

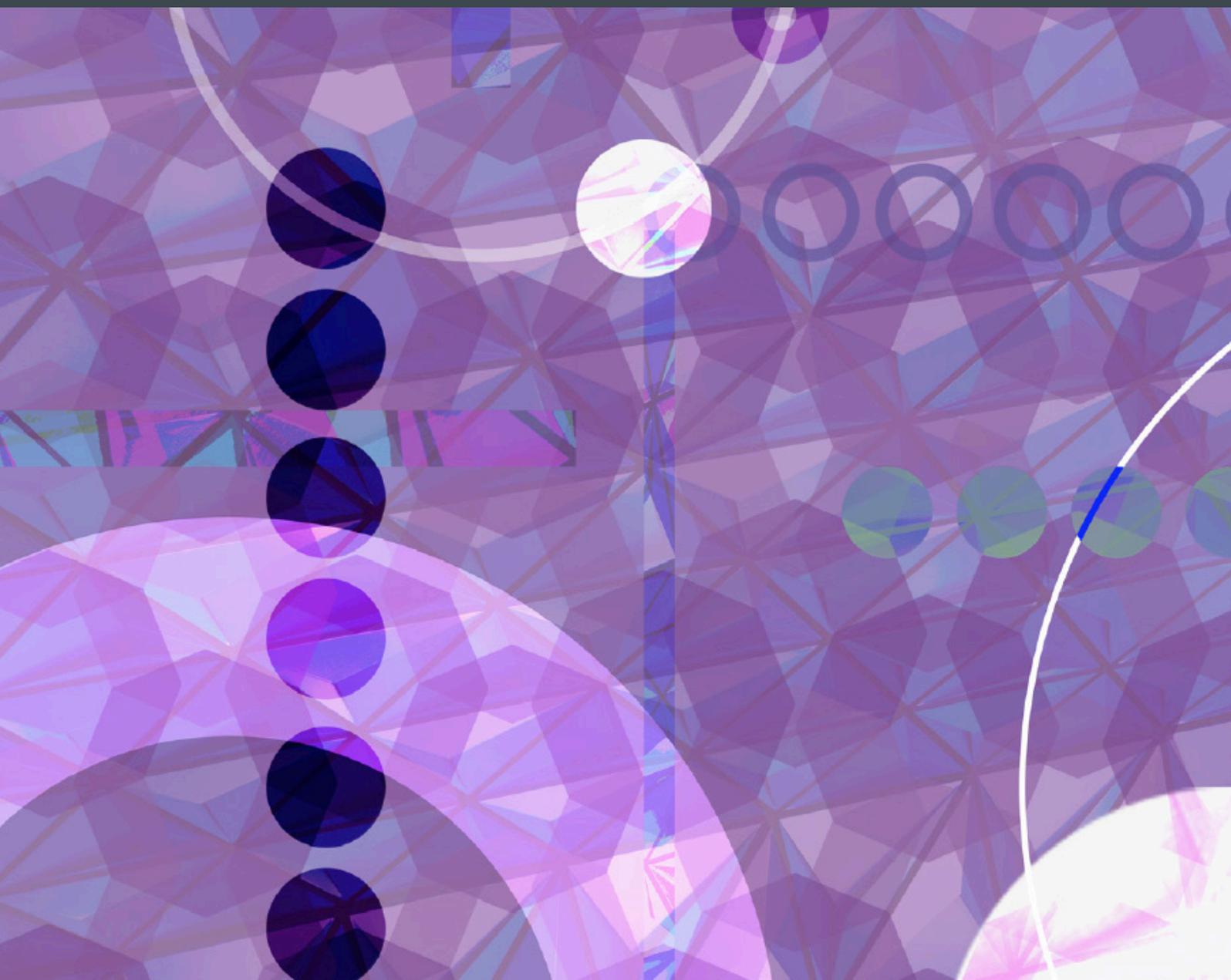
Criminal Justice Project: Drug Interventions Programme

Criminal Justice Intervention Team Activity in St Helens: year ending March 2023

March 2024



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List of figures ii

Key findings iii

Introduction 1

Overview 2

 Criminal justice routes in St Helens 2

 Outcomes following criminal justice assessment 3

St Helens residents 4

 Demographics 4

 Age and gender 4

 Ethnicity 6

 Disability 6

 Veteran 7

 Housing 7

 Parental responsibility 8

 Substance use 8

 Route of administration 10

 Injecting status 11

 Naloxone provision 11

 Alcohol consumption 11

 Offending 13

 Referrals to structured treatment 14

 Treatment outcomes 15

Appendices 16

 Appendix A 16

 Appendix B 16

References 18

Acknowledgements 18

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23	2
Figure 2: Referral routes of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23	3
Figure 3: Outcomes following criminal justice assessment of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23	3
Figure 4: Postcode area of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23	4
Figure 5: Age group of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2017/18 - 2022/23	4
Figure 6: Gender of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2017/18 - 2022/23.....	5
Figure 7: Age group and gender of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2022/23.....	5
Figure 8: Ethnicity of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2022/23	6
Figure 9: Disability status of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23.....	6
Figure 10: Disabilities of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23.....	6
Figure 11: Veteran status of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23	7
Figure 12: Housing need of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23	7
Figure 13: Parental status of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23.....	8
Figure 14: Main substances used by St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23	8
Figure 15: Substances 1-3 used by St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23.....	9
Figure 16: Main substance and gender of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23	9
Figure 17: Main substance and age group of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23	10
Figure 18: Route of administration of the main substance used by St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23	10
Figure 19: Injecting status of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23.....	11
Figure 20: Number of drinking days in the 28 days prior to assessment for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23.....	12
Figure 21: Number of units of alcohol (daily average) consumed by St Helens CJIT contacts (men only), 2022/23.....	12
Figure 22: Offence that prompted current/most recent contact with the criminal justice system for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23.....	13
Figure 23: Main offences that prompted current/most recent contact with the criminal justice system for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23	13
Figure 24: Main substance and offence of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23	14
Figure 25: Referrals to structured treatment for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23.....	14
Figure 26: Discharges from the St Helens CJIT caseload, 2022/23	15
Figure 27: Average time on St Helens CJIT caseload for clients who completed treatment, 2022/23.....	15

- In the year ending March 2023, there were 237 adult contacts (204 individuals) recorded by St Helens Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT). This is similar to the 235 CJIT contacts in the previous twelve-month period and notably, the largest number of CJIT contacts between 2017/18 and 2022/23.
- Around half (49%) of the CJIT contacts in 2022/23 were other criminal justice routes, while voluntary presentations following release from prison and Required Assessments following a positive test for specified Class A drugs in a police custody suite had similar proportions (26% and 24% respectively).
- The majority (83%) of St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 were taken onto the CJIT caseload.

ST HELENS RESIDENTS

- In the year ending March 2023, 136.6 individuals per 100,000 adult population in St Helens Local Authority were in contact with St Helens CJIT. The postcode districts with the highest number of St Helens CJIT contacts were WA9 and WA10 (34% and 30% respectively).
- The average age of individuals assessed in the year ending March 2023 was 36 years. Around two in five (39%) were aged 30-39 years, followed by individuals aged 18-29 years (27%), 40-49 years (23%) and 50 years or over (11%).
- Over four in five (85%) individuals in contact with St Helens CJIT in the year ending March 2023 stated they were men.
- The majority (99%) identified themselves as White British.
- Two in three (67%) St Helens residents considered themselves to have a disability; of which, just under three-quarters (73%) were a behaviour and emotional disability, while mobility and gross motor, progressive conditions and physical health, and learning disability accounted for around one in ten (9%) each.
- Less than one in twenty (3%) St Helens residents stated they were a veteran of the British Armed Forces.
- Similar proportions reported no home of their own or other housing situations (35% and 32% respectively), followed by those in a rented home (28%) and 5% stated they owned their own home.
- Around one in five (19%) St Helens residents reported they had a risk of homelessness in the next eight weeks.
- Over one in three (36%) had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years; of which, over four in five (86%) had none of the children living with them the majority of the time.
- Of the main substances reported by St Helens residents in the year ending March 2023, one-third (33%) reported heroin as their main substance, followed by just over one-quarter (28%) who reported alcohol. Over two in five (44%) reported their second substance as crack and two in five (40%) reported their third substance as cannabis.
- Over two in five (45%) St Helens CJIT contacts smoked their main substance, followed by those who administered their main substance orally (30%) and intranasally (16%), and those who injected (9%).
- Around three-quarters (76%) stated they had never injected, followed by clients who had previously injected but were not currently (14%) and clients currently injecting (9%).

- Over two in five (44%) of the clients who reported an opioid as their main substance in 2022/23 were issued with naloxone; of which, half (50%) were supplied with nasal naloxone, followed by one-third (33%) who were supplied with injectable naloxone. Of the clients not issued with naloxone, just under two-thirds (64%) were already in possession of adequate naloxone.
- Just under three in five (58%) men consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment. Of these, just over one in three (36%) consumed 1-6 units of alcohol on an average day, followed by 7-15 units (32%), 16-24 units (18%) and over 24 units (14%).
- For women, there were similar proportions who consumed alcohol and did not consume alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment (48% and 52% respectively). Of the women who drank alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment, over two in five (44%) consumed 7-15 units of alcohol on an average day.
- Of the offences that prompted the current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system, around two in five (41%) were categorised as 'other', while one in six (16%) were wounding or assault and one in seven (14%) were Misuse of Drugs Act offences.
- Of the clients taken onto the CJIT caseload, 197 (172 individuals) were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2023.
- Around half (48%) of the clients closed from the St Helens caseload in the year ending March 2023 transferred prior to the completion of treatment, while around a third (32%) did not complete treatment and one in five (20%) completed treatment.
- Of the St Helens residents who completed treatment successfully, the average time on the CJIT caseload was 158 days.

Although the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) was decommissioned as a national programme by the Home Office in 2013, St Helens Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT) continue to collect and submit the criminal justice dataset to the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). The aim of CJITs is to identify and engage with adult offenders (aged 18 years and over) 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; Public Health Institute, 2015 & 2017; 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). This is a key route into treatment, though there are other sources of referral, including: Conditional Cautioning; court mandated processes, such as Restriction on Bail and pre-sentence reports; requirement by the Offender Manager for those with a community sentence (Drug Rehabilitation Requirements and Alcohol Treatment Requirements); following release from prison; as well as voluntary presentations.

CJIT assessments 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, 2011). The CJIT dataset captures client information, episode details (including drug and alcohol use, and offending) and referrals to structured treatment.

This CJIT Activity report for St Helens shows trends over a six-year period up to the year ending March 2023 for clients accessing the CJIT and where possible, comparisons to the Merseyside figures have been made.¹

Combating Drugs Partnerships

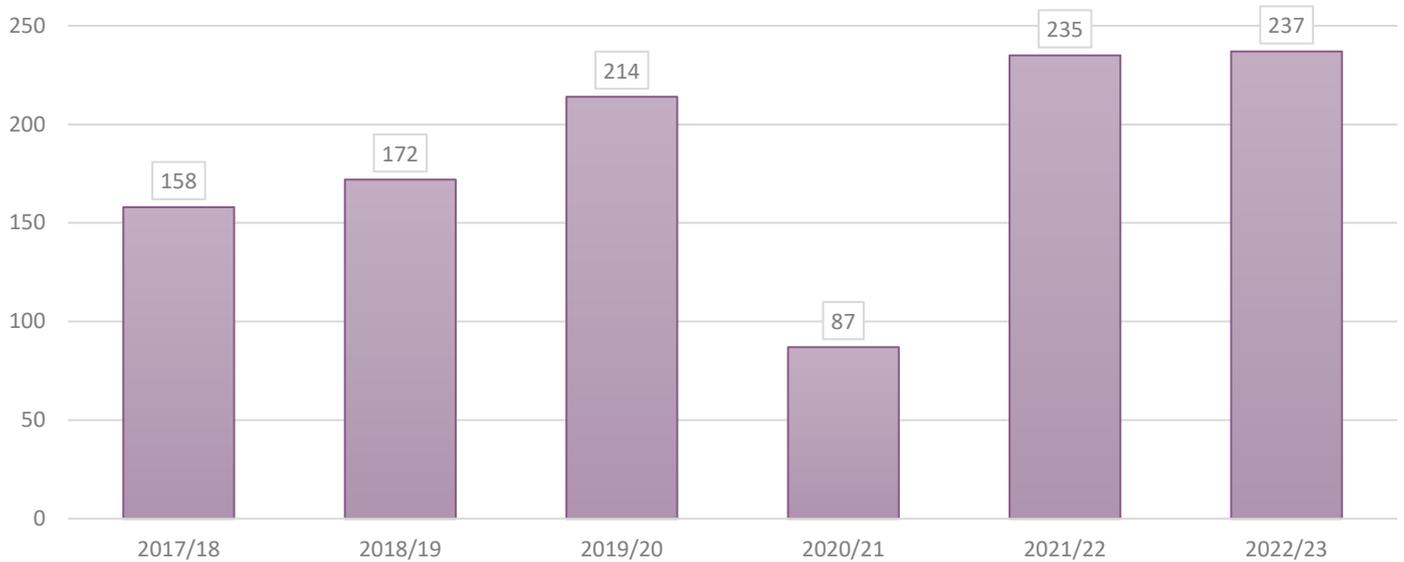
The Government's Drug Strategy stated its plan to reduce drug-related crime, deaths, harms and overall drug use (HM Government, 2021), outlining the requirement to establish and develop Combating Drugs Partnerships to oversee and co-ordinate its local delivery. Partnerships should lead a joint local needs assessment, a local drugs strategy delivery plan and regularly review progress (Home Office, 2022), through the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework, a means for monitoring progress nationally and locally (Home Office, 2023).

¹ Notes to accompany this report are available in [Appendix A](#). Supplementary data to support this report can be accessed here: [CJIT Activity in Merseyside: supplementary tables & charts \(end 2022/23\)](#).

OVERVIEW

In the year ending March 2023, there were 237 adult contacts (204 individuals) recorded by St Helens Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT), which is similar to the 235 CJIT contacts in the previous twelve-month period (*Figure 1*). Notably, this is the largest number of CJIT contacts of the six-year period.

Figure 1: St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23



CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROUTES IN ST HELENS

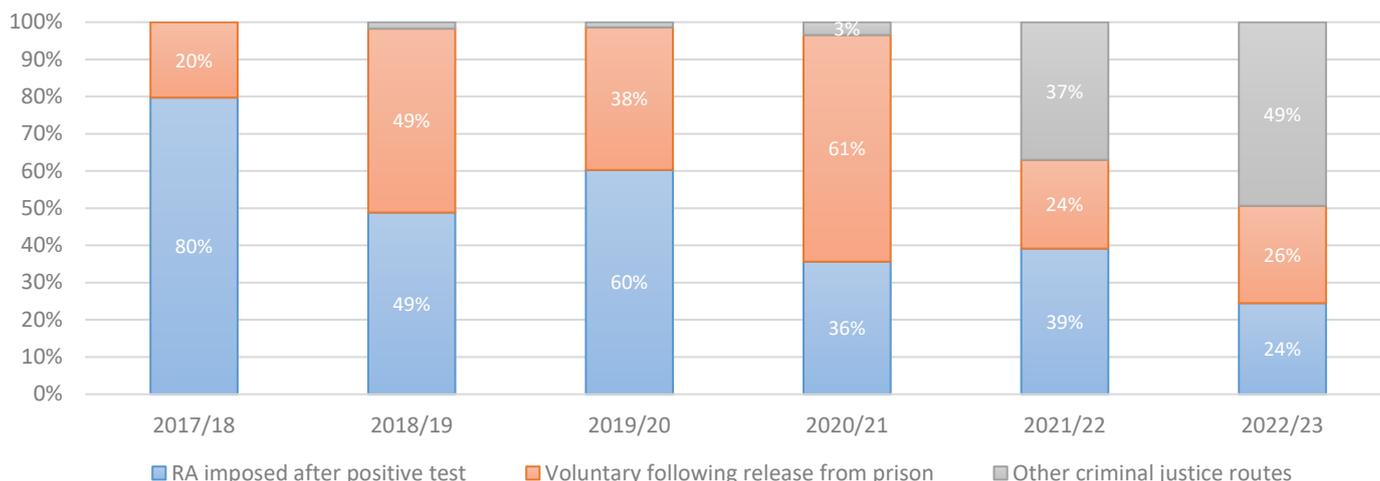
Figure 2 shows the criminal justice routes that led to the contact with St Helens CJIT between 2017/18 and 2022/23. Around half of the CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 were other criminal justice routes ($n=117, 49\%$)², while voluntary presentations following release from prison ($n=62, 26\%$) and Required Assessments (RA) following a positive test for specified Class A drugs in a police custody suite ($n=58, 24\%$) had similar proportions.

The proportion of RAs in the year ending March 2023 is a 15% decrease on the previous twelve-month period (39%) and the smallest proportion of the six-year period, including the year ending March 2021, when Merseyside Police suspended DIP drug testing in the custody suites for five months in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The proportion of CJIT contacts who presented through other criminal justice routes increased by 12% in the year ending March 2023 and is the largest proportion of the six years. Notably, the increase in other criminal justice routes in the year ending March 2023 is attributed to an increase in assessments required by the offender management scheme, Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR), Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) or Integrated Offender Management (IOM), which accounted for over two in five of all CJIT contacts in the year ($n=102, 43\%$; *Figure 2*).

Furthermore, the proportions of clients who had contact St Helens CJIT through the RA process and other criminal justice routes in the year ending March 2023 are smaller than the Merseyside figures (28% and 52% respectively), while the proportion who presented voluntarily following release from prison is larger than the Merseyside total (20%).

² Other criminal justice routes: required by offender management scheme/DRR/ATR/IOM = 102, requested by Offender Manager (post DRR/ATR) <15, other <5, voluntary - other <5.

Figure 2: Referral routes of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23



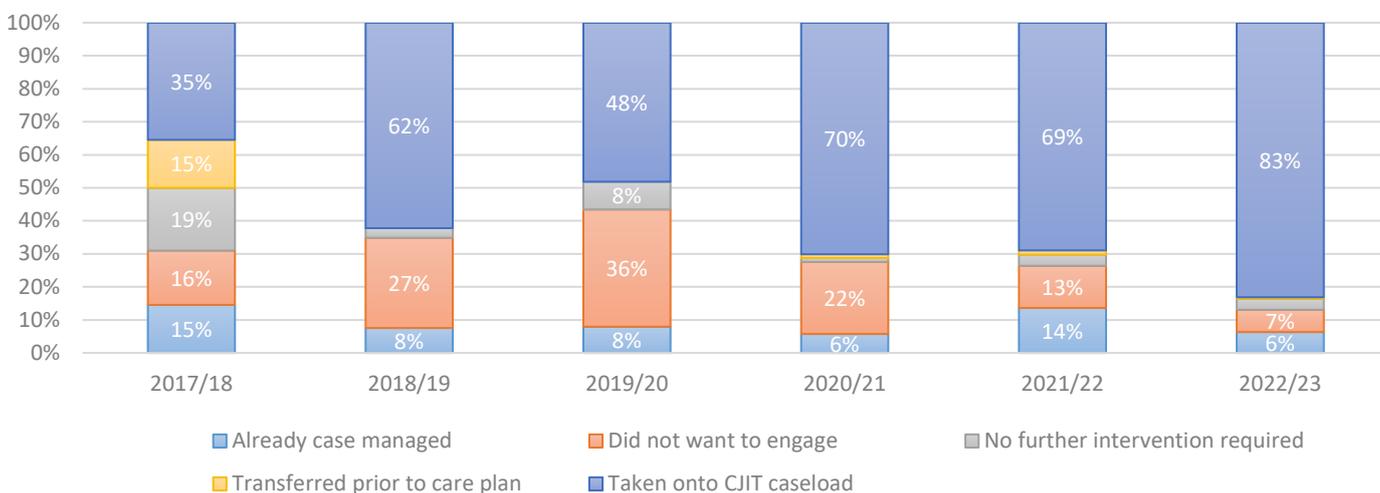
Focus on referrals required by offender management scheme, DRR, ATR or IOM

- In the year ending March 2023, of the St Helens CJIT referrals required by the offender management scheme, DRR, ATR or IOM, just under nine in ten individuals were men (n=89, 88%), and just under two in five were aged 30-39 years (n=38, 38%), followed by one-third aged 18-29 years (n=33, 33%).
- Over two in five reported alcohol as their main substance (n=45, 44%).
- Seven in ten clients consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment (n=71, 70%).
- Just under half of the referrals required by the offender management scheme, DRR, ATR or IOM were due to other offences (n=49, 48%), followed by around one in five recorded as wounding or assault (n=21, 21%).

OUTCOMES FOLLOWING CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT

The majority of the St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 were taken onto the CJIT caseload (n=197, 83%), which is the largest proportion of the six-year period (Figure 3) and a larger proportion than the Merseyside total (71%).

Figure 3: Outcomes following criminal justice assessment of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23

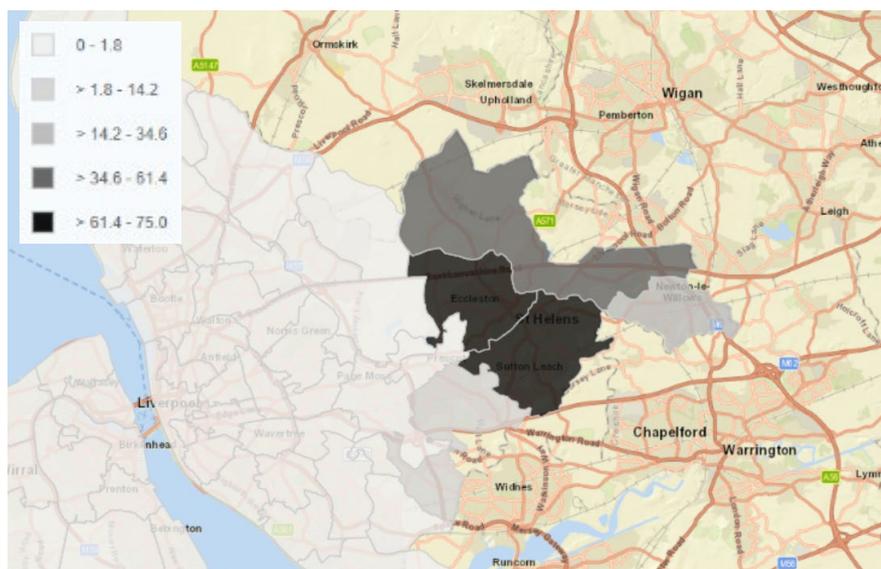


DEMOGRAPHICS

In the year ending March 2023, 136.6 individuals per 100,000 adult population in St Helens LA were in contact with St Helens CJIT, which is comparable to the Merseyside figure (135.8 per 100,000) and notably, the second largest rate of individuals in contact with a Merseyside CJIT (see [Appendix B](#) for a table and map of all Merseyside areas).

Where recorded (n=223), the postcode districts that had the highest numbers of St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 were WA9 (n=75, 34%) and WA10 (n=67, 30%; *Figure 4*).

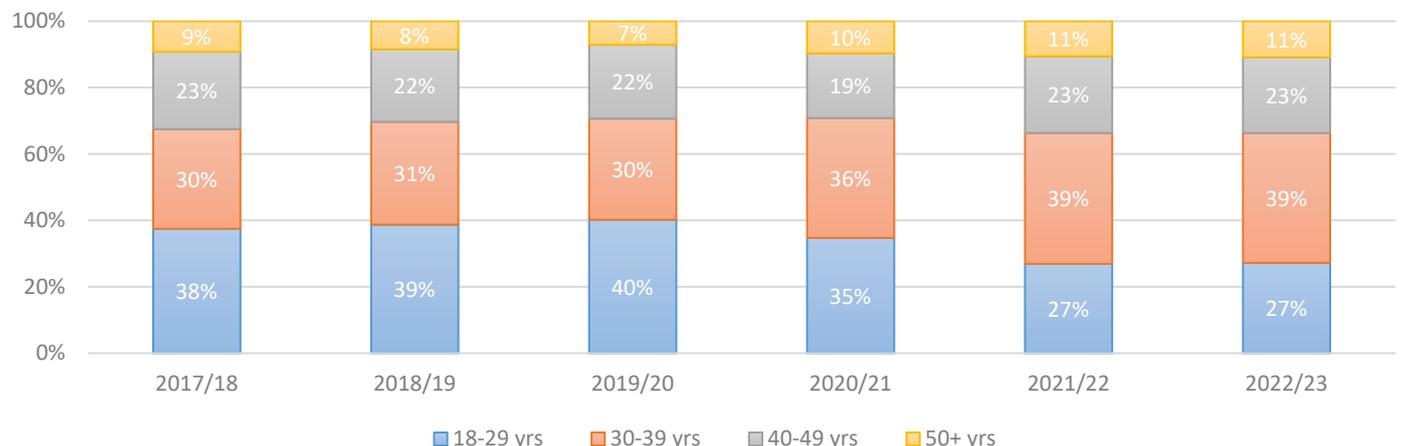
Figure 4: Postcode area of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23



AGE AND GENDER

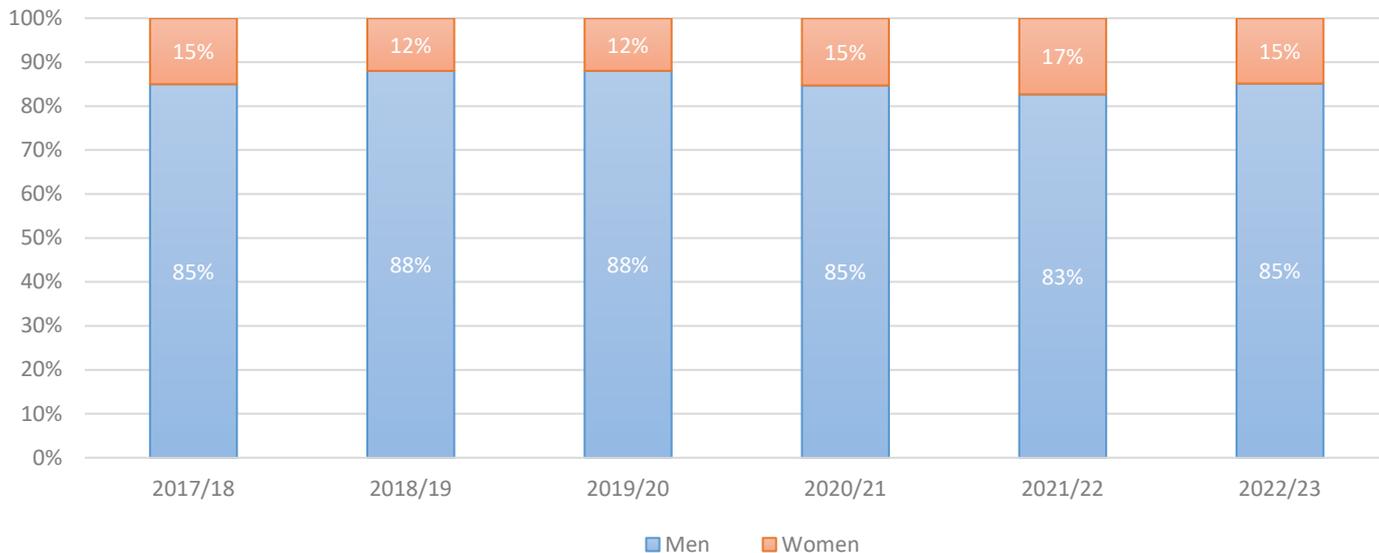
Of the St Helens residents assessed in the year ending March 2023, there were 202 individuals. The average age was 36 years. Looking at age groups, around two in five individuals were aged 30-39 years (n=79, 39%), followed by individuals aged 18-29 years (n=55, 27%), 40-49 years (n=46, 23%) and 50 years or over (n=22, 11%). Notably, these proportions are the same as the previous year (*Figure 5*).

Figure 5: Age group of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2017/18 - 2022/23



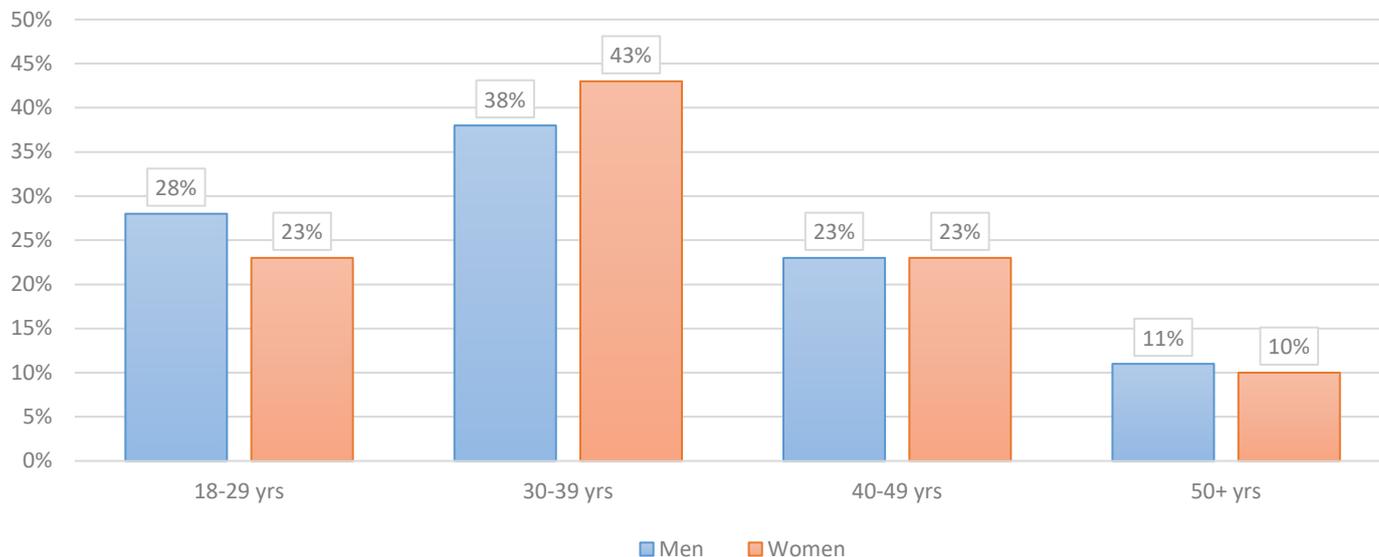
Over four in five individuals in contact with St Helens CJIT in the year ending March 2023 stated they were men (n=172, 85%; *Figure 6*). This is similar to both the previous year (83%) and the six-year average (86%), though it is below the Merseyside total (88%).

Figure 6: Gender of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2017/18 - 2022/23



When comparing age group with gender in the year ending March 2023, there are some slight differences (*Figure 7*). There was a larger proportion of men than women aged 18-29 years (28% and 23% respectively), compared to a larger proportion of women than men aged 30-39 years (43% and 38% respectively). Proportions of men and women were the same for individuals aged 40-49 years (23%) and similar for those aged 50 years or over (11% and 10% respectively).

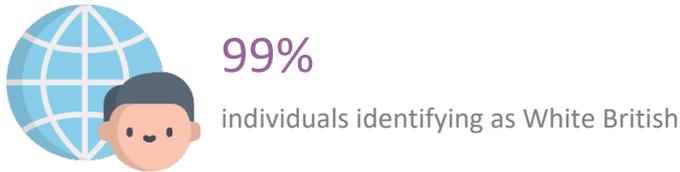
Figure 7: Age group and gender of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2022/23



ETHNICITY

The majority (99%) of St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 identified themselves as White British (*Figure 8*). This is the same proportion as the previous two years and the largest proportion of the five Merseyside CJIT areas (Merseyside total: 93%).

Figure 8: Ethnicity of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2022/23



DISABILITY

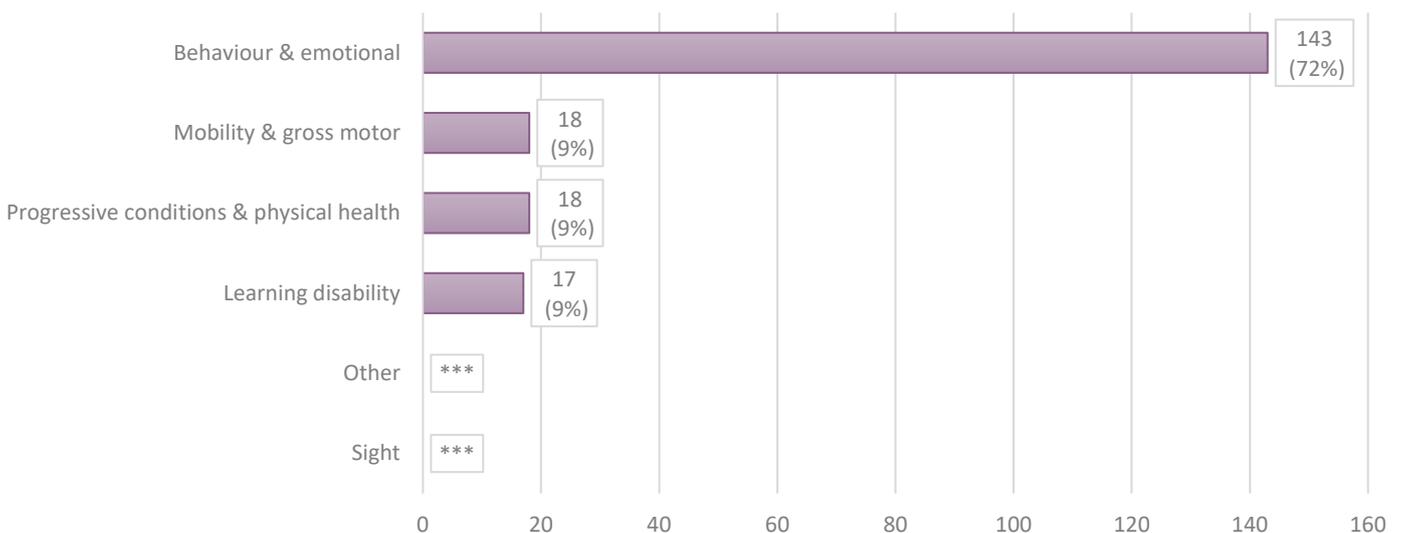
Two in three St Helens residents in the year ending March 2023 considered themselves to have a disability (n=156, 67%; *Figure 9*). This is an increase on the previous twelve-month period (58%) and the largest proportion since this was added to the CJIT dataset in April 2017. Notably, this is the largest proportion of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 31%).

Figure 9: Disability status of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23



A total of 200 disabilities were recorded³; of which, just over seven in ten were a behaviour and emotional disability (n=143, 72%), while mobility and gross motor disabilities, progressive conditions and physical health disabilities, and learning disability accounted for around one in ten each (9%; *Figure 10*).

Figure 10: Disabilities of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23



³ Please note that clients may have up to three disabilities recorded.

VETERAN

In the year ending March 2023, six (3%) St Helens residents stated they were a veteran of the British Armed Forces (*Figure 11*). This is the largest proportion of clients stating they are a veteran since this was added to the CJIT dataset in April 2020.

Figure 11: Veteran status of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23



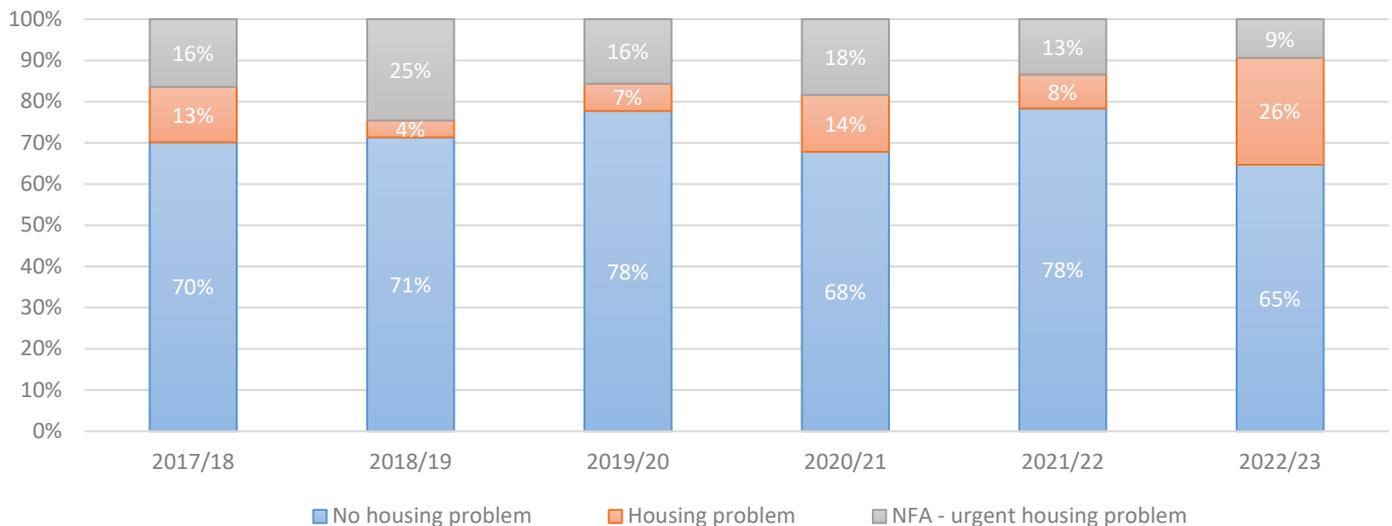
6 (3%)

veterans of the British Armed Forces

HOUSING

Just over one-third of the St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 had some form of a housing problem (n=83, 35%; *Figure 12*)⁴. This is the largest proportion of clients reporting a housing problem of the six-year period (though note the change in data recording) and the second largest proportion reported by the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 29%). Notably, the proportion of clients stating an urgent housing need due to being of no fixed abode (NFA)⁵ in 2022/23 (n=22, 9%) is the lowest of the six years and similar to the Merseyside total (8%).

Figure 12: Housing need of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23



In the year ending March 2023, around a third reported no home of their own (n=83, 35%) or other housing situations (n=76, 32%), followed by rented home (n=65, 28%) and just 5% stated they owned their own home (n=11). Furthermore, around one in five of the total St Helens residents reported they had a risk of homelessness in the next eight weeks (n=45, 19%).

⁴ Note that housing was updated in core dataset Q (April 2022) to capture details of clients' current housing situation (e.g., no home of their own - hostel, rented home only - self-contained - rents from a private landlord). These have been recoded as no housing problem, housing problem and NFA - urgent housing problem, in order to make comparisons to preceding years. Whether the client was threatened with homelessness (in the next 56 days, following assessment) was added to core dataset Q.

⁵ 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. Urgent housing need (NFA) 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.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the year ending March 2023, over one in three clients had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years (n=84, 36%; *Figure 13*). This is an increase on the previous twelve-month period (19%) and is the largest proportion recorded by the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 15%). Over four in five St Helens CJIT contacts with parental responsibility had none of the children they are responsible for living with them the majority of the time (n=71, 86%), which is an increase on the previous year (70%) and the largest proportion in Merseyside (Merseyside total: 61%).

Figure 13: Parental status of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23



84 (36%)

clients with parental responsibility

SUBSTANCE USE

Of the main substances reported by St Helens residents in the year ending March 2023, one-third reported heroin as their main substance (n=78, 33%), followed by just over one-quarter who reported alcohol (n=66, 28%; *Figure 14*). The proportion of heroin is the same as the previous year, though it is larger than the Merseyside figure (29%), while the proportion of alcohol is the largest of the six-year period and of the Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 15%). The increase in alcohol may be attributed to the increase in referrals required by the offender management scheme, DRR, ATR or IOM in 2022/23; of which, over two in five (44%) reported alcohol as their main substance and seven in ten (70%) had consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CIT assessment. Furthermore, the proportion of cocaine in the year ending March 2023 decreased by 10%, to its lowest proportion of the six years and the lowest proportion reported by the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 23%).

Figure 14: Main substances used by St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23

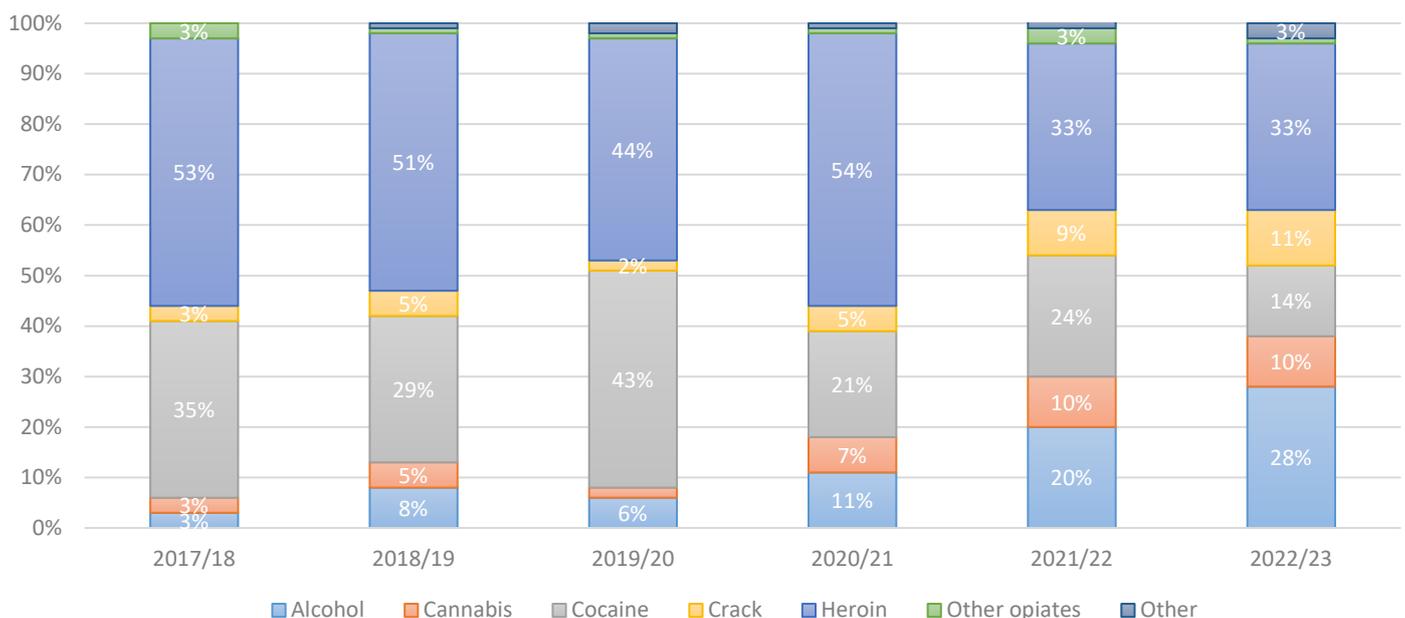


Figure 15 shows 2022/23 figures split by substance one, two and three. Over two in five reported their second substance as crack (n=74, 44%), while for the third substance, two in five clients reported cannabis (n=34, 40%), followed by alcohol (n=21, 25%) and other (non-opiate) substances (n=18, 21%).

Figure 15: Substances 1-3 used by St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23

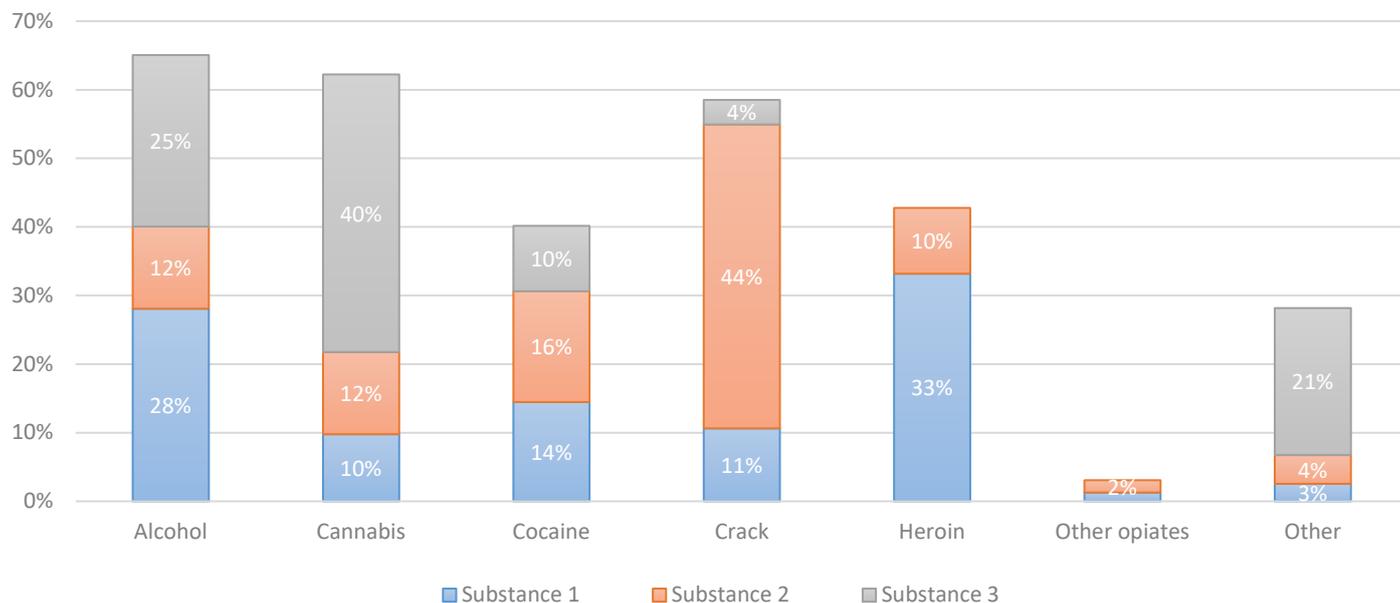


Figure 16 shows the proportions of the main substance by gender in the year ending March 2023. There were larger proportions of cannabis and cocaine recorded as the main substance by men (11% and 15% respectively) when compared to women (3% and 9% respectively), while there was a larger proportion of women who reported heroin when compared to men (42% and 32% respectively). Notably, proportions were similar between men and women for alcohol, crack, other opiates and other (non-opiate) substances.

Figure 16: Main substance and gender of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23

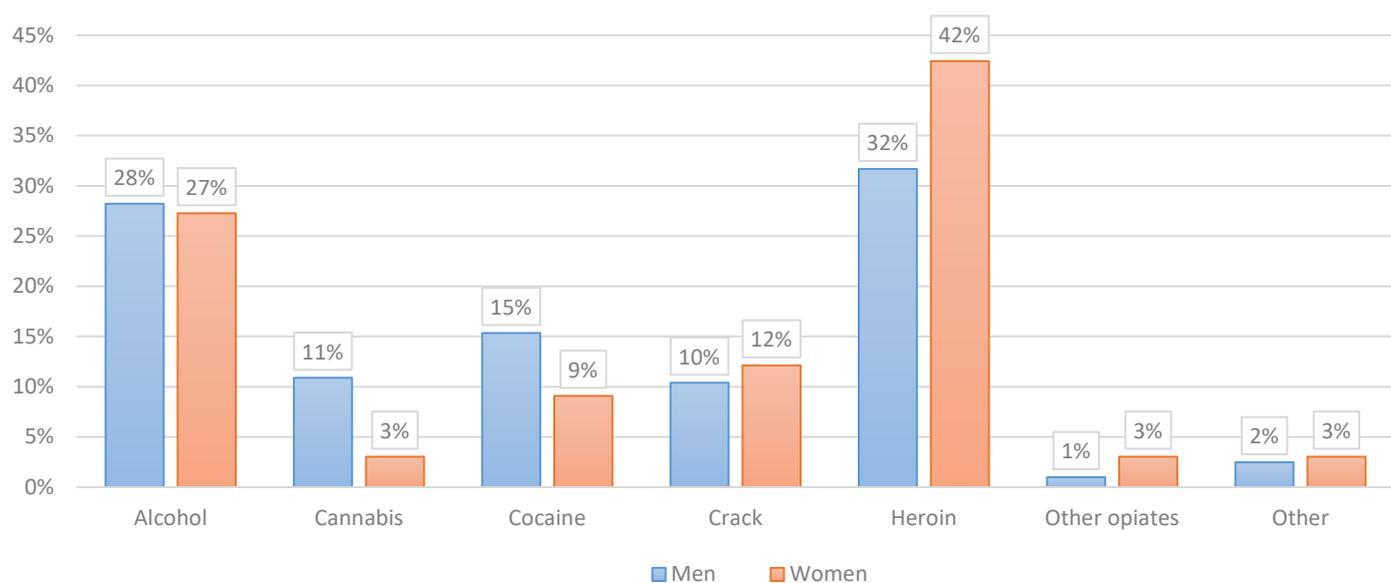
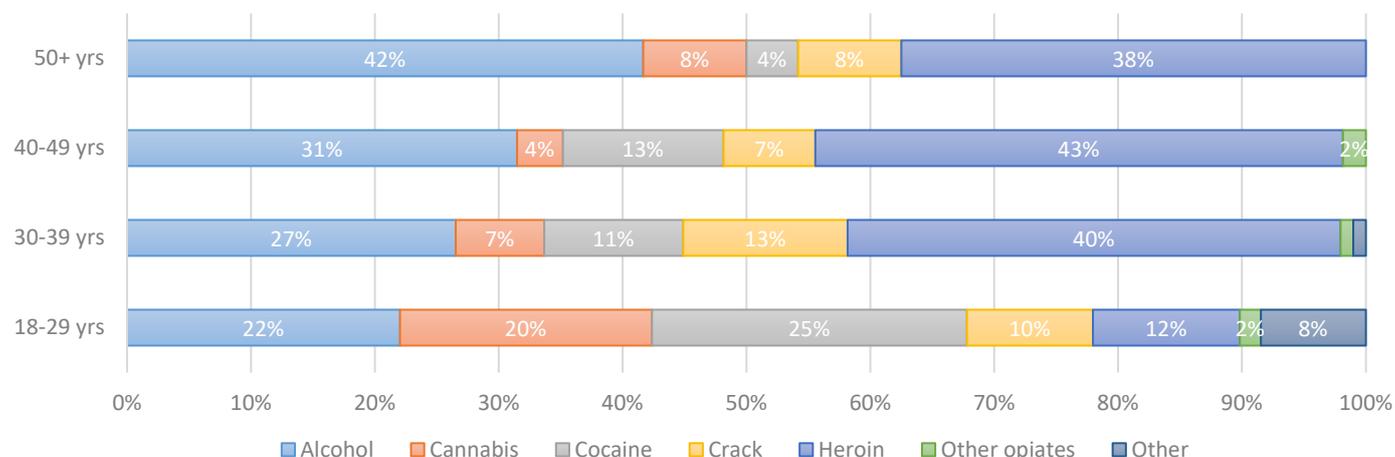


Figure 17 shows the proportions of the main substance for each age group in the year ending March 2023. The proportion of alcohol recorded as the main substance was highest for those aged 50 years or over (42%), while proportions of alcohol decreased as age decreased. Proportions of cannabis and cocaine were largest for 18-29 years olds (20% and 25% respectively), while heroin was largest for clients aged 40-49 years (43%), followed by 30-39 years (40%) and 50 years or over (38%).

Figure 17: Main substance and age group of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23

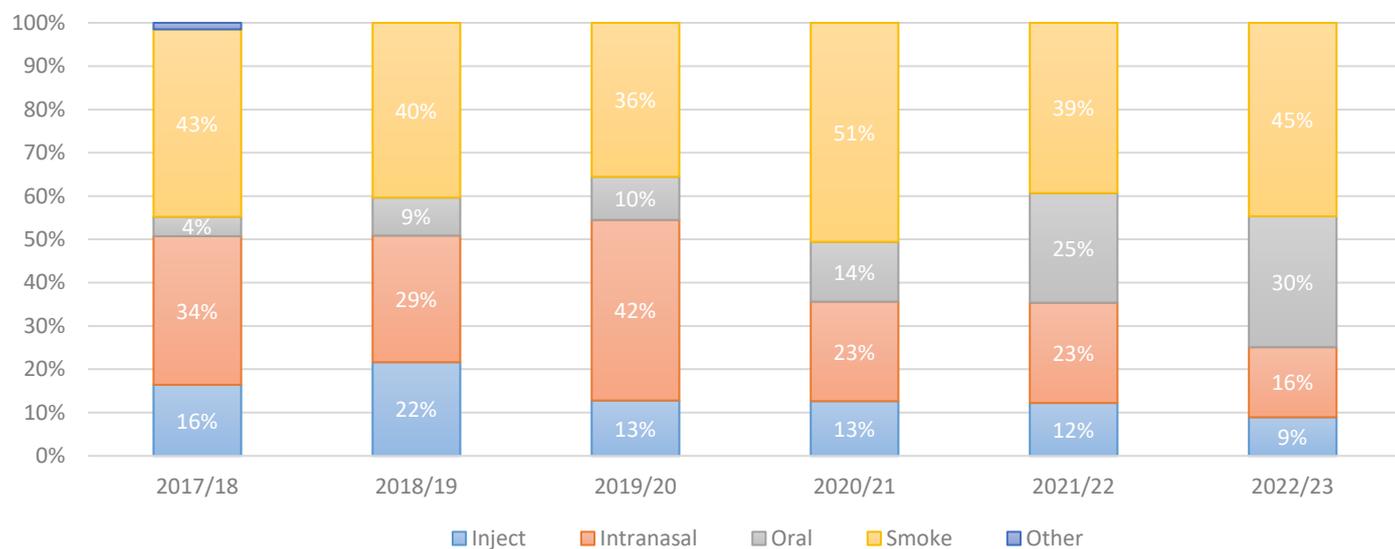


ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION

The route of administration of the main substance is shown in Figure 18. In the year ending March 2023, over two in five of the St Helens CJIT contacts smoked their main substance (n=105, 45%), followed by those who administered their main substance orally (n=71, 30%) and intranasally (n=38, 16%), and those who injected (n=21, 9%).

The proportion of clients in the year ending March 2023 who smoked their main substance is the second largest of the six-year period, though it is the lowest proportion across Merseyside, along with another CJIT (Merseyside total: 54%). The proportion who administered their main substance orally in 2022/23 is the largest of the six-year period, while the proportions who used the intranasal method or injected are the smallest of the six years. Furthermore, the proportions who injected or used the oral method in 2022/23 were the largest of the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside totals: 3% and 17% respectively), and the proportion who administered their main substance intranasally was the smallest of the Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 24%).

Figure 18: Route of administration of the main substance used by St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23

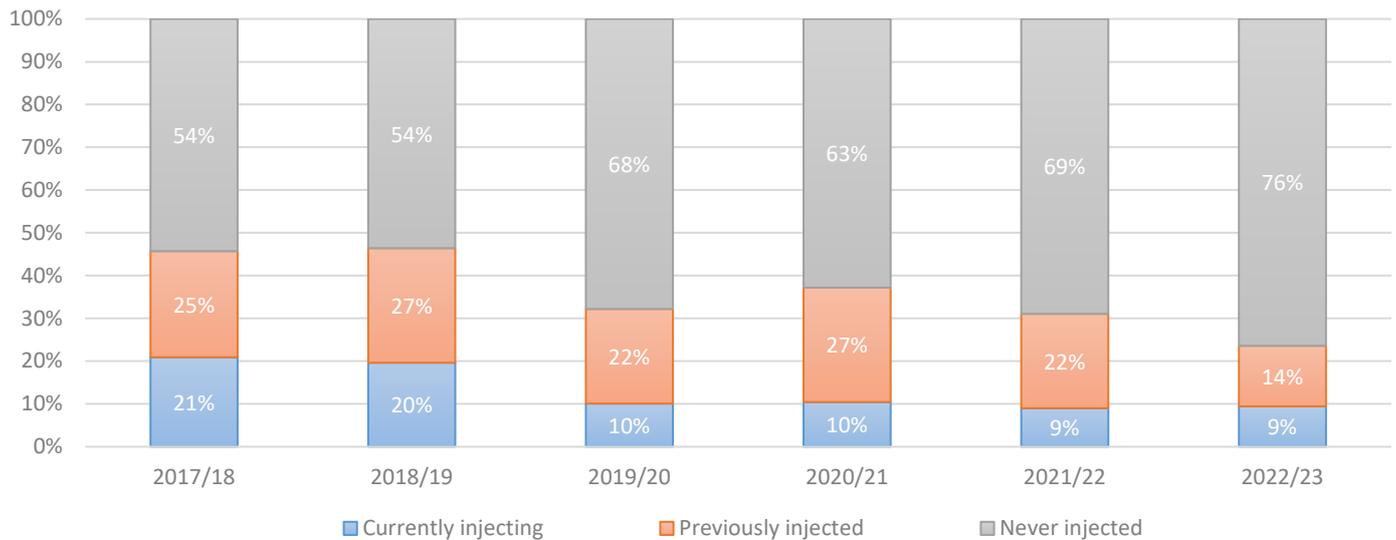


INJECTING STATUS

Around three-quarters of the St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 stated they had never injected (n=178, 76%), followed by clients who had previously injected but were not currently (n=33, 14%) and clients currently injecting (n=22, 9%; *Figure 19*).

Proportions of clients currently injecting in the years ending March 2022 and March 2023 are the smallest of the six-year period, though the largest proportions of the Merseyside CJITs in both years. Similarly, the proportion who previously injected but were not currently in the year ending March 2023 is the smallest of the six years, though similar to the Merseyside figure (16%).

Figure 19: Injecting status of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23



NALOXONE PROVISION

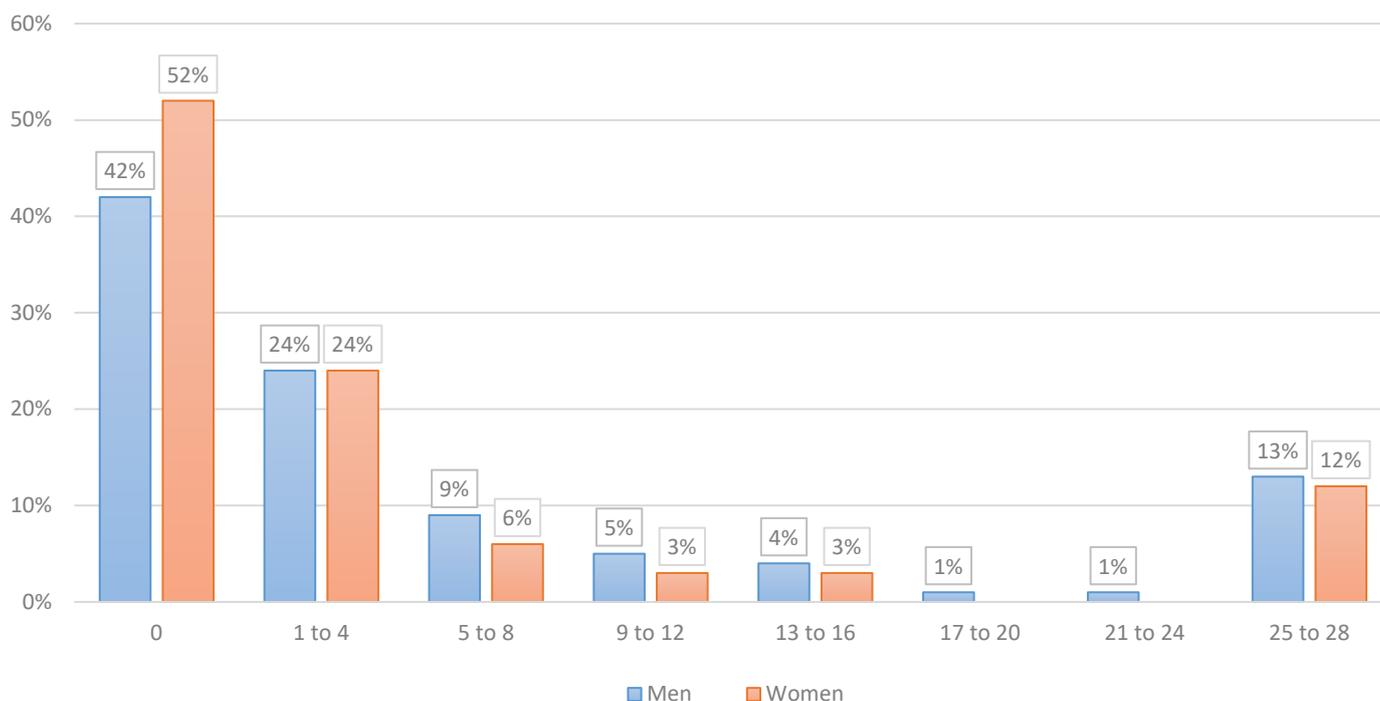
Over two in five clients who reported an opioid as their main substance in 2022/23 were issued with naloxone (n=36, 44%), which is an increase on the previous year (40%) and larger than the Merseyside figure (41%). Of the clients issued with naloxone, half were supplied with nasal naloxone (n=18, 50%), followed by one-third who were supplied with injectable naloxone (n=12, 33%), while of the clients who were not issued with naloxone, just under two-thirds were already in possession of adequate naloxone (n=29, 64%).

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Figure 20 shows the number of days alcohol was consumed by St Helens clients in the 28 days prior to their CJIT contact in the year ending March 2023. Just under three in five men consumed alcohol (n=118, 58%), which is a slight increase on the previous twelve-month period (53%) and the second largest proportion of the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 34%).

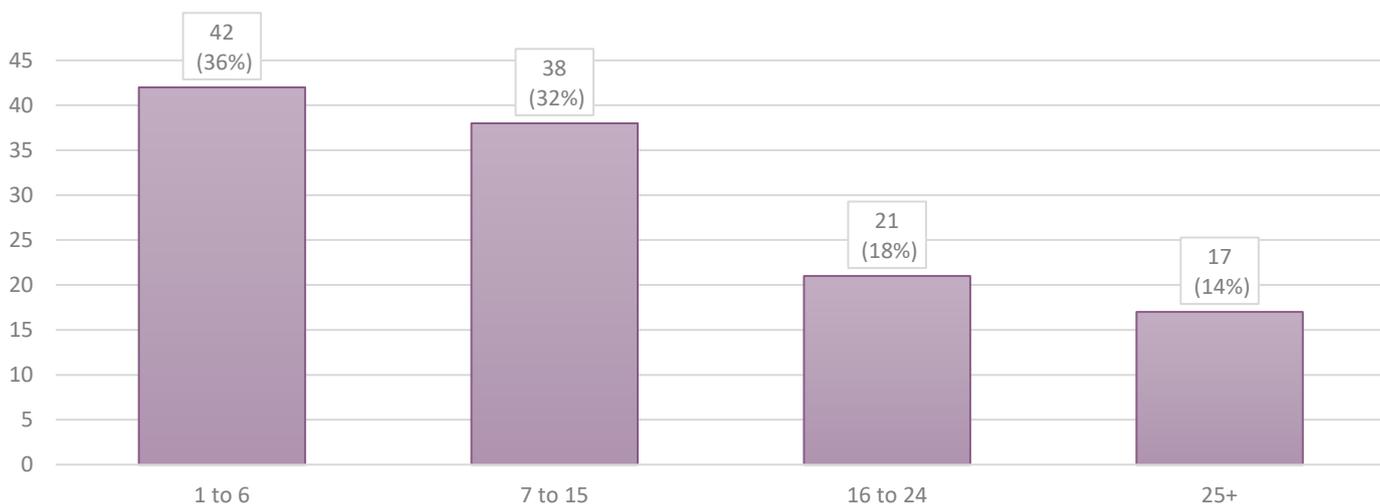
For women, there were similar proportions who consumed alcohol (n=16, 48%) and did not consume alcohol (n=17, 52%) in the 28 days prior to their CJIT contact in 2022/23 (*Figure 20*). The proportion of women who consumed alcohol is similar to the previous year (49%) and the second largest proportion of the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 45%).

Figure 20: Number of drinking days in the 28 days prior to assessment for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23



The daily average number of units of alcohol consumed by St Helens residents in the 28 days prior to CJIT contact in the year ending March 2023 are shown in Figure 21. Of the 118 men who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment, just over one in three consumed 1-6 units of alcohol daily (n=42, 36%), followed by 7-15 units (n=38, 32%), 16-24 units (n=21, 18%) and over 24 units (n=17, 14%). Although numbers are small, of the 16 women who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment in the year ending March 2023, over two in five consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily (n=7, 44%)⁶.

Figure 21: Number of units of alcohol (daily average) consumed by St Helens CJIT contacts (men only), 2022/23



⁶ Due to the low number of women who consumed alcohol in the year ending March 2023, women have not been included in the chart.

OFFENDING

The offence that prompted St Helens CJIT clients' current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system in the year ending March 2023 is shown in *Figure 22*. Around two in five offences were categorised as 'other' (n=97, 41%), while one in six were wounding or assault (n=38, 16%) and one in seven were Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences (n=32, 14%)⁷. The proportions of other offences and wounding or assault are the largest of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside totals: 25% and 8% respectively), while the proportion of MDA offences is the smallest of the Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 38%).

Figure 22: Offence that prompted current/most recent contact with the criminal justice system for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23

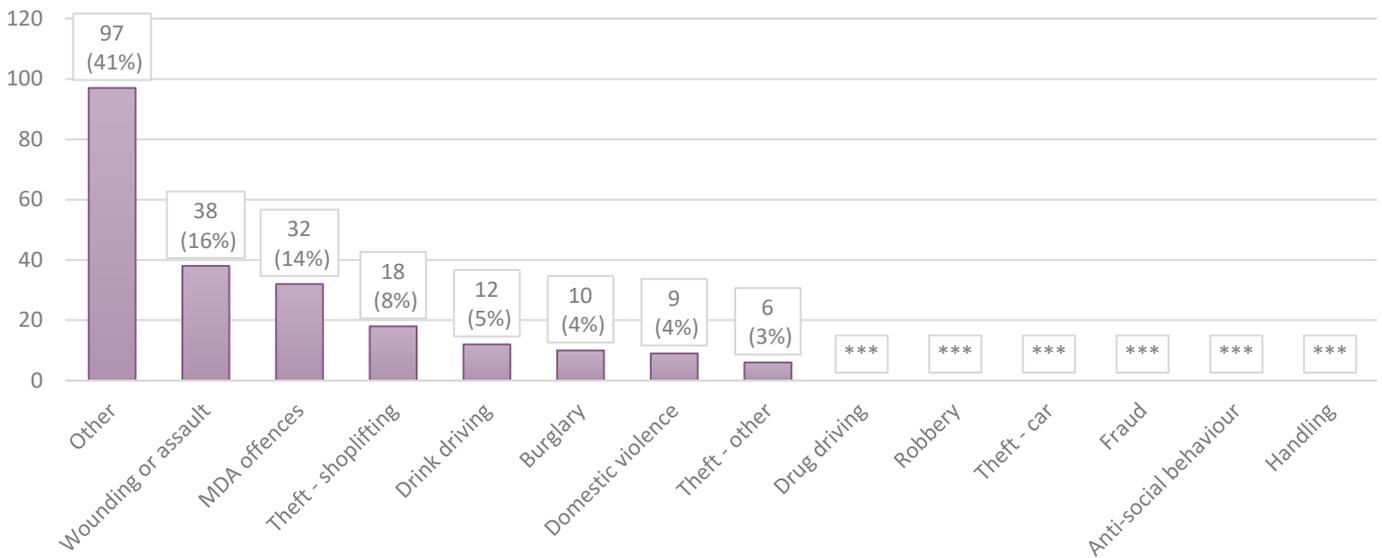
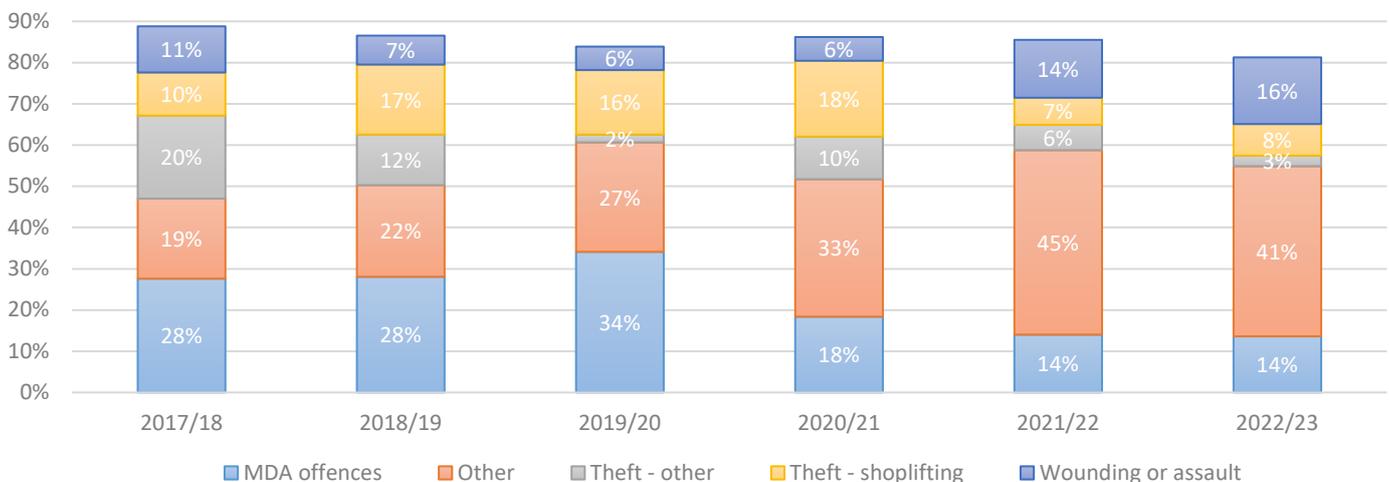


Figure 23 shows six-year trends of the main offending categories for St Helens residents. Overall, proportions in the year ending March 2023 are somewhat similar to the previous twelve-month period. The years ending March 2022 and March 2023 had the smallest proportions of MDA offences of the six-year period, while the largest proportions of other offences and wounding or assault⁸.

Figure 23: Main offences that prompted current/most recent contact with the criminal justice system for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23

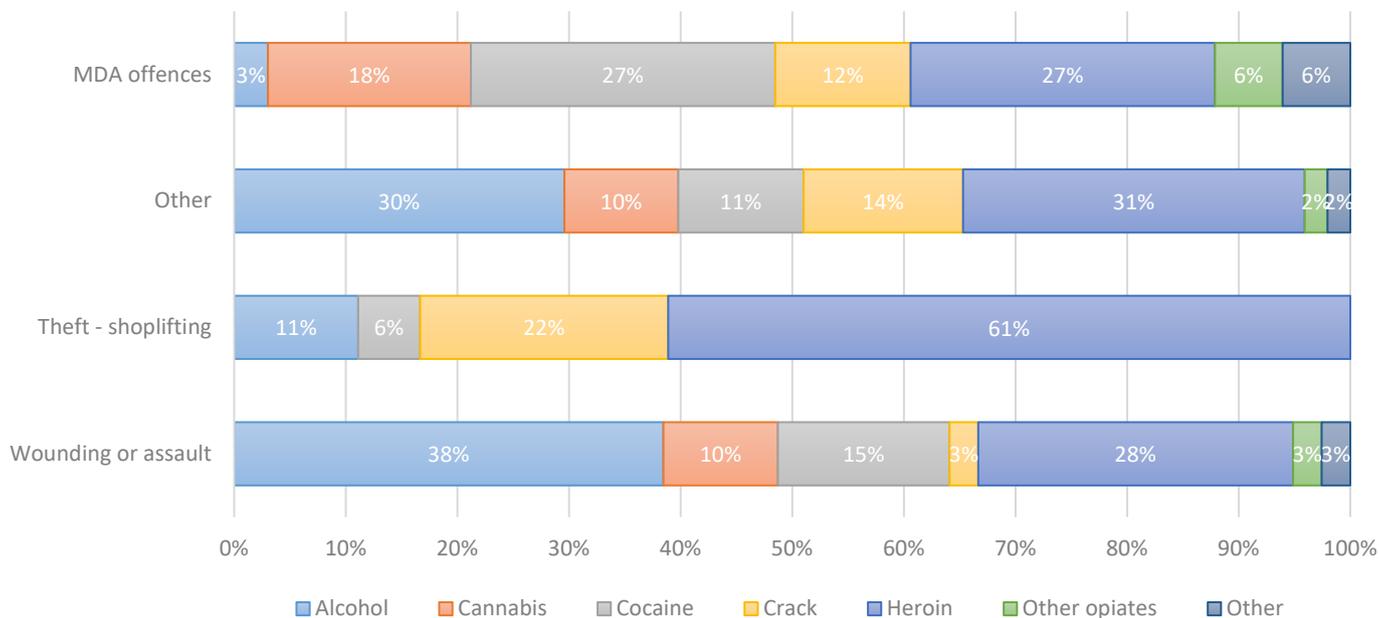


⁷ The majority (91%) of the MDA offences were possession.

⁸ Note that anti-social behaviour, drink driving, drug driving and miscellaneous crimes against society were added as reference items to core dataset Q in April 2022, which may affect the trends of offences categorised as 'other'.

Figure 24 shows the proportions of the main substance for the most common offences recorded for St Helens CJIT contacts assessed in the year ending March 2023. Of the episodes with MDA offences recorded, equal proportions reported cocaine and heroin as the main substance (both 27%), followed by cannabis (18%), while for other offences, there were similar proportions of alcohol and heroin (30% and 31% respectively). Around three in five (61%) of theft - shoplifting had heroin recorded as the main substance, while for wounding or assault, just under two in five (38%) reported alcohol, followed by heroin (28%).

Figure 24: Main substance and offence of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23



REFERRALS TO STRUCTURED TREATMENT

Of the clients taken onto the CJIT caseload, 197 (172 individuals) were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2023 (Figure 25), which is an increase on the 154 referrals (138 individuals) in the previous year⁹.

Figure 25: Referrals to structured treatment for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2022/23



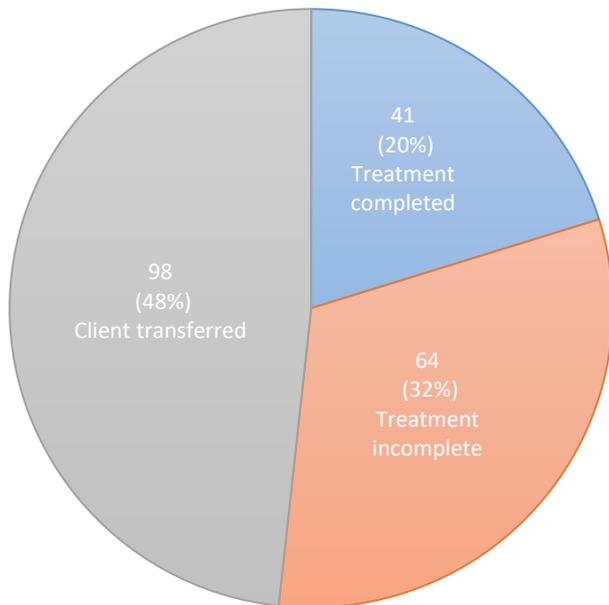
197 (172 individuals)
referrals to structured treatment

⁹ 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 where the date was between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, regardless of when the client was taken onto the CJIT caseload.

TREATMENT OUTCOMES

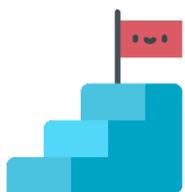
There were 203 clients (179 individuals) closed from the St Helens CJIT caseload in the year ending March 2023¹⁰. Of these, around half transferred prior to the completion of treatment (n=98, 48%), while around a third did not complete treatment (n=64, 32%) and one in five completed treatment (n=41, 20%; *Figure 26*). Notably, all these proportions are similar to the overall Merseyside figures.

Figure 26: Discharges from the St Helens CJIT caseload, 2022/23



Of the 41 St Helens residents who completed treatment successfully in the year ending March 2023, the average time on the CJIT caseload was 158 days (*Figure 27*), which is similar to the Merseyside average (154 days).

Figure 27: Average time on St Helens CJIT caseload for clients who completed treatment, 2022/23



On average, clients successfully completed CJIT treatment in

158 days

¹⁰ Figures include discharges from the CJIT caseload where the date was between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, regardless of when the client was taken onto the caseload.

APPENDIX A: NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THIS REPORT

1. In 2020, Merseyside Police suspended drug testing in the custody suites for five months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This affected the proportion of Required Assessments carried out following a positive test for specified Class A drugs in the year ending March 2021.
2. The overview chapter (*Figures 1-3*) are for all St Helens CJIT contacts in the year, while all other figures are for residents of St Helens LA only, recorded by St Helens CJIT.
3. Figures for age, gender and ethnicity are for individuals (*Figures 5-8*); however, this is not the case for other figures, as data may change for clients with more than one CJIT episode during the reporting year.
4. For 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 or individuals.
5. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
6. 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).
7. The Merseyside figures are the totals recorded by all five Merseyside CJITs (Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral).
8. Throughout this report, cocaine includes cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine unspecified, while crack includes cocaine freebase (crack).
9. Supplementary data to support this report can be accessed here: [CJIT Activity in Merseyside: supplementary tables & charts \(end 2022/23\)](#).

APPENDIX B: RATES OF CJIT CONTACTS PER 100,000 ADULT POPULATION IN MERSEYSIDE, 2022/23

In the year ending March 2023, 135.8 individuals per 100,000 adult population in Merseyside were assessed by one of the local CJITs. Although St Helens had the second lowest number of individuals in contact with the CJIT in the twelve months ending March 2023, it had the second largest rate (136.6 per 100,000)¹¹.

CJIT/LA	CJIT contacts (individuals)	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000 adult population)
Knowsley	148	121.0
Liverpool	784	194.9
Sefton	203	89.2
St Helens	202	136.6
Wirral	249	97.0
<i>Total Merseyside residents (individuals)</i>	<i>1,571</i>	<i>135.8</i>



¹¹ Rates have been calculated using [mid-2022 population estimates](#) for each LA for adults aged 18 years or over. Figures show the residents of each of the CJIT areas (individuals only) i.e., St Helens residents recorded by St Helens CJIT.

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About the Public Health Institute

The Public Health Institute (PHI) within the Faculty of Health, Liverpool John Moores University, specialises in applied research and educational programmes addressing health issues at all levels from policy development to service delivery. PHI is committed to a multidisciplinary approach to public health and works in partnership with health services, local authorities, judicial bodies, environmental services, and community groups.

Influencing health service design and delivery, as well as health related policy, PHI's research has been at the forefront of the development of multi-agency strategies to promote and protect public health. PHI turns information and data into meaningful and timely intelligence.

Intelligence and Surveillance Team

The Intelligence and Surveillance Team provides data collection and monitoring systems to support public health reporting, evidence review, evaluation and research. The team have extensive experience across various datasets which contribute to the surveillance systems developed and managed by PHI.

DIP and criminal justice monitoring

PHI has been monitoring criminal justice interventions for offenders who use drugs and/or alcohol since the implementation of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) in 2003. The Institute is commissioned to deliver the intelligence and surveillance of data collected for clients in contact with DIP across Merseyside.

The Intelligence and Surveillance Team has access to Merseyside Police records for drug tests carried out for specified Class A drugs in the custody suites and the criminal justice dataset, which collects information on clients in contact with the Criminal Justice Intervention Teams (CJITs) across Merseyside's treatment providers. Drug testing records are matched with the criminal justice dataset across the five Merseyside Local Authority areas, using a client attributor. This enables the monitoring of performance, identifying when individuals have attended their Required Assessment and engaged with DIP, and highlight any issues with the DIP process.

Intelligence is collated and presented through monthly and annual reports, and ad-hoc reporting in response to data requests. In partnership with commissioners, treatment providers and Merseyside Police, DIP monitoring in Merseyside has been continually developing to meet local needs.

