



## Statistics for young people in specialist drug and alcohol services 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 young people (under 18s) in contact with specialist substance misuse providers in England in 2012-13, and the proportion who successfully completed their treatment. The figures do not include clients treated in the secure estate. These results are produced by Manchester University National Drug Evidence Centre (NDEC) from data collected by NDTMS. They show that:

20,032 young people accessed specialist substance misuse services in 2012-13. This is a decrease of 656 (3.2%) since 2011-12 and 1,923 (8.8%) since 2010-11

The most common routes into specialist services were from youth offending teams (30%) and mainstream education (17%)

Of the 20,032 young people in specialist services in 2012-13, most were white British (81%). Two thirds were male (66%). Just over half (52%) were aged 16 or over

The majority of young people accessing specialist services did so with problems for cannabis (68%) or alcohol (24%) as their primary substance

81% of young people accessing specialist services stated they were living with their family or other relatives. 5% said they were either living in care or living independently as a looked after child

Of those entering services in 2012-13 just over half (51%) were in mainstream education. 19% stated they were not in education or employment

The majority of those entering services reported multiple vulnerabilities (74%)

Of the 29,157 first and subsequent interventions starting in 2012-13, 28,820 (99%) began within three weeks of referral. The average (mean) wait to start a first intervention was 1.8 days

Most young people received a psychosocial intervention only (43%) or a psychosocial intervention combined with a harm reduction intervention (41%). 165\* received a pharmacological intervention (0.8%)

The average (mean) number of days young people accessed specialist interventions in 2012-13 was 154 (just over five months). Crack users tended to spend the most time, on average around 6.5 months (201 days)

12,947 young people exited specialist substance misuse services in 2012-13 and 10,208 (79%) of these did so because they no longer needed specialist interventions

Of these 10,208 clients, 6,512 (66%) 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 collected on young people whose treatment falls within this definition: "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." Information on NDTMS is available on the Public Health England (PHE) website, [www.nta.nhs.uk/ndtms.aspx](http://www.nta.nhs.uk/ndtms.aspx)

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\* All numbers under five have been suppressed. Where totals could be derived, figures have been rounded to the nearest five and marked with an asterisk.