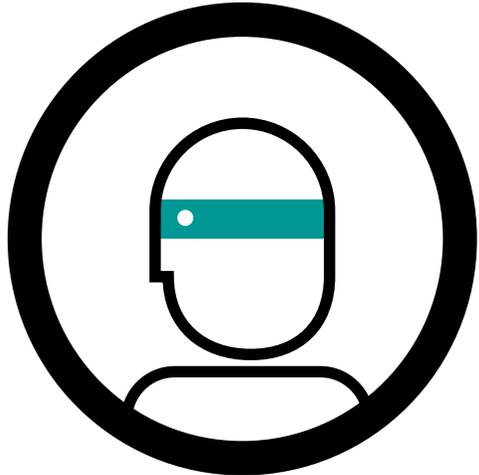
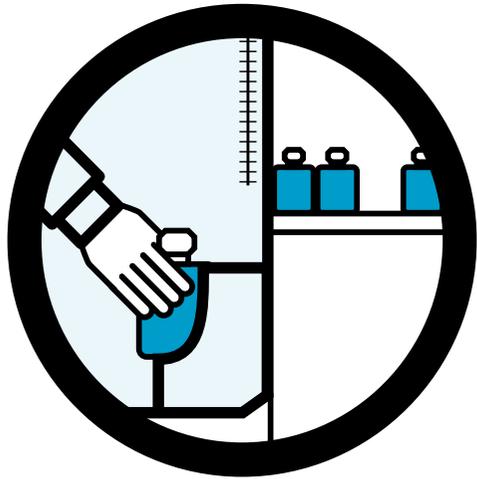


Reduces reoffending



Reduces HIV, heart disease, respiratory disease, liver disease and cancer

# Drug addiction and crime



The annual cost of drug-related crime

**£13,900,000,000**

A typical heroin user spends around **£1,400** per month on drugs:  
2½ times the average mortgage

Many commit crime to pay for their drugs. Heroin, cocaine or crack users commit up to half of all acquisitive crimes – **shoplifting, burglary, robbery, car crime, fraud, drug dealing**

# Drug treatment cuts crime

Drug treatment prevents an estimated 4.9m crimes every year

**4,900,000**

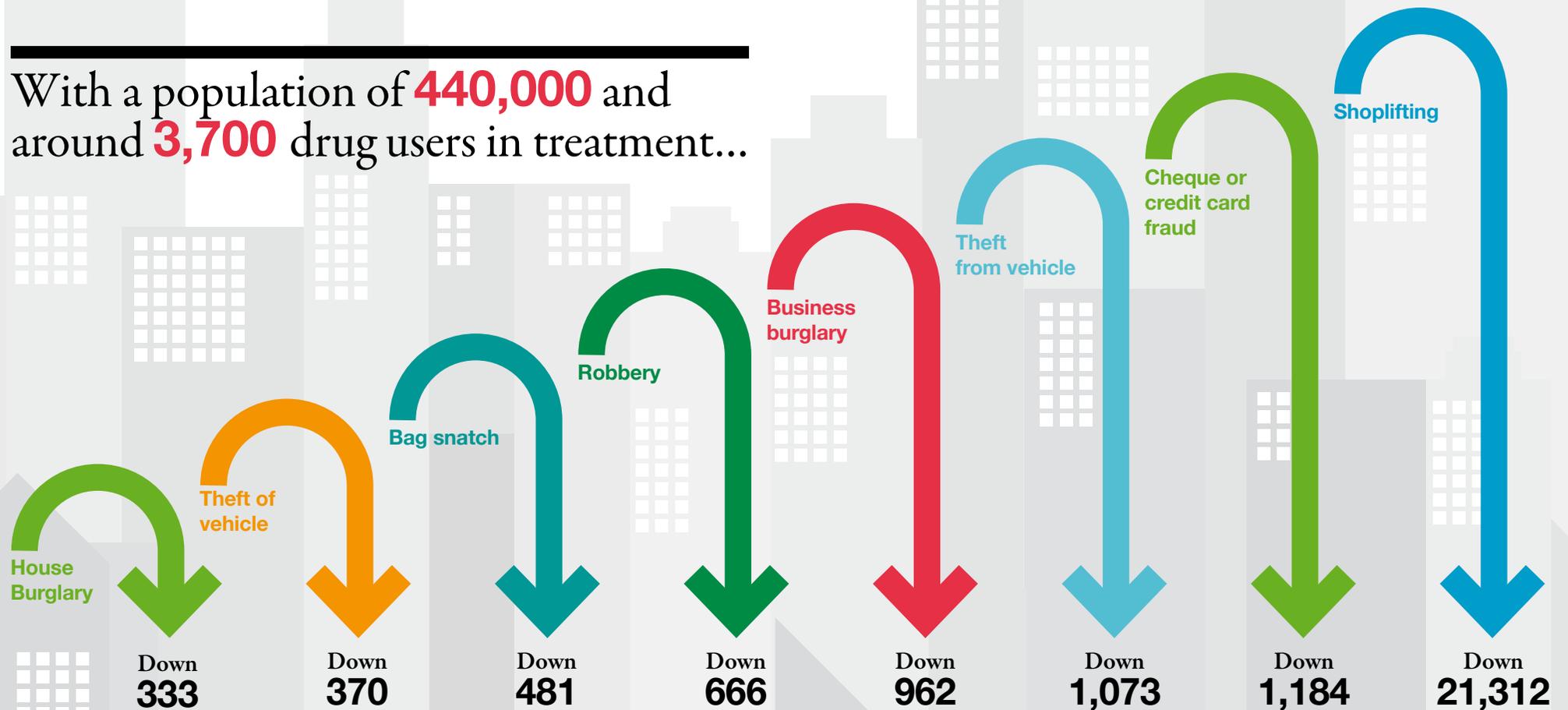
Saving an estimated

**£960,000,000**

Costs to the public, businesses, criminal justice and the NHS

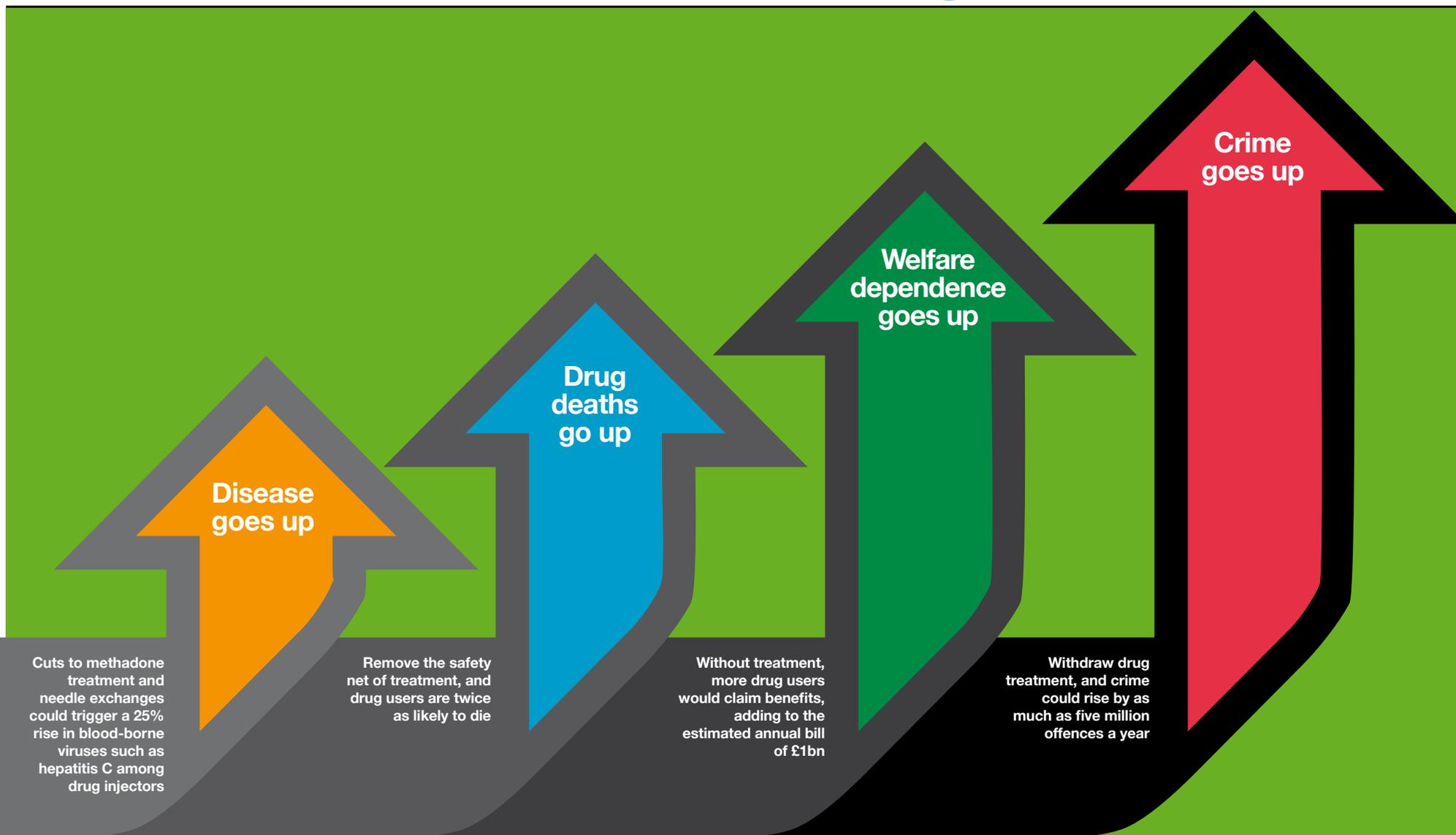
# Drug treatment could cut 95,000 offences in a large city

With a population of **440,000** and around **3,700** drug users in treatment...



Estimated crimes prevented in 2011-12 = **94,979**  
Estimated benefit = **£17.9m**

# What happens without drug treatment?



# So why spend on drug treatment?

## It makes communities safer

- reduced crime
- less drug litter and street prostitution
- troubled families stabilised

## It protects public health

- prevents drug-related deaths
- restricts blood-borne viruses (HIV, hepatitis C)
- reduces the burden on the NHS

## It helps drug users overcome addiction

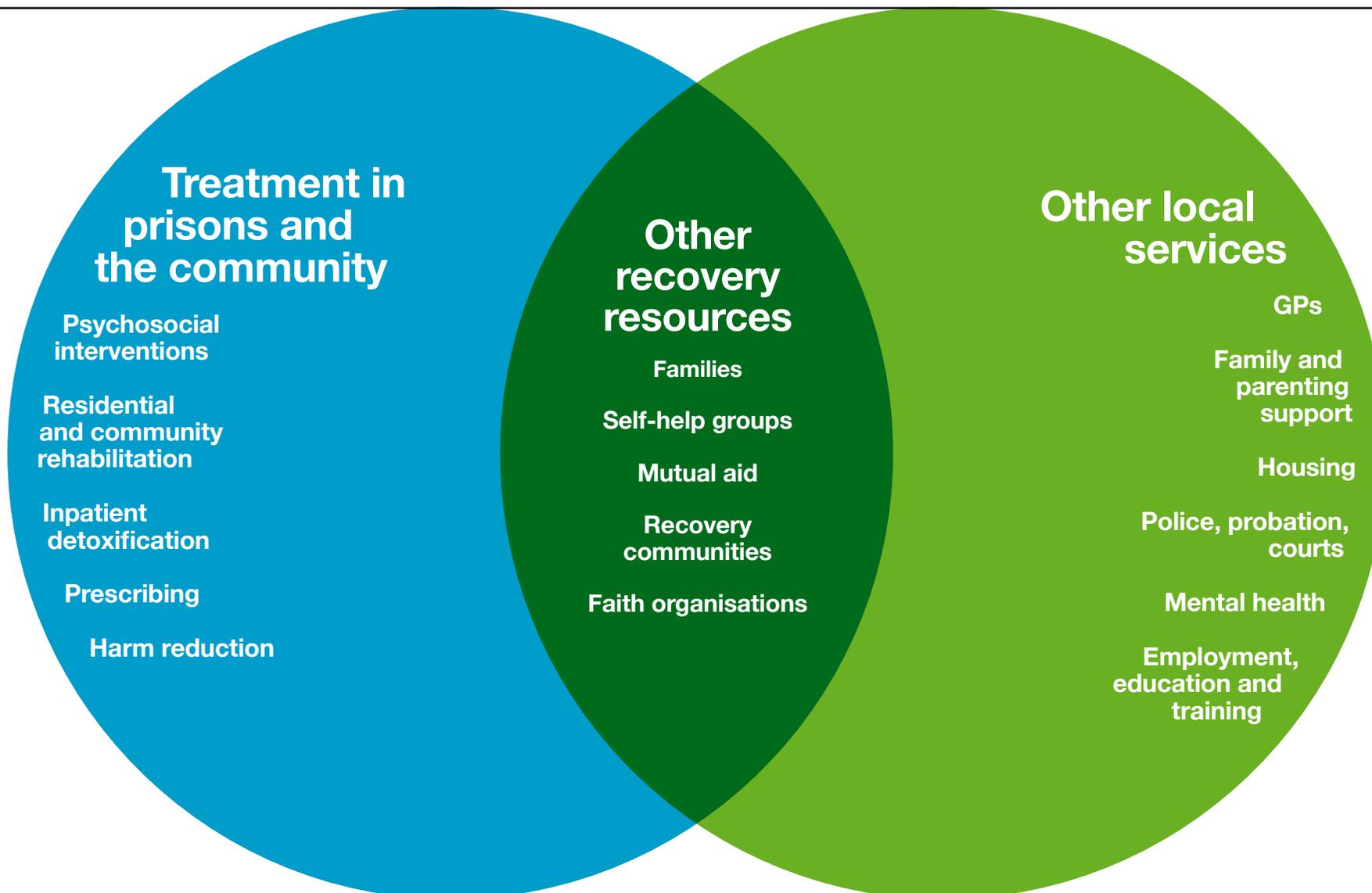
- 366,200 treated for drug addiction in England since 2005
- 104,900 (29%) left free of addiction
- 128,600 (35%) still being treated

## It has public support

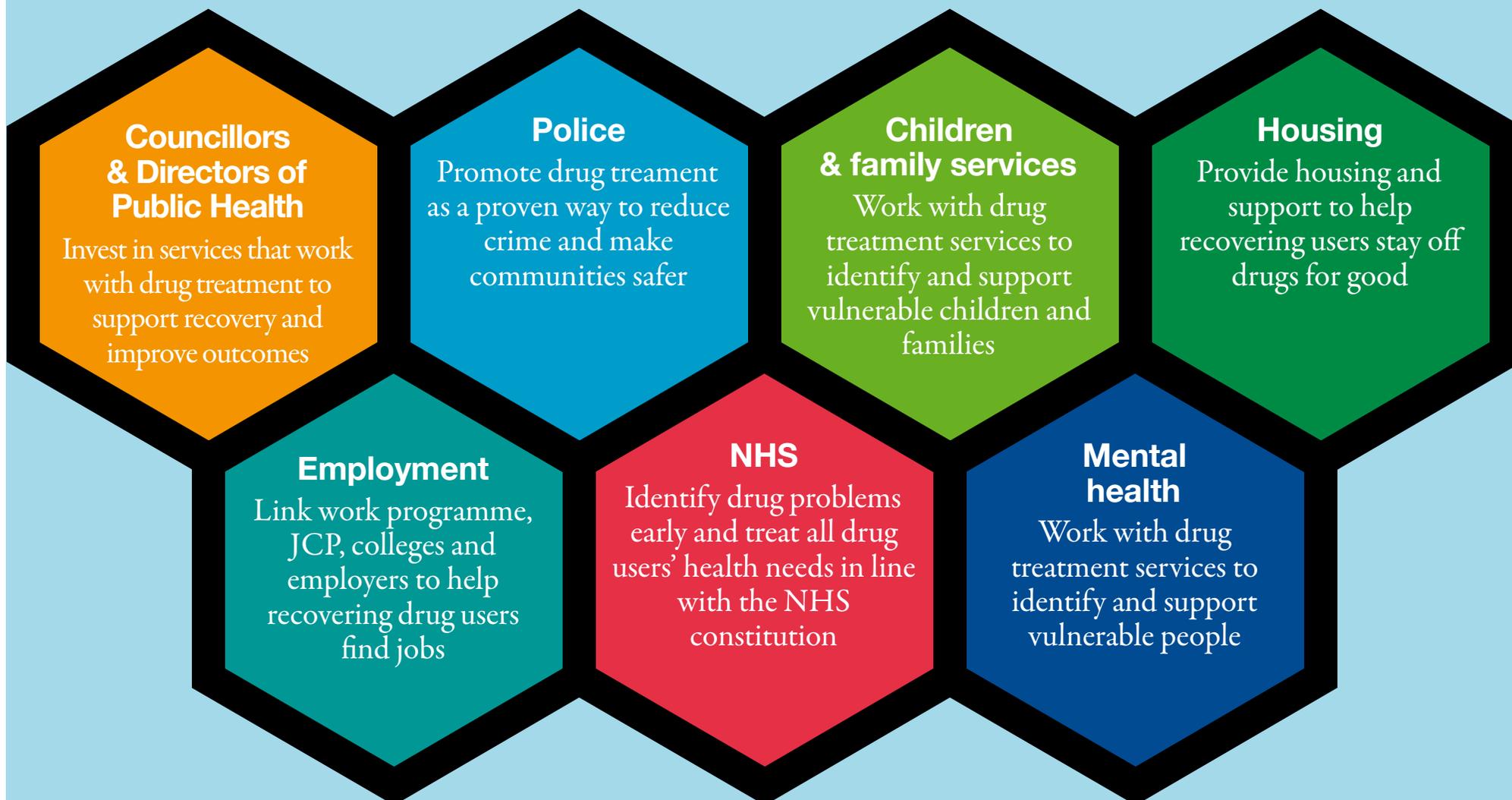
- 75% think drug treatment is a sensible use of public money
- 66% fear crime would increase without drug treatment
- 80% believe drug treatment makes society better and safer

**Every  
£1 spent on  
drug treatment  
saves £2.50  
in costs to  
society**

# Treatment cannot work in isolation



# Agencies work best together



Find out more at [www.nta.nhs.uk...](http://www.nta.nhs.uk...)

