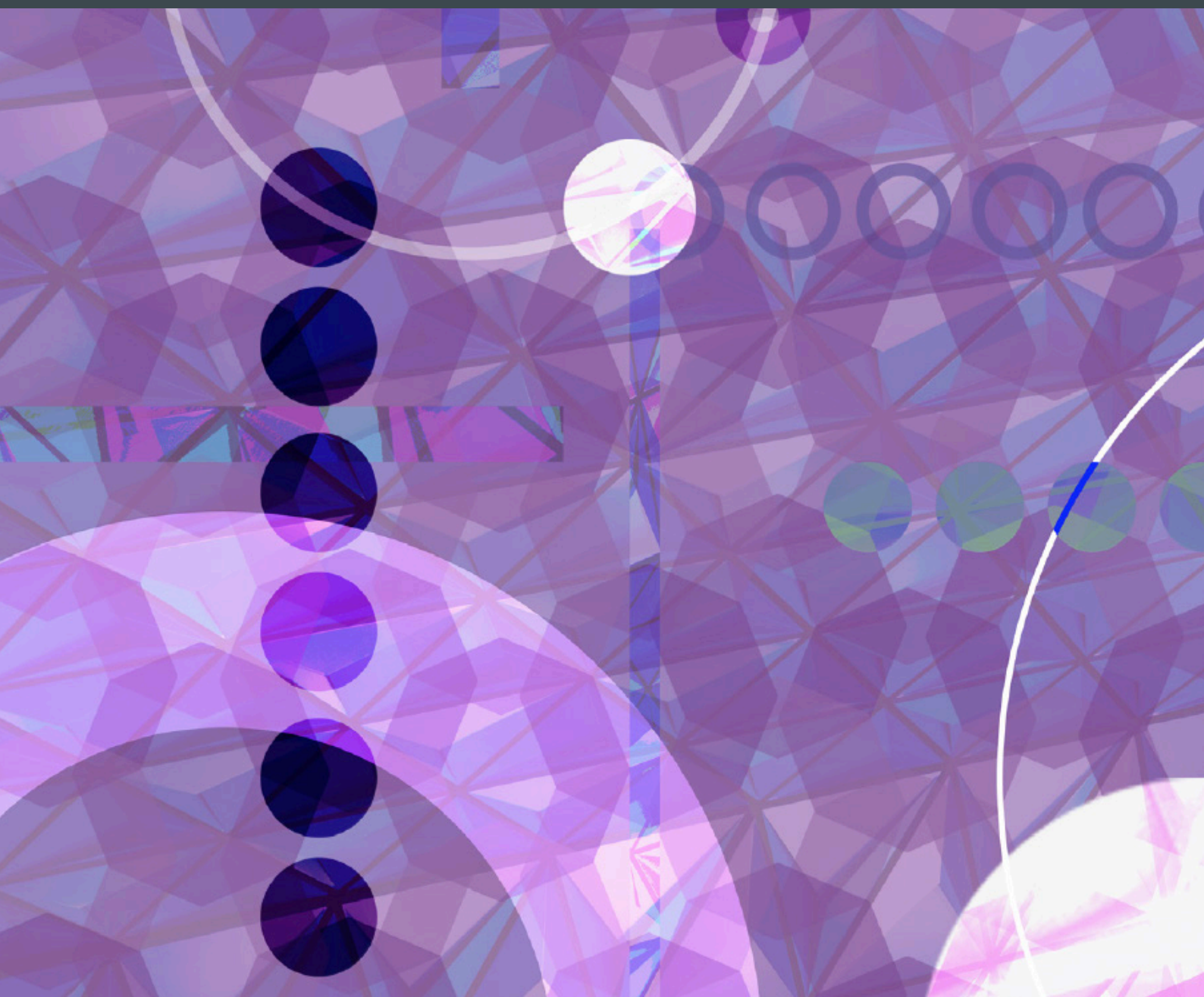


Criminal Justice Project: Drug Interventions Programme

DIP Activity in St Helens (2020/21)

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KEY FINDINGS: DIP ACTIVITY IN ST HELENS (2020/21)

- In the year ending March 2021, there were 87 (72 individuals) contacts recorded by St Helens Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT); of which, all were residents of St Helens Local Authority area. This is less than half of the number of CJIT contacts in the previous twelve-month period (59% decrease) and this reduction can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Around three in five (61%) CJIT contacts in 2020/21 were voluntary presentations following release from prison, while over one-third (36%) were Required Assessments.
- Seven in ten (70%) CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 were taken onto the CJIT caseload, while just over one in five (22%) did not want to engage with the CJIT.
- One-quarter (25%) of the individuals were aged 30-34 years, followed by around one in five (21%) aged 25-29 years.
- Over four in five (85%) individuals in contact with St Helens CJIT in the year ending March 2021 were men.
- Almost all CJIT contacts identified themselves as White British (99%).
- Around three in five (61%) considered themselves to have a disability.
- While the majority reported no housing problem, around one-third (32%) had some form of a housing problem, with around one in six (18%) stating an urgent housing need due to being of no fixed abode.
- Less than one in ten (7%) clients had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years.
- Over half (54%) reported heroin as their main substance, followed by around one in five (21%) who reported cocaine and around one in ten (11%) who reported alcohol. Just over half (52%) of the second substance was recorded as crack, while cannabis and alcohol accounted for the largest proportions of the third substance (45% and 35% respectively).
- Around half (51%) smoked their main substance, followed by 23% whose route of administration was intranasal, 14% who administered their main drug orally and 13% who injected their main substance.
- Over three in five (63%) stated they had never injected, while just over one-quarter (27%) had previously injected but were not currently and one in ten (10%) were currently injecting.
- Over two in five (45%) men consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment. Of these, just over half (53%) consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily, while around one-third (32%) consumed over 24 units daily.
- Just over one-quarter (27%) of the women consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment. Of these, all consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily (100%).
- One-third (33%) reported offences categorised as 'other' as the offence which prompted the current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system, while Misuse of Drugs Act offences and theft - shoplifting each accounted for 18% of the CJIT contacts.
- Of the clients taken onto the CJIT caseload, 28 (25 individuals) were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2021.
- There were 103 recovery support sub-intervention assessments carried out in 2020/21 on clients on the CJIT caseload (73 individuals), with a total 156 sub-interventions delivered.

INTRODUCTION

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 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 St Helens presents data for clients accessing the CJIT between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021^{1,2,3,4}. Where possible, comparisons to the Merseyside figures and the previous four years' St Helens 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.

¹ Please note that figures for gender, age and ethnicity are for individuals (*Figures 4-7*); 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.

² 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).

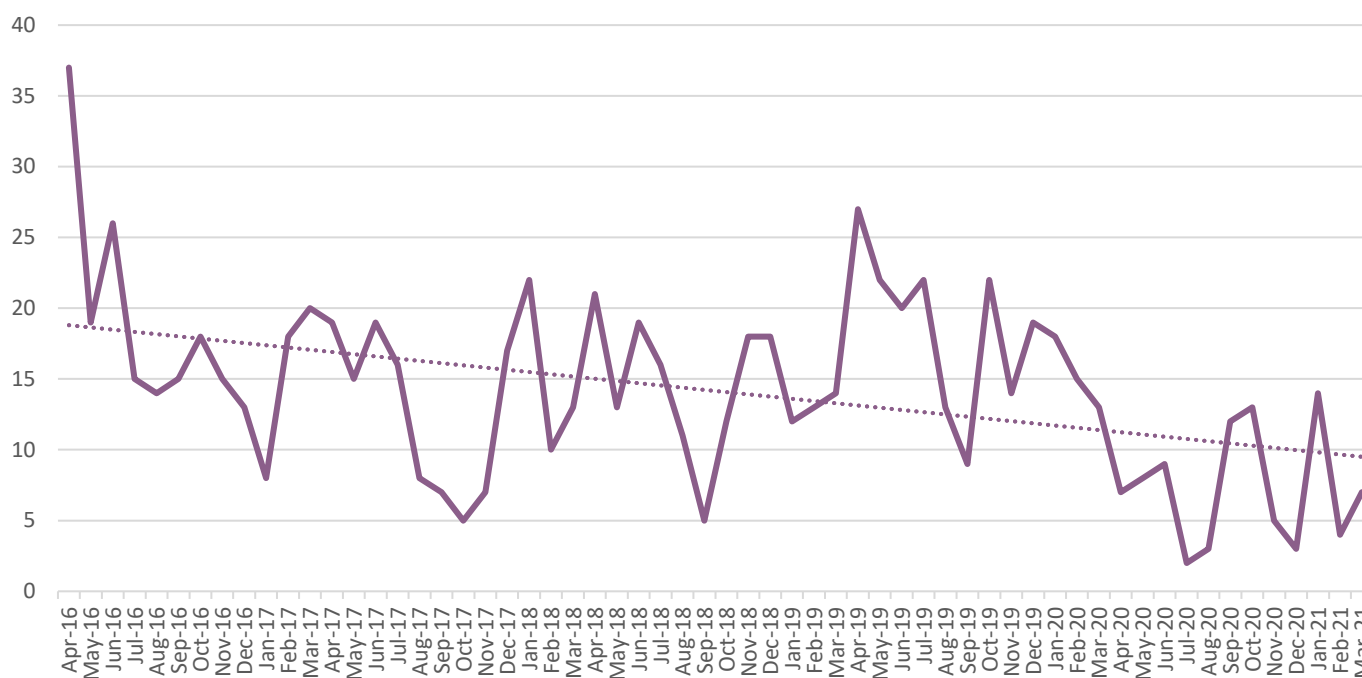
³ Note that in instances where there are blank records, or the client declines to answer, does not know or does not state a response, these have been excluded from the calculations; therefore, totals may not add up to the total number of CJIT contacts or individuals.

⁴ Note that percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

OVERVIEW

In the year ending March 2021, there were 87 contacts (72 individuals) recorded by St Helens Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT). This is less than half of the number of CJIT contacts in the previous twelve-month period (59% decrease) and this reduction can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, all St Helens CJIT contacts assessed in the year ending March 2021 were residents of St Helens Local Authority area. *Figure 1* shows the monthly number of CJIT contacts between April 2016 and March 2021.

Figure 1: Monthly trends of St Helens CJIT contacts, April 2016 - March 2021

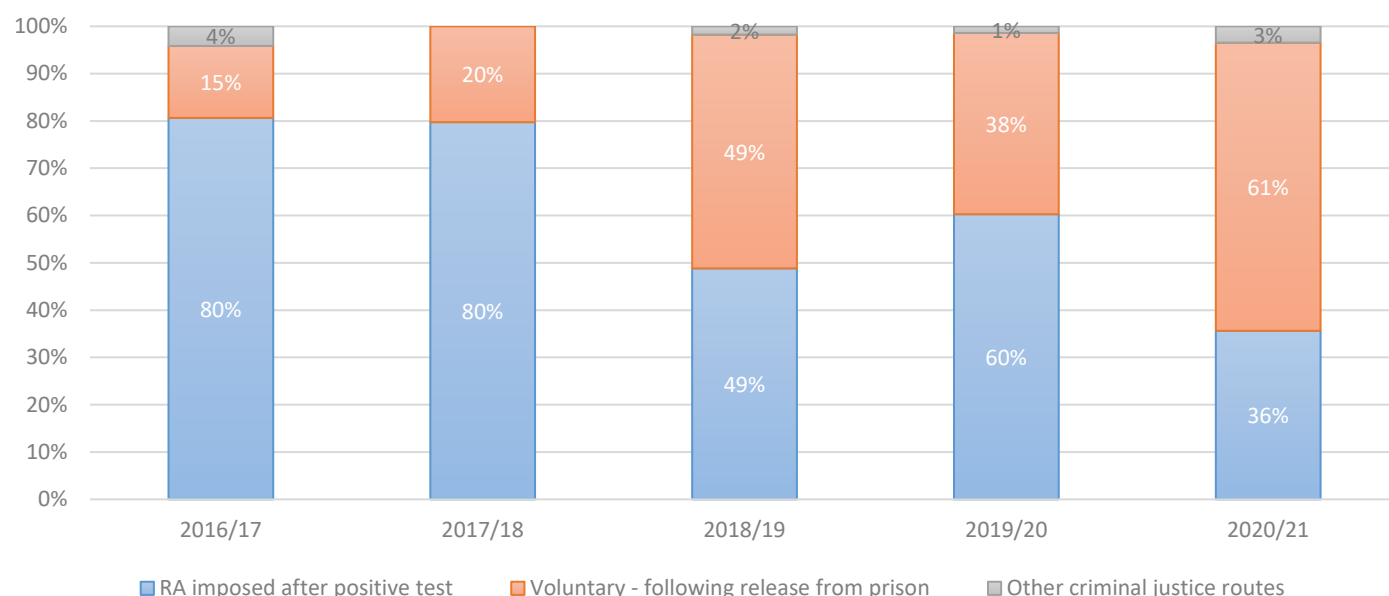


CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROUTES IN ST HELENS

Figure 2 shows the criminal justice routes that led to the contact with St Helens CJIT in the five years up to the year ending March 2021. In 2020/21, around three in five CJIT contacts were voluntary presentations following release from prison (n=53; 61%), 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%).

The proportion of clients who presented voluntarily following release from prison in the year ending March 2021 is higher than the previous four years (*Figure 2*) and it is the highest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 40%). Conversely, the proportion of clients who came into contact with St Helens CJIT through the RA process in the year ending March 2021 is substantially lower than the previous four years, though higher than the Merseyside figure (28%). 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.

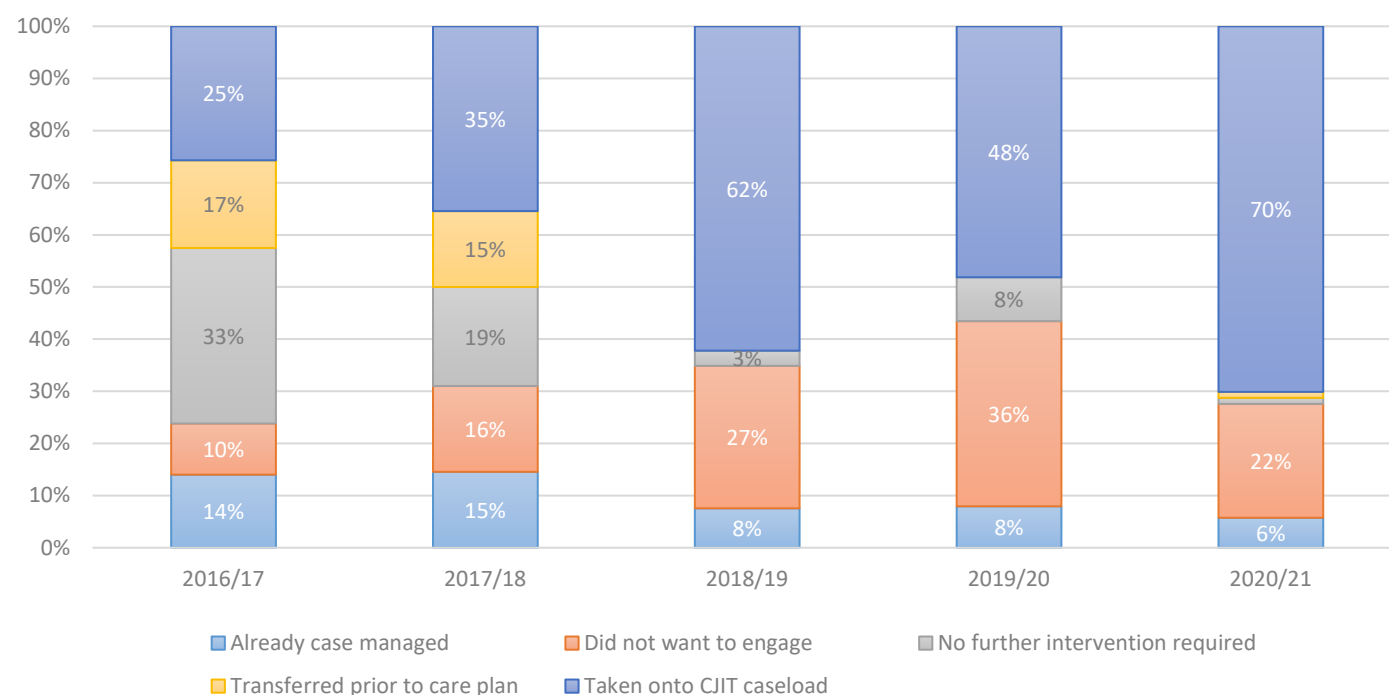
Figure 2: Referral routes of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



OUTCOMES FOLLOWING CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT

Seven in ten St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 were taken onto the CJIT caseload (n=61; 70%), while just over one in five did not want to engage with the CJIT (n=19; 22%) (Figure 3). Although the proportion of clients taken onto St Helens CJIT's caseload in 2020/21 is the highest of the five-year period, it is the lowest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 79%). Conversely, the proportion of clients who did not want to engage with the CJIT following an assessment in 2020/21 is lower than the previous two years, though the highest of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 9%).

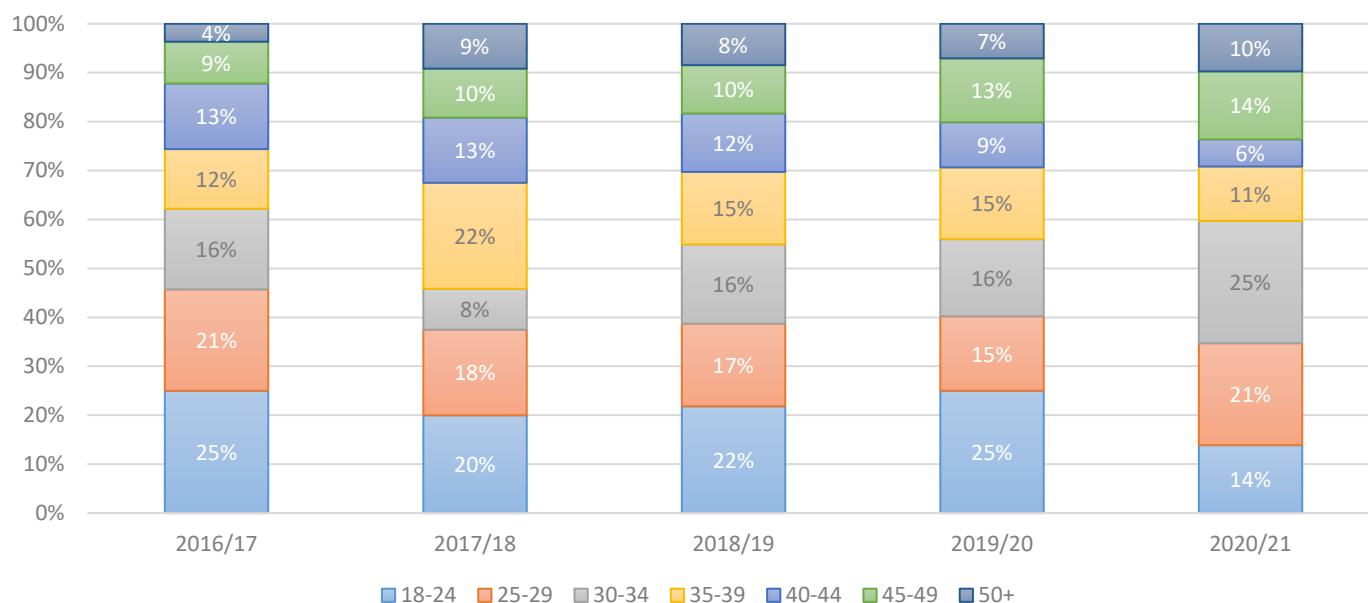
Figure 3: Outcomes following criminal justice assessment of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



AGE AND GENDER

Of the 87 St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021, there were 72 individuals. The median age of St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 was 33 years, which is the same as the previous two years. Looking at age groups, one-quarter of the individuals were aged 30-34 years (n=18; 25%), followed by around one in five aged 25-29 years (n=15; 21%) (Figure 4). The proportion of individuals aged 30-34 years in 2020/21 is the highest of the five-year period, while the proportion of individuals aged 25-29 years is higher than the previous three years, though the same as the year ending March 2017. Notably, both of these proportions are the highest of the five Merseyside areas in 2020/21 (Merseyside totals: 19% and 10% respectively).

Figure 4: Age group of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2016/17 - 2020/21



Over four in five individuals in contact with St Helens CJIT in the year ending March 2021 were men (n=61; 85%) (Figure 5). This is lower than the previous two years (both 88%), though the highest of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 83%).

Figure 5: Gender of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2016/17 - 2020/21

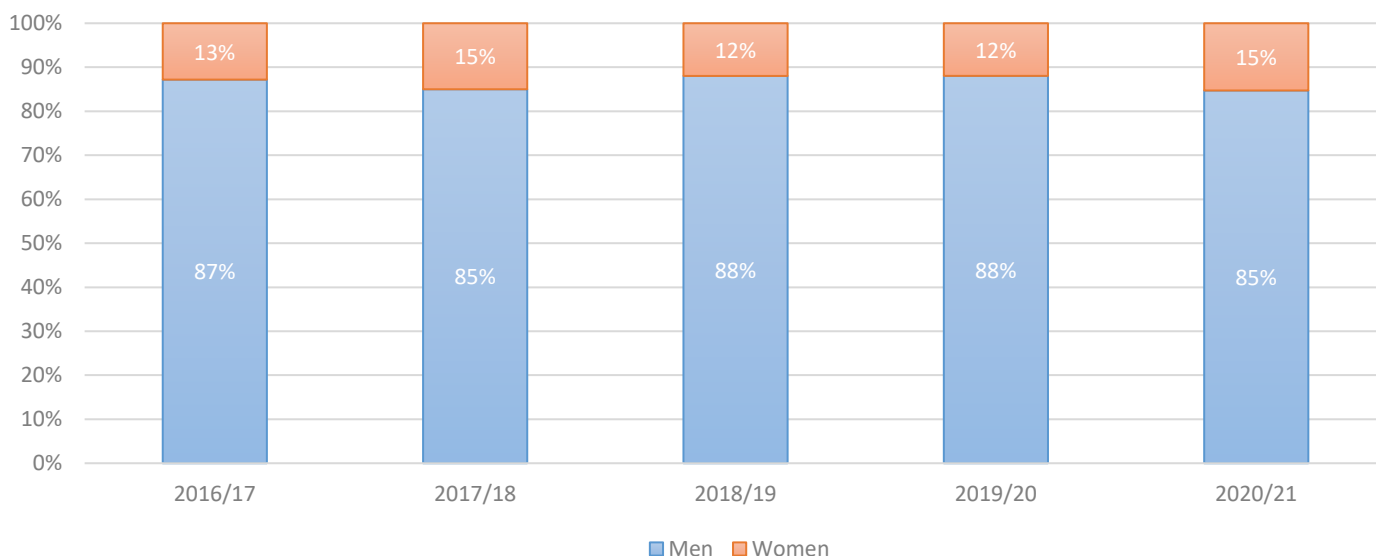
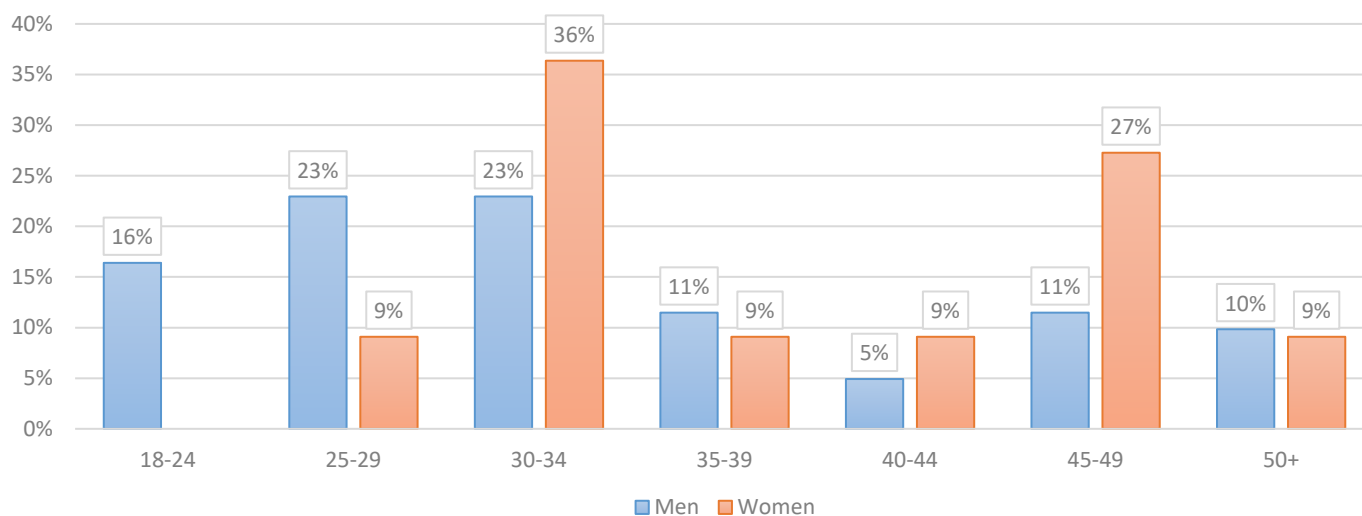


Figure 6 shows some differences in age group proportions across gender groups in St Helens in the year ending March 2021. Whilst there are fewer female CJIT contacts, there were considerably larger proportions aged 30-34 years and 45-49 years (36% and 27% respectively) when compared to men (23% and 11% respectively). Conversely, there was a substantially lower proportion of women aged 18-29 years (9%) when compared to men (39%).

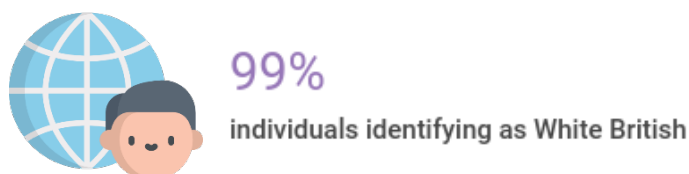
Figure 6: Age group and gender of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2020/21



ETHNICITY

Almost all of the St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 identified themselves as White British (99%) (Figure 7), which is a slight increase on the previous year (97%) and higher than the Merseyside proportion (95%).

Figure 7: Ethnicity of St Helens CJIT contacts (individuals), 2020/21



DISABILITY

Around three in five St Helens CJIT contacts in 2020/21 considered themselves to have a disability (n=53; 61%) (Figure 8), which is the highest proportion of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 28%). The 53 clients who considered themselves to have a disability reported a total 69 disabilities⁵. Over half reported behaviour and emotional (n=37; 54%), while around three in ten reported progressive conditions and physical health (n=20; 29%).

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

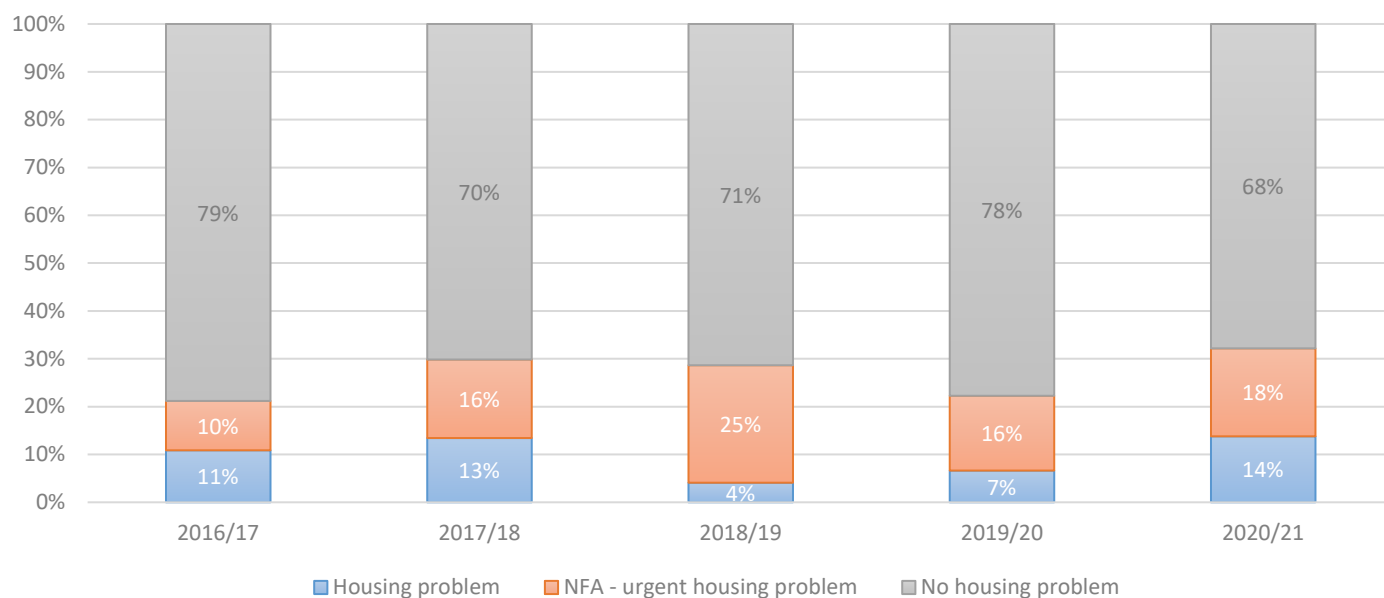


⁵ Please note that clients may have up to three disabilities recorded.

HOUSING NEED

While the majority of the St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 reported no housing problem, around one-third had some form of a housing problem (n=28; 32%), with around one in six stating an urgent housing need due to being of no fixed abode (NFA; n=16; 18%) (Figure 9)⁶. The proportion of St Helens residents who stated some form of a housing problem in 2020/21 is the highest of the five-year period and the highest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 24%). Furthermore, the proportion of clients with an urgent housing need in 2020/21 is similar to the previous year (16%) and the second highest proportion of the five-year period, as well as the highest proportion recorded across Merseyside (Merseyside total: 10%).

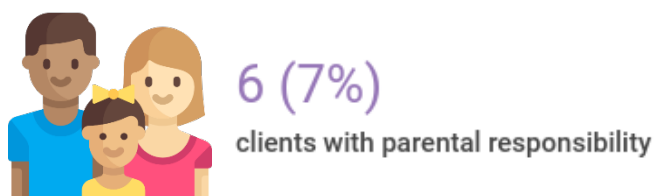
Figure 9: Housing need of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



PARENTAL STATUS

In the year ending March 2021, six (7%) clients had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years (Figure 10), which is somewhat lower than the Merseyside total (15%).

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



⁶ 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 (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.

SUBSTANCE USE

The proportion of alcohol recorded as the main substance in the year ending March 2021 has increased when compared to the previous four years and similarly, the proportion of opiate drugs has increased since the year ending March 2018. Conversely, the proportion of non-opiate drugs has decreased. Over half of the St Helens CJIT contacts in 2020/21 reported heroin as their main substance (n=47; 54%), followed by around one in five who reported cocaine (n=18; 21%) and around one in ten who reported alcohol (n=10; 11%) (Figure 11). The proportion of heroin recorded as the main substance in the year ending March 2021 is higher than the previous four years and higher than the Merseyside figure (Merseyside total: 46%), while the proportion of cocaine is the lowest of the five-year period and similar to the Merseyside figure (Merseyside total: 22%).

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

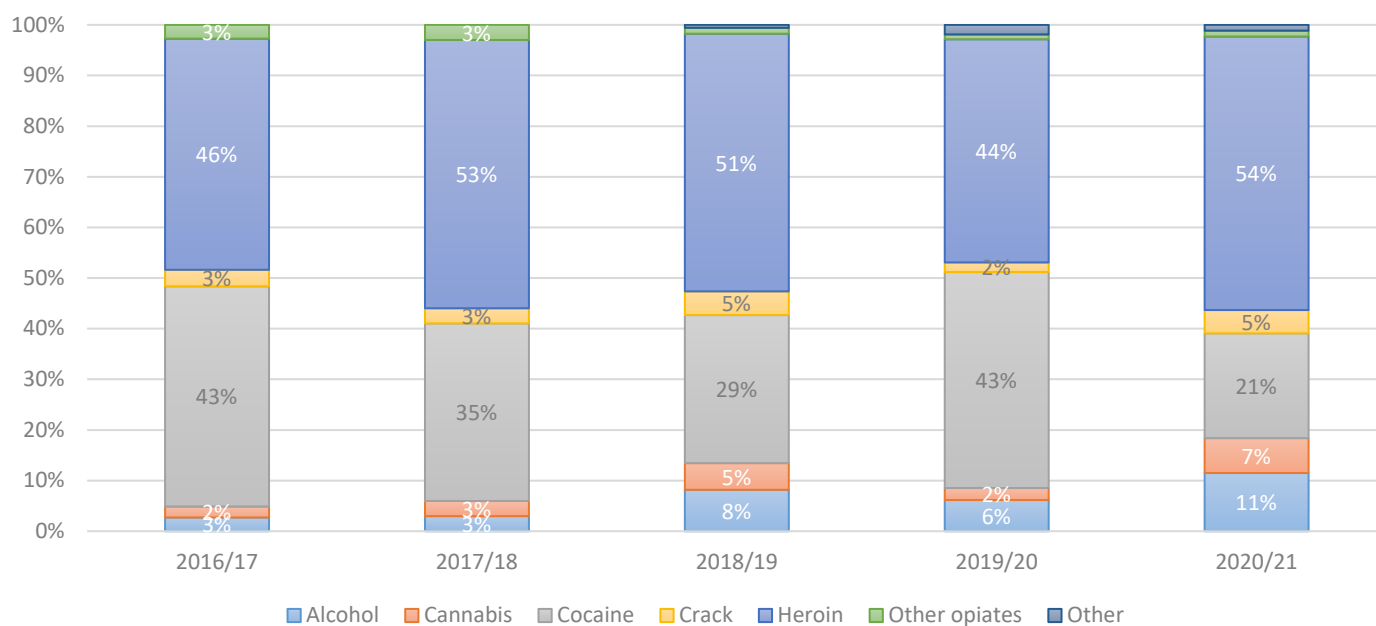


Figure 12 shows 2020/21 figures split by substance one, two and three. Just over half of the second substance was recorded as crack (n=39; 52%), while cannabis (n=14; 45%) and alcohol (n=11; 35%) accounted for the largest proportions of the third substance.

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

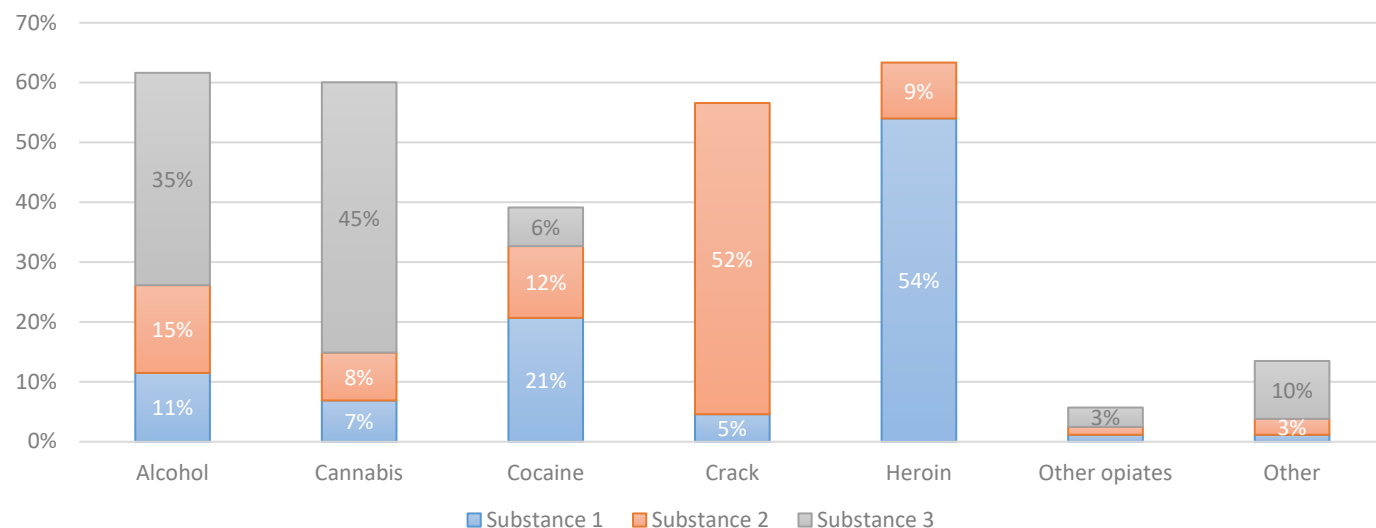


Figure 13 shows the proportions of the main substance by gender in the year ending March 2021. There was a considerably larger proportion of heroin recorded as the main substance by women (82%) when compared to men (50%) and there was also a slightly higher proportion of women who reported crack as their main substance (9%) when compared to men (4%). Proportions were higher for men who reported alcohol or cocaine as their main substance (13% and 24% respectively), while there were no women who reported these as their main substance.

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

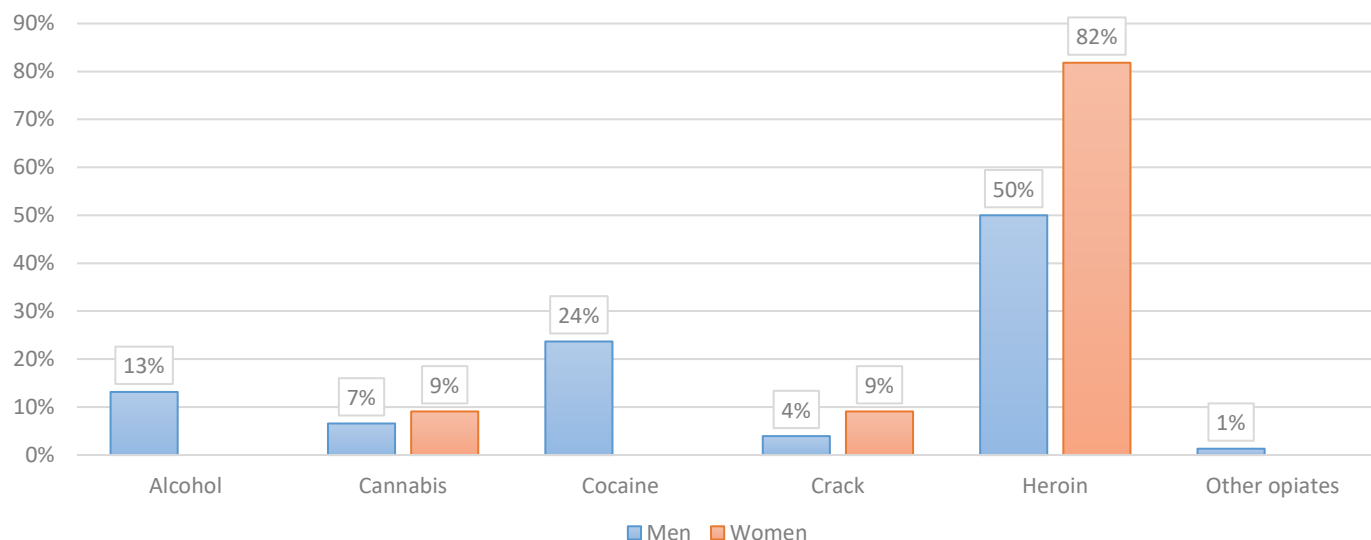
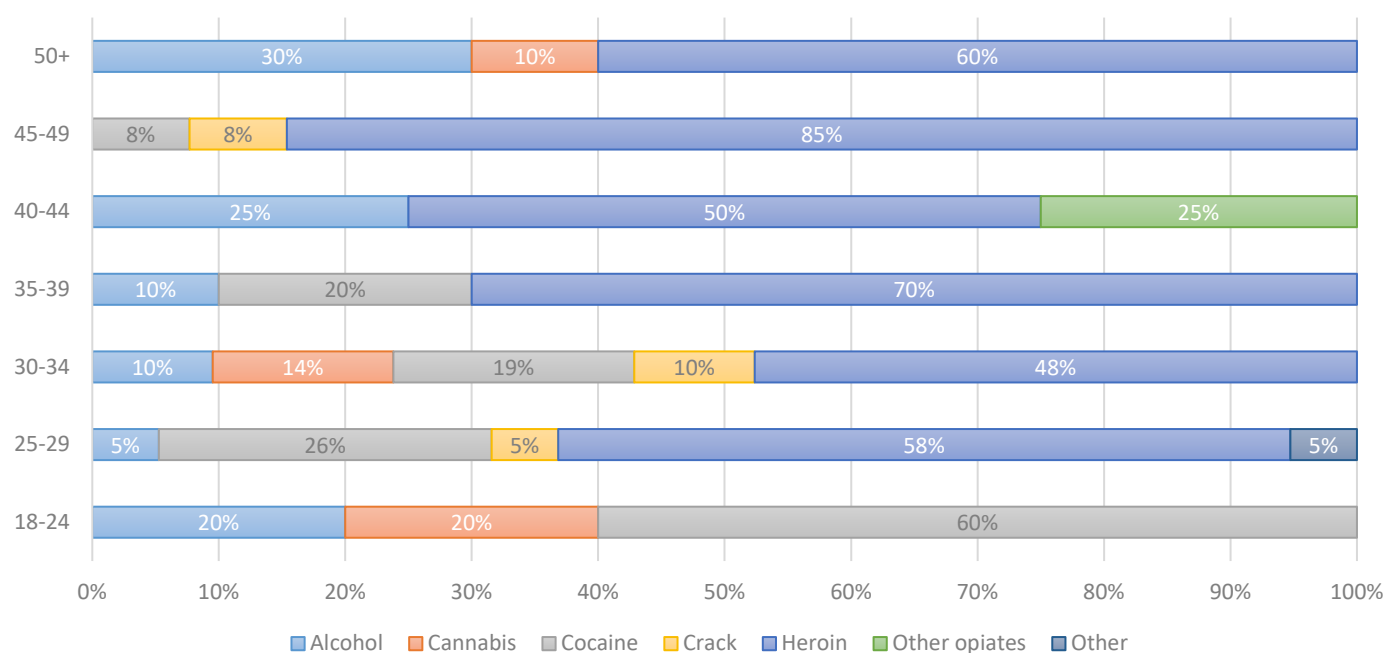


Figure 14 shows the proportions of the main substance for each age group in the year ending March 2021. Three in five (60%) 18-24 year olds reported cocaine as their main substance, while those who reported heroin as their main substance were generally aged over 24 years, peaking in those aged 35-39 years and 45-49 years (70% and 85% respectively). Furthermore, proportions for alcohol were highest for clients aged over 49 years (30%), and for other opiates it was those aged 40-44 years (25%).

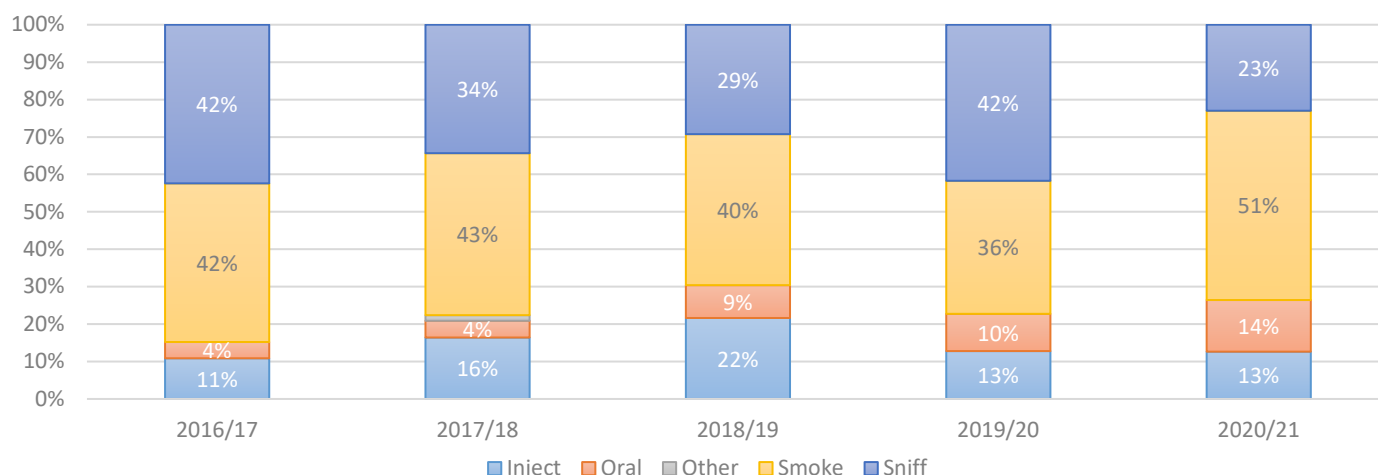
Figure 14: Main substance and age group of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2020/21



ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION

The route of administration of the main substance is shown in Figure 15. In the year ending March 2021, around half of the St Helens CJIT contacts smoked their main substance (n=44; 51%), followed by just under one-quarter whose route of administration was intranasal (n=20; 23%), 14% who administered their main drug orally (n=12) and 13% who injected their main substance (n=11). The proportion who smoked their main substance in 2020/21 was the highest of the five-year period, while the proportion whose route of administration was intranasal was the lowest of the five-year period. Both of these proportions are similar to the Merseyside figures (52% and 21% respectively). Furthermore, the proportion who reported to inject their main substance in 2020/21 is somewhat higher than the other Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 5%).

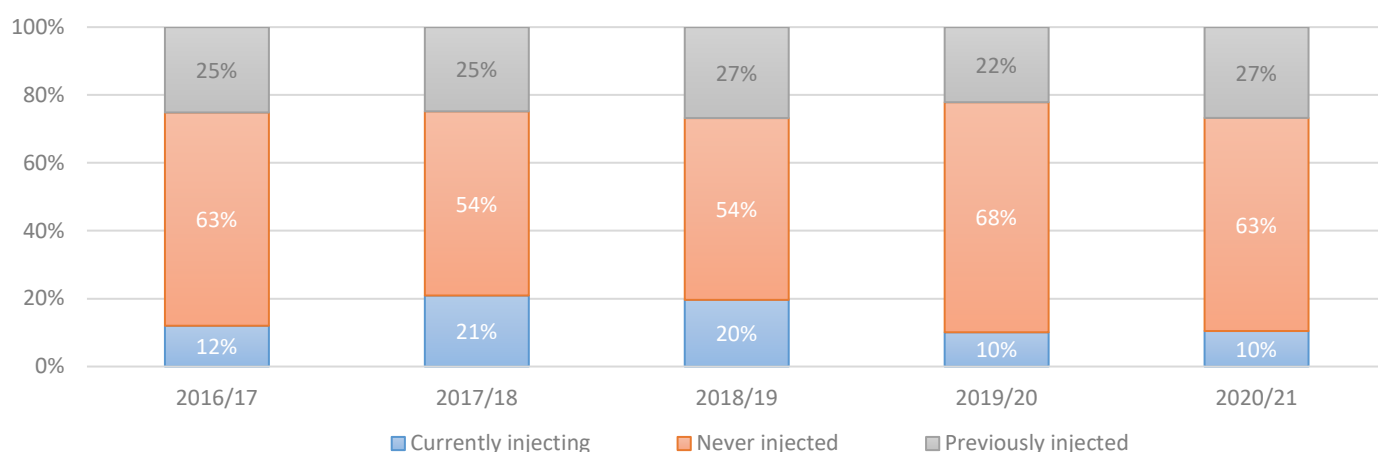
Figure 15: Route of administration of the main substance used by St Helens CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



INJECTING STATUS

Over three in five St Helens CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 stated they had never injected (n=54; 63%), while just over one-quarter had previously injected but were not currently (n=23; 27%) and one in ten were currently injecting (n=9; 10%) (Figure 16). The proportion of clients who reported in 2020/21 that they had previously injected is a slight increase on the previous year (22%) and is similar to the Merseyside figure (Merseyside total: 25%), whereas the proportion who were currently injecting in 2020/21 is the same as the previous year, though the highest of the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 5%).

Figure 16: Injecting status of St Helens CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21

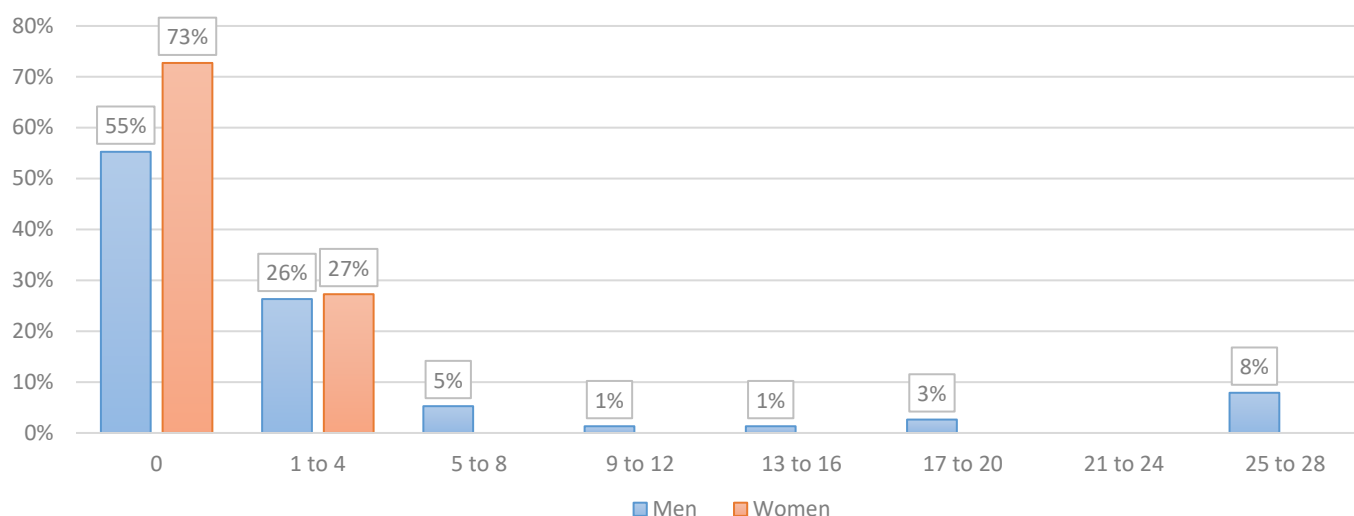


ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Figure 17 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 2021. Over half of the men did not consume alcohol (n=42; 55%), compared to over two in five who did consume alcohol (n=34; 45%). The proportion of men who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment in 2020/21 is lower than the previous four years, though it is higher than the Merseyside figure (Merseyside total: 33%).

For women, just under three-quarters (73%) did not consume alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment in 2020/21, compared to just over one-quarter (27%) who did consume alcohol, which is below Merseyside's total proportion of women who consumed alcohol (34%).

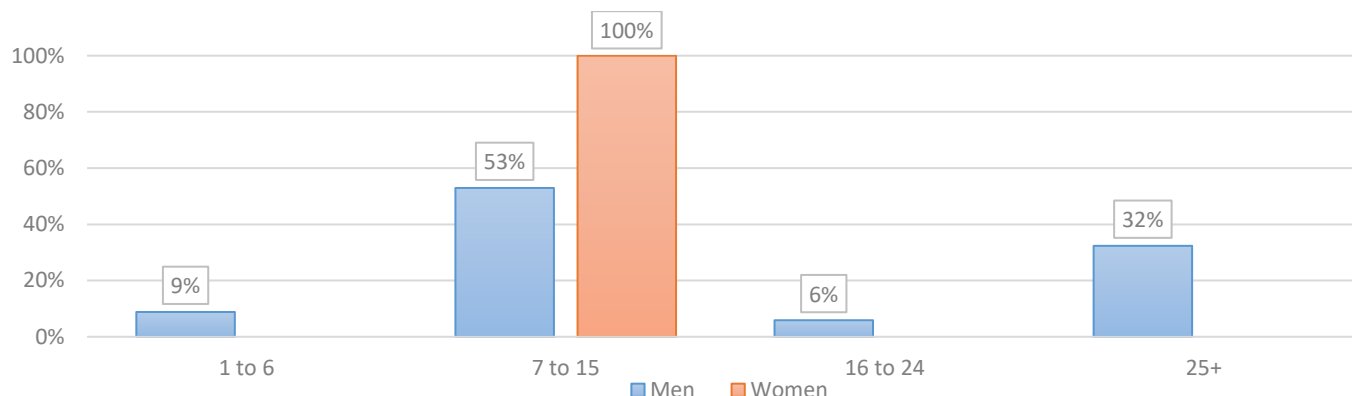
Figure 17: Number of drinking days in the 28 days prior to assessment for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2020/21



The daily average number of units of alcohol consumed by St Helens clients in the 28 days prior to CJIT contact in the year ending March 2021 are shown in Figure 18. Of the 34 men who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment, just over half consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily (n=18; 53%), while around one in three consumed over 24 units daily (n=11; 32%). Both of these proportions are higher than the previous four years and the highest proportions recorded across Merseyside (Merseyside totals: 36% and 24% respectively).

Of the women who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment, all consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily (100%). 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 St Helens CJIT contacts, 2020/21



The offence that prompted St Helens CJIT clients' current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system in the year ending March 2021 is shown in *Figure 19*. One-third were offences categorised as 'other' (n=29; 33%), while Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences⁷ and theft - shoplifting each accounted for around one in six (18%) of the CJIT contacts (n=16 each). The proportion of other offences is the same as the Merseyside figure and the proportion of MDA offences is lower than the Merseyside figure (21%), while theft - shoplifting is the highest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 11%).

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

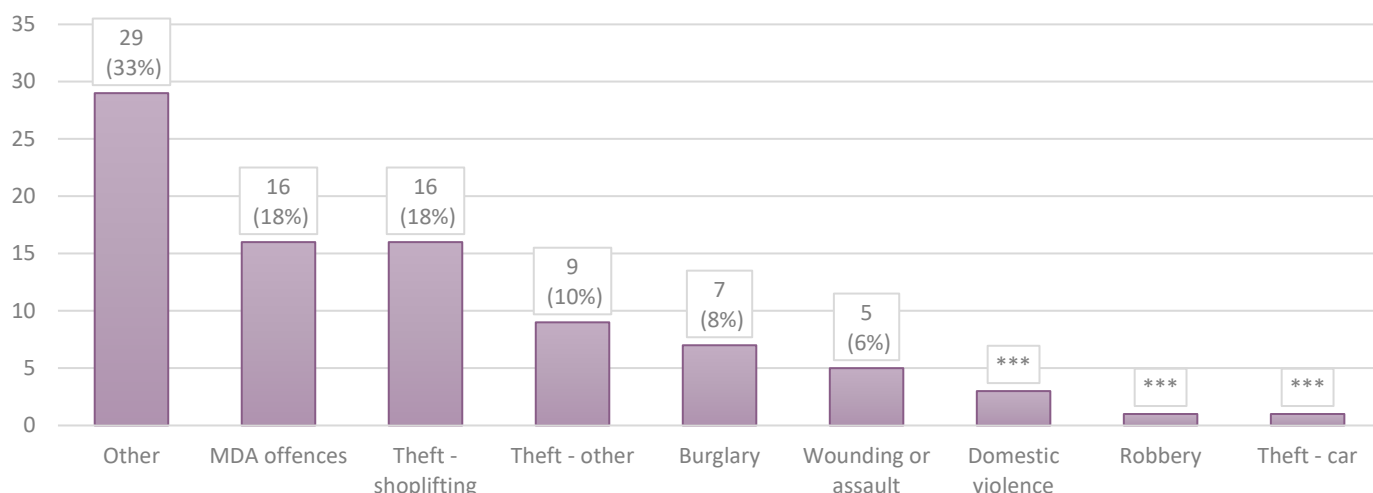
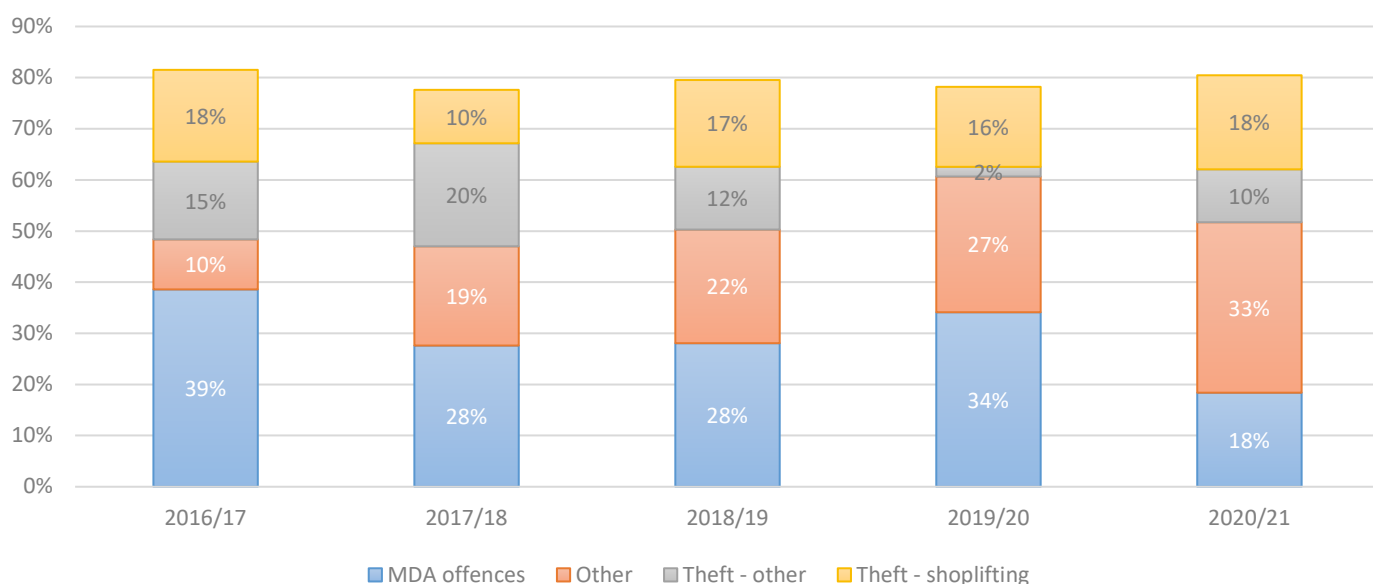


Figure 20 shows five-year trends of the main offending categories for St Helens residents. The proportion of other offences increased year-on-year over the five-year period, while the proportion of MDA offences substantially decreased in the year ending March 2021 when compared to the previous four years. Furthermore, the proportion of theft - shoplifting in 2020/21 was similar to previous years, with the exception of the year ending March 2018 (10%). It is possible that the lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic could have affected figures in the year ending March 2021.

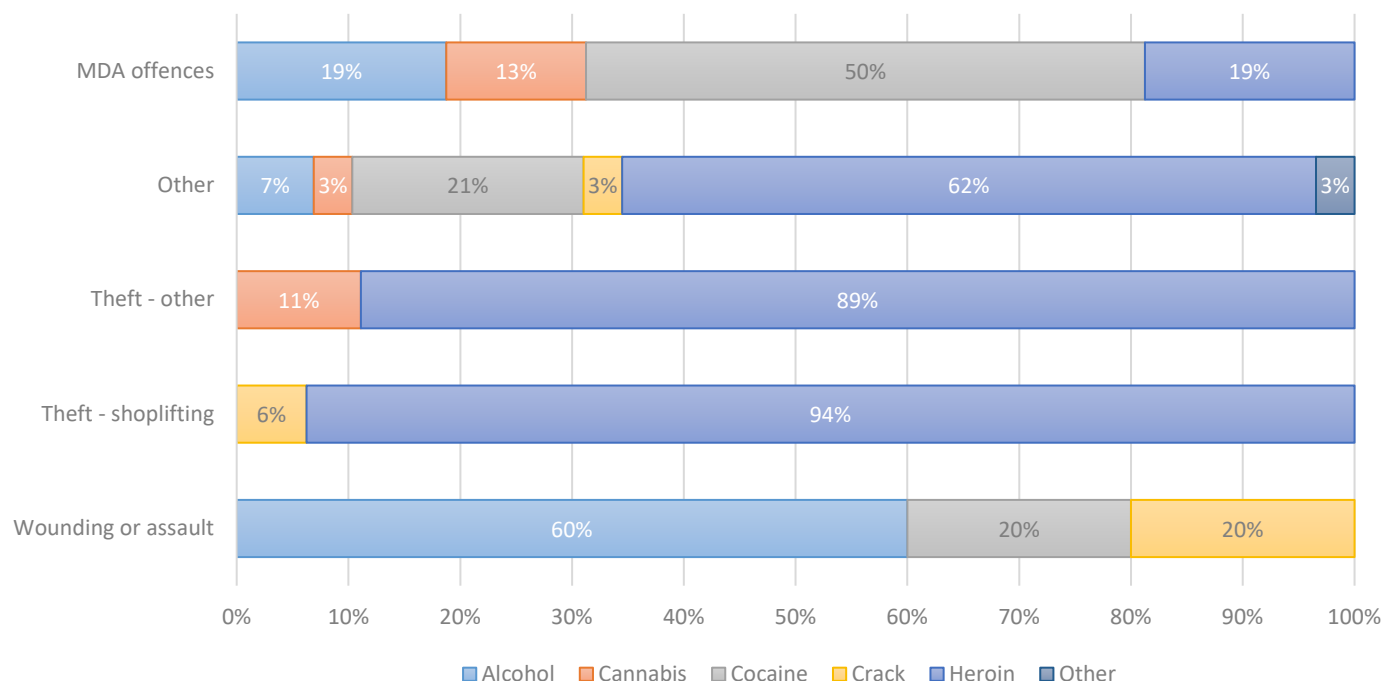
Figure 20: Main offences that prompted current / or most recent contact with the criminal justice system for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



⁷ All of the MDA offences were possession (100%).

Figure 21 shows the proportions of the main substance for the most common offences recorded for St Helens CJIT contacts assessed in the year ending March 2021. Alcohol recorded as the main substance was most prominent for those whose contact with St Helens CJIT was prompted by wounding or assault (60%), while for cocaine it was MDA offences (50%) and for heroin it was theft - shoplifting and theft - other (94% and 89% respectively).

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

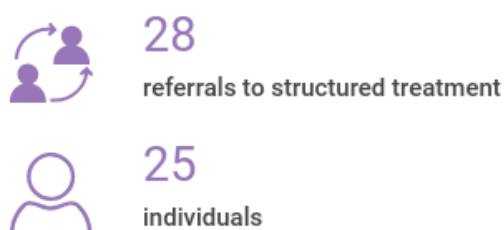


INTERVENTIONS

REFERRALS TO STRUCTURED TREATMENT

Of the clients taken onto the CJIT caseload, 28 (25 individuals) were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2021 (Figure 22)⁸.

Figure 22: Referrals to structured treatment for St Helens CJIT contacts, 2020/21

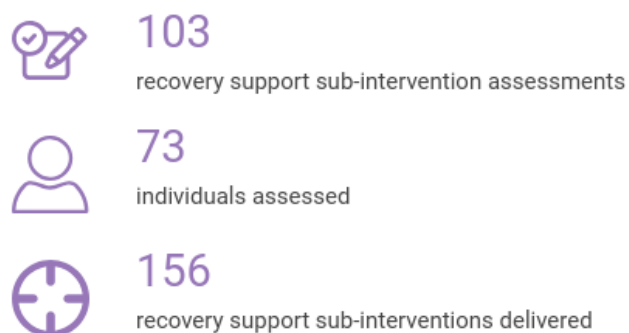


⁸ Clients not taken onto the CJIT caseload, and clients with the same caseload start date and discharge date as well as a 'prior to caseload' discharge reason (as these are deemed to have not been taken onto the CJIT caseload), have been excluded from these figures. Figures include referrals to structured 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.

RECOVERY SUPPORT SUB-INTERVENTIONS

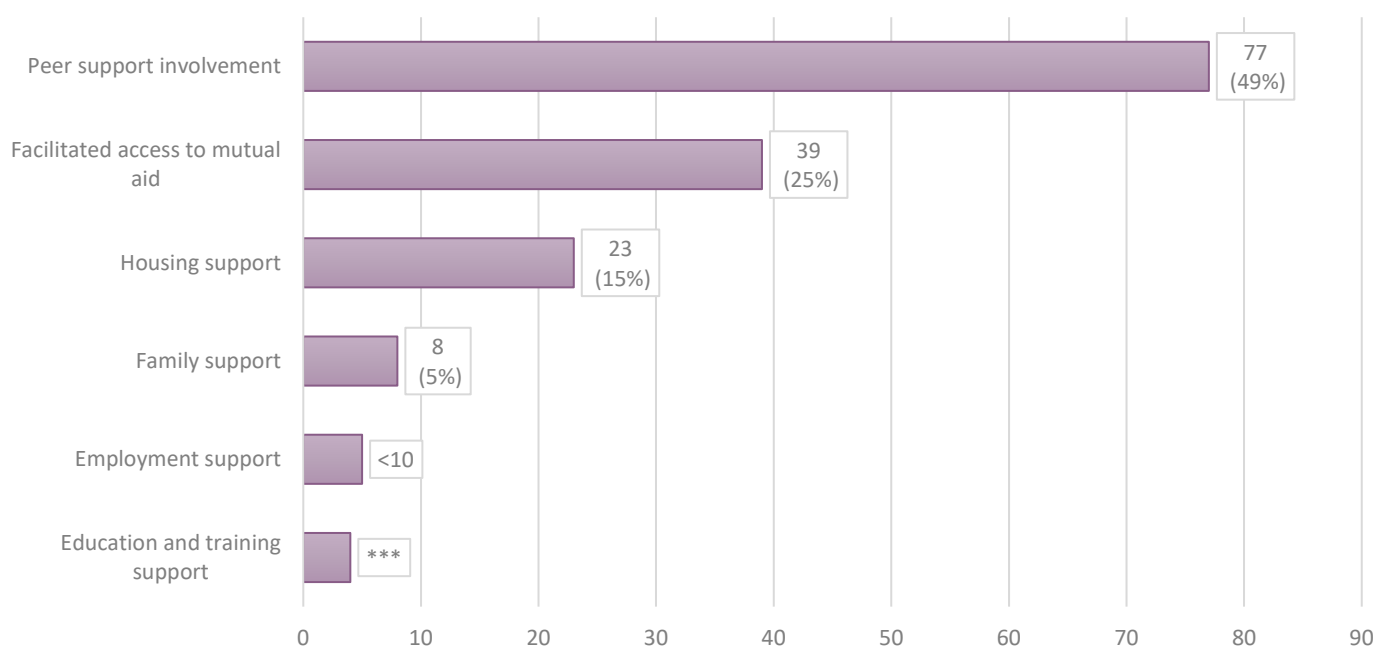
In the year ending March 2021, 103 recovery support sub-intervention assessments were carried out on clients on the CJIT caseload (73 individuals), with a total 156 sub-interventions delivered (*Figure 23*)⁷.

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



Of the total recovery support sub-interventions delivered, around half were peer support involvement (n=77; 49%), followed by facilitated access to mutual aid (n=39; 25%) and housing support (n=23; 15%) (*Figure 24*).

Figure 24: Recovery support sub-intervention delivered to St Helens CJIT contacts, 2020/21



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