



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Treatment Data - Substance Misuse in Wales 2018-19

Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse in Wales 2018-19

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Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse in Wales 2018-19

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been compiled by NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS) in collaboration with the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales, and contains statistics from the Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse (WNDSM) for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

1.2 The report should be read in conjunction with the document entitled 'The Annual Profile of Substance Misuse in Wales 2018-19'. This document will provide additional substance misuse related information currently available from routinely published sources in Wales to support and add to the information gained through the WNDSM.

2 Background

2.1 The overall management of the system, including advice on enhancements to the database, national performance issues linked to the data and the analysis of other routinely collected data is overseen by the Welsh Government Data Information and Analysis Board (DIAB).

2.2 All substance misuse treatment service providers in Wales, in receipt of Welsh Government funding via the Area Planning Boards (APBs), are required to comply with the reporting requirements of the database. Comprehensive guidance which includes the common dataset and definitional guidance was first issued on 1st March 2006 and has been revised regularly.

2.3 Information from the database is the official source of validated data for treatment service providers and APBs to monitor and report performance against the national Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in respect to waiting times and engagement rates. These KPIs have been in existence since 2006, but were refreshed in November 2017 for immediate implementation.

2.4 In April 2009 the Welsh Government adopted the Treatment Outcome Profile (TOP) tool. Further information on the tool can be found in [Annex A](#).

2.5 In 2013-14 a review of the current dataset comprising the WNDSM was undertaken. The purpose of the review and redevelopment of a Substance Misuse Data Set was to ensure that the data submitted to the national database was an accurate reflection of the delivery of Substance Misuse Services. One of the significant requirements of the new Substance Misuse Data Set was to capture multiple events which occur during a Client Journey, this includes a Referral, an Assessment, multiple Treatment Modalities, multiple Treatment Outcome Profiles (TOPS) and a Discharge to enable better analysis of the data in the future.

3 Data Quality

3.1 The Welsh Government's Substance Misuse Advisory Regional Team (SMARTs) have worked with APBs and treatment service providers to improve data quality. However, care needs to be exercised when looking at trends as a number of treatment service providers had not submitted all data for the relevant fields by the freeze date of 27th August 2019.

3.2 The data quality issues that affect this report are listed below:

- Some of the demographic data will be inaccurate because some clients are reluctant or unable to provide accurate responses to questions. This will always be the case with a system that relies largely upon self-reporting.
- Some treatment service providers are failing to close cases when a client is transferred between treatment service providers. This means that some individuals will be counted more than once on the

database. However, some clients may legitimately be receiving treatment from more than one treatment service provider.

- Clients are categorised by 'main problematic substance' which means that many clients categorised under 'alcohol' may also be receiving treatment for drug misuse and vice versa.
- The main problematic substance was not recorded for some clients, including 6,211 referrals where no assessment date had been recorded as at the database freeze date of 27th August 2019. This is higher than earlier years because in 2014-15, for the first time, the problematic substance data field was based around the assessment event as opposed to the referral event. Therefore, even if a primary substance was entered locally by the treatment service provider at the time of referral, the information would not have been reported to the national database until the time of their assessment. In [Section 6](#), these 6,211 referrals are broken down by age/sex, ethnicity, APBs and source of referral for information purposes, but for the subsequent analysis of referrals in that section, for which primary substance is a key element, these referrals have been excluded.

3.3 The number of treatment service providers submitting to the database has been declining during the last 5 years because of a number of treatment service providers merging. Whilst there has been a reduction in the number of treatment service providers submitting data, 56 treatment service providers submitted in 2014-15, 54 in 2015-16, 55 in 2016-17, 44 in 2017-18, and 42 in 2018-19 this has not resulted in a reduction in the reported data.

- There was widespread under-reporting of secondary problem substance; this inhibits the identification of emerging trends and patterns in poly-drug use.

3.4 The database is dynamic i.e. records are subject to amendment as further information is submitted by treatment service providers. This means that figures in this report are not directly comparable with those published in earlier reports.

3.5 A summary of key factors relating to this report can be found in [Annex A](#).

4 Results Summary

4.1 Area Comparison

Direct comparison between Area Planning Board (APB) for referral, assessment, treatment and closure activity can be found in [Section 5](#).

4.2 Referrals

The following provides a summary of all activity within 2018-19. Therefore, this summary captures all referral activity within the year and any assessment, treatment or closure information which has occurred in year by relating to pre 1st April 2018 referrals.

- There were 24,649 referrals to the database in 2018-19, and a further 2,195 referrals who did not attend (DNA) prior to assessment.
- This represented a slight rise in referrals over the last couple of years, with an increase of 2.8% on 2017-18 (23,960). See [Chart 4.1](#) for a time series.
- Some clients were referred more than once during 2018-19 with the 24,649 referrals relating to 18,224 individuals, of whom 10,572 were new to the database.
- In 2018-19, a large number of referrals (6,211) did not have an associated main problematic substance on account of there not having been an assessment (see “Referral exclusions for primary substance analysis” for further details), and therefore for subsequent breakdown of referrals by main substance, these referrals are excluded.
- Of the 24,649 referrals, 6,211 did not have an associated main problematic substance. Of the remaining 18,438 referrals:
 - 52.4% of these referrals were described as having alcohol as the main problematic substance and 47.4% had drugs as the main problematic substance; in 0.3% of cases had an assessment date but the main problematic substance was not recorded.
 - Males accounted for 63.2% of alcohol referrals and 71.8% of drug referrals.
 - Median age for alcohol referrals was 42, whilst median age for drugs was 33.
 - 16.5% of alcohol referrals (where age was reported) were for clients aged under 30 – the comparable figure for drug referrals was 37.5%.
- Heroin referrals accounted for 16.6% (3,059), Cannabis referrals accounted for 10.5% (1,926) and Cocaine accounted for 6.2% (1,138) of all referrals, an increase from 9.4% (781) in 2014-15.
- Detailed results for Referrals are shown in [Section 6](#).

4.3 Assessments

- The total number of clients assessed in 2018-19 was 18,435, a slight increase of 2.8% from 2017-18 (17,930). See [Chart 4.1](#) for Time Series.
- In 2018-19 the number of drug clients assessed was 8,747 compared with 9,633 alcohol clients.
- Males accounted for 63.1% of alcohol assessments and 71.1% of drug assessments.
- Heroin assessments accounted for 16.7% (3,086), Cannabis assessments accounted for 10.4% (1,911) and Cocaine accounted for 6.1% (1,128) of all assessments, where the main problematic substance is known.
- Detailed results for Assessments are shown in [Section 7](#).

4.4 Treatments

- The total number of clients starting treatment in 2018-19 was 16,072, up by 1.8% on 2017-18 (15,791). See [Chart 4.1](#) for Time Series.
- In 2018-19 the number of drug clients starting treatment was 7,791 compared with 8,161 alcohol Clients.
- Detailed results for Treatments are shown in [Section 8](#).

4.5 Waiting Times

- Of the 16,060 clients who started treatment (and had valid waiting times), the percentage that started within 20 working days was 91.3% in 2018-19, an increase of 2.6% from 2017-18, and includes alcohol, drug and not reported main problematic substance. Please note that comparisons cannot be made with figures reported in earlier reports. See paragraph 3.5 of the [data quality](#) section for further details.
- 90.7% (7,398) of clients with alcohol as the main problematic substance were treated within 20 working days, whilst 92.2% (7,181) of clients with drugs as the main problematic substance were treated within 20 working days. This was an increase in the percentage of clients treated from 90.2% (7,186) for alcohol and 91.7% (6,938) for drugs in 2017-18.
- Detailed results for Waiting Times are shown in [Section 9](#).

4.6 Treatment Outcome Profiles

- Table 10.1a-10.1f show the overall reductions in the frequency of alcohol and drug consumption between a starting TOP and an exit TOP.
- Table 10.1g-10.1i show the overall change in physical health, psychological health and quality of life between a starting TOP and an exit TOP.
- Detailed results for Treatment Outcome Profiles are shown in [Section 10](#).

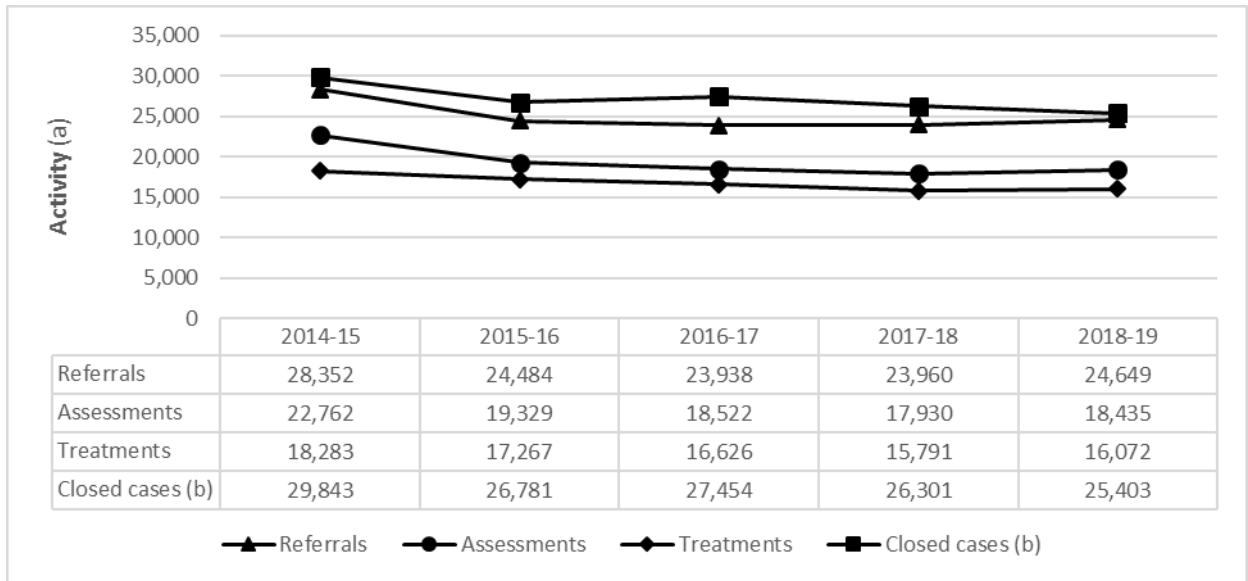
4.7 Reasons for Closure

- The percentage of cases ending with a planned closure has increased from 47.6% in 2014-15 to 52.1% in 2018-19.
- Detailed results for Case Closures are shown in [Section 11](#).

4.8 Key Performance Indicators

- Table 12.1 to 12.5 show the Five Key Performance Indicators for the APBs.
- The percentage of cases ending in a DNA post assessment showed a decrease each year from 2014-15 to 2018-19.
- The percentage of cases reporting a reduction, no change or abstinence in problematic substance misuse was higher in 2018-19 compared with the previous 4 years.
- The percentage of cases closed with a positive treatment closure is higher in 2018-19 than the previous 4 years.
- Detailed results for Key Performance Indicators are shown in [Section 12](#).

Chart 4.1: Total activity time series (a)



Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- a) Includes unknown substances
- b) Includes records where the client did not attend prior to assessment.

5 Area comparisons

Table 5.1 shows the number of referrals, assessments, treatments and case closures in 2018-19 by Area Planning Board (APB).

Table 5.1: Activity by area of residence in 2018-19 by area of residence

Area Planning Board	Referrals	Assessments	Treatments Started	Closed Cases
North Wales	6,232	3,553	3,415	6,028
Powys	832	654	649	940
Hywel Dda	3,096	2,476	2,348	3,165
Western Bay (a)	2,577	2,277	2,190	2,269
Cardiff & Vale	3,888	2,779	985	4,122
Cwm Taf	2,590	2,185	2,140	2,700
Gwent	4,162	3,392	3,279	4,942
Outside Wales	1,038	959	927	1,032
Unknown	234	160	139	205
Total	24,649	18,435	16,072	25,403

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

Table 5.2 shows the number of records that would have been open as at 31st March of each year i.e. had no closure date or the closure date was after the 31st March, by APB and main problematic substance of alcohol or drugs.

Table 5.2: Open records by area of residence time series

	2014-15			2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			2018-19		
Alcohol	Open	Open with assessment	Open with treatment	Open	Open with assessment	Open with treatment	Open	Open with assessment	Open with treatment	Open	Open with assessment	Open with treatment	Open	Open with assessment	Open with treatment
North Wales	1,004	995	932	1,141	1,132	1,053	1,211	1,202	1,127	1,161	1,154	1,116	1,186	1,184	1,145
Powys	200	200	193	289	289	284	137	137	137	183	183	180	222	222	222
Hywel Dda	662	662	529	645	645	555	634	634	535	620	620	519	714	714	617
Western Bay (a)	875	872	846	825	823	809	727	726	715	757	757	747	851	851	825
Cardiff & Vale	827	827	591	720	720	534	748	748	541	670	670	474	792	792	501
Cwm Taf	872	869	553	836	835	552	848	847	586	874	873	614	898	897	636
Gwent	1,209	1,204	1,090	1,054	1,049	994	1,140	1,135	1,072	1,128	1,125	1,053	1,089	1,089	1,049
Outside Wales	139	139	113	99	99	86	117	117	104	101	101	88	132	132	119
Unknown	19	19	9	28	28	20	36	36	24	39	39	31	53	53	45
Total	5,807	5,787	4,856	5,637	5,620	4,887	5,598	5,582	4,841	5,533	5,522	4,822	5,937	5,934	5,159
Drugs															
North Wales	1,950	1,947	1,891	2,022	2,019	1,964	1,982	1,979	1,928	1,945	1,943	1,910	2,061	2,059	2,022
Powys	359	359	355	474	474	472	222	222	219	260	260	255	268	268	266
Hywel Dda	709	709	670	678	678	651	685	685	659	643	643	612	729	729	696
Western Bay (a)	1,687	1,687	1,649	1,597	1,597	1,592	1,524	1,524	1,519	1,470	1,470	1,460	1,646	1,646	1,607
Cardiff & Vale	695	695	491	874	874	645	902	902	667	954	954	684	1,038	1,038	720
Cwm Taf	1,298	1,298	867	1,279	1,279	898	1,384	1,384	1,048	1,400	1,400	1,078	1,485	1,485	1,163
Gwent	2,448	2,445	2,315	1,715	1,712	1,635	1,700	1,697	1,630	1,769	1,767	1,698	1,695	1,695	1,634
Outside Wales	184	184	169	195	195	186	225	225	215	256	256	246	276	276	262
Unknown	15	15	8	31	31	23	39	39	26	63	63	55	84	84	77
Total	9,345	9,339	8,415	8,865	8,859	8,066	8,663	8,657	7,911	8,760	8,756	7,998	9,282	9,280	8,447

Source: WNDISM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

Table 5.3a shows the history of referrals in 2018-19. Of the 24,649 referrals in 2018-19, these related to 18,224 individuals. 10,572 (58%) of the individuals referred in 2018-19 were new cases, meaning that they were referred to a treatment service provider for the first time. The percentage of new cases varied across APB areas, ranging from 47.8% in Cardiff & Vale to 70.0% in Powys. A similar range is seen in table 5.3b for alcohol and 5.3c for drugs, with Cardiff & Vale reporting the lowest percentage of new cases and Powys reporting the highest across the APB areas.

Table 5.3a: Previous history of referrals by APB in 2018-19: All Substances

	All Referrals	Individuals referred in 2018-19	Average referrals per individual	New Cases	Percentage of New Cases
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
North Wales	6,232	4,411	1.4	2,671	60.6
Powys	832	731	1.1	512	70.0
Hywel Dda	3,096	2,347	1.3	1,432	61.0
Western Bay (f)	2,577	2,238	1.2	1,226	54.8
Cardiff & Vale	3,888	2,056	1.9	982	47.8
Cwm Taf	2,590	1,907	1.4	1,064	55.8
Gwent	4,162	3,404	1.2	2,011	59.1
Outside Wales	1,038	907	1.1	485	53.5
Unknown	234	223	1.0	189	84.8
Total	24,649	18,224	1.4	10,572	58.0

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) All referrals 2018-19

(b) All referrals minus multiple referrals in 2018-19

(c) All referrals divided by individuals referred in 2018-19

(d) Number of individuals who had not been previously referred since April 2005 (commencement of the database)

(e) New cases divided by individuals referred in 2018-19

(f) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

Table 5.3b: Previous history of referrals by APB in 2018-19: Alcohol

	All Referrals	Individuals referred in 2018-19	Average referrals per individual	New Cases	Percentage of New Cases
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
North Wales	1,890	1,583	1.2	969	61.2
Powys	321	297	1.1	208	70.0
Hywel Dda	1,369	1,110	1.2	696	62.7
Western Bay (f)	1,071	1,008	1.1	621	61.6
Cardiff & Vale	1,640	925	1.8	479	51.8
Cwm Taf	1,262	940	1.3	546	58.1
Gwent	1,708	1,480	1.2	903	61.0
Outside Wales	352	332	1.1	242	72.9
Unknown	42	40	1.1	29	72.5
Total	9,655	7,715	1.3	4,693	60.8

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) All referrals 2018-19

(b) All referrals minus multiple referrals in 2018-19

(c) All referrals divided by individuals referred in 2018-19

(d) Number of individuals who had not been previously referred since April 2005 (commencement of the database)

(e) New cases divided by individuals referred in 2018-19

(f) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

Table 5.3c: Previous history of referrals by APB in 2018-19: Drugs

	All Referrals	Individuals referred in 2018-19	Average referrals per individual	New Cases	Percentage of New Cases
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
North Wales	1,653	1,366	1.2	712	52.1
Powys	339	309	1.1	221	71.5
Hywel Dda	1,117	869	1.3	505	58.1
Western Bay (f)	1,226	1,020	1.2	467	45.8
Cardiff & Vale	1,139	728	1.6	314	43.1
Cwm Taf	890	722	1.2	357	49.4
Gwent	1,660	1,417	1.2	778	54.9
Outside Wales	604	516	1.2	208	40.3
Unknown	104	103	1.0	96	93.2
Total	8,732	7,050	1.2	3,658	51.9

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) All referrals 2018-19

(b) All referrals minus multiple referrals in 2018-19

(c) All referrals divided by individuals referred in 2018-19

(d) Number of individuals who had not been previously referred since April 2005 (commencement of the database)

(e) New cases divided by individuals referred in 2018-19

(f) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

6 Referrals

The total number of referrals in 2018-19 was 26,844.

Figure 6.1 shows the status along the treatment pathway for the 26,844 referrals in 2018-19. **Of these, 2,195 had a DNA prior to assessment (shown along the red branch of the diagram) and for all further analysis of referrals, these have been excluded.**

Of the remaining 24,649 referrals (excluding the DNAs before assessment) in 2018-19, 20,239 (76.4%) had already been closed by the 27th August 2019 freeze date, and of those, 12,069 (45.6%) had commenced any form of treatment before being discharged.

Of the 26,844 referrals in 2018-19, 5,879 were closed to services before an assessment took place. The majority of these records were closed as a result of a third party referral being received but when the client was contacted, they were unaware that a referral was made, or following an initial assessment, the client had chosen not to commence a recommended treatment intervention, or they were not ready to engage in treatment or there was no substance misuse treatment needed.

There were 2,291 referrals where the client was closed to services before a treatment had commenced. Of these, 260 had dropped out of contact and were closed as DNA, whilst the remaining 2,031 were closed for a number of different reasons e.g. treatment withdrawn, moved, deceased etc.

Note that the numbers in figure 6.1 only relate to activity associated with 2018-19 referrals and therefore they exclude activity relating to pre-1st April 2018 referrals.

Figure 6.1: Current status along treatment pathway for those referred in 2018-19 (as at 27th August 2019 freeze date)

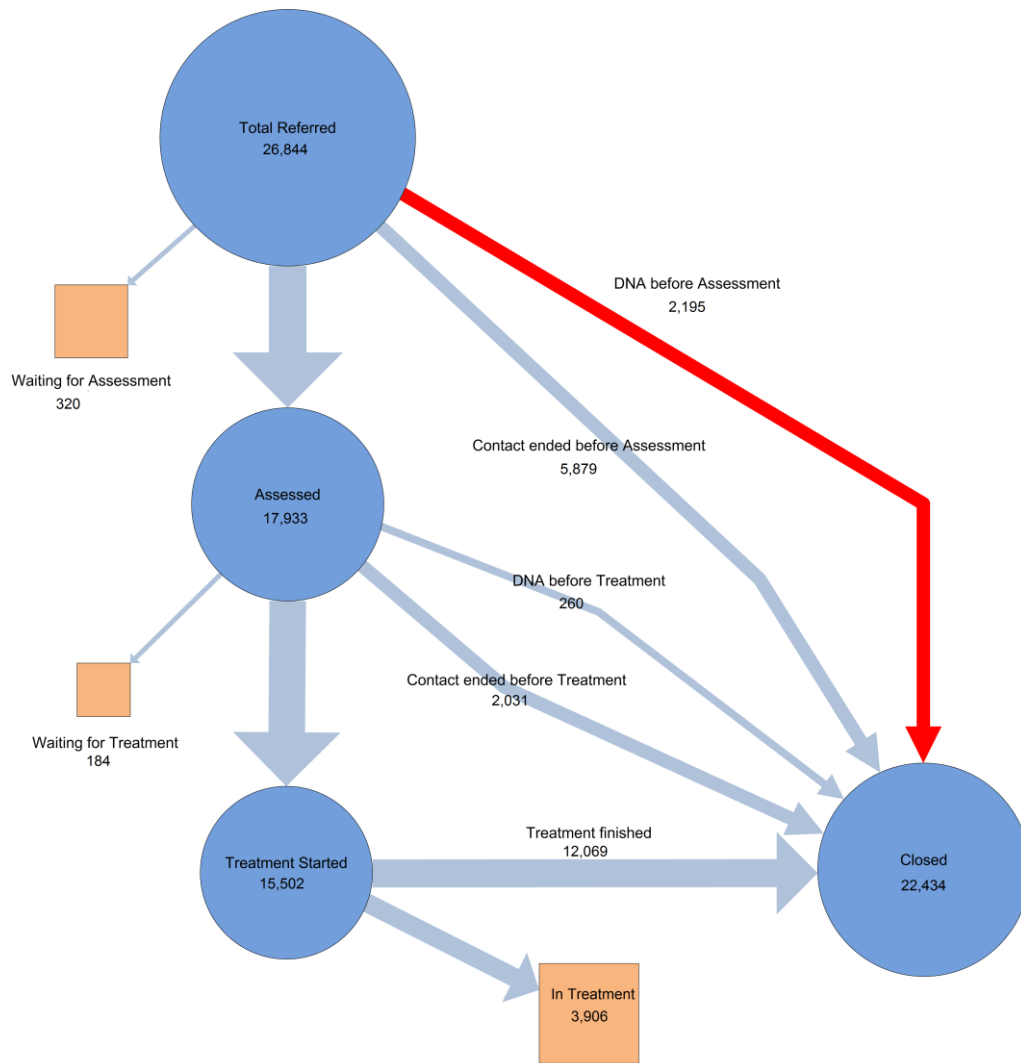
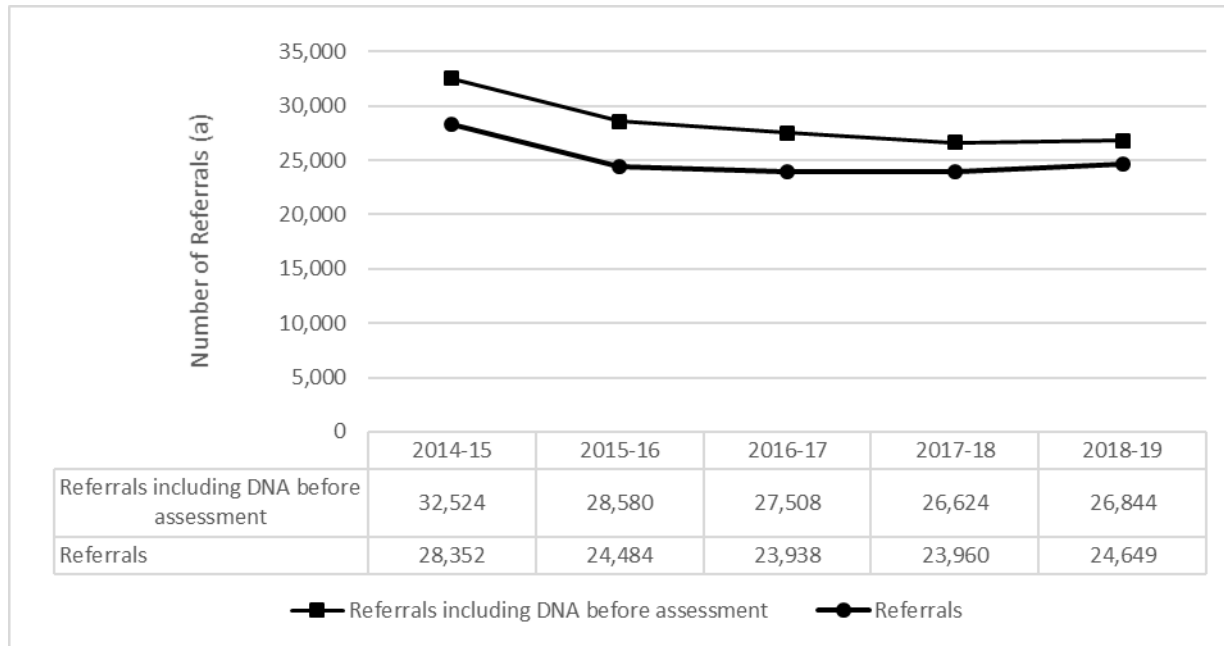


Chart 6.1: Referrals time series



Source: WNDMS, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes unknown substances

Referrals by Gender, Age, Main Problematic Substance and Ethnic Origin

Table 6.1: Referrals in 2018-19 by age and gender: All Referrals (a)

Referral age band	Male		Female		Total	
	Referral	Referral Rate (b)	Referral	Referral Rate (b)	Referral	Referral Rate (b)
10-14	191	211	141	163	332	188
15-19	931	1,031	530	632	1,461	839
20-29	3,262	1,532	1,433	721	4,695	1,141
30-39	4,817	2,603	2,355	1,261	7,172	1,929
40-49	4,031	2,194	1,953	1,018	5,984	1,593
50-59	2,229	1,054	1,267	570	3,496	806
60+	905	230	599	133	1,504	179
All ages (c)	16,369	1,058	8,280	520	24,649	785
Median age (d)	38	.	38	.	38	.

Source: WNDMS NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes referrals where the main problematic substance is not reported

(b) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(c) Includes 5 referrals where the age is less than 10.

(d) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 6.2: Referrals by area of residence in 2018-19 by age and gender

Area Planning Board	Referral age band							All Ages (a)	EASR (b)
	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+		
Male									
North Wales	23	161	796	1,179	1,049	633	251	4,095	1,297.3
Powys	20	74	122	112	98	83	32	541	949.7
Hywel Dda	26	155	456	553	447	287	135	2,059	1,231.3
Western Bay (c)	30	83	295	524	458	211	75	1,676	649.2
Cardiff & Vale	2	41	510	860	730	363	147	2,653	1,093.4
Cwm Taf	30	104	306	522	429	221	100	1,712	1,203.6
Gwent	34	205	569	777	634	340	135	2,694	969.8
Outside Wales	0	30	199	279	171	83	18	780	.
Unknown	26	78	9	11	15	8	12	159	.
Total	191	931	3,262	4,817	4,031	2,229	905	16,369	1,112.0
Female									
North Wales	15	69	382	526	592	397	155	2,137	667.7
Powys	16	39	48	69	63	33	23	291	526.3
Hywel Dda	20	104	204	248	193	154	114	1,037	590.3
Western Bay (c)	24	60	166	309	202	95	45	901	353.9
Cardiff & Vale	0	26	217	395	320	195	81	1,235	506.4
Cwm Taf	18	42	145	280	223	121	49	878	594.4
Gwent	39	140	222	422	307	230	108	1,468	508.6
Outside Wales	1	15	48	97	48	31	18	258	.
Unknown	8	35	1	9	5	11	6	75	.
Total	141	530	1,433	2,355	1,953	1,267	599	8,280	554.0

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes a total of 3 referrals for males where the age is less than 10 and a total of 2 referrals for females where the age is less than 10.

(b) [European Age Standardised Rate](#)

(c) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

. Data item not applicable

Table 6:3 Referral activity by Ethnic Origin

	Referral Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
White	23,389	82.5	20,351	83.1	20,879	87.2	20,833	86.9	21,020	85.3
White and Black Caribbean	40	0.1	46	0.2	38	0.2	48	0.2	44	0.2
White and Black African	22	0.1	10	0.0	16	0.1	17	0.1	9	0.0
White and Asian	23	0.1	20	0.1	25	0.1	38	0.2	23	0.1
Any Other Mixed Background	92	0.3	87	0.4	92	0.4	73	0.3	89	0.4
Indian	29	0.1	16	0.1	30	0.1	26	0.1	16	0.1
Pakistani	45	0.2	28	0.1	41	0.2	28	0.1	29	0.1
Bangladeshi	30	0.1	17	0.1	26	0.1	24	0.1	22	0.1
Any Other Asian Background	56	0.2	54	0.2	72	0.3	71	0.3	65	0.3
Caribbean	27	0.1	30	0.1	31	0.1	22	0.1	20	0.1
African	31	0.1	47	0.2	38	0.2	34	0.1	34	0.1
Any Other Black Background	76	0.3	63	0.3	60	0.3	59	0.2	58	0.2
Other ethnic group (a)	40	0.1	50	0.2	40	0.2	39	0.2	36	0.1
Client not stated (b)	4,448	15.7	3,665	15.0	2,550	10.7	2,648	11.1	3,184	12.9
Unknown (c)	4	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	28,352	100	24,484	100	23,938	100	23,960	100	24,649	100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes Chinese and Any other ethnic group

(b) Client declined to state their ethnic origin

(c) The ethnic origin of the client was not recorded

Table 6.4: Referrals by area of residence in 2018-19 by ethnic origin

Area Planning Board	Ethnic Origin			Total
	White British	Ethnic Minority Groups	Not Stated	
North Wales	5,567	21	644	6,232
Powys	812	16	4	832
Hywel Dda	2,811	29	256	3,096
Western Bay (a)	2,222	49	306	2,577
Cardiff & Vale	2,288	192	1,408	3,888
Cwm Taf	2,528	15	47	2,590
Gwent	3,823	85	254	4,162
Outside Wales	959	38	41	1,038
Unknown	10	0	224	234
Total	21,020	445	3,184	24,649

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

Sources of Referral

Table 6.5 and chart 6.2 show the number of referrals by each of the referral source groups, by main problematic substance category (alcohol or drugs). Self referrals accounted for 39.7% of the referrals (48.5% for all alcohol referrals and 38.2% for all drug referrals), and the Criminal Justice System accounted for 16.9% of referrals (8.5% for all alcohol referrals and 28.4% for drug referrals).

Table 6.5: Source of referrals in 2018-19 by main problematic substance: All Referrals

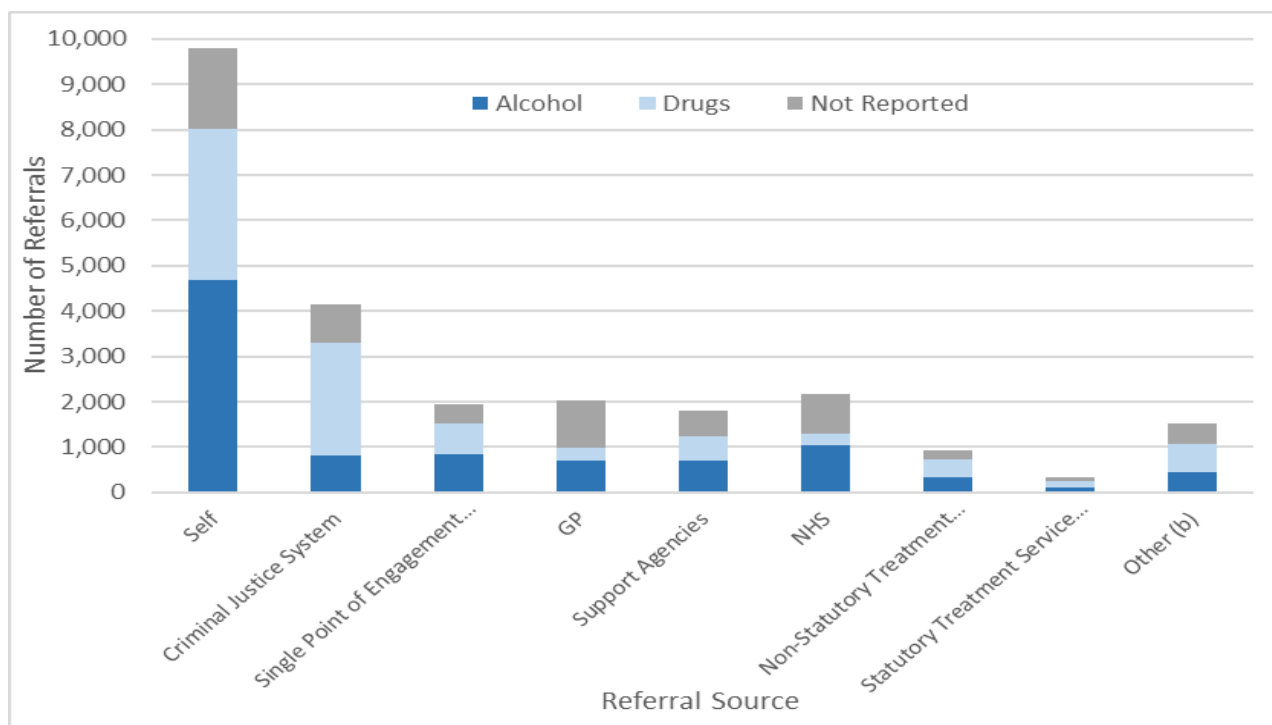
Referral Source (a)	Alcohol	Drugs	Not Reported	Total
Self	4,682	3,338	1,777	9,797
Criminal Justice System	824	2,481	852	4,157
Single Point of Engagement (SPOE)	854	655	440	1,949
GP	692	283	1,042	2,017
Support Agencies	707	538	547	1,792
NHS	1,026	256	878	2,160
Non-Statutory Treatment Service Providers	337	398	202	937
Statutory Treatment Service Providers	98	137	96	331
Other (b)	435	646	428	1,509
Total	9,655	8,732	6,262	24,649

Source: WNDSM, NHS Informatics Service

(a) See [Annex B](#) for breakdown of referral source

(b) Includes 112 referrals where referral source is unknown. See [Annex B](#) for full list of referral sources included under Other.

Chart 6.2: Source of referrals in 2018-19 by main problematic substance



Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

Individuals referred in 2018-19

Table 6.6 shows that the 24,649 referrals made in 2018-19 (excluding those clients that DNA before assessment) related to 18,224 individual clients with an average of 1.4 referrals per client during the financial year. Of these, 18,224 clients, 10,572 (58.0%) were new cases, meaning that they were referred to a treatment service provider for the first time in 2018-19, or at least for the first time since the database began on the 1st April 2005.

Table 6.6: Previous history of referrals in 2018-19: All Referrals

	All Referrals	Individuals referred in 2018-19	Average referrals per individual	New Cases	Percentage of New Cases
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Gender					
Male	16,369	12,134	1.3	6,719	55.4
Female	8,280	6,090	1.4	3,853	63.3
Age					
10-14	332	300	1.1	300	100
15-19	1,461	1,263	1.2	1,242	98.3
20-29	4,695	3,549	1.3	2,323	65.5
30-39	7,172	5,105	1.4	2,495	48.9
40-49	5,984	4,283	1.4	2,067	48.3
50-59	3,496	2,573	1.4	1,371	53.3
60+	1,504	1,146	1.3	769	67.1
All Ages (f)	24,649	18,224	1.4	10,572	58.0
Median age (g)	38	38	.	36	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) All referrals 2018-19

(b) All referrals minus multiple referrals in 2018-19

(c) All referrals divided by individuals referred in 2018-19

(d) Number of individuals who had not been previously referred since April 2005 (commencement of the database)

(e) New cases divided by individuals referred in 2018-19

(f) Includes 5 referrals where the age is less than 10

(g) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 6.7: New cases (a) by age time series

Age	Referral Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)
10-14	295	93.1	317	98.8	342	99.4	286	99.7	300	10
15-19	1,106	71.0	1,041	81.1	968	89.4	1,121	95.4	1,242	98
20-29	1,682	42.0	1,805	49.0	1,987	55.4	2,124	60.5	2,323	65
30-39	1,626	31.6	1,843	37.9	2,069	41.9	2,234	45.2	2,495	48
40-49	1,492	35.6	1,675	41.0	1,715	42.1	1,932	46.7	2,067	48
50-59	934	41.2	1,079	46.9	1,160	49.1	1,256	50.2	1,371	53
60+	574	52.6	601	58.7	636	61.2	694	63.7	769	67
All Ages (c)	7,725	41.6	8,384	47.7	8,891	51.0	9,653	54.7	10,572	58

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Number of individuals who had not been previously referred since April 2005 (commencement of the database)

(b) Percentage of all referrals by age category

(c) Includes 16 new cases in 2014-15, 23 in 2015-16, 14 in 2016-17, 6 in 2017-18, and 5 in 2018-19 where the age is less than 10.

Referral exclusions for main problematic substance analysis

As explained in the data quality section ([Section 3](#)), there were 6,211 referrals for which the main problematic substance was unknown due to there being no assessment date recorded for that client as at the freeze date of 27th August 2019. For information, the breakdown of these excluded referrals (by gender, age, ethnicity, APBs and source of referral) is shown in Table 6.8. To provide a comparison, the profile of these excluded cases is shown alongside the included referrals, and it can be seen that there appears to be no disproportionate exclusion of referrals on account of age or gender. For ethnicity, the main difference between the excluded and included cases is around the category of “Not Stated”, which is much more prevalent in the excluded cases.

In relation to the APBs, there were high numbers of exclusions (relatively) for Cardiff & Vale and North Wales, although comparatively few for Powys. For source of referral, there were more exclusions (relatively) where the referrals were from Self, GP and NHS and fewer exclusions for statutory drug service.

It should be noted however that we would expect that the vast majority of these unknown main problematic substances would be populated subsequently, following an assessment.

Table 6.8: Referrals excluded for main problematic substance

Gender	Excluded	Included
Male	4,011 (64.6%)	12,358 (67.0%)
Female	2,200 (35.4%)	6,080 (33.0%)
Total	6,211 (100.0%)	18,438 (100.0%)

Age	Excluded	Included
< 10	3 (0.0%)	2 (0.0%)
10-14	48 (0.8%)	284 (1.5%)
15-19	350 (5.6%)	1,111 (6.0%)
20-29	1,203 (19.4%)	3,492 (18.9%)
30-39	1,713 (27.6%)	5,459 (29.6%)
40-49	1,485 (23.9%)	4,499 (24.4%)
50-59	946 (15.2%)	2,550 (13.8%)
60+	463 (7.5%)	1,041 (5.6%)
Total	6,211 (100.0%)	18,438 (100.0%)

Ethnicity	Excluded	Included
White	4,838 (77.9%)	16,182 (87.8%)
Black	26 (0.4%)	86 (0.5%)
Asian	23 (0.4%)	109 (0.6%)
Mixed	39 (0.6%)	126 (0.7%)
Other	13 (0.2%)	23 (0.1%)
Not Stated	1,272 (20.5%)	1,912 (10.4%)
Total	6,211 (100.0%)	18,438 (100.0%)

APB	Excluded	Included
North Wales	2,674 (43.1%)	3,558 (19.3%)
Powys	172 (2.8%)	660 (3.6%)
Hywel Dda	602 (9.7%)	2,494 (13.5%)
Western Bay	279 (4.5%)	2,298 (12.5%)
Cardiff & Vale	1,101 (17.7%)	2,787 (18.3%)
Cwm Taf	433 (7.0%)	2,157 (11.7%)
Gwent	794 (12.8%)	3,368 (18.3%)
Other – Outside Wales	82 (1.3%)	956 (5.2%)
Unknown	74 (1.2%)	160 (0.9%)
Total	6,211 (100.0%)	18,438 (100.0%)

Source of Referral	Excluded	Included
Self	1,773 (28.5%)	8,024 (43.5%)
GP	1,041 (16.8%)	976 (5.3%)
Criminal Justice System	842 (13.6%)	3,315 (18.0%)
Non-Statutory Drug Service	197 (3.2%)	740 (4.0%)
NHS	873 (14.1%)	1,287 (7.0%)
Single Point of Engagement	424 (6.8%)	1,525 (8.3%)
Statutory Drug Service	95 (1.5%)	236 (1.3%)
Other	424 (6.8%)	1,085 (5.9%)
Support Agencies	542 (8.7%)	1,250 (6.8%)
Total	6,211 (100.0%)	18,438 (100.0%)

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

Referrals by main problematic substance

Table 6.9 shows that of the 24,649 referrals in 2018-19 (excluding DNAs before assessment), alcohol was the main problematic substance reported in 9,655 of the cases, of which 1,862 referrals were for alcohol in combination with drugs. There were 8,733 referrals with drugs as the main problematic substance reported, of which 1,169 were in combination with alcohol. For 50 of the referrals (0.3%), no valid main problematic substance was reported at time of referral. For the remaining 6,211 these are clients who have not reached the assessment stage, the main problematic substance should be completed once the assessment has taken place.

Table 6.9: Referrals in 2018-19 by main problematic substance

Main problematic substance		Male	Female	Total Number	Per Cent
Alcohol	Alcohol alone (a)	4,758	3,035	7,793	42.3
	Alcohol in combination with Drugs (b)	1,342	520	1,862	10.1
	- Alcohol Total	6,100	3,555	9,655	52.4
Drugs	Drugs alone (c)	5,336	2,228	7,564	41.0
	Drugs in combination with Alcohol (d)	890	279	1,169	6.3
	- Drugs Total	6,226	2,507	8,733	47.4
Unknown	Unknown (e)	32	18	50	0.3
All Referrals		12,358	6,080	18,438	100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Alcohol recorded as the main problematic substance with no other substance reported.

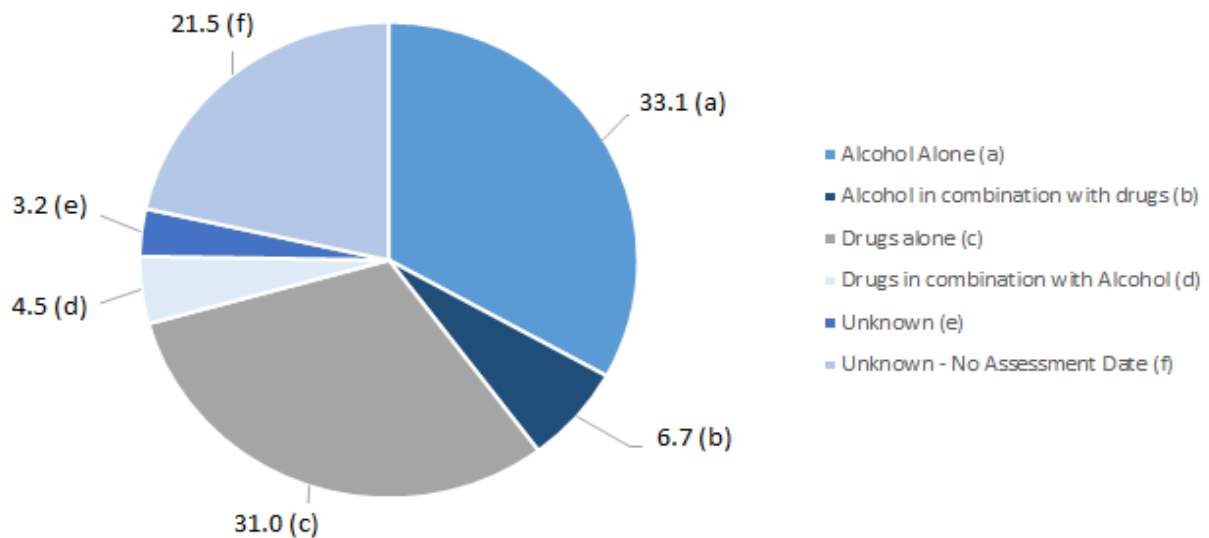
(b) Alcohol recorded as the main problematic substance but with misuse of drugs also being reported.

(c) Drugs recorded as the main problematic substance with no alcohol reported.

(d) Drugs recorded as the main problematic substance but with alcohol also being reported.

(e) No problematic substance reported to the database at stage of referral, the vast majority of these unknowns will be populated following assessment of the client.

Chart 6.3: Referrals in 2018-19 by main problematic substance



Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) Alcohol recorded as the main problematic substance with no other substance reported.
- (b) Alcohol recorded as the main problematic substance but with misuse of drugs also being reported.
- (c) Drugs recorded as the main problematic substance with no alcohol reported.
- (d) Drugs recorded as the main problematic substance but with alcohol also being reported.
- (e) No problematic substance reported to the database at stage of referral, the vast majority of these unknowns will be populated following assessment of the client.
- (f) No problematic substance reported to the database as the client has not reached the assessment stage.

Table 6.10 shows the breakdown of main problematic substances in more detail. Heroin is the most frequently reported drug accounting for 3,059 (16.6%) of referrals, followed by Cannabis with 1,926 (10.5%).

The list of drugs included under the groups “Other Opiates”, “Other Drugs” and “Other Stimulant” are shown in [Annex C](#).

Males accounted for 67.0% of all referrals, where the main problematic substance is known, although patterns vary according to substance, with males accounting for 63.2% of referrals with alcohol as the main problematic substances, 71.3% for drugs, and as high as 100.0% for Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs and 83.8% for Cocaine.

The median age of clients referred in 2018-19 where alcohol was the main problematic substance was 42, compared with 33 for clients referred where the main problematic substance was drugs.

Table 6.10: Referrals in 2018-19 by main problematic substance (where known)

Main problematic substance	Male	Female	Total	
			Number	Per Cent (a)
Alcohol	6,100	3,555	9,655	52.5
Heroin	2,159	900	3,059	16.6
Cannabis (b)	1,335	591	1,926	10.5
Cocaine	954	184	1,138	6.2
Methadone (c)	381	167	548	3.0
Amphetamines	294	172	466	2.5
Crack Cocaine	228	87	315	1.7
Benzodiazepines	127	43	170	0.9
Ecstasy	38	26	64	0.3
Hallucinogens	37	10	47	0.3
Solvents	22	8	30	0.2
Performance and Image Enhancing	6	0	6	0.0
Other Opiates (d)	437	219	656	3.6
Other Drugs (e)	204	99	303	1.6
Other Stimulants (f)	3	1	4	0.0
All Referrals	12,325	6,062	18,387	100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Percentage of all referrals for which the main problematic substance is reported.

(b) There may be instances where cannabinoids may have been reported as cannabis.

(c) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone

(d) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Opiates*

(e) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Drugs*

(f) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Stimulants*

Table 6.11: Referrals by main problematic substance (where known) time series

Main Problematic Substance	Referral Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Alcohol	12,213	54.8	10,032	54.1	9,598	52.6	9,244	52.1	9,655	52.5
Heroin	4,528	20.3	3,519	19.0	3,399	18.6	3,139	17.7	3,059	16.6
Cannabis (a)	2,094	9.4	2,058	11.1	2,020	11.1	1,947	11.0	1,926	10.5
Cocaine	781	3.5	555	3.0	697	3.8	912	5.1	1,138	6.2
Methadone (b)	415	1.9	384	2.1	539	3.0	561	3.2	548	3.0
Amphetamines	971	4.4	715	3.9	517	2.8	522	2.9	466	2.5
Crack Cocaine	112	0.5	89	0.5	162	0.9	213	1.2	315	1.7
Benzodiazepines	196	0.9	174	0.9	186	1.0	187	1.1	170	0.9
Ecstasy	6	0.0	14	0.1	25	0.1	33	0.2	64	0.3
Hallucinogens	21	0.1	21	0.1	21	0.1	45	0.3	47	0.3
Solvents	23	0.1	24	0.1	23	0.1	18	0.1	30	0.2
Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs	7	0.0	8	0.0	10	0.1	5	0.0	6	0.0
Other Opiates (c)	625	2.8	591	3.2	627	3.4	583	3.3	656	3.6
Other Drugs (d)	268	1.2	360	1.9	408	2.2	323	1.8	303	1.6
Other Stimulants (e)	30	0.1	6	0.0	2	0.0	6	0.0	4	0.0
All Referrals	22,290	100	18,550	100	18,234	100	17,738	100	18,387	100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) There may be instances where cannabinoids may have been reported as cannabis.

(b) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone.

(c) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Opiates*

(d) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Drugs*

(e) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Stimulants*

Table 6.12a: Referrals in 2018-19 by age and gender: main problematic substance: Alcohol

Referral age band	Male		Female		Total	
	Referral	Referral Rate (a)	Referral	Referral Rate (a)	Referral	Referral Rate (a)
10-14	24	27	39	45	63	36
15-19	115	127	122	145	237	136
20-29	853	401	440	221	1,293	314
30-39	1,565	846	830	444	2,395	644
40-49	1,654	900	997	520	2,651	706
50-59	1,309	619	748	336	2,057	474
60+	579	147	378	84	957	114
All Ages (b)	6,100	394	3,555	223	9,655	308
Median age (c)	42	.	42	.	42	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(b) Includes 2 referrals where the age is less than 10.

(c) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 6.12b: Referrals in 2018-19 by age and gender: main problematic substance: Drugs

Referral age band	Male		Female		Total	
	Referral	Referral Rate (a)	Referral	Referral Rate (a)	Referral	Referral Rate (a)
10-14	138	153	80	93	218	123
15-19	575	637	289	344	864	496
20-29	1,589	746	603	303	2,192	532
30-39	2,102	1,136	950	508	3,052	821
40-49	1,416	771	426	222	1,842	491
50-59	356	168	128	58	484	112
60+	49	12	31	7	80	10
All Ages	6,225	402	2,507	158	8,732	278
Median age (b)	33	.	32	.	33	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(b) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

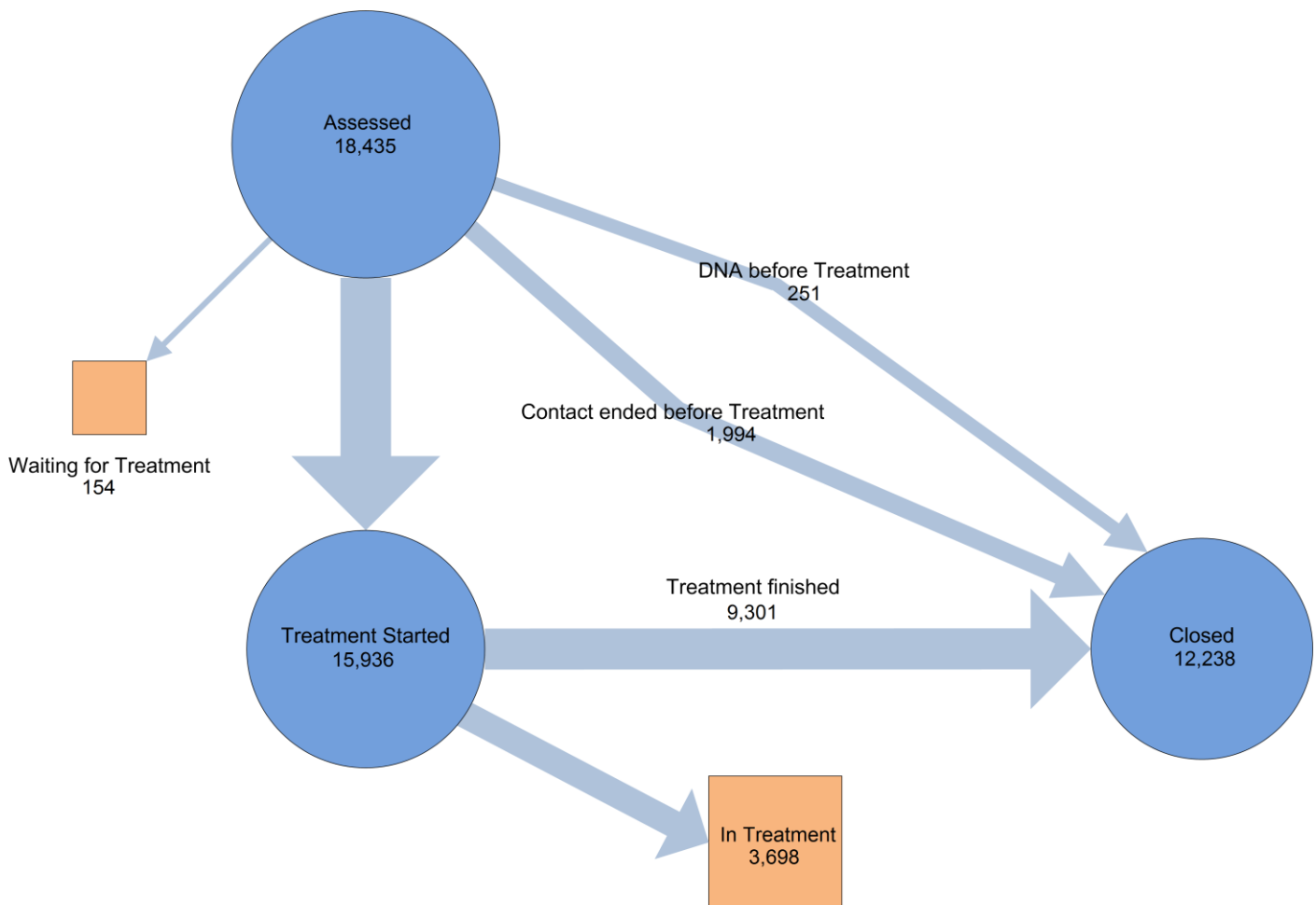
7 Assessments

Figure 7.1 shows the status along the treatment pathway of all clients assessed in 2018-19.

Of the 18,435 clients assessed, 12,238 cases had already been closed by the 27th August 2019 freeze date, 2,245 (12.2%) of which had been closed without commencement of any form of treatment.

Note that the numbers in figure 7.1 only relate to activity associated with those clients who were assessed in 2018-19, as compared with figure 6.1 which was based on clients referred in 2018-19. As a comparison, the number of assessments shown in figure 6.1 (17,933) related to clients who were both referred in 2018-19 **and** assessed on or before 31st March 2019, whereas the 18,435 figure below indicates all clients assessed in 2018-19, including those whose referral date was prior to 1st April 2018. Similarly, figures relating to “treatments started” and “case closures”, which appear later on in this report, are not comparable with the figures shown below (15,936 and 12,238 respectively).

Figure 7.1: Current status along treatment pathway for those assessed in 2018-19 (as at 27th August 2019 freeze date)



Assessments by Age, Gender, Substance and Ethnic Origin

Table 7.1: Assessments by area of residence in 2018-19 by main problematic substance

Area Planning Board	Alcohol	Assessment Rate (a)	Drugs	Assessment Rate (a)	Not Reported	Assessment Rate (a)	Total	Assessment Rate (a)
North Wales	1,887	270	1,652	237	14	2	3,553	509
Powys	320	242	334	252	0	0	654	494
Hywel Dda	1,363	353	1,103	286	10	3	2,476	642
Western Bay (b)	1,068	200	1,208	226	1	0	2,277	426
Cardiff & Vale	1,617	326	1,153	232	9	2	2,779	560
Cwm Taf	1,280	426	900	300	5	2	2,185	728
Gwent	1,705	288	1,687	285	0	0	3,392	574
Outside Wales	354	.	605	.	0	.	959	.
Unknown	39	.	105	.	16	.	160	.
Total	9,633	310	8,747	279	55	2	18,435	587

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(b) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

. Data item not applicable

The substances listed in table 7.2 are based on the most prevalent substances reported to the national database.

Table 7.2: Assessments by area of residence in 2018-19 by individual substance

Area Planning Board	Main problematic substance					
	Heroin	Cannabis	Cocaine	Methadone (a)	Amphetamines	Crack
Assessments						
North Wales	613	309	282	149	87	48
Powys	79	125	64	0	10	13
Hywel Dda	368	294	116	18	34	32
Western Bay (b)	511	192	128	137	67	17
Cardiff & Vale	413	186	154	77	52	87
Cwm Taf	256	217	75	49	94	27
Gwent	601	436	240	40	104	60
Outside Wales	239	69	66	83	24	32
Unknown	6	83	3	0	1	1
Total	3,086	1,911	1,128	553	473	317
Rate per 100,000 population (c)						
North Wales	88	44	40	21	12	7
Powys	60	94	48	0	8	10
Hywel Dda	95	76	30	5	9	8
Western Bay (b)	96	36	24	26	13	3
Cardiff & Vale	83	37	31	16	10	18
Cwm Taf	85	72	25	16	31	9
Gwent	102	74	41	7	18	10
Outside Wales	.	.	.	.	.	.
Unknown	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	98	61	36	18	15	10

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone

(b) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

(c) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

. Data item not applicable

Table 7.3: Assessments in 2018-19 by age and gender: All assessments (a)

Assessment age band	Male		Female		Total	
	Assessments	Assessment Rate (b)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (b)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (b)
10-14	153	169	121	140	274	155
15-19	700	775	403	480	1,103	633
20-29	2,430	1,141	1,058	532	3,488	847
30-39	3,686	1,992	1,795	961	5,481	1,474
40-49	3,059	1,665	1,428	745	4,487	1,195
50-59	1,674	792	883	397	2,557	589
60+	633	161	410	91	1,043	124
All Ages (c)	12,336	797	6,099	383	18,435	587
Median age (d)	38	.	38	.	38	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes assessments where the main problematic substance is not reported

(b) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(c) Includes 2 assessments where the age is less than 10.

(d) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 7.4: Assessments activity by Ethnic Origin

	Assessment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
White	19,507	85.7	16,376	84.7	16,709	90.2	16,093	89.8	16,213	87.9
White and Black Caribbean	37	0.2	43	0.2	28	0.2	37	0.2	34	0.2
White and Black African	18	0.1	9	0.0	10	0.1	14	0.1	7	0.0
White and Asian	19	0.1	15	0.1	20	0.1	30	0.2	17	0.1
Any Other Mixed Background	71	0.3	68	0.4	76	0.4	59	0.3	68	0.4
Indian	19	0.1	14	0.1	24	0.1	18	0.1	14	0.1
Pakistani	44	0.2	27	0.1	32	0.2	21	0.1	24	0.1
Bangladeshi	27	0.1	13	0.1	22	0.1	21	0.1	18	0.1
Any Other Asian Background	45	0.2	47	0.2	52	0.3	55	0.3	54	0.3
Caribbean	22	0.1	25	0.1	20	0.1	16	0.1	14	0.1
African	27	0.1	37	0.2	27	0.1	24	0.1	27	0.1
Any Other Black Background	66	0.3	49	0.3	51	0.3	45	0.3	47	0.3
Any other ethnic group (a)	33	0.1	34	0.2	31	0.2	23	0.1	25	0.1
Client not stated (b)	2,826	12.4	2,572	13.3	1,420	7.7	1,474	8.2	1,873	10.2
Unknown (c)	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	22,762	100.0	19,329	100.0	18,522	100	17,930	100	18,435	100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes Chinese and Any other ethnic group

(b) Client has declined to state their origin

(c) The ethnic origin has not been recorded

Assessments by source of referral

Table 7.5 shows the number of assessments by each of the referral source groups by main problematic substance category (alcohol or drugs). Self-referrals accounted for 43.4% of the referrals (48.4% of all alcohol referrals and 38.1% of all drug referrals) and the Criminal Justice System accounted for 17.9% of referrals (8.5% of all alcohol referrals and 28.2% of all drug referrals).

Table 7.5: Assessments by source of referral in 2018-19 by main problematic substance

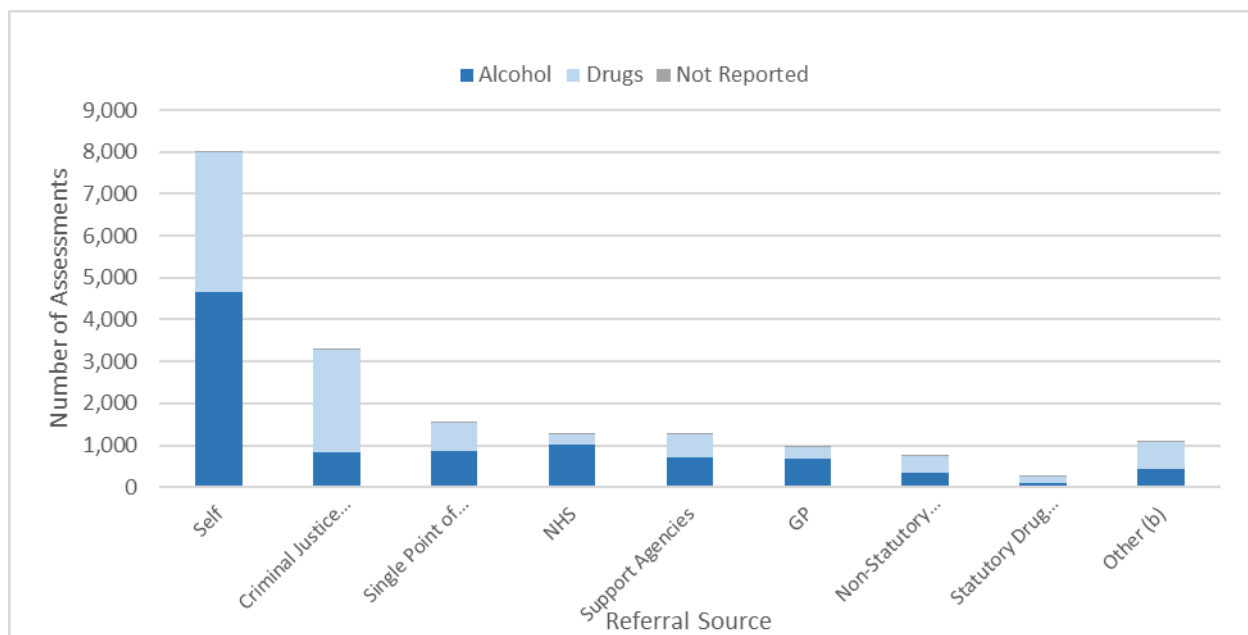
Referral Source (a)	Alcohol	Drugs	Not Reported	Total
Self	4,661	3,331	3	7,995
Criminal Justice System	818	2,463	11	3,292
Single Point of Engagement	854	685	17	1,556
NHS	1,014	258	5	1,277
Support Agencies	714	540	7	1,261
GP	691	278	1	970
Non-Statutory Drug Service	348	405	5	758
Statutory Drug Service	101	138	1	240
Other (b)	432	649	5	1,086
Total	9,633	8,747	55	18,435

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) See [Annex B](#) for breakdown of referral sources

(b) See [Annex B](#) for definition of other sources. This includes 84 assessments where the referral source is unknown.

Chart 7.5: Assessments by source of referral in 2018-19 by main problematic substance



Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

Assessments by main problematic substance

Table 7.6a-b shows the breakdown of main problematic substances in more details, Heroin is the most frequently reported drug accounting for 3,086 (16.7%) of all assessments, followed by Cannabis with 1,911 (10.4%).

The list of drugs included under the groups “Other Opiates”, “Other Drugs” and “Other Stimulant” are shown in [Annex C](#).

The age and gender breakdown of clients assessed to the database by each of the main problematic substance groups are shown in Table 7.7a to 7.7f.

Males account for 66.9% of all assessments and 66.9% of all assessments where the main problematic substance is known. Patterns vary according to substance, with males accounting for 63.1% of assessments with alcohol as the main problematic substance, 71.1% for drugs, 83.4% for Cocaine, and as high as 100% for Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs.

The median age of clients assessed in 2018-19 was 24 for Cannabis, 29 for Cocaine, and 37 for Heroin.

Table 7.6a: Assessments in 2018-19 by main problematic substance

Main problematic substance	Male	Female	Number	Total	
				Per Cent (a)	
Alcohol	6,077	3,556	9,633		52.3
Heroin	2,180	906	3,086		16.7
Cannabis (b)	1,323	588	1,911		10.4
Cocaine	941	187	1,128		6.1
Methadone (c)	385	168	553		3.0
Amphetamines	295	178	473		2.6
Crack Cocaine	229	88	317		1.7
Benzodiazepines	127	44	171		0.9
Ecstasy	37	26	63		0.3
Hallucinogens	39	11	50		0.3
Solvents	20	8	28		0.2
Performance and Image Enhancing	6	0	6		0.0
Other Opiates (d)	438	222	660		3.6
Other Drugs (e)	199	98	297		1.6
Other Stimulants (f)	3	1	4		0.0
Not reported (g)	37	18	55		0.3
All assessments	12,336	6,099	18,435		100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Percentage of all assessments.

(b) There may be instances where cannabinoids may have been reported as cannabis.

(c) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone.

(d) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Opiates*

(e) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Drugs*

(f) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Stimulants*

(g) Includes poly drug. No problematic substance reported to the database at time of assessment.

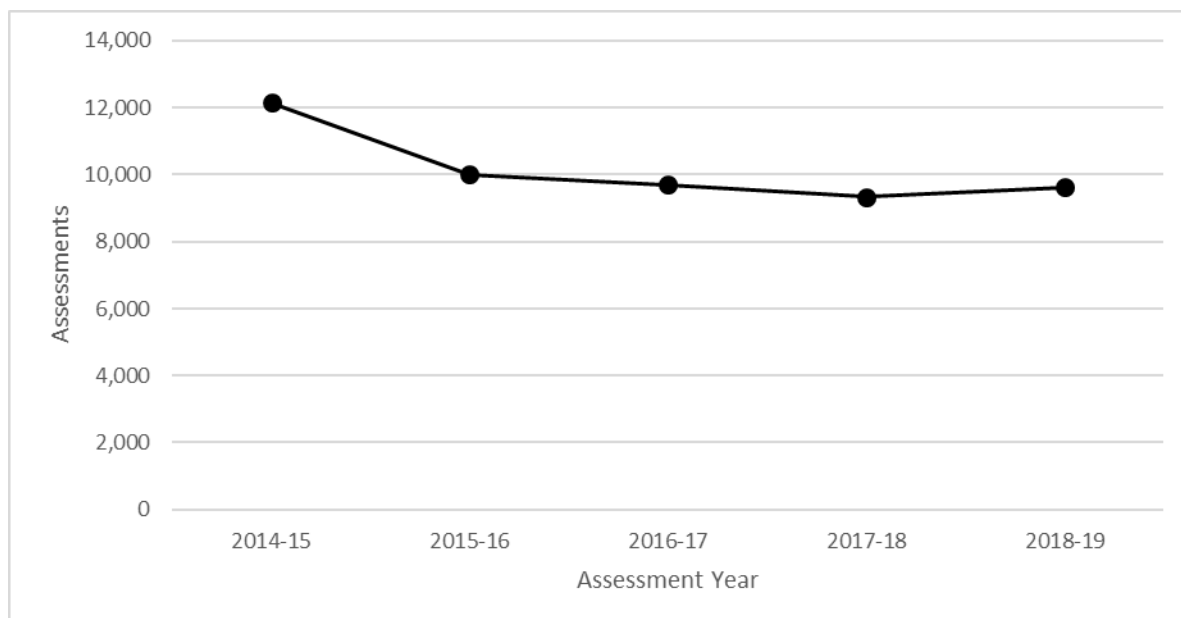
Table 7.6b: Assessments by main problematic substance time series

Assessments	Assessment Year				
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Alcohol	12,151	10,016	9,707	9,339	9,633
Drugs	10,054	8,497	8,683	8,537	8,747
- Heroin	4,526	3,521	3,433	3,120	3,086
- Cannabis (a)	2,079	2,058	2,028	1,961	1,911
- Cocaine	772	551	692	928	1,128
- Methadone (b)	418	388	521	577	553
- Amphetamines	957	722	534	519	473
- Crack Cocaine	112	85	161	216	317
- Benzodiazepines	196	169	186	188	171
- Ecstasy	6	14	23	34	63
- Hallucinogens	24	20	21	43	50
- Solvents	21	24	25	18	28
- Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs	7	7	10	6	6
- Other Opiates (c)	635	580	635	588	660
- Other Drugs (d)	271	350	412	333	297
- Other Stimulants (e)	30	8	2	6	4
Not Reported	557	816	132	54	55
All Assessments	22,762	19,329	18,522	17,930	18,435

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

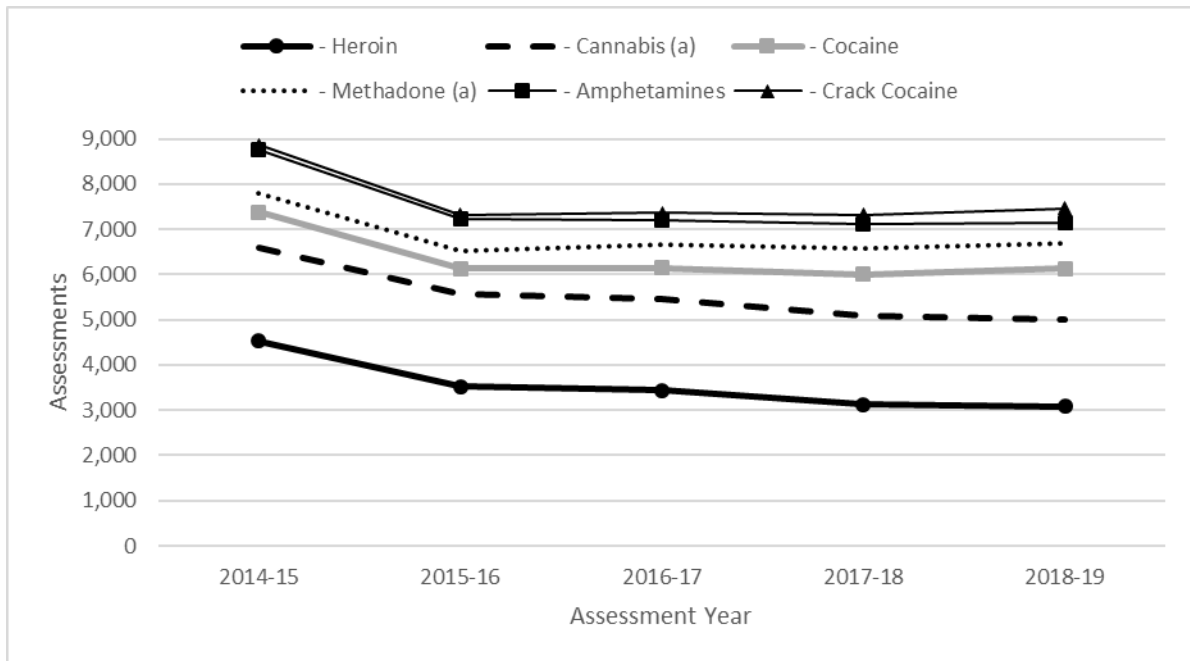
- (a) There may be instances where cannabinoids may have been reported as cannabis.
- (b) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone.
- (c) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Opiates*
- (d) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Drugs*
- (e) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Stimulants*

Chart 7.6a: Assessments by main problematic substance: Alcohol



Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

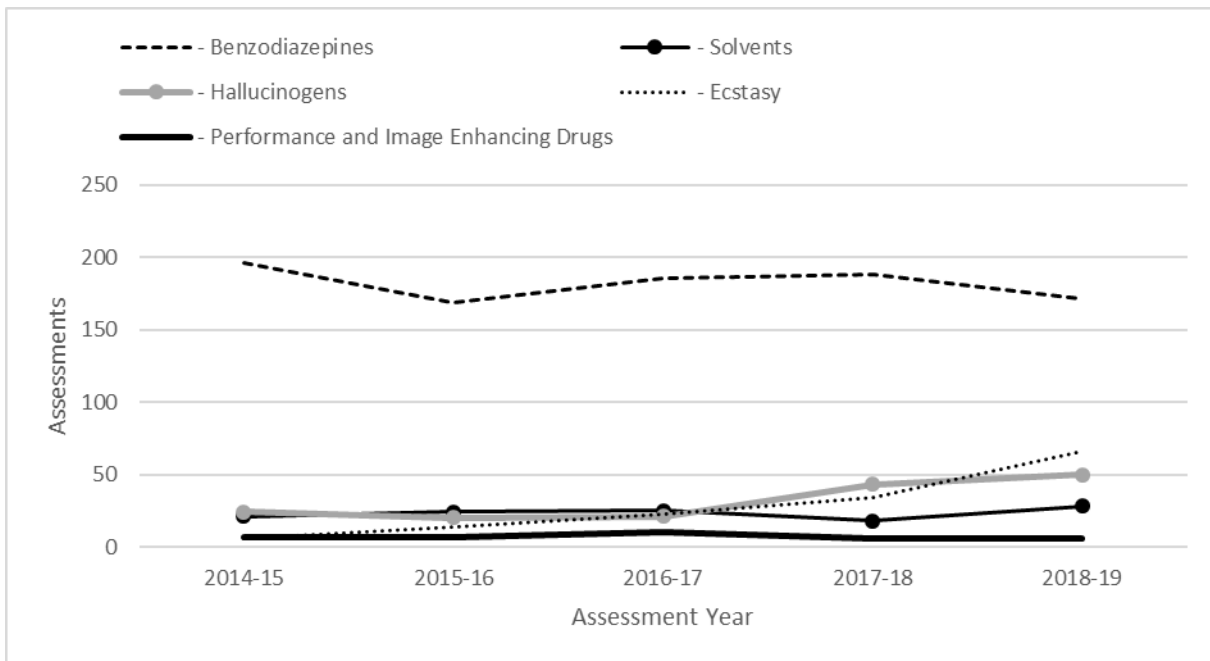
Chart 7.6b: Assessments by main problematic substance: Most frequently report drugs



Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone.

Chart 7.6c: Assessments by main problematic substance: Remaining Drugs



Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

The drugs selected in tables 7.7a to 7.7f have been selected as these drugs are the most prevalent drugs reported to the WNDSM.

Table 7.7a: Assessments in 2018-19 by age and gender - main problematic substance: Heroin

Assessment age band	Male		Female		Total	
	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)
10-14	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	6	7	6	7	12	7
20-29	300	141	192	97	492	120
30-39	914	494	442	237	1,356	365
40-49	741	403	217	113	958	255
50-59	198	94	46	21	244	56
60+	21	5	3	1	24	3
All ages	2,180	141	906	57	3,086	98
Median age (b)	38	.	35	.	37	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(b) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable.

Table 7.7b: Assessments in 2018-19 by age and gender – main problematic substance: Cannabis (a)

Assessment age band	Male		Female		Total	
	Assessments	Assessment Rate (b)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (b)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (b)
10-14	102	113	59	68	161	91
15-19	421	466	205	244	626	359
20-29	448	210	174	88	622	151
30-39	208	112	94	50	302	81
40-49	101	55	32	17	133	35
50-59	38	18	17	8	55	13
60+	5	1	7	2	12	1
All ages	1,323	86	588	37	1,911	61
Median age (c)	25	.	24	.	24	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Cannabinoids may have been reported under cannabis.

(b) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(c) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable.

Table 7.7c: Assessments in 2018-19 by age and gender – main problematic substance: Cocaine

Assessment age band	Male		Female		Total	
	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)
10-14	0	0	2	2	2	1
15-19	56	62	16	19	72	41
20-29	450	211	79	40	529	129
30-39	325	176	75	40	400	108
40-49	96	52	14	7	110	29
50-59	13	6	1	0	14	3
60+	1	0	0	0	1	0
All ages	941	61	187	12	1,128	36
Median age (b)	29	.	29	.	29	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(b) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable.

Table 7.7d: Assessments in 2018-19 by age and gender – main problematic substance: Methadone (a)

Assessment age band	Male		Female		Total	
	Assessments	Assessment Rate (b)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (b)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (b)
10-14	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-29	50	23	25	13	75	18
30-39	166	90	85	45	251	68
40-49	131	71	45	23	176	47
50-59	31	15	13	6	44	10
60+	7	2	0	0	7	1
All ages	385	25	168	11	553	18
Median age (c)	38	.	37	.	38	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone.

(b) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(c) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable.

Table 7.7e: Assessments in 2018-19 by age and gender – main problematic substance: Amphetamines

Assessment age band	Male		Female		Total	
	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)
10-14	0	0	1	1	1	1
15-19	11	12	6	7	17	10
20-29	55	26	30	15	85	21
30-39	122	66	88	47	210	56
40-49	84	46	38	20	122	32
50-59	21	10	13	6	34	8
60+	2	1	2	0	4	0
All ages	295	19	178	11	473	15
Median age (b)	36	.	36	.	36	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(b) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable.

Table 7.7f: Assessments in 2018-19 by age and gender – main problematic substance: Crack

Assessment age band	Male		Female		Total	
	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)	Assessments	Assessment Rate (a)
10-14	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	5	6	4	5	9	5
20-29	53	25	24	12	77	19
30-39	98	53	44	24	142	38
40-49	57	31	11	6	68	18
50-59	14	7	5	2	19	4
60+	2	1	0	0	2	0
All ages	229	15	88	6	317	10
Median age (b)	35	.	33	.	34	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2018 mid-year estimate

(b) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable.

Table 7.8 shows the number of assessments where the client has reported that they are currently receiving or have been assessed as needing care from Mental Health Services. The percentage of clients reporting that they are currently receiving or have been assessed as needing care from Mental Health Services has been increasing over the last 5 years from 39.6% in 2014-15 to 45.9% in 2018-19.

Table 7.8: Assessments by co-occurring mental health issue time series

Area Planning Board	Assessment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)
North Wales	1,261	23.9	825	18.4	664	14.6	712	18.3	662	18.6
Powys	110	17.5	305	39.1	466	91.4	495	92.4	604	92.4
Hywel Dda	1,338	55.5	1,570	72.1	1,783	80.6	1,843	80.7	2,039	82.4
Western Bay (b)	1,040	49.3	777	36.0	752	35.5	677	30.8	705	31.0
Cardiff & Vale	1,038	32.2	780	24.8	746	32.3	651	27.1	866	31.2
Cwm Taf	882	27.9	732	36.5	805	35.4	743	35.2	828	37.9
Gwent	2,873	65.9	2,299	65.4	2,109	60.7	2,171	63.5	2,104	62.0
Outside Wales	457	46.3	410	51.7	563	56.0	513	55.0	613	63.9
Unknown	8	3.1	8	3.2	12	16.0	17	11.2	42	26.3
Total	9,007	39.6	7,706	39.9	7,900	42.7	7,822	43.6	8,463	45.9

Source: WNDISM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Percentage of all assessments reported by Area Planning Board

(b) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

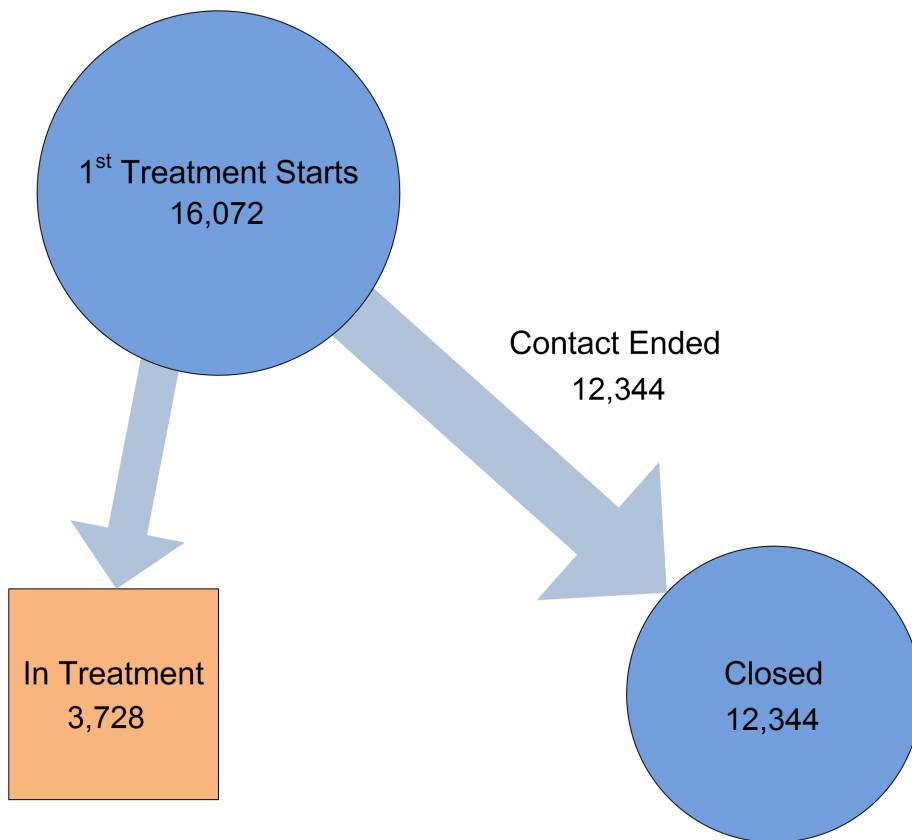
8 Treatments

Figure 8.1 shows the status of those clients who started treatment in 2018-19.

Of the 16,072 clients who started treatment, 12,344 (76.8%) had already been closed by the 27th August 2019 freeze date.

Note that the numbers in figure 8.1 only relate to clients who started treatment in 2018-19, as compared to figures 6.1 and 7.1, which are based on referrals and assessments in 2018-19 respectively, and therefore the figures of 16,072 (for treatment starts) and 12,344 (for closed cases) below are not comparable with the treatment start and closed cases figures shown in the previous diagrams. It should also be noted that whereas these figures are based on the date of first treatment only, [table 8.5](#) goes on to report on any treatments, regardless as to whether they are the first treatment or not.

Figure 8.1: Current status along with treatment pathway for those treated in 2018-19 (as at 27th August 2019 freeze date)



Clients commencing treatment by Age, Gender and Ethnic Origin

Table 8.1: Profile of clients commencing treatment – All (a)

Gender	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	12,329	67.4	11,633	67.5	11,161	67.1	10,442	66.1	10,751	66.9
Female	5,954	32.6	5,634	32.7	5,465	32.9	5,349	33.9	5,321	33.1
Total	18,283	100	17,267	100	16,626	100	15,791	100	16,072	100
Age										
10-14	250	1.4	307	1.8	335	2.0	252	1.6	252	1.6
15-19	1,303	7.1	1,181	6.8	962	5.8	956	6.1	1,013	6.3
20-29	3,819	20.9	3,390	19.6	3,330	20.0	2,984	18.9	3,018	18.8
30-39	5,519	30.2	5,045	29.2	4,880	29.4	4,607	29.2	4,771	29.7
40-49	4,311	23.6	4,197	24.3	4,077	24.5	3,894	24.7	3,889	24.2
50-59	2,160	11.8	2,206	12.8	2,202	13.2	2,247	14.2	2,237	13.9
60+	918	5.0	930	5.4	834	5.0	849	5.4	890	5.5
All ages (b)	18,283	100	17,267	100	16,626	100	15,791	100	16,072	100
Median age (c)	36	.	37	.	37	.	37	.	38	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes treatments where the main problematic substance is not reported.

(b) Includes 3 treatments in 2014-15, 11 treatments in 2015-16, 6 treatments in 2016-17, 2 treatments in 2017-18 and 2 treatments in 2018-19 where the age is less than 10.

(c) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 8.2: Treatment activity by Ethnic Origin

	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
White	15,558	85.1	14,873	86.1	15,128	91.0	14,540	92.1	14,741	91.7
White and Black Caribbean	30	0.2	35	0.2	24	0.1	34	0.2	31	0.2
White and Black African	15	0.1	8	0.0	9	0.1	13	0.1	7	0.0
White and Asian	12	0.1	12	0.1	18	0.1	21	0.1	11	0.1
Any Other Mixed	57	0.3	59	0.3	58	0.3	43	0.3	52	0.3
Indian	13	0.1	10	0.1	21	0.1	12	0.1	13	0.1
Pakistani	32	0.2	26	0.2	29	0.2	17	0.1	18	0.1
Bangladeshi	23	0.1	11	0.1	16	0.1	17	0.1	17	0.1
Any Other Asian	39	0.2	37	0.2	43	0.3	47	0.3	40	0.2
Caribbean	22	0.1	24	0.1	22	0.1	14	0.1	11	0.1
African	15	0.1	30	0.2	18	0.1	19	0.1	19	0.1
Any Other Black	51	0.3	40	0.2	45	0.3	38	0.2	28	0.2
Any other ethnic group (a)	26	0.1	26	0.2	24	0.1	16	0.1	17	0.1
Client not stated (b)	2,389	13.1	2,076	12.0	1,171	7.0	960	6.1	1,067	6.6
Not Reported (c)	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	18,283	100	17,267	100	16,626	100	15,791	100	16,072	100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes Chinese and Any other ethnic group

(b) Client has declined to state their ethnic origin

(c) The ethnic origin has not been recorded.

Clients commencing treatment by Age, Gender and main problematic substance

Table 8.3: Treatments commenced by individual substance

Substance	Gender	Treatment Year									
		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
		Number	Median Age (a)	Number	Median Age (a)	Number	Median Age (a)	Number	Median Age (a)	Number	Median Age (a)
Alcohol	Male	5,421	42	5,225	42	5,161	42	4,997	43	5,122	42
	Female	3,225	42	3,070	42	3,074	42	2,985	43	3,039	42
	<i>Total</i>	8,646	42	8,295	42	8,235	42	7,982	43	8,161	42
Heroin	Male	2,805	36	2,259	37	2,221	37	1,983	38	1,982	38
	Female	1,056	32	821	33	876	34	825	35	827	35
	<i>Total</i>	3,861	35	3,080	36	3,097	36	2,808	37	2,809	37
Cannabis (b)	Male	1,270	23	1,320	23	1,347	23	1,186	24	1,184	24
	Female	399	22	513	22	518	23	536	24	501	23
	<i>Total</i>	1,669	23	1,833	23	1,865	23	1,722	24	1,685	24
Cocaine	Male	486	28	394	29	517	29	632	29	809	29
	Female	55	29	72	28	100	28	143	30	159	29
	<i>Total</i>	541	28	466	29	617	29	775	29	968	29
Methadone (c)	Male	217	38	232	38	332	38	367	39	364	38
	Female	139	34	122	33	153	36	190	35	163	37
	<i>Total</i>	356	36	354	36	485	37	557	38	527	38
Amphetamines	Male	523	31	432	34	304	35	295	36	271	36
	Female	238	30	203	32	171	33	165	34	155	36
	<i>Total</i>	761	30	635	33	475	34	460	35	426	36
Crack Cocaine	Male	55	36	57	35	102	34	130	35	184	35
	Female	29	36	17	32	42	35	53	32	72	33
	<i>Total</i>	84	36	74	34	144	34	183	34	256	35
All Other Substances	Male	661	33	728	33	806	33	728	33	759	33
	Female	316	32	307	32	362	33	346	34	361	34
	<i>Total</i>	977	32	1,035	32	1,168	33	1,074	33	1,120	33
Not Reported	Male	891	32	986	32	371	32	124	33	76	33
	Female	497	30	509	30	169	31	106	32	44	32
	<i>Total</i>	1,388	31	1,495	31	540	32	230	32	120	33
<i>Total</i>		18,283	37	17,267	37	16,626	38	15,791	38	16,072	38

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.
- (b) There may be instances where cannabinoids may have been reported as cannabis.
- (c) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone.

Table 8.4: Treatments by main problematic substance time series

Treatments	Treatment Year				
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Alcohol	8,646	8,295	8,235	7,982	8,161
Drugs	8,249	7,477	7,851	7,579	7,791
- Heroin	3,861	3,080	3,097	2,808	2,809
- Cannabis (a)	1,669	1,833	1,865	1,722	1,685
- Cocaine	541	466	617	775	968
- Methadone (b)	356	354	485	557	527
- Amphetamines	761	635	475	460	426
- Crack Cocaine	84	74	144	183	256
- Benzodiazepines	159	154	166	166	150
- Ecstasy	5	13	22	29	51
- Hallucinogens	18	17	18	41	45
- Solvents	16	19	25	15	24
- Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs	6	7	10	6	6
- Other Opiates (c)	538	508	563	520	573
- Other Drugs (d)	207	310	362	293	268
- Other Stimulants (e)	28	7	2	4	3
Not Reported	1,388	1,495	540	230	120
All Treatment	18,283	17,267	16,626	15,791	16,072

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) There may be instances where cannabinoids may have been reported as cannabis.
- (b) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone.
- (c) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Opiates*
- (d) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Drugs*
- (e) See [Annex C](#) for a list of drugs included under *Other Stimulants*

Table 8.5a: Profile of clients commencing treatment by main problematic substance: Alcohol

Gender	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Males	5,421	62.7	5,225	63.0	5,161	62.7	4,997	62.6	5,122	62.8
Females	3,225	37.3	3,070	37.0	3,074	37.3	2,985	37.4	3,039	37.2
Total	8,646	100	8,295	100	8,235	100	7,982	100	8,161	100
Age										
10-14	68	0.8	52	0.6	61	0.7	43	0.5	63	0.8
15-19	307	3.6	233	2.8	174	2.1	184	2.3	216	2.6
20-29	1,121	13.0	1,090	13.1	1,173	14.2	1,003	12.6	1,069	13.1
30-39	2,114	24.5	2,024	24.4	2,017	24.5	1,949	24.4	2,014	24.7
40-49	2,509	29.0	2,400	28.9	2,313	28.1	2,229	27.9	2,196	26.9
50-59	1,720	19.9	1,690	20.4	1,752	21.3	1,789	22.4	1,788	21.9
60+	807	9.3	802	9.7	742	9.0	784	9.8	813	10.0
All Ages (a)	8,646	100	8,295	100	8,235	100	7,982	100	8,161	100
Median age (b)	42	.	42	.	42	.	43	.	42	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes 4 treatments in 2015-16, 3 treatments in 2016-17, 1 treatment in 2017-18 and 2 treatments in 2018-19 where the age is less than 10.

(b) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 8.5b: Profile of clients commencing treatment by main problematic substance: Drugs

Gender	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Males	6,017	72.9	5,422	72.5	5,629	71.7	5,321	70.2	5,553	71.3
Females	2,232	27.1	2,055	27.5	2,222	28.3	2,258	29.8	2,238	28.7
Total	8,249	100	7,477	100	7,851	100	7,579	100	7,791	100
Age										
10-14	174	2.1	249	3.3	271	3.5	208	2.7	189	2.4
15-19	953	11.6	884	11.8	778	9.9	759	10.0	787	10.1
20-29	2,345	28.4	1,939	25.9	2,053	26.1	1,951	25.7	1,926	24.7
30-39	2,920	35.4	2,565	34.3	2,719	34.6	2,596	34.3	2,725	35.0
40-49	1,501	18.2	1,462	19.6	1,609	20.5	1,601	21.1	1,666	21.4
50-59	303	3.7	323	4.3	361	4.6	414	5.5	430	5.5
60+	53	0.6	53	0.7	57	0.7	49	0.6	68	0.9
All Ages (a)	8,249	100	7,477	100	7,851	100	7,579	100	7,791	100
Median age (b)	31	.	31	.	32	.	32	.	33	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes 2 treatments in 2015-16, 3 treatments in 2016-17 and 1 treatment in 2017-18 where the age is less than 10.

(b) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

The drugs reported in Tables 8.5c-8.5h are based on the most prevalent drugs reported to the WNDSM.

Table 8.5c: Profile of clients commencing treatment by main problematic substance: Heroin

Gender	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	2,805	72.6	2,259	73.3	2,221	71.7	1,983	70.6	1,982	70.6
Female	1,056	27.4	821	26.7	876	28.3	825	29.4	827	29.4
Total	3,861	100	3,080	100	3,097	100	2,808	100	2,809	100
Age										
10-14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-19	21	0.5	15	0.5	17	0.5	18	0.6	12	0.4
20-29	922	23.9	649	21.1	614	19.8	509	18.1	458	16.3
30-39	1,826	47.3	1,380	44.8	1,383	44.7	1,218	43.4	1,234	43.9
40-49	911	23.6	843	27.4	882	28.5	842	30.0	868	30.9
50-59	162	4.2	174	5.6	178	5.7	210	7.5	217	7.7
60+	19	0.5	19	0.6	23	0.7	11	0.4	20	0.7
All Ages	3,861	100	3,080	100	3,097	100	2,808	100	2,809	100
Median age (a)	35	.	36	.	36	.	37	.	37	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 8.5d: Profile of clients commencing treatment by main problematic substance: Cannabis (a)

Gender	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	1,270	76.1	1,320	72	1,347	72.2	1,186	68.9	1,184	70.3
Female	399	23.9	513	28	518	27.8	536	31.1	501	29.7
Total	1,669	100	1,833	100	1,865	100	1,722	100	1,685	100
Age										
10-14	148	8.9	195	10.6	218	11.7	161	9.3	144	8.5
15-19	673	40.3	691	37.7	617	33.1	555	32.2	578	34.3
20-29	527	31.6	540	29.5	594	31.8	570	33.1	542	32.2
30-39	187	11.2	250	13.6	268	14.4	257	14.9	251	14.9
40-49	104	6.2	120	6.5	136	7.3	130	7.5	111	6.6
50-59	28	1.7	29	1.6	24	1.3	40	2.3	48	2.8
60+	2	0.1	8	0.4	7	0.4	8	0.5	11	0.7
All Ages (b)	1,669	100	1,833	100	1,865	100	1,722	100	1,685	100
Median age (c)	23	.	23	.	23	.	24	.	24	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) There may be instances where cannabinoids may have been reported as cannabis.

(b) Includes 1 treatment in 2016-17 and 1 treatment in 2017-18 where the age is less than 10.

(c) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 8.5e: Profile of clients commencing treatment by main problematic substance: Cocaine

Gender	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	486	89.8	394	84.5	517	83.8	632	81.5	809	83.6
Female	55	10.2	72	15.5	100	16.2	143	18.5	159	16.4
Total	541	100	466	100	617	100	775	100	968	100
Age										
10-14	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.3	2	0.2
15-19	45	8.3	29	6.2	35	5.7	66	8.5	63	6.5
20-29	290	53.6	251	53.9	327	53.0	371	47.9	446	46.1
30-39	135	25.0	138	29.6	187	30.3	250	32.3	348	36.0
40-49	60	11.1	40	8.6	55	8.9	74	9.5	97	10.0
50-59	9	1.7	5	1.1	11	1.8	11	1.4	11	1.1
60+	1	0.2	2	0.4	1	0.2	1	0.1	1	0.1
All Ages	541	100	466	100	617	100	775	100	968	100
Median age (a)	28	.	29	.	29	.	29	.	29	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 8.5f: Profile of clients commencing treatment by main problematic substance: Methadone (a)

Gender	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	217	61.0	232	65.5	332	68.5	367	65.9	364	69.1
Female	139	39.0	122	34.5	153	31.5	190	34.1	163	30.9
Total	356	100	354	100	485	100	557	100	527	100
Age										
10-14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-19	2	0.6	2	0.6	0	0.0	2	0.4	0	0.0
20-29	70	19.7	68	19.2	72	14.8	85	15.3	71	13.5
30-39	159	44.7	164	46.3	229	47.2	237	42.5	239	45.4
40-49	97	27.2	100	28.2	153	31.5	182	32.7	171	32.4
50-59	27	7.6	15	4.2	29	6.0	44	7.9	39	7.4
60+	1	0.3	5	1.4	2	0.4	7	1.3	7	1.3
All Ages	356	100	354	100	485	100	557	100	527	100
Median age (b)	36	.	36	.	37	.	38	.	38	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone.

(b) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 8.5g: Profile of clients commencing treatment by main problematic substance: Amphetamines

Gender	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	523	68.7	432	68	304	64.1	295	64.1	271	63.6
Female	238	31.3	203	32	170	35.9	165	35.9	155	36.4
Total	761	100	635	100	474	100	460	100	426	100
Age										
10-14	5	0.7	2	0.3	1	0.2	2	0.4	1	0.2
15-19	108	14.2	40	6.3	12	2.5	17	3.7	18	4.2
20-29	251	33.0	182	28.7	135	28.5	105	22.8	74	17.4
30-39	240	31.5	237	37.3	195	41.1	177	38.5	188	44.1
40-49	124	16.3	136	21.4	96	20.3	122	26.5	114	26.8
50-59	26	3.4	36	5.7	35	7.4	35	7.6	27	6.3
60+	7	0.9	2	0.3	0	0.0	2	0.4	4	0.9
All Ages	761	100	635	100	474	100	460	100	426	100
Median age (a)	30	.	33	.	34	.	35	.	36	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 8.5h: Profile of clients commencing treatment by main problematic substance: Crack

Gender	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	55	65.5	57	77.0	102	70.8	130	71.0	184	71.9
Female	29	34.5	17	23.0	42	29.2	53	29.0	72	28.1
Total	84	100	74	100	144	100	183	100	256	100
Age										
10-14	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-19	1	1.2	2	2.7	1	0.7	3	1.6	7	2.7
20-29	20	23.8	21	28.4	37	25.7	58	31.7	59	23.0
30-39	37	44.0	28	37.8	69	47.9	75	41.0	119	46.5
40-49	19	22.6	20	27.0	31	21.5	36	19.7	54	21.1
50-59	6	7.1	3	4.1	6	4.2	8	4.4	15	5.9
60+	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.6	2	0.8
All Ages	84	100	74	100	144	100	183	100	256	100
Median age (a)	36	.	34	.	34	.	34	.	35	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it.

. Data item not applicable

Table 8.6 reports on individual treatment modalities which started in 2018-19, and these figures are higher than those shown in previous tables in [Section 7](#), with the previous figures being based on the first treatment modality and not subsequent treatment modalities, which may also have started in 2018-19. The treatment pathway usually involves the client receiving a combination of both structured and less-structured interventions. In fact, only 39.8% of clients started one treatment modality within the year, with 17.8% starting two treatment modalities and 42.4% starting three or more modalities.

Table 8.6: Individual treatment modalities by main problematic substance in 2018-19

Treatment Modality (a)	Main Problematic Substance			
	Alcohol	Drugs	Not Reported	Total
Structured Interventions				
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Methadone) and related Psychosocial Interventions	17	1,334	12	1,363
Inpatient Treatments	638	234	13	885
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Buprenorphine) and related Psychosocial Interventions	24	641	7	672
Structured Day Programmes	125	104	14	243
Community Detoxification	166	56	9	231
Residential Rehabilitation	66	29	2	97
Less-structured Interventions				
Brief Interventions	6,866	5,950	78	12,894
Psychosocial Interventions	5,194	4,611	101	9,906
Harm Reduction	4,686	4,221	69	8,976
Health and Recovery Support Interventions	978	963	6	1,947
Total	18,760	18,143	311	37,214

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) A Client may be receiving more than one treatment. See [Annex C](#) for more information on treatment modalities.

9 Waiting Times

Table 9.1a shows the times from referral to treatment for clients by treatment year. The figures only relate to those who have already started treatment, and thus exclude those still waiting to commence treatment. In 2018-19, 91.3% of treatments started within the target 20 working days of referral. As the database is dynamic, this figure is not comparable with figures published in earlier reports. See paragraph 3.5 of the [data quality](#) section for more information.

Table 9.1a: Time between referral and treatment: all main problematic substances (a)

Waiting times (b)	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Within 20 working days	15,107	83.7	14,389	83.5	14,380	86.7	14,293	90.7	14,663	91.3
4-12 weeks	2,133	11.8	2,299	13.3	1,803	10.9	1,246	7.9	1,212	7.5
3-6 months	565	3.1	456	2.6	360	2.2	185	1.2	157	1.0
6-9 months	158	0.9	48	0.3	20	0.1	14	0.1	15	0.1
9-12 months	49	0.3	16	0.1	11	0.1	4	0.0	4	0.0
12-18 months	27	0.1	23	0.1	10	0.1	10	0.1	5	0.0
18-24 months	7	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.0
> 24 months	0	0.0	5	0.0	3	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
Total (c)	18,046	100	17,237	100	16,588	100	15,754	100	16,060	100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes blank and unknown substances

(b) Bank holidays are included within the time frames

(c) Excludes invalid waiting times

Table 9.1b: Percentage within 20 working days (a) for time between referral and treatment: main problematic substance (b)

Main problematic substance	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number within 20 working days	Per Cent within 20 working days	Number within 20 working days	Per Cent within 20 working days	Number within 20 working days	Per Cent within 20 working days	Number within 20 working days	Per Cent within 20 working days	Number within 20 working days	Per Cent within 20 working days
Alcohol	7,064	82.1	6,779	81.9	6,937	84.5	7,186	90.2	7,398	90.7
Drugs	7,355	89.4	6,502	87.0	7,002	89.3	6,938	91.7	7,181	92.2
Heroin	3,473	90.1	2,701	88.1	2,819	91.1	2,600	92.8	2,601	92.6
Cannabis (c)	1,488	89.4	1,556	84.9	1,617	86.9	1,526	88.7	1,504	89.3
Cocaine	487	90.2	417	89.5	555	90.1	719	92.9	914	94.5
Amphetamines	671	88.8	547	86.3	407	86.2	420	98.6	399	93.7
Methadone (d)	306	86.4	316	89.5	459	94.6	522	93.9	496	94.1
Benzodiazepines	145	91.2	141	91.6	149	89.8	148	89.2	135	90.0
All other drugs (e)	784	87.5	823	86.4	996	87.0	1,003	92.1	1,131	92.3
Not Reported	688	56.5	1,108	74.4	441	82.7	169	78.2	84	73.9

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Bank holidays are included within the time frames.

(b) Includes records where the main problematic substance is not reported

(c) There may be instances where cannabinoids may have been reported as cannabis.

(d) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone

(e) See [Annex C](#) for list of drugs included under *Other Drugs*

10 Treatment Outcome Profile (TOPs)

Guide to TOPs and the analysis used in Tables 10.1a-10.1i

Treatment Outcome Profile (TOPs) were introduced for clients referred from the 1st April 2009, and therefore the TOPs analysis tables relate to referrals on or after this date only. These analyses only refer to those clients who have started their treatment and therefore might not be representative of all clients.

The TOP provides a systematic method of measuring both qualitative and quantitative progress at an individual level to gauge the impact of substance misuse treatment. It measures an individual's health and well-being against four key domains that have been established internationally as the areas most affected by substance misusing behaviour,

- Drug and Alcohol Use;
- Physical and Psychological Health;
- Offending and Criminal Involvement; and,
- Social Functioning.

An individual is assessed against these four domains at the beginning of treatment (joint assessments by the client and the key worker) as part of routine care planning, every 3 months as part of the review to measure progress and a final exit TOP in undertaken on completion of treatment.

Treatment service providers indicate on the TOP form as to whether that TOP is a starting, review or exit TOP and comparisons are made between the various measure recorded on the start TOP and exit TOP. However, within the WNDSM, there are instances of referral which have had more than one associated start TOP or more than one exit TOP. For the purposes of analysis, where a referral has had more than one recorded starting TOP, the one with the earliest interview data has been selected for the purposes of comparison, and where a referral has had more than one exit TOP recorded, the one with the latest interview date has been selected.

With regards to the changes in frequency of substances (shown in tables 10.1a-10.1f), these are based on the number of days out of the previous 28 that a client had used the substance in question. For example, in the case of tables 10.1a and 10.1b, it is the frequency of alcohol consumption that recorded, split by those whose main problematic substance group is alcohol (Table 10.1a), and for those whose main problematic substance group is drugs (Table 10.1b). For the former group, clients consumed alcohol for an average of 20.9 days out of the previous 28 at the time of the start TOP, and an average of 11.3 days out of the previous 28 days by the time of the exit TOP.

Note that for a particular referral, a comparison is only made between starting and exit TOP where the client's starting TOP frequency is greater than zero **and** their exit TOP is greater or equal to zero.

The "Percentage Change" shown (-45.9% in Table 10.1a) represents the percentage change in the average frequency of days of use between starting and exit TOPs. The "Percentage Not Using" figure (34.4% in Table 10.1a) is the percentage of referrals where the frequency of use was zero at the time of the exit TOP, having been more than zero at the time of the starting TOP.

For the measurement of changes in physical health, psychological health and quality of life (Table 10.1g-10.1i), a system of scoring is used based on a 0 to 20 scale, 0 being worst and 20 best.

For both frequency of use and score measures, referrals in which either the start or the exit TOP values are blank have been excluded from these analyses.

Results

Table 10.1a shows the average change in frequency in the use of alcohol between start and exit TOPs, for those with a main problematic substance of alcohol. For those clients with alcohol as their main problematic substance, the average number of days of alcohol use fell from 20.9 to 11.3 (-45.9%), and 34.4% had not used alcohol at all in the 28 days prior to the exit TOP.

Table 10.1a: Changes in Frequency of use of Alcohol (a) between start TOP and exit TOP: April 2009 to March 2019

		Number of comparisons	Frequency at starting TOP (days)	Frequency at exit TOP (days)	Percentage Change	Percentage not using
Main Problematic Substance	Substance	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
Alcohol						
Gender	Male	6,013	21.4	11.7	-45.3	33.5
	Female	3,579	20.2	10.5	-48.0	35.8
Age	16-19	262	13.4	7.2	-46.3	23.3
	20-29	1,292	17.9	11.3	-36.9	29.8
	30-49	5,431	21.4	11.4	-46.7	35.4
	50+	2,607	22.2	11.5	-48.2	35.6
	Total	9,592	20.9	11.3	-45.9	34.4

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) For those clients reporting alcohol use in the 28 days before the start TOP
- (b) Excludes invalid or blank gender
- (c) The average number of days a substance is used at start TOP. If a referral has multiple start TOPs then the earliest start TOP is used.
- (d) The average number of days a substance is used at exit TOP. If a referral has multiple exit TOPs then the latest exit TOP is used.
- (e) The relative change between the start TOP and the exit TOP.
- (f) No alcohol use recorded in the 28 days before the exit TOP.

Table 10.1b shows the average change in frequency in the use of alcohol between start and exit TOPs, for those with a main problematic substance of drugs. For those with drugs as their main problematic substance, the frequency of alcohol used fell from 14.2 to 8.0 (-44.1%), with 40.1% not having used alcohol at all in the 28 days prior to the exit TOP.

Table 10.1b: Changes in Frequency of use of Alcohol (a) between start TOP and exit TOP: April 2009 to March 2019

Main Problematic Substance	Substance	Number of comparisons (b)	Frequency at starting TOP (days) (c)	Frequency at exit TOP (days) (d)	Percentage Change (e)	Percentage not using (f)
Drugs						
Gender	Male	1,650	14.4	7.8	-45.6	39.7
	Female	587	13.9	8.3	-39.8	41.1
Age	16-19	281	8.5	4.5	-47.4	32.4
	20-29	651	12.1	7.2	-40.1	42.5
	30-49	1,141	16.3	8.9	-45.3	40.4
	50+	164	18.2	10.0	-44.8	40.9
	Total	2,237	14.2	8.0	-44.1	40.1

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) For those clients reporting alcohol use in the 28 days before the start TOP
 (b) Excludes invalid or blank gender
 (c) The average number of days a substance is used at start TOP. If a referral has multiple start TOPs then the earliest start TOP is used.
 (d) The average number of days a substance is used at exit TOP. If a referral has multiple exit TOPs then the latest exit TOP is used.
 (e) The relative change between the start TOP and the exit TOP.
 (f) No alcohol use recorded in the 28 days before the exit TOP.

Table 10.1c shows the average change in frequency in the use of Opiates between start and exit TOPs, for those with a main problematic substance of Heroin. The frequency of Opiate use fell from 21.8 to 6.9 (-68.4%), with 62.5% not having used Opiates at all in the 28 days prior to the exit TOP.

Table 10.1c: Changes in Frequency of use of Opiates (a) between start TOP and exit TOP: April 2009 to March 2019

Main Problematic Substance	Substance	Number of comparisons (b)	Frequency at starting TOP (days) (c)	Frequency at exit TOP (days) (d)	Percentage Change (e)	Percentage not using (f)
Heroin						
Gender	Male	1,194	21.8	6.5	-70.0	63.6
	Female	414	21.9	8.0	-63.5	59.4
Age	16-19	23	27.2	6.5	-76.0	69.6
	20-29	452	23.0	8.2	-64.5	57.1
	30-49	1,074	21.3	6.4	-70.1	64.6
	50+	59	20.1	7.2	-64.4	62.7
	Total	1,608	21.8	6.9	-68.4	62.5

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) For those clients reporting opiate use in the 28 days before the start TOP
 (b) Excludes invalid or blank gender
 (c) The average number of days a substance is used at start TOP. If a referral has multiple start TOPs then the earliest start TOP is used.
 (d) The average number of days a substance is used at exit TOP. If a referral has multiple exit TOPs then the latest exit TOP is used.
 (e) The relative change between the start TOP and the exit TOP.
 (f) No opiate use recorded in the 28 days before the exit TOP.

Table 10.1d shows the average change in frequency in the use of Cannabis between start and exit TOPs, for those with a main problematic substance of Cannabis. The frequency of Cannabis use fell from 22.8 to 12.8 (-43.9%), with 34.5% not having used Cannabis at all in the 28 days prior to the exit TOP.

Table 10.1d: Changes in Frequency of use of Cannabis (a) between start TOP and exit TOP: April 2009 to March 2019

Main Problematic Substance	Substance	Number of comparisons (b)	Frequency at starting TOP (days) (c)	Frequency at exit TOP (days) (d)	Percentage Change (e)	Percentage not using (f)
Cannabis (g)						
Gender	Male	775	22.5	13.0	-42.1	33.0
	Female	234	23.9	12.0	-49.7	39.9
Age	16-19	358	21.3	12.4	-41.8	29.9
	20-29	368	23.7	12.9	-45.6	38.0
	30-49	264	23.3	13.3	-42.9	34.1
	50+	19	26.1	10.6	-59.3	57.9
	Total	1,009	22.8	12.8	-43.9	34.5

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) For those clients reporting cannabis use in the 28 days before the start TOP
- (b) Excludes invalid or blank gender
- (c) The average number of days a substance is used at start TOP. If a referral has multiple start TOPs then the earliest start TOP is used.
- (d) The average number of days a substance is used at exit TOP. If a referral has multiple exit TOPs then the latest exit TOP is used.
- (e) The relative change between the start TOP and the exit TOP.
- (f) No cannabis use recorded in the 28 days before the exit TOP.
- (g) There may be instances where cannabinoids may have been reported as cannabis.

Table 10.1e shows the average change in frequency in the use of Amphetamines between start and exit TOPs, for those with a main problematic substance of Amphetamines. The average number of days of Amphetamines use fell from 17.0 to 7.3 (-57.1%), with 56.7% not having used Amphetamines at all in the 28 days prior to the exit TOP.

Table 10.1e: Changes in Frequency of use of Amphetamines (a) between start TOP and exit TOP: April 2009 to March 2019

Main Problematic Substance	Substance	Number of comparisons (b)	Frequency at starting TOP (days) (c)	Frequency at exit TOP (days) (d)	Percentage Change (e)	Percentage not using (f)
Amphetamines						
Gender	Male	467	17.3	7.9	-54.4	52.7
	Female	259	16.5	6.2	-62.4	64.1
Age	16-19	18	9.1	3.4	-62.2	72.2
	20-29	218	15.9	7.0	-55.6	56.4
	30-49	456	17.6	7.6	-56.8	55.3
	50+	34	20.4	6.6	-67.4	70.6
	Total	726	17.0	7.3	-57.1	56.7

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) For those clients reporting amphetamine use in the 28 days before the start TOP
- (b) Excludes invalid or blank gender
- (c) The average number of days a substance is used at start TOP. If a referral has multiple start TOPs then the earliest start TOP is used.
- (d) The average number of days a substance is used at exit TOP. If a referral has multiple exit TOPs then the latest exit TOP is used.
- (e) The relative change between the start TOP and the exit TOP.
- (f) No amphetamine use recorded in the 28 days before the exit TOP.

Table 10.1f shows the average change in frequency in the use of Cocaine between start and exit TOPs, for those with a main problematic substance of Cocaine. The average number of days of Cocaine use fell from 10.2 to 2.3 (-77.3%), with 71.3% not having used Cocaine at all in the 28 days prior to the exit TOP.

Table 10.1f: Changes in Frequency of use of Cocaine (a) between start TOP and exit TOP: April 2009 to March 2019

Main Problematic Substance	Substance	Number of comparisons (b)	Frequency at starting TOP (days) (c)	Frequency at exit TOP (days) (d)	Percentage Change (e)	Percentage not using (f)
Cocaine						
Gender	Male	186	10.2	2.5	-75.3	69.9
	Female	23	11.0	0.9	-91.7	82.6
Age	16-19	27	12.0	0.7	-94.1	85.2
	20-29	109	9.5	2.6	-73.1	68.8
	30-49	71	10.7	2.5	-76.2	70.4
	50+	2	11.5	4.5	-60.9	50.0
	Total	209	10.2	2.3	-77.3	71.3

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) For those clients reporting cocaine use in the 28 days before the start TOP

(b) Excludes invalid or blank gender

(c) The average number of days a substance is used at start TOP. If a referral has multiple start TOPs then the earliest start TOP is used.

(d) The average number of days a substance is used at exit TOP. If a referral has multiple exit TOPs then the latest exit TOP is used.

(e) The relative change between the start TOP and the exit TOP.

(f) No cocaine use recorded in the 28 days before the exit TOP.

Table 10.1g shows the average change in Physical Health between start and exit TOP by main problematic substance category, gender, age and treatment modality. Overall, the average Physical Health score increased from 11.3 to 13.1 (15.9%). The treatment modality for the vast majority of clients was “Psychosocial Interventions”, although clients will usually receive more than one treatment intervention during the treatment pathway.

Table 10.1g: Changes in Physical Health between start TOP and exit TOP: April 2009 to March 2019

	Number of comparisons (a)	Score at start TOP (b)	Score at exit TOP (c)	Percentage Change (d)
Main Problematic Substance				
Alcohol	11,064	11.0	13.0	17.8
Drugs	5,059	11.9	13.3	12.1
Gender				
Male	10,508	11.4	13.1	14.7
Female	5,615	11.1	13.2	18.2
Age				
16-19	847	13.5	14.7	8.9
20-29	3,241	12.4	13.6	9.4
30-49	8,875	11.0	12.9	17.8
50+	3,160	10.5	12.7	20.6
Treatment Modalities				
Inpatient Treatments	594	9.3	12.2	31.2
Community Detoxification	939	10.1	13.4	33.5
Residential Rehabilitation	69	9.1	13.7	50.3
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Methadone) and related Psychosocial Interventions	634	12.0	13.3	10.8
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Buprenorphine) and related Psychosocial Interventions	249	12.1	13.4	10.2
Psychosocial Interventions	9,762	11.5	13.3	15.6
Structured Day Programme	30	10.0	11.0	11.0
Brief Interventions	1,062	11.3	12.6	11.9
Harm Reduction	1,481	11.4	12.6	10.7
Health & Recovery Support Interventions	102	10.4	12.2	17.3
Blank	1,201	11.4	12.8	12.5
Total				
Total	16,123	11.3	13.1	15.9

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Excludes invalid or blank gender.

(b) The average score at start TOP. If a referral has multiple start TOPs then the earliest start TOP is used.

(c) The average score at exit TOP. If a referral has multiple exit TOPs then the latest exit TOP is used.

(d) The relative change between the start TOP and the exit TOP.

Table 10.1h shows the average change in Psychological Health between start and exit TOP by main problematic substance category, gender, age and treatment modality. Overall, the average Psychological Health score increased from 9.8 to 12.5 (27.5%). In terms of comparison between the treatment modalities, the patterns of improvement were similar to those reported for Physical Health above.

Table 10.1h: Changes in Psychological Health between start TOP and exit TOP: April 2009 to March 2019

	Number of comparisons (a)	Score at start TOP (b)	Score at exit TOP (c)	Percentage Change (d)
Main Problematic Substance				
Alcohol	10,967	9.6	12.6	30.2
Drugs	5,023	10.3	12.5	21.9
Gender				
Male	10,442	10.1	12.5	24.6
Female	5,548	9.4	12.5	33.2
Age				
16-19	843	11.5	13.7	19.9
20-29	3,208	10.2	12.4	21.4
30-49	8,805	9.5	12.4	30.1
50+	3,134	9.9	12.9	29.2
Treatment Modalities				
Inpatient Treatments	595	8.8	12.4	40.3
Community Detoxification	920	9.2	13.4	45.7
Residential Rehabilitation	69	8.1	13.5	66.7
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Methadone) and related Psychosocial Interventions	627	10.3	12.6	21.5
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Buprenorphine) and related Psychosocial Interventions	249	10.8	13.1	20.4
Psychosocial Interventions	9,681	9.9	12.7	28.0
Structured Day Programme	30	9.8	11.2	14.7
Brief Interventions	1,047	9.9	11.8	19.6
Health & Recovery Support Interventions	101	8.4	11.3	35.5
Harm Reduction	1,467	9.9	11.8	19.0
Blank	1,204	9.8	12.1	24.5
Total				
Total	15,990	9.8	12.5	27.5

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Excludes invalid or blank gender.

(b) The average score at start TOP. If a referral has multiple start TOP then the earliest start TOP is used.

(c) The average score at exit TOP. If a referral has multiple exit TOP then the latest exit TOP is used.

(d) The relative change between the start TOP and the exit TOP.

Table 10.1i shows the average change in Quality of Life between start and exit TOP. Overall, the average Quality of Life score increased from 10.5 to 13.0 (24.0%). In terms of comparison between the treatment modalities, the patterns of improvement were similar to those reported for Physical Health (and Psychological Health) above.

Table 10.1i: Changes in Quality of Life between start TOP and exit TOP: April 2009 to March 2019

	Number of comparisons (a)	Score at start TOP (b)	Score at exit TOP (c)	Percentage Change (d)
Main Problematic Substance				
Alcohol	10,932	10.4	13.1	26.5
Drugs	5,008	10.9	13.0	19.0
Gender				
Male	10,381	10.6	13.0	22.6
Female	5,559	10.4	13.1	26.8
Age				
16-19	846	12.3	14.2	15.5
20-29	3,206	11.0	12.9	17.7
30-49	8,779	10.2	12.9	26.6
50+	3,109	10.5	13.3	26.6
Treatment Modalities				
Inpatient Treatments	601	9.1	12.6	38.9
Community Detoxification	921	9.8	14.0	42.7
Residential Rehabilitation	70	8.4	13.9	65.4
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Methadone) and related Psychosocial Interventions	656	11.1	12.8	15.7
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Buprenorphine) and related Psychosocial Interventions	243	11.7	13.5	15.7
Structured Day Programme	29	10.0	12.4	23.4
Psychosocial Interventions	9,670	10.6	13.2	24.6
Brief Interventions	967	10.7	12.4	15.5
Health & Recovery Support Interventions	103	10.2	12.6	23.6
Harm Reduction	1,410	10.5	12.2	16.8
Blank	1,270	10.4	12.5	20.4
Total				
Total	15,940	10.5	13.0	24.0

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Excludes invalid or blank gender.

(b) The average score at start TOP. If a referral has multiple start TOP then the earliest start TOP is used.

(c) The average score at exit TOP. If a referral has multiple exit TOP then the latest exit TOP is used.

(d) The relative change between the start TOP and the exit TOP.

11 Case Closures

Table 11.1a shows the number of case closures by the year of closure and also by closure reason. Although excluded from the referrals analysis in [Section 6](#), the cases closed with DNA prior to assessment are shown in this table. Of the 25,403 cases closed in 2018-19, 52.1% were closed for planned reasons; this has been increasing from 47.6% in 2014-15. The DNA rate has been declining from 28.5% in 2014-15 to 17.2% in 2018-19.

Table 11.1a: Reason for closure by main problematic substance: All Substances

Closure Reason	Discharge Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
DNA										
DNA before assessment	4,234	14.2	3,884	14.5	3,836	14.0	2,782	10.6	2,263	8.9
DNA before treatment	1,206	4.0	540	2.0	273	1.0	175	0.7	259	1.0
DNA during treatment	3,052	10.2	2,615	9.8	2,512	9.1	2,248	8.5	1,851	7.3
Total	8,492	28.5	7,039	26.3	6,621	24.1	5,205	19.8	4,373	17.2
Inappropriate Referral										
Inappropriate Referral (a)	3,742	12.5	3,217	12.0	3,682	13.4	4,240	16.1	3,643	14.3
Total	3,742	12.5	3,217	12.0	3,682	13.4	4,240	16.1	3,643	14.3
No information supplied										
No information supplied	130	0.4	68	0.3	28	0.1	44	0.2	36	0.1
Total	130	0.4	68	0.3	28	0.1	44	0.2	36	0.1
Planned										
Referred to another service	4,891	16.4	3,905	14.6	3,074	11.2	2,423	9.2	2,544	10.0
Moved to GP Led Prescribing	24	0.1	31	0.1	70	0.3	44	0.2	35	0.1
Treatment completed	5,976	20.0	5,904	22.0	6,475	23.6	6,780	25.8	7,173	28.2
Treatment completed – substance free	3,324	11.1	3,226	12.0	3,600	13.1	3,546	13.5	3,473	13.7
Total	14,215	47.6	13,066	48.8	13,219	48.1	12,793	48.6	13,225	52.1
Unplanned										
Client unaware of referral	154	0.5	31	0.1	27	0.1	27	0.1	15	0.1
Client declined treatment (b)	901	3.0	1,099	4.1	1,755	6.4	2,003	7.6	2,287	9.0
Deceased	147	0.5	183	0.7	187	0.7	241	0.9	215	0.8
Moved	495	1.7	480	1.8	456	1.7	381	1.4	347	1.4
Prison	844	2.8	930	3.5	955	3.5	929	3.5	939	3.7
Treatment withdrawn (c)	723	2.4	668	2.5	524	1.9	438	1.7	323	1.3
Total	3,264	10.9	3,391	12.7	3,904	14.2	4,019	15.3	4,126	16.2
Total	29,843	100	26,781	100	27,454	100	26,301	100	25,403	100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Client has been contacted following a third party referral and states that they are not ready to engage in treatment or when assessed there is no substance misuse treatment need for the client.

(b) Client declined treatment includes clients that declined the assessment.

(c) The treatment service provider has withdrawn treatment provision from the client usually as a result of a breach of contract.

Table 11.1b and 11.1c show closures for cases with a main substance of alcohol and drugs respectively. Note that these tables **do not** allow conclusions to be drawn about trends from 2014-15 to 2018-19. This is because changes made to the national database on 1st April 2014 meant that data about main substance was not required to be reported to the database until the assessment stage. Consequently, within the data for 2014-15 to 2018-19,

there were many more cases than in the previous years where main substance was not recorded, affecting especially the 'DNA before assessment' numbers. This has knock-on effects on the percentage in the tables. Table 11.1a is unaffected as it includes all the records whether or not main substance was reported.

For alcohol (Table 11.1b), 76.5% of closures were planned and the overall DNA rate was 10.9%.

For drugs (Table 11.1c), planned closures have been increasing each year, accounting for 65.6% of all closures in 2018-19, compared with 53.9% in 2014-15, whilst DNAs have been gradually reducing from 19.9% in 2014-15 to 13.5 in 2018-19%.

It should be noted that planned closures for Cardiff & Vale were inflated in 2014-15, with approx. 300 clients who went to prison but have been assigned the reason of "referred to another service" rather than "Prison/Retained in Custody".

Table 11.1b: Reason for closure by main problematic substance: Alcohol

Closure Reason	Discharge Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
DNA										
DNA before assessment	55	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
DNA before treatment	801	7.0	279	2.9	159	1.7	97	1.1	146	1.6
DNA during treatment	1,095	9.5	1,083	11.3	1,110	11.6	1,001	10.8	858	9.3
Total	1,951	17.0	1,362	14.2	1,269	13.3	1,098	11.9	1,004	10.9
Inappropriate Referral										
Inappropriate Referral (a)	808	7.0	470	4.9	456	4.8	409	4.4	254	2.8
Total	808	7.0	470	4.9	456	4.8	409	4.4	254	2.8
No information supplied										
No information supplied	44	0.4	22	0.2	9	0.1	10	0.1	6	0.1
Total	44	0.4	22	0.2	9	0.1	10	0.1	6	0.1
Planned										
Referred to another service	2,025	17.6	1,765	18.5	1,255	13.1	1,033	11.2	1,148	12.4
Moved to GP Led Prescribing	4	0.0	12	0.1	15	0.2	11	0.1	7	0.1
Treatment completed	3,543	30.8	3,074	32.1	3,343	35.0	3,616	39.2	3,894	42.2
Treatment completed – substance free	2,058	17.9	1,975	20.6	2,277	23.8	2,138	23.2	2,010	21.8
Total	7,630	66.3	6,826	71.4	6,890	72.1	6,798	73.7	7,059	76.5
Unplanned										
Client unaware of referral	31	0.3	2	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0	1	0.0
Client declined treatment (b)	364	3.2	302	3.2	410	4.3	406	4.4	447	4.8
Deceased	83	0.7	91	1.0	97	1.0	127	1.4	114	1.2
Moved	138	1.2	128	1.3	119	1.2	82	0.9	78	0.8
Prison	100	0.9	102	1.1	117	1.2	153	1.7	148	1.6
Treatment withdrawn (c)	359	3.1	260	2.7	186	1.9	143	1.5	114	1.2
Total	1,075	9.3	885	9.3	931	9.7	914	9.9	902	9.8
Total	11,508	100	9,565	100	9,555	100	9,229	100	9,225	100

Source: WNDISM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) Client has been contacted following a third party referral and states that they are not ready to engage in treatment or when assessed there is no substance misuse treatment need for the client.
- (b) Client declined treatment includes clients that declined the assessment.
- (c) The treatment service provider has withdrawn treatment provision from the client usually as a result of a breach of contract.

Table 11.1c: Reason for closure by main problematic substance: Drugs

Closure Reason	Discharge Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
DNA										
DNA before assessment	32	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
DNA before treatment	331	4.0	171	2.1	94	1.1	73	0.9	106	1.3
DNA during treatment	1,298	15.6	1,158	14.5	1,295	15.5	1,195	14.8	979	12.2
Total	1,661	19.9	1,329	16.6	1,389	16.7	1,268	15.7	1,085	13.5
Inappropriate Referral										
Inappropriate Referral (a)	753	9.0	508	6.3	396	4.7	361	4.5	261	3.2
Total	753	9.0	508	6.3	396	4.7	361	4.5	261	3.2
No information supplied										
No information supplied	53	0.6	26	0.3	10	0.1	17	0.2	11	0.1
Total	53	0.6	26	0.3	10	0.1	17	0.2	11	0.1
Planned										
Referred to another service	1,506	18.0	1,424	17.8	1,176	14.1	914	11.3	958	11.9
Moved to GP Led Prescribing	18	0.2	12	0.1	53	0.6	30	0.4	23	0.3
Treatment completed	1,845	22.1	2,075	25.9	2,491	29.9	2,678	33.2	2,949	36.7
Treatment completed – substance free	1,128	13.5	1,141	14.3	1,216	14.6	1,310	16.3	1,348	16.8
Total	4,497	53.9	4,652	58.1	4,936	59.2	4,932	61.2	5,278	65.6
Unplanned										
Client unaware of referral	13	0.2	2	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0
Client declined treatment (b)	183	2.2	181	2.3	327	3.9	298	3.7	292	3.6
Deceased	37	0.4	48	0.6	55	0.7	72	0.9	65	0.8
Moved	255	3.1	225	2.8	221	2.7	199	2.5	163	2.0
Prison	617	7.4	666	8.3	702	8.4	662	8.2	713	8.9
Treatment withdrawn (c)	278	3.3	369	4.6	300	3.6	248	3.1	173	2.2
Total	1,383	16.6	1,491	18.6	1,606	19.3	1,482	18.4	1,406	17.5
Total	8,347	100	8,006	100	8,337	100	8,060	100	8,041	100

Source: WNDMS, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) Client has been contacted following a third party referral and states that they are not ready to engage in treatment or when assessed there is no substance misuse treatment need for the client.
- (b) Client declined treatment includes clients that declined the assessment.
- (c) The treatment service provider has withdrawn treatment provision from the client usually as a result of a breach of contract.

12 Performance Summary

Tables 12.1 to 12.5 report on the five key performance indicators (KPI) which report performance across the Area Planning Boards (APBs), based on the client's area of residence. See [Annex C](#) for background information on the KPIs. Due to the dynamic nature of the database, the figures reported in this section will change over time, as further information may be submitted by treatment service providers.

Table 12.1 reports on clients that Did Not Attend (DNA) or do not respond to follow up contact post the assessment stage.

Table 12.1: KPI 1 - DNA Post Assessment: by APB

DNA Post Assessment	Discharge Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)
North Wales	932	22.9	520	13.0	489	11.4	289	7.7	212	6.4
Powys	64	19.5	112	21.7	103	13.3	83	18.9	98	16.1
Hywel Dda	178	10.0	280	16.3	247	11.5	156	6.9	119	5.2
Western Bay (b)	904	48.2	684	35.7	727	34.2	814	39.1	593	30.2
Cardiff & Vale	416	18.4	497	17.5	352	15.5	284	11.8	286	11.1
Cwm Taf	285	20.0	471	22.2	240	11.9	186	9.3	201	10.0
Gwent	261	11.7	361	9.9	439	13.5	455	13.9	474	13.9
Outside Wales	95	12.5	106	13.9	141	14.9	127	14.0	105	11.6
Unknown	29	19.6	42	30.0	13	20.6	21	16.5	17	13.8
Total	3,164	21.3	3,073	17.4	2,751	15.4	2,415	14.0	2,105	12.2

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Percentage of all closures with an assessment date

(b) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

Table 12.2 reports on KPI 2 which measures the waiting times for the service between referral and treatment. The target is for treatment service providers to achieve a waiting time of less than 20 working days between referral and treatment.

Table 12.2: KPI 2 – Referral to Treatment Waiting Times: by APB

< 20 working days (a)	Treatment Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)
North Wales	2,762	83.7	2,874	78.0	3,050	81.4	3,110	88.7	3,141	92.1
Powys	581	98.8	764	99.2	484	95.7	515	97.5	581	89.5
Hywel Dda	1,913	94.9	1,685	83.6	1,777	83.4	1,950	91.9	2,195	93.5
Western Bay (c)	2,343	77.0	1,855	84.9	1,982	93.6	2,033	94.7	2,077	94.8
Cardiff & Vale	991	69.1	1,472	73.3	1,132	70.5	788	71.6	695	71.1
Cwm Taf	1,762	84.3	1,731	74.1	1,868	87.6	1,866	92.5	1,912	89.3
Gwent	3,512	94.8	3,135	95.0	3,086	93.8	3,035	92.1	3,059	93.3
Outside Wales	820	94.1	731	95.2	950	95.4	896	98.0	911	98.3
Unknown	119	90.2	142	90.4	51	86.4	100	80.6	92	66.2
Total	14,803	86.2	14,389	83.6	14,380	86.7	14,293	90.7	14,663	91.0

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Bank holidays are included in the waiting times.

(b) Percentage of all clients treated.

(c) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

Table 12.3 reports on KPI 3 which measures whether the substance misuse is reduced, abstinent or unchanged for any of the problematic substances listed on the TOP form. The substance misuse is reduced or unchanged if the number of days a substance has been used within the 28 days prior to the start TOP is higher than or the same as the equivalent number of days a substance has been used within the 28 days prior to the most recent review or exit TOP, for each substance reported on the TOP form. The substance misuse is categorised as abstinent if the number of days a substance has been used within the 28 days prior to the start TOP and the number of days a substance has been used within the 28 days prior to the most recent review or exit TOP is zero, for each substance reported on the TOP form.

Table 12.3: KPI 3 – Misuse of problematic substance reduced, abstinent or unchanged: by APB

TOP Reviews/Exits in period where problematic substance use is reduced, abstinent or unchanged (a)	Interview Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)
North Wales	6,149	84.8	8,145	85.1	14,106	86.6	14,250	87.3	14,487	86.9
Powys	1,650	81.6	2,139	82.8	966	83.9	1,013	84.0	1,063	87.1
Hywel Dda	2,251	88.7	3,326	90.0	4,503	89.1	5,147	87.7	5,040	88.5
Western Bay (c)	1,142	80.1	2,240	80.3	2,921	80.9	3,504	80.5	4,128	80.8
Cardiff & Vale	3,913	85.5	5,025	86.2	4,718	85.1	4,268	83.3	4,802	85.0
Cwm Taf	7,732	88.1	9,396	87.4	11,069	87.6	12,266	88.1	12,815	88.3
Gwent	13,466	84.7	10,297	84.4	11,394	83.2	10,632	82.8	10,226	83.4
Outside Wales	408	79.5	582	82.4	851	79.9	1,087	79.7	754	77.0
Unknown	37	97.1	49	87.5	90	91.8	262	91.6	184	87.6
Total	36,748	85.4	41,199	85.5	50,618	85.6	54,249	85.6	53,499	85.9

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) The number of days the client has misused substances has reduced, remained the same or abstinent in the 28 days prior to the latest Review TOP/Exit TOP when compared with the number of days the client has misused the substance in the 28 days prior to the start TOP.
- (b) Percentage of all clients where substance use is reported in the 28 days prior to start TOP.
- (c) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

Table 12.4 reports on KPI 4 Quality of life where Quality of life is improved or unchanged between the start TOP and the most recent review or exit TOP, for all clients aged 16 or over and within structured treatment. The quality of life score reported in the start TOP is compared with the corresponding quality of life score reported in the most recent review or exit TOP, and is reported as an improvement if the score within the most recent review or exit TOP is higher than or the same as the score reported in the start TOP.

Table 12.4: KPI 4 – Quality of Life Improved: by APB

TOP Reviews/Exits in period where quality of life is improved or unchanged (a)	Interview Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)
North Wales	1,099	83.6	1,582	80.8	3,129	80.3	3,575	86.2	3,926	85.9
Powys	201	82.0	329	74.6	150	79.8	139	78.1	182	75.2
Hywel Dda	372	83.2	658	87.9	1,107	85.9	1,507	84.6	1,472	85.6
Western Bay (c)	133	81.6	246	84.5	251	80.7	252	75.9	492	73.9
Cardiff & Vale	417	87.6	596	81.1	687	81.9	556	81.6	770	79.3
Cwm Taf	1,581	85.3	1,820	87.0	2,049	86.3	2,649	90.2	3,134	87.3
Gwent	1,841	80.0	1,453	79.6	1,616	79.2	1,585	80.7	1,636	81.1
Outside Wales	90	82.6	148	77.9	197	79.1	282	79.0	182	68.9
Unknown	13	68.4	31	83.8	29	90.6	104	92.0	73	97.3
Total	5,747	82.9	6,863	82.5	9,215	82.1	10,649	85.3	11,867	84.1

Source: WNDMS, NHS Wales Informatics Service

- (a) The Quality of Life score reported in the latest Review TOP/Exit TOP is higher than or the same as the Quality of Life score reported in the start TOP.
- (b) Percentage of all clients where Quality of Life is reported in the start TOP
- (c) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

Table 12.5 reports on clients who have completed treatment as either problematic substance free or where the client has reached their treatment goal(s) as agreed at the commencement of treatment, therefore only records that have a treatment date completed are included within this table. Clients who closed with a neutral outcome i.e. referred to another service; moved from area; prison/retained in custody; and moved to GP led prescribing are excluded from this table, along with inappropriate referrals as they are unlikely to have a treatment date.

Table 12.5: KPI 5 – Positive Treatment Closures (a): by APB

Treatment complete	Discharge Year									
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)
North Wales	1,007	69.1	1,676	67.7	2,061	75.3	2,110	80.7	2,198	84.8
Powys	192	75.6	333	74.3	286	71.7	275	75.1	383	78.5
Hywel Dda	801	83.4	1,026	80.2	1,507	85.6	1,755	91.3	1,841	93.2
Western Bay (c)	321	25.5	609	45.5	766	49.0	782	47.7	869	58.4
Cardiff & Vale	274	46.1	802	68.9	894	72.4	603	69.2	405	73.0
Cwm Taf	705	73.5	1,324	74.3	1,316	84.2	1,457	87.7	1,544	87.5
Gwent	1,150	81.9	1,697	82.2	1,894	79.9	1,849	77.9	2,034	79.7
Outside Wales	453	81.9	463	79.4	535	77.6	476	76.2	467	79.6
Unknown	52	78.8	61	68.5	26	65.0	70	81.4	63	80.8
Total	4,955	66.0	7,991	71.2	9,285	75.2	9,377	77.1	9,804	81.2

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Excludes neutral closures: Referred to another service; Moved to GP Led Prescribing; Moved; and Prison

(b) Clients who complete treatment as percentage of all closures with a treatment date (minus neutral closures i.e. referred to another service, moved from area, prison/retained in custody and moved to GP led prescribing)

(c) Submissions are based on individual rather than referral and care must be taken when comparing activity. The treatment service providers within this area moved to a central reporting system. This resulted in records merging and a high number of closures where clients were transferred from individual treatment service providers into the central service.

Annex A: Summary of Key Factors

Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse (WNDSM)

The database contains details of all referrals to Drug and Alcohol treatment service providers in Wales and is held by NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS).

Coverage

The data relates only to people presenting to the treatment service providers and may constitute only a proportion of all substance misusers.

Data Quality

The data quality issues that affect this report can be found in [Section 3](#).

Data processing cycle

All Treatment Service Providers in receipt of Welsh Government funding, to deliver substance misuse services are required to comply fully with the reporting requirements of the database. The data in this annual report is derived from a “frozen” version of the database at 27th August 2019. NHS Wales Informatics Service process the data and prepare tables following this freeze date.

Comparisons between Annual Reports

The database is dynamic i.e. records are subject to amendment as further information is submitted by treatment service providers. This means that figures in this report are not directly comparable with those published in earlier reports.

Treatment Outcomes Profile

The Treatment Outcomes Profile (TOP) was developed by the National Treatment Agency (NTA) in collaboration with Dr John Marsden and Dr Michael Farrell of the National Addiction Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London.

The items that appear in the TOP were psychometrically evaluated and demonstrated an acceptable level of reliability and validity. This evaluation is available in the peer review journal *Addiction*. The abstract, and reference to the full article together with the background information about the Treatment Outcome Profile are available from: <http://www.nata/nhs.uk/who-healthcare-top.aspx>

The information presented covers all recorded start, review and exit TOPs recorded on the database since April 2009 when the tool was first adopted in Wales.

Disclosure and confidentiality

The risk of disclosing information about an individual has been considered for this WNDSM dataset and with the current level of aggregation is considered to be very low.

Users and Uses

We believe the key users of these statistics are:

- Ministers and their advisors;
- Assembly Members and Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Substance Misuse Treatment service providers;
- Area Planning Boards (APBs);

- Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs);
- Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs);
- Public Services Board (PSBs);
- Substance Misuse Advisory Regional Teams (SMARTs);
- Communities and Local Government;
- Local government unitary authorities (elected members and officials);
- Students, academics and universities;
- Other areas of the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments; and
- Individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these include:

- Advice to Ministers;
- To assess treatment services performance against targets;
- To inform service improvement projects for areas of focus and opportunities for quality improvement.

Annex B: List of Referral Source Groups

Referral Source Group	Referral Source
Criminal Justice System	Court
	Integrated Offender Interventions Service/Drug Interventions Programme/Arrest Referral Scheme
	Police
	Prison/Counselling Assessment Referral Advice and Through care, Transitional Support Scheme
	Probation Service to include Drug Rehabilitation Requirements
	Solicitor
	Youth Offending Team
NHS	NHS Accident & Emergency
	NHS Other
Other	Armed Forces
	Community Care Assessment
	Community Psychiatric Nurse/Community Mental Health Team
	Domestic Abuse Support
	Educational Establishment
	Employment Service
	Family/Friends
	Job Centre
	Midwife
	Needle/Syringe Exchange Scheme
	Peer Mentoring Scheme
	Psychiatry
	Social Services
Support Agencies	

Source: WNDISM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

Annex C: Definitions

The following definitions are used within this report:

Area Planning Boards (APBs)

Area planning Boards are responsible for the regional, (local health board footprint) commissioning of substance misuse services. Further information can be found at:-

<https://gov.wales/commissioning-substance-misuse-services-revised-guidance>

Drugs

The term “drugs” includes illegal drugs, misuse of legal prescriptions and over the counter medicines and solvent abuse.

Main problematic substance

The term “main problematic substance” refers to the main substance that led the client to seek help or be referred for help; note that many clients categorised under “alcohol” may also be receiving treatment for drugs and vice versa.

“Other Drugs”

This category is referred to in several tables and includes the following:

Methylphenidate, Methadone, Methyline, Minor Analgesics, Zopiclone, Major Tranquilisers Unspecified, Areca Nut, Antabuse, Acamprosate Calcium (Campral), GHB/GBH, Other Psychoactive Drugs Unspecified, Anti-depressant, NPS Predominantly Cannabis, NPS Predominantly Sedative, NPS Predominantly Stimulant, Other Sedatives, Phenteramine, Naltrexone, Zolpidem Tartrate, Antipsychotic Unspecified, Appetite Suppressant, Sedatives Unspecified, Barbiturates Unspecified, Nicotine, Khat, Drug Not Otherwise Specified, Ecstasy and Prescribed Drugs.

“Other Opiates”

This category is referred to in several tables and includes the following:

Buprenorphine, Opiates Unspecified, Codeine Unspecified, Dihydrocodeine, Tramadol Hydrochloride, Codeine Tablets, Morphine Sulphate, Opiate Comp Analgesics, Other Opiates, Oxycodone, Opium, and Fentanyl.

“Other Stimulants”

This category is referred to in several tables and includes the following:

Mephedrone, Stimulants Unspecified and Other Stimulants.

Clients referred

Refers to clients who were referred between April 2005 and March 2019. If more than 8 weeks elapsed between the end of a course of treatment and the start of a new course, then the client is counted again.

Structured treatments

Includes inpatient detoxification, community detoxification, residential rehabilitation, substitute opioid prescribing and psychosocial interventions.

Less structured treatments

Includes counselling/support e.g. crisis intervention and information only. (From 2011-12 this was revised to include practical/social support, complimentary/alternative therapies and diversionary activities, brief interventions and harm reduction.

Rate

Rate per 100,000 population based on ONS 2018 mid-year estimates published June 2019.

Median Age

The median is the middle number in a sorted list of numbers, i.e. the value where there are the same number of values below the median point as there are above it. For example, with a list of nine people with different ages, to find the median point you would follow the calculation $(9+1) \div 2 = 5$. So the median age of the group would be the age of the fifth person in the sorted list – where there are 4 people younger and 4 people older.

European Age-Standardised Rates (EASR)

The most comprehensive way of comparing the disease experience of two populations is to present and compare their age-specific rates. However, when the number of populations being compared increases, the volume of data that needs to be considered quickly becomes unmanageable. What is needed is a single, easily interpreted, summary figure for each population that is adjusted to take into account its age structure. Such summary figures are calculated using age standardisation methods.

One method of calculating a summary figure is 'direct standardisation'. The age-specific rates of the subject population are applied to the age structure of the standard population. This gives the overall rate that would have occurred in the subject population if it had the standard age-profile.

The European Standard Population (ESP) is often used for direct standardisation. This is a hypothetical population structure which does not change and is the same for both genders. This report uses the 2013 ESP, published by Eurostat. Detailed information and guidance on the 2013 ESP has been published by the UK's Office for National Statistics and can be found here: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/health-and-life-events/revised-european-standard-population-2013--2013-esp-/index.html>.

Treatment Outcome Profiles (TOPs)

These profiles measure the changes in client characteristics at regular intervals during treatment and at closure. The summary statistics on treatment outcomes included in this report utilise information gathered at the start of treatment (Start TOPs) and at subsequent review which are done generally every three months (Review TOPs), usually as part of a care plan review and at discharge (Exit TOPs). More information on the introduction of TOPs is available from: <http://www.infoandstats.wales.nhs.uk/page.cfm?pid=41018&orgid=869>

Treatment Modalities

A description of the treatment modalities can be found in Appendix 1 of the latest Business Definitions Guidance, found at: <http://www.infoandstats.wales.nhs.uk/page.cfm?pid=41018&orgid=869>

Key Performance Indicators

The revised suite of indicators became operational from July 2012. Since implementation, the Welsh Government has been monitoring these performance indicators and has refreshed guidance in view of operational experience.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.infoandstats.wales.nhs.uk/page.cfm?pid=41018&orgid=869>