

Adult Substance Misuse in Shropshire County

Estimated Prevalence of Substance Misuse in Shropshire

In 2010-2011, in Shropshire, there were an estimated 1,123 (CI: 1020-1274) individuals using opiates and/or crack cocaine (OCU), aged between 15 and 64 years old.

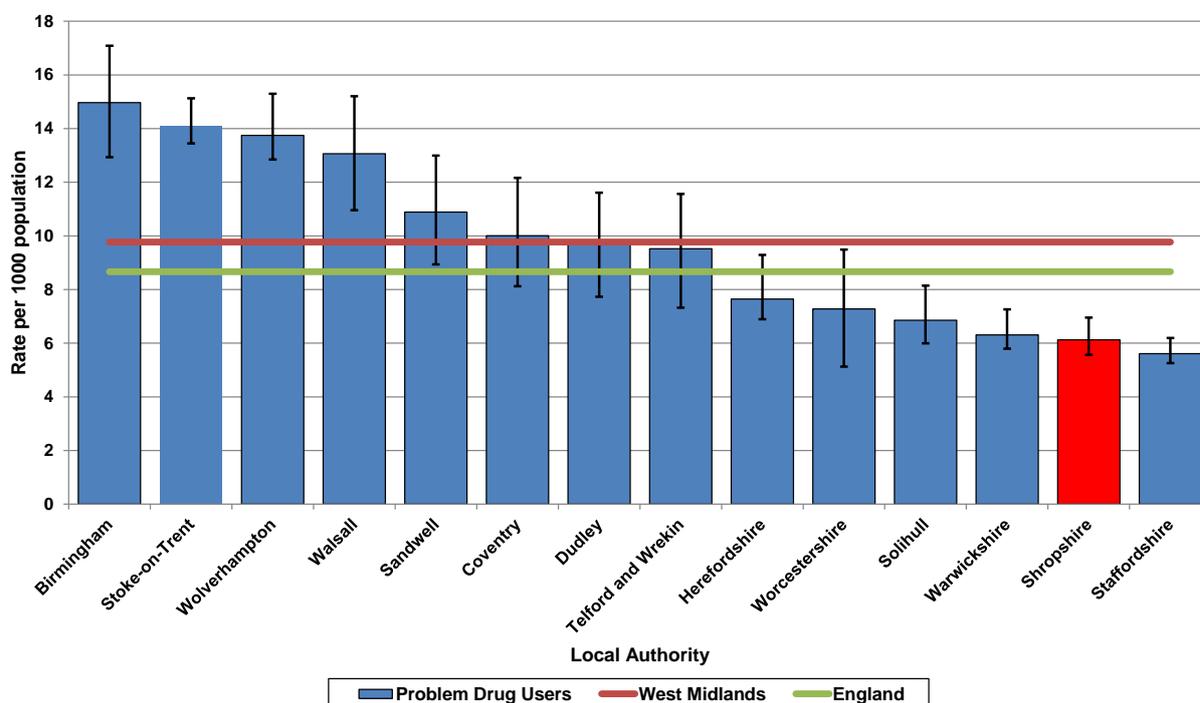
This works out to be at a rate of 6.13 (CI: 5.57-6.96) per 1000 of the population. Statistically, this figure is significantly less than the prevalence estimate for the West Midlands Region (9.77 per 1000, CI: 9.26-10.37) and significantly less than the prevalence estimate for England (8.67 per 1000, CI: 8.55-8.91) as shown in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1. Estimated prevalence of opiate and crack cocaine users for Shropshire 2010/11

	Number	Rate per 1000	95% Confidence Interval		Statistical Difference to National	Statistical Difference to West Midlands
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit		
Shropshire	1,123	6.13	5.57	6.96	Lower	Lower
West Midlands	34,498	9.77	9.26	10.37	-	-
England	298,752	8.67	8.55	8.91	-	-

Source: Glasgow Prevalence Estimates 2010-11, Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University, Glasgow Prevalence Estimation Ltd, and The National Drug Evidence Centre, University of Manchester.

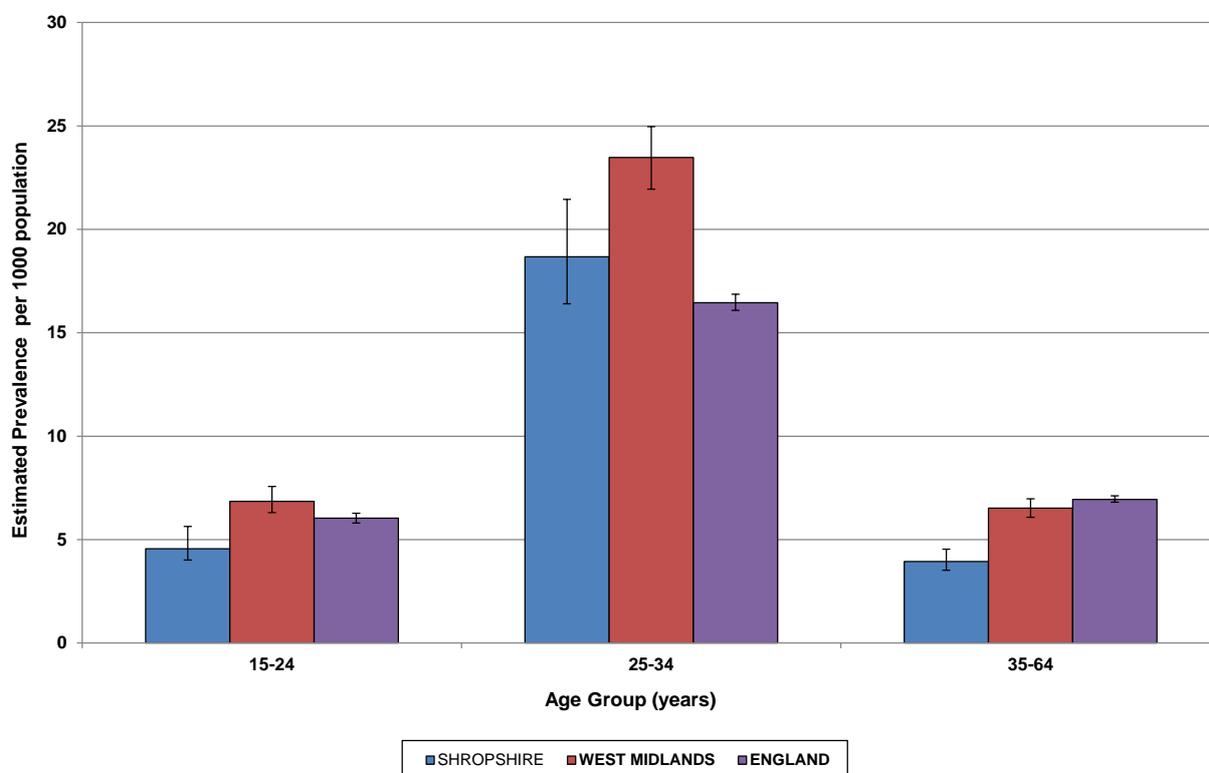
Figure 1. Estimated prevalence for opiate and crack cocaine users in West Midlands by Local Authority 2010/11



Source: Glasgow Prevalence Estimates 2010-11, Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University, Glasgow Prevalence Estimation Ltd, and The National Drug Evidence Centre, University of Manchester.

Shropshire has one of the lowest rates of problem drug users in the West Midlands when compared against other Local Authorities in the same region. This is partly due to the rural nature of the county. Other rural counties also have comparable lower rates such as Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire. Urban centres such as Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Stoke-on-Trent has much higher rates of problem drug users.

Figure 2. Estimated prevalence of opiate and crack cocaine users by age group in Shropshire 2010/11

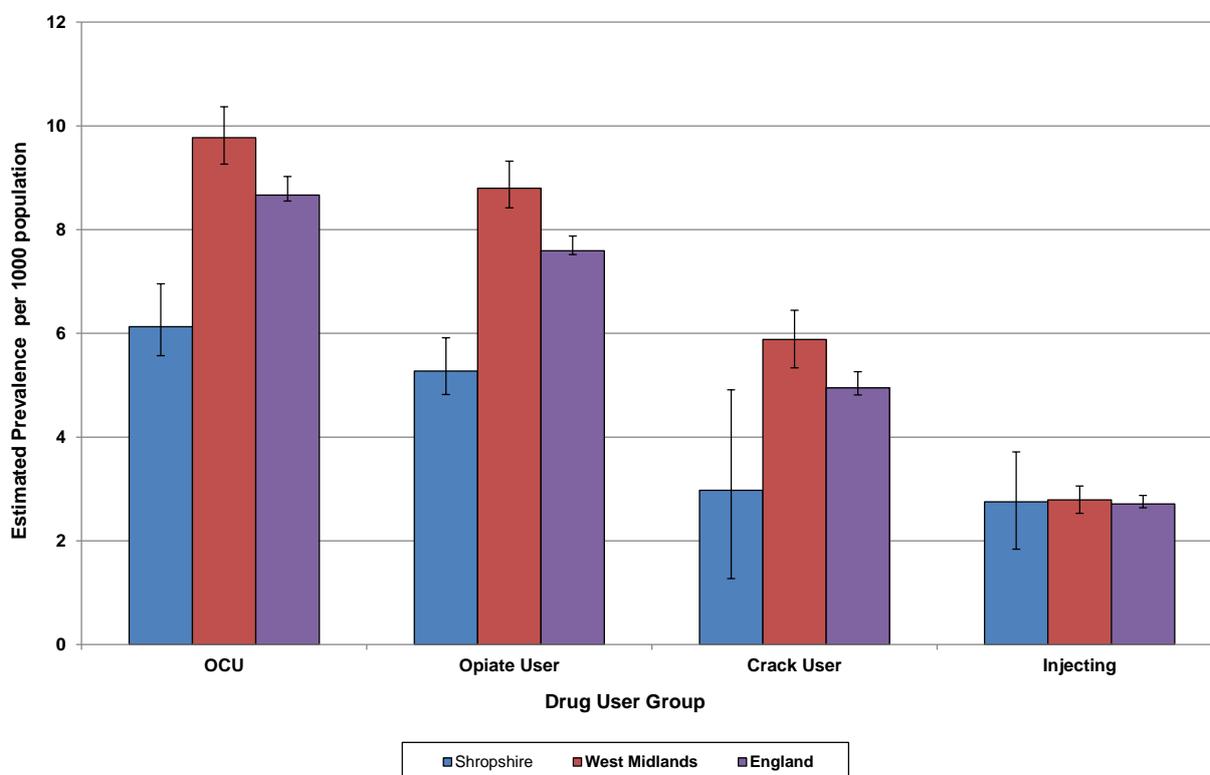


Source: Glasgow Prevalence Estimates 2010-11, Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University, Glasgow Prevalence Estimation Ltd, and The National Drug Evidence Centre, University of Manchester.

Figure 2 shows the estimated prevalence of opiate and crack cocaine users in Shropshire by age group in 2010/11. The age group with the highest estimated prevalence in Shropshire is the 25-34 year age group, with an estimated prevalence rate of 18.7 per 1000 (CI: 16.4-21.5). This is significantly less than the prevalence rate in this age group in the west midlands but not significantly different to the prevalence rate for England as a whole.

The prevalence rates for problem drug users among 15-24 year olds and for 35-64 year olds are each less than 5 per 1000 and significantly less than both the prevalence rates for the west midlands and England in both age groups.

Figure 3. Estimated prevalence of opiate and crack cocaine users by drug use in Shropshire 2010/11

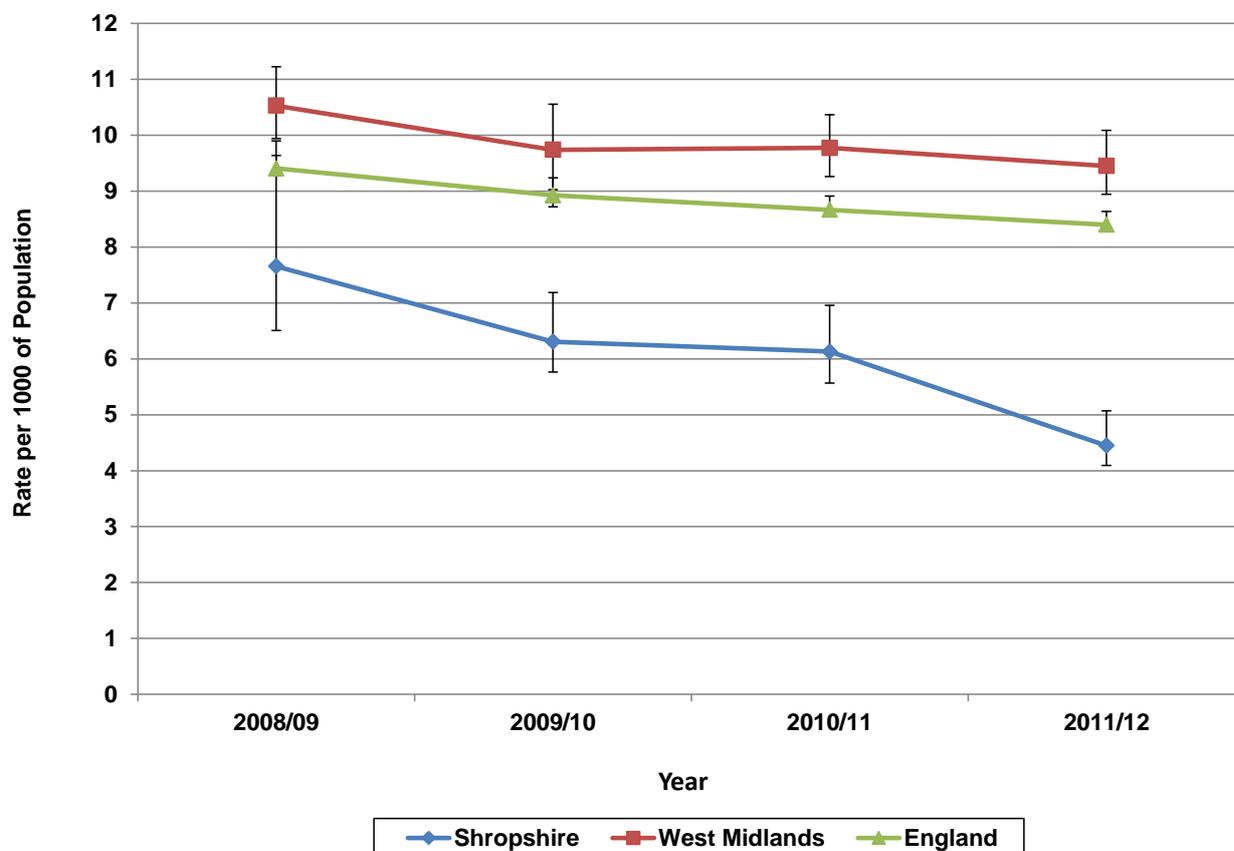


Source: Glasgow Prevalence Estimates 2010-11, Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University, Glasgow Prevalence Estimation Ltd, and The National Drug Evidence Centre, University of Manchester.

Figure 3 shows the estimated prevalence rate of opiate and crack cocaine users in Shropshire by type of drug. The rate of opiate users and crack cocaine users are significantly lower than the West Midlands rate and the National rate. The rate per 1000 of the population for injecting users is statistically similar to both the West Midlands and National rates.

Figure 4 shows how the estimated prevalence rates for opiate and crack users (OCUs) in Shropshire have changed from 2008/9 to 2011/12. Over this period there has been a decreasing trend in the rate of OCUs per 1000 of population seen nationally and in the West Midlands. For Shropshire this decreasing trend in the rate of OCUs is more pronounced than it is regionally or nationally. In 2011/12 the estimated rate of OCUs in Shropshire was 4.45 per 1000 (95% CI: 4.09-5.07). For the first time since 2008/09 the estimated prevalence of OCUs in Shropshire in 2011/12 is significantly less than the previous year.

Figure 4. Estimated prevalence for opiate and crack users (OCU) from 2008/9 to 2011/12



Source: Glasgow Prevalence Estimates 2008-12, Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University, Glasgow Prevalence Estimation Ltd, and The National Drug Evidence Centre, University of Manchester.

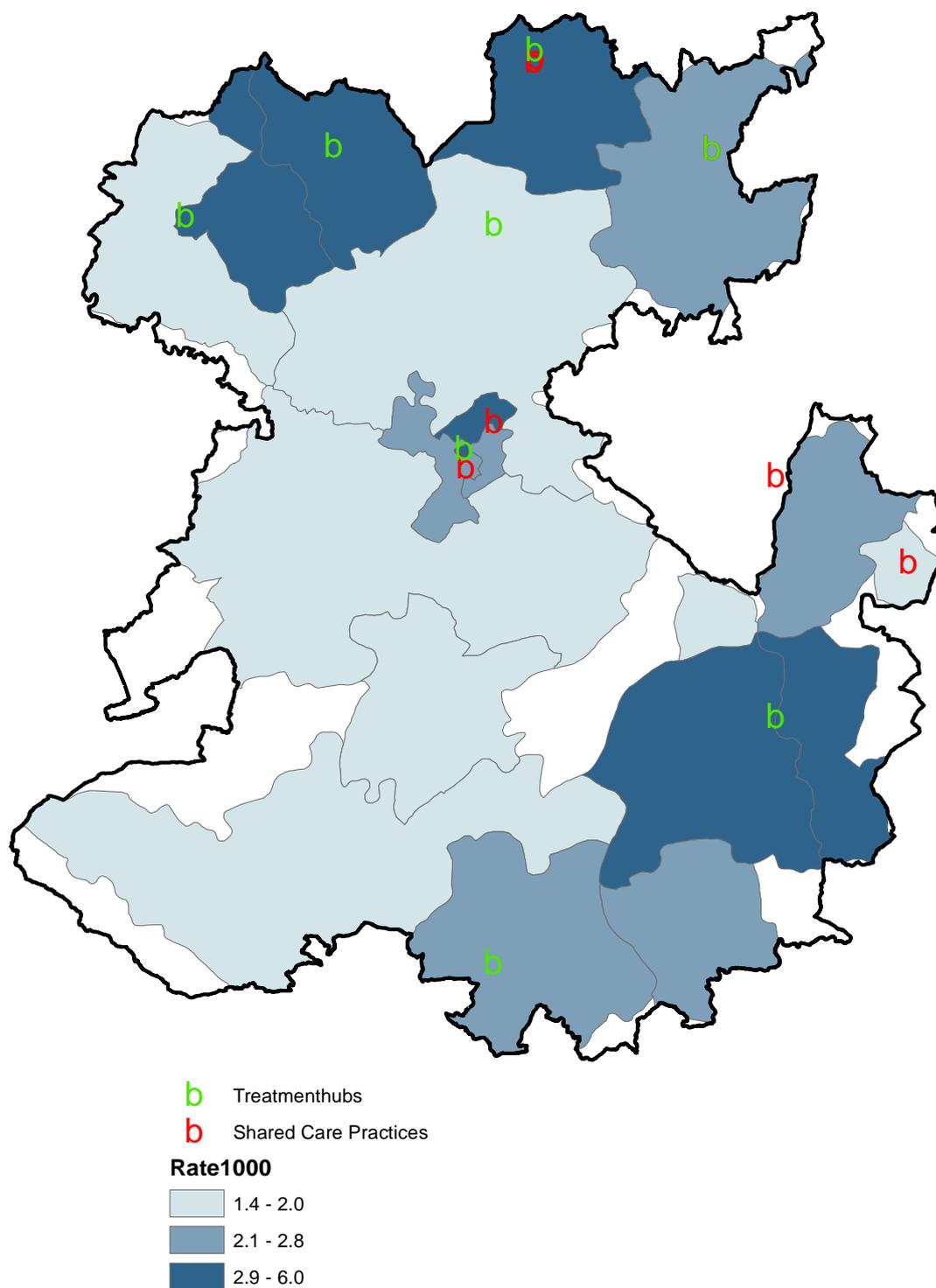
Treatment for Adult Drug Misuse in Shropshire

Drug treatment in Shropshire is provided by the Community Substance Misuse Team (CSMT). CSMT is a community based drug treatment service based at Crown House in Shrewsbury. It provides treatment service and support to Shropshire residents who need help because of substance misuse issues.

CSMT has hubs located at different strategic points around the county which provide treatment support. These are located in the towns of Oswestry, Ludlow, Bridgnorth, Wem, Whitchurch, Market Drayton, Ellesmere, and Shrewsbury.

There are various GP practices located through-out the county which offer additional drug treatment services including prescribing support. These “shared-care” practices are located in the following towns: Albrighton, Shrewsbury, Shifnal, Market Drayton, and Whitchurch.

Figure 5. Map showing the distribution of the rate per 1000 of Adults in Treatment by postal district within Shropshire County for the year 2012-13



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Ordnance Survey 100049049

Scale : 1:400,000

**Public Health Intelligence Team
Shropshire Council**

Source: Community Substance Misuse Team, Shropshire, Resident Exeter Population Data.

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Public Health Intelligence Team
Shropshire Council
8th September 2014

Figure 1. Map showing the distribution of the rate per 1000 of Adults in Treatment by postal district within Shropshire County for the year 2012-13. The different shades of blue indicate the different rates per 1000 of population of adults in treatment by terciles. Red points show the location of the shared-care practices and green points show the location of the treatment hubs. Areas with darker shades of blue indicating higher prevalence of individuals in treatment. These areas are mainly surrounding the larger towns within the county. This is as expected given that the treatment hubs were located around Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Ellesmere, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Whitchurch, Wem and Market Drayton.

Area with the most and least in treatment:

- SY12- Ellesmere had the highest rate of individuals in treatment per 1000 population at 5.96 per 1000
- SY6 – Church Stretton had the lowest rate with 1.36 individuals per 1000 of population in treatment.

Numbers in Effective Treatment:

Table 2 shows the number and percentage of adults in Shropshire in 2012/13 who were engaged in effective treatment as a total of the treatment population. To be engaged in effective treatment an individual must have been retained in a structured intervention for at least 12 weeks or if shorter obtained a successful completion of that treatment. Those in treatment for opiates, 95% are in effective treatment slightly less than the total for England. Whereas 90% of those in treatment for non-opiates are in effective treatment compared with 88% nationally. There was a drop in 6% for those in effective treatment for opiates when compared to 2011/12 and an increase in 3% for those in effective treatment for non-opiates when compared to the previous year.

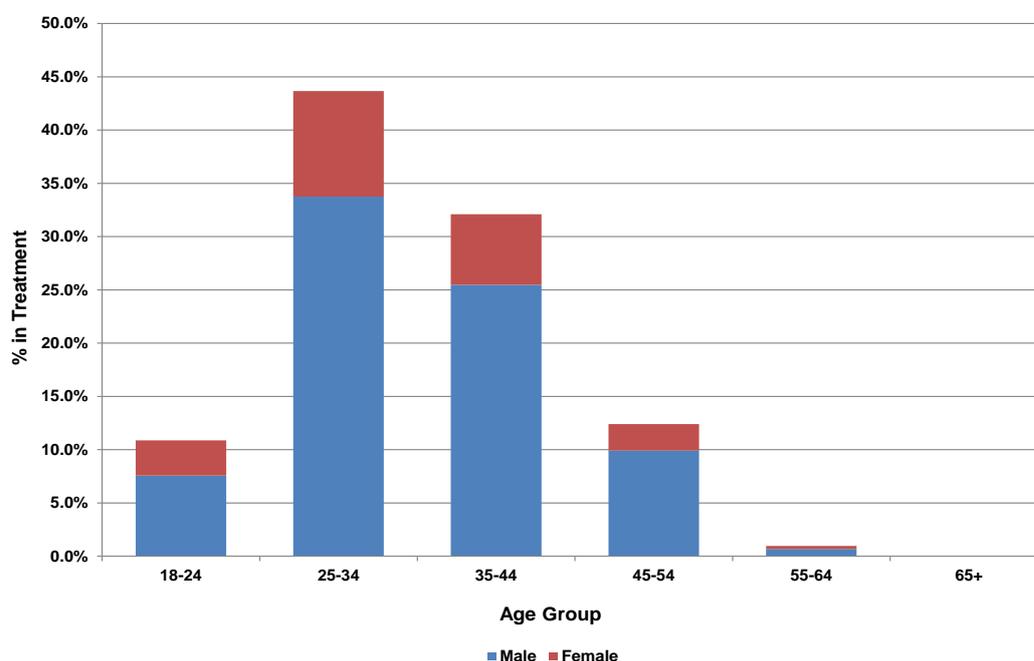
Table 2. Number and percentage of adults engaged in effective treatment 2012/13

	Shropshire	Change from 2011/12	Percentage of Treatment Population	National	Change from 2011/12	Percentage of Treatment Population
Opiate	584	-6%	95%	148,368	-3%	96%
Non Opiate	156	+3%	90%	33,739	+3%	88%
All	740	-5%	94%	182,107	-2%	94%

Source: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Support Pack for Alcohol and Drugs in Shropshire 2012/13, Public Health England

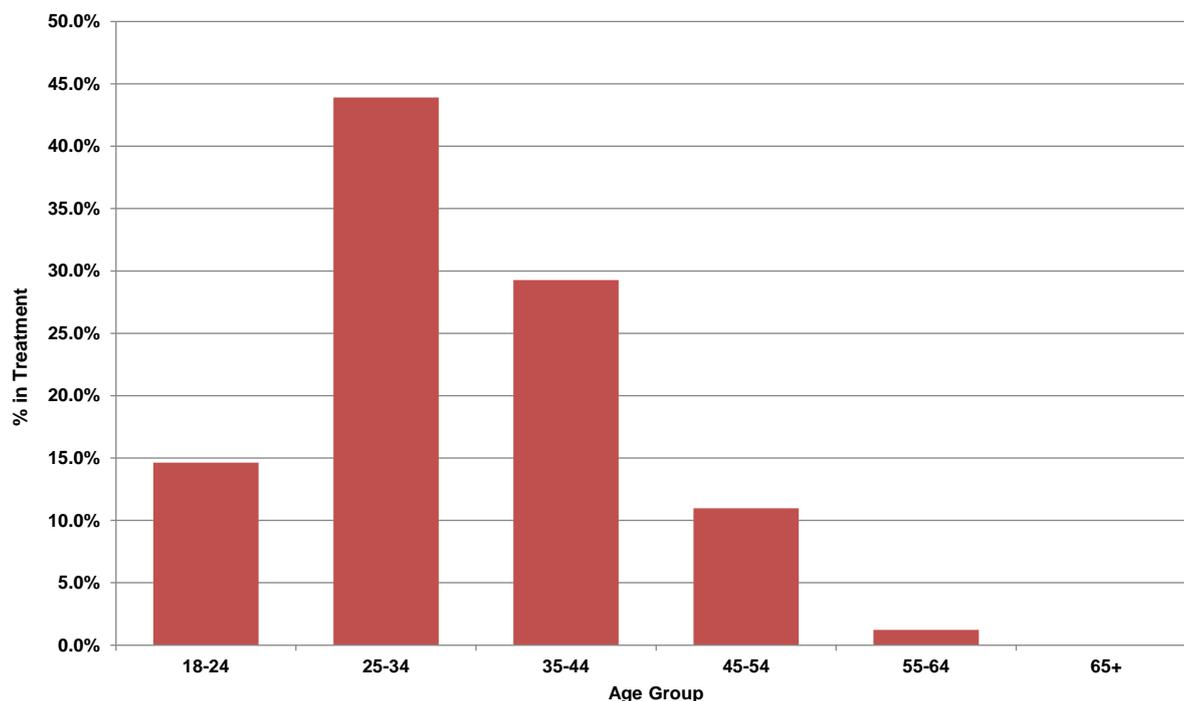
Figure 6 shows the age and gender distribution of adult individuals in treatment in Shropshire in 2012/13. The largest proportion of individuals in treatment were those age 25-34 years with just over 40% and the second largest proportion were those aged 35-44 years with slightly over 30%. Slightly over 10% of those in treatment were under the age of 24 years. Just over 10% were between 45 and 54 years and less than 1% of those in treatment were between the ages of 55 and 64 years. There were no individuals over the age of 65 years. In each age group there was a much larger proportion of males than females in treatment.

Figure 6. Percentage of adults in treatment in Shropshire by age group and gender 2012/13

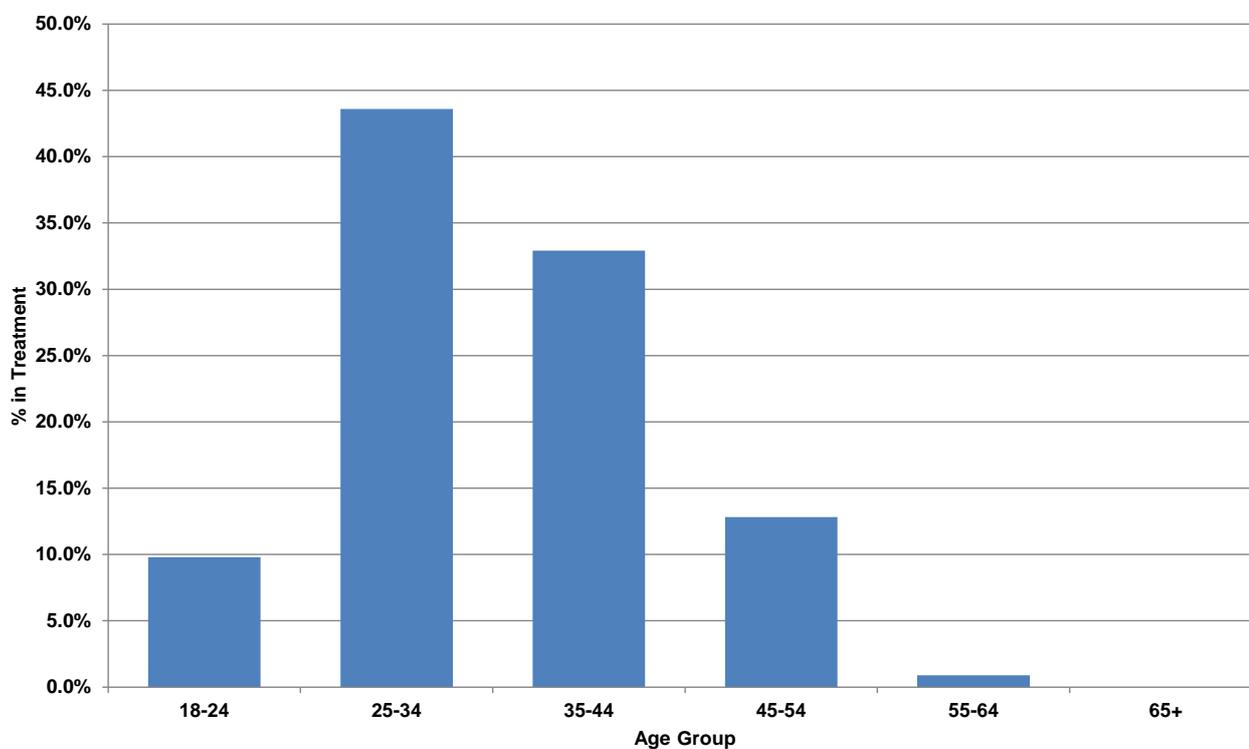


Source: Treatment Data, Community Substance Misuse Team, Crown House, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 2012/13.

Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference., Figure 8 and Table 3 show the age profiles for adult females and males respectively in drug treatment in Shropshire in 2012/13. The age profiles for both males and females in treatment are very similar with the largest proportion of individuals in treatment being between 25 and 34 years. Table 3 shows that there is a higher proportion of females in treatment (14.6%) compared with males (9.8%) among those aged between 18-24 and there was a higher proportion of males to females in the 35-44 age group (33% compared to 29%).

Figure 7. Age distribution of all adult females in drug treatment in Shropshire 2012/13

Source: Treatment Data, Community Substance Misuse Team, Crown House, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 2012/13.

Figure 8. Age distribution of all adult males in drug treatment in Shropshire 2012/13

Source: Treatment Data, Community Substance Misuse Team, Crown House, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 2012/13.

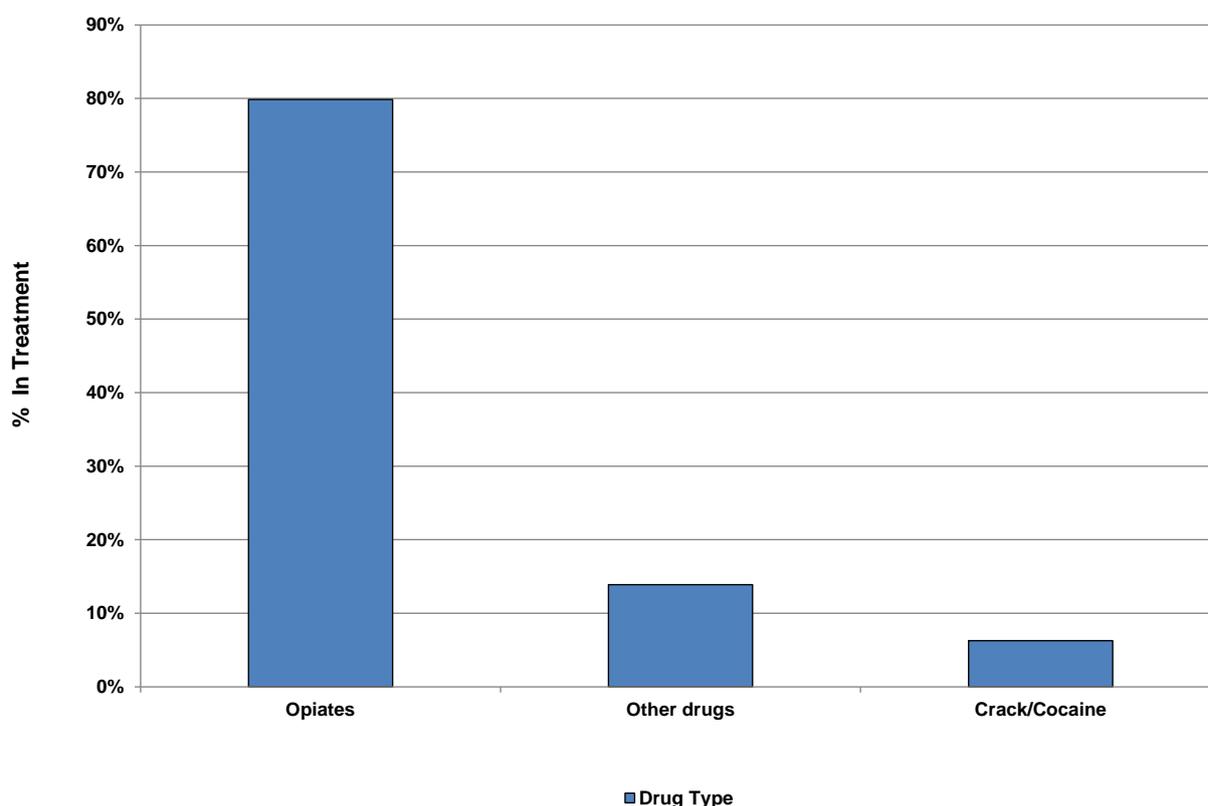
Table 3. Percentage of female and males in drug treatment in Shropshire by age band 2012/13

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Females	14.6%	43.9%	29.3%	11.0%	1.2%	0%
Males	9.8%	43.6%	32.9%	12.8%	0.9%	0%

Source: Treatment Data, Community Substance Misuse Team, Crown House, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 2012/13.

Figure 9 shows the percentage of individuals in treatment according to the main drug that they reported they used for the year 2012/13. 80% of individuals in treatment reported opiates and their main drug, less than 10% reported crack or cocaine as their main drug.

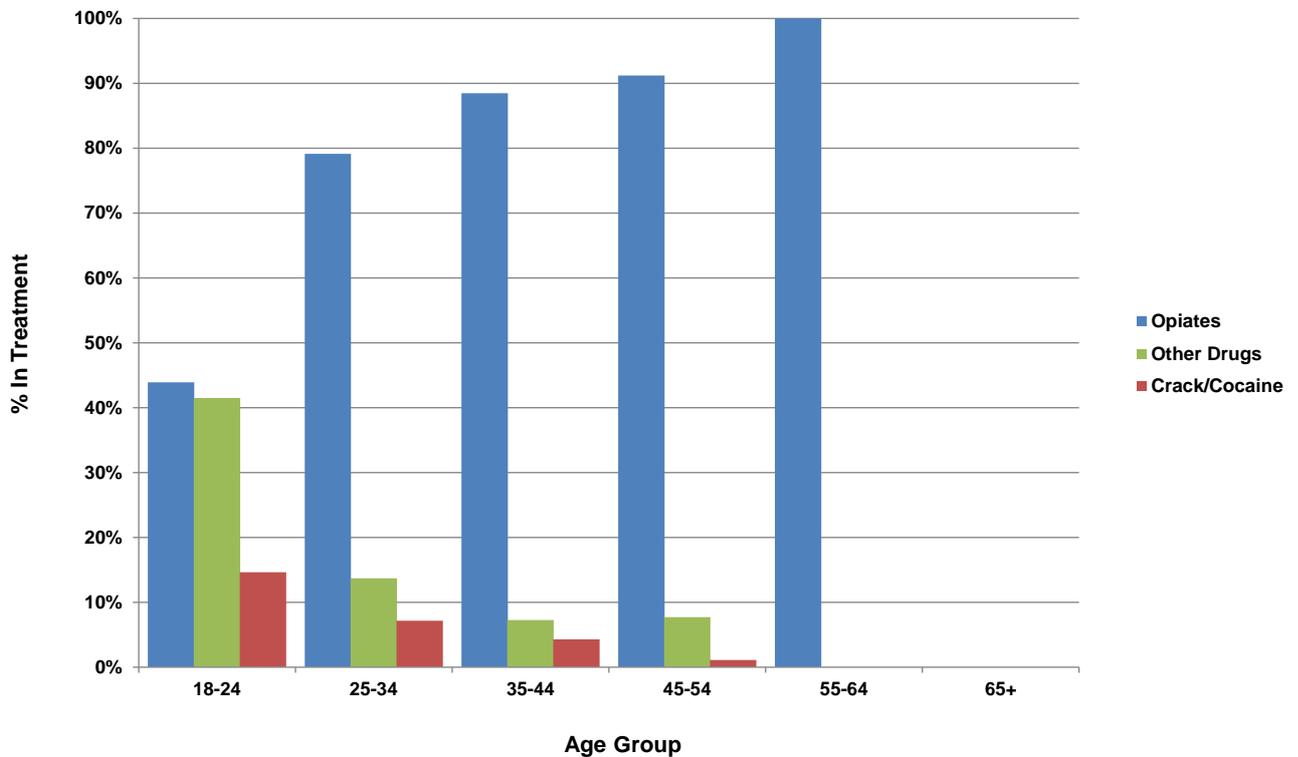
Figure 9. Percentage of individuals in treatment by main drug type reported 2012/13



Source: Treatment Data, Community Substance Misuse Team, Crown House, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 2012/13.

Figure 10 shows the profile of main drug use for each age group for adults in treatment. It can be seen from this chart that there is a clear trend of increasing proportions of opiate users with each age group up until the 55-64 year age group. The opposite trend is visible for crack/cocaine and for other drugs where, as the age increases, the proportion of users for crack/cocaine and other drugs decreases. It is interesting to note that in the 18-24 year age group there is nearly an equal proportion of individuals who are in treatment for opiates as there are for other drugs.

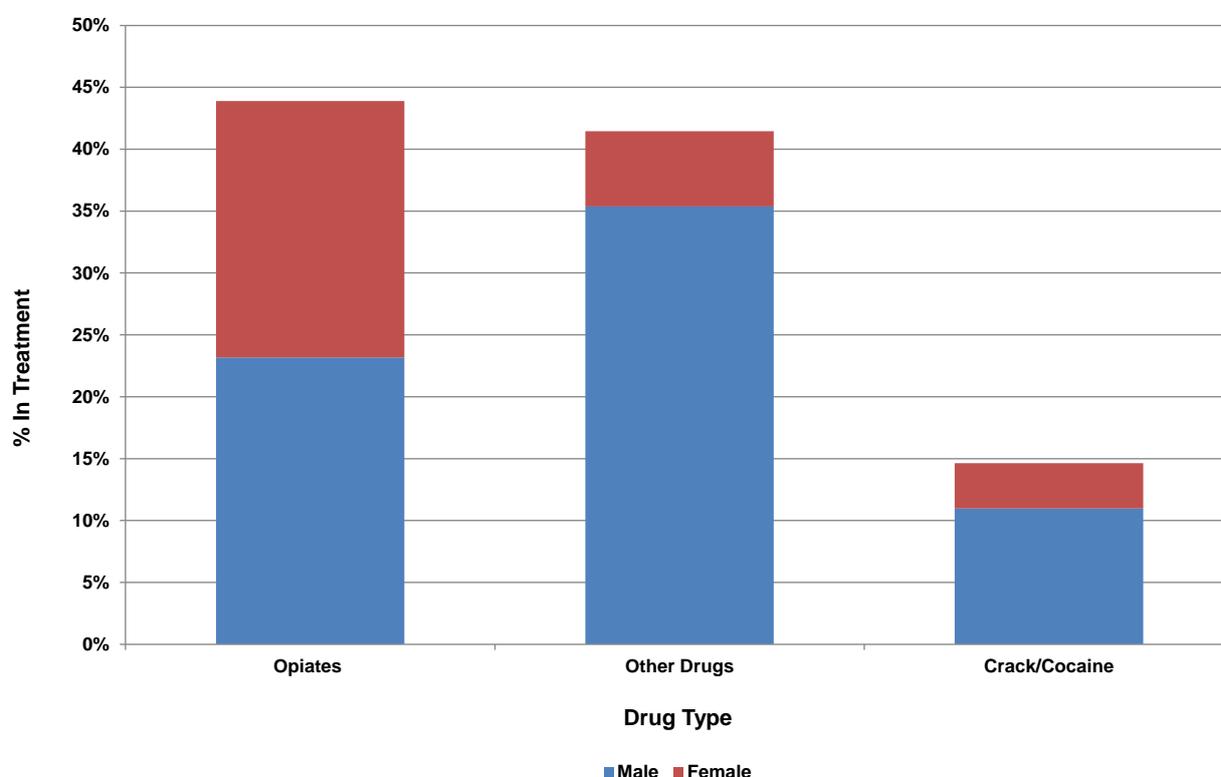
Figure 10. Percentage of each age group in treatment by main drug type reported 2012/13



Source: Treatment Data, Community Substance Misuse Team, Crown House, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 2012/13.

Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference. shows a profile of 18-24 year olds in treatment by drug type and gender. As also seen in Figure 10, the proportion of individuals in treatment for opiates is nearly equal to the proportion of individuals in treatment for other drugs. Interestingly when looking at the distribution of males and females in treatment there are nearly equal proportions of males and females in treatment for opiates among 18-24 year olds. There are much larger proportions of males than females for individuals using crack/cocaine and other drugs.

Figure 11. Profile of 18 to 24 year olds in treatment in 2012/13 by main drug type and gender



Source: Treatment Data, Community Substance Misuse Team, Crown House, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 2012/13.

Successful Completions

Table 4 shows the proportion of clients in treatment whose latest treatment journey ended during 2012/13 and who recorded as “treatment completed” and are considered free of dependence. Nine percent of clients in treatment for opiates ended their treatment journey successfully in Shropshire and this down 2% from 2011/12. This is the same as national picture where there were also 9% of clients who successfully completed treatment.

There is a more promising picture for non-opiate clients with 47% of them successfully completing treatment in 2012/13, this is an improvement of 29% from the previous year and is better than what is occurring nationally with 41% successfully completing treatment.

Table 4. Proportion of individuals who successfully complete treatment and for Shropshire and England 2012/13

	Shropshire		National	
	% who successfully complete	Change from 2011/12	% who successfully complete	Change from 2011/12
Opiate	9%	-2%	9%	-7%
Non Opiate	47%	+29%	41%	+2%
All	17%	+14%	15%	-3%

Source: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Support Pack for Alcohol and Drugs in Shropshire 2012/13, Public Health England

Table 5 shows that proportion of individuals who successfully complete treatment and did not relapse and return to treatment within six months in Shropshire and England in 2012/13. When compared to the national picture, there is a smaller proportion of clients who successfully complete treatment and then do not return within six months. For opiate users this represented 72% of successful completers in Shropshire compared with 80% nationally and for non-opiate users this represented 87% in Shropshire compared with 95% nationally.

Table 5. Proportion of individuals who successfully complete treatment and did not return within six months in Shropshire and England 2012/13

	Shropshire	National
	% who successfully complete and did not return within six months	% who successfully complete and did not return within six months
Opiate	72%	80%
Non Opiate	87%	95%
All	80%	88%

Source: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Support Pack for Alcohol and Drugs in Shropshire 2012/13, Public Health England

Prescription only medicine and over the counter medicine

Table 6 shows the number and proportion of individuals in treatment who cited the use of prescription only medicine (POM) or over the counter medicine (OTC) in their last treatment journey. The proportion shown is of all individuals in treatment in 2012/13. Eight percent of individuals in treatment in Shropshire cited use of POM/OTC alongside illicit drug use. This is lower than the 14% of those in treatment nationally. Two percent of those in treatment in Shropshire cited only use of POM/OTC (with no illicit drug use) this is the same as the national picture (2%). In total 10% of those in treatment in Shropshire cited use of POM/OCT compared with 17% of those in treatment nationally.

Table 6. Number and proportion of individuals who used prescription only medicine or over the counter medicine either alongside or to illicit drug use or not during 2012/13

	Shropshire		National	
	N	% of treatment population	N	% of treatment population
Illicit Use	62	8%	27,842	14%
No illicit use	16	2%	4,603	2%
Total	78	10%	32,445	17%

Source: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Support Pack for Alcohol and Drugs in Shropshire 2012/13, Public Health England

Novel Psychoactive Substances and Club Drugs

The following summary describes the state of use of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) (also known as "Legal Highs") and Club Drugs in England and in Shropshire in 2012/13. Mephedrone, also known as "meow meow" is an example of a NPS. It is related to amphetamines such as speed and ecstasy. It is often ingested, but there are increasing reports of it being injected. It is no longer legal, and has been classified as a Class B drug.

England, 2012-13:

Prevalence

- Aged 16-59 - **0.5%** reported using Mephedrone in last year
- Aged 16-24 – **1.6%** reported using Mephedrone in last year

Treatment

- 1630** people seeking treatment for Mephedrone use (up from **900** in previous year)
- This is a small portion of the entire treatment population – **5%** of new journeys – recovery rates are good

Deaths from Psychoactive Substances such as Mephedrone

- 29** deaths in 2011
- 52** deaths in 2012
- These figures are likely to be an underestimate of the total deaths nationally
- the number of deaths associated with new psychoactive substances still remains much lower than from opiates
- the number of deaths attributed to NPS have been increasing over the last two years
- there has been an increasing trend in the number of people seeking treatment of NPS and some club drugs nationally

Shropshire 2012-2013

Prevalence

- Unknown

Treatment

- 27%** of new entrants into treatment (non-opiate users) cited Club Drug use – ecstasy, ketamine, GHB/GBL, methamphetamine and mephedrone (compared to 12% in England)
- 68%** of these new entrants cited mephedrone
- Of all new entrants citing club drug use (opiate and non-opiate users) **17%** cited mephedrone use

The following is a list of some of the names of NPSs that are known to be available or being sold in Shropshire:

Exodus
 Black Mamba
 Cyclone
 Cherry Bomb
 Super lemon haze
 Super strawberry haze
 Pandoras box
 Crystal Meow

Sources: Alcohol and Drugs JSNA support Pack for Shropshire – published by Public Health England , “Drug Treatment in England 2012-13” published by Public Health England – November 2013, “Statistics on Drug Misuse: England 2013” published Health and Social Care Information Centre – November 2013, Crime Survey of England and Wales 2012-13

Summary Points

- From 2010/11 to 2012/13 there has been a decreasing trend in the estimated prevalence rate of OCU's per 1000 of population in Shropshire, and this reflects the trend seen both nationally and in the West Midlands
- The postal districts with highest prevalence of individuals in treatment are located in the north of the county in areas around Oswestry, Whitchurch, and Ellesmere as well as within the town of Shrewsbury and in areas around Bridgnorth.
- 25-34 year olds are the age group who represent the largest proportion in treatment
- There are no individuals in treatment 65 years or older
- The age profiles for both males and females in treatment are similar but overall there are more males than females in treatment
- Among 18-24 year olds there appears to be equal proportions of individuals who report opiate use and use of other drugs
- Within the 18-24 year old age group, there are nearly equal proportions of males and females who report opiate use but much higher proportions of males than females who report use of crack/cocaine or other drugs
- Under one fifth of those in treatment successfully completed in 2012/13 and 80% of those in Shropshire who successfully complete do not return to treatment within six months compared with 88% nationally
- 10% of the treatment population in Shropshire report use of prescription only medicine or over the counter medicine, this is compared with 17% nationally
- 68% of new entrants to treatment in Shropshire reported use of Mephedrone
- 27% of new entrants to treatment in Shropshire reported use of Club Drugs including ecstasy, ketamine, GHB/GBL, methamphetamine and Mephedrone this is compared to 12% nationally