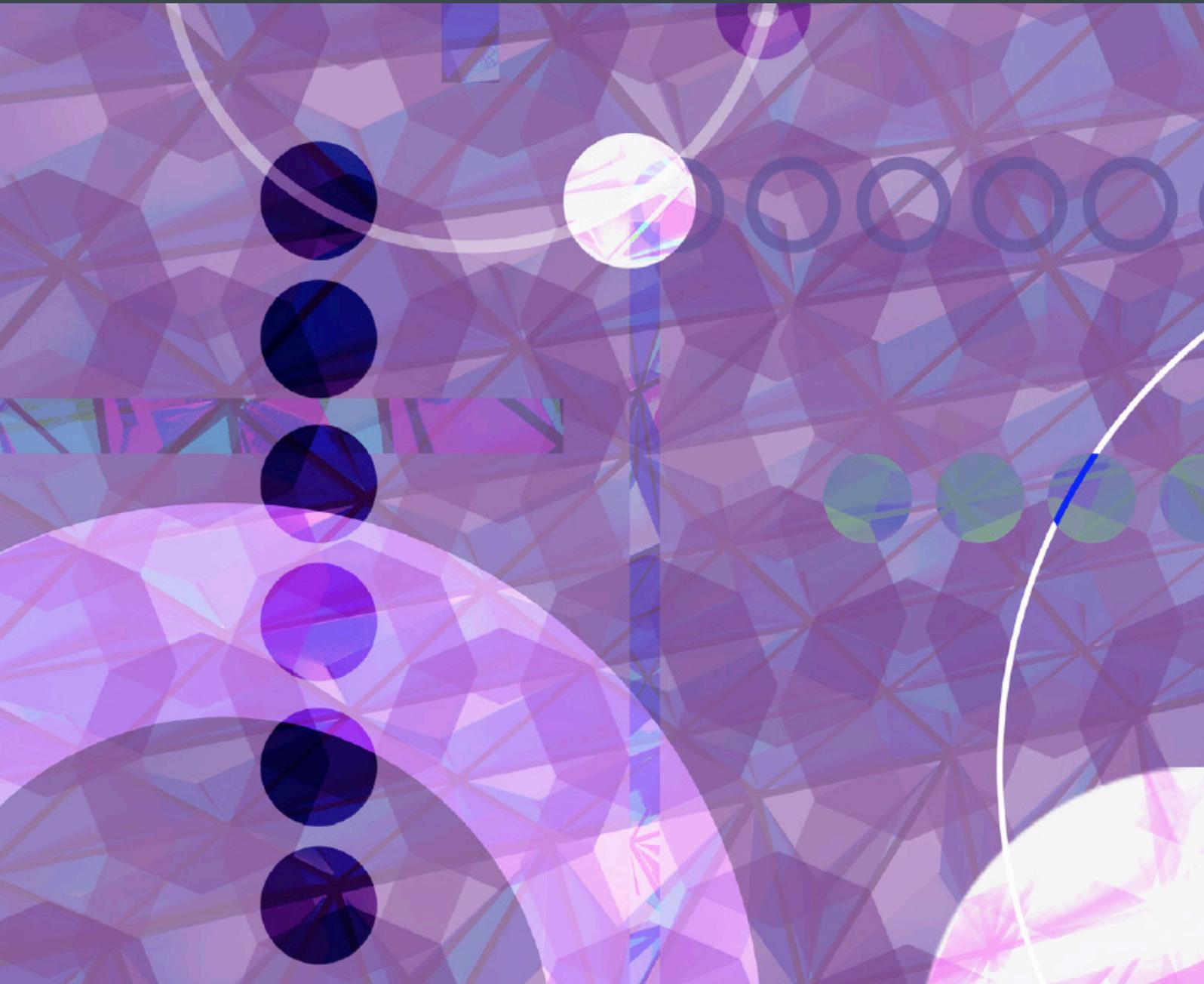


## Criminal Justice Project: Drug Interventions Programme

DIP Activity in Sefton (2020/21)

Karen Critchley and Mark Whitfield



January 2022

Key findings ..... 2

Introduction ..... 3

Overview ..... 4

    Criminal justice routes in Sefton ..... 4

    Outcomes following criminal justice assessment..... 5

Demographics ..... 6

    Age and gender ..... 6

    Ethnicity ..... 7

    Disability ..... 7

    Housing need ..... 8

    Parental status ..... 8

Substance use ..... 9

    Route of administration..... 11

    Injecting status ..... 11

    Alcohol consumption ..... 12

Offending ..... 13

Interventions ..... 15

    Referrals to structured treatment ..... 15

    Recovery support sub-interventions ..... 15

References..... 16

Acknowledgements ..... 16

## KEY FINDINGS: DIP ACTIVITY IN SEFTON (2020/21)

- In the year ending March 2021, there were 87 contacts recorded by Sefton Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT); of which, all were residents of Sefton Local Authority area. This is an 80% decrease on the number of CJIT contacts in the previous twelve-month period and this reduction can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Around two in five (39%) CJIT contacts in 2020/21 were other criminal justice routes, while over one-third (36%) were Required Assessments and one-quarter (25%) were voluntary presentations following release from prison.
- The majority (94%) of the CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 were taken onto the CJIT caseload, while the remaining contacts were already case managed by a structured treatment provider, other CJIT or Offender Manager (6%).
- Around one-quarter (24%) were aged 30-34 years.
- Over four in five (84%) individuals in contact with Sefton CJIT in the year ending March 2021 were men.
- Almost all CJIT contacts identified themselves as White British (97%).
- Just under one in ten (8%) considered themselves to have a disability.
- Two per cent of the Sefton CJIT contacts reported some form of a housing problem.
- Around one in ten (9%) clients had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years.
- One-third (33%) reported cocaine as their main substance, followed by heroin (30%) and alcohol (23%). Over half (56%) of the second substance was recorded as crack and over half (55%) of the third substance was recorded as alcohol.
- Two in five (40%) smoked their main substance, followed by three in ten (30%) whose route of administration was intranasal.
- Around four in five (81%) stated they had never injected, while around one in six (16%) had previously injected but were not currently and 2% were currently injecting.
- Just under three in five (58%) men consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment. Of these, just over two in five (43%) consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily.
- Just under three in five (57%) women consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment. Of these, just over three in five (63%) consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily.
- Over one-third (35%) reported Misuse of Drugs Act offences as the offence which prompted the current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system, followed by offences categorised as 'other' (33%), wounding or assault (11%) and theft - shoplifting (8%).
- Of the clients taken onto the CJIT caseload, 81 were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2021.
- There were 131 recovery support sub-intervention assessments carried out in 2020/21 on clients on the CJIT caseload (106 individuals), with a total 163 sub-interventions delivered.

## INTRODUCTION

Although the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) was decommissioned as a national programme by the Home Office in 2013, Sefton Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT) continue to collect and submit the criminal justice data set via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). The aim of DIP is to identify and engage with offenders in the criminal justice system who use drugs and/or alcohol, and encourage them to engage with appropriate treatment services in order to reduce acquisitive crime. There is a body of evidence supporting this process at reducing offending for this population (Collins et al., 2016; Collins et al., 2017; Cuddy et al., 2015; Public Health England and Ministry of Justice, 2017). Under Merseyside Police's DIP drug testing process in the custody suites, if offenders test positive for specified Class A drugs (opiates and/or powder/crack cocaine) they are required to undergo a Required Assessment (RA) with a CJIT worker. This is a key route into treatment, though there are other routes of contact with a CJIT, including: Conditional Cautioning; requirement by the individual's Offender Manager; court mandated processes, such as Restriction on Bail, pre-sentence reports, Drug Rehabilitation Requirements and Alcohol Treatment Requirements; and voluntary presentations.

The CJIT data set captures client information, episode details (including drug and alcohol use, and offending behaviour), referrals to structured treatment and recovery support sub-interventions. Assessments allow CJIT workers to determine whether further intervention is required to address drug and/or alcohol use and offending, and if necessary, encourage engagement with a range of appropriate treatment options. This is a key element of the work carried out by CJITs, as it provides wraparound support across four key areas: drug and alcohol use (harm reduction and overdose management); offending; physical and psychosocial health; and social functioning (housing, employment and relationships; Home Office [n.d.]).

This CJIT Activity report for Sefton presents data for clients accessing the CJIT between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021<sup>1,2,3</sup>. Where possible, comparisons to the Merseyside figures and the previous four years' Sefton CJIT activity have been made; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, caution should be taken when comparing 2020/21 figures to that of previous years. Notably, Merseyside Police suspended DIP drug testing in the custody suites between April and August 2020; therefore, there were no RAs imposed by the police during this time, which subsequently affected the number of people coming into contact with the CJIT.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this report, numbers less than five have been suppressed to maintain client confidentiality. Where there is only one number less than five in a category then two numbers have been suppressed to prevent back calculations from totals (e.g. <10).

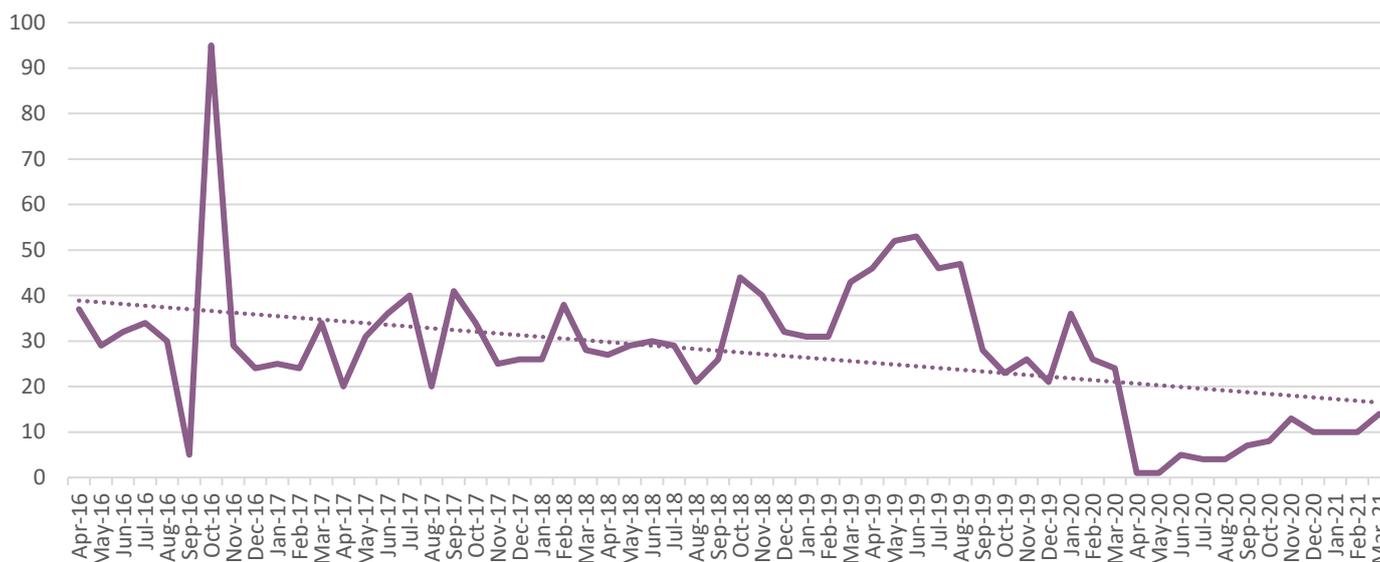
<sup>2</sup> Note that in instances where there are blank records, or the client declines to answer, does not know or does not state a response, these have been excluded from the calculations; therefore, totals may not add up to the total number of CJIT contacts/individuals.

<sup>3</sup> Note that percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## OVERVIEW

In the year ending March 2021, there were 87 contacts recorded by Sefton Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT). This is an 80% decrease on the number of CJIT contacts recorded in the previous twelve-month period and this reduction can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, all Sefton CJIT contacts assessed in the year ending March 2021 were individual clients and all were residents of Sefton Local Authority area. *Figure 1* shows the monthly number of CJIT contacts between April 2016 and March 2021<sup>4</sup>.

*Figure 1: Monthly trends of Sefton CJIT contacts, April 2016 - March 2021*



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROUTES IN SEFTON

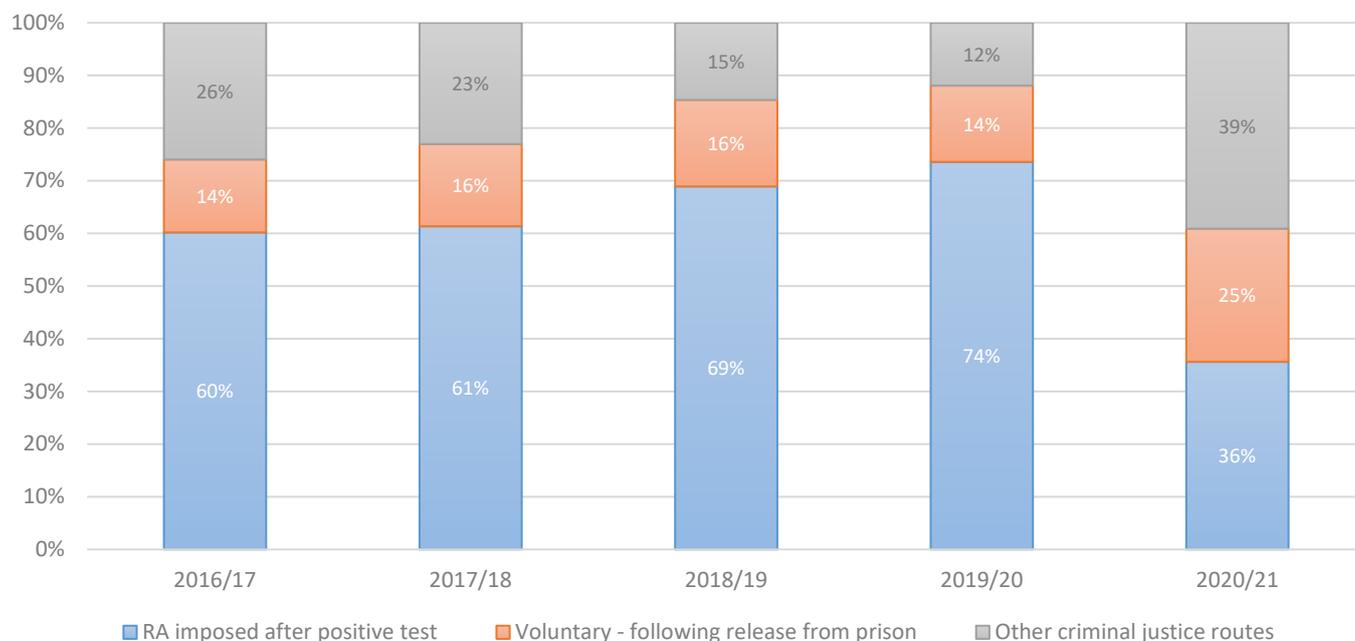
*Figure 2* shows the criminal justice routes that led to the contact with Sefton CJIT in the five years up to the year ending March 2021. In 2020/21, around two in five CJIT contacts were other criminal justice routes (n=34; 39%)<sup>5</sup>, while over one-third were Required Assessments (RAs) following a positive drug test for opiates and/or cocaine in a police custody suite (n=31; 36%) and one-quarter were voluntary presentations following release from prison (n=22; 25%).

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the majority of Sefton CJIT contacts were RAs; however, in the year ending March 2021, other criminal justice routes and voluntary presentations following release from prison accounted for the majority of Sefton CJIT contacts (*Figure 2*). This can be attributed to the suspension of DIP drug testing in the custody suites between April and August 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The proportions of clients who came into contact with Sefton CJIT through other criminal justice routes or the RA process in the year ending March 2021, are higher than the Merseyside figures (33% and 28% respectively), while the proportion of CJIT contacts who presented voluntarily following release from prison in 2020/21 is substantially lower than the Merseyside total (40%).

<sup>4</sup> There was a change in treatment provider in September 2016, which affected the number of CJIT contacts in September and October 2016.

<sup>5</sup> Other criminal justice routes: Required by offender management scheme/DRR/ATR/IOM = 20; requested by Offender Manager (post DRR/ATR) = 9; voluntary - other <5; referred by treatment provider (post treatment) <5; Restrictions on Bail <5.

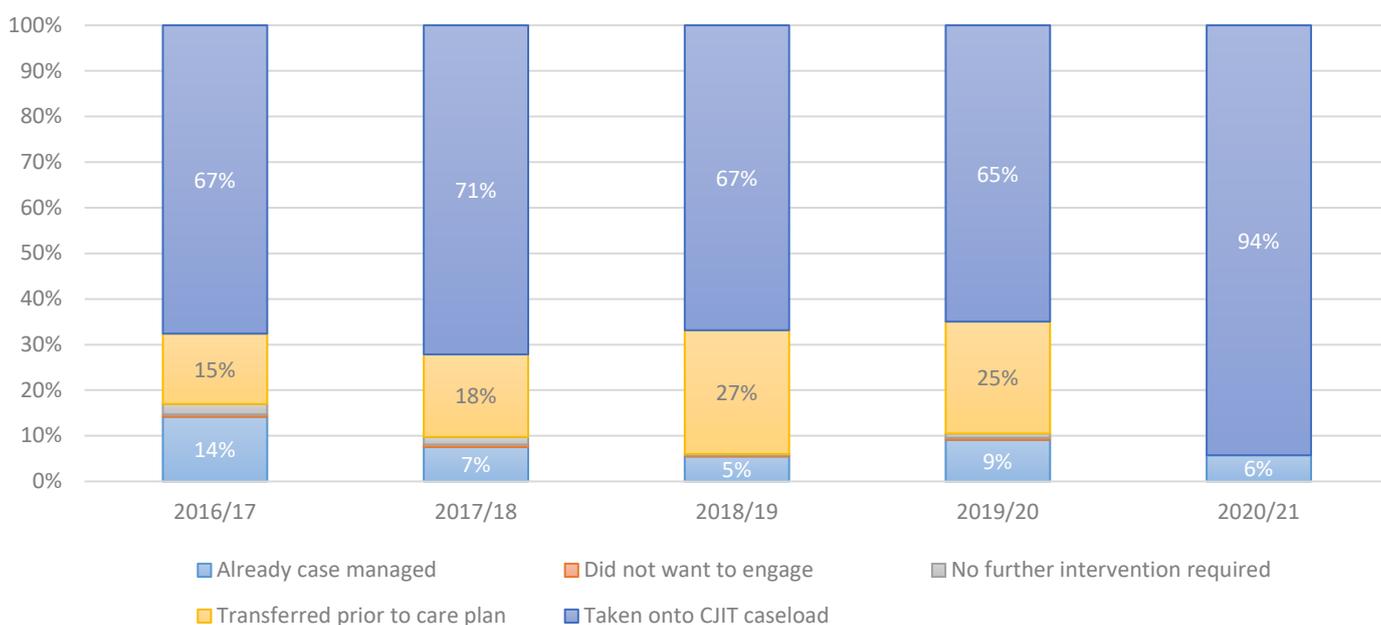
Figure 2: Referral routes of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



### OUTCOMES FOLLOWING CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT

The majority of the Sefton CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 were taken onto the CJIT caseload (n=82; 94%), while the remaining five contacts were already case managed by a structured treatment provider, other CJIT or Offender Manager (6%) (Figure 3). The proportion of clients taken onto Sefton CJIT’s caseload in 2020/21 is substantially higher than previous four years and is the highest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 79%), while the proportion of clients already case managed is slightly lower than the previous year (9%), though it is the same as the Merseyside figure. Notably, there were no clients in the year ending March 2021 who did not require further intervention, did not want to engage or transferred prior to care plan, though proportions in the previous four years were low.

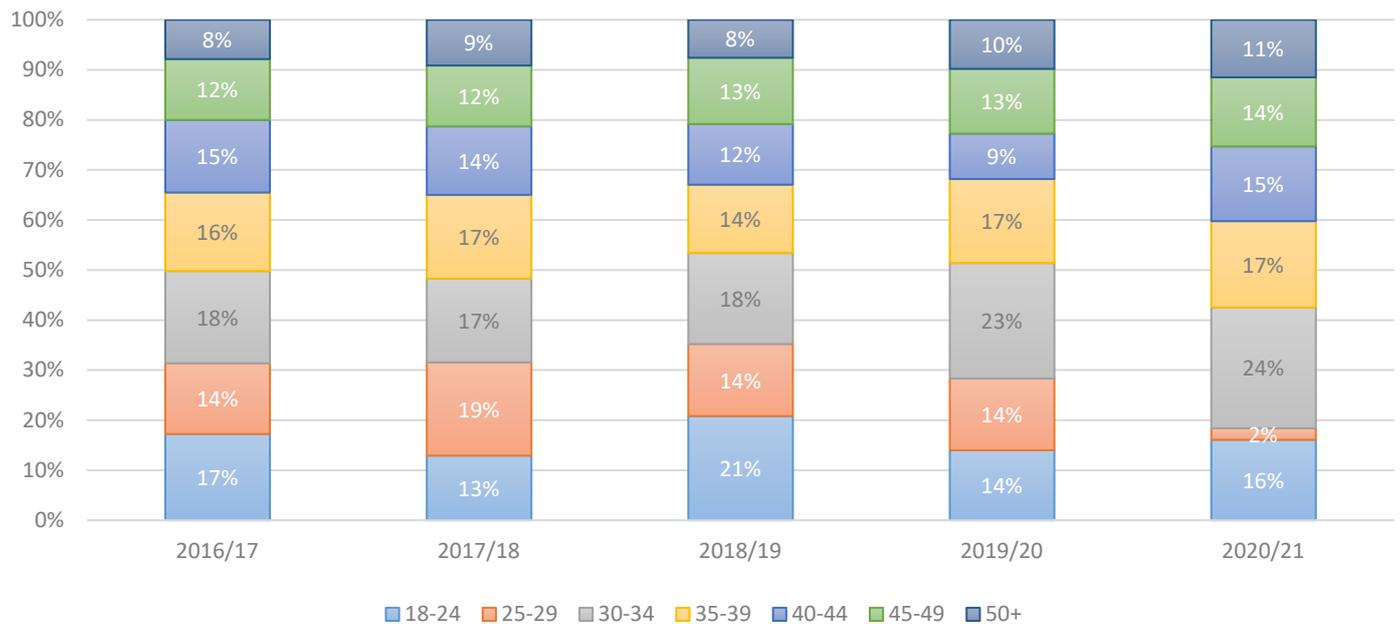
Figure 3: Outcomes following criminal justice assessment of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



AGE AND GENDER

The median age of Sefton CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 was 37 years, which is higher than the previous two years (both 34 years). Looking at age groups, around one-quarter were aged 30-34 years (n=21; 24%), while there were similar proportions aged 18-24 years (16%), 35-39 years (17%), 40-44 years (15%) and 45-49 years (14%) (Figure 4). The proportion of individuals aged 30-34 years in 2020/21 is similar to the previous year (23%), though it is higher than the Merseyside figure (19%).

Figure 4: Age group of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



Over four in five individuals in contact with Sefton CJIT in the year ending March 2021 were men (n=73; 84%) (Figure 5). This is similar to the previous twelve months (83%) and is similar to the Merseyside total (83%).

Figure 5: Gender of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21

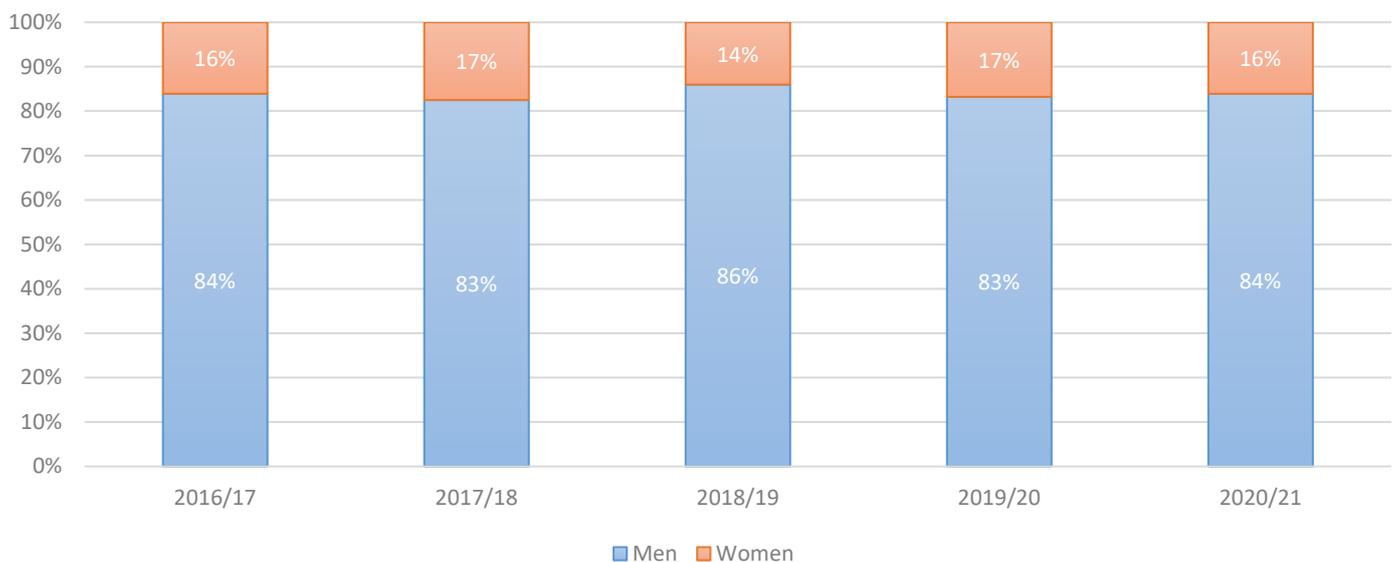
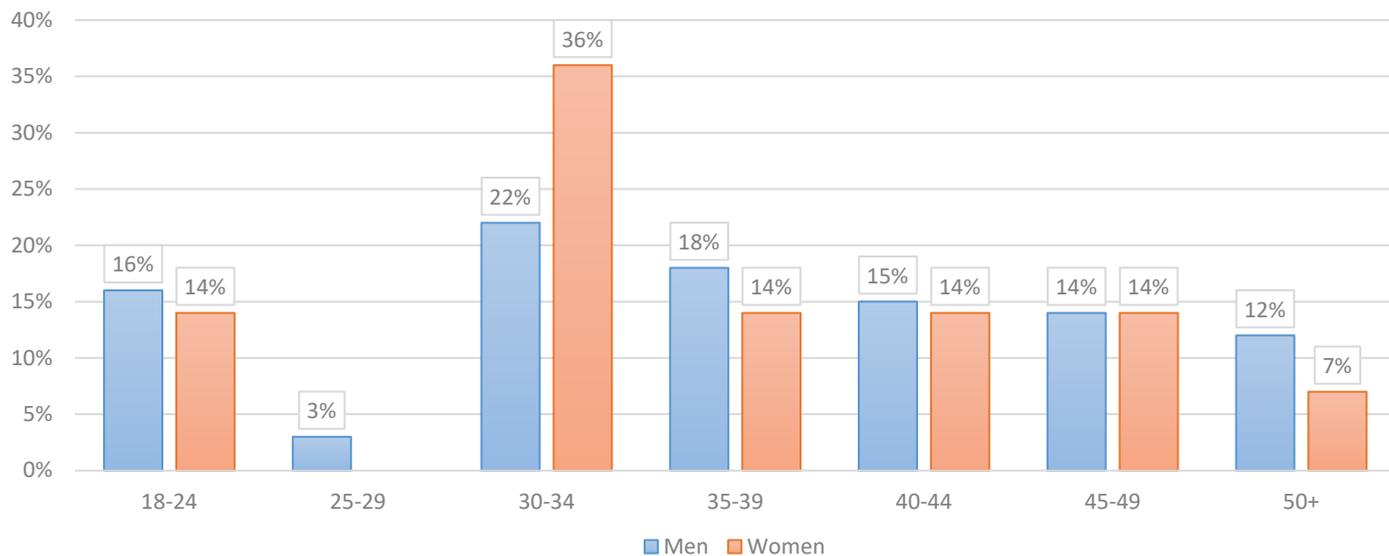


Figure 6 shows some differences in age group proportions across gender groups in Sefton in the year ending March 2021. Whilst there are fewer female CJIT contacts, there was a considerably larger proportion aged 30-34 years (36%) when compared to men (22%).

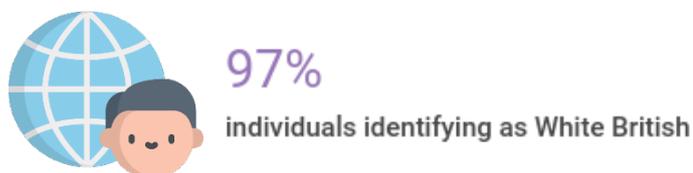
Figure 6: Age group and gender of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21



## ETHNICITY

Almost all of the Sefton CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 identified themselves as White British (97%) (Figure 7), which is similar to previous years, though slightly higher than the Merseyside proportion (95%).

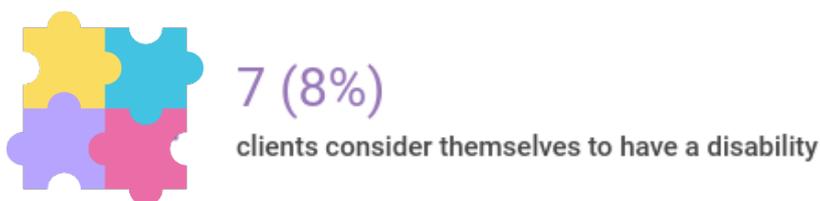
Figure 7: Ethnicity of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21



## DISABILITY

Just under one in ten Sefton CJIT contacts in 2020/21 considered themselves to have a disability (n=7; 8%) (Figure 8), which is substantially lower than the Merseyside figure (28%). The seven clients who considered themselves to have a disability reported a total nine disabilities, including behaviour and emotional, mobility and gross motor, and learning disability<sup>6</sup>.

Figure 8: Disability status of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21

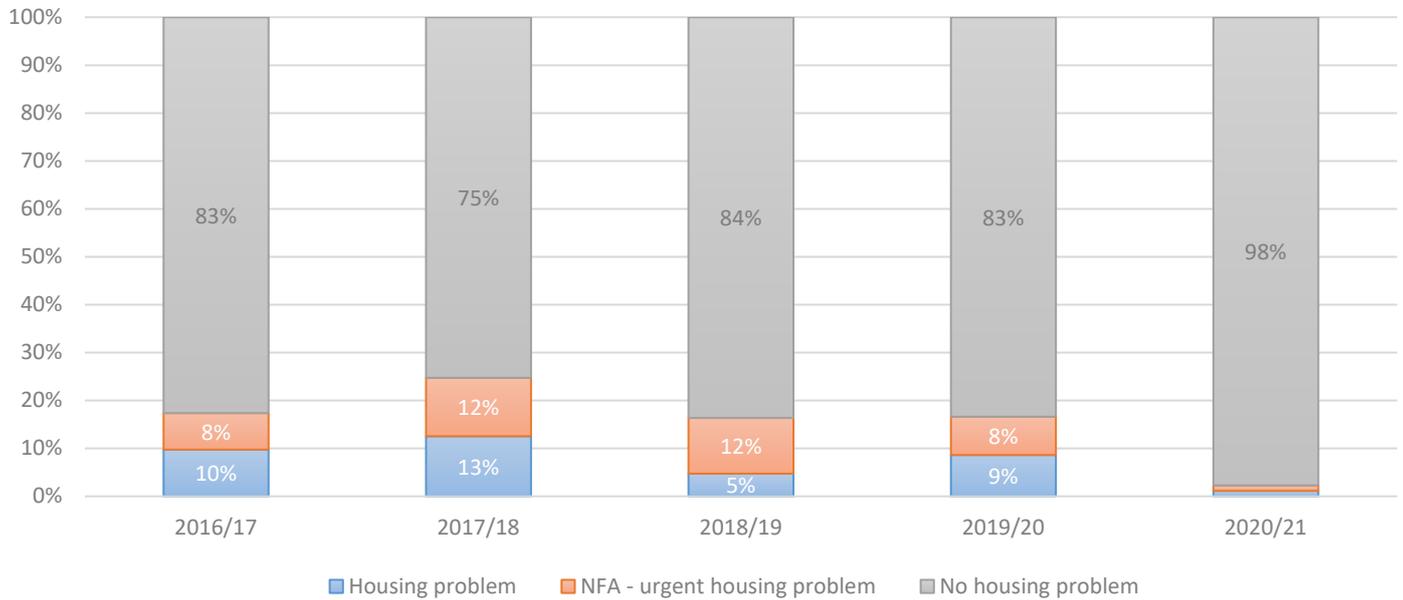


<sup>6</sup> Please note that clients may have up to three disabilities recorded.

## HOUSING NEED

In the year ending March 2021, 2% of the Sefton CJIT contacts reported some form of a housing problem (Figure 9)<sup>7</sup>. This is a considerable decrease on the previous four years' proportions and is substantially lower than the Merseyside figure (24%).

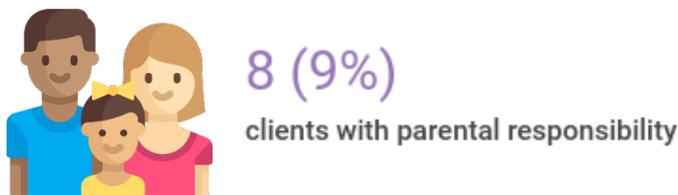
Figure 9: Housing need of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



## PARENTAL STATUS

In the year ending March 2021, around one in ten clients had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years (n=8; 9%) (Figure 10), which is lower than the Merseyside total (15%). Two-thirds of the Sefton CJIT contacts with parental responsibility had all of the children they are responsible for living with them the majority of the time (67%), which is the highest proportion of all the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 19%).

Figure 10: Parental status of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21



<sup>7</sup> Non-urgent housing need includes: staying with friends/family short term, short stay hostel, short term B&B/hotel, placed in temporary accommodation by LA Squatting. Urgent housing need (no fixed abode) includes: lives on streets/rough sleeper, uses night shelter (night-by-night basis)/emergency hostels, sofa surfing/sleeps on different friend's floor each night.

## SUBSTANCE USE

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the proportion of alcohol recorded as the main substance decreased year-on-year, while the proportion of non-opiate drugs increased year-on-year, followed by an increase in alcohol and decrease in non-opiates in the year ending March 2021. The proportion of opiates recorded as the main substance decreased year-on-year over the five-year period.

One-third of the Sefton CJIT contacts in 2020/21 reported cocaine as their main substance (n=29; 33%), followed by heroin (n=26; 30%) and alcohol (n=20; 23%) (Figure 11). The proportion of cocaine recorded as the main substance in the year ending March 2021 is a decrease on the previous three years, though the highest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 22%), while the proportion of heroin decreased year-on-year and is the second lowest proportion across Merseyside (Merseyside total: 46%).

Figure 11: Main substances used by Sefton CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21

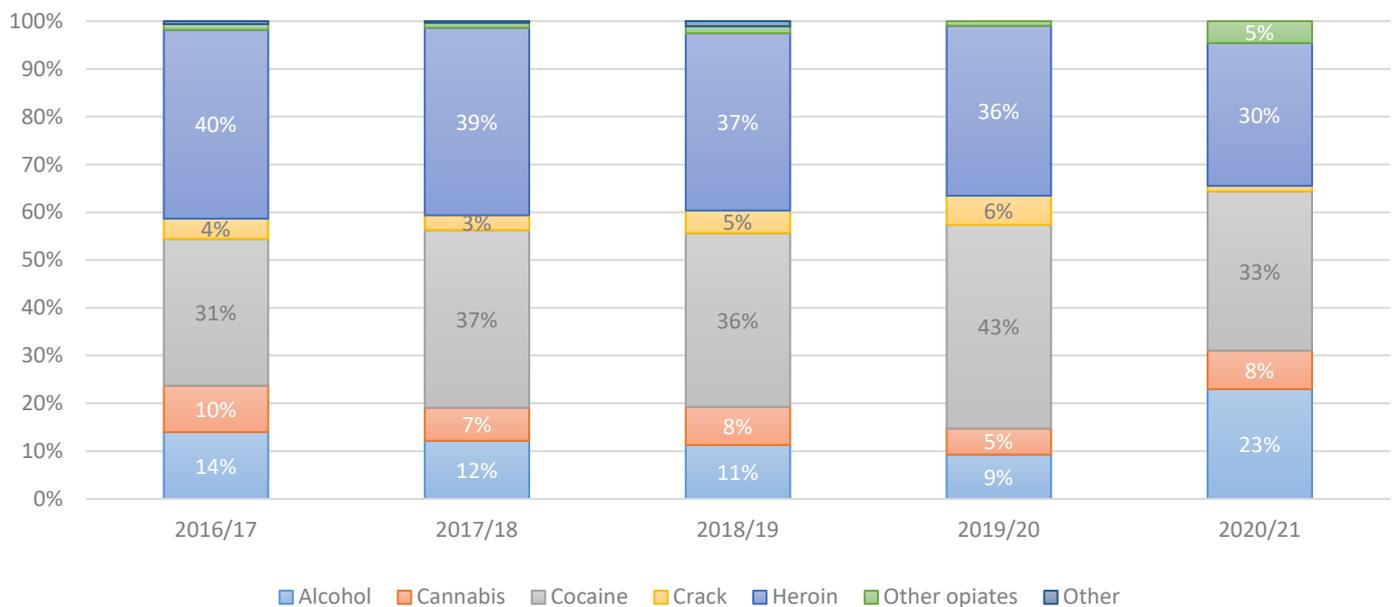


Figure 12 shows 2020/21 figures split by substance one, two and three. Over half of the second substance was recorded as crack (n=23; 56%) and over half of the third substance was recorded as alcohol (n=6; 55%).

Figure 12: Substances 1-3 used by Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21

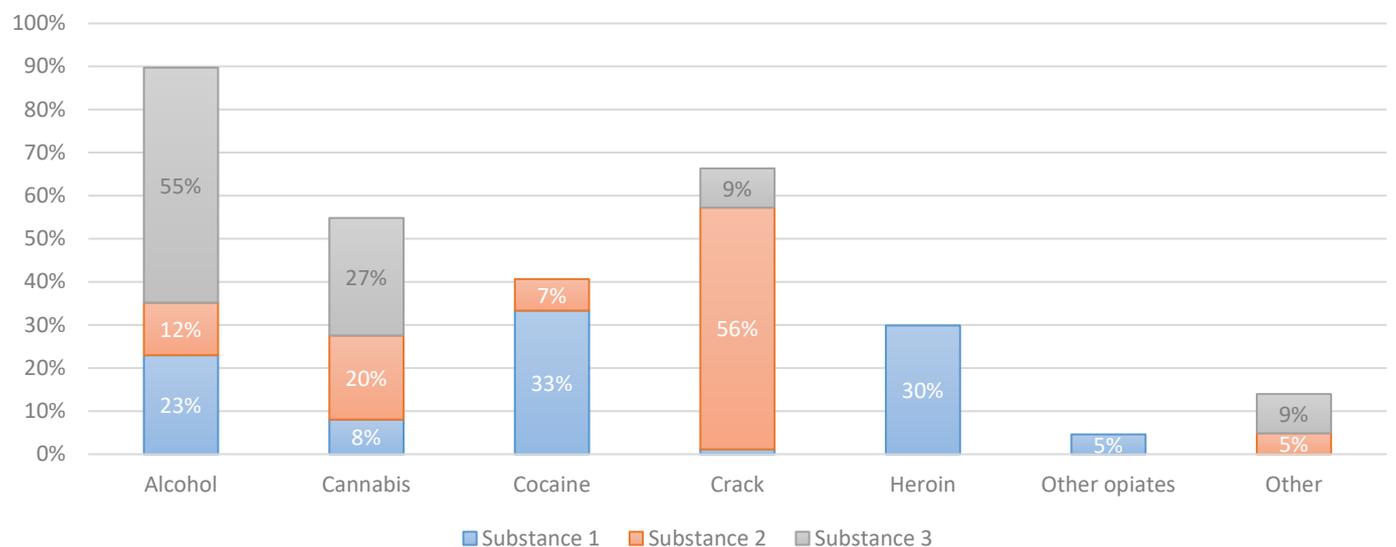


Figure 13 shows the proportions of the main substance by gender in the year ending March 2021. There were considerably larger proportions of alcohol and other opiates recorded as the main substance by women (43% and 21% respectively) when compared to men (19% and 1% respectively), while there was a substantially larger proportion of men who reported cocaine (38%) when compared to women (7%). Proportions were similar for men and women who reported heroin as their main substance.

Figure 13: Main substance and gender of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21

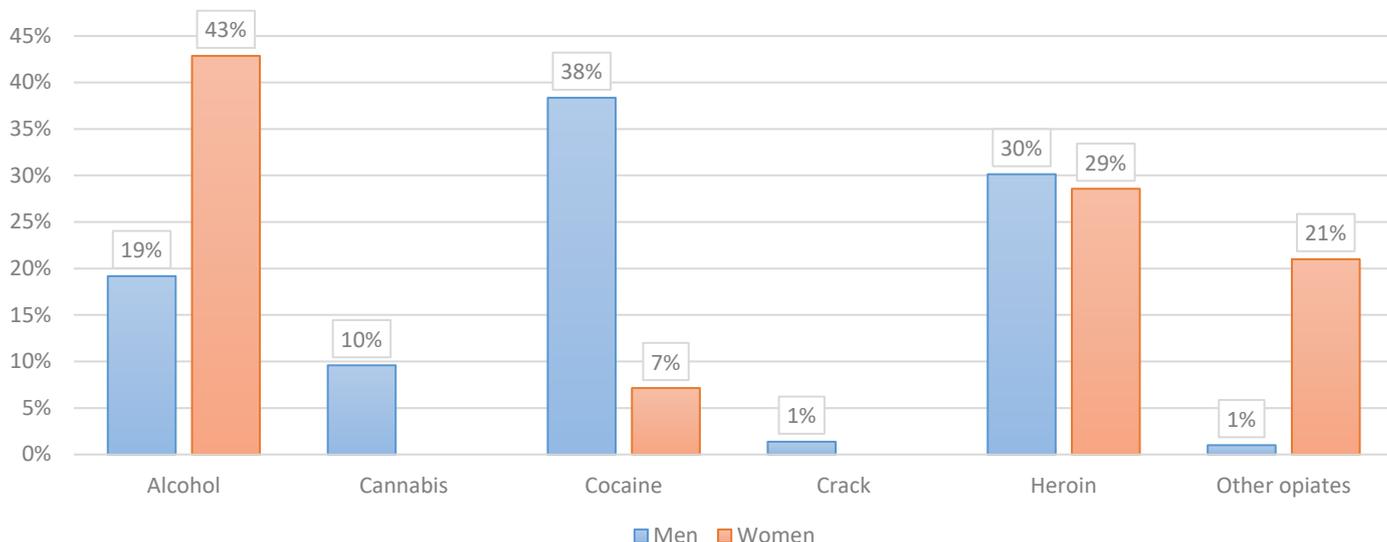
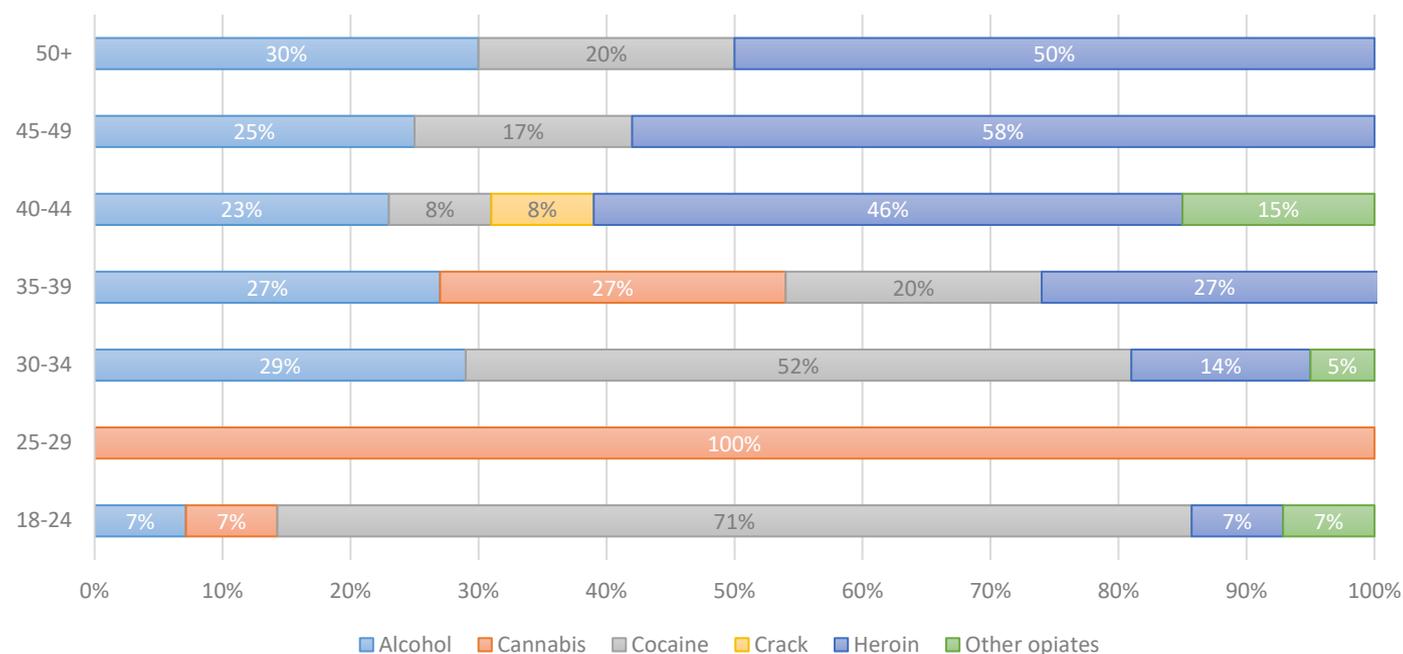


Figure 14 shows the proportions of the main substance for each age group in the year ending March 2021. In general, there were larger proportions of cocaine recorded as the main substance in the younger age groups and larger proportions of heroin across the older age groups. Around seven in ten (71%) of 18-24 year olds reported cocaine as their main substance, while proportions of heroin were highest for clients aged 45-49 years and 50 years or over (58% and 50% respectively). Furthermore, proportions for alcohol were highest for clients aged 30 years and over.

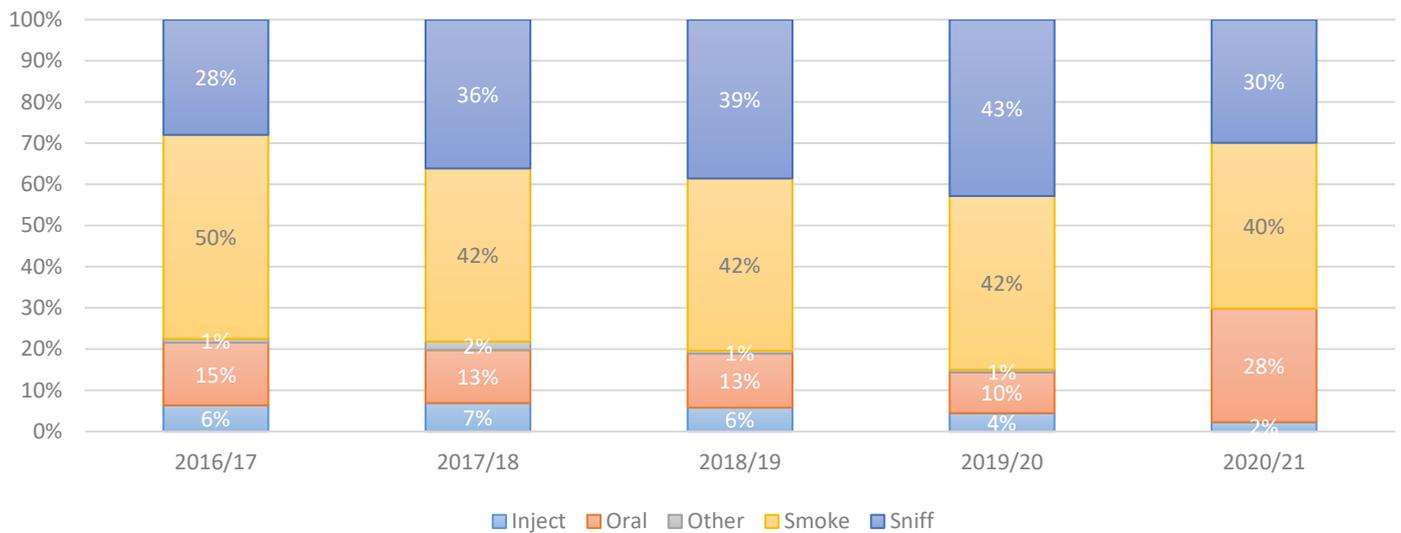
Figure 14: Main substance and age group of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21



## ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION

The route of administration of the main substance is shown in *Figure 15*. In the year ending March 2021, two in five Sefton CJIT contacts smoked their main substance (n=35; 40%), while three in ten clients' route of administration was intranasal (n=26; 30%). The proportion who smoked their main substance in 2020/21 was the lowest of the five-year period and lower than the Merseyside figure (52%), while the proportion whose route of administration of their main drug was intranasal was lower than the previous three years, though the highest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 21%).

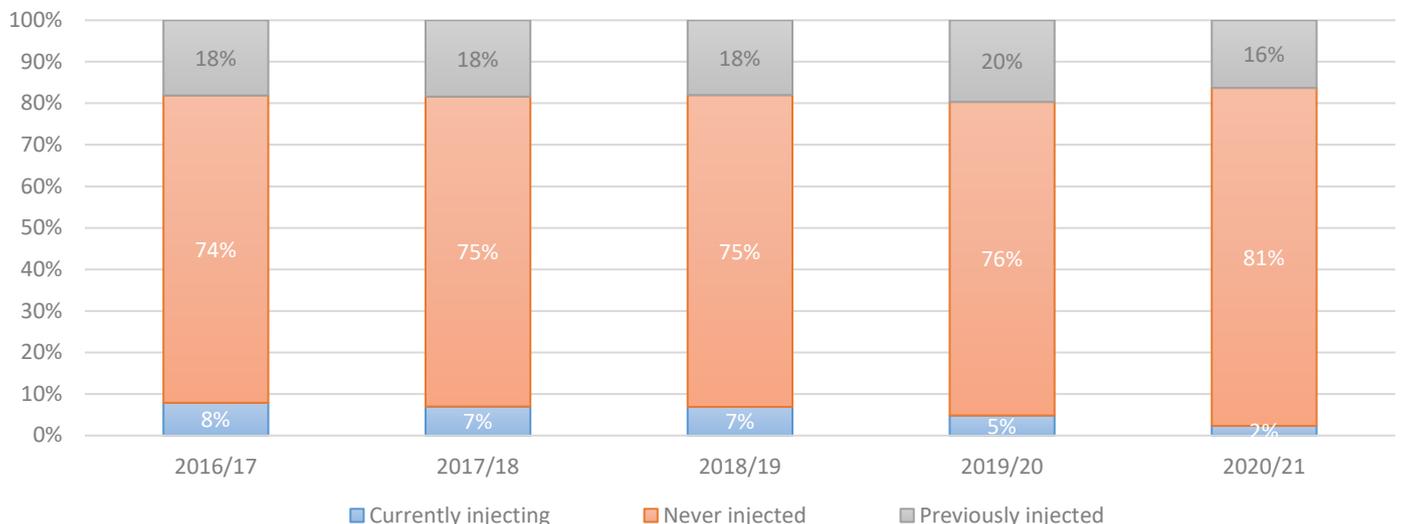
*Figure 15: Route of administration of the main substance used by Sefton CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21*



## INJECTING STATUS

Around four in five Sefton CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 stated they had never injected (n=70; 81%), while around one in six (16%) had previously injected but were not currently and 2% were currently injecting (*Figure 16*). The proportions of clients who reported in 2020/21 that they had previously injected or were currently injecting are the lowest of the five-year period and are both lower than the Merseyside figures (25% and 5% respectively).

*Figure 16: Injecting status of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21*

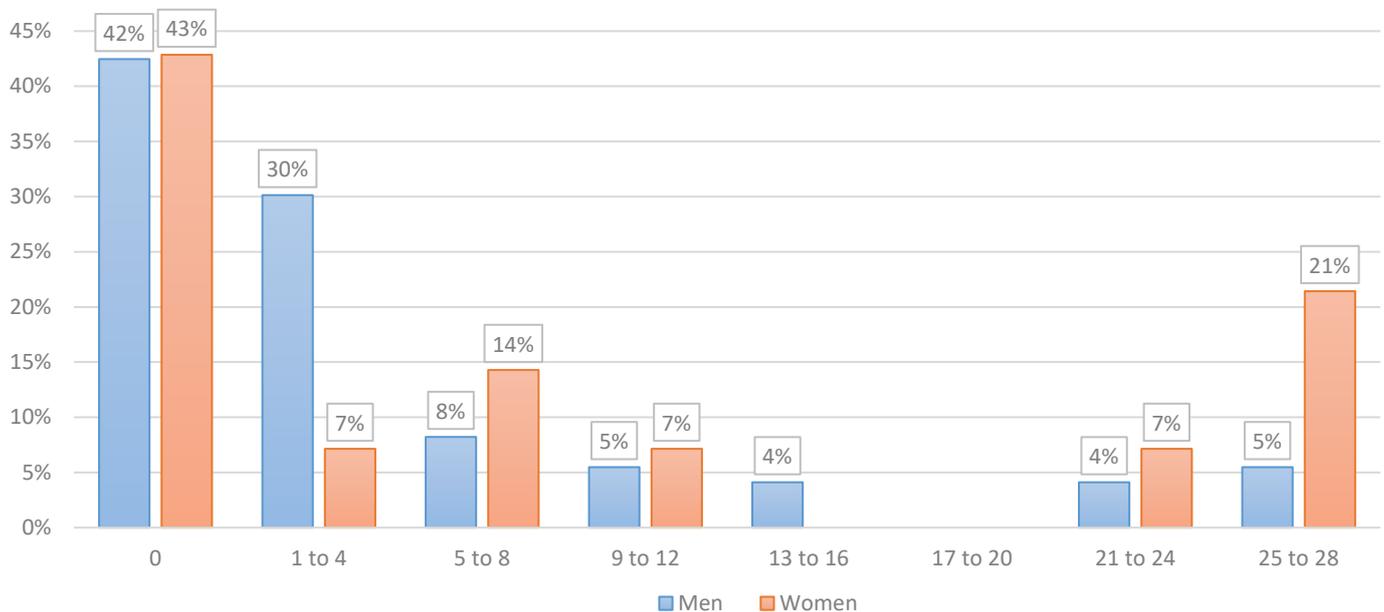


## ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Figure 17 shows the number of days alcohol was consumed by Sefton clients in the 28 days prior to their CJIT contact in the year ending March 2021. Just under three in five men consumed alcohol (n=42; 58%), compared to just over two in five who did not consume alcohol (n=31; 42%). The proportion of men who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment in 2020/21 is the same as the previous twelve-month period and the second highest of the five-year period. It is also the highest proportion recorded in 2020/21 by the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 33%).

For women, just under three in five consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT contact in 2020/21 (n=8; 57%), compared to just over two in five who did not consume alcohol (n=6; 43%). The proportion of women who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment in 2020/21 is higher than the previous four years, though there was a substantially lower number of women assessed by Sefton CJIT in 2020/21, and it is the highest proportion recorded for women by the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 34%).

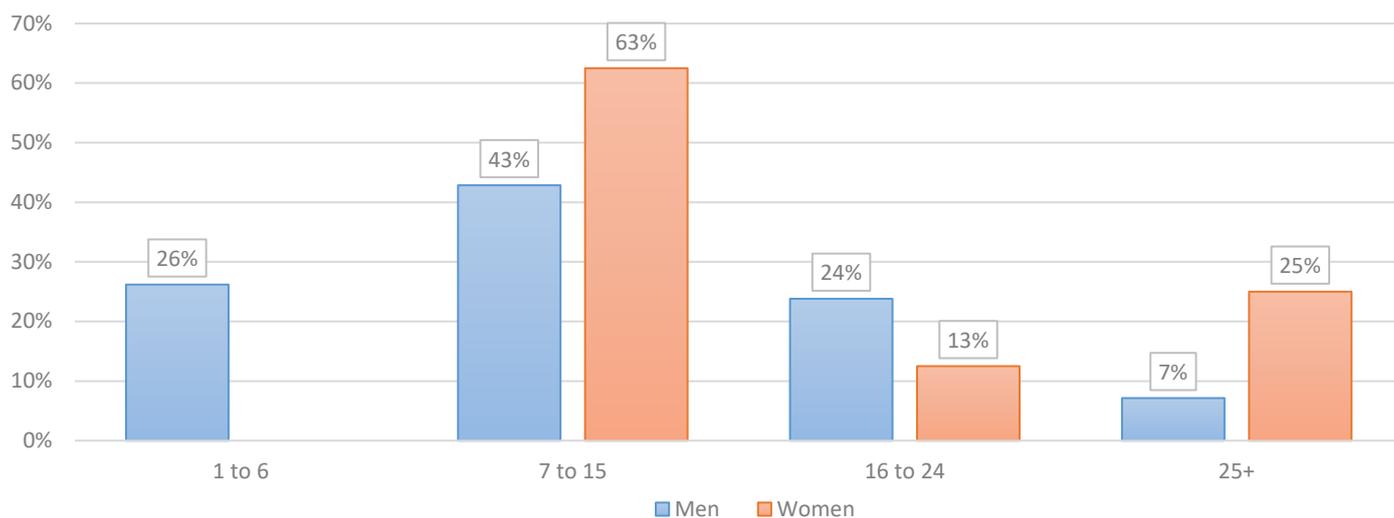
Figure 17: Number of drinking days in the 28 days prior to assessment for Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21



The daily average number of units of alcohol consumed by Sefton clients in the 28 days prior to CJIT contact in the year ending March 2021 are shown in Figure 18. Of the 42 men who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment, just over two in five consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily (n=18; 43%), which is similar to the previous year (42%), though higher than the Merseyside figure (36%).

Of the eight women who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment, five (63%) consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily. Although numbers are low, this is a higher proportion than the previous four years. Comparisons have not been made to Merseyside figures due to there being low numbers of women assessed by the five CJIT areas in 2020/21 who had consumed alcohol.

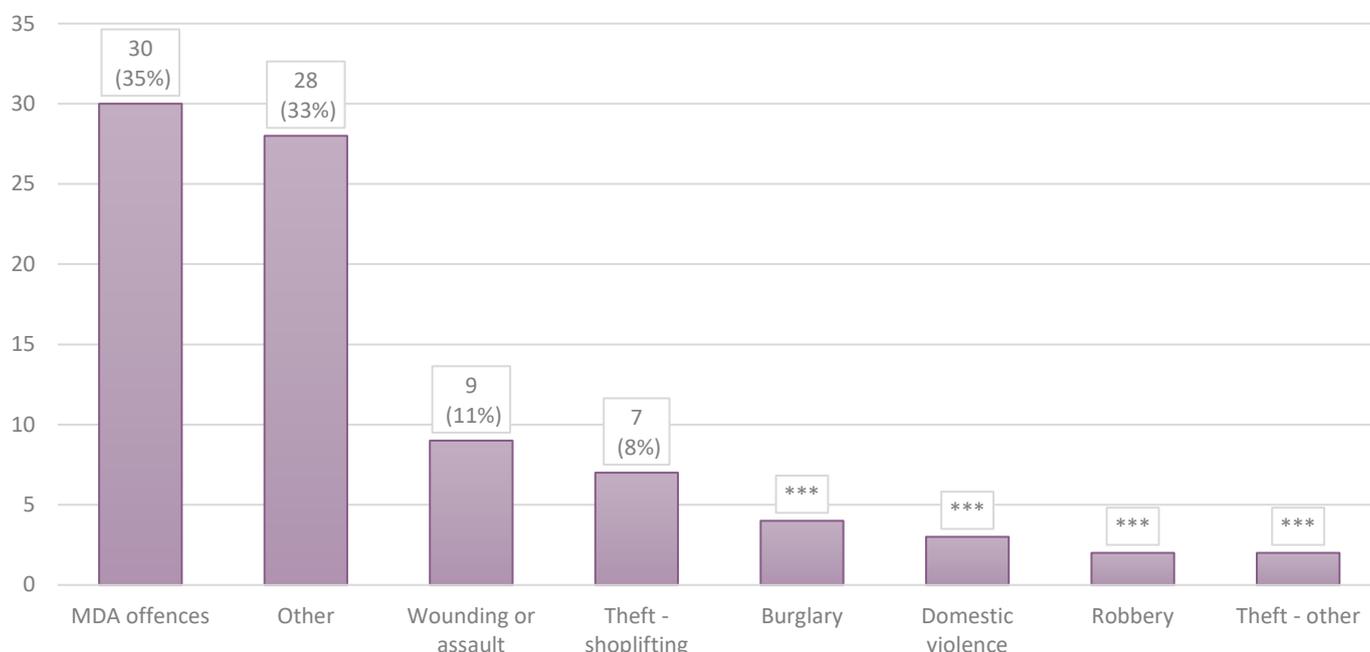
Figure 18: Number of units of alcohol (daily average) consumed by Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21



## OFFENDING

The main offences that prompted Sefton CJIT clients' current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system in the year ending March 2021 is shown in Figure 19. Over one-third were Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences (n=30; 35%)<sup>8</sup>, followed by offences categorised as 'other' (n=28; 33%), wounding or assault (n=9; 11%) and theft - shoplifting (n=7; 8%). The proportion of MDA offences is the highest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 21%), while the proportion of other offences is the same as the Merseyside figure and theft - shoplifting is similar to the Merseyside figure (11%).

Figure 19: Offence that prompted current / most recent contact with the criminal justice system for Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21



<sup>8</sup> Just under nine in ten (87%) of the MDA offences were possession.

Figure 20 shows five-year trends of the main offending categories for Sefton residents. The proportion of MDA offences in the year ending March 2021 is similar to the previous four years, while the proportion of other offences is the highest of the five-year period. Conversely, the proportion of theft - shoplifting in 2020/21 is the lowest of the five-year period. It is possible that the shift in trends in the year ending March 2021 could be attributed to lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 20: Main offences that prompted current / most recent contact with the criminal justice system for Sefton CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21

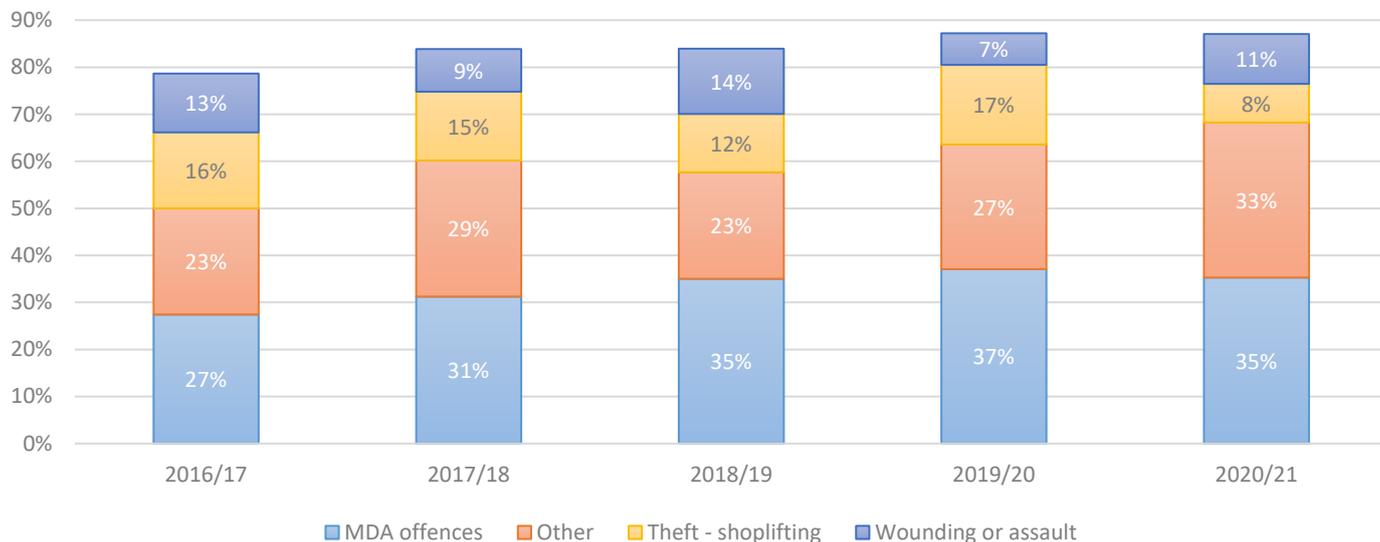
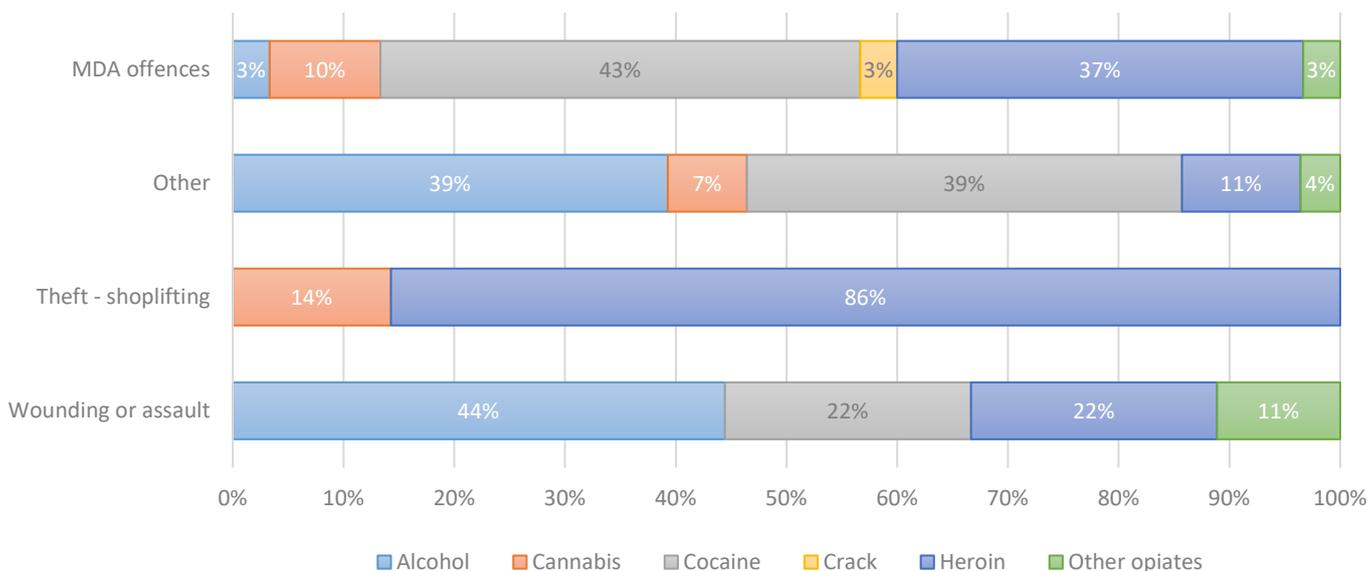


Figure 21 shows the proportions of the main substance for the most common offences recorded for Sefton CJIT contacts assessed in the year ending March 2021. Alcohol recorded as the main substance was most prominent for those whose contact with Sefton CJIT was prompted by wounding or assault and other offences (44% and 39% respectively), while for cocaine it was MDA offences and other offences (43% and 39% respectively) and for heroin it was theft - shoplifting (86%).

Figure 21: Main substance and offence of Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21

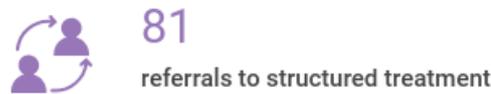


## INTERVENTIONS

### REFERRALS TO STRUCTURED TREATMENT

Of the clients taken onto the CJIT caseload, 81 were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2021 (*Figure 22*)<sup>9</sup>.

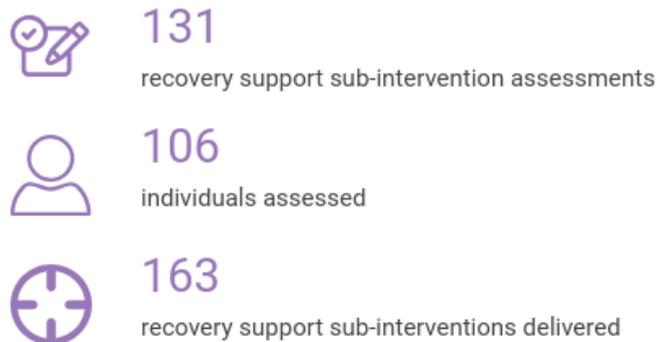
*Figure 22: Referrals to structured treatment for Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21*



### RECOVERY SUPPORT SUB-INTERVENTIONS

In the year ending March 2021, 131 recovery support sub-intervention assessments were carried out on clients on the CJIT caseload (106 individuals), with a total 163 sub-interventions delivered (*Figure 23*)<sup>9</sup>.

*Figure 23: Recovery support sub-intervention assessments for Sefton CJIT contacts, 2020/21*



Of the total recovery support sub-interventions delivered, four in five were recovery check-ups (n=130; 80%), followed by facilitated access to mutual aid (n=13; 8%) and evidence-based psychosocial interventions to support relapse prevention (n=11; 7%).

<sup>9</sup> Clients not taken onto the CJIT caseload, and clients with the same caseload start date and discharge date as well as a 'prior to caseload' discharge reason (as these are deemed to have not been taken onto the CJIT caseload), have been excluded from these figures. Figures include referrals to structured treatment or recovery support sub-intervention assessments where the date was between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, regardless of when the client was taken onto the CJIT caseload.

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