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Substance Misuse Annual Report 2019–2020

Annex 1
Treatment Data: Substance Misuse in Wales 2019–20

Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse in Wales 2019-20

Contents

Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse in Wales 2019-20

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been compiled by Digital Health & Care Wales (DHCW) 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 2019 to 31st March 2020.

1.2 The report should be read in conjunction with the document entitled 'The Annual Profile of Substance Misuse in Wales 2019-20'. 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 21st August 2020. As a result of the suspension of the submissions of data, the freeze of the data was postponed until this date to ensure that service providers had sufficient time to submit their data. The submission of data was suspended by the Welsh Government from 9th April 2020 until 24th June 2020, this resulted in a delay in receiving the March 2020 data until June 2020.

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 5,911 referrals where no assessment date had been recorded as at the database freeze date of 21st August 2020. 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 5,911 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, 54 treatment service providers submitted in 2015-16, 55 in 2016-17, 44 in 2017-18, 42 in 2018-19 and 43 in 2019-20, 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 2019-20. 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 2019 referrals.

- There were 23,887 referrals to the database in 2019-20, and a further 2,186 referrals who did not attend (DNA) prior to assessment.
- This represented a slight decrease in referrals compared to last year, with a decrease of 4.3% on 2018-19 (24,971). See Chart 4.1 for a time series.
- Some clients were referred more than once during 2019-20 with the 23,887 referrals relating to 17,026 individuals, of whom 10,135 were new to the database.
- In 2019-20, a large number of referrals (5,911) 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 22,887 referrals, 5,911 did not have an associated main problematic substance. Of the remaining 17,976 referrals:
  o 51.1% of these referrals were described as having alcohol as the main problematic substance and 48.4% had drugs as the main problematic substance; in 0.4% of cases had an assessment date but the main problematic substance was not recorded.
  o Males accounted for 62.4% of alcohol referrals and 71.7% of drug referrals.
  o Median age for alcohol referrals was 43, whilst median age for drugs was 33.
  o 15.2% of alcohol referrals (where age was reported) were for clients aged under 30 – the comparable figure for drug referrals was 36.7%.
- Heroin referrals accounted for 18.5% (3,304), Cannabis referrals accounted for 10.7% (1,914) and Cocaine accounted for 6.9% (1,233) of all referrals, an increase from 3.0% (555) in 2015-16.
- Detailed results for Referrals are shown in Section 6.

4.3 Assessments

- The total number of clients assessed in 2019-20 was 18,184 a slight decrease of 3.2% from 2018-19 (18,770). See Chart 4.1 for Time Series.
- In 2019-20 the number of drug clients assessed was 8,787 compared with 9,310 alcohol clients.
- Males accounted for 62.6% of alcohol assessments and 71.8% of drug assessments.
- Heroin assessments accounted for 18.2% (3,312), Cannabis assessments accounted for 10.8% (1,964) and Cocaine accounted for 6.9% (1,246) of all assessments, where the main problematic substance is known.

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- Detailed results for Assessments are shown in Section 7.

4.4 Treatments

- The total number of clients starting treatment in 2019-20 was 15,796, down by 3.8% on 2018-19 (16,397). See Chart 4.1 for Time Series.
- In 2019-20 the number of drug clients starting treatment was 7,825 compared with 7,838 alcohol Clients.
- Detailed results for Treatments are shown in Section 8.

4.5 Waiting Times

- Of the 15,778 clients who started treatment (and had valid waiting times), the percentage that started within 20 working days was 91.5% in 2019-20, a slight increase from 2018-19 (91.3%), 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.
- 90.9% (7,119) of clients with alcohol as the main problematic substance were treated within 20 working days, whilst 92.1% (7,202) 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 90.3% (7,494) for alcohol and 91.6% (7,371) for drugs in 2018-19.
- 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 47.8% in 2015-16 to 53.9% in 2019-20.
- 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 17.4% in 2015-16 to 11.0% in 2019-20.
- The percentage of clients starting treatment within 20 working days has increased from 83.5% in 2015-16 to 91.5% in 2019-20.

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- The percentage of cases reporting a reduction, no change or abstinence in problematic substance misuse was higher in 2019-20 compared with the previous 4 years.
- The percentage of cases closed with a positive treatment closure has been increasing year on year, with 82.5% in 2019-20 compared with 71.2% in 2015-16.
- This year has seen the introduction of the blood borne virus KPI, which reports on the number and percentage of clients who are tested for BBV.
- Detailed results for Key Performance Indicators are shown in Section 12.

Chart 4.1: Total activity time series (a)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Referrals	24,563	24,119	24,145	24,971	23,887
Assessments	19,410	18,712	18,140	18,770	18,184
Treatments	17,324	16,806	15,988	16,397	15,796
Closed cases (b)	25,973	27,260	26,269	25,540	25,140
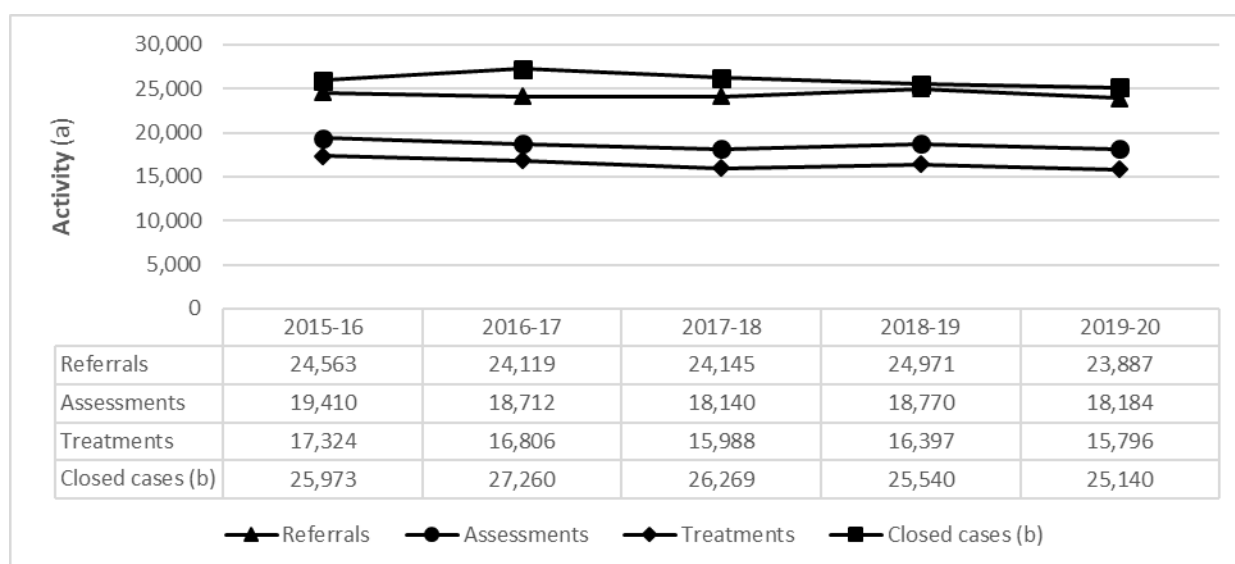
Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

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

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5 Area comparisons

Table 5.1 shows the number of referrals, assessments, treatments and case closures in 2019-20 by Area Planning Board (APB).

Table 5.1: Activity by area of residence in 2019-20 by area of residence

Area Planning Board	Referrals	Assessments	Treatments Started	Closed Cases
North Wales	5,531	3,297	3,189	5,320
Powys	717	607	604	797
Hywel Dda	3,254	2,616	2,451	3,587
Western Bay (a)	2,438	2,070	1,899	2,121
Cardiff & Vale	3,695	2,646	975	4,050
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (b)	2,860	2,459	2,326	3,217
Gwent	4,330	3,533	3,458	4,949
Outside Wales	936	848	841	957
Unknown	126	108	53	142
Total	23,887	18,184	15,796	25,140

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.

(b) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB.

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

Alcohol	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			2018-19			2019-20		
	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	1,010	1,010	947	1,110	1,110	1,051	1,077	1,077	1,054	1,127	1,127	1,104	1,175	1,175	1,142
Powys	264	264	259	133	133	133	182	182	179	218	218	218	246	246	245
Hywel Dda	591	591	518	586	586	504	568	568	483	656	656	579	611	611	519
Western Bay (a)	684	684	674	639	639	632	718	718	711	855	855	824	678	678	604
Cardiff & Vale	574	574	453	621	621	481	557	557	425	676	676	450	668	668	494
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (b)	596	596	521	644	644	584	704	704	644	788	788	726	1,192	1,192	1,097
Gwent	922	922	881	1,024	1,024	975	1,027	1,027	968	1,016	1,016	983	945	945	928
Outside Wales	78	78	70	96	96	89	93	93	86	120	120	113	137	137	130
Unknown	28	28	20	37	37	25	38	38	30	51	51	42	44	44	35
Total	4,747	4,747	4,343	4,890	4,890	4,474	4,964	4,964	4,580	5,507	5,507	5,039	5,696	5,696	5,194
Drugs															
North Wales	1,038	1,038	991	1,180	1,180	1,132	1,254	1,254	1,224	1,445	1,445	1,410	1,543	1,543	1,500
Powys	309	309	308	175	175	173	228	228	224	243	243	242	269	269	268
Hywel Dda	502	502	481	544	544	524	538	538	514	640	640	617	653	653	634
Western Bay (a)	917	917	914	981	981	975	1,042	1,042	1,029	1,294	1,294	1,249	1,266	1,266	1,134
Cardiff & Vale	663	663	583	748	748	665	848	848	714	945	945	759	927	927	761
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (b)	641	641	605	895	895	873	1,004	1,004	980	1,185	1,185	1,158	1,415	1,415	1,370
Gwent	1,063	1,063	1,020	1,172	1,172	1,137	1,315	1,315	1,277	1,312	1,312	1,281	1,429	1,429	1,402
Outside Wales	180	180	174	216	216	210	267	267	261	273	273	261	287	287	279
Unknown	29	29	23	37	37	25	60	60	53	74	74	68	73	73	64
Total	5,342	5,342	5,099	5,948	5,948	5,714	6,556	6,556	6,276	7,411	7,411	7,045	7,862	7,862	7,412

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.

(b) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

Table 5.3a shows the history of referrals in 2019-20. Of the 23,887 referrals in 2019-20, these related to 17,026 individuals. 10,135 (59.5%) of the individuals referred in 2019-20 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 49.3% in Western Bay to 68.8% in Powys. A similar range is seen in table 5.3b for alcohol and 5.3c for drugs, with Western Bay 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 2019-20: All Substances

	All Referrals	Individuals referred in 2019-20	Average referrals per individual	New Cases	Percentage of New Cases
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
North Wales	5,531	3,914	1.4	2,471	63.1
Powys	717	626	1.1	431	68.8
Hywel Dda	3,254	2,411	1.3	1,549	64.2
Western Bay (f)	2,438	1,586	1.5	782	49.3
Cardiff & Vale	3,695	1,897	1.9	986	52.0
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (g)	2,860	2,166	1.3	1,261	58.2
Gwent	4,330	3,506	1.2	2,119	60.4
Outside Wales	936	796	1.2	424	53.3
Unknown	126	124	1.0	112	90.3
Total	23,887	17,026	1.4	10,135	59.5

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) All referrals 2019-20
(b) All referrals minus multiple referrals in 2019-20
(c) All referrals divided by individuals referred in 2019-20
(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 2019-20
(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.
(g) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

Table 5.3b: Previous history of referrals by APB in 2019-20: Alcohol

	All Referrals	Individuals referred in 2019-20	Average referrals per individual	New Cases	Percentage of New Cases
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
North Wales	1,700	1,385	1.2	890	64.3
Powys	270	252	1.1	181	71.8
Hywel Dda	1,326	1,089	1.2	714	65.6
Western Bay (f)	851	585	1.5	343	58.6
Cardiff & Vale	1,625	875	1.9	490	56.0
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (g)	1,412	1,077	1.3	664	61.7
Gwent	1,683	1,475	1.1	948	64.3
Outside Wales	305	277	1.1	207	74.7
Unknown	19	19	1.0	15	78.9
Total	9,191	7,034	1.3	4,452	63.3

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) All referrals 2019-20
(b) All referrals minus multiple referrals in 2019-20
(c) All referrals divided by individuals referred in 2019-20
(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 2019-20
(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.
(g) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

Table 5.3c: Previous history of referrals by APB in 2019-20: Drugs

	All Referrals	Individuals referred in 2019-20	Average referrals per individual	New Cases	Percentage of New Cases
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
North Wales	1,503	1,222	1.2	687	56.2
Powys	324	286	1.1	189	66.1
Hywel Dda	1,235	937	1.3	561	59.9
Western Bay (f)	1,240	822	1.5	339	41.2
Cardiff & Vale	980	666	1.5	298	44.7
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (g)	1,067	895	1.2	476	53.2
Gwent	1,775	1,506	1.2	831	55.2
Outside Wales	540	458	1.2	172	37.6
Unknown	42	42	1.0	39	92.9
Total	8,706	6,834	1.3	3,592	52.6

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) All referrals 2019-20
(b) All referrals minus multiple referrals in 2019-20
(c) All referrals divided by individuals referred in 2019-20
(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 2019-20
(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.
(g) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB.

6 Referrals

The total number of referrals in 2019-20 was 26,073.

Figure 6.1 shows the status along the treatment pathway for the 26,073 referrals in 2019-20. **Of these**, **2186 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 23,887 referrals (excluding the DNAs before assessment) in 2019-20, 20,913 (87.5%) had already been closed by the 21st August 2020 freeze date, and of those, 15,168 (63.5%) had commenced any form of treatment before being discharged.

Of the 26,073 referrals in 2019-20, 5,330 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 2,147 referrals where the client was closed to services before a treatment had commenced. Of these, 212 had dropped out of contact and were closed as DNA, whilst the remaining 1,935 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 2019-20 referrals and therefore they exclude activity relating to pre-1st April 2019 referrals.

Figure 6.1: Current status along treatment pathway for those referred in 2019-20 (as at 21st August 2020 freeze date)
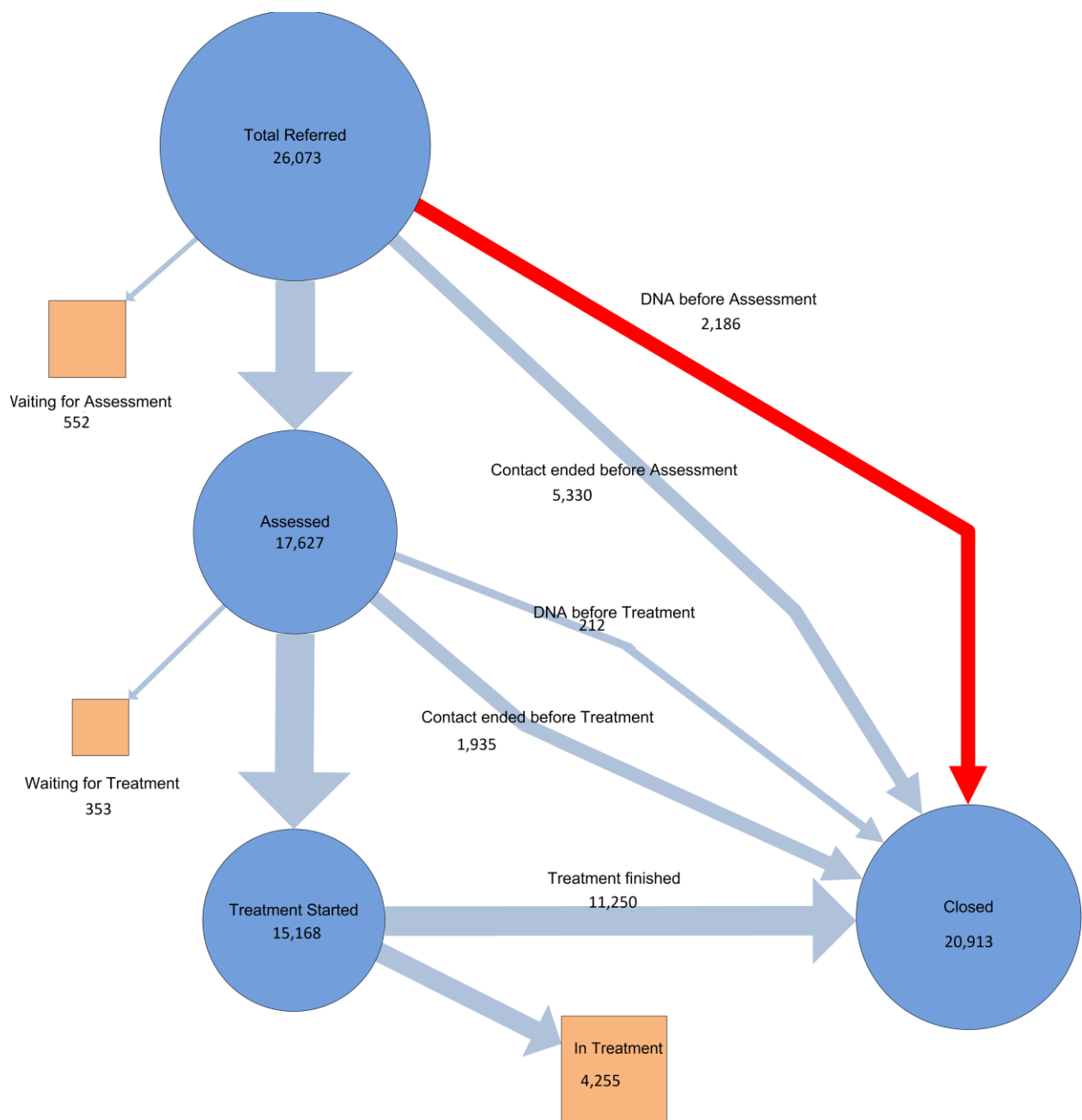
Chart 6.1: Referrals time series

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Referrals including DNA before assessment	28,670	27,700	26,815	27,213	26,073
Referrals	24,563	24,119	24,145	24,971	23,887
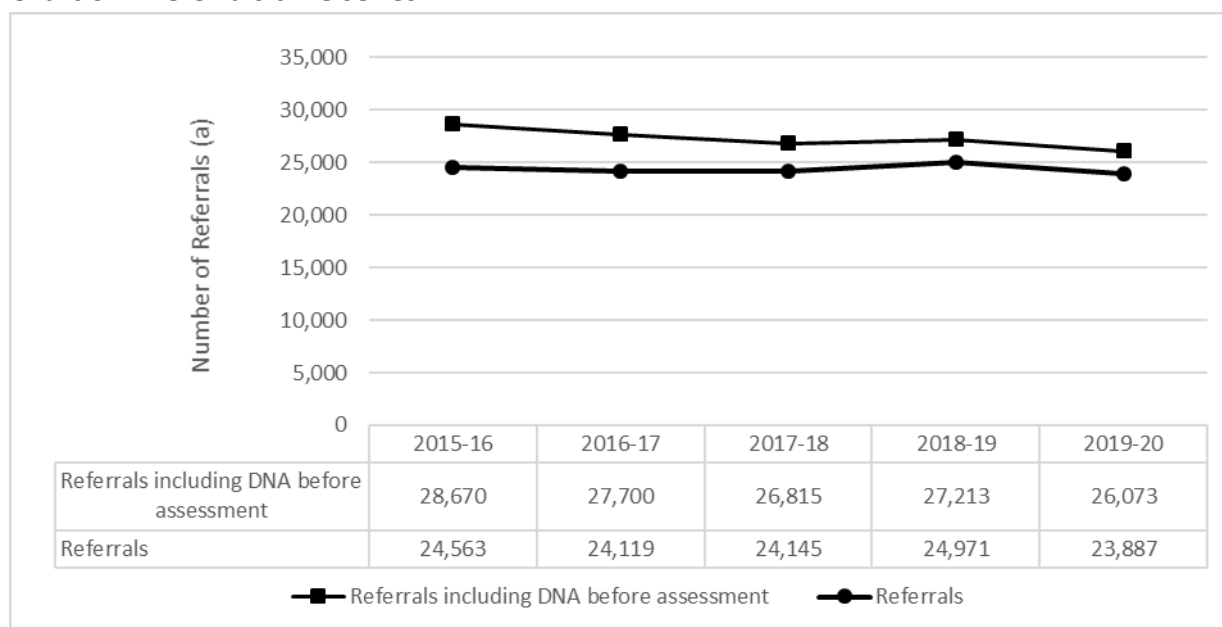
Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes unknown substances

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

Table 6.1: Referrals in 2019-20 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	178	192	132	150	310	171
15-19	768	860	452	544	1,220	708
20-29	3,141	1,475	1,379	697	4,520	1,101
30-39	4,768	2,540	2,302	1,210	7,070	1,871
40-49	3,831	2,121	1,894	1,008	5,725	1,553
50-59	2,228	1,045	1,260	560	3,488	796
60+	900	225	619	136	1,519	178
All ages (c)	15,836	1,019	8,051	504	23,887	758
Median age (d)	38	.	38	.	38	.

Source: WNDSM NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes referrals where the main problematic substance is not reported
(b) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2019 mid-year estimate
(c) Includes 29 referrals where the age is less than 10, and 6 referrals where the age is unknown.
(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 2019-20 by age and gender

				Referral age band					
Area Planning Board	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	All Ages (a)	EASR (b)
Male									
North Wales	2	92	805	1,061	909	560	212	3,644	1155.2
Powys	17	58	129	129	71	55	30	489	884.6
Hywel Dda	27	162	444	572	483	282	172	2,142	1283.1
Western Bay (c)	31	78	221	498	444	246	48	1,566	846.6
Cardiff & Vale	3	43	423	789	693	372	149	2,472	1024.3
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (d)	46	123	326	582	427	264	89	1,858	865.6
Gwent	46	164	601	839	621	370	181	2,822	1011.9
Outside Wales	1	19	186	290	174	75	15	760	.
Unknown	5	29	6	8	9	4	4	83	.
Total	178	768	3,141	4,768	3,831	2,228	900	15,836	1074.5
Female									
North Wales	3	32	318	536	492	350	156	1,887	593.8
Powys	8	25	50	46	44	40	15	228	411.9
Hywel Dda	30	107	208	258	256	158	95	1,112	640.7
Western Bay (c)	19	39	153	327	195	99	40	872	343.7
Cardiff & Vale	1	41	173	354	326	222	106	1,223	505.9
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (d)	18	64	158	289	233	154	83	1,002	454.9
Gwent	40	131	285	431	297	212	112	1,508	521.9
Outside Wales	0	5	34	58	46	24	9	176	.
Unknown	13	8	0	3	5	1	3	43	.
Total	132	452	1,379	2,302	1,894	1,260	619	8,051	537.2

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes a total of 22 referrals for males where the age is less than 10 and a total of 13 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.
(d) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

. Data item not applicable

Table 6:3 Referral activity by Ethnic Origin

	Referral Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
White	20,466	83.3	21,070	87.4	21,038	87.1	21,386	85.6	19,679	82.4
White and Black Caribbean	45	0.2	38	0.2	51	0.2	44	0.2	38	0.2
White and Black African	10	0.0	16	0.1	18	0.1	9	0.0	30	0.1
White and Asian	20	0.1	26	0.1	39	0.2	23	0.1	20	0.1
Any Other Mixed Background	87	0.4	91	0.4	77	0.3	94	0.4	75	0.3
Indian	16	0.1	30	0.1	27	0.1	16	0.1	26	0.1
Pakistani	28	0.1	40	0.2	29	0.1	29	0.1	17	0.1
Bangladeshi	17	0.1	27	0.1	24	0.1	21	0.1	7	0.0
Any Other Asian Background	56	0.2	72	0.3	71	0.3	67	0.3	66	0.3
Caribbean	29	0.1	31	0.1	22	0.1	19	0.1	14	0.1
African	47	0.2	38	0.2	35	0.1	35	0.1	37	0.2
Any Other Black Background	63	0.3	60	0.2	59	0.2	57	0.2	74	0.3
Other ethnic group (a)	52	0.2	40	0.2	39	0.2	36	0.1	28	0.1
Client not stated (b)	3,627	14.8	2,540	10.5	2,616	10.8	3,135	12.6	3,776	15.8
Unknown (c)		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0
Total	24,563	100	24,119	100	24,145	100	24,971	100	23,887	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 2019-20 by ethnic origin

Area Planning Board	White British	Ethnic Minority Groups	Not Stated	Total
North Wales	4,889	32	610	5,531
Powys	701	13	3	717
Hywel Dda	2,842	18	394	3,254
Western Bay (a)	2,026	33	379	2,438
Cardiff & Vale	1,819	185	1,691	3,695
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (b)	2,599	25	236	2,860
Gwent	3,889	91	350	4,330
Outside Wales	870	33	33	936
Unknown	44	2	80	126
Total	19,679	432	3,776	23,887

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.
(b) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

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 40.9% of the referrals (50.5% for all alcohol referrals and 39.6% for all drug referrals), and the Criminal Justice System accounted for 16.9% of referrals (8.5% for all alcohol referrals and 29.0% for drug referrals).

Table 6.5: Source of referrals in 2019-20 by main problematic substance: All Referrals

Referral Source (a)	Alcohol	Drugs	Not Reported	Total
Self	4,638	3,453	1,672	9,763
Criminal Justice System	784	2,526	715	4,025
Single Point of Engagement (SPOE)	1,026	669	603	2,298
GP	581	239	895	1,715
Support Agencies	730	572	576	1,878
NHS	736	247	962	1,945
Non-Statutory Treatment Service Providers	337	381	166	884
Statutory Treatment Service Providers	67	117	48	232
Other (b)	292	505	350	1,147
Total	9,191	8,709	5,987	23,887

Source: WNDSM, NHS Informatics Service

(a) See Annex B for breakdown of referral source
(b) Includes 18 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 2019-20 by main problematic substance
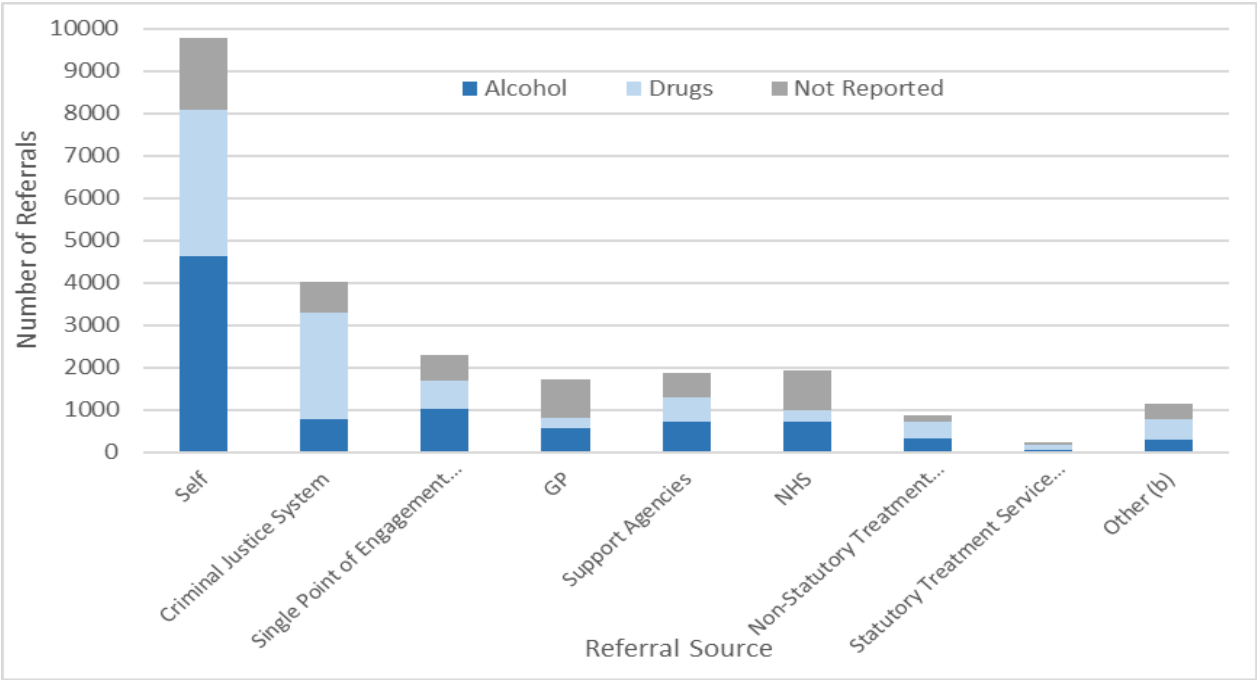
Individuals referred in 2019-20

Table 6.6 shows that the 23,887 referrals made in 2019-20 (excluding those clients that DNA before assessment) related to 17,026 individual clients with an average of 1.4 referrals per client during the financial year. Of these, 17,0226 clients, 10,135 (59.5%) were new cases, meaning that they were referred to a treatment service provider for the first time in 2019-20, or at least for the first time since the database began on the 1st April 2005.

Table 6.6: Previous history of referrals in 2019-20: All Referrals

	All Referrals	Individuals referred in 2019-20	Average referrals per individual	New Cases	Percentage of New Cases
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Gender					
Male	15,836	11,392	1.4	6,497	57.0
Female	8,051	5,634	1.4	3,638	64.6
Age					
10-14	310	295	1.1	295	100.0
15-19	1,220	1,045	1.2	1,034	98.9
20-29	4,520	3,322	1.4	2,309	69.5
30-39	7,070	4,899	1.4	2,513	51.3
40-49	5,725	3,890	1.5	1,883	48.4
50-59	3,488	2,417	1.4	1,296	53.6
60+	1,519	1,123	1.4	770	68.6
All Ages (f)	23,887	17,026	1.4	10,135	59.5
Median age (g)	38	38	.	36	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) All referrals 2019-20
(b) All referrals minus multiple referrals in 2019-20
(c) All referrals divided by individuals referred in 2019-20
(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 2019-20
(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

	Referral Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Age	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)
10-14	316	81.7	341	81.4	286	90.8	303	89.6	295	95.2
15-19	1,039	65.7	970	72.7	1,122	82.5	1,240	85.1	1,034	84.8
20-29	1,806	36.3	1,990	41.0	2,130	45.3	2,343	49.6	2,309	51.1
30-39	1,845	26.3	2,075	29.6	2,232	32.0	2,500	34.3	2,513	35.5
40-49	1,669	28.1	1,712	29.5	1,928	32.9	2,082	34.2	1,883	32.9
50-59	1,079	33.2	1,161	35.1	1,249	35.5	1,370	38.8	1,296	37.2
60+	600	42.8	630	46.1	692	49.0	772	50.7	770	50.7
All Ages	8,377	34.1	8,891	36.9	9,644	39.9	10,631	42.6	10,135	42.4

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 23 new cases in 2015-16, 12 in 2016-17, 5 in 2017-18, 21 in 2018-19 and 35 in 2019-20 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 5,911 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 21st August 2020. 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 North Wales, although comparatively few for Powys. For source of referral, there were more exclusions (relatively) where the referrals were from Self and NHS and fewer exclusions for statutory drug service and non-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.

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Table 6.8: Referrals excluded for main problematic substance

Gender	Excluded	Included
Male	3,810 (64.5%)	15,836 (66.3%)
Female	2,101 (35.5%)	8,050 (33.7%)
Total	5,911 (100.0%)	23,887 (100.0%)

Age	Excluded	Included
< 10	3 (0.0%)	29 (0.1%)
10-14	52 (0.9%)	310 (1.3%)
15-19	283 (4.8%)	1,220 (5.1%)
20-29	1,099 (18.6%)	4,520 (18.9%)
30-39	1,684 (28.5%)	7,070 (29.6%)
40-49	1,366 (23.1%)	5,725 (24.0%)
50-59	952 (16.1%)	3,488 (14.6%)
60+	469 (7.9%)	1,519 (6.4%)
Unknown	4 (0.1%)	6 (0.0%)
Total	5,911 (100.0%)	23,887 (100.0%)

Ethnicity	Excluded	Included
White	4,495 (76.0%)	19,679 (82.4%)
Black	32 (0.5%)	125 (0.5%)
Asian	20 (0.3%)	116 (0.5%)
Mixed	36 (0.6%)	163 (0.7%)
Other	7 (0.2%)	28 (0.1%)
Not Stated	1,321 (22.3%)	3,776 (15.8%)
Total	5,911 (100.0%)	23,887 (100.0%)

APB	Excluded	Included
North Wales	2,313 (39.1%)	5,531 (23.2%)
Powys	123 (2.1%)	717 (3.0%)
Hywel Dda	686 (11.6%)	3,254 (13.6%)
Western Bay	343 (5.8%)	2,438 (10.2%)
Cardiff & Vale	1,085 (18.4%)	3,695 (15.5%)
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (a)	370 (6.3%)	2,860 (12.0%)
Gwent	872 (14.8%)	4,330 (18.1%)
Other – Outside Wales	91 (1.5%)	936 (3.9%)
Unknown	28 (0.5%)	126 (0.5%)
Total	5,911 (100.0%)	23,887 (100.0%)

(a)   In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

Source of Referral	Excluded	Included
Self	1,654 (28.0%)	9,763 (40.9%)
GP	894 (15.1%)	1,715 (7.2%)
Criminal Justice System	710 (12.0%)	4,025 (16.9%)
Non-Statutory Drug Service	162 (2.7%)	884 (3.7%)
NHS	960 (16.2%)	1,945 (8.1%)
Single Point of Engagement	599 (10.1%)	2,298 (9.6%)
Statutory Drug Service	44 (0.7%)	232 (1.0%)
Other	347 (5.9%)	1,147 (4.8%)
Support Agencies	541 (9.2%)	1,878 (7.9%)
Total	5,911 (100.0%)	23,887 (100.0%)

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

Referrals by main problematic substance

Table 6.9 shows that of the 23,887 referrals in 2019-20 (excluding DNAs before assessment), alcohol was the main problematic substance reported in 9,191 of the cases, of which 1,820 referrals were for alcohol in combination with drugs. There were 8,709 referrals with drugs as the main problematic substance reported, of which 1,173 were in combination with alcohol. For 76 of the referrals (0.4%), no valid main problematic substance was reported at time of referral. For the remaining 5,911 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 2019-20 by main problematic substance

Main problematic substance		Male	Female	Total Number	Per Cent
Alcohol	Alcohol alone (a)	4,434	2,937	7,371	41.0
	Alcohol in combination with Drugs (b)	1,309	511	1,820	10.1
	- Alcohol Total	5,743	3,448	9,191	51.1
Drugs	Drugs alone (c)	5,371	2,165	7,536	41.9
	Drugs in combination with Alcohol (d)	870	303	1,173	6.5
	- Drugs Total	6,241	2,468	8,709	48.4
Unknown	Unknown (e)	42	34	76	0.4
All Referrals		12,026	5,950	17,976	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 2019-20 by main problematic substance

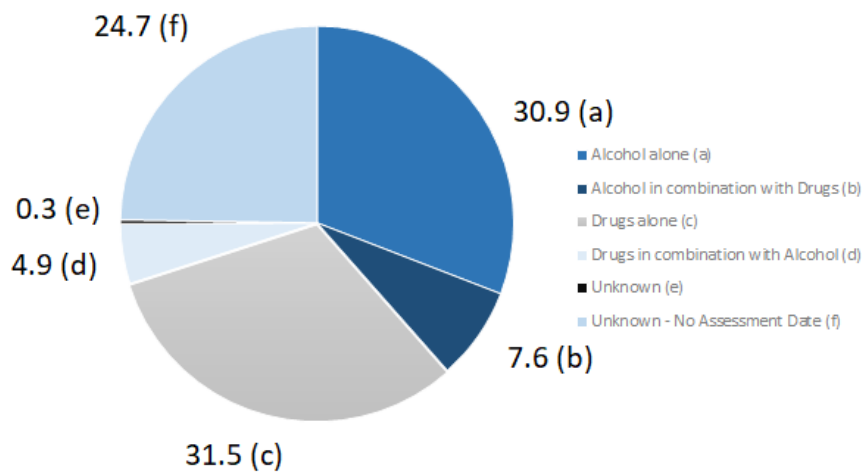(a) Alcohol recorded as the main problematic substance with no other substance reported.
(b) Alcohol recorded as the main problematic substance but with misuse of drugs also being reported.
(c) Drugs recorded as the main problematic substance with no alcohol reported.
(d) Drugs recorded as the main problematic 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 3,304 (18.5%) of referrals, followed by Cannabis with 1,914 (10.7%).

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 62.5% of referrals with alcohol as the main problematic substances, 71.7% for drugs, and as high as 100.0% for Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs and 84.1% for Cocaine.

The median age of clients referred in 2019-20 where alcohol was the main problematic substance was 43, compared with 33 for clients referred where the main problematic substance was drugs.

Table 6.10: Referrals in 2019-20 by main problematic substance (where known)

Main problematic substance	Male	Female	Total Number	Total Per Cent (a)
Alcohol	5,743	3,448	9,191	51.4
Heroin	2,299	1,005	3,304	18.5
Cannabis (b)	1,339	575	1,914	10.7
Cocaine	1,037	196	1,233	6.9
Amphetamines	247	143	390	2.2
Methadone (c)	293	94	387	2.2
Crack Cocaine	200	88	288	1.6
Benzodiazepines	125	55	180	1.0
Hallucinogens	41	14	55	0.3
Ecstasy	24	6	30	0.2
Solvents	11	4	15	0.1
Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs	3	0	3	0.0
Other Opiates (d)	396	183	579	3.2
Other Drugs (e)	224	102	326	1.8
Other Stimulants (f)	0	1	1	0.0
All Referrals	11,982	5,914	17,896	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	2015-16 Number	2015-16 Per Cent	2016-17 Number	2016-17 Per Cent	2017-18 Number	2017-18 Per Cent	2018-19 Number	2018-19 Per Cent	2019-20 Number	2019-20 Per Cent
Alcohol	10,034	53.8	9,635	52.3	9,296	51.8	9,787	52.2	9,191	51.4
Heroin	3,583	19.2	3,471	18.8	3,230	18.0	3,207	17.1	3,304	18.5
Cannabis (a)	2,059	11.0	2,021	11.0	1,952	10.9	1,933	10.3	1,914	10.7
Cocaine	555	3.0	698	3.8	917	5.1	1,152	6.1	1,233	6.9
Methadone (b)	392	2.1	587	3.2	586	3.3	541	2.9	387	2.2
Amphetamines	714	3.8	520	2.8	523	2.9	473	2.5	390	2.2
Crack Cocaine	90	0.5	165	0.9	215	1.2	323	1.7	288	1.6
Benzodiazepines	174	0.9	188	1.0	187	1.0	173	0.9	180	1.0
Ecstasy	14	0.1	25	0.1	34	0.2	64	0.3	30	0.2
Hallucinogens	21	0.1	21	0.1	44	0.2	48	0.3	55	0.3
Solvents	24	0.1	23	0.1	17	0.1	32	0.2	15	0.1
Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs	8	0.0	9	0.0	5	0.0	6	0.0	3	0.0
Other Opiates (c)	603	3.2	644	3.5	605	3.4	688	3.7	579	3.2
Other Drugs (d)	358	1.9	419	2.3	327	1.8	313	1.7	326	1.8
Other Stimulants (e)	6	0.0	2	0.0	6	0.0	4	0.0	1	0.0
All Referrals	18,635	100	18,428	100	17,944	100	18,744	100	17,896	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 2019-20 by age and gender: main problematic substance: Alcohol

Referral age band	Male Referral	Male Referral Rate (a)	Female Referral	Female Referral Rate (a)	Total Referral	Total Referral Rate (a)
10-14	17	18	33	37	50	28
15-19	87	97	106	128	193	112
20-29	761	357	396	200	1,157	282
30-39	1,626	866	802	422	2,428	643
40-49	1,499	830	943	502	2,442	662
50-59	1,206	566	764	340	1,970	450
60+	546	137	404	89	950	111
All Ages (b)	5,743	369	3,448	216	9,191	292
Median age (c)	42	.	44	.	43	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2019 mid-year estimate
(b) Includes 1 referral 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 2019-20 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	134	145	67	76	201	111
15-19	521	583	220	265	741	430
20-29	1,630	766	626	317	2,256	549
30-39	2,013	1,073	930	489	2,943	779
40-49	1,444	799	465	247	1,909	518
50-59	425	199	133	59	558	127
60+	72	18	23	5	95	11
All Ages (b)	6,239	401	2,466	154	8,705	276
Median age (c)	34	.	32	.	33	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2019 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

7 Assessments

Figure 7.1 shows the status along the treatment pathway of all clients assessed in 2019-20.

Of the 18,184 clients assessed, 13,704 cases had already been closed by the 21st August 2020 freeze date, 2,195 (11.7%) 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 2019-20, as compared with figure 6.1 which was based on clients referred in 2019-20. As a comparison, the number of assessments shown in figure 6.1 (17,627) related to clients who were both referred in 2019-20 *and* assessed on or before 31st March 2020, whereas the 18,184 figure below indicates all clients assessed in 2019-20, including those whose referral date was prior to 1st April 2019. Similarly, figures relating to "treatments started" and "case closures", which appear later on in this report, are not comparable with the figures shown below (15,630 and 11,497 respectively).

Figure 7.1: Current status along treatment pathway for those assessed in 2019-20 (as at 21st August 2020 freeze date)
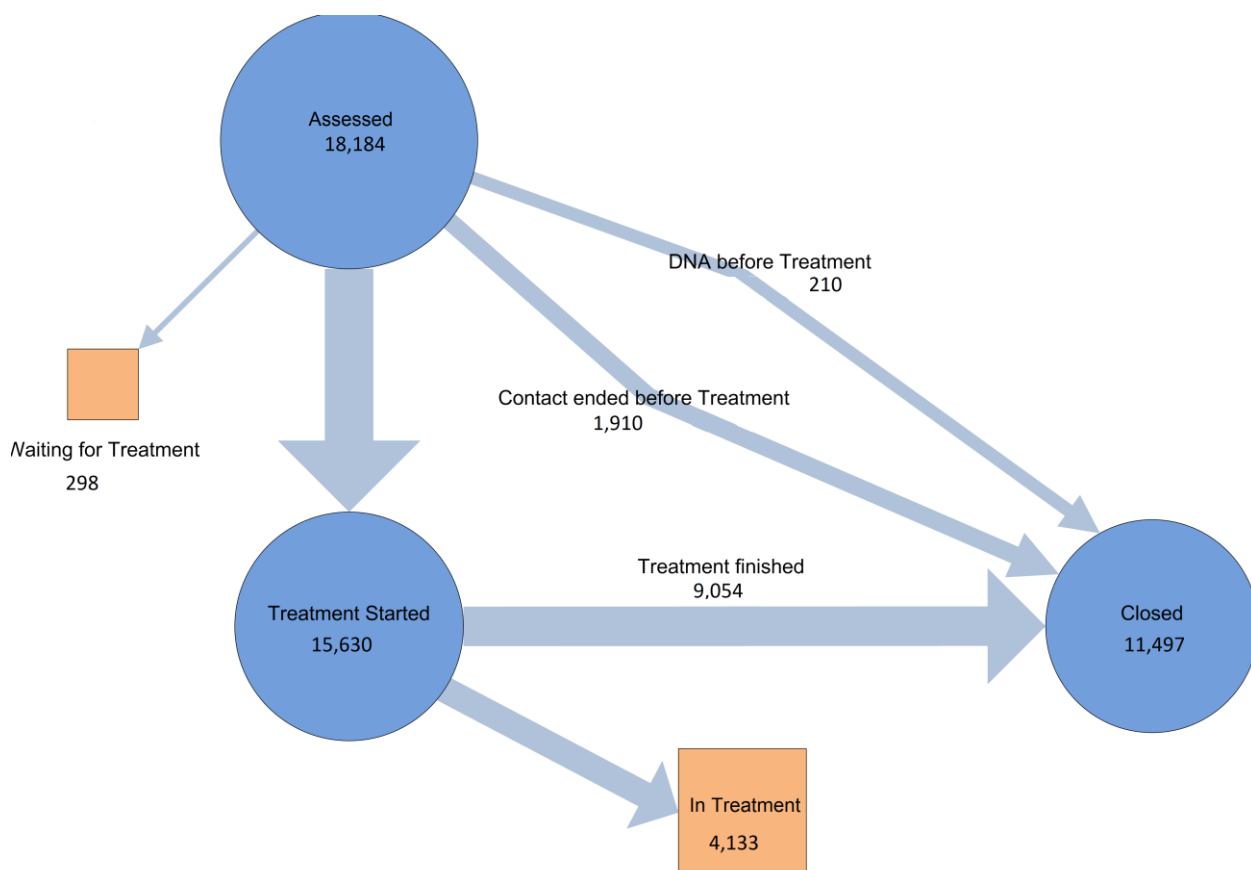
Assessments by Age, Gender, Substance and Ethnic Origin

Table 7.1: Assessments by area of residence in 2019-20 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	1,755	251	1,526	218	16	2	3,297	471
Powys	271	205	336	254	0	0	607	458
Hywel Dda	1,353	349	1,256	324	7	2	2,616	675
Western Bay (b)	838	215	1,228	315	4	1	2,070	530
Cardiff & Vale	1,654	330	987	197	5	1	2,646	53
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (c)	1,376	307	1,071	239	12	3	2,459	548
Gwent	1,735	265	1,797	275	1	0	3,533	394
Outside Wales	306	.	542	.	0	.	848	.
Unknown	22	.	44	.	42	.	108	.
Total	9,310	295	8,787	279	87	3	18,184	577

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2019 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.
(c) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

. 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 2019-20 by individual substance

Area Planning Board	Main problematic substance					
	Heroin	Cannabis	Cocaine	Methadone (a)	Amphetamines	Crack
Assessments						
North Wales	528	293	271	148	48	36
Powys	75	139	63	1	10	8
Hywel Dda	438	360	154	27	29	20
Western Bay (b)	642	214	115	37	59	26
Cardiff & Vale	330	169	152	87	38	68
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (d)	366	244	132	28	85	41
Gwent	668	460	285	29	106	60
Outside Wales	260	54	73	32	14	27
Unknown	5	31	1			
Total	3,312	1,964	1,246	389	389	286
Rate per 100,000 population (c)						
North Wales	75	8	39	21	7	5
Powys	57	105	48	1	8	6
Hywel Dda	113	93	40	7	7	5
Western Bay (b)	164	55	29	9	15	7
Cardiff & Vale	66	34	30	17	8	14
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (d)	82	54	29	6	19	9
Gwent	102	70	44	4	16	9
Outside Wales	.	.	.	.	.	.
Unknown	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	105	62	40	12	12	9

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(c) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone
(d) 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.
(e) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2019 mid-year estimate
(f) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB
 . Data item not applicable

Table 7.3: Assessments in 2019-20 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	158	170	112	127	270	149
15-19	633	709	336	404	969	562
20-29	2,415	1,134	1,034	523	3,449	840
30-39	3,684	1,963	1,741	915	5,425	1,436
40-49	2,979	1,649	1,439	765	4,418	1,198
50-59	1,660	779	896	399	2,556	584
60+	630	158	437	96	1,067	125
All Ages (c)	12,177	783	6,007	376	18,184	577
Median age (d)	38	.	39	.	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 2019 mid-year estimate
(c) Includes 28 assessments where the age is less than 10, and 2 assessments where age is unknown.
(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									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
White	16,479	84.9	16,905	90.3	16,305	89.9	16,565	88.3	15,359	84.5
White and Black Caribbean	42	0.2	28	0.1	39	0.2	34	0.2	33	0.2
White and Black African	9	0.0	10	0.1	15	0.1	7	0.0	23	0.1
White and Asian	15	0.1	21	0.1	31	0.2	17	0.1	15	0.1
Any Other Mixed Background	68	0.4	75	0.4	62	0.3	72	0.4	60	0.3
Indian	14	0.1	24	0.1	18	0.1	14	0.1	23	0.1
Pakistani	27	0.1	32	0.2	21	0.1	24	0.1	13	0.1
Bangladeshi	13	0.1	23	0.1	21	0.1	17	0.1	7	0.0
Any Other Asian Background	49	0.3	52	0.3	55	0.3	55	0.3	53	0.3
Caribbean	24	0.1	20	0.1	16	0.1	14	0.1	13	0.1
African	37	0.2	27	0.1	25	0.1	28	0.1	26	0.1
Any Other Black Background	49	0.3	51	0.3	45	0.2	46	0.2	55	0.3
Any other ethnic group (a)	35	0.2	32	0.2	23	0.1	25	0.1	21	0.1
Client not stated (b)	2,549	13.1	1,412	7.5	1,464	8.1	1,852	9.9	2,483	13.7
Total	19,410	100	18,712	100	18,140	100	18,770	100	18,184	100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a)   Includes Chinese and Any other ethnic group
(b)   Client has declined to state their origin

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 45.0% of the referrals (50.3% of all alcohol referrals and 39.6% of all drug referrals) and the Criminal Justice System accounted for 18.4% of referrals (8.5% of all alcohol referrals and 29.0% of all drug referrals).

Table 7.5: Assessments by source of referral in 2019-20 by main problematic substance

Referral Source (a)	Alcohol	Drugs	Not Reported	Total
Self	4,686	3,480	19	8,185
Criminal Justice System	794	2,546	5	3,345
Single Point of Engagement	1,047	671	4	1,722
NHS	764	244	2	1,010
Support Agencies	724	580	40	1,344
GP	588	241	1	830
Non-Statutory Drug Service	341	389	4	734
Statutory Drug Service	65	121	4	190
Other (b)	301	520	3	824
Total	9,310	8,792	82	18,184

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 13 assessments where the referral source is unknown.

Chart 7.5: Assessments by source of referral in 2019-20 by main problematic substance
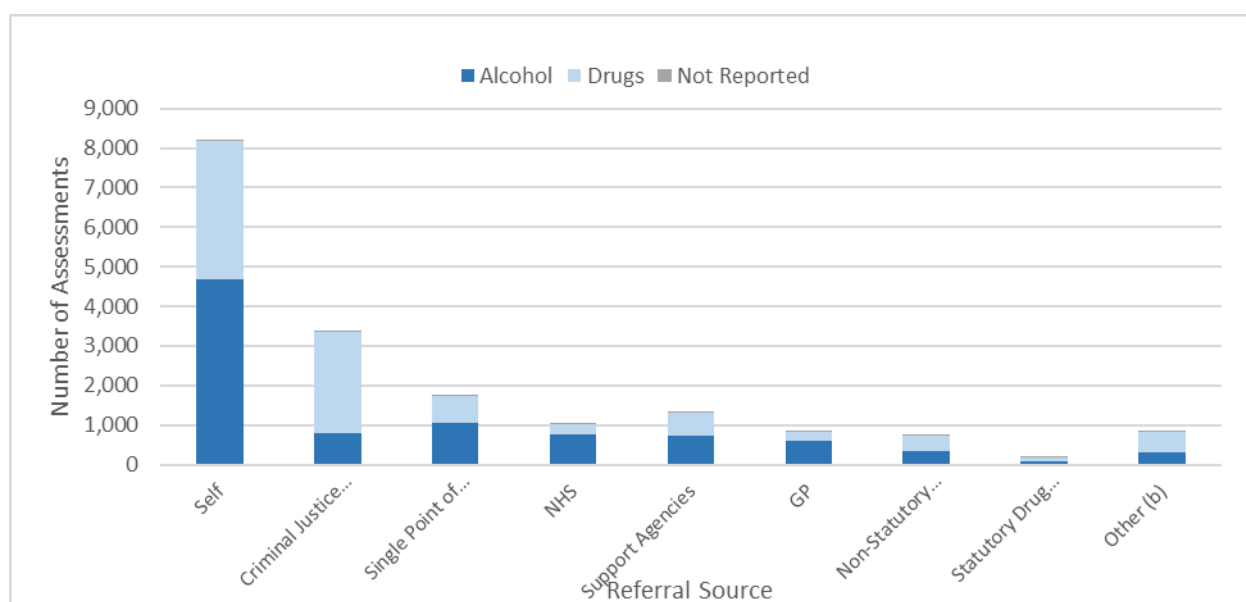
Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

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 3,312 (18.2%) of all assessments, followed by Cannabis with 1,964 (10.8%).

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 67.0% of all assessments and 67.0% of all assessments where the main problematic substance is known. Patterns vary according to substance, with males accounting for 62.6% of assessments with alcohol as the main problematic substance, 71.1% for drugs, 84.2% for Cocaine, and as high as 100% for Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs.

The median age of clients assessed in 2019-20 was 25 for Cannabis, 29 for Cocaine, and 38 for Heroin.

Table 7.6a: Assessments in 2019-20 by main problematic substance

Main problematic substance	Male	Female	Total Number	Per Cent (a)
Alcohol	5,825	3,485	9,310	51.2
Heroin	2,305	1,007	3,312	18.2
Cannabis (b)	1,380	584	1,964	10.8
Cocaine	1,049	197	1,246	6.9
Methadone (c)	293	96	389	2.1
Amphetamines	246	143	389	2.1
Crack Cocaine	198	88	286	1.6
Benzodiazepines	124	54	178	1.0
Ecstasy	26	5	31	0.2
Hallucinogens	41	14	55	0.3
Solvents	12	4	16	0.1
Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs	3	0	3	0.0
Other Opiates (d)	400	187	587	3.2
Other Drugs (e)	228	102	330	1.8
Other Stimulants (f)	0	1	1	0.0
Not reported (g)	47	40	87	0.5
All assessments	12,177	6,007	18,184	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 2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Alcohol	10,017	9,741	9,391	9,744	9,310
Drugs	8,573	8,836	8,695	8,955	8,787
- Heroin	3,577	3,508	3,208	3,223	3,312
- Cannabis (a)	2,059	2,028	1,966	1,916	1,964
- Cocaine	551	693	933	1,142	1,246
- Methadone (b)	397	564	607	546	389
- Amphetamines	721	537	520	480	389
- Crack Cocaine	86	164	218	325	286
- Benzodiazepines	169	187	189	173	178
- Ecstasy	14	23	35	63	31
- Hallucinogens	20	21	43	50	55
- Solvents	24	25	17	30	16
- Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs	7	9	6	6	3
- Other Opiates (c)	591	651	611	691	587
- Other Drugs (d)	349	424	336	306	330
- Other Stimulants (e)	8	2	6	4	1
Not Reported	820	135	54	71	87
All Assessments	19,410	18,712	18,140	18,770	18,184

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*

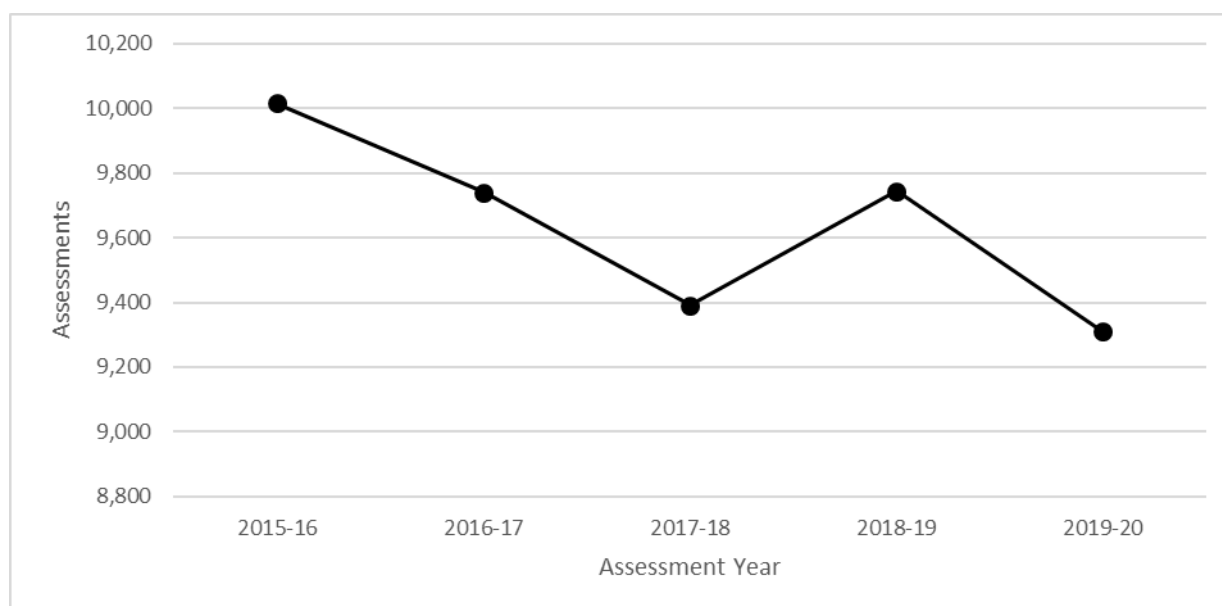**Chart 7.6a: Assessments by main problematic substance: Alcohol**

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

Chart 7.6b: Assessments by main problematic substance: Most frequently report drugs
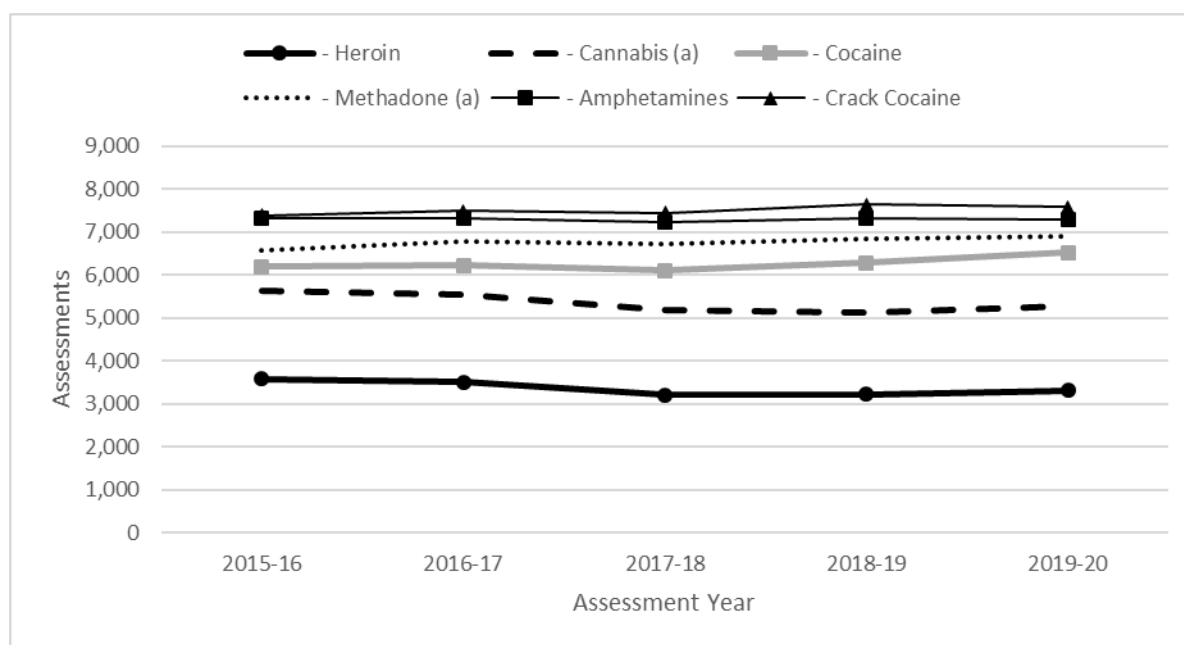
(a) It is not possible to be clear if methadone recorded as main problematic substance refers to prescribed or illicit methadone.

Chart 7.6c: Assessments by main problematic substance: Remaining Drugs
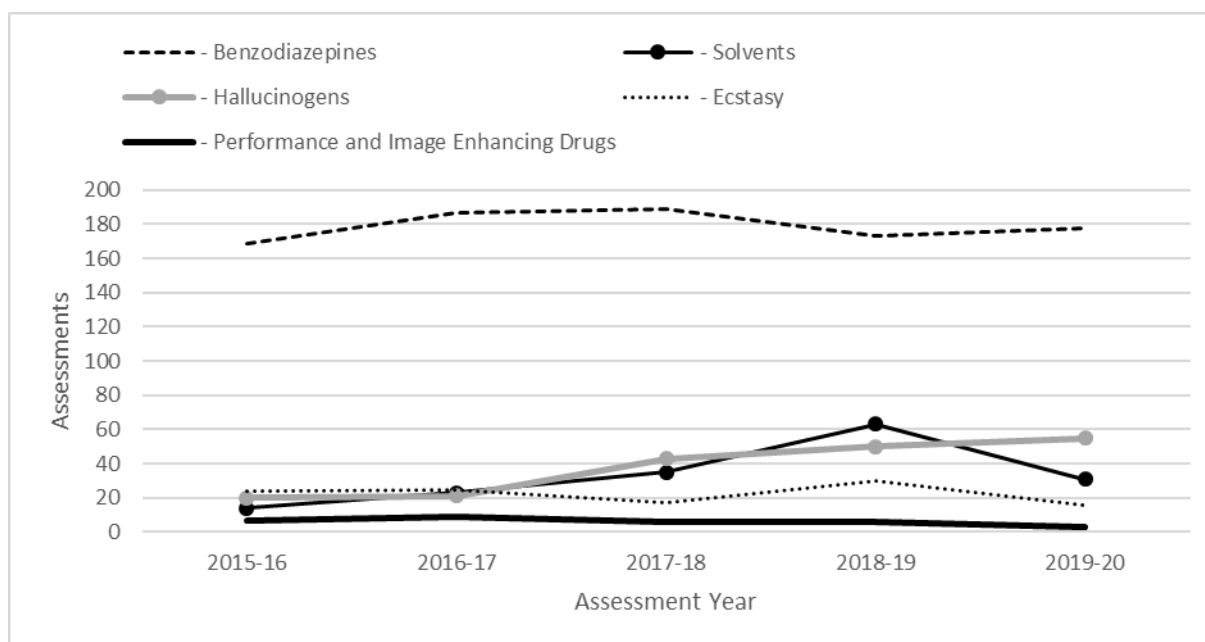
The drugs selected in tables 7.7a to 7.7f have been selected as these drugs are the most prevalent drugs reported to the WNDSM.

Table 7.7a: Assessments in 2019-20 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	2	2	2	1
15-19	12	13	7	8	19	11
20-29	305	143	184	93	489	119
30-39	884	471	461	242	1,345	356
40-49	832	461	280	149	1,112	302
50-59	247	116	68	30	315	72
60+	25	6	4	1	29	3
All ages (b)	2,305	148	1,007	63	3,312	105
Median age (c)	39	.	36	.	38	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a)   Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2019 mid-year estimate
(b)   Includes 1 assessment where the age is unknown
(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 7.7b: Assessments in 2019-20 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	110	119	50	57	160	88
15-19	369	413	171	206	540	313
20-29	512	241	208	105	720	175
30-39	239	127	103	54	342	91
40-49	106	59	28	15	134	36
50-59	33	15	20	9	53	12
60+	11	3	4	1	15	2
All ages	1,380	89	584	37	1,964	62
Median age (c)	25	.	24	.	25	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a)   Cannabinoids may have been reported under cannabis.
(b)   Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2019 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 2019-20 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	2	2	3	3	5	3
15-19	89	100	20	24	109	63
20-29	486	228	80	40	566	138
30-39	341	182	70	37	411	109
40-49	110	61	22	12	132	36
50-59	19	9	2	1	21	5
60+	2	1	0	0	2	0
All ages	1,049	67	197	12	1,246	40
Median age (b)	29	.	29	.	29	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2019 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 2019-20 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	1	1	1	1
20-29	28	13	11	6	39	9
30-39	118	63	55	29	173	46
40-49	108	60	23	12	131	36
50-59	34	16	6	3	40	9
60+	5	1	0	0	5	1
All ages	293	19	96	6	389	12
Median age (c)	40	.	37	.	39	.

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 2019 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 2019-20 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	1	1	1	1	2	1
20-29	45	21	19	10	64	16
30-39	91	48	81	43	172	46
40-49	76	42	32	17	108	29
50-59	30	14	9	4	39	9
60+	3	1	0	0	3	0
All ages	246	16	143	9	389	12
Median age (b)	38	.	36	.	37	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2019 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 2019-20 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	1	1	1	1	2	1
15-19	3	3	1	1	4	2
20-29	52	24	24	12	76	19
30-39	82	44	50	26	132	35
40-49	42	23	10	5	52	14
50-59	16	8	2	1	18	4
60+	2	1	0	0	2	0
All ages	198	13	88	6	286	9
Median age (b)	35	.	32	.	34	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Rate per 100,000 population; Source: ONS 2019 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 40.1% in 2015-16 to 48.1% in 2019-20.

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

	Assessment Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Area Planning Board	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)
North Wales	840	18.7	682	14.9	727	18.6	674	18.8	703	21.3
Powys	313	39.6	476	91.4	501	92.8	630	94.0	541	89.1
Hywel Dda	1,586	72.9	1,845	82.3	1,876	81.5	2,108	84.3	2,158	82.5
Western Bay (b)	805	37.0	769	35.8	708	31.6	765	32.7	636	30.7
Cardiff & Vale	769	24.3	739	31.8	662	27.3	873	31.6	740	28.0
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (c)	750	36.2	835	35.0	783	35.5	892	38.1	1,018	41.4
Gwent	2,332	66.4	2,153	61.6	2,189	63.9	2,163	63.2	2,353	66.6
Outside Wales	388	50.2	524	54.5	501	53.8	633	64.0	564	66.5
Unknown	8	3.2	14	19.2	18	11.8	41	24.6	37	34.3
Total	7,791	40.1	8,037	43.0	7,965	43.9	8,779	46.8	8,750	48.1

Source: WNDSM, 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.

(c) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

8 Treatments

Figure 8.1 shows the status of those clients who started treatment in 2019-20.

Of the 15,796 clients who started treatment, 11,608 (73.4%) had already been closed by the 21st August 2020 freeze date.

Note that the numbers in figure 8.1 only relate to clients who started treatment in 2019-20, as compared to figures 6.1 and 7.1, which are based on referrals and assessments in 2019-20 respectively, and therefore the figures of 15,796 (for treatment starts) and 11,608 (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 2019-20 (as at 21st August 2020 freeze date)

1st Treatment Starts
15,796

Contact Ended
11,608

In Treatment
4,188

Closed
11,608
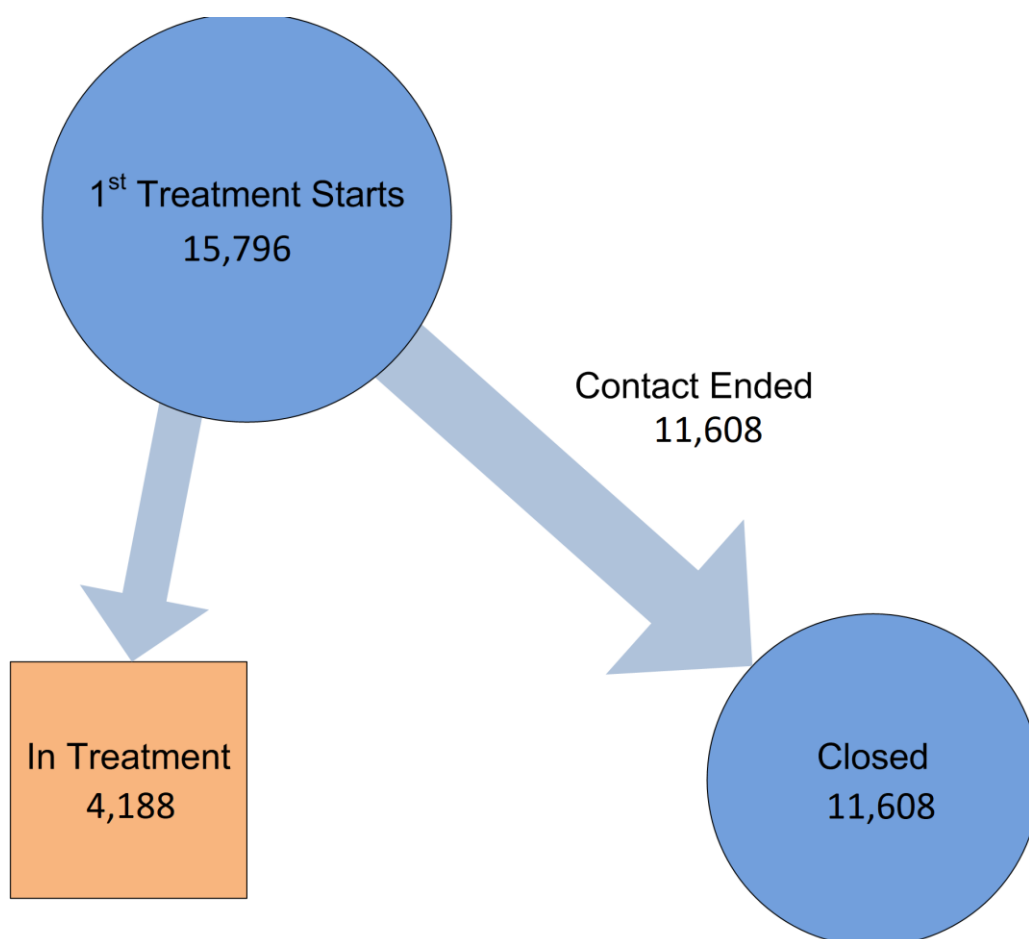
Clients commencing treatment by Age, Gender and Ethnic Origin

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

	Treatment Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Gender	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	11,663	67.3	11,276	67.1	10,567	66.1	10,958	66.8	10,614	67.2
Female	5,661	32.7	5,530	32.9	5,421	33.9	5,439	33.2	5,182	32.8
Total	17,324	100	16,806	100	15,988	100	16,397	100	15,796	100
Age										
10-14	306	1.8	335	2.0	253	1.6	256	1.6	239	1.5
15-19	1,180	6.8	962	5.7	958	6.0	1,021	6.2	872	5.5
20-29	3,397	19.6	3,360	20.0	3,012	18.8	3,056	18.6	3,023	19.1
30-39	5,069	29.3	4,959	29.5	4,681	29.3	4,899	29.9	4,732	30.0
40-49	4,217	24.3	4,137	24.6	3,957	24.7	3,978	24.3	3,827	24.2
50-59	2,216	12.8	2,211	13.2	2,272	14.2	2,273	13.9	2,214	14.0
60+	928	5.4	836	5.0	854	5.3	912	5.6	886	5.6
All ages (b)	17,324	100	16,806	100	15,988	100	16,397	100	15,796	100
Median age (c)	37	.	37	.	38	.	38	.	38	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

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

(b) Includes 9 treatments in 2015-16, 4 treatments in 2016-17, 1 treatment in 2017-18, 2 treatments in 2018-19 and 1 treatment in 2019-20 where the age is less than 10, and 2 treatments in 2015-16, 2 treatments in 2016-17 and 2 treatments in 2019-20 where age is unknown.

(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									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
White	14,955	86.3	15,316	91.1	14,736	92.2	15,075	91.9	14,076	89.1
White and Black Caribbean	34	0.2	24	0.1	37	0.2	31	0.2	28	0.2
White and Black African	8	0.0	9	0.1	13	0.1	7	0.0	21	0.1
White and Asian	12	0.1	18	0.1	22	0.1	11	0.1	12	0.1
Any Other Mixed	57	0.3	57	0.3	46	0.3	55	0.3	47	0.3
Indian	10	0.1	21	0.1	12	0.1	13	0.1	17	0.1
Pakistani	26	0.2	29	0.2	17	0.1	18	0.1	13	0.1
Bangladeshi	11	0.1	17	0.1	17	0.1	16	0.1	7	0.0
Any Other Asian	39	0.2	43	0.3	47	0.3	40	0.2	41	0.3
Caribbean	23	0.1	22	0.1	13	0.1	11	0.1	10	0.1
African	30	0.2	18	0.1	20	0.1	20	0.1	20	0.1
Any Other Black	40	0.2	45	0.3	38	0.2	26	0.2	40	0.3
Any other ethnic group (a)	27	0.2	25	0.1	16	0.1	17	0.1	13	0.1
Client not stated (b)	2,052	11.8	1,162	6.9	954	6.0	1,057	6.4	1,451	9.2
Total	17,324	100	16,806	100	15,988	100	16,397	100	15,796	100

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes Chinese and Any other ethnic group
(b) Client has declined to state their ethnic origin

Proof

Clients commencing treatment by Age, Gender and main problematic substance

Table 8.3: Treatments commenced by individual substance

		Treatment Year									
		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Substance	Gender	Number	Median Age (a)	Numbe	Median Age (a)	Number	Median Age (a)	Number	Median Age (a)	Number	Median Age (a)
Alcohol	Male	5,221	42	5,178	42	5,025	43	5,186	42	4,883	42
	Female	3,069	42	3,083	42	3,010	43	3,086	42	2,955	43
	Total	8,290	42	8,261	42	8,035	43	8,272	42	7,838	43
Heroin	Male	2,285	37	2,270	37	2,032	38	2,077	38	2,090	39
	Female	840	33	901	34	850	35	868	35	896	36
	Total	3,125	35	3,171	36	2,882	37	2,945	37	2,986	38
Cannabis (b)	Male	1,325	23	1,348	23	1,188	24	1,191	24	1,243	25
	Female	511	22	518	23	538	24	501	23	506	24
	Total	1,836	23	1,866	23	1,726	24	1,692	24	1,749	25
Cocaine	Male	393	29	519	29	635	29	820	29	930	29
	Female	72	28	100	28	143	30	163	29	168	29
	Total	465	29	619	29	778	29	983	29	1,098	29
Methadone (c)	Male	234	38	351	38	389	39	366	38	261	40
	Female	127	33	173	36	197	36	152	37	86	37
	Total	361	36	524	37	586	38	518	38	347	39
Amphetamines	Male	433	34	308	35	297	36	271	36	219	38
	Female	201	32	169	33	165	34	161	36	122	36
	Total	634	33	477	34	462	35	432	36	341	37
Crack Cocaine	Male	58	35	105	33	131	35	186	35	162	35
	Female	17	32	42	35	54	32	78	33	75	31
	Total	75	34	147	34	185	34	264	35	237	33
All Other Substances	Male	731	33	822	33	743	33	788	33	740	33
	Female	315	32	372	33	358	34	383	34	327	34
	Total	1,046	32	1,194	33	1,101	33	1,171	33	1,067	33
Not Reported	Male	983	37	375	40	127	40	73	39	86	40
	Female	509	38	172	40	106	41	47	41	47	40
	Total	1,492	37	547	40	233	40	120	40	133	40
	Total	17,324	37	16,806	37	15,988	38	16,397	38	15,796	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				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Alcohol	8,290	8,261	8,035	8,272	7,838
Drugs	7,542	7,998	7,720	8,005	7,825
- Heroin	3,125	3,171	2,882	2,945	2,986
- Cannabis (a)	1,836	1,866	1,726	1,692	1,749
- Cocaine	465	619	778	983	1,098
- Methadone (b)	361	524	586	518	347
- Amphetamines	634	477	462	432	341
- Crack Cocaine	75	147	185	264	237
- Benzodiazepines	156	168	166	153	159
- Ecstasy	13	22	30	53	28
- Hallucinogens	17	18	41	46	44
- Solvents	19	25	14	26	12
- Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs	7	9	6	6	3
- Other Opiates (c)	517	576	543	605	524
- Other Drugs (d)	310	374	297	279	296
- Other Stimulants (e)	7	2	4	3	1
Not Reported	1,492	547	233	120	133
All Treatment	17,324	16,806	15,988	16,397	15,796

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

| | Treatment Year | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2015-16 | | 2016-17 | | 2017-18 | | 2018-19 | | 2019-20 | |
Gender	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Males	5,221	63.0	5,178	62.7	5,025	62.5	5,186	62.7	4,883	62.3
Females	3,069	37.0	3,083	37.3	3,010	37.5	3,086	37.3	2,955	37.7
Total	8,290	100	8,261	100	8,035	100	8,272	100	7,838	100
Age										
10-14	52	0.6	61	0.7	43	0.5	63	0.8	49	0.6
15-19	231	2.8	174	2.1	184	2.3	217	2.6	182	2.3
20-29	1,091	13.2	1,175	14.2	1,006	12.5	1,075	13.0	960	12.2
30-39	2,017	24.3	2,023	24.5	1,962	24.4	2,043	24.7	2,067	26.4
40-49	2,405	29.0	2,325	28.1	2,247	28.0	2,226	26.9	2,080	26.5
50-59	1,692	20.4	1,756	21.3	1,803	22.4	1,814	21.9	1,707	21.8
60+	798	9.6	744	9.0	790	9.8	832	10.1	792	10.1
All Ages (a)	8,290	100	8,261	100	8,035	100	8,272	100	7,838	100
Median age (b)	42	.	42	.	43	.	42	.	43	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes 4 treatments in 2015-16, 1 treatments in 2016-17, 2 treatment in 2018-19 and 1 treatment in 2019-20 where the age is less than 10, and 2 treatments in 2016-17 where age is unknown.

(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

	Treatment Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Gender	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Males	5,459	72.4	5,723	71.6	5,415	70.1	5,699	71.2	5,645	72.1
Females	2,083	27.6	2,275	28.4	2,305	29.9	2,306	28.8	2,180	27.9
Total	7,542	100	7,998	100	7,720	100	8,005	100	7,825	100
Age										
10-14	248	3.3	271	3.4	209	2.7	193	2.4	188	2.4
15-19	885	11.7	777	9.7	761	9.9	795	9.9	690	8.8
20-29	1,947	25.8	2,082	26.0	1,977	25.6	1,958	24.5	2,042	26.1
30-39	2,598	34.4	2,790	34.9	2,658	34.4	2,826	35.3	2,621	33.5
40-49	1,479	19.6	1,653	20.7	1,641	21.3	1,727	21.6	1,707	21.8
50-59	328	4.3	365	4.6	425	5.5	437	5.5	491	6.3
60+	55	0.7	57	0.7	48	0.6	69	0.9	84	1.1
All Ages (a)	7,542	100	7,998	100	7,720	100	8,005	100	7,825	100
Median age (b)	32	.	32	.	32	.	33	.	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, and 2 treatments in 2019-20 where the age is unknown.

(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

	Treatment Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Gender	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	2,285	73.1	2,270	71.6	2,032	70.5	2,077	70.5	2,090	70.0
Female	840	26.9	901	28.4	850	29.5	868	29.5	896	30.0
Total	3,125	100	3,171	100	2,882	100	2,945	100	2,986	100
Age										
10-14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1
15-19	15	0.5	17	0.5	19	0.7	12	0.4	15	0.5
20-29	654	20.9	630	19.9	523	18.1	479	16.3	449	15.0
30-39	1,400	44.8	1,419	44.7	1,252	43.4	1,298	44.1	1,210	40.5
40-49	859	27.5	902	28.4	862	29.9	912	31.0	997	33.4
50-59	177	5.7	180	5.7	215	7.5	224	7.6	284	9.5
60+	20	0.6	23	0.7	11	0.4	20	0.7	28	0.9
All Ages (a)	3,125	100	3,171	100	2,882	100	2,945	100	2,986	100
Median age (b)	35	.	36	.	37	.	37	.	38	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

(a) Includes 2 treatments in 2019-20 where the age is unknown.

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

| | Treatment Year | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2015-16 | | 2016-17 | | 2017-18 | | 2018-19 | | 2019-20 | |
Gender	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	1,325	72.2	1,348	72.2	1,188	68.8	1,191	70.4	1,243	71.1
Female	511	27.8	518	27.8	538	31.2	501	29.6	506	28.9
Total	1,836	100	1,866	100	1,726	100	1,692	100	1,749	100
Age										
10-14	194	10.6	218	11.7	162	9.4	147	8.5	143	8.2
15-19	692	37.7	616	33.0	556	32.2	580	33.6	492	28.1
20-29	541	29.5	597	32.0	571	33.1	541	31.3	646	36.9
30-39	250	13.6	266	14.3	258	14.9	255	14.8	281	16.1
40-49	121	6.6	137	7.3	129	7.5	111	6.4	127	7.3
50-59	30	1.6	24	1.3	41	2.4	47	2.7	47	2.7
60+	8	0.4	7	0.4	8	0.5	11	0.6	13	0.7
All Ages (b)	1,836	100	1,866	100	1,726	100	1,726	100	1,749	100
Median age (c)	23	.	23	.	24	.	24	.	25	.

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

| | Treatment Year | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2015-16 | | 2016-17 | | 2017-18 | | 2018-19 | | 2019-20 | |
Gender	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	393	84.5	519	83.8	635	81.6	820	83.4	930	84.7
Female	72	15.5	100	16.2	143	18.4	163	16.6	168	15.3
Total	465	100	619	100	778	100	983	100	1,098	100
Age										
10-14	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.3	2	0.2	5	0.5
15-19	29	6.2	35	5.7	66	8.5	64	6.5	99	9.0
20-29	251	54.0	327	52.8	374	48.1	453	46.1	498	45.4
30-39	138	29.7	188	30.4	250	32.1	354	36.0	368	33.5
40-49	39	8.4	56	9.0	74	9.5	97	9.9	110	10.0
50-59	5	1.1	11	1.8	11	1.4	12	1.2	16	1.5
60+	2	0.4	1	0.2	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.2
All Ages	465	100	619	100	778	100	983	100	1,098	100
Median age (a)	29	.	29	.	29	.	29	.	29	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

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

	Treatment Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Gender	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	234	64.8	351	67.0	389	66.4	366	70.7	261	75.2
Female	127	35.2	173	33.0	197	33.6	152	29.3	86	24.8
Total	361	100	524	100	586	100	518	100	347	100
Age										
10-14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-19	2	0.6	0	0.0	2	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
20-29	69	19.1	75	14.3	85	14.5	66	12.7	35	10.1
30-39	170	47.1	251	47.9	250	42.7	236	45.6	156	45.0
40-49	100	27.7	166	31.7	195	33.3	171	33.0	116	33.4
50-59	15	4.2	30	5.7	48	8.2	38	7.3	36	10.4
60+	5	1.4	2	0.4	6	1.0	7	1.4	4	1.2
All Ages	361	100	524	100	586	100	518	100	347	100
Median age (b)	36	.	37	.	38	.	38	.	39	.

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

	Treatment Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Gender	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	433	68.3	308	64.6	297	64.3	271	62.7	219	64.2
Female	201	31.7	169	35.4	165	35.7	161	37.3	122	35.8
Total	634	100	477	100	462	100	432	100	341	100
Age										
10-14	2	0.3	1	0.2	2	0.4	1	0.2	1	0.3
15-19	40	6.3	12	2.5	17	3.7	18	4.2	2	0.6
20-29	181	28.5	137	28.7	105	22.7	74	17.1	57	16.7
30-39	238	37.5	194	40.7	177	38.3	192	44.4	157	46.0
40-49	135	21.3	97	20.3	124	26.8	115	26.6	89	26.1
50-59	36	5.7	36	7.5	35	7.6	27	6.3	33	9.7
60+	2	0.3	0	0.0	2	0.4	5	1.2	2	0.6
All Ages	634	100	477	100	462	100	432	100	341	100
Median age (a)	33	.	34	.	35	.	36	.	37	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

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

	Treatment Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Gender	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	58	77.3	105	71.4	131	70.8	186	70.5	162	68.4
Female	17	22.7	42	28.6	54	29.2	78	29.5	75	31.6
Total	75	100	147	100	185	100	264	100	237	100
Age										
10-14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.8
15-19	2	2.7	1	0.7	3	1.6	7	2.7	3	1.3
20-29	21	28.0	40	27.2	59	31.9	61	23.1	68	28.7
30-39	28	37.3	69	46.9	75	40.5	122	46.2	109	46.0
40-49	21	28.0	31	21.1	36	19.5	57	21.6	42	17.7
50-59	3	4.0	6	4.1	9	4.9	15	5.7	13	5.5
60+	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.6	2	0.8	0	0.0
All Ages	75	100	147	100	185	100	264	100	237	100
Median age (a)	34	.	34	.	34	.	35	.	33	.

Source: WNDSM, NHS Wales Informatics Service

Table 8.6 reports on individual treatment modalities which started in 2019-20, 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 2019-20. The treatment pathway usually involves the client receiving a combination of both structured and less-structured interventions. In fact, only 36.5% of clients started one treatment modality within the year, with 19.7% starting two treatment modalities and 43.8% starting three or more modalities.

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Table 8.6: Individual treatment modalities by main problematic substance in 2019-20

Treatment Modality (a)	Main Problematic Substance			
	Alcohol	Drugs	Not Reported	Total
Structured Interventions				
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Methadone) and related Psychosocial Interventions	16	1,212	12	1,240
Inpatient Treatments	580	219	10	809
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Buprenorphine) and related Psychosocial Interventions	22	659	6	687
Structured Day Programmes	156	94	21	271
Community Detoxification	121	43	3	167
Residential Rehabilitation	49	24	0	73
Less-structured Interventions				
Brief Interventions	6,777	6,353	203	13,333
Psychosocial Interventions	4,671	4,226	209	9,106
Harm Reduction	4,592	4,574	173	9,339
Health and Recovery Support Interventions	1,185	1,063	5,763	8,011
Total	18,169	18,467	6,400	43,036

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 2019-20, 91.5% of treatments started within the target 20 working days of referral. As the database in 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)

	Treatment Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Waiting times (b)	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Within 20 working days	14,442	83.5	14,531	86.7	14,469	90.7	14,950	91.3	14,431	91.5
4–12 weeks	2,312	13.4	1,824	10.9	1,256	7.9	1,233	7.5	1,138	7.2
3-6 months	467	2.7	370	2.2	192	1.2	165	1.0	174	1.1
6-9 months	48	0.3	20	0.1	15	0.1	16	0.1	18	0.1
9-12 months	17	0.1	11	0.1	4	0.0	4	0.0	5	0.0
12-18 months	13	0.1	10	0.1	10	0.1	7	0.0	8	0.1
18-24 months	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	4	0.0	1	0.0
> 24 months	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0
Total (c)	17,300	100	16,767	100	15,948	100	16,381	100	15,778	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									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	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	6,781	81.9	6,962	84.5	7,238	90.3	7,494	90.3	7,119	90.9
Drugs	6,549	86.9	7,124	89.2	7,061	91.6	7,371	91.6	7,202	92.1
Heroin	2,733	87.6	2,880	90.9	2,666	92.7	2,724	92.7	2,737	91.7
Cannabis (c)	1,560	85.0	1,615	86.7	1,529	88.6	1,509	88.6	1,574	90.0
Cocaine	416	89.5	556	90.0	722	92.9	928	92.9	1,036	94.4
Amphetamines	546	86.3	410	86.3	422	91.3	406	91.3	318	93.3
Methadone (d)	322	89.2	495	94.5	546	93.3	487	93.3	321	92.5
Benzodiazepines	142	91.0	150	89.3	148	89.2	136	89.2	152	95.6
All other drugs (e)	830	86.1	1,018	86.9	1,028	91.9	1,181	91.9	1,064	73.8
Not Reported	1,112	74.7	445	82.4	170	77.3	85	77.3	110	85.3

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 who 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 20.8 days out of the previous 28 at the time of the start TOP, and an average of 11.0 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 (-46.9% 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 (35.5% 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.

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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 20.8 to 11. (-46.9%), and 35.5% 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 2020

Main Problematic Substance	Substance	Number of comparisons	Frequency at starting TOP (days)	Frequency at exit TOP (days)	Percentage Change	Percentage not using
		(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
Alcohol						
Gender	Male	6,647	21.2	11.4	-46.0	34.6
	Female	3,783	20.1	10.3	-48.6	37.1
Age	16-19	272	13.0	7.8	-40.2	22.8
	20-29	1,427	17.3	10.8	-37.2	31.7
	30-49	5,875	21.4	11.2	-47.6	36.2
	50+	2,856	22.2	11.1	-49.8	37.2
	Total	10,430	20.8	11.0	-46.9	35.5

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 14.7 to 8.2 (-44.6%), with 42.7% 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 2020

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	2,146	14.6	8.0	-45.5	42.5
	Female	838	15.1	8.7	-42.5	43.4
Age	16-19	213	8.1	5.8	-28.2	31.4
	20-29	784	12.3	7.4	-39.7	44.5
	30-49	1,535	16.0	8.8	-45.0	42.7
	50+	353	20.7	9.2	-55.6	48.7
	Total	2,885	14.7	8.2	-44.6	42.7

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 22.2 to 6.3 (-71.8%), with 67.2% 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 2020

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	1,606	22.2	6.1	-72.5	67.4
	Female	540	22.1	6.7	-69.7	66.7
Age	16-19	32	19.8	4.7	-76.3	78.1
	20-29	549	23.3	7.3	-68.7	62.8
	30-49	1,455	21.7	5.9	-72.9	68.4
	50+	110	23.0	6.3	-72.5	70.9
	Total	2,146	22.2	6.3	-71.8	67.2

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 22.3 to 11.6 (-48.0%), with 40.3% 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 2020

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	911	21.9	11.5	-47.3	40.5
	Female	279	23.8	11.9	-50.0	39.8
Age	16-19	381	21.2	11.9	-43.8	33.1
	20-29	474	23.1	11.4	-50.7	43.7
	30-49	312	22.4	11.8	-47.5	42.3
	50+	23	23.0	8.8	-61.9	65.2
	Total	1,190	22.3	11.6	-48.0	40.3

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 17.5 to 6.4 (-63.4%), with 61.8% 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 2020

Main Problematic Substance	Substance	Number of comparisons	Frequency at starting TOP (days)	Frequency at exit TOP (days)	Percentage Change	Percentage not using
		(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
Amphetamines						
Gender	Male	529	17.6	7.0	-60.4	57.8
	Female	299	17.2	5.4	-68.8	68.9
Age	16-19	42	19.9	1.5	-92.6	88.1
	20-29	228	16.1	6.7	-58.3	58.3
	30-49	518	17.6	6.7	-61.9	60.2
	50+	40	20.5	5.7	-72.4	75.0
	Total	828	17.5	6.4	-63.4	61.8

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 10.3 to 1.9 (-81.3%), with 74.6% 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 2020

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	221	10.0	2.1	-78.8	74.2
	Female	35	12.3	0.7	-94.2	77.1
Age	16-19	23	9.2	0.8	-91.0	82.6
	20-29	148	9.8	1.9	-80.3	73.6
	30-49	83	11.6	2.2	-81.1	74.7
	50+	2	11.5	4.5	-60.9	50.0
	Total	256	10.3	1.9	-81.3	74.6

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 1301 (15.5%). 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 2020

	Number of comparisons (a)	Score at start TOP (b)	Score at exit TOP (c)	Percentage Change (d)
Main Problematic Substance				
Alcohol	12,493	11.0	12.9	17.1
Drugs	6,191	11.8	13.3	12.4
Gender				
Male	12,296	11.3	13.0	14.5
Female	6,388	11.1	13.1	17.5
Age				
16-19	927	13.4	14.6	8.7
20-29	3,777	12.3	13.5	9.5
30-49	10,258	11.0	12.8	17.0
50+	3,722	10.5	12.6	20.5
Treatment Modalities				
Inpatient Treatments	616	9.3	12.3	31.5
Community Detoxification	940	10.0	13.4	34.2
Residential Rehabilitation	96	10.4	14.4	38.3
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Methadone) and related Psychosocial Interventions	674	11.8	13.3	12.5
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Buprenorphine) and related Psychosocial Interventions	282	11.9	13.4	12.5
Psychosocial Interventions	10,545	11.4	13.2	15.5
Structured Day Programme	46	10.0	10.4	4.6
Brief Interventions	1,869	11.2	12.5	11.1
Harm Reduction	2,158	11.3	12.5	10.3
Health & Recovery Support Interventions	206	11.3	13.8	21.9
Blank	1,252	11.3	12.7	12.2
Total				
Total	18,684	11.3	13.0	15.5

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 TOPs than 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 12.4 (26.7%). 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 2020

	Number of comparisons (a)	Score at start TOP (b)	Score at exit TOP (c)	Percentage Change (d)
Main Problematic Substance				
Alcohol	12,382	9.7	12.4	28.7
Drugs	6,147	10.1	12.4	22.8
Gender				
Male	12,229	10.0	12.4	24.0
Female	6,300	9.4	12.4	32.1
Age				
16-19	927	11.3	13.6	20.5
20-29	3,744	10.1	12.4	22.3
30-49	10,168	9.5	12.3	28.5
50+	3,690	9.9	12.6	27.9
Treatment Modalities				
Inpatient Treatments	617	8.8	12.4	40.4
Community Detoxification	921	9.2	13.4	45.8
Residential Rehabilitation	96	8.9	14.2	59.9
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Methadone) and related Psychosocial Interventions	668	10.2	12.5	22.0
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Buprenorphine) and related Psychosocial Interventions	282	10.6	13.0	22.6
Psychosocial Interventions	10,453	9.9	12.6	27.4
Structured Day Programme	46	9.3	10.7	15.4
Brief Interventions	1,848	9.8	11.7	19.5
Health & Recovery Support Interventions	205	9.5	13.3	41.1
Harm Reduction	2,137	9.8	11.7	19.1
Blank	1,256	9.8	12.4	26.7
Total				
Total	18,529	9.8	12.4	26.7

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 than 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 12.9 (23.2%). 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 2020

	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	612	9.1	12.7	40.1
Community Detoxification	913	9.7	14.0	43.2
Residential Rehabilitation	75	8.4	13.5	60.7
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Methadone) and related Psychosocial Interventions	711	11.1	13.0	17.6
Substitute Opioid Prescribing (Buprenorphine) and related Psychosocial Interventions	276	11.4	13.3	16.4
Structured Day Programme	49	11.4	13.3	16.4
Psychosocial Interventions	10,451	10.6	13.1	23.8
Brief Interventions	1,735	10.5	12.2	17.1
Health & Recovery Support Interventions	230	11.2	12.7	12.8
Harm Reduction	2,054	10.4	12.2	17.8
Blank	1,334	10.3	12.5	21.6
Total				
Total	18,440	10.5	12.9	23.2

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 than 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 2019-20, 52.1% were closed for planned reasons; this has been increasing from 47.6% in 2015-16. The DNA rate has been declining from 28.5% in 2015-16 to 17.2% in 2019-20.

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

| Closure Reason | Discharge Year | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2015-16 | | 2016-17 | | 2017-18 | | 2018-19 | | 2019-20 | |
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
DNA										
DNA before assessment	3,885	15.0	3,850	14.1	2,787	10.6	2,284	8.9	2,163	8.6
DNA before treatment	537	2.1	276	1.0	175	0.7	261	1.0	269	1.1
DNA during treatment	2,553	9.8	2,499	9.2	2,256	8.6	1,879	7.4	1,638	6.5
Total	6,975	26.9	6,625	24.3	5,218	19.9	4,424	17.3	4,070	16.2
Inappropriate Referral										
Inappropriate Referral (a)	3,235	12.5	3,702	13.6	4,252	16.2	3,674	14.4	3,640	14.5
Total	3,235	12.5	3,702	13.6	4,252	16.2	3,674	14.4	3,640	14.5
No information supplied										
No information supplied	60	0.2	27	0.1	44	0.2	36	0.1	20	0.1
Total	60	0.2	27	0.1	44	0.2	36	0.1	20	0.1
Planned										
Referred to another service	3,669	14.1	3,028	11.1	2,430	9.3	2,556	10.0	3,331	13.2
Moved to GP Led Prescribing	26	0.1	64	0.2	40	0.2	34	0.1	82	0.3
Treatment completed	5,637	21.7	6,407	23.5	6,753	25.7	7,186	28.1	6,930	27.6
Treatment completed – substance free	3,088	11.9	3,538	13.0	3,528	13.4	3,465	13.6	3,210	12.8
Total	12,420	47.8	13,037	47.8	12,751	48.5	13,241	51.8	13,553	53.9
Unplanned										
Client unaware of referral	31	0.1	28	0.1	27	0.1	15	0.1	19	0.1
Client declined treatment (b)	1,098	4.2	1,765	6.5	2,007	7.6	2,298	9.0	2,184	8.7
Deceased	172	0.7	178	0.7	237	0.9	210	0.8	235	0.9
Moved	449	1.7	444	1.6	377	1.4	351	1.4	322	1.3
Prison	891	3.4	951	3.5	933	3.6	979	3.8	883	3.5
Treatment withdrawn (c)	642	2.5	503	1.8	423	1.6	312	1.2	214	0.9
Total	3,283	12.6	3,869	14.2	4,004	15.2	4,165	16.3	3,857	15.3
Total	25,973	100	27,260	100	26,269	100	25,540	100	25,140	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.

For alcohol (Table 11.1b), 77.2% of closures were planned and the overall DNA rate was 10.3%.

For drugs (Table 11.1c), planned closures have been increasing each year, accounting for 68.4% of all closures in 2019-20, compared with 57.0% in 2015-16, whilst DNAs have been gradually reducing from 17.3% in 2015-16 to 11.7% in 2019-20.

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

Closure Reason	2015-16 Number	2015-16 Per Cent	2016-17 Number	2016-17 Per Cent	2017-18 Number	2017-18 Per Cent	2018-19 Number	2018-19 Per Cent	2019-20 Number	2019-20 Per Cent
DNA										
DNA before assessment	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
DNA before treatment	277	3.0	161	1.7	97	1.1	146	1.6	152	1.7
DNA during treatment	1,048	11.4	1,100	11.6	1,004	10.9	864	9.3	772	8.6
Total	1,325	14.4	1,261	13.3	1,101	11.9	1,010	10.9	924	10.3
Inappropriate Referral										
Inappropriate Referral (a)	468	5.1	456	4.8	410	4.4	254	2.7	271	3.0
Total	468	5.1	456	4.8	410	4.4	254	2.7	271	3.0
No information supplied										
No information supplied	20	0.2	8	0.1	10	0.1	6	0.1	6	0.1
Total	20	0.2	8	0.1	10	0.1	6	0.1	6	0.1
Planned										
Referred to another service	1,685	18.3	1,247	13.1	1,034	11.2	1,149	12.4	1,390	15.4
Moved to GP Led Prescribing	11	0.1	15	0.2	11	0.1	6	0.1	19	0.2
Treatment completed	2,938	31.9	3,321	35.0	3,604	39.1	3,900	42.2	3,697	41.1
Treatment completed – substance free	1,907	20.7	2,254	23.7	2,136	23.2	2,012	21.8	1,844	20.5
Total	6,541	71.0	6,837	72.0	6,785	73.6	7,067	76.4	6,950	77.2
Unplanned										
Client unaware of referral	2	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0
Client declined treatment (b)	298	3.2	415	4.4	406	4.4	450	4.9	463	5.1
Deceased	86	0.9	93	1.0	127	1.4	114	1.2	98	1.1
Moved	122	1.3	117	1.2	82	0.9	79	0.9	76	0.8
Prison	99	1.1	117	1.2	153	1.7	153	1.7	141	1.6
Treatment withdrawn (c)	252	2.7	186	2.0	145	1.6	110	1.2	71	0.8
Total	859	9.3	930	9.8	916	9.9	907	9.8	851	9.5
Total	9,213	100	9,492	100	9,222	100	9,244	100	9,002	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 11.1c: Reason for closure by main problematic substance: Drugs

Closure Reason	Discharge Year									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
DNA										
DNA before assessment	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
DNA before treatment	170	2.3	95	1.2	73	0.9	108	1.3	114	1.4
DNA during treatment	1,137	15.1	1,295	15.8	1,201	14.9	1,002	12.4	851	10.3
Total	1,307	17.3	1,390	17.0	1,274	15.8	1,110	13.7	965	11.7
Inappropriate Referral										
Inappropriate Referral (a)	502	6.7	400	4.9	362	4.5	263	3.2	281	3.4
Total	502	6.7	400	4.9	362	4.5	263	3.2	281	3.4
No information supplied										
No information supplied	22	0.3	10	0.1	17	0.2	11	0.1	6	0.1
Total	22	0.3	10	0.1	17	0.2	11	0.1	6	0.1
Planned										
Referred to another service	1,263	16.8	1,135	13.9	918	11.4	968	11.9	1,329	16.1
Moved to GP Led Prescribing	8	0.1	47	0.6	26	0.3	23	0.3	56	0.7
Treatment completed	1,955	25.9	2,450	29.9	2,670	33.2	2,956	36.5	2,971	36.0
Treatment completed – substance free	1,070	14.2	1,180	14.4	1,297	16.1	1,340	16.5	1,288	15.6
Total	4,296	57.0	4,812	58.8	4,911	61.1	5,287	65.3	5,644	68.4
Unplanned										
Client unaware of referral	2	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Client declined treatment (b)	181	2.4	328	4.0	299	3.7	290	3.6	314	3.8
Deceased	43	0.6	50	0.6	68	0.8	59	0.7	96	1.2
Moved	201	2.7	211	2.6	195	2.4	165	2.0	160	1.9
Prison	636	8.4	698	8.5	670	8.3	746	9.2	662	8.0
Treatment withdrawn (c)	349	4.6	287	3.5	241	3.0	171	2.1	125	1.5
Total	1,412	18.7	1,575	19.2	1,476	18.4	1,431	17.7	1,358	16.5
Total	7,539	100	8,187	100	8,040	100	8,102	100	8,254	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.

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									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)	Number	Per Cent (a)
North Wales	525	13.1	496	11.6	290	7.7	216	6.5	133	4.3
Powys	112	21.6	105	13.3	84	18.8	99	15.8	93	17.2
Hywel Dda	287	16.5	249	11.4	155	6.8	121	5.2	154	5.9
Western Bay (b)	685	35.6	732	34.4	818	38.9	604	30.2	375	20.6
Cardiff & Vale	498	17.6	350	15.5	277	11.6	294	11.5	285	10.8
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (c)	473	21.9	250	12.2	192	9.5	205	10.0	276	11.8
Gwent	366	9.9	450	13.7	454	13.7	480	14.1	471	13.8
Outside Wales	102	13.8	131	14.5	141	16.0	104	10.9	102	12.5
Unknown	42	29.8	12	19.7	20	15.6	17	13.7	18	17.8
Total	3,090	17.4	2,775	15.5	2,431	14.0	2,140	12.3	1,907	11.0

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.
(c) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

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									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)
North Wales	2,884	78.1	3,069	81.5	3,127	88.8	3,156	92.1	3,045	95.6
Powys	773	99.2	496	95.8	520	97.6	596	89.6	532	88.1
Hywel Dda	1,680	83.4	1,800	83.3	1,965	92.0	2,227	93.6	2,244	91.6
Western Bay (c)	1,866	84.8	2,002	93.5	2,075	94.7	2,128	94.6	1,692	89.1
Cardiff & Vale	1,461	72.4	1,128	69.6	794	71.1	669	69.8	692	71.5
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (d)	1,784	74.5	1,967	87.9	1,952	92.4	2,054	89.5	2,125	91.6
Gwent	3,124	94.9	3,105	93.8	3,040	92.2	3,090	93.1	3,245	93.8
Outside Wales	728	96.7	916	96.2	896	97.9	943	98.4	818	97.3
Unknown	142	90.4	48	84.2	100	80.6	87	66.4	38	71.7
Total	14,442	83.5	14,531	86.7	14,469	90.7	14,950	91.3	14,431	91.5

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.
(d) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

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									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)
North Wales	5,808	85.1	9,104	86.7	9,224	87.7	9,089	87.5	8,813	87.9
Powys	2,098	83.2	825	83.5	861	83.8	893	86.4	875	85.1
Hywel Dda	2,844	90.6	3,524	90.2	3,592	89.0	3,547	88.7	3,478	88.0
Western Bay (c)	2,024	82.6	2,509	83.7	2,885	82.9	3,402	83.9	2,844	84.7
Cardiff & Vale	5,448	86.2	5,094	85.3	4,770	83.9	5,347	85.6	4,520	86.9
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (d)	8,298	86.4	9,472	86.9	10,043	86.9	11,089	87.3	5,232	86.9
Gwent	7,282	84.6	8,128	83.9	7,682	83.9	7,243	85.0	6,733	85.5
Outside Wales	479	82.0	618	80.9	655	82.0	492	78.2	345	78.9
Unknown	41	83.7	80	88.9	180	89.6	139	86.9	135	85.4
Total	34,322	85.6	39,354	85.9	39,892	85.9	41,241	86.4	32,975	86.6

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.
(d) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

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									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)
North Wales	1,109	80.2	1,893	79.3	2,191	85.6	2,180	86.9	2,362	84.5
Powys	319	73.5	131	81.4	110	76.4	137	76.5	142	78.9
Hywel Dda	511	87.8	780	87.2	930	86.0	878	85.9	1,007	86.8
Western Bay (c)	259	84.6	286	83.6	293	74.7	459	73.9	527	78.9
Cardiff & Vale	570	81.0	636	83.1	520	81.6	718	80.0	749	81.8
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (d)	1,503	86.8	1,605	86.0	1,802	90.3	2,301	87.7	1,655	87.5
Gwent	1,088	78.8	1,195	78.9	1,169	80.1	1,023	81.6	1,089	81.3
Outside Wales	102	75.0	119	74.8	155	77.9	122	74.4	76	76.8
Unknown	21	84.0	23	92.0	63	91.3	47	95.9	46	92.0
Total	5,482	82.0	6,668	82.2	7,233	84.7	7,865	84.4	7,653	84.1

Source: WNDSM, 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.

(d) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

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									
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)	Number	Per Cent (b)
North Wales	1,681	67.6	2,070	75.2	2,118	80.5	2,202	84.6	2,078	87.9
Powys	334	74.2	292	71.6	277	74.9	384	78.4	304	74.5
Hywel Dda	1,047	80.0	1,539	85.8	1,779	91.4	1,875	93.3	2,096	93.0
Western Bay (c)	606	45.3	761	48.7	788	47.8	873	58.0	676	63.5
Cardiff & Vale	798	68.8	889	72.6	604	69.6	414	72.1	441	75.4
Cwm Taf Morgannwg (d)	1,342	74.4	1,332	84.0	1,472	87.6	1,562	87.5	1,278	82.2
Gwent	1,723	82.1	1,887	79.6	1,854	78.0	2,017	79.6	2,145	80.2
Outside Wales	453	79.5	525	78.5	460	74.7	483	80.4	395	79.2
Unknown	62	68.9	25	65.8	71	82.6	63	80.8	32	72.7
Total	8,046	71.2	9,320	75.1	9,423	77.1	9,873	81.1	9,445	82.5

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.
(d) In April 2019, Bridgend moved from Western Bay APB to Cwm Taf Morgannwg APB

Table 12.6 shows the number of individuals who have been tested for Hepatitis C. This is the first year that this table has been reported on, and included in this report. It must be noted that due to the pandemic, the submission of the monthly data were suspended from 9th March 2020 to 24th June 2020, and the testing for Hepatitis C was put on hold.

Table 12.5: KPI 6 – Blood Borne Virus Test (a): by APB in 2019-20

	Test Year 2019-20										
	No. of clients currently showing on WNDSM	No. of new client referred to WNDSM	No. requiring HCV test	No. offered HCV test	%age offered HCV test	No. HCV tested	%age HCV tested	No. requiring no further HCV test	%age requiring no further HCV test	No. declining HCV test	%age declining HCV test
Treatment complete	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)
North Wales	2,067	8	2,596	486	18.7	472	18.2	110	4.2	14	2.9
Powys	304	0	409	159	38.9	149	36.4	6	1.5	10	6.3
Hywel Dda	2,066	21	974	313	32.1	287	29.5	104	10.7	26	8.3
Western Bay	666	32	1,625	579	35.6	550	33.8	71	4.4	29	5.0
Cardiff & Vale	410	124	1,132	680	60.1	583	51.5	21	1.9	97	14.3
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	1,239	12	1,537	744	48.4	451	29.3	237	15.4	293	39.4
Gwent	2,146	14	2,243	1,133	50.5	983	43.8	37	1.6	150	13.2
Total	10,891	211	10,516	4094	38.9	3,475	33.0	586	5.6	619	15.1

(a) Number of clients in treatment on the WNDSM as at 1st April 2019

(b) Number of clients assessed on the WNDSM but not yet commenced treatment as at 1st April 2019

(c) = a + b - h

(d) Number of clients showing on the harm reduction database with a last_test_date or last_declined_test_date between April 2019 and March 2020

(e) = d / c * 100

(f) Number of clients showing on the harm reduction database where the last_test_date_any_result is between April 2019 and March 2020

(g) = f / c * 100

(h) Number of clients showing on the harm reduction database where the further_testing_required field is blank

(i) = h / c *100

(j) Number of clients showing on the harm reduction database where the last_declined_test_date is between April 2019 and March 2020 2019

(k) = j / d *100

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 Digital Health & Care Wales (DHCW).

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 21st August 2020. 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: WNDSM, 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, Methadrone, Methylone, Minor Analgesics, Zoplicione, 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 2020. 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 2019 mid-year estimates published June 2020.

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 in available from: Substance Misuse Documentation - Digital Health and Care Wales (nhs.wales)

Treatment Modalities

A description of the treatment modalities can be found in Appendix 1 of the latest Business Definitions Guidance, found at: Substance Misuse Documentation - Digital Health and Care Wales (nhs.wales)

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: Substance Misuse Documentation - Digital Health and Care Wales (nhs.wales)