Using the Adult
Monthly pre-release figures
Technical Notes

How to access and interpret the data

Contents

An overview of the monthly pre-release NDTMS figures

These statistics contains data to monitor activity associated with the delivery of specialist drug and alcohol treatment in England. The data used is from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) which collects information about clients receiving specialist treatment for drug and alcohol misuse in England.

These statistics provide detailed information on adults 18 to 99 in specialist treatment for substance misuse.

How to use the report

The pre-release statistics are released on a monthly basis to provide users with up to date information relating to key indicators of substance misuse treatment.

The data in these reports are available at both local authority and provider level. To view the information for your local area, first select your partnership from "geography", a list of providers reporting residents for the partnership will then appear. Users still have the option of viewing the data at local authority or provider level. Lastly select the reporting period from the drop down list which appears above the data items. All sections can be expanded by selecting the "Expand all" button above the reports. This button also collapses all sections.

Technical definitions

This section provides detailed technical definitions for all items in each section of the report. In addition to these definitions, more information including business definitions and guidance on NDTMS core dataset L can be found here: http://www.nta.nhs.uk/core-data-set.aspx.

General exclusions:

A series of regular reporting exclusions are made so that any records to which any of the following rules apply are excluded from the reporting process (except in the case of the section on data quality which reports information for some of these items):

- A primary drug which is blank
- A primary drug which is misuse-free
- If drugs 1, 2 and 3 are all exclusively; nicotine, caffeine, drug free, alcohol free, no second drug, no third drug, or missing.
- An unstructured intervention (except recovery support interventions)
- A missing date of birth
- A missing or non-English Partnership of residence ☐ An age under 9 at triage ☐ An age over 99 at triage.
- An illogical chronological sequence of referral date, triage date and discharge date

Substance categories:

In these statistics clients are segmented into the following four mutually exclusive substance categories;

1. Opiate clients
2. Non-opiate only clients
3. Non-opiate
4. Alcohol clients and alcohol only clients

Further details on these client categorisations can be found here (http://www.nta.nhs.uk/new-reportinghttp://www.nta.nhs.uk/new-reporting-methodology.aspx[methodology.aspx](methodology.aspx)).

In the **local authority level** statistics clients presenting to treatment are categorised by the following cascading criteria:

- clients who present with opiates in any episode of their treatment journey would result in the client being categorised as an OPIATE client (irrespective of what other substances are cited)
- clients who present with a non-opiate substances in any episode of their treatment journey and not opiates or alcohol, will be classified as NON-OPIATE ONLY
- clients who present with a non-opiate substance and alcohol in any episode (but not opiates) of their treatment journey will be classified as NON-OPIATE AND ALCOHOL
- clients who present with alcohol and no other substances in all episodes of their treatment journey will be categorised as ALCOHOL ONLY

In the **provider level** statistics clients presenting to treatment are categorised by the following cascading criteria:

- clients who present with opiates in their latest episode at the provider will be classified as an OPIATE client (irrespective of what other substances are cited)
- clients who present with non-opiate substances (and not opiates or alcohol) in their latest episode at the provider will be classified as NON-OPIATE ONLY
- clients who present with a non-opiate substance and alcohol (but not opiates) in their latest episode at the provider will be classified as NON-OPIATE AND ALCOHOL
- clients who present with alcohol and no other substances will be categorised as ALCOHOL ONLY

LOCAL AUTHORITY LEVEL

Data item no.	Data item	Reporting time period	Level	Definition
A	Number in treatment	Rolling 12 month period	All clients in contact with treatment (latest journey)	Number of individuals in contact with structured treatment for the most recent 12 months
B	New presentations to treatment	Year to date	New treatment journeys (latest journey)	The total number of individuals who started a new treatment journey in the year to date
C	Total exits	Year to date	All clients in contact with treatment (latest journey)	The total number of individuals who exited from the treatment system in the year to date
D	Effective treatment	Rolling 12 months (set 3 months back)	All clients in contact with treatment (latest journey)	The number of individuals in contact with structured treatment , during the period in question, who are recorded as having begun a treatment intervention and who fulfil either of the following criteria; - they were retained for 12 weeks or more from their triaged date - they successfully exited from treatment (i.e. exit reason of treatment completed drug/alcohol free or treatment completed occasional user) This measure is set 3 months back to allow for all individuals to be followed up for the full 12 weeks
E	Numbers in treatment (in effective treatment section)	Rolling 12 months (set 3 months back)	All clients in contact with treatment (latest journey)	Number of individuals in contact with structured treatment for most recent 12 months, set back 3 months. Because the latest dataset is used to create these figures, the numbers in treatment won't necessarily match the numbers in treatment which were published 3 months previously

F	Proportion in effective treatment	Rolling 12 months (set 3 months back)	All clients in contact with treatment (latest journey)	The numerator is the number in effective treatment (Data item E) and the denominator is the number in treatment (Data item F).

PROVIDER LEVEL

Data item no.	Data item	Reporting time period	Level	Definition
G	Number in treatment	Rolling 12 month period	All in contact with treatment (latest episode)	Number of individuals in contact with structured treatment for the most recent 12 months.
H	New presentations to treatment	Year to date	All in contact with treatment (latest episode)	The total number of individuals who started a new treatment episode in the year to date.
I	Total exits	Year to date	All in contact with treatment (latest episode)	The total number of discharges from the provider in the year to date
J	Effective treatment	Rolling 12 months (set 3 months back)	All clients in contact with treatment (latest episode)	The number of individuals in contact with structured treatment, during the period in question, who are recorded as having begun a treatment intervention and who fulfil either of the following criteria; - they were retained for 12 weeks or more from their triaged date - they successfully exited from treatment (i.e. exit reason of treatment completed drug/alcohol free or treatment completed occasional user) This measure is set 3 months back to allow for all individuals to be followed up for the full 12 weeks

| K | Numbers in treatment (in effective treatment section) | Rolling 12 months (set 3 months back) | All clients in contact with treatment (latest episode) | Number of individuals in contact with structured treatment for most recent 12 months, set back 3 months. Because the latest dataset is used to create these figures, the numbers in treatment won't necessarily match the numbers in treatment which were published 3 months back. |
| L | Proportion in effective treatment | Rolling 12 months (set 3 months back) | All clients in contact with treatment (latest episode) | The numerator is the number in effective treatment (Data item J) and the denominator is the number in treatment (Data item K). |

Glossary of Key Terms

Below is a glossary containing some of the key terms used in this report. A comprehensive list of all data items in the NDTMS dataset including full definitions and codes can be found in the documents available at: http://www.nta.nhs.uk/core-data-set.aspx

Partnership/ Local authority– Upper Tier Local Authority where the client is a resident

Rolling 12 month period – Data from the 12 month period preceding the reporting month

All in Contact with Treatment – This term is used to refer to the number of individuals in contact with the provider at any point during the reporting period, regardless of when they were triaged.

Episode – A presentation into treatment at a single service provider. During the reporting period a client may have more than one episode of treatment at the same provider. Episodes are defined by the client's attributors, triage date, partnership of residence and service provider. The triage date represents the beginning of an episode and the discharge date its end. Where a discharge date is missing, the episode is taken to be open.

Latest Episode – A client may commence more than one treatment episode within the reporting period. The latest episode is the most recent episode commenced by the client which crosses into the reporting period.

Intervention – The type of treatment which a client has been referred to/commenced within the episode. A client may have multiple interventions in an episode all of which are counted.

New Treatment Episode – A new treatment episode means that the earliest intervention start date in the episode (or, if no intervention start date, the earliest triage date in the episode) started on or after the start of the reporting period.

New Treatment Journey– A new treatment journey means that the earliest intervention start date in the journey (or, if no intervention start date, the earliest triage date in the journey) started on or after the start of the reporting period.

Treatment Journey – A set of concurrent or serial treatment episodes linked together to describe a period of treatment based on the client's attributors (initials, date of birth, gender and Partnership of residence). A treatment journey may take place within one or across many service Providers. For treatment episodes to link and form one continuous journey, one of the following conditions must apply:

(a) The gap between the end of one episode's discharge date and the next episode's earliest intervention start date (or, if not recorded, the episode's triage date) is within 21 days.
(b) The two episodes overlap. Either an open episode is followed by subsequent episodes, or the discharge date of the earlier episode is later than the subsequent episode's earliest intervention start date (or, if not recorded, the episode's triage date).