

Criminal Justice Project: Drug Interventions Programme

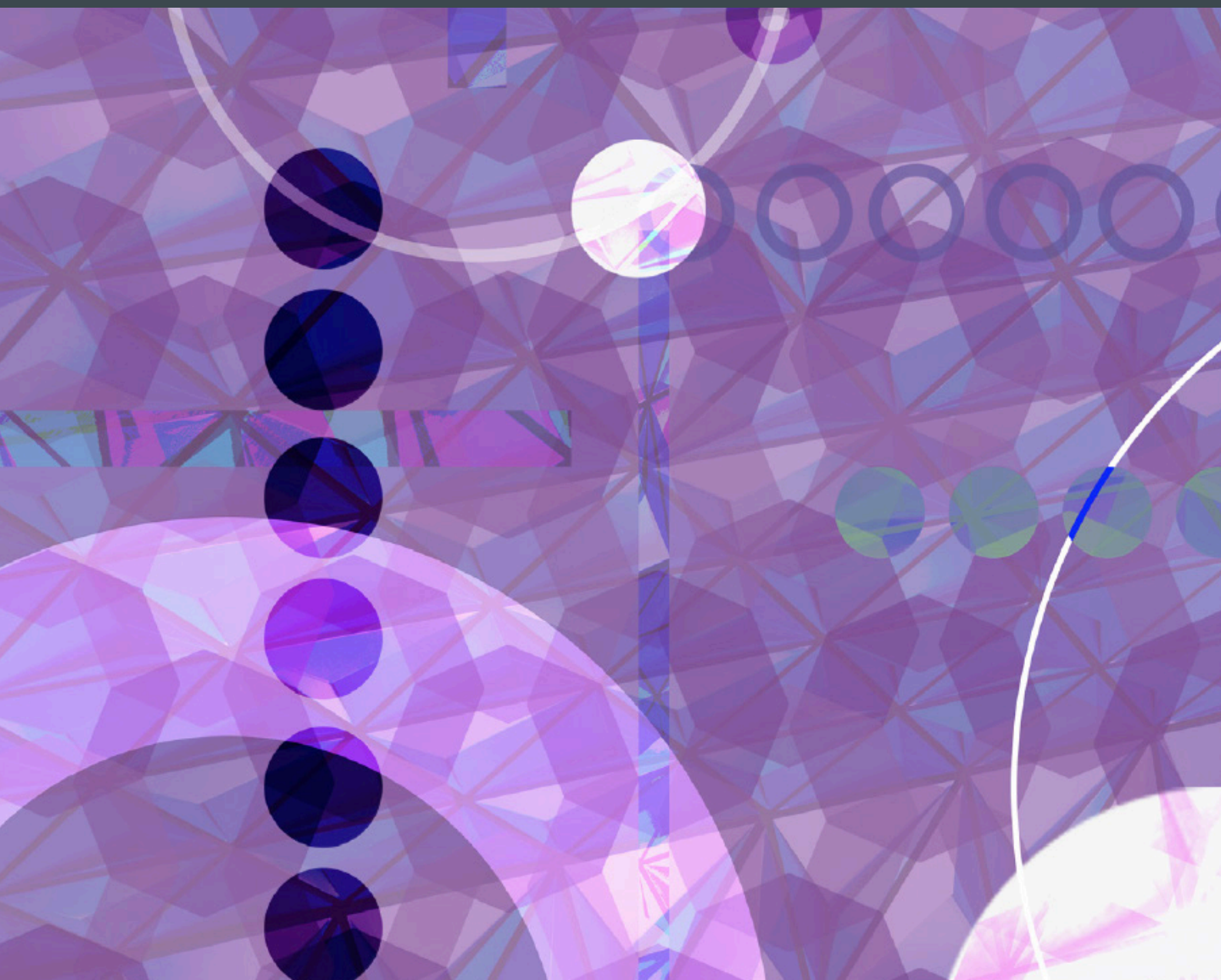
Criminal Justice Intervention Team Activity in Wirral:

year ending March 2024

March 2025



Karen Critchley and Mark Whitfield



Public Health Institute, Faculty of Health, Innovation, Technology and Science, Liverpool John Moores University
3rd Floor Exchange Station, Tithebarn Street, Liverpool, L2 2QP

🌐 www.ljmu.ac.uk/phi | ✉ k.a.critchley@ljmu.ac.uk | ☎ 0151 231 4290

List of figures ii

Key findings: CJIT activity in Wirral iii

Introduction..... 1

Overview 2

 Criminal justice routes in Wirral..... 2

 Outcomes following criminal justice assessment 3

Wirral residents 3

 Demographics 3

 Age and sex 2

 Ethnicity 3

 Disability..... 3

 Housing 4

 Parental responsibility..... 6

 Substance use 6

 Route of administration 8

 Injecting status..... 9

 Naloxone provision..... 9

 Alcohol consumption..... 9

 Offending 10

 Referrals to structured treatment..... 12

 Treatment outcomes..... 12

Appendices 13

 Appendix A..... 13

 Appendix B 14

References 15

Acknowledgements 15

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Wirral CJIT episodes, 2018/19 - 2023/24	2
Figure 2: Wirral CJIT contacts by referral route, 2018/19 - 2023/24	2
Figure 3: Wirral CJIT contacts by outcome following criminal justice assessment, 2018/19 - 2023/24.....	3
Figure 4: Wirral residents by postcode area of residence, 2023/24	3
Figure 5: Wirral residents by age group (individuals), 2018/19 - 2023/24	2
Figure 6: Wirral residents by sex (individuals), 2018/19 - 2023/24	2
Figure 7: Wirral residents by age group and sex (individuals), 2023/24	3
Figure 8: Wirral residents by ethnicity (individuals), 2023/24.....	3
Figure 9: Wirral residents by disability status, 2023/24.....	3
Figure 10: Wirral residents by disability type, 2023/24.....	4
Figure 11: Wirral residents by housing need, 2018/19 - 2023/24	4
Figure 12: Wirral residents by current housing situation, 2023/24	5
Figure 13: Wirral residents by parental status, 2023/24.....	6
Figure 14: Wirral residents by main substance, 2018/19 - 2023/24	6
Figure 15: Wirral residents by substances 1-3, 2023/24.....	7
Figure 16: Wirral residents by main substance and sex, 2023/24	7
Figure 17: Wirral residents by main substance and age group, 2023/24.....	8
Figure 18: Wirral residents by route of administration of the main substance, 2018/19 - 2023/24	8
Figure 19: Wirral residents by injecting status, 2018/19 - 2023/24.....	9
Figure 20: Wirral residents by number of drinking days in the 28 days prior to assessment and sex, 2023/24.....	10
Figure 21: Wirral residents by offence that prompted current/most recent contact with the criminal justice system, 2023/24...	10
Figure 22: Wirral residents by main offences that prompted current/most recent contact with the criminal justice system, 2018/19 - 2023/24	11
Figure 23: Wirral residents by main substance and offence, 2023/24.....	11
Figure 24: Wirral residents by referrals to structured treatment, 2023/24	12
Figure 25: Discharges from the Wirral CJIT caseload, 2023/24	12
Figure 26: Average time on Wirral CJIT caseload for clients who completed treatment, 2023/24	12

- In the year ending March 2024, there were 278 adult contacts (232 individuals) recorded by Wirral Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT), which is a 3% decrease on the 288 episodes in the previous year.
- Around two in five (41%) of the CJIT episodes in 2023/24 were Required Assessments imposed following a positive test for specified Class A drugs in police custody, while just over one-third (36%) were voluntarily presentations following release from prison and just over one in five (22%) were other criminal justice routes.
- Around seven in ten (71%) Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2024 were taken onto the CJIT caseload.

Wirral residents

- In the year ending March 2024, 85 individuals per 100,000 adult population in Wirral Local Authority were in contact with Wirral CJIT. The postcode district with the highest number of Wirral CJIT contacts was CH41 (39%).
- The average age of individuals assessed in the year ending March 2024 was 40 years. One in three (33%) were aged 30-39 years, followed by around one-quarter aged 40-49 years and 50 years or over (26% and 24% respectively) and one in six (17%) aged 50 years or over.
- Just under nine in ten (88%) individuals in contact with Wirral CJIT in the year ending March 2024 stated they were men.
- The majority (95%) of Wirral CJIT contacts identified themselves as White British.
- Three in five (60%) Wirral residents considered themselves to have a disability; of which, around two-thirds (65%) were behaviour and emotional.
- Half (50%) of the Wirral residents had no home of their own and around a quarter (24%) reported they had a risk of homelessness in the next eight weeks.
- Around one in ten (9%) had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years; of which, just under half (46%) had none of the children they are responsible for living with them the majority of the time.
- Of the main substances reported by Wirral residents in the year ending March 2024, just under two in five (37%) were heroin, while powder cocaine and crack cocaine accounted for around one in five (22% and 21% respectively). Around two in five (39%) reported their second substance as crack cocaine, followed by just over one in five (22%) who reported heroin, while there were similar proportions who reported alcohol, cannabis and other substances as their third substance (27%, 29% and 26% respectively).
- Around three in five (61%) of the Wirral CJIT contacts smoked their main substance, while two in five (20%) administered their main substance intranasally and just over one in ten (12%) administered their main substance orally.
- Two in three (66%) clients stated they had never injected, while around three in ten (29%) previously injected but were not currently and 5% were currently injecting at the time of their assessment.

- Just under half (48%) of the clients who reported an opioid as their main substance in 2023/24 were issued with naloxone; of which, all were issued with injectable naloxone. Of the clients not issued with naloxone, around half (51%) were already in possession of adequate naloxone and just under two in five (38%) were offered naloxone but refused.
- Around two in five (41%) men consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment. Of these, around one in three consumed 1-6 units or 7-15 units of alcohol on an average day (31% and 36% respectively).
- Although numbers are small, just over one-quarter (27%) of women consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment.
- Offences categorised as 'other' accounted for around three in ten (31%) of the offences that prompted the current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system, while just over one in five (22%) were Misuse of Drugs Act offences.
- Of the clients on the CJIT caseload, 139 (115 individuals) were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2024.
- Three in four (75%) clients closed from the Wirral CJIT caseload in the year ending March 2024 transferred prior to the completion of treatment, while around one in seven (15%) completed treatment and one in ten (10%) did not complete treatment.
- Of the Wirral residents who completed treatment successfully, the average time on the CJIT caseload was 179 days.

Through the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), Wirral Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT) works with adults (aged 18 years or over) in the criminal justice system who use drugs and/or alcohol in order to reduce acquisitive crime (Collins et al., 2016; Public Health England and Ministry of Justice, 2017; Public Health Institute, 2015 & 2017).

A key route in identifying people for DIP is Drug Testing on Arrest, whereby under certain criteria, adults are tested for specified Class A drugs (opiates and/or powder/crack cocaine) in police custody following an arrest. Those who test positive for specified Class A drugs are required to undergo a Required Assessment (RA) with their local CJIT. There are other sources of referral into DIP, 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 substance use and offending, and if necessary, encourage engagement with a range of appropriate interventions. CJITs provides wraparound support across four key areas (Home Office, 2011): drug and alcohol use (harm reduction and overdose management); offending; physical and psychosocial health; and social functioning (housing, employment and relationships). The CJIT dataset captures client information, episode details and referrals to structured treatment, which is submitted to the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS).

This CJIT Activity report for Wirral shows trends over a six-year period up to the year ending March 2024 for clients accessing the CJIT and where possible, comparisons to the Merseyside figures have been made¹.

Combating Drugs Partnerships

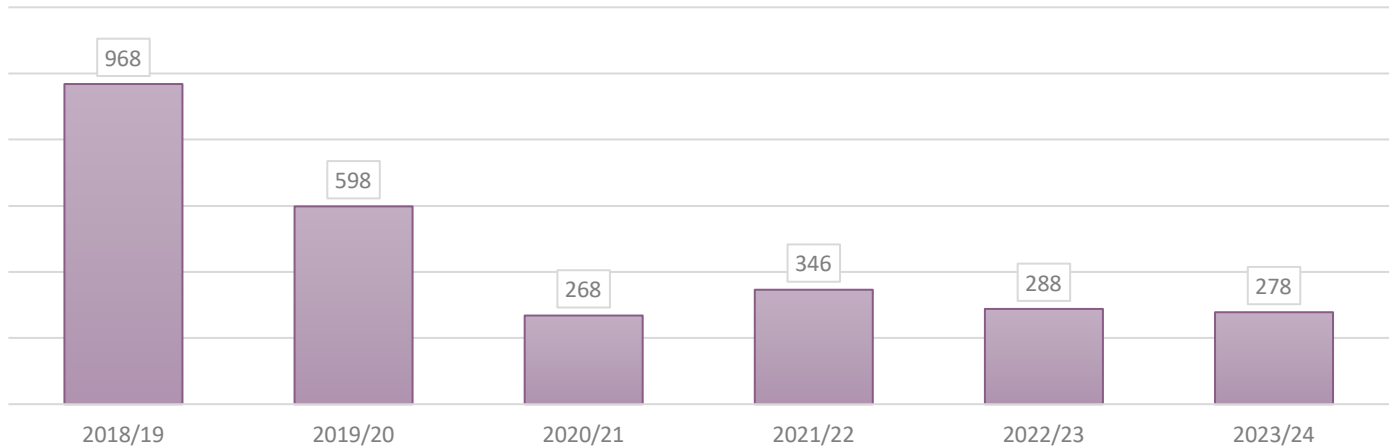
The Government's Drug Strategy stated its plan to reduce drug-related crime, deaths, harms and overall drug use (HM Government, 2021), outlining the requirement to establish and develop Combating Drugs Partnerships (CDPs) to oversee and co-ordinate its local delivery. Partnerships should lead a joint 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 \(end 2023/24\)](#).

OVERVIEW

In the year ending March 2024, there were 278 adult contacts (232 individuals) recorded by Wirral Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT). This is a 3% decrease on the 288 CJIT episodes in the previous year and the second lowest number of the six-year period (Figure 1).

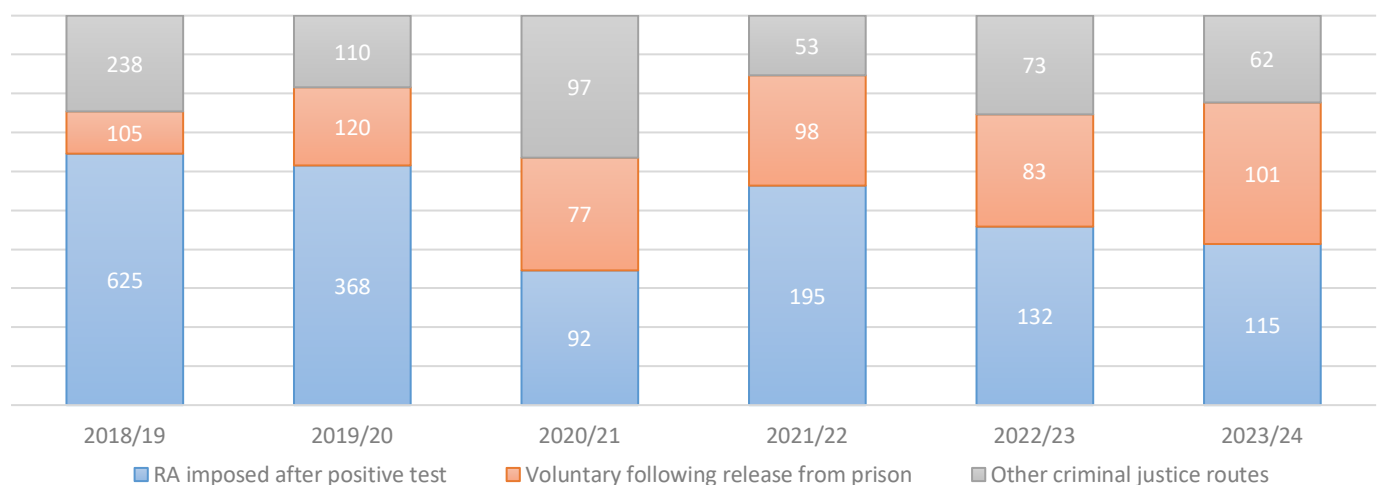
Figure 1: Wirral CJIT episodes (n), 2018/19 - 2023/24



CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROUTES IN WIRRAL

Figure 2 shows the criminal justice routes that led to the contact with Wirral CJIT between 2018/19 and 2023/24. Around two in five of the CJIT episodes in the year ending March 2024 were Required Assessments (RAs) imposed following a positive test for specified Class A drugs in police custody (n=115, 41%). Although this is a 13% decrease on the 132 episodes in the previous year, it is the largest proportion of all CJIT contacts recorded by the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 30%). Just over one-third of the CJIT contacts were voluntarily presentations following release from prison (n=101, 36%) and just over one in five were other criminal justice routes (n=62, 22%)². Notably, Wirral had the smallest proportion of other criminal justice routes when compared to the other Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 46%).

Figure 2: Wirral CJIT contacts by referral route (n), 2018/19 - 2023/24

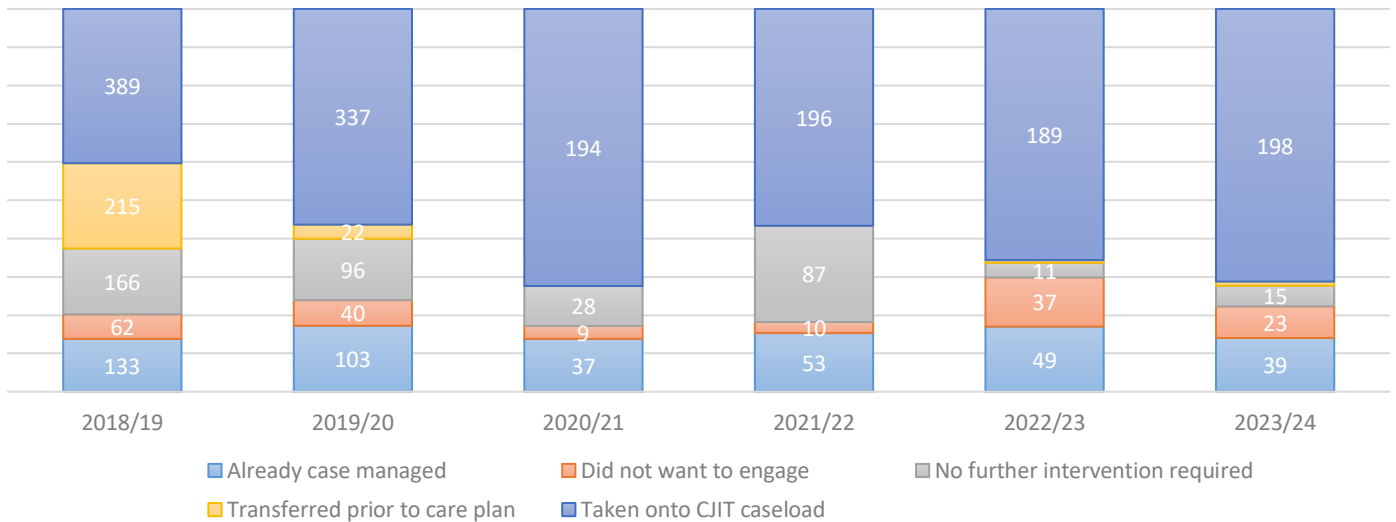


² Other criminal justice routes: required by offender management scheme/DRR/ATR/IOM = 42, voluntary - other = 9, other = 7, requested by Offender Manager (post DRR/ATR) <5, pre-sentence report <5, Conditional Cautioning <5.

OUTCOMES FOLLOWING CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT

Around seven in ten Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2024 were taken onto the CJIT caseload (n=198, 71%; *Figure 3*), which is similar to the previous year (n=189), though the smallest proportion of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 83%). One in seven clients assessed in 2023/24 were already case managed by a structured treatment provider, other CJIT or their Offender Manager (n=39, 14%), which is a decrease on the 49 clients in the previous year (20% decrease); however, it is the largest proportion across Merseyside (Merseyside total: 6%).

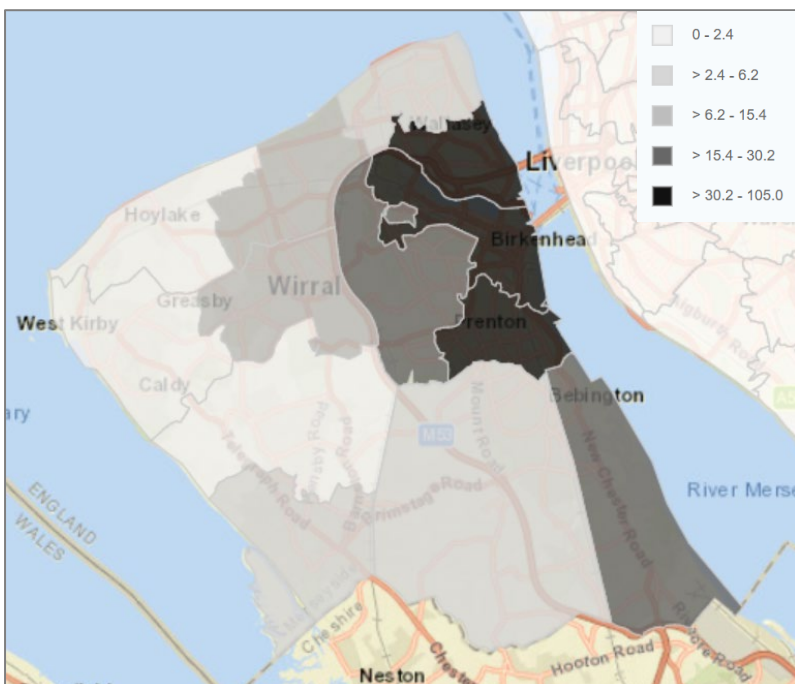
Figure 3: Wirral CJIT contacts by outcome following criminal justice assessment (n), 2018/19 - 2023/24



WIRRAL RESIDENTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure 4: Wirral residents by postcode area of residence (n), 2023/24



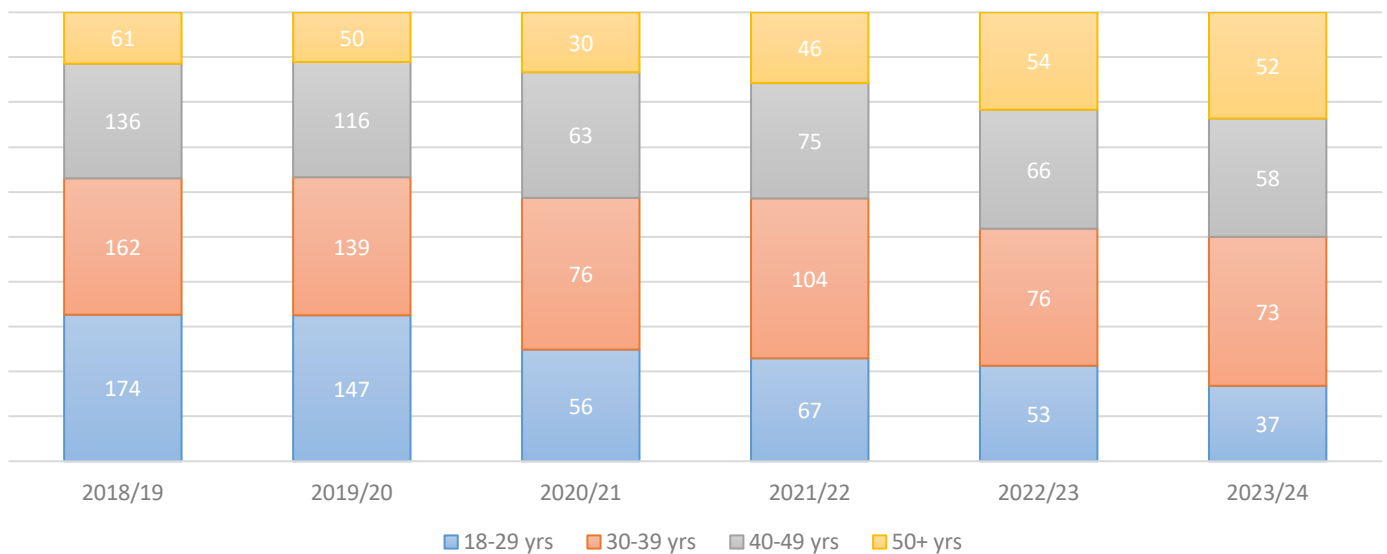
In the year ending March 2024, 84.9 individuals per 100,000 adult population in Wirral Local Authority (LA) were in contact with Wirral CJIT, compared to 138.7 per 100,000 across Merseyside. This is the smallest rate of individuals in contact with a Merseyside CJIT of the five Merseyside areas (see [Appendix B](#) for a table and map of all Merseyside areas).

The postcode district with the highest number of Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2024 was CH41 (n=105, 39%; *Figure 4*).

The average age of Wirral residents assessed in the year ending March 2024 was 40 years (40 years for both men and women), which is a slight increase on the previous year (39 years). Looking at age groups, one in three individuals were aged 30-39 years (n=73, 33%), followed by around one-quarter aged 40-49 years (n=58, 26%) and 50 years or over (n=52, 24%), and one in six aged 50 years or over (n=37, 17%; *Figure 5*).

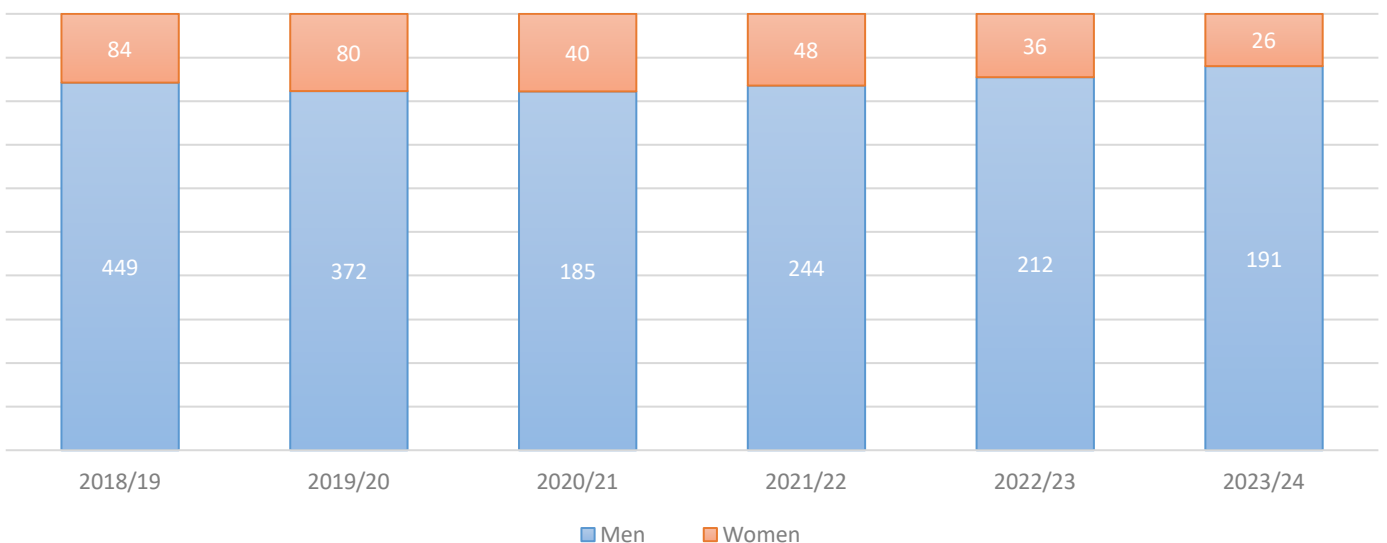
As proportions of all individuals assessed in 2023/24, individuals aged 18-29 years is the smallest of the six-year period and of all Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 23%), while those aged 50 years or over is the largest of the six-year period and of all Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 15%).

Figure 5: Wirral residents by age group (n, individuals), 2018/19 - 2023/24



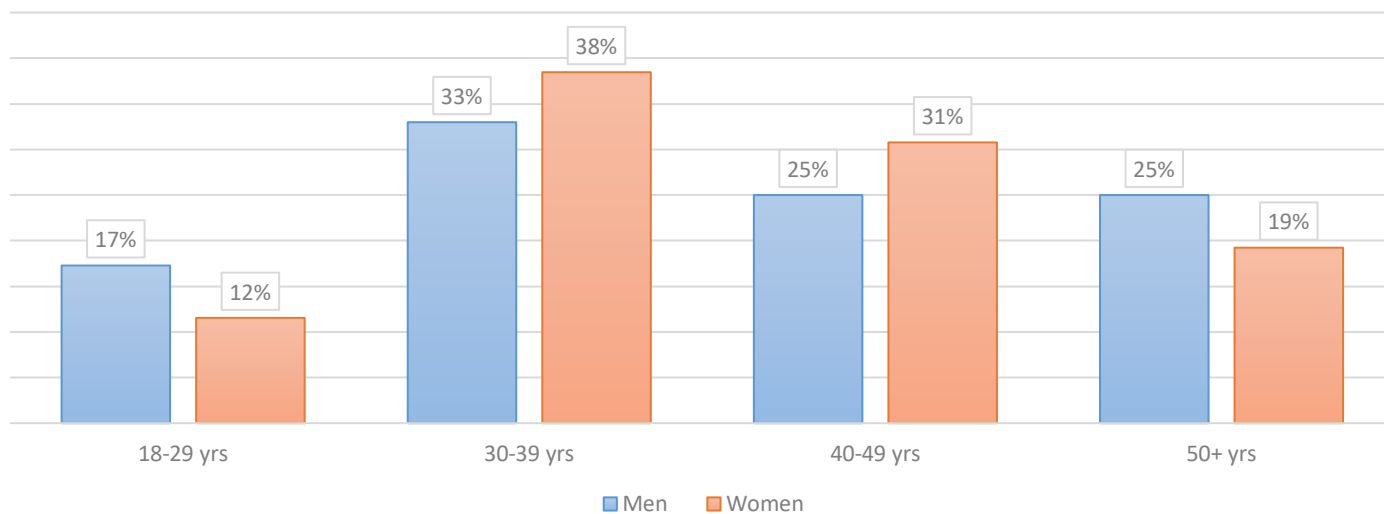
Just under nine in ten individuals in contact with Wirral CJIT in the year ending March 2024 stated they were men (n=191, 88%), which is the largest proportion of the six years (*Figure 6*), though similar to the Merseyside figure (87%).

Figure 6: Wirral residents by sex (n, individuals), 2018/19 - 2023/24



When comparing age group with sex in the year ending March 2024, there are some notable differences (*Figure 7*). There were larger proportions of men aged 18-29 years and 50 years or over (17% and 25% respectively) when compared to women (12% and 19% respectively), while there were larger proportions of women aged 30-39 years and 40-49 years (38% and 31% respectively) when compared to men (33% and 25% respectively).

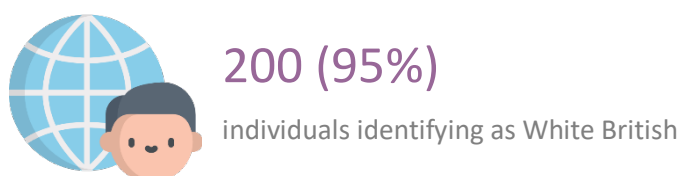
Figure 7: Wirral residents by age group and sex (% , individuals), 2023/24



ETHNICITY

Where recorded, all but ten Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2024 identified themselves as White British (n=200, 95%; *Figure 8*), which is similar to the previous year's proportion (96%), though a slightly larger proportion than the Merseyside figure (93%).

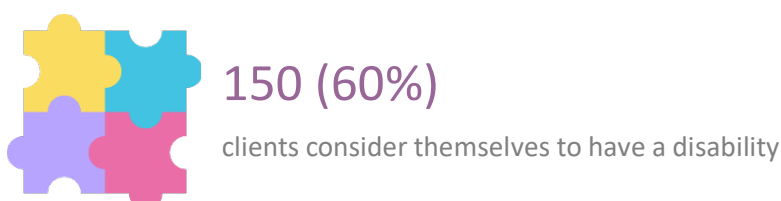
Figure 8: Wirral residents by ethnicity (individuals), 2023/24



DISABILITY

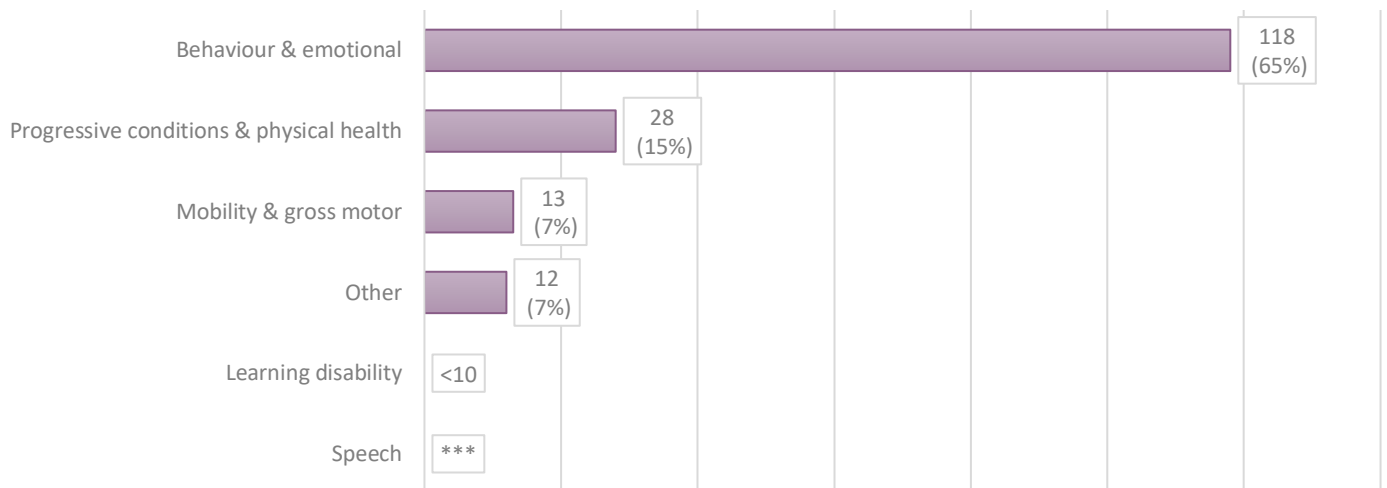
Three in five Wirral residents in the year ending March 2024 considered themselves to have a disability (n=150, 60%; *Figure 9*). Although this is a 12% decrease on the 171 CJIT contacts in the previous year, it is a substantially larger proportion than the Merseyside figure (35%).

Figure 9: Wirral residents by disability status, 2023/24



A total of 181 disabilities were recorded³; of which, around two-thirds were a behaviour and emotional disability (n=118, 65%; *Figure 10*).

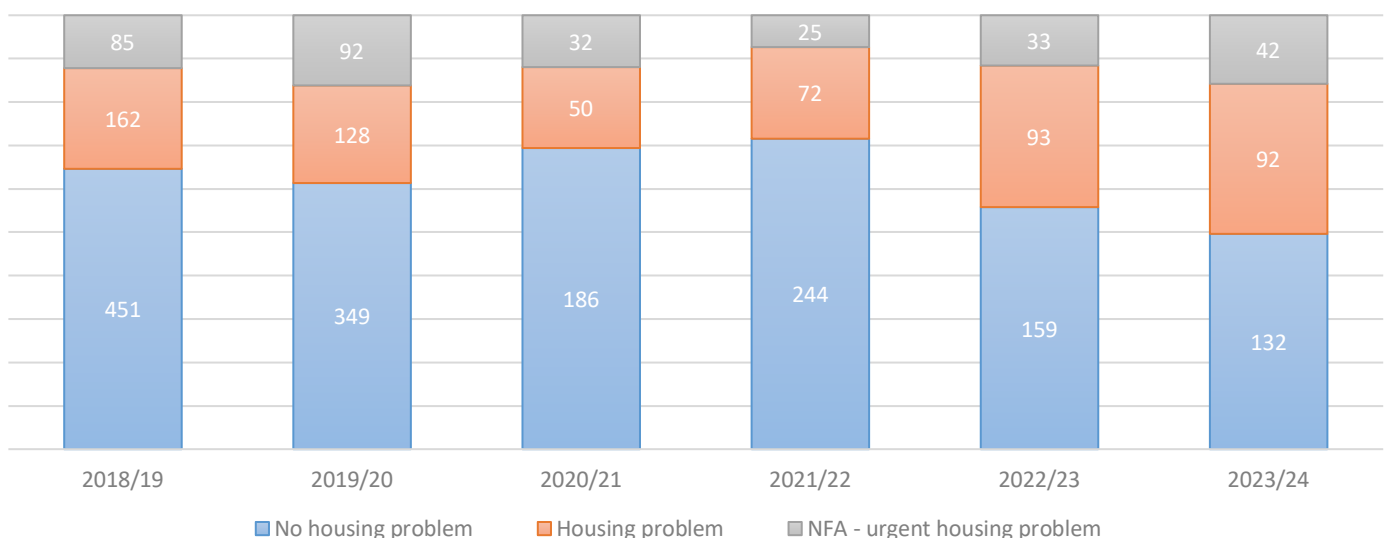
Figure 10: Wirral residents by disability type, 2023/24



HOUSING

Half of the Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2024 reported some form of a housing problem (n=134, 50%; *Figure 11*)⁴. This is a 6% increase on the 126 clients in the previous year, and accounts for the largest proportion of CJIT contacts of the six-year period and the largest proportion reported across Merseyside (Merseyside figure: 29%). Furthermore, around one in six Wirral residents stated an urgent housing need due to being of no fixed abode (NFA) in 2023/24 (n=42, 16%). This is a 27% increase on the 33 clients in the previous year, accounting for the largest proportion of CJIT contacts since 2019/20 (also 16%), as well as the largest proportion of the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside figure: 10%).

Figure 11: Wirral residents by housing need (n), 2018/19 - 2023/24



³ Note that clients may have up to three disabilities recorded.

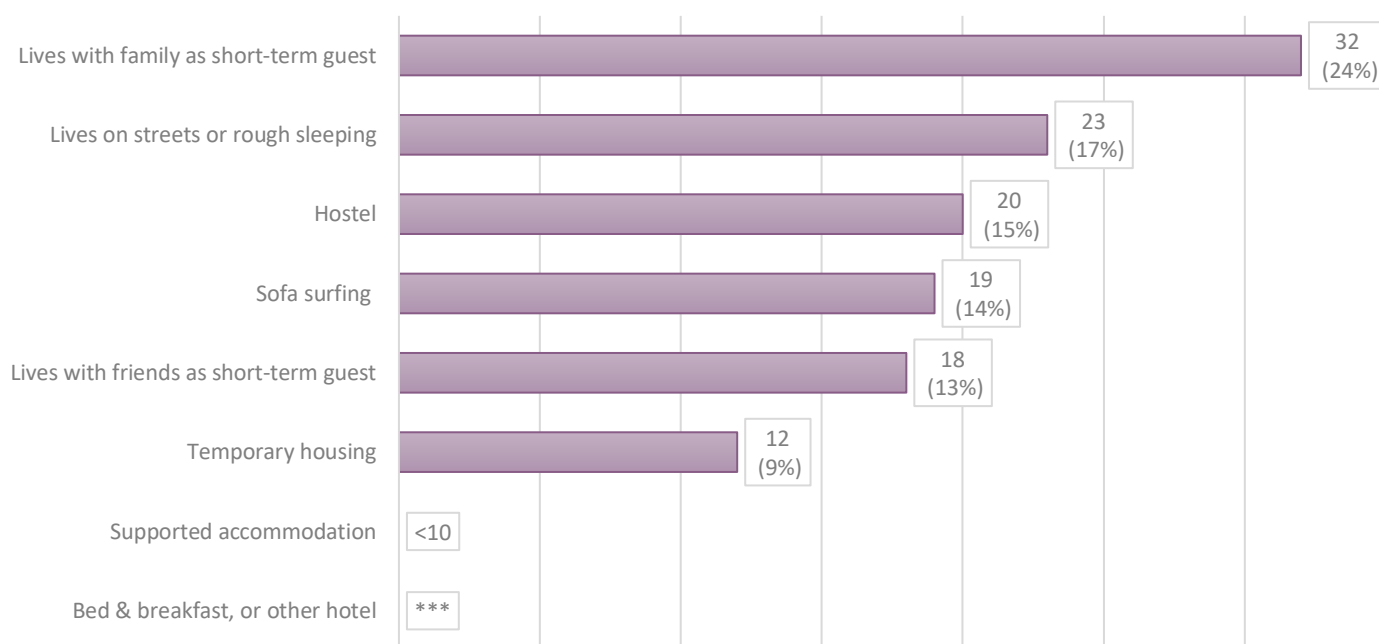
⁴ NFA = no fixed abode. Note that housing was updated in the CJIT dataset in April 2022 to capture details of clients' current housing situation (e.g., no home of their own - hostel, rented home only - self-contained - rents from a private landlord). These have been recoded as no housing problem, housing problem and NFA - urgent housing problem, in order to make comparisons to preceding years. 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.

In the year ending March 2024, half of the Wirral residents had no home of their own (n=134, 50%). Furthermore, around a quarter of the total Wirral residents in 2023/24 reported they had a risk of homelessness in the next eight weeks (n=65, 24%). This is a 20% increase on the previous year (n=54, 19%) and the largest proportion reported across Merseyside (Merseyside total: 14%).

Focus on Wirral residents with some form of a housing problem

- In the year ending March 2024, of the 134 Wirral residents who had some form of a housing problem (housing problem = 92, NFA - urgent housing problem = 42), around one-quarter were living with family as a short-term guest (n=32, 24%), followed by those living on the streets or rough sleeping (n=23, 17%), in a hostel (n=20, 15%), sofa surfing (n=19, 14%) and living with friends as a short-term guest (n=18, 13%; *Figure 12*).
- Over half came into contact with Wirral CJIT following release from prison (n=73, 54%), while just over a third were RAs following a positive test for specified Class A drugs followed by (n=47, 35%) and one in ten were other criminal justice routes (n=14, 10%).
- Just under nine in ten individuals were men (n=92, 88%), and around one-third were aged 30-39 years (n=38, 36%) or 40-49 years (n=36, 34%), around one in five were 50 years or over (n=20, 19%) and around one in ten were 18-29 years (n=12, 11%).
- Just under half reported heroin as their main substance (n=63, 47%), followed by crack cocaine (n=35, 26%). Furthermore, crack cocaine accounted for around half of those with a second substance recorded (n=51, 49%).
- Two in five Wirral residents with some form of a housing problem in the year ending March 2024 came into contact with Wirral CJIT due to other offences (n=53, 40%), while around one in five were Misuse of Drugs Act offences (n=25, 19%), followed by theft - shoplifting (n=13, 10%) and burglary (n=12, 9%).

Figure 12: Wirral residents by current housing situation, 2023/24



PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the year ending March 2024, around one in ten Wirral residents had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years (n=24, 9%; *Figure 13*). Although this is a 26% increase on the 19 clients in the previous year, it is the smallest proportion across Merseyside (Merseyside total: 23%).

Figure 13: Wirral residents by parental status, 2023/24



Just under half of the Wirral CJIT contacts with parental responsibility had none of the children they are responsible for living with them the majority of the time (n=11, 46%), which is similar to the previous year (n=10), though a substantially smaller proportion than the Merseyside figure (69%). Notably, Wirral accounted for the largest proportion of Merseyside residents who had all of the children they are responsible for living with them the majority of the time (n=11, 46%; Merseyside total: 25%).

SUBSTANCE USE

Of the main substances reported by Wirral residents in the year ending March 2024, just under two in five were heroin (n=98, 37%), while powder cocaine (n=59, 22%) and crack cocaine (n=55, 21%) accounted for around one in five (*Figure 14*). Numbers of powder cocaine, crack cocaine and other opiates increased in 2023/24 when compared to the previous year, while alcohol, cannabis and heroin decreased, and other substances remained the same. Notably, as a proportion of clients assessed in the year ending March 2024, those who reported crack cocaine as their main substance is the largest of the six-year period. Furthermore, Wirral accounted for the largest proportions of both crack cocaine and heroin across Merseyside, with substantially larger figures for these substances (Merseyside totals: 9% and 29% respectively).

Figure 14: Wirral residents by main substance (n), 2018/19 - 2023/24

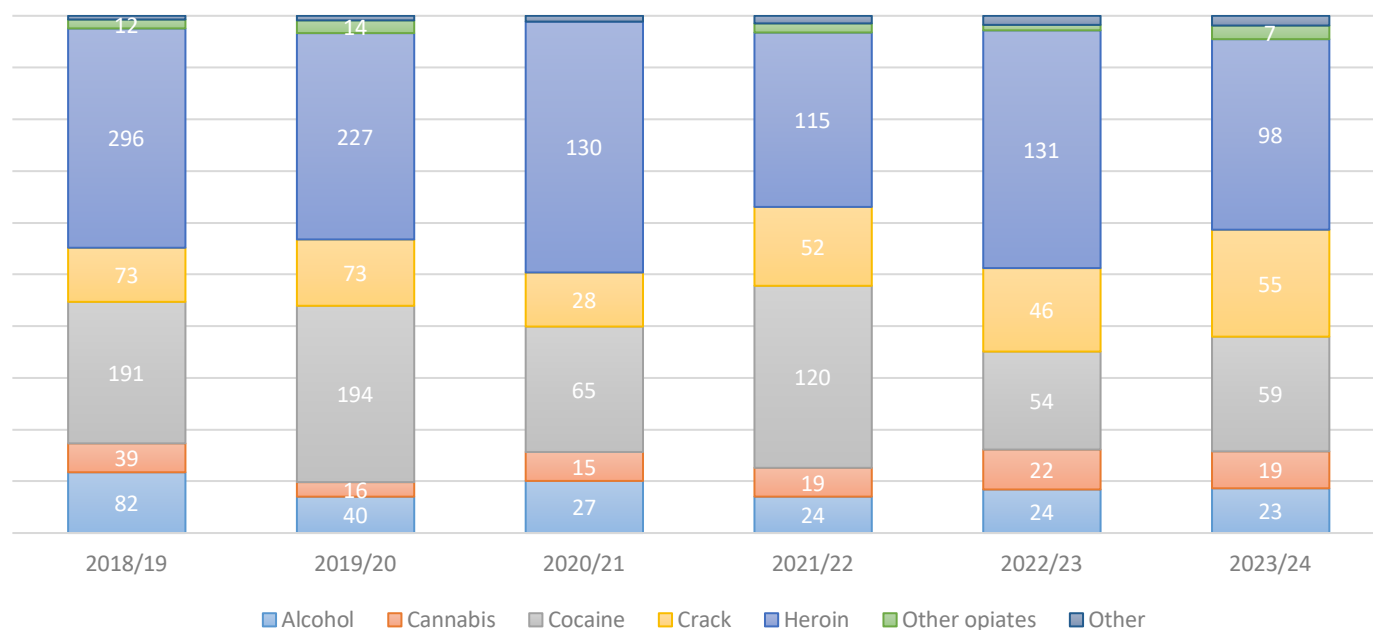


Figure 15 shows 2023/24 figures split by substance one, two and three. Around two in five reported their second substance as crack cocaine (n=77, 39%), followed by just over one in five who reported heroin (n=43, 22%), while there were similar proportions who reported alcohol (n=28, 27%), cannabis (n=30, 29%) and other substances (n=27, 26%) as their third substance. Furthermore, two in five of the total 40 episodes with other substances recorded as either substance one, two or three, were benzodiazepines (n=16, 40%).

Figure 15: Wirral residents by substances 1-3 (%), 2023/24

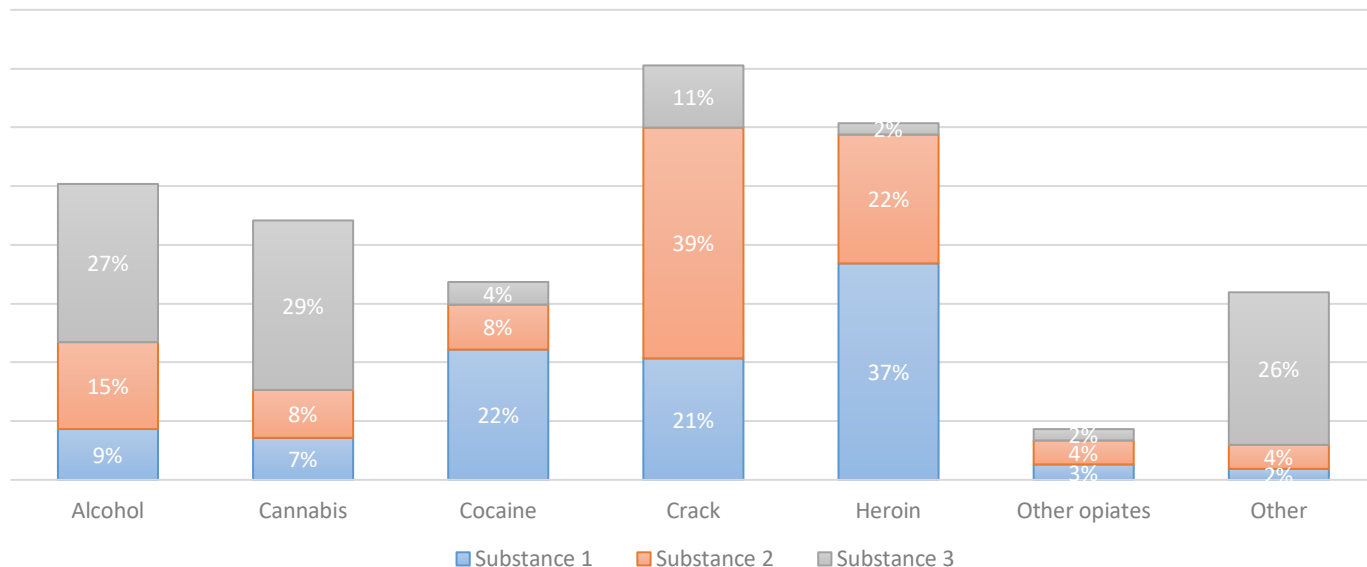


Figure 16 shows the proportions of the main substance by sex in the year ending March 2024. There were substantially larger proportions of cannabis and powder cocaine recorded as the main substance by men (8% and 23% respectively) than women (0% and 12% respectively), while there were larger proportions of alcohol, crack cocaine and heroin recorded by women (18%, 24% and 39% respectively) than men (7%, 20% and 37% respectively).

Figure 16: Wirral residents by main substance and sex (%), 2023/24

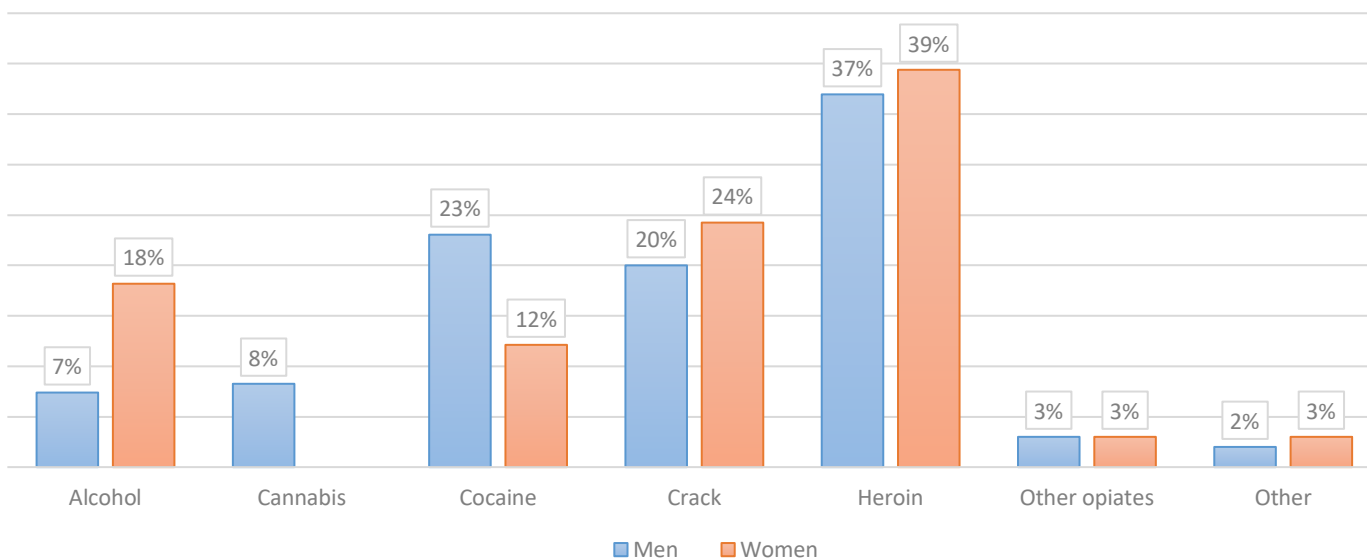
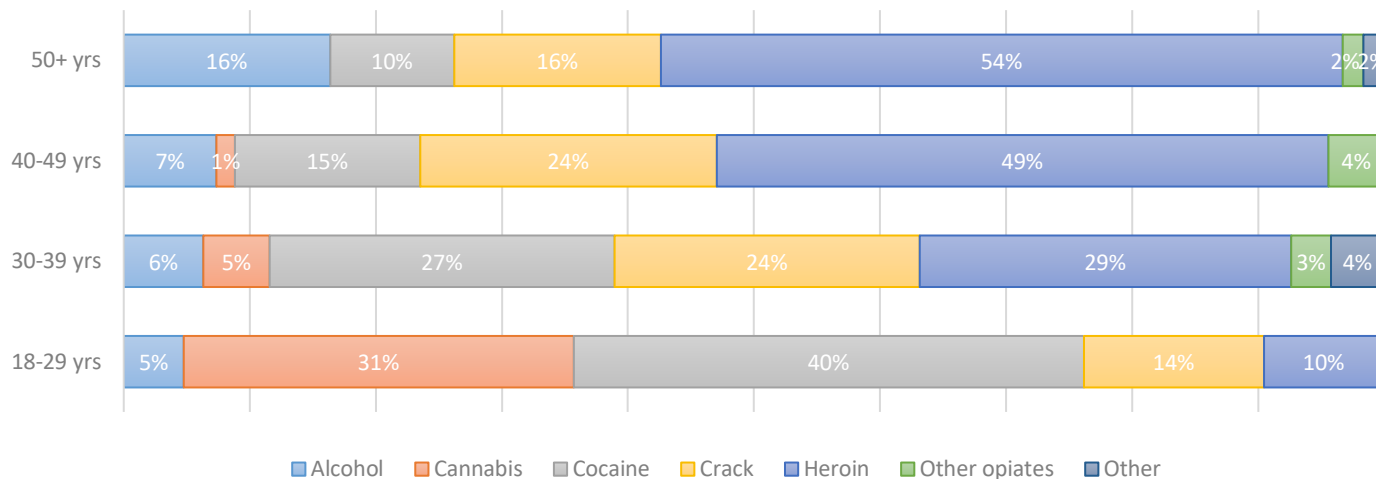


Figure 17 shows the proportions of the main substance for each age group in the year ending March 2024. Proportions for alcohol and heroin were highest for clients aged 50 years or over (16% and 54% respectively), both of which decreased as age decreased, while two in five (40%) 18-29 year olds reported powder cocaine as their main substance, which decreased as age increased. Clients aged 18-29 years accounted for the largest proportion reporting cannabis as the main substance (31%) and crack cocaine accounted for around a quarter (24%) of clients aged 30-39 years and 40-49 years.

Figure 17: Wirral residents by main substance and age group (%), 2023/24

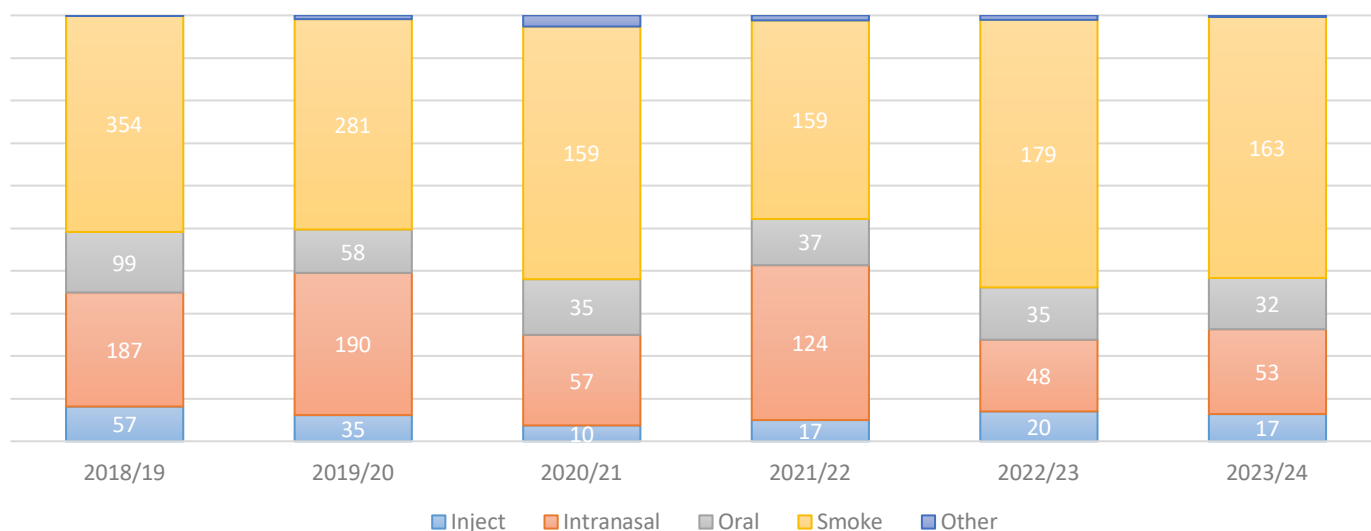


ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION

The route of administration of the main substance is shown in Figure 18. In the year ending March 2024, around three in five of the Wirral CJIT contacts smoked their main substance (n=163, 61%), while two in five administered their main substance intranasally (n=53, 20%) and just over one in ten administered their main substance orally (n=32, 12%). These proportions are similar to the previous year.

When compared to the other Merseyside areas, Wirral had the largest proportions who injected (6%) and smoked their main substance (Merseyside totals: 3% and 48% respectively), and the smallest proportion who administered their main substance orally (Merseyside total: 20%).

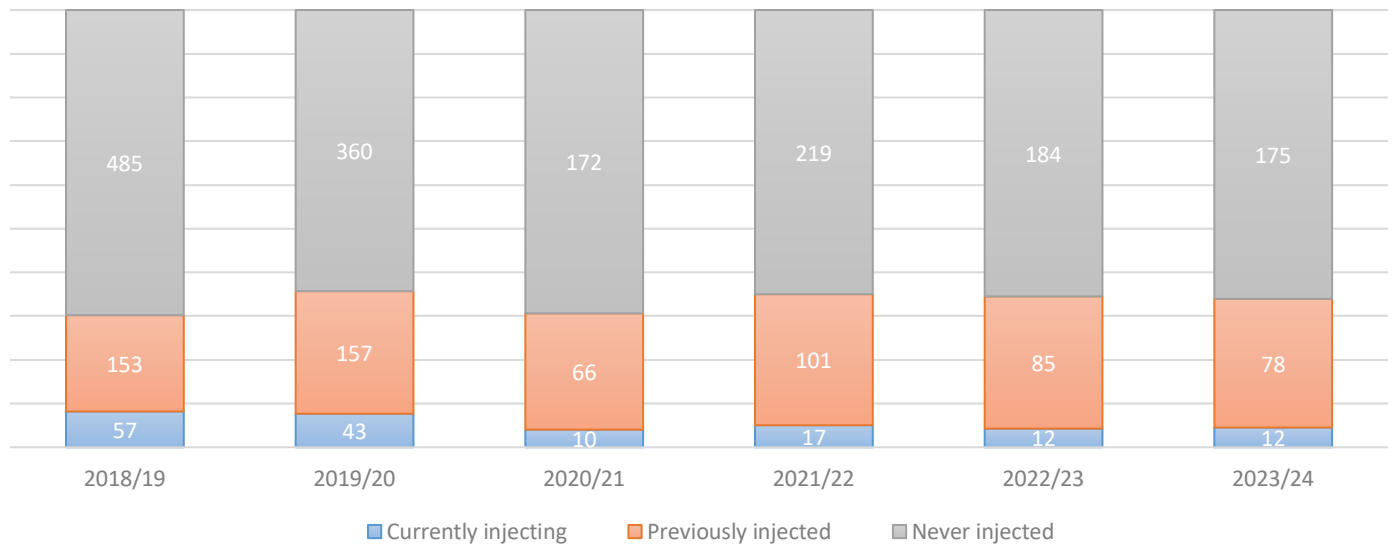
Figure 18: Wirral residents by route of administration of the main substance (n), 2018/19 - 2023/24



INJECTING STATUS

Two-thirds of the Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2024 stated they had never injected (n=175, 66%), while around three in ten previously injected but were not currently (n=78, 29%) and one in twenty were currently injecting at the time of their assessment (n=12, 5%; *Figure 19*). These proportions are similar to the previous year; however, Wirral accounted for the largest proportions who were currently injecting and who previously injected of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside totals: 3% and 18% respectively).

Figure 19: Wirral residents by injecting status (n), 2018/19 - 2023/24



NALOXONE PROVISION

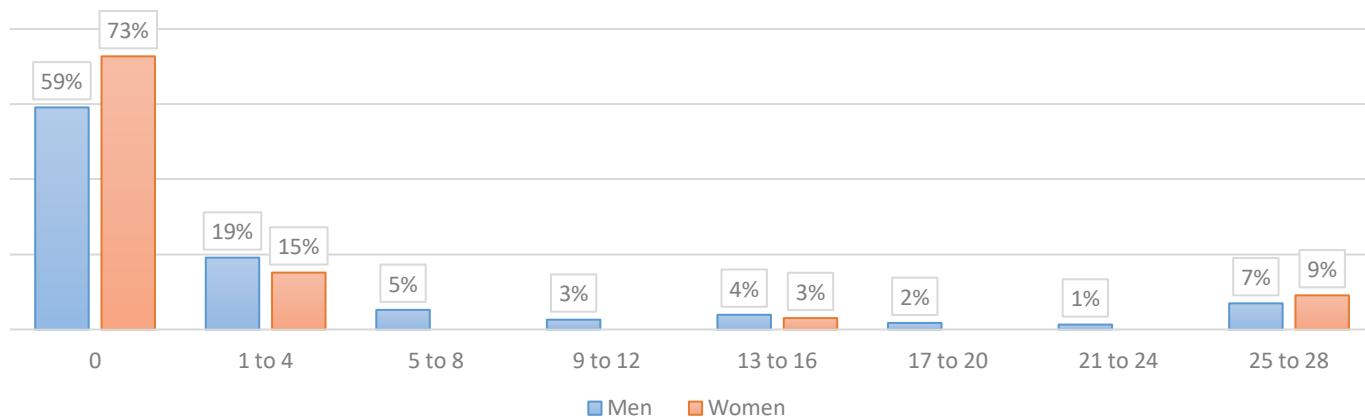
Just under half of the clients who reported an opioid as their main substance in the year ending March 2024 were issued with naloxone (n=50, 48%). Although this is a 12% decrease on the 57 clients issued with naloxone in the previous year, it is the second largest proportion of the Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 35%).

All of the clients issued with naloxone in 2023/24 were supplied with injectable naloxone, compared to just over half (54%) across Merseyside overall. Of the clients who were not issued with naloxone, around half were already in possession of adequate naloxone (n=28, 51%) and just under two in five were offered naloxone but refused (n=21, 38%).

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Figure 20 shows the number of days alcohol was consumed by Wirral clients in the 28 days prior to their CJIT contact in the year ending March 2024. Around two in five men consumed alcohol (n=94, 41%), which is similar to the previous year (n=96, 40%), though the smallest proportion of men consuming alcohol across Merseyside (Merseyside total: 47%). Just over one-quarter of women consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT contact in 2023/24 (n=9, 27%; *Figure 20*), which is a 31% decrease on the previous year (n=13, 30%) and the second smallest proportion across Merseyside (Merseyside total: 38%).

Figure 20: Wirral residents by number of drinking days in the 28 days prior to assessment and sex (%), 2023/24

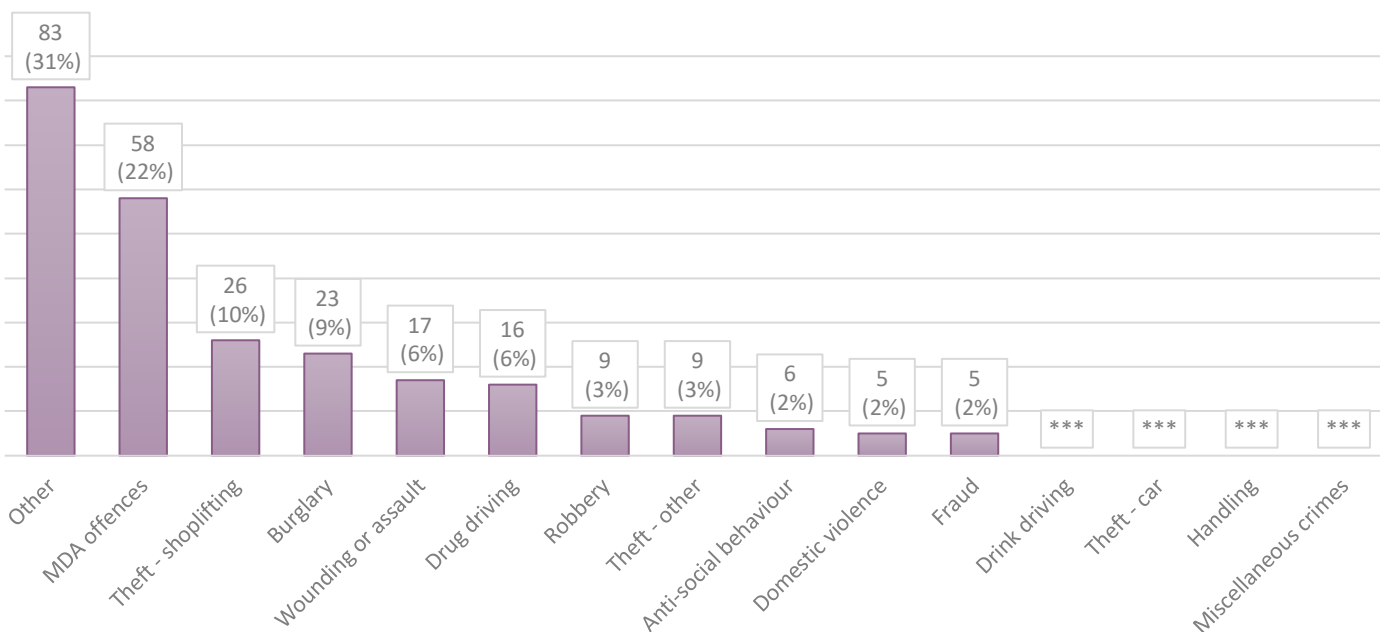


Around one in three men consumed 1-6 units (n=29, 31%) or 7-15 units (n=34, 36%) of alcohol on an average day in the 28 days prior to CJIT contact in the year ending March 2024, followed by one in five who consumed 25 units or over (n=19, 20%) and the remaining men who consumed 16-24 units (n=12, 13%)⁵.

OFFENDING

The offence that prompted Wirral CJIT clients' current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system in the year ending March 2024 is shown in Figure 21. Around three in ten were offences categorised as 'other' (n=83, 31%) and just over one in five were Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences (n=58, 22%)⁶. The proportion of other offences is similar to the Merseyside figure (29%), while the proportion of MDA offences is smaller than the Merseyside figure (32%). Notably, Wirral had the largest proportions of burglary (n=23, 9%) and theft - shoplifting (n=26, 10%) of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside totals: 5% and 7% respectively).

Figure 21: Wirral residents by offence that prompted current/most recent contact with the criminal justice system, 2023/24



⁵ Due to the low number of women who consumed alcohol in the year ending March 2024, a breakdown of the units of alcohol has not been provided.

⁶ Two-thirds of the MDA offences were possession (n=39, 67%), while one-third were supply (n=19, 33%). Notably, Wirral had the largest proportion of supply recorded of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 12%).

Figure 22 shows six-year trends of the main offending categories for Wirral residents. In 2023/24, the number of burglary and MDA offences decreased by 30% and 35% respectively, while theft - shoplifting, wounding or assault and other offences increased (8%, 70% and 28% increases respectively).

Figure 22: Wirral residents by main offences that prompted current/most recent contact with the criminal justice system (n), 2018/19 - 2023/24

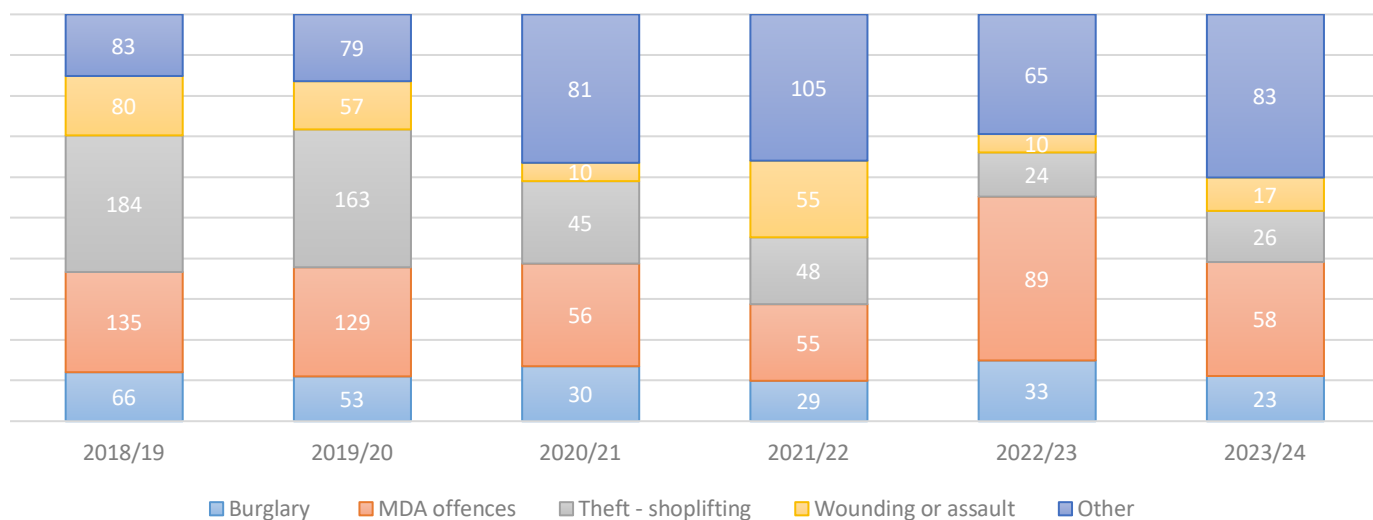
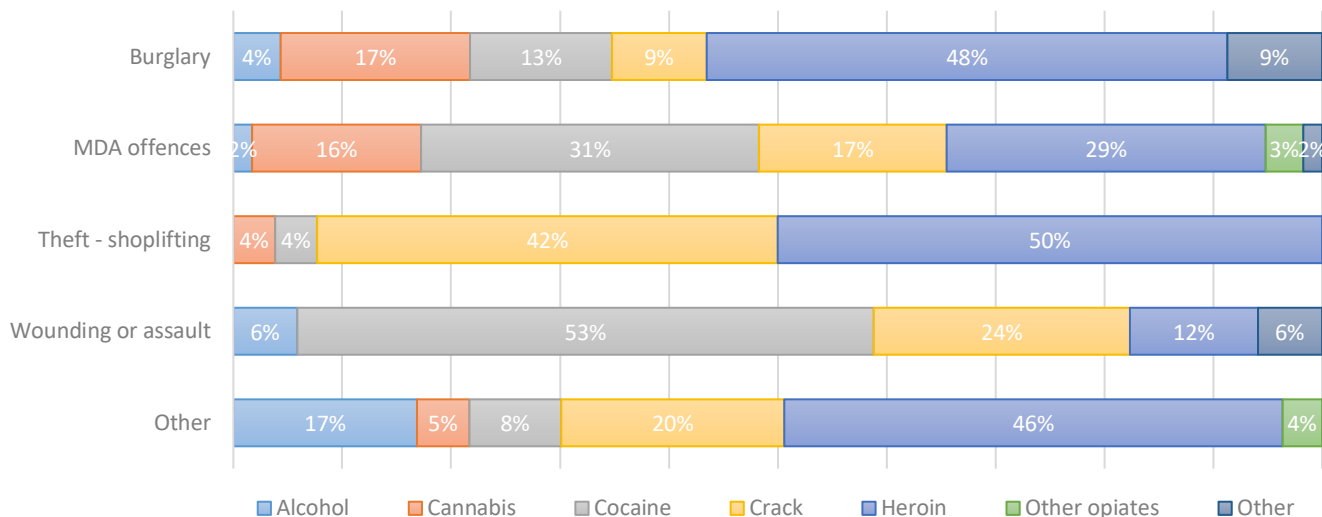


Figure 23 shows the proportions of the main substance for the most common offences recorded for Wirral CJIT contacts assessed in the year ending March 2024. Around half (48%) of burglary had heroin recorded as the main substance, while MDA offences had similar proportions of powder cocaine and heroin (31% and 29% respectively). Heroin accounted for half (50%) of theft - shoplifting, followed by just over two in five (42%) crack cocaine. Just over half (53%) of wounding or assault had powder cocaine recorded as the main substance and just under half (46%) of other offences had heroin recorded.

Figure 23: Wirral residents by main substance and offence (%), 2023/24



REFERRALS TO STRUCTURED TREATMENT

Of the clients on the CJIT caseload, 139 (115 individuals) were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2024 (Figure 24)⁷.

Figure 24: Wirral residents by referrals to structured treatment, 2023/24

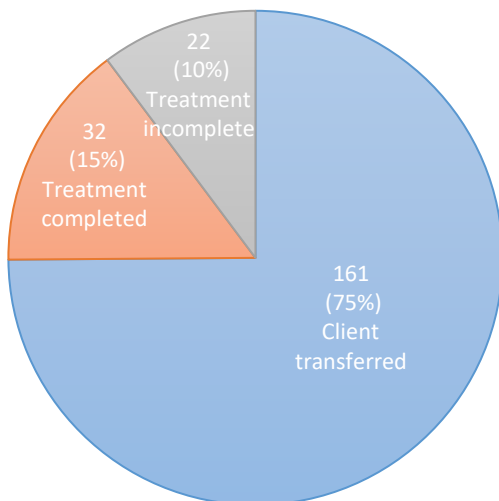


139 (115 individuals)
referrals to structured treatment

TREATMENT OUTCOMES

There were 215 clients (172 individuals) closed from the Wirral CJIT caseload in the year ending March 2024⁸. Of these, three in four transferred prior to the completion of treatment (n=161, 75%), while around one in seven completed treatment (n=32, 15%) and one in ten did not complete treatment (n=22, 10%; Figure 25). Notably, when compared to the other Merseyside areas, Wirral had the largest proportion of clients who transferred prior to the completion of treatment (Merseyside total: 29%).

Figure 25: Discharges from the Wirral CJIT caseload, 2023/24



Of the 32 Wirral residents who completed treatment successfully in the year ending March 2024, the average time on the CJIT caseload was 179 days (Figure 26), which is substantially longer than the Merseyside average (141 days).

Figure 26: Average time on Wirral CJIT caseload for clients who completed treatment, 2023/24



On average, clients successfully completed CJIT treatment in

179 days

⁷ Figures include referrals to structured treatment where the date was between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, regardless of when the client was taken onto the CJIT caseload. Clients not taken onto the CJIT caseload have been excluded from these figures.

⁸ Figures include discharges from the CJIT caseload where the date was between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, 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 Wirral CJIT contacts in the year, while all other figures are for residents of Wirral LA only, recorded by Wirral CJIT.
3. Figures for age, sex 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 \(end 2023/24\)](#).

In the year ending March 2024, 138.7 individuals per 100,000 adult population in Merseyside were assessed by one of the local CJITs. Wirral had both the lowest number of individuals in contact with the CJIT of the five Merseyside areas, and the smallest rate (84.9 per 100,000)⁹.

CJIT/LA	CJIT contacts (individuals)	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000 adult population)
Knowsley	258	208.1
Liverpool	681	167.0
Sefton	242	105.8
St Helens	231	155.2
Wirral	220	84.9
<i>Total Merseyside residents (individuals)</i>	<i>1,621</i>	<i>138.7</i>



⁹ Rates have been calculated using [mid-2023 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., Wirral residents recorded by Wirral CJIT.

REFERENCES

- Collins, B. J., Cuddy, K. and Martin, A. P. (2016). Assessing the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of drug intervention programmes: UK case study. *Journal of Addictive Diseases*, vol. 36, pp.5-13. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10550887.2016.1182299> [accessed September 2024].
- HM Government (2021). *From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives> [accessed September 2024].
- Home Office (2023). *National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework: Supporting metrics and technical guidance*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-strategy-national-outcomes-framework> [accessed September 2024].
- Home Office (2022). *Guidance for local delivery partners. From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-strategy-guidance-for-local-delivery-partners> [accessed September 2024].
- Home Office (2011). *Drug Interventions Programme Operational Handbook*. London: Home Office. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118069/DIP-Operational-Handbook.pdf [accessed September 2024].
- Public Health England and Ministry of Justice (2017). *The impact of community-based drug and alcohol treatment on re-offending*. Available at: http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/28059/1/PHE-Community_based_drug_and_alcohol_treatment.pdf [accessed September 2024].
- Public Health Institute (2017). *Criminal Justice Project: Drug Interventions Programme - Re-offending of clients testing positive for class A drugs across Merseyside*. Available at: https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/~media/phi-reports/pdf/2017_10_criminal_justice_project_drug_interventions_programme_re_offending_of_clients_test.pdf [accessed September 2024].
- Public Health Institute (2015). *DIP Merseyside: An Evaluation of DIP's Impact on Offending*. Available at: https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/~media/phi-reports/pdf/2015_09_dip_merseyside_an_evaluation_of_dips_impact_on_offending.pdf [accessed September 2024].

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With thanks to the drug and alcohol treatment provider in Wirral and the commissioners at Wirral Council for their continued support. Thanks also to Nicky Mawdsley at the Public Health Institute for their help in proof reading this report.

About the Public Health Institute

The Public Health Institute (PHI) within the Faculty of Health, Innovation, Technology and Science at 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 has extensive experience across various large-scale data sets which contribute to the surveillance systems developed and managed by PHI.

DIP monitoring

PHI has been monitoring criminal justice interventions for people in the criminal justice system 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 data set, 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 data set 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 (RA) and engaged with DIP, and highlight any issues with the RA, and wider DIP, processes.

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 is continually developing to meet local needs.

