

Statistics for young people in specialist drug and alcohol services in England 2010-11

National Drug Treatment Monitoring System

This statistical release presents key results from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) on the number of young people attending specialist substance misuse services in England in 2010-11.

The results provided here are produced by Manchester University National Drug Evidence Centre (NDEC) from data collected by the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System.

These results show that:

21,955 young people accessed specialist substance misuse services in 2010-11. This is a decrease of 1,573 individuals (6.7%) since 2009-10

The most common routes into specialist substance misuse services were from youth offending teams (35%) and mainstream education (14%)

Of the 21,955 young people accessing specialist substance misuse services in 2010-11, the majority were white British (84%). Almost two thirds were male (64%). Just over half (53%) were aged 16 or over.

The majority of young people accessing specialist services did so with problems for cannabis (58%) or alcohol (32%) as their primary substance

79% of young people accessing specialist services stated they were living with their family or other relatives. 9% stated they were a looked after child, either living in care or independently

Of those entering services in 2010-11 almost half (49%) were in mainstream education. 19% stated they were not in education or employment.

The majority of those entering specialist substance misuse services do so reporting multiple vulnerabilities (75%)

Of the 24,022 first and subsequent interventions starting in 2010-11, 23,473 (98%) began within three weeks of referral. The average (mean) wait to commence specialist interventions for first interventions was 2.7 days

The majority of young people in specialist services received a psychosocial intervention only (46%) or a psychosocial intervention in combination with a harm reduction intervention (30%). 336 of the young people in specialist services received a pharmacological intervention (1.5%)

The average (mean) number of days a young person accessed their latest episode of specialist interventions for during 2010-11 is just over 5 months (158 days). Opiate users tend to spend the longest time accessing interventions, on average almost 7 months (205 days)

14,006 young people exited specialist substance misuse services in 2010-11 and 10,507 (75%) of these did so because they no longer needed young people specialist interventions

Of these 10,507 clients, 6,701 (68%) received a referral back into wider young people services. Less than 1% received a referral onto adult drug or alcohol treatment

These figures report data that was collected on young people (under 18s) whose treatment falls within the definition agreed across governmental departments as "Young people's specialist substance misuse treatment is a care planned medical, psychosocial or specialist harm reduction intervention aimed at alleviating current harm caused by a young person's substance misuse."

Background information is available on the NTA website <http://www.nta.nhs.uk/ndtms.aspx>.

For media enquiries, please call 020 7972 1921 or out of hours call 07795 036460

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