

SDR 135/2006

Substance misuse in Wales, 2005-06

26 October 2006

Coverage: Wales

Theme: Health and Care

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
National Assembly for Wales

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Next Publication Date

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This is the first in a series of annual Statistical Releases on referrals to drug and alcohol treatment agencies in Wales. The source of the data is the Welsh Database for Substance Misuse held by Health Solutions Wales.

The data only relates to people presenting to treatment services for substance misuse and these may constitute only a proportion of all substance misusers. Data in this Release will differ slightly from Reports published previously at:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/substancemisuse/pmfwnd?lang=en> because of revised / updated data.

Please see page 6 for notes on data quality issues and definitions.

The Release has been classed as "Experimental Statistics" because this is the first year of data collection and improvements to completeness and quality are still being made. See Statistical Article for more details.

Key Facts

During 2005-06:

- There were 19,937 clients seen for treatment of alcohol or drug misuse in Wales ⁽¹⁾.
- 67% of clients seen were male.
- For 51% of clients seen the main problem substance was alcohol ⁽²⁾.
- For 18% of clients seen the main problem substance was heroin ⁽²⁾.
- 29% of clients seen were self referrals and 16% were referred by a GP.
- 32% of clients whose main problem substance was alcohol were aged under 30.
- 58% of people whose main problem substance was drugs were aged under 30.
- Swansea had the highest rate of clients seen for alcohol and drug misuse, the lowest rate was in Isle of Anglesey/Gwynedd.
- 75% of clients seen for alcohol or drug misuse started treatment in less than 4 weeks.

(1) The dataset excludes clients who did not attend (2,229 in 2005-06).

(2) For 13% of clients seen no main problem substance was recorded