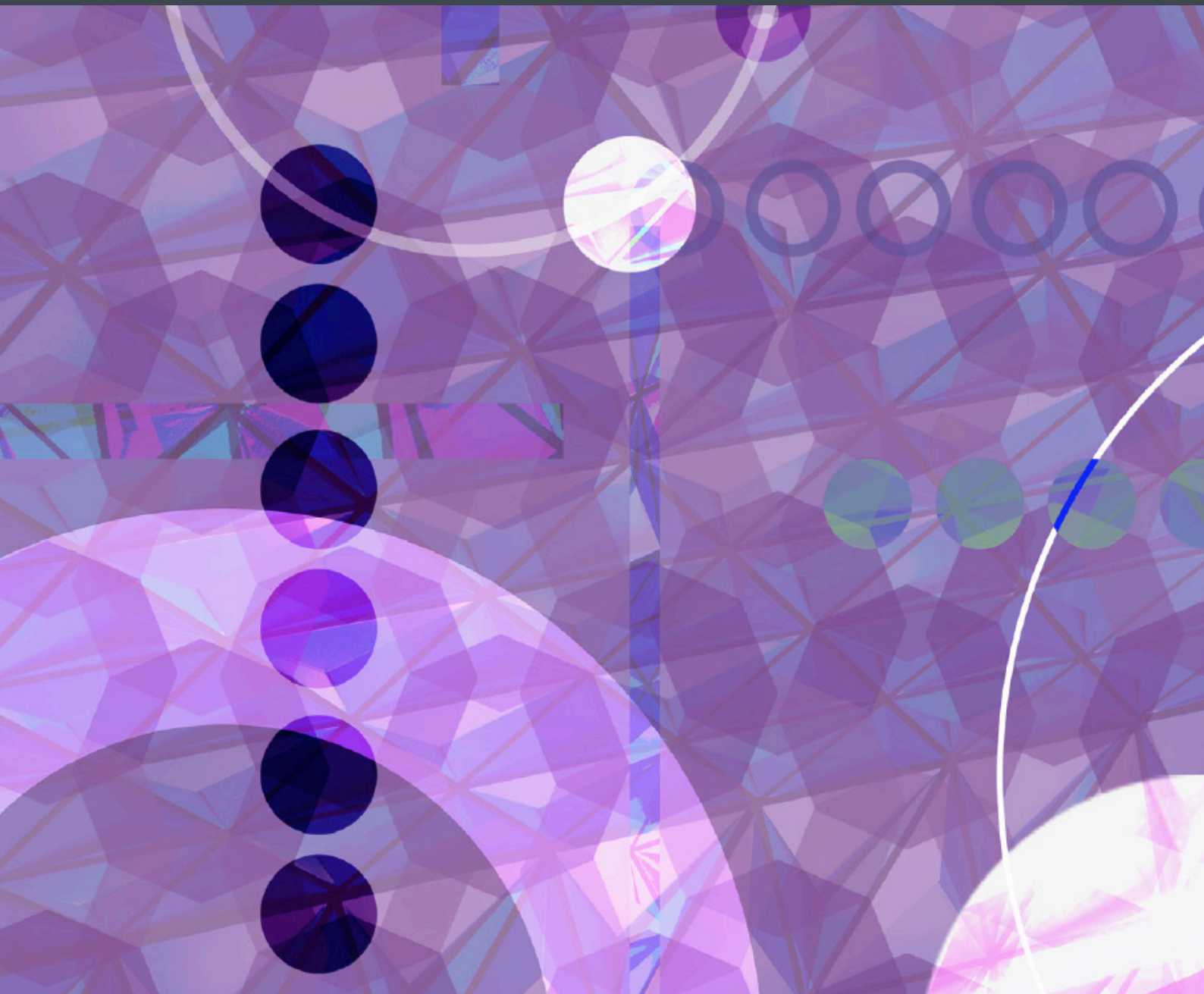


Criminal Justice Project:

Criminal Justice Intervention Team Activity in Liverpool (2020/21)

Karen Critchley and Mark Whitfield



January 2022

Key findings 2

Introduction 3

Overview 4

 Criminal justice routes in Liverpool..... 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..... 17

Acknowledgements 17

KEY FINDINGS: CJIT ACTIVITY IN LIVERPOOL (2020/21)

- In the year ending March 2021, there were 304 contacts (274 individuals) recorded by Liverpool Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT); of which, all were residents of Liverpool Local Authority area. This is less than half of the number of CJIT contacts in the previous twelve-month period (57% decrease) and this reduction can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Just under three in five (57%) CJIT contacts in 2020/21 were voluntary following release from prison, while just under one-quarter (23%) were other criminal justice routes and one in five (20%) were Required Assessments.
- Four in five (80%) of the CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 were taken onto the CJIT caseload, while 14% did not want to engage, 4% transferred prior to care plan and 2% did not require further intervention.
- Around one in five (21%) individuals were aged 50 years or over, followed by clients aged 35-39 years and 40-44 years (both 19%).
- Just over four in five (82%) individuals in contact with Liverpool CJIT in the year ending March 2021 were men.
- Around nine in ten (91%) identified themselves as White British.
- Just under one in ten (8%) considered themselves to have a disability.
- While the majority reported no housing problem, just over one-quarter (27%) had some form of a housing problem, with around one in ten (11%) stating an urgent housing need due to being of no fixed abode.
- Five per cent had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years.
- Over half (56%) reported heroin as their main substance, followed by alcohol (23%) and cocaine (15%). The majority (70%) of the second substance was recorded as crack, while over one-third (36%) of the third substance was recorded as alcohol.
- Over half (53%) smoked their main substance, followed by around one-quarter (24%) who administered their main drug orally, 16% whose route of administration was intranasal and 7% who injected their main substance.
- Just under two-thirds (64%) stated they had never injected, while three in ten (30%) had previously injected but were not currently and 6% were currently injecting.
- Around one-third (34%) of men consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment. Of these, just under two in five (38%) consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily, while just over one-quarter (27%) consumed over 24 units daily, around one-quarter (24%) consumed 16-24 units daily and around one in ten (11%) consumed 1-6 units daily.
- Around two in five (39%) women consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment. Of these, over one-third (36%) each reported to consume 7-15 units or 16-24 units of alcohol daily.
- Over one-third (35%) reported offences categorised as 'other' as the offence which prompted the current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system, followed by Misuse of Drugs Act offences (16%), and wounding or assault and theft - other (both 15%).
- Of the clients taken onto the CJIT caseload, 191 (169 individuals) were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2021.
- There were 293 recovery support sub-intervention assessments carried out in 2020/21 on clients on the CJIT caseload (183 individuals), with a total 550 sub-interventions delivered.

INTRODUCTION

Although the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) was decommissioned as a national programme by the Home Office in 2013, Liverpool 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 CJITs 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 Liverpool 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' Liverpool 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).

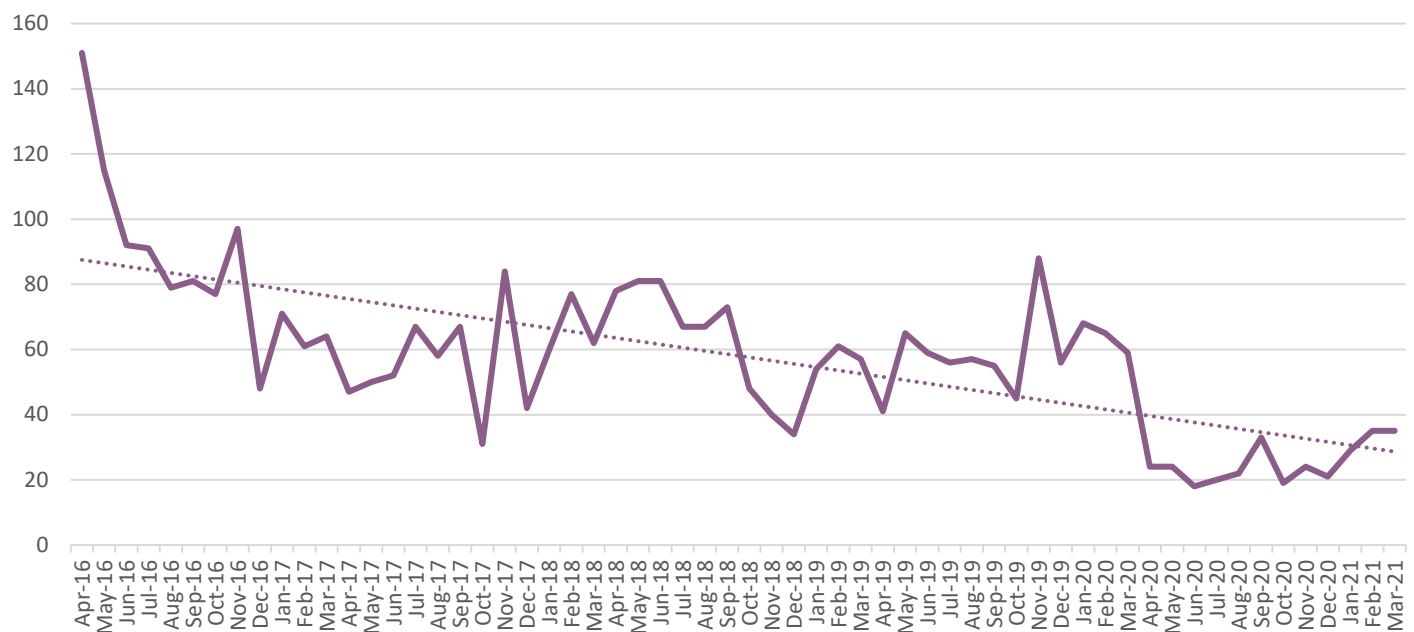
³ Note that in instances where there are blank records, or the client declines to answer, does not know or does not state a response, these have been excluded from the calculations; therefore, totals may not add up to the total number of CJIT contacts or individuals.

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

OVERVIEW

In the year ending March 2021, there were 304 contacts (274 individuals) recorded by Liverpool Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT). This is less than half of the number of CJIT contacts in the previous twelve-month period (57% decrease) and this reduction can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, all Liverpool CJIT contacts assessed in the year ending March 2021 were residents of Liverpool Local Authority area. *Figure 1* shows the monthly number of CJIT contacts between April 2016 and March 2021.

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



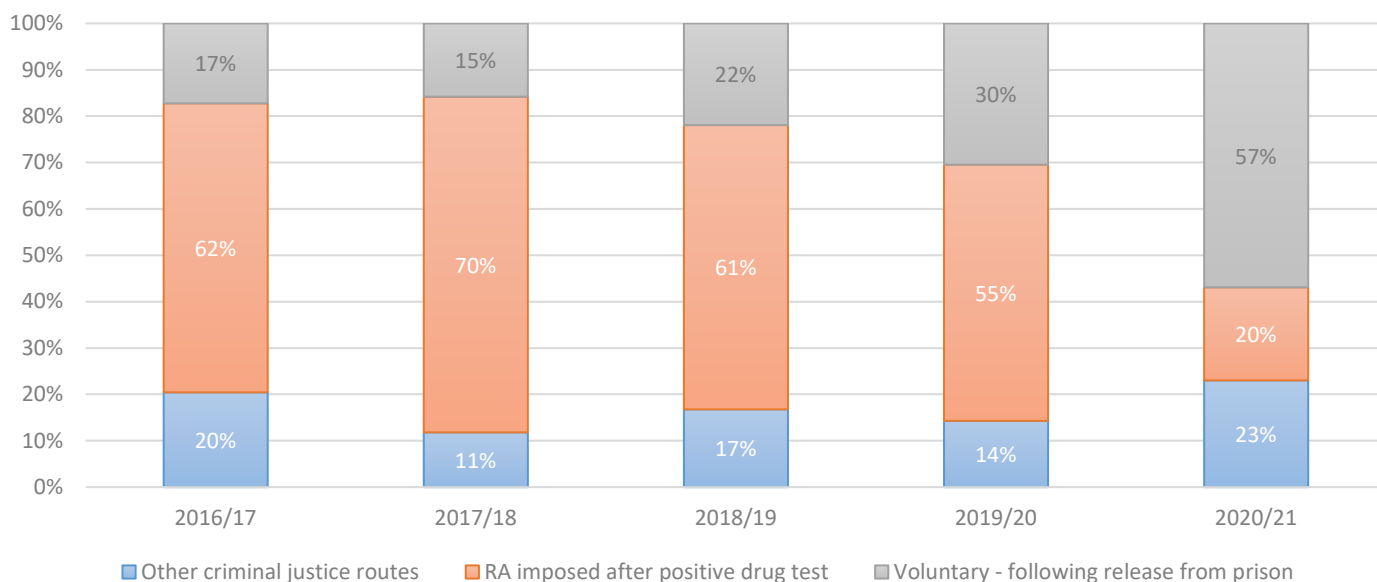
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROUTES IN LIVERPOOL

Figure 2 shows the criminal justice routes that led to the contact with Liverpool CJIT in the five years up to the year ending March 2021. In 2020/21, just under three in five CJIT contacts were voluntary presentations following release from prison (n=173; 57%), while just under one-quarter were other criminal justice routes (n=70; 23%)⁵ and one in five were Required Assessments (RAs) following a positive drug test for opiates and/or cocaine in a police custody suite (n=61; 20%).

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the majority of Liverpool CJIT contacts were RAs; however, in the year ending March 2021, voluntary presentations following release from prison and other criminal justice routes accounted for the majority of Liverpool 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. Furthermore, the proportion of clients who came into contact with Liverpool CJIT through the RA process in the year ending March 2021, is the second lowest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 28%), while the proportion of CJIT contacts who presented voluntarily following release from prison is the second highest of the Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 40%).

⁵ Other criminal justice routes: Required by offender management scheme/DRR/ATR/IOM = 43; voluntary - other <30; voluntary - following cell sweep <5.

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

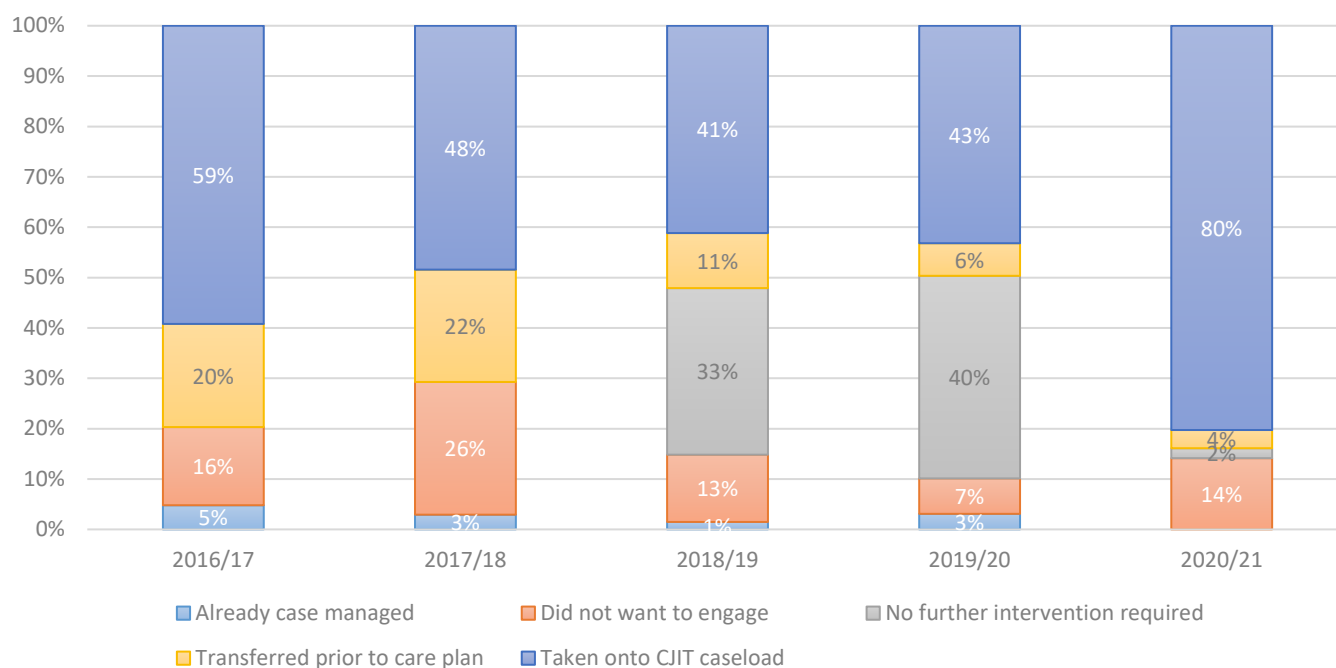


OUTCOMES FOLLOWING CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT

Four in five of the Liverpool CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 were taken onto the CJIT caseload (n=244; 80%), while one in seven did not want to engage (n=43; 14%), 4% transferred prior to care plan (n=11) and 2% did not require further intervention (n=6) (Figure 3).

The proportion of clients taken onto Liverpool CJIT’s caseload in 2020/21 is substantially higher than the previous four years, though it is similar to the Merseyside total (79%), while the proportion of clients who did not want to engage following an assessment in 2020/21 has increased on the previous twelve-month period and is higher than the Merseyside total (9%). Furthermore, the proportion of clients who did not require further intervention in the year ending March 2021 has decreased substantially when compared to the previous two years and the proportion who transferred to prison or another CJIT prior to care plan has decreased year-on-year since 2017/18.

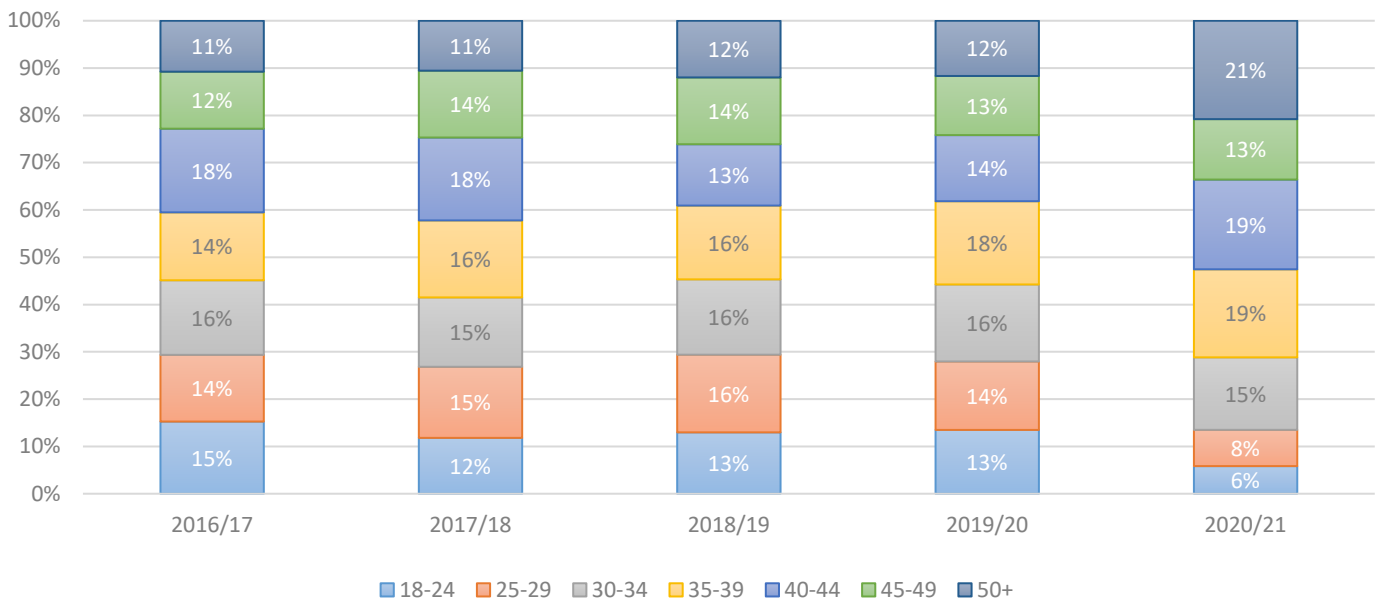
Figure 3: Outcomes following criminal justice assessment of Liverpool CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



AGE AND GENDER

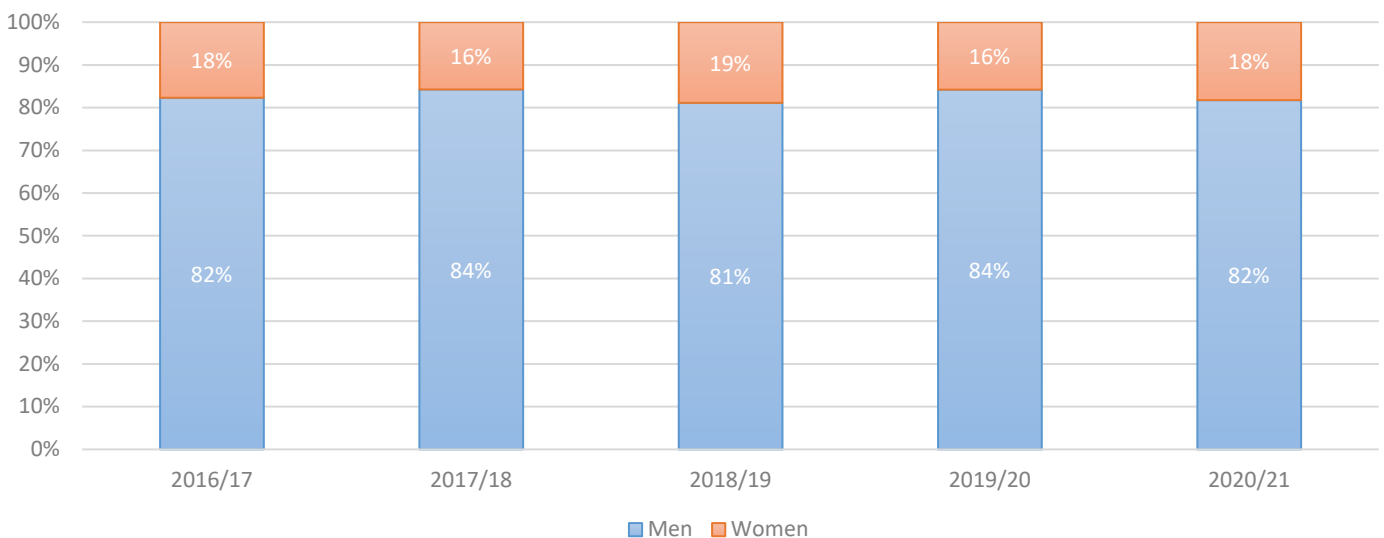
Of the 304 Liverpool CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021, there were 274 individuals. The median age was 36 years, which is the same as the previous year. Looking at age groups, around one in five individuals were aged 50 years or over (n=57; 21%), followed by clients aged 40-44 years (n=52; 19%) and 35-39 years (n=51; 19%) (Figure 4). The proportion of individuals aged over 49 years in 2020/21 is the highest of the five-year period and of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 15%). Furthermore, the proportion of Liverpool residents aged 35-44 years (38%) is higher than the previous four years and the Merseyside total (31%), while the proportion of Liverpool residents aged 18-29 years (14%) is lower than the previous four years and the Merseyside total (22%).

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



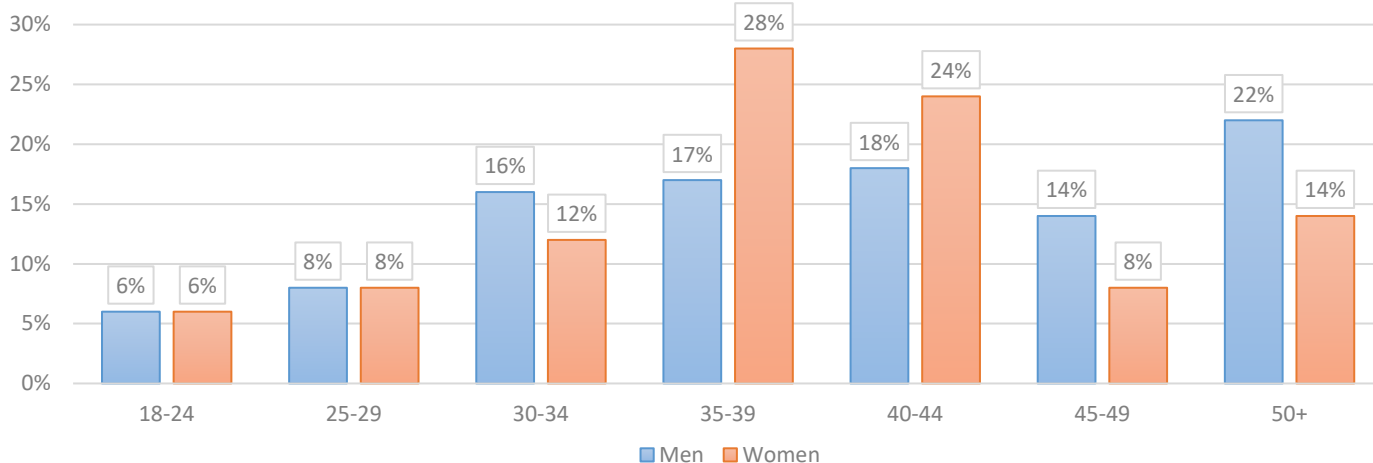
Just over four in five individuals in contact with Liverpool CJIT in the year ending March 2021 were men (n=224; 82%) (Figure 5). This is a slight decrease on the previous twelve months (84%) and is similar to the Merseyside total (83%).

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



Although there was an equal proportion of men and women aged 18-29 years, *Figure 6* shows some differences in age group proportions across gender groups in Liverpool in the year ending March 2021. There were considerably larger proportions of men aged 30-34 years, 45-49 years and 50 years or over (16%, 14% and 22% respectively) when compared to women (12%, 8% and 14% respectively). Conversely, there were substantially higher proportions of women aged 35-39 years and 40-44 years (28% and 24% respectively) when compared to men (17% and 18% respectively).

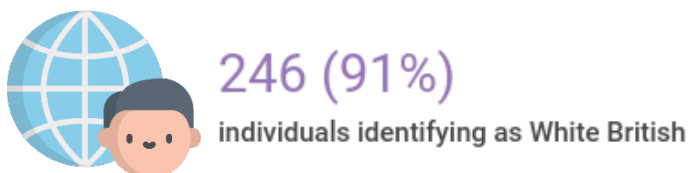
Figure 6: Age group and gender of Liverpool CJIT contacts (individuals), 2020/21



ETHNICITY

Around nine in ten of the Liverpool CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 identified themselves as White British (n=246; 91%) (*Figure 7*), which is similar to previous years, though lower than the Merseyside proportion (95%).

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



DISABILITY

Just under one in ten Liverpool CJIT contacts in 2020/21 considered themselves to have a disability (n=25; 8%) (*Figure 8*), which is substantially lower than the Merseyside figure (28%). The 25 clients who considered themselves to have a disability reported a total 33 disabilities⁶. Over one-third of the disabilities were behaviour and emotional (n=12; 36%), while around one-quarter were progressive conditions and physical health (n=8; 24%).

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

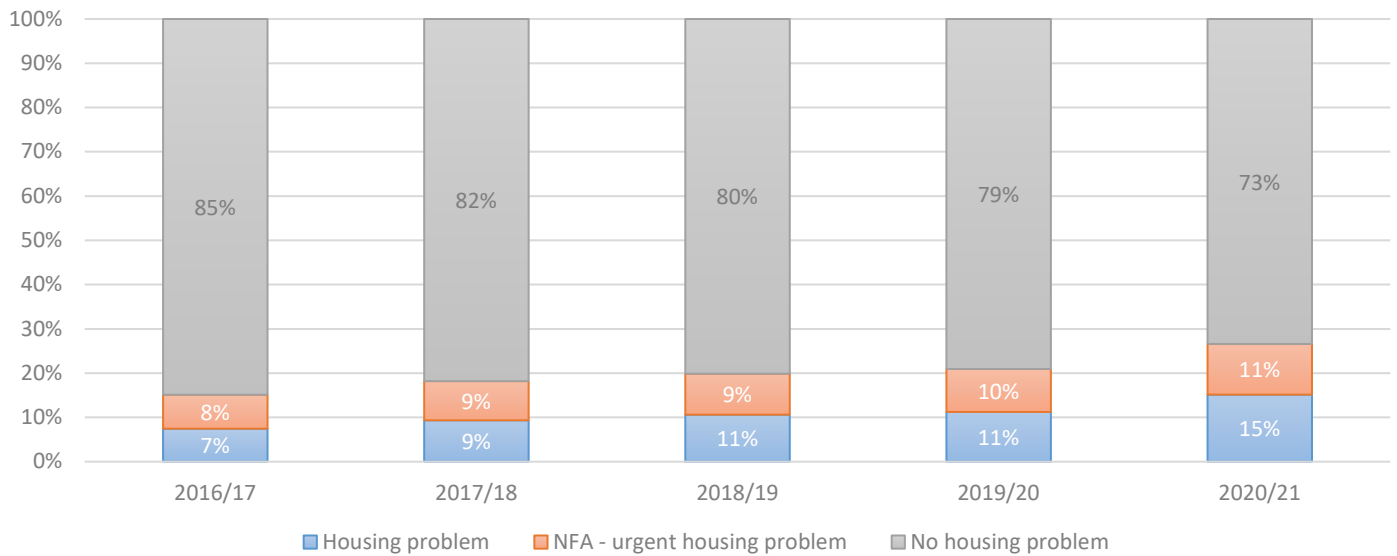


⁶ Please note that clients may have up to three disabilities recorded.

HOUSING NEED

While the majority of the Liverpool CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 reported no housing problem, just over one-quarter had some form of a housing problem (n=79; 27%), with around one in ten stating an urgent housing need due to being of no fixed abode (NFA; n=34; 11%) (Figure 9)⁷. The proportion of Liverpool residents who stated some form of a housing problem has increased year-on-year and is higher than the Merseyside figure (24%). Furthermore, the proportion of clients with an urgent housing need in 2020/21 is higher than the previous four years, though it is similar to the Merseyside proportion (10%).

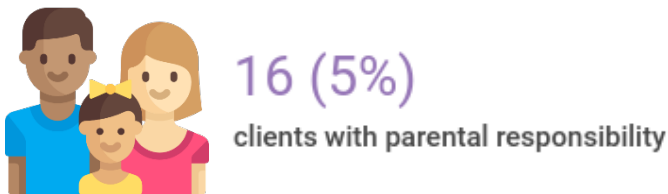
Figure 9: Housing need of Liverpool CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



PARENTAL STATUS

In the year ending March 2021, 16 (5%) clients had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years (Figure 10), which is the lowest proportion of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 15%). Just over three in five Liverpool CJIT contacts with parental responsibility had none of the children they are responsible for living with them the majority of the time (n=10; 63%), which is lower than the Merseyside figure (75%).

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



⁷ 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

When compared to the previous four years, in the year ending March 2021, the proportion of alcohol and opiate drugs recorded as the main substance has increased, while the proportion of non-opiate drugs has decreased. Over half of the Liverpool CJIT contacts in 2020/21 reported heroin as their main substance (n=169; 56%), followed by alcohol (n=69; 23%) and cocaine (n=47; 15%) (Figure 11). The proportion of heroin recorded as the main substance in the year ending March 2021 is the highest of the five-year period and of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 46%), and the proportion of alcohol is also the highest of the five-year period and higher than the Merseyside figure (18%). Conversely, the proportion of cocaine recorded as the main substance in the year ending March 2021 is the lowest of the five-year period and the lowest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 22%).

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

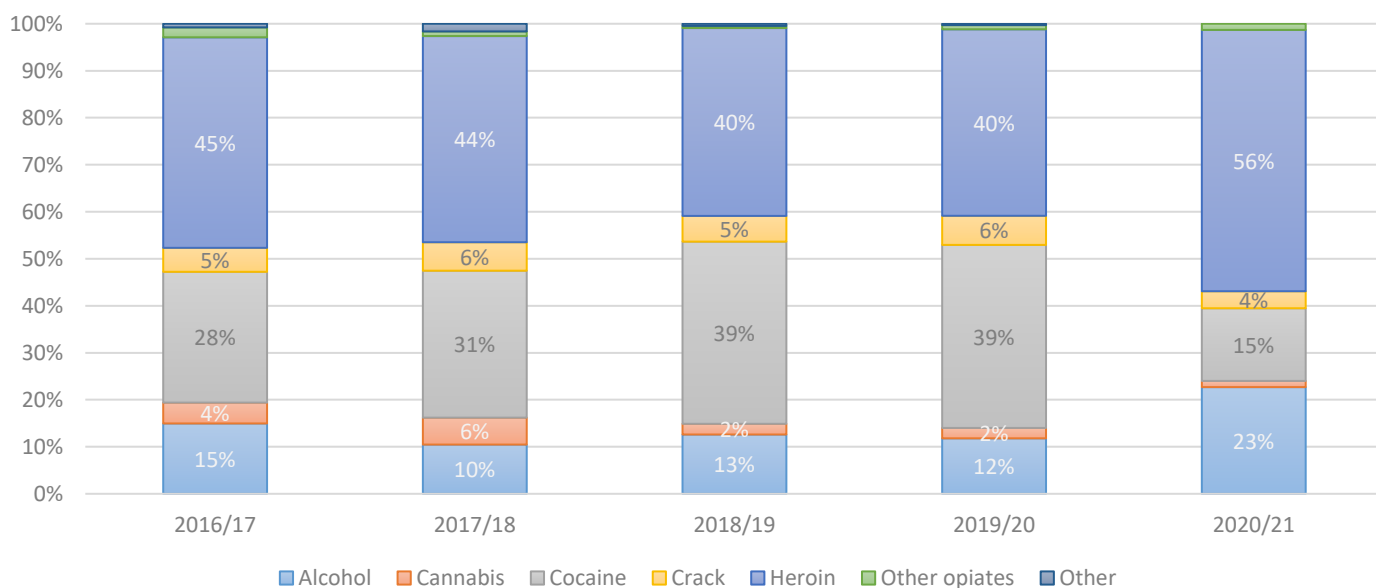


Figure 12 shows 2020/21 figures split by substance one, two and three. The majority of the second substance was recorded as crack (n=140; 70%), while over one-third of the third substance was recorded as alcohol (n=13; 36%).

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

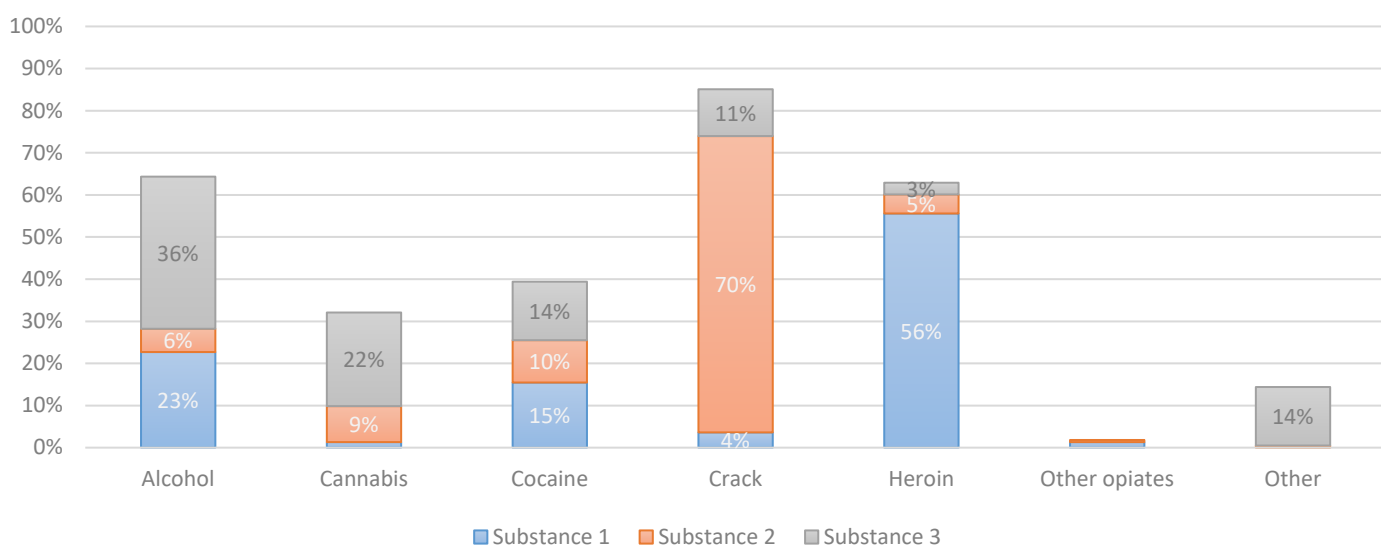


Figure 13 shows the proportions of the main substance by gender in the year ending March 2021. There was a larger proportion of alcohol recorded as the main substance by women (32%) when compared to men (21%), while there was a larger proportion of men who reported cocaine (18%) when compared to women (5%). Proportions were similar for men and women for cannabis, crack, heroin and other opiates.

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

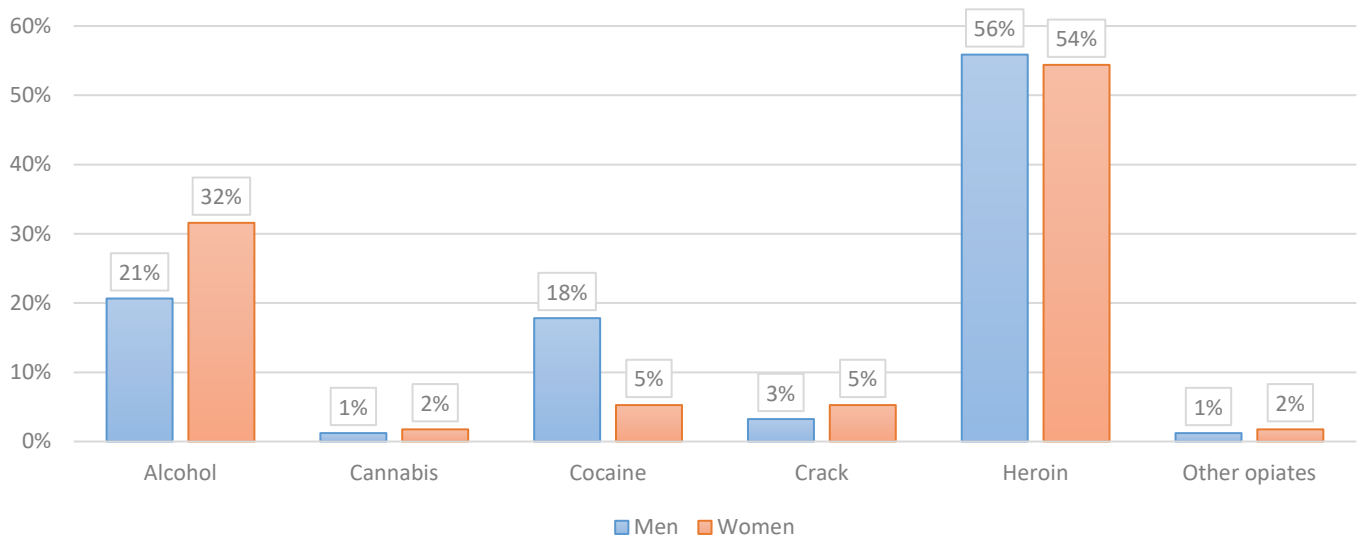
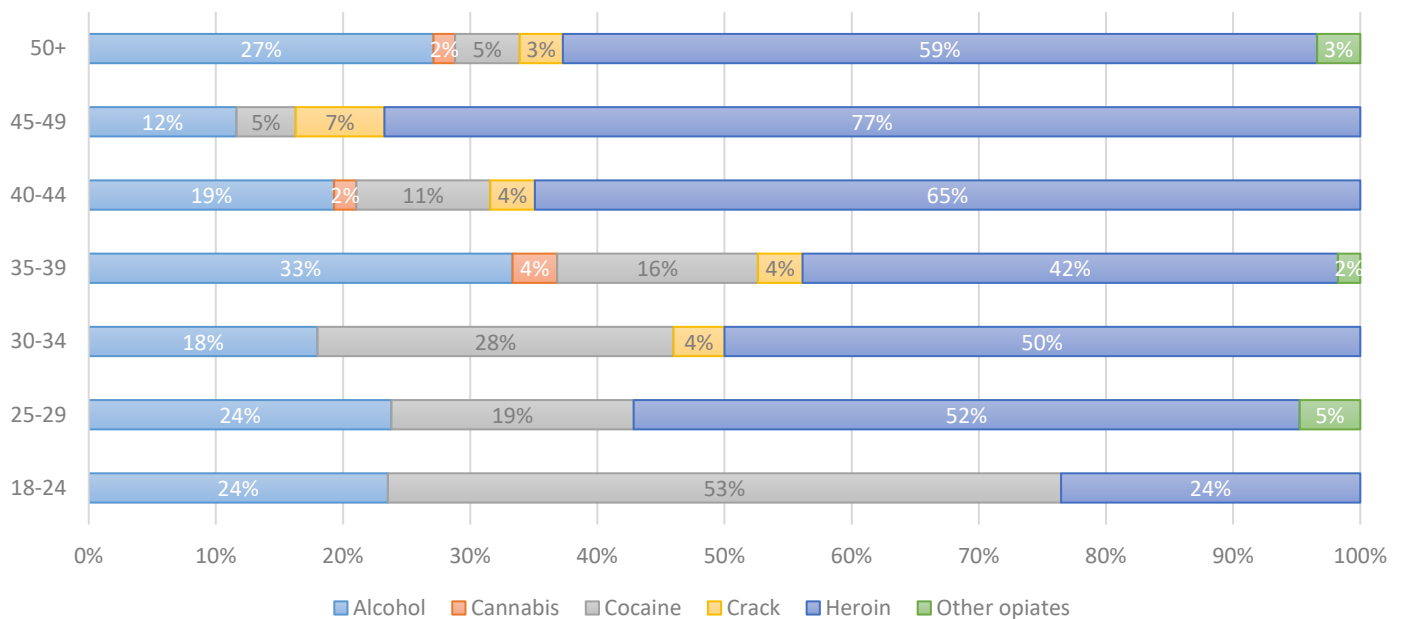


Figure 14 shows the proportions of the main substance for each age group in the year ending March 2021. In general, there were larger proportions of cocaine recorded as the main substance in the younger age groups and larger proportions of heroin across the older age groups. Over half (53%) of 18-24 year olds reported cocaine as their main substance, while proportions of heroin were highest for clients aged 40-44 years and 45-49 years (65% and 77% respectively). Furthermore, proportions of alcohol were highest for clients aged 50 years or over (27%), followed by clients aged 18-24 years and 25-29 years (both 24%).

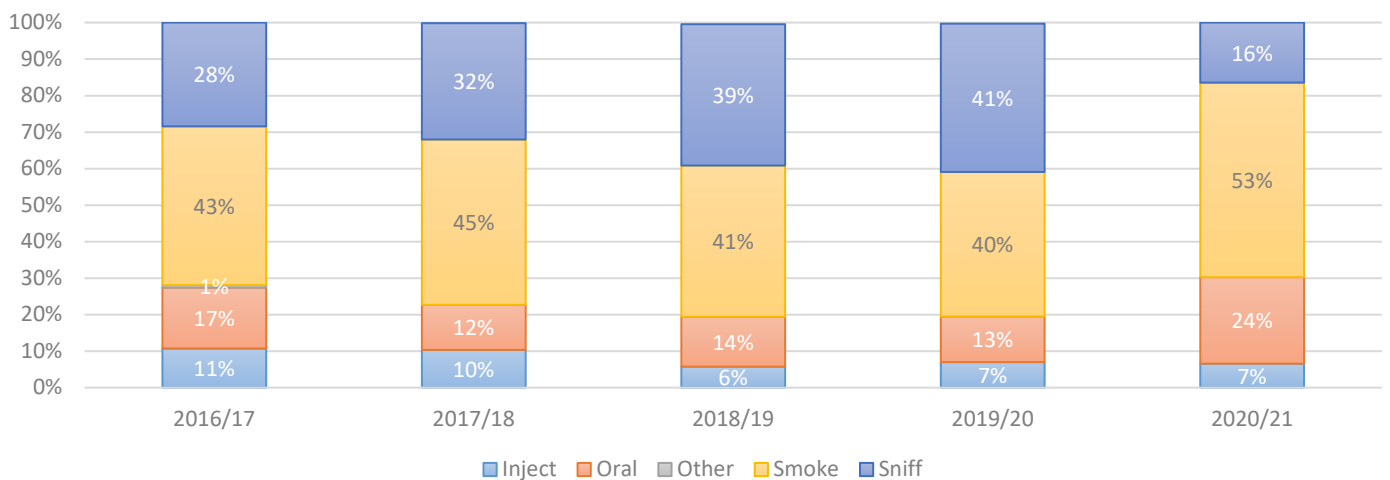
Figure 14: Main substance and age group of Liverpool CJIT contacts, 2020/21



ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION

The route of administration of the main substance is shown in *Figure 15*. In the year ending March 2021, over half of the Liverpool CJIT contacts smoked their main substance (n=162; 53%), followed by around one-quarter who administered their main drug orally (n=72; 24%), 16% whose route of administration was intranasal (n=50) and 7% who injected their main substance (n=20). The proportions who smoked or administered their main substance orally in 2020/21, were both the highest of the five-year period, though similar to the Merseyside figures (52% and 21% respectively). Conversely, the proportion whose route of administration of their main drug was intranasal in 2020/21, was lower than the previous four years and the lowest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 21%), while the proportion who injected their main substance was the same as the previous year and similar to the Merseyside figure (5%).

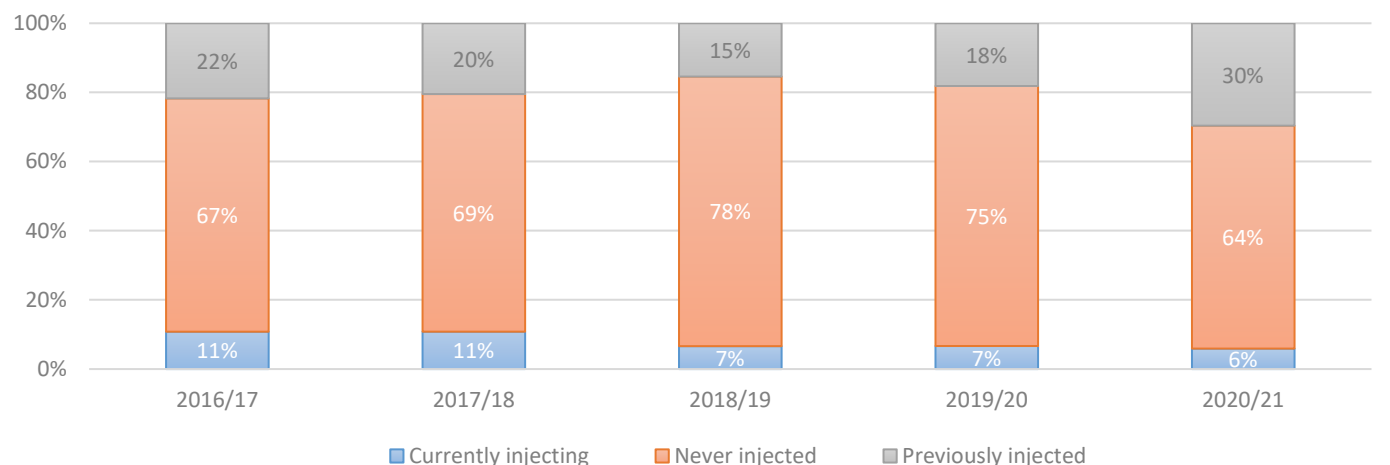
Figure 15: Route of administration of the main substance used by Liverpool CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21



INJECTING STATUS

Just under two-thirds of the Liverpool CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2021 stated they had never injected (n=196; 64%), while three in ten had previously injected but were not currently (n=90; 30%) and around one in 20 were currently injecting (n=18; 6%) (*Figure 16*). The proportion of clients who reported in 2020/21 that they had previously injected is higher than the previous four years and higher than the other Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 25%), while the proportion who were currently injecting in 2020/21 is similar to the previous two years (both 7%) and is similar to the Merseyside figure (5%).

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

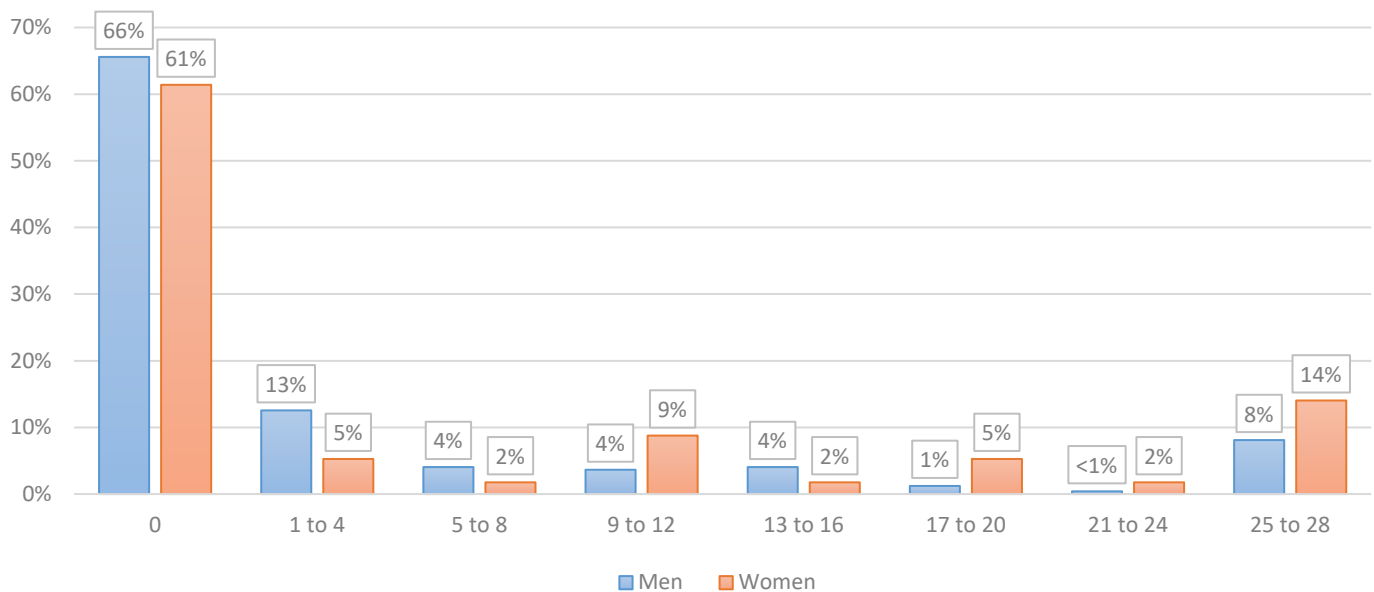


ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Figure 17 shows the number of days alcohol was consumed by Liverpool clients in the 28 days prior to their CJIT contact in the year ending March 2021. Around two-thirds of men did not consume alcohol (n=162; 66%), compared to around one-third who did consume alcohol (n=84; 34%). 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 similar to the Merseyside figure (Merseyside total: 33%).

For women, around three in five did not consume alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT contact in 2020/21 (n=35; 61%), compared to around two in five who did consume alcohol (n=22; 39%) (Figure 17). The proportion of women 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: 34%).

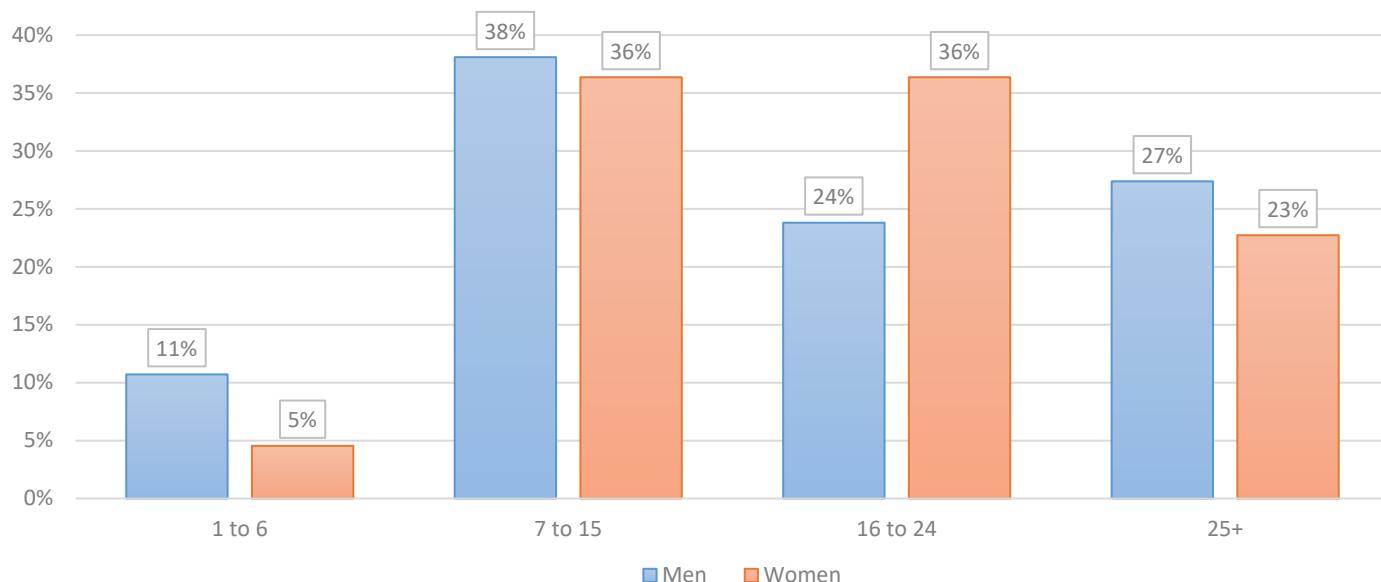
Figure 17: Number of drinking days in the 28 days prior to assessment for Liverpool CJIT contacts, 2020/21



The daily average number of units of alcohol consumed by Liverpool clients in the 28 days prior to CJIT contact in the year ending March 2021 are shown in Figure 18. Of the 84 men who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment, just under two in five consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily (n=32; 38%), while just over one-quarter consumed over 24 units daily (n=23; 27%), around one-quarter consumed 16-24 units daily (n=20; 24%) and around one in ten consumed 1-6 units daily (n=9; 11%). The proportion of men who consumed 1-6 units of alcohol daily in the year ending March 2021 is lower than the previous four years and lower than the Merseyside figure (17%), while men who drank 25 units or more is higher than the previous four years and slightly higher than the Merseyside figure (24%).

Of the 22 women who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment, over one-third (36%) each reported to consume 7-15 units or 16-24 units daily (n=8 each) (Figure 18). Proportions have fluctuated between 2016/17 and 2020/21, though notably, the proportion of women who consumed 1-6 units of alcohol daily in the year ending March 2021 is lower than the previous four years. Comparisons have not been made to Merseyside figures, as there were low numbers of women assessed by the five CJIT areas in 2020/21 who had consumed alcohol.

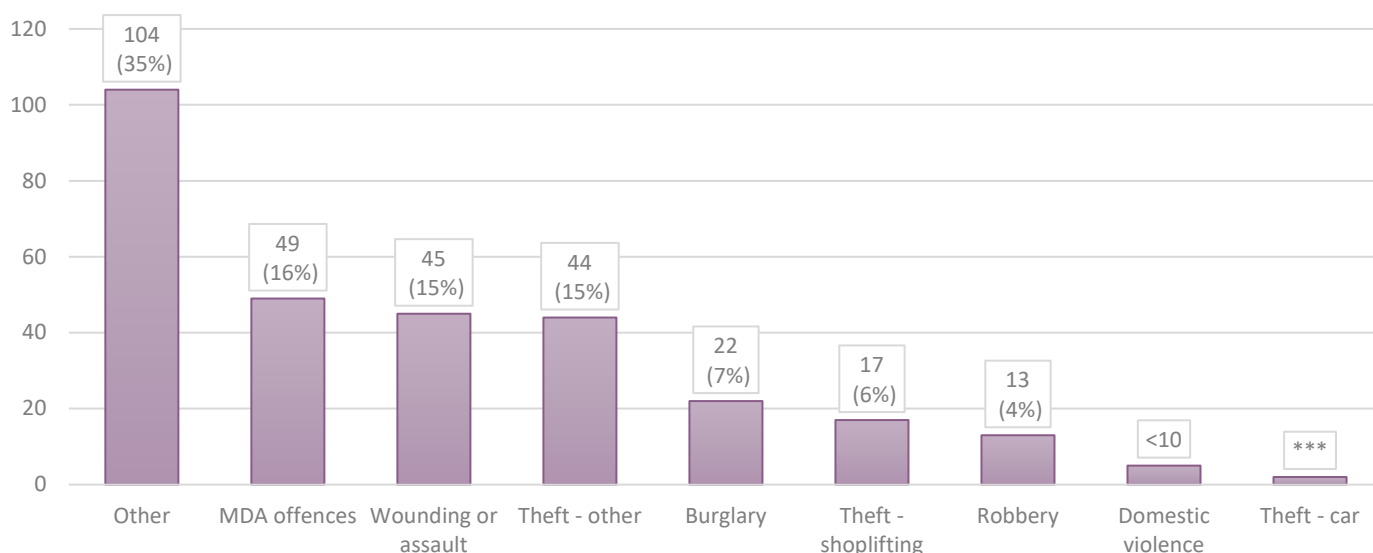
Figure 18: Number of units of alcohol (daily average) consumed by Liverpool CJIT contacts, 2020/21



OFFENDING

The offence that prompted Liverpool 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 offences categorised as 'other' (n=104; 35%), followed by Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences (n=49; 16%)⁸, wounding or assault (n=45; 15%) and theft - other (n=44; 15%). The proportions of other offences and theft - other are higher than the other Merseyside areas (Merseyside totals: 33% and 8% respectively), while the proportion of MDA offences is the lowest of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 21%). Furthermore, the proportion of wounding or assault is slightly higher than the Merseyside total (10%).

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



⁸ Over four in five of the MDA offences were possession (n=41; 84%), while the remainder were supply (n=8; 16%).

Figure 20 shows five-year trends of the main offending categories for Liverpool residents. Proportions of other offences, theft - other and wounding or assault in the year ending March 2021 are all higher than the previous four years, while proportions of MDA offences and theft - shoplifting are the lowest of the five-year period. Notably, the proportion of MDA offences increased year-on-year to 33% in the year ending March 2020, then decreased to 16% in the following year. 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 / most recent contact with the criminal justice system for Liverpool CJIT contacts, 2016/17 - 2020/21

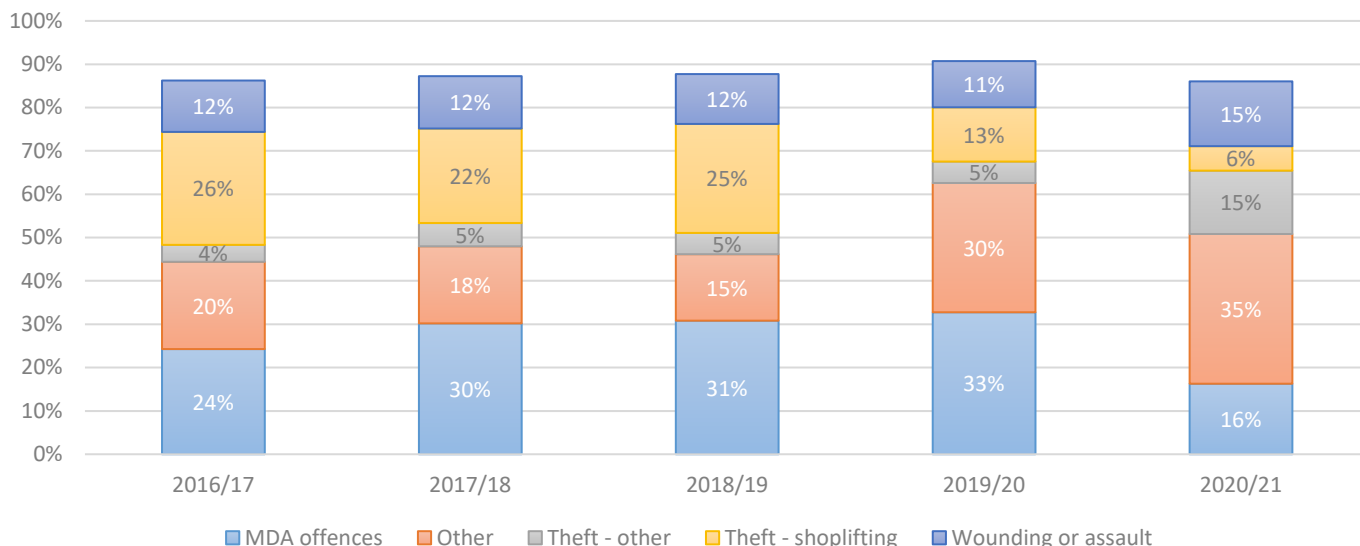
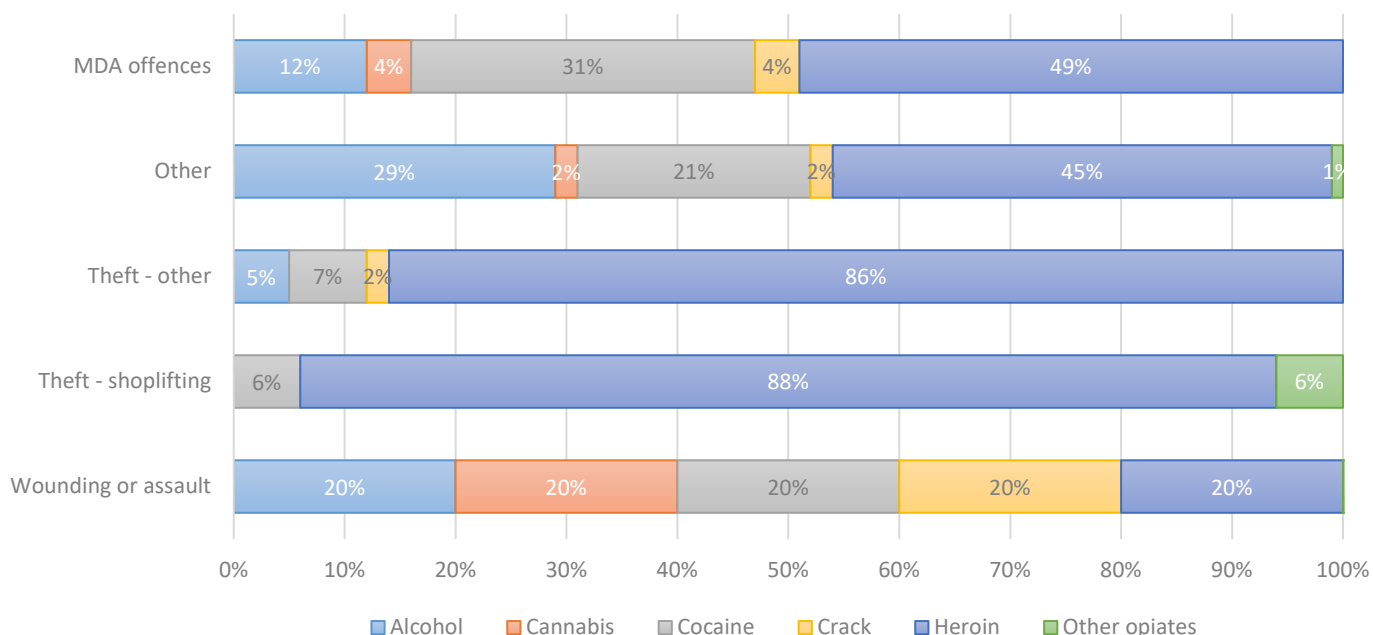


Figure 21 shows the proportions of the main substance for the most common offences recorded for Liverpool CJIT contacts assessed in the year ending March 2021. Alcohol recorded as the main substance was most prominent for those whose contact with Liverpool CJIT was prompted by other offences (29%), while for cocaine it was MDA offences (31%) and for heroin it was theft - shoplifting and theft - other (88% and 86% respectively). Notably, equal proportions of clients who came into contact with Liverpool CJIT due to wounding or assault reported alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, crack and heroin as their main substance (20% each).

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



INTERVENTIONS

REFERRALS TO STRUCTURED TREATMENT

Of the clients taken onto the CJIT caseload, 191 (169 individuals) were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2021 (Figure 22)⁹.

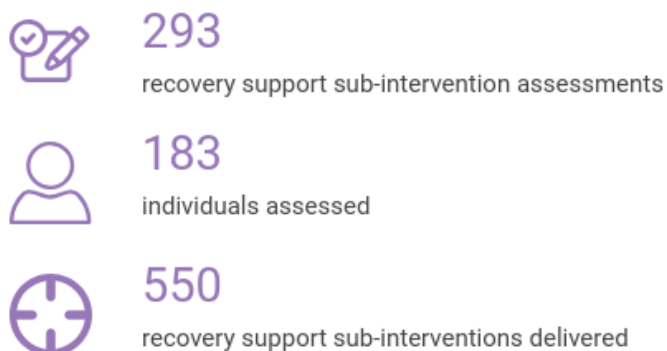
Figure 22: Referrals to structured treatment for Liverpool CJIT contacts, 2020/21



RECOVERY SUPPORT SUB-INTERVENTIONS

In the year ending March 2021, 293 recovery support sub-intervention assessments were carried out on clients on the CJIT caseload (183 individuals), with a total 550 sub-interventions delivered (Figure 23)⁹.

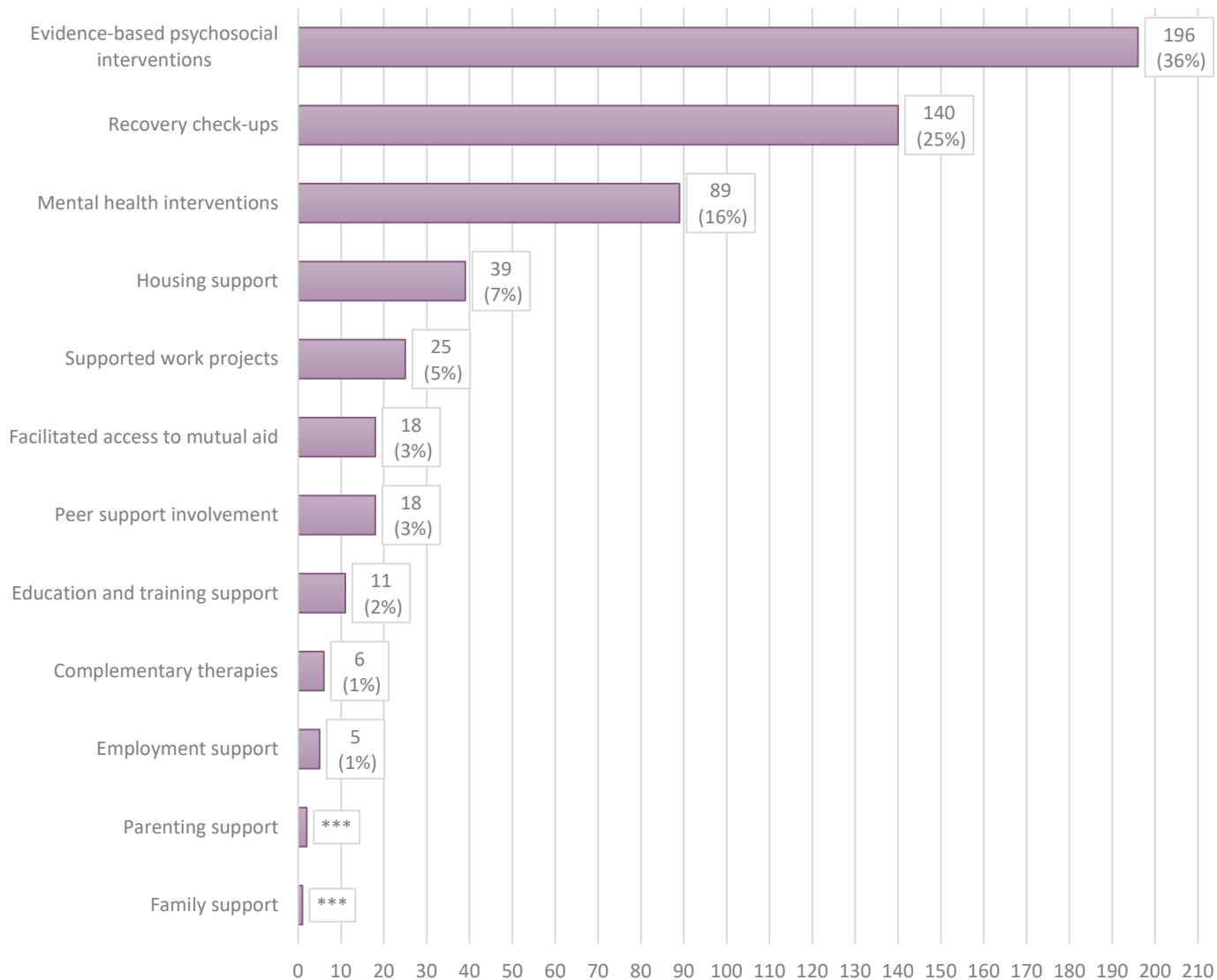
Figure 23: Recovery support sub-intervention assessments for Liverpool CJIT contacts, 2020/21



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 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.

Of the total recovery support sub-interventions delivered, over one-third were evidence-based psychosocial interventions to support relapse prevention (n=196; 36%), followed by recovery check-ups (n=140; 25%) and mental health interventions (n=89; 16%) (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Recovery support sub-interventions delivered to Liverpool CJIT contacts, 2020/21



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