

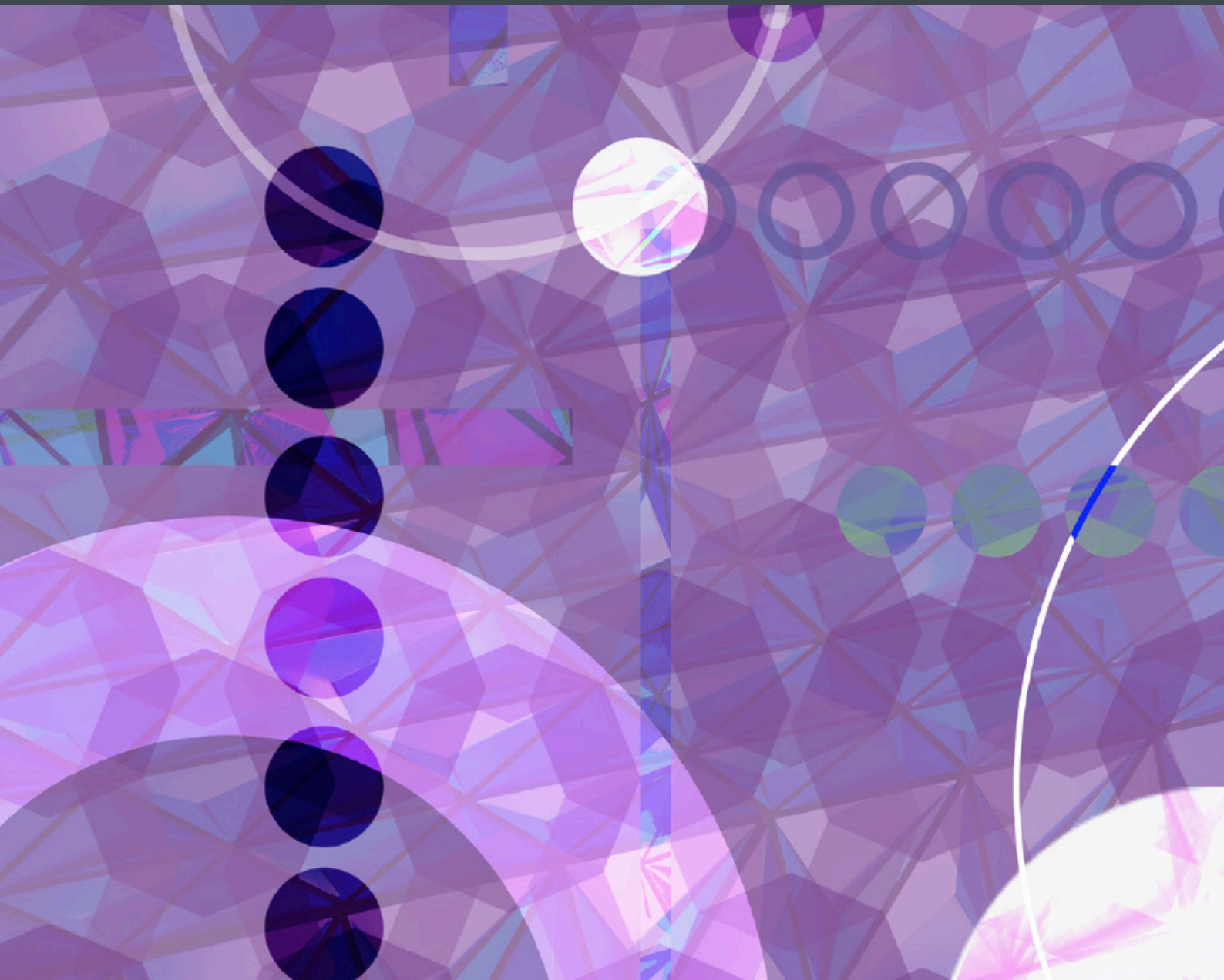
Criminal Justice Project: Drug Interventions Programme

Criminal Justice Intervention Team Activity in Wirral: year ending March 2023

March 2024



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- In the year ending March 2023, there were 288 adult contacts (251 individuals) recorded by Wirral Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT). This is a 17% decrease on the 346 CJIT contacts in the previous twelve-month period and the second lowest number between 2017/18 and 2022/23.
- Just under half (46%) of the CJIT contacts in 2022/23 were Required Assessments following a positive test for specified Class A drugs in a police custody suite, followed by voluntary presentations following release from prison (29%) and other criminal justice routes (25%).
- Two in three (66%) Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 were taken onto the CJIT caseload, while one in six (17%) were already case managed by a structured treatment provider, other CJIT or Offender Manager and one in eight (13%) did not want to engage with the CJIT.

WIRRAL RESIDENTS

- In the year ending March 2023, 97 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 (41%).
- The average age of individuals assessed in the year ending March 2023 was 39 years. Around three in ten (31%) individuals were aged 30-39 years, followed by individuals aged 40-49 years (27%), 50 years or over (22%) and 18-29 years (21%).
- Over four in five (85%) individuals in contact with Wirral CJIT in the year ending March 2023 stated they were men.
- The majority (96%) identified themselves as White British.
- Just over three in five (62%) Wirral residents considered themselves to have a disability; of which, around three in five (59%) were a behaviour and emotional disability, while around one in five (19%) were progressive conditions and physical health disabilities.
- Less than one in twenty (3%) Wirral residents stated they were a veteran of the British Armed Forces.
- Over two in five (44%) Wirral residents reported to have no home of their own and around one in five (19%) reported they had a risk of homelessness in the next eight weeks.
- Less than one in ten (7%) had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years; of which, just over half (53%) had none of the children living with them the majority of the time.
- Of the main substances reported by Wirral residents in the year ending March 2023, just under half (46%) reported heroin as their main substance, followed by cocaine and crack (19% and 16% respectively).
- Around half (51%) reported their second substance as crack, while for the third substance, just over two in five (42%) reported cannabis, followed by alcohol or other non-opiate substances (23% each).
- Just over three in five (63%) of the Wirral CJIT contacts smoked their main substance, followed by those who administered their main substance intranasally and orally (17% and 12% respectively).

- Around two in three (65%) stated they had never injected, while three in ten (30%) previously injected but were not currently and 4% 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 2022/23 were issued with naloxone; of which, over four in five (83%) were supplied with injectable naloxone. Of the clients not issued with naloxone, just under three in five (56%) were already in possession of adequate naloxone and just under two in five (37%) were offered naloxone but refused.
- Two in five (40%) men consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment; of these, around a third (34%) consumed 7-15 units of alcohol on an average day, followed by those who consumed 1-6 units (29%).
- Thirty per cent of women consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment; of these, just over three in five (62%) consumed 7-15 units of alcohol on an average day.
- Just under one-third (31%) of the offences that prompted the current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system were Misuse of Drugs Act offences, followed by just under one-quarter (23%) of offences categorised as 'other'.
- Of the clients taken onto the CJIT caseload 141 (122 individuals) were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2023.
- Almost three-quarters (72%) of the clients closed from the Wirral caseload in the year ending March 2023 transferred prior to the completion of treatment, while around one in five (21%) did not complete treatment and under one in ten (7%) completed treatment.

Although the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) was decommissioned as a national programme by the Home Office in 2013, Wirral Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT) continue to collect and submit the criminal justice dataset to the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). The aim of CJITs is to identify and engage with adult offenders (aged 18 years and over) 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; Public Health Institute, 2015 & 2017; 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). This is a key route into treatment, though there are other sources of referral, 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 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, 2011). The CJIT dataset captures client information, episode details (including drug and alcohol use, and offending) and referrals to structured treatment.

This CJIT Activity report for Wirral shows trends over a six-year period up to the year ending March 2023 for clients accessing the CJIT and where possible, comparisons to the Merseyside figures have been made.¹

Combating Drugs Partnerships

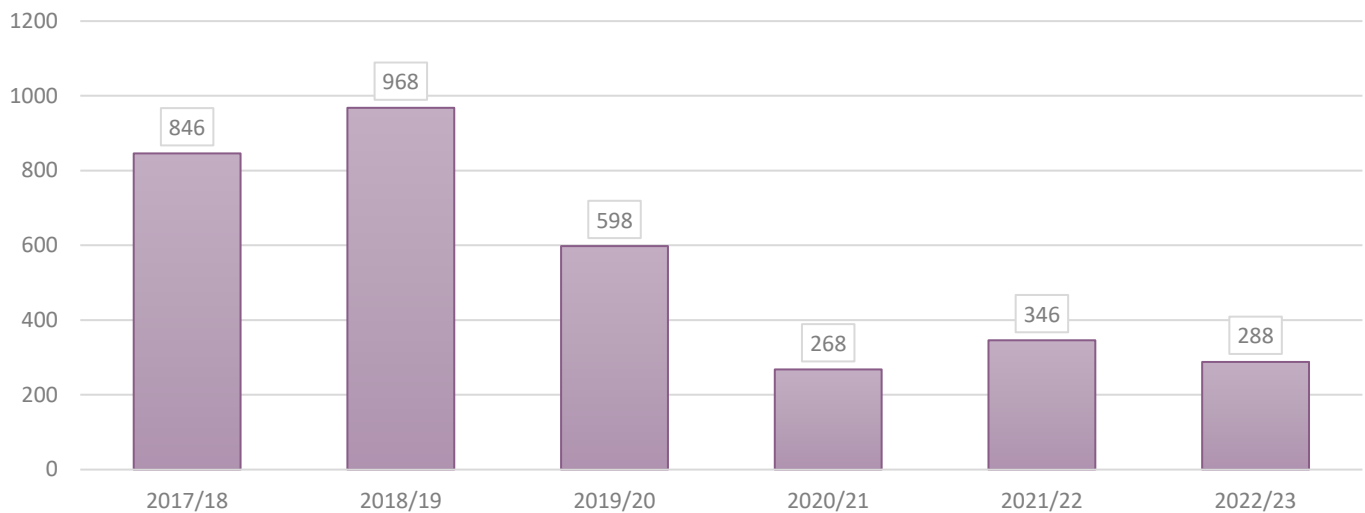
The Government's Drug Strategy stated its plan to reduce drug-related crime, deaths, harms and overall drug use (HM Government, 2021), outlining the requirement to establish and develop Combating Drugs Partnerships to oversee and co-ordinate its local delivery. Partnerships should lead a joint local 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 \(end 2022/23\)](#).

OVERVIEW

In the year ending March 2023, there were 288 adult contacts (251 individuals) recorded by Wirral Criminal Justice Intervention Team (CJIT). This is a 17% decrease on the 346 CJIT contacts in the previous twelve-month period and the second lowest number of CJIT contacts of the six-year period (*Figure 1*)².

Figure 1: Wirral CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23



CRIMINAL JUSTICE ROUTES IN WIRRAL

Figure 2 shows the criminal justice routes that led to the contact with Wirral CJIT between 2017/18 and 2022/23. Just under half of the CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 were Required Assessments (RA) following a positive drug test for specified Class A drugs in a police custody suite (n=132, 46%), followed by voluntary presentations following release from prison (n=83, 29%) and other criminal justice routes (n=73, 25%)³.

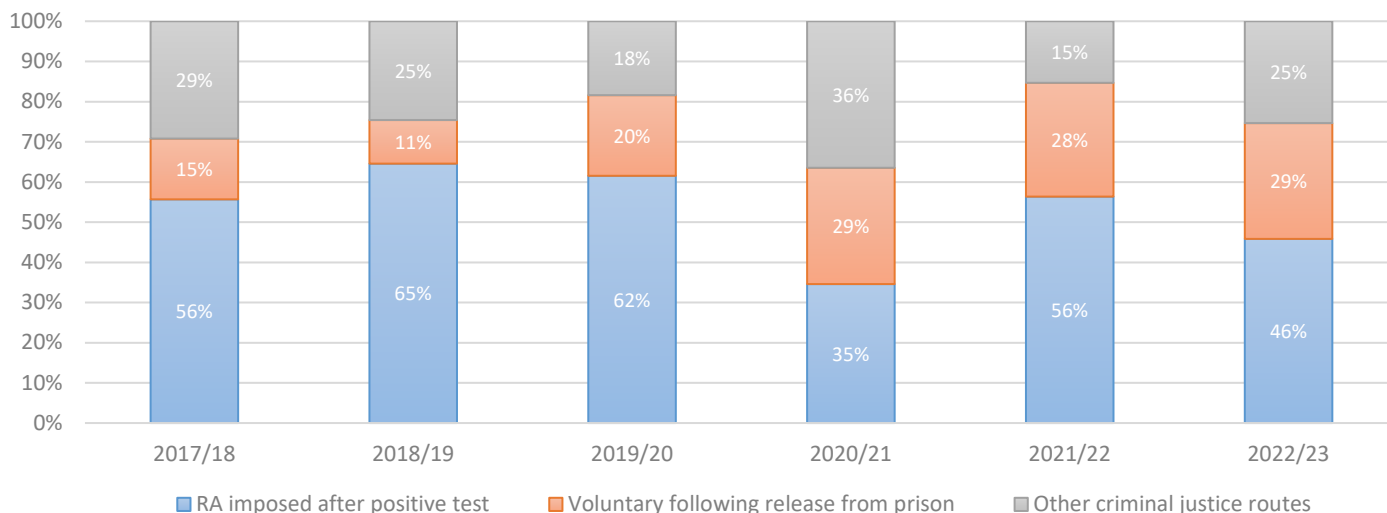
The proportion of RAs in the year ending March 2023 is a 10% decrease on the previous year (56%), while the proportion of other criminal justice routes increased by 10%. Notably, the proportion of RAs in 2022/23 is the second smallest of the six-year period, after 2020/21 (35%), when Merseyside Police suspended DIP drug testing in the custody suites for five months in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the proportion of voluntary presentations following release from prison in the year ending March 2023 is similar to the previous two years (*Figure 2*).

Furthermore, the proportions of clients who had contact Wirral CJIT through the RA process or following release from prison in the year ending March 2023 are the largest of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside totals: 28% and 20% respectively), while the proportion of other criminal justice routes is the smallest across Merseyside (Merseyside total: 52%).

² There was a substantial decrease in the number of CJIT contacts between 2018/19 and 2019/20, which to some extent, could be attributed to the treatment provider ceasing to assess non-Wirral residents in 2019.

³ Other criminal justice routes: required by offender management scheme/DRR/ATR/IOM = 47, requested by Offender Manager (post DRR/ATR) = 12, Conditional Cautioning <5, other <5, pre-sentence report <5, referred by treatment provider (post treatment) <5, voluntary - following cell sweep <5, voluntary - other <5.

Figure 2: Referral routes of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23

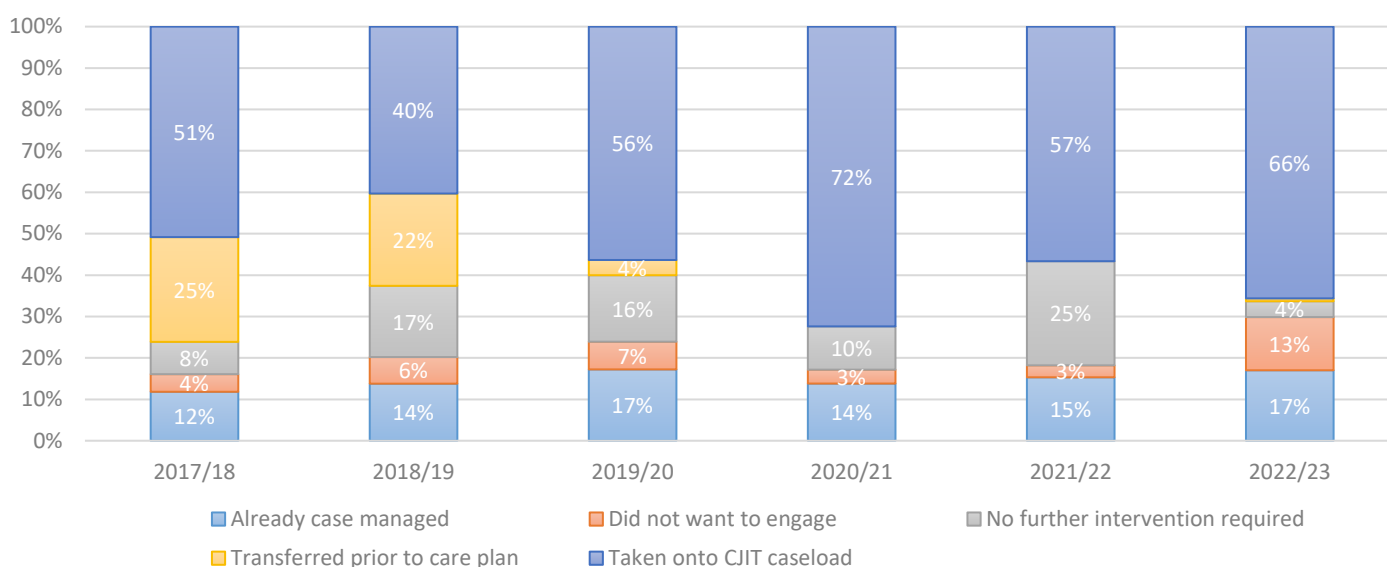


OUTCOMES FOLLOWING CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT

Two in three Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 were taken onto the CJIT caseload (n=189, 66%), while one in six were already case managed by a structured treatment provider, other CJIT or Offender Manager (n=49, 17%) and one in eight did not want to engage with the CJIT (n=37, 13%; Figure 3).

The proportion of clients taken onto Wirral CJIT’s caseload in 2022/23 is a 9% increase on the previous year and the second largest proportion of clients taken onto the caseload of the six-year period (Figure 3); however, it is the second smallest proportion recorded by the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 71%). The proportion of clients who did not want to engage following an assessment in the year ending March 2023 increased by 10% on the previous twelve-month period (3%) and is the second largest proportion of the Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 20%), while the proportion who did not require further intervention decreased by 21% on the previous year (25%) and is the smallest proportion of the six-year period. Furthermore, the proportion already case managed at the time of their assessment in the year ending March 2023 is similar to the previous year and six-year average (both 15%), as well as the largest proportion of the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 6%).

Figure 3: Outcomes following criminal justice assessment of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23

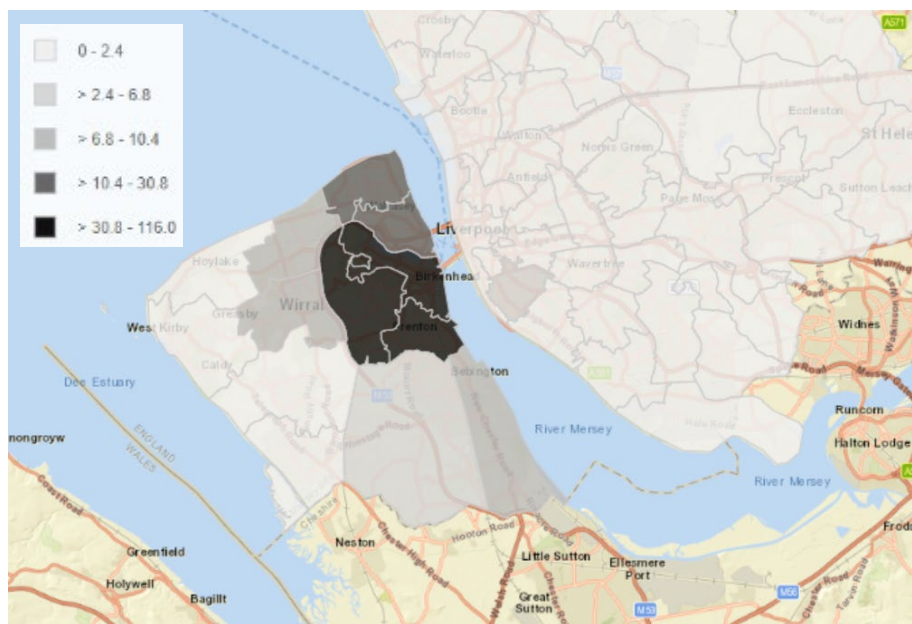


DEMOGRAPHICS

In the year ending March 2023, 97 individuals per 100,000 adult population in Wirral LA were in contact with Wirral CJIT, compared to 135.8 per 100,000 across Merseyside. This is the second 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 that had the highest number of Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 was CH41 (n=116, 41%; *Figure 4*).

Figure 4: Postcode area of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23

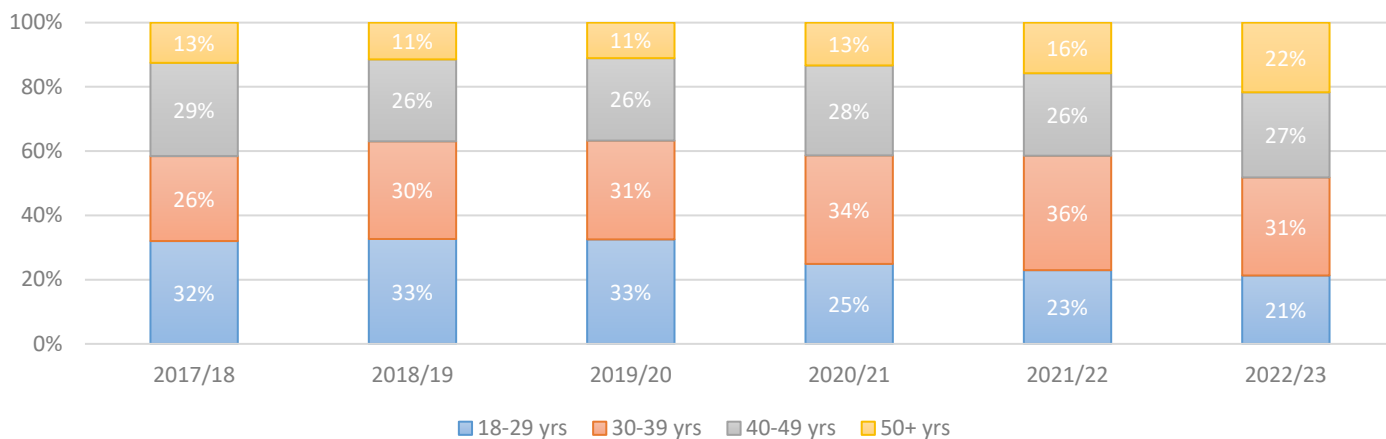


AGE AND GENDER

Of the Wirral residents assessed in the year ending March 2023, there were 249 individuals. The average age was 39 years (men = 39, women = 38). Looking at age groups, around three in ten individuals were aged 30-39 years (n=76, 31%), followed by individuals aged 40-49 years (n=66, 27%), 50 years or over (n=54, 22%) and 18-29 years (n=53, 21%; *Figure 5*).

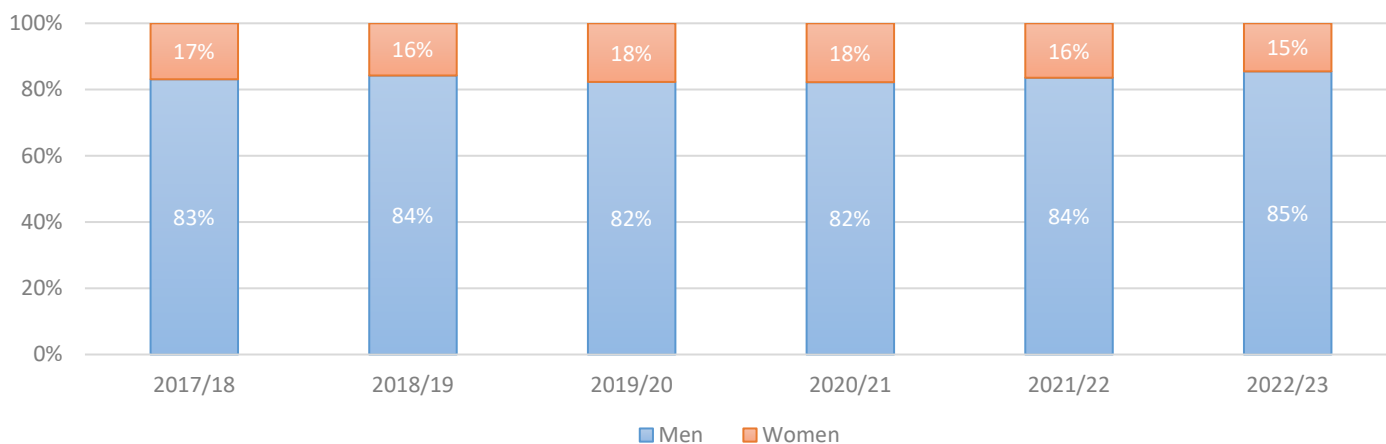
Notably, the proportion of individuals aged 18-29 years in 2022/23 is the smallest of the six-year period and of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 27%), while the proportion aged 50 years or over is the largest of the six years and of the Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 16%).

Figure 5: Age group of Wirral CJIT contacts (individuals), 2017/18 - 2022/23



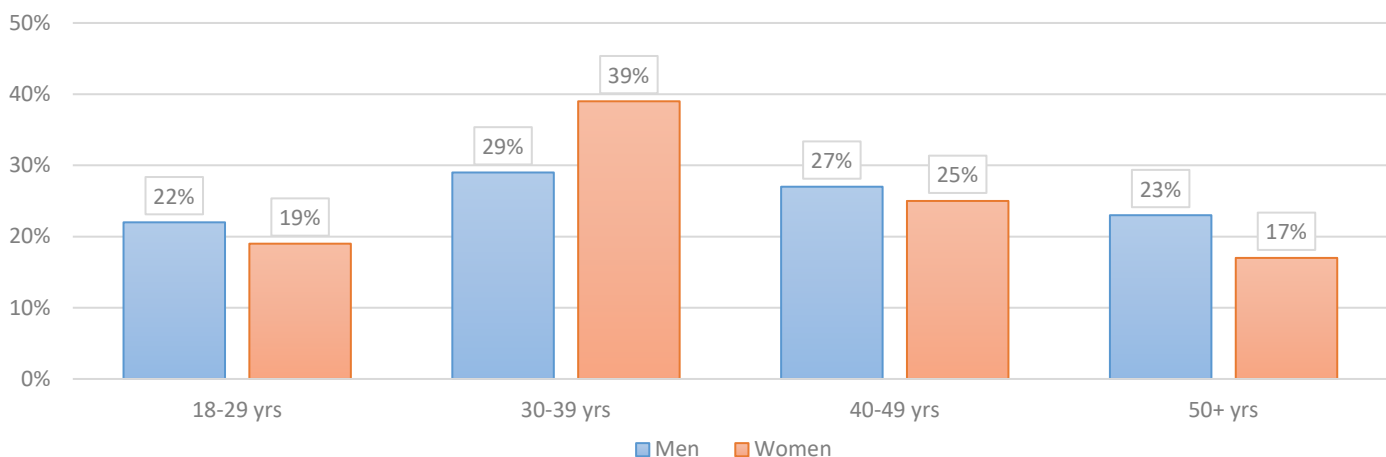
Over four in five individuals in contact with Wirral CJIT in the year ending March 2023 stated they were men (n=212, 85%; Figure 6). Although this is the largest proportion of men of the six-year period, it is below the Merseyside total (88%).

Figure 6: Gender of Wirral CJIT contacts (individuals), 2017/18 - 2022/23



When comparing age group with gender in the year ending March 2023, there are some differences (Figure 7). There was a larger proportion of men than women aged 50 years or over (23% and 17% respectively), compared to a larger proportion of women than men aged 30-39 years (39% and 29% respectively). Proportions of men and women were similar for individuals aged 18-29 years (22% and 19% respectively) and 40-49 years (27% and 25% respectively).

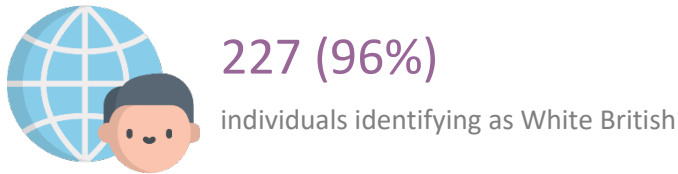
Figure 7: Age group and gender of Wirral CJIT contacts (individuals), 2022/23



ETHNICITY

The majority of Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 identified themselves as White British (n=227, 96%; *Figure 8*). This is a slight decrease on the previous year (98%) and comparable to the Merseyside figure (93%).

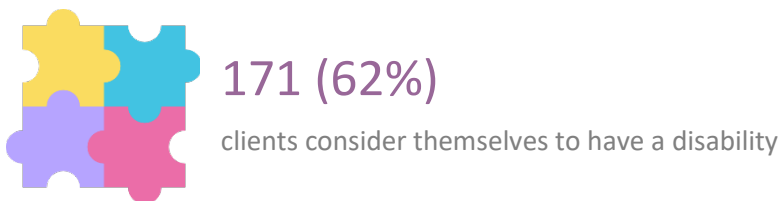
Figure 8: Ethnicity of Wirral CJIT contacts (individuals), 2022/23



DISABILITY

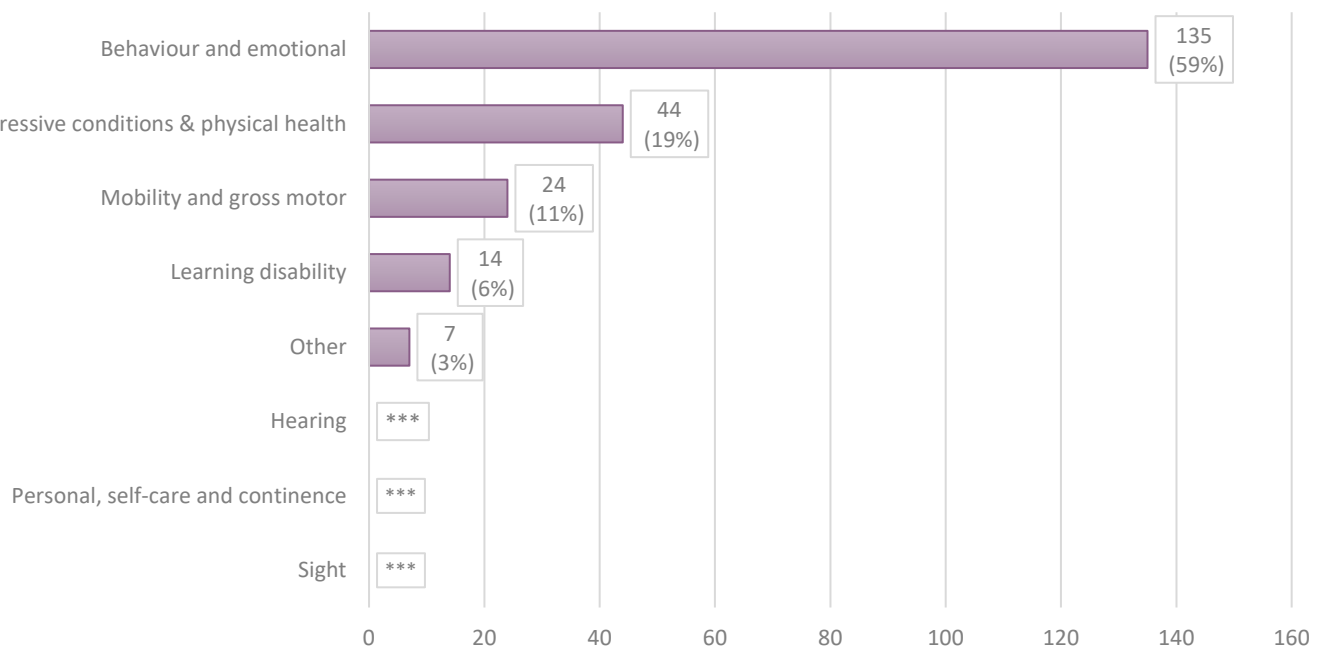
Just over three in five Wirral residents in the year ending March 2023 considered themselves to have a disability (n=171, 62%; *Figure 9*). This is an increase on the previous twelve-month period (49%) and the largest proportion since this was added to the CJIT dataset in April 2017. Furthermore, this is double the Merseyside figure (31%).

Figure 9: Disability status of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23



A total of 228 disabilities were recorded⁴; of which, around three in five were a behaviour and emotional disability (n=135, 59%), while around one in five were progressive conditions and physical health disabilities (n=44, 19%; *Figure 10*).

Figure 10: Disabilities of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23



⁴ Please note that clients may have up to three disabilities recorded.

VETERAN

Less than one in twenty Wirral residents in the year ending March 2023 stated they were a veteran of the British Armed Forces (n=8, 3%; *Figure 11*). This is the largest proportion of clients stating they are a veteran since this was added to the CJIT dataset in April 2020.

Figure 11: Veteran status of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23



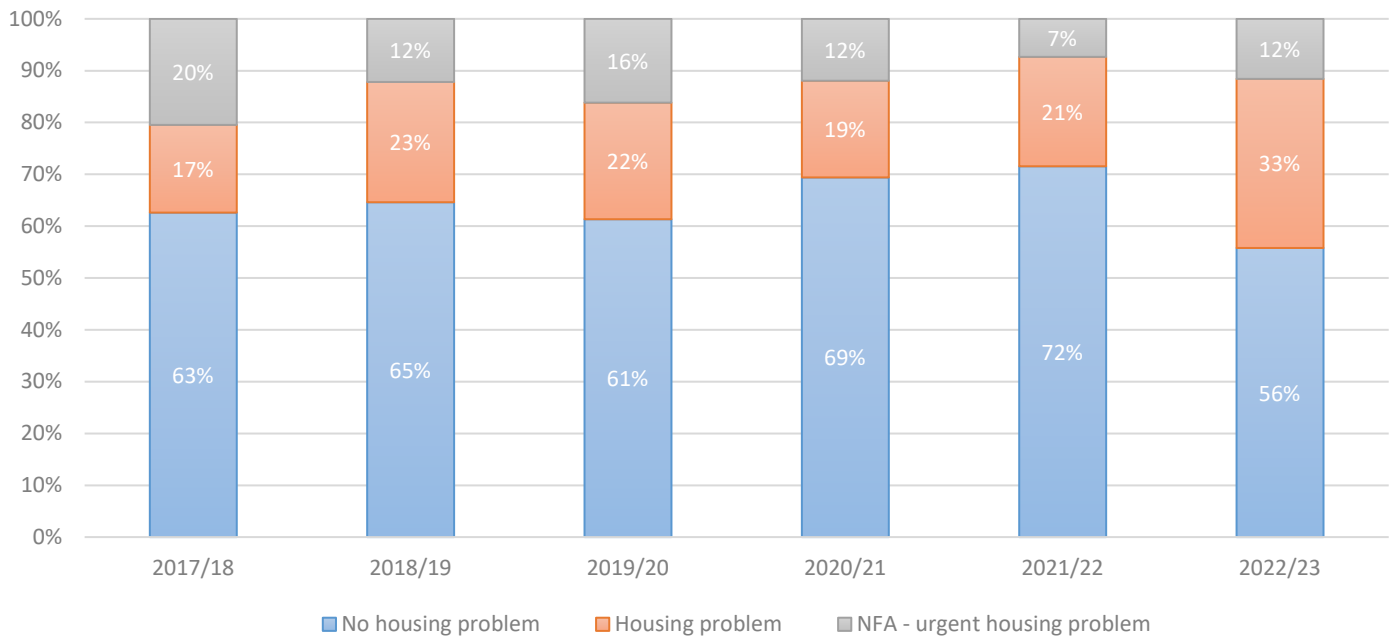
8 (3%)

veterans of the British Armed Forces

HOUSING

Over two in five Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 had some form of a housing problem (n=126, 44%; *Figure 12*)⁵. Notably, this is the largest proportion of clients reporting some form of a housing problem of the six-year period (though note the change in data recording), and is the largest proportion reported by the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 29%). Just over one in ten clients stated an urgent housing need due to being of no fixed abode (NFA)⁶ in 2022/23 (n=33, 12%), which is an increase on the previous year and the largest proportion of the Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 8%), though it is below Wirral's six-year average (14%).

Figure 12: Housing need of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23



⁵ Note that housing was updated in core dataset Q (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; however, please be cautious when making comparisons to preceding years. Whether the client was threatened with homelessness (in the next 56 days, following assessment) was added to core dataset Q.

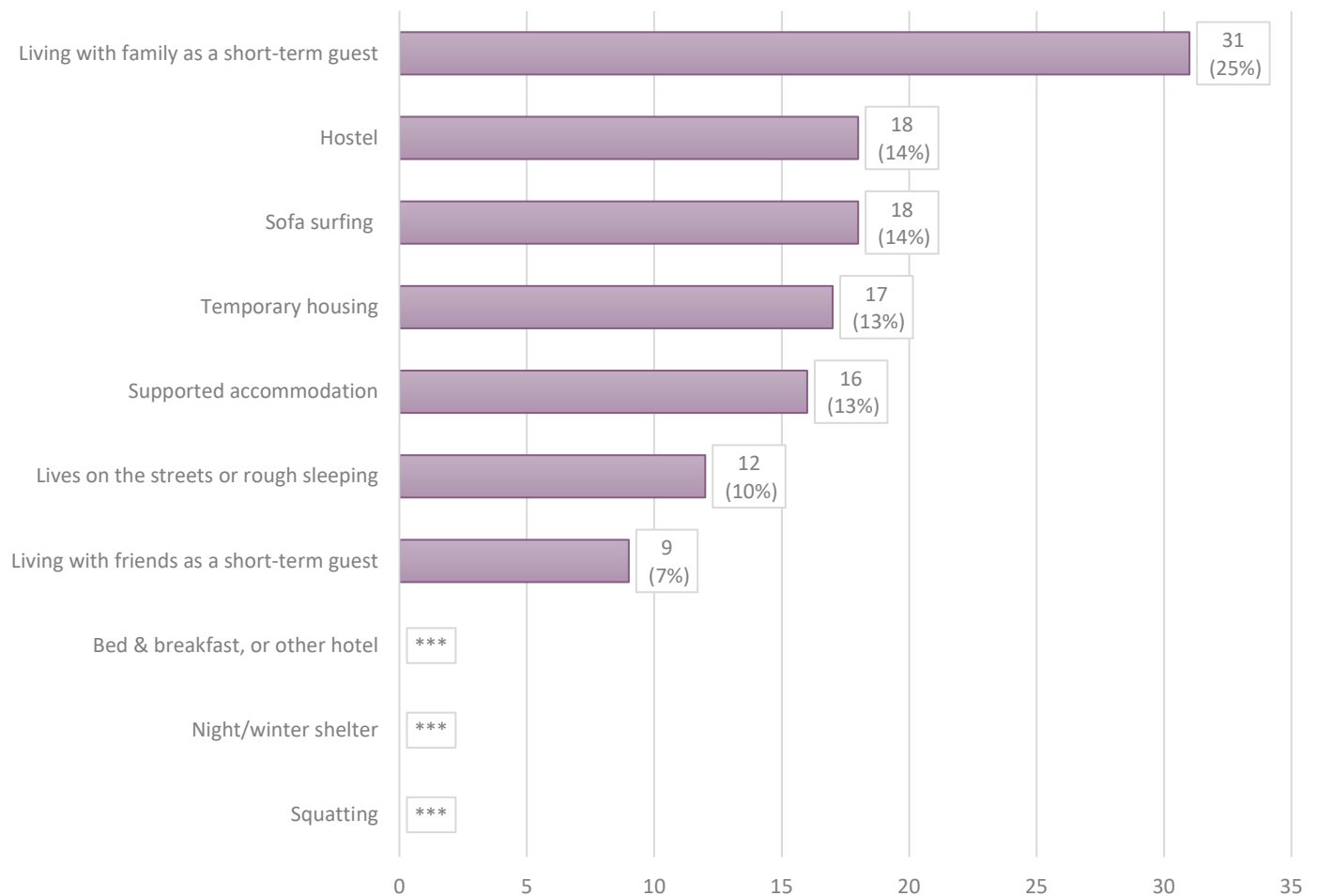
⁶ Non-urgent housing need includes: staying with friends/family short term, short stay hostel, short term B&B/hotel, placed in temporary accommodation by LA. Urgent housing need (NFA) includes: lives on streets/rough sleeper, uses night shelter (night-by-night basis)/emergency hostels, sofa surfing/sleeps on different friend's floor each night.

In the year ending March 2023, just over two in five reported to have no home of their own (n=126, 44%), which is the largest proportion across Merseyside (Merseyside total: 29%). Furthermore, around one in five of the total Wirral residents reported they had a risk of homelessness in the next eight weeks (n=54, 19%).

Focus on Wirral residents with some form of a housing problem

- In the year ending March 2023, of the 126 Wirral residents who had some form of a housing problem (housing problem = 93, NFA - urgent housing problem = 33), one-quarter were living with family as a short-term guest (n=31, 25%), followed by those living in a hostel (n=18, 14%), sofa surfing (n=18, 14%), and those living in temporary housing (n=17, 13%) and supported accommodation (n=16, 13%), while one in ten were living on the streets or rough sleeping (n=12, 10%; *Figure 13*).
- Over two in five came into contact with Wirral CJIT via the RA process following a positive test for specified Class A drugs (n=55, 44%), followed by presentations following release from prison (n=52, 41%) and other criminal justice routes (n=19, 15%).
- Over four in five were men (n=94, 85%), and over one-third were aged 30-39 years (n=39, 35%), followed by those aged 18-29 years (n=30, 27%), 40-49 years (n=24, 22%) and 50 years or over (n=18, 16%).
- Just under three in five reported heroin as their main substance (n=71, 56%), followed by cocaine (n=20, 16%) and crack (n=19, 15%).
- Just over one-third consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT assessment (n=45, 36%).
- Just under three in ten Wirral residents with some form of a housing problem in the year ending March 2023 were referred due to Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences (n=35, 28%), followed by other offences (n=29, 23%). Of the MDA offences, around seven in ten (71%) were possession, while the remainder were supply (29%).

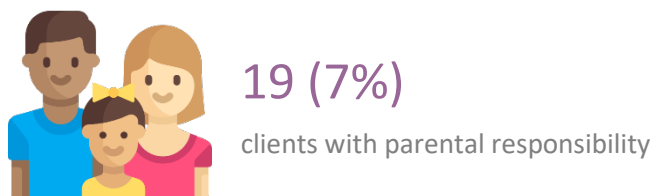
Figure 13: Current housing situation of Wirral CJIT contacts with some form of a housing problem, 2022/23



PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the year ending March 2023, less than one in ten clients had parental responsibility for a child aged under 18 years (n=19, 7%; *Figure 14*). This is a substantial decrease on the previous twelve-month period (24%) and is lower than the Merseyside figure (15%). Just over 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=10, 53%), which is a decrease on the previous year (64%) and is lower than the Merseyside figure (61%).

Figure 14: Parental status of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23



SUBSTANCE USE

Of the main substances reported by Wirral residents in the year ending March 2023, just under half reported heroin as their main substance (n=131, 46%), followed by cocaine (n=54, 19%) and crack (n=46, 16%; *Figure 15*). The proportion of heroin increased by 12% when compared to the previous year (34%) and is the second largest proportion of the six-year period, as well as the largest proportion of the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 29%). Conversely, the proportion of cocaine in the twelve months ending March 2023 decreased to its lowest proportion of the six years and is below the Merseyside figure (23%), while proportions for other categories are similar to the previous twelve months. Furthermore, the proportion of crack in 2022/23 is the largest of the five Merseyside areas (Merseyside total: 8%).

Figure 15: Main substances used by Wirral CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23

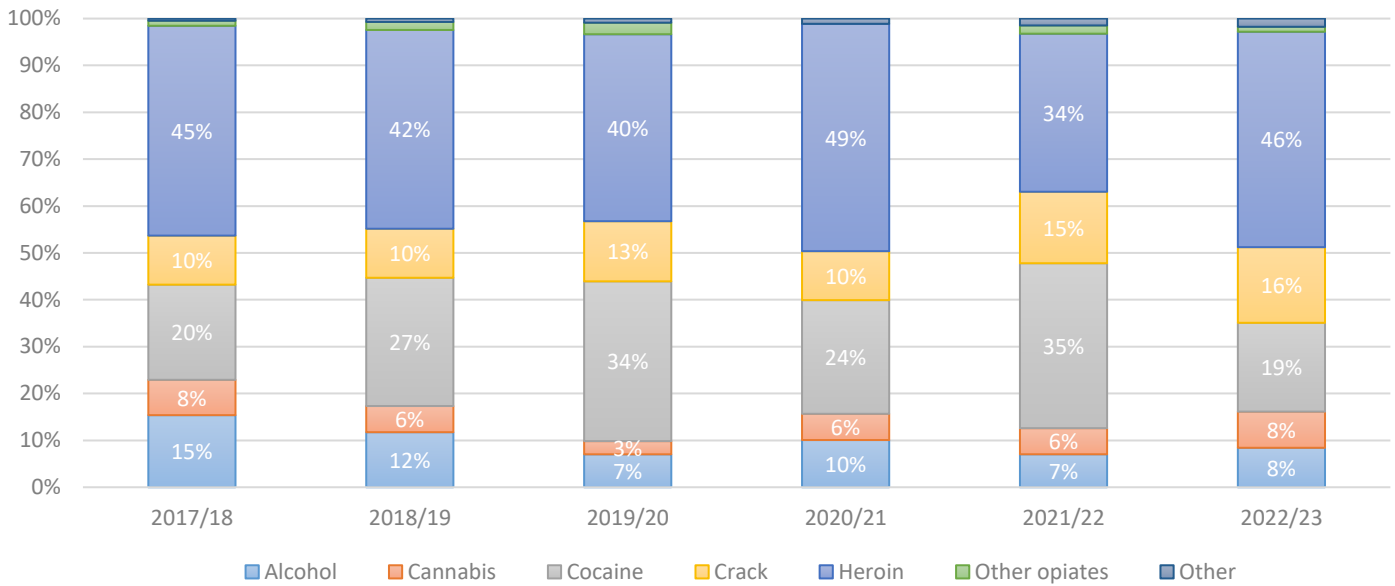


Figure 16 shows 2022/23 figures split by substance one, two and three. Around half reported their second substance as crack (n=121, 51%), while for the third substance, just over two in five clients reported cannabis (n=52, 42%), followed by just under a quarter (23%) reporting alcohol or other non-opiate substances (n=28 each).

Figure 16: Substances 1-3 used by Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23

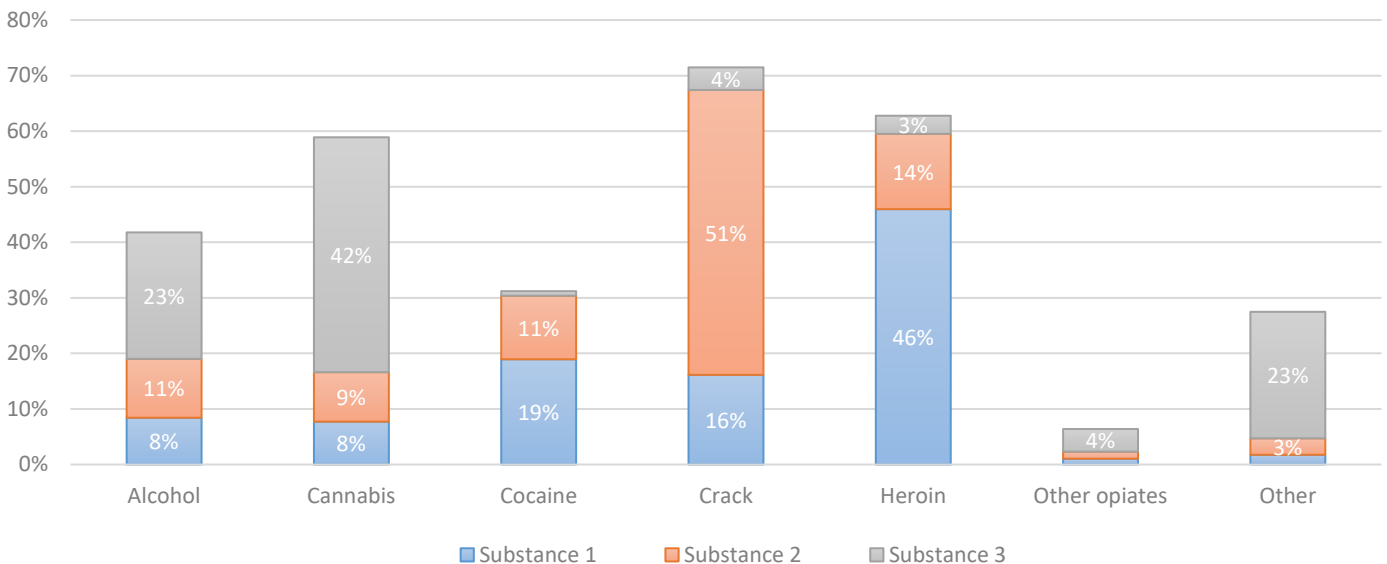


Figure 17 shows the proportions of the main substance by gender in the year ending March 2023. There was a substantially larger proportion of heroin recorded as the main substance by women when compared to men (64% and 43% respectively), while there was a larger proportion of men who reported cocaine when compared to women (21% and 7% respectively). Proportions were similar between men and women for alcohol, crack, other opiates and other substances, while there were no women who reported cannabis as their main substance.

Figure 17: Main substance and gender of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23

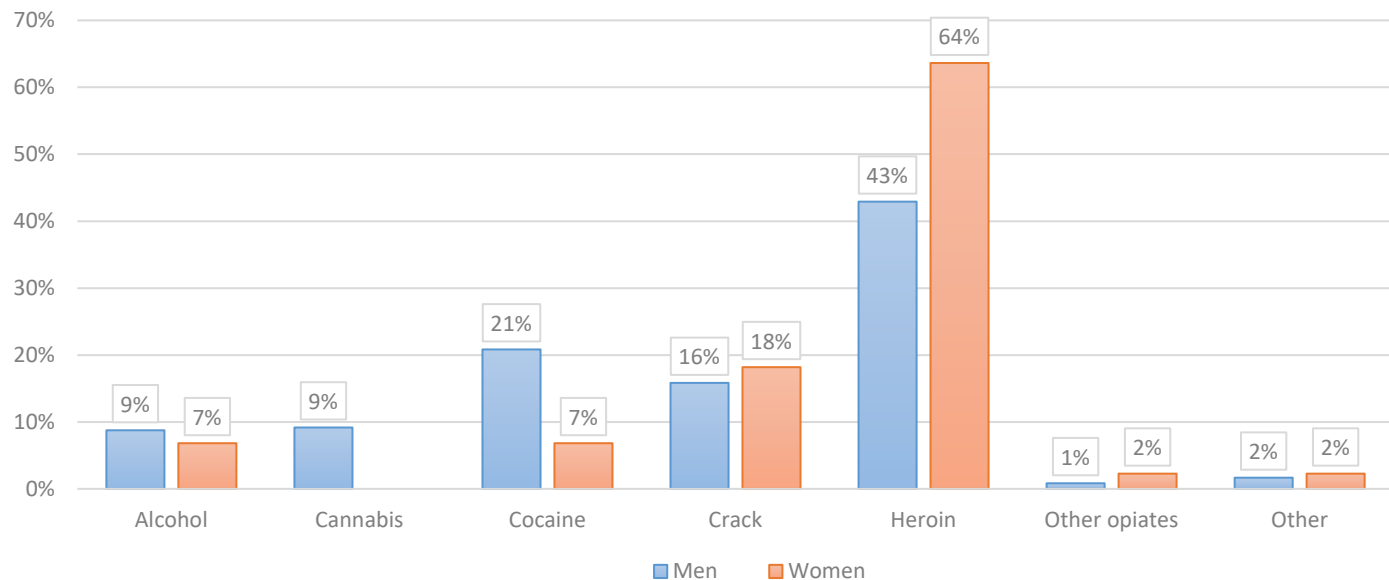
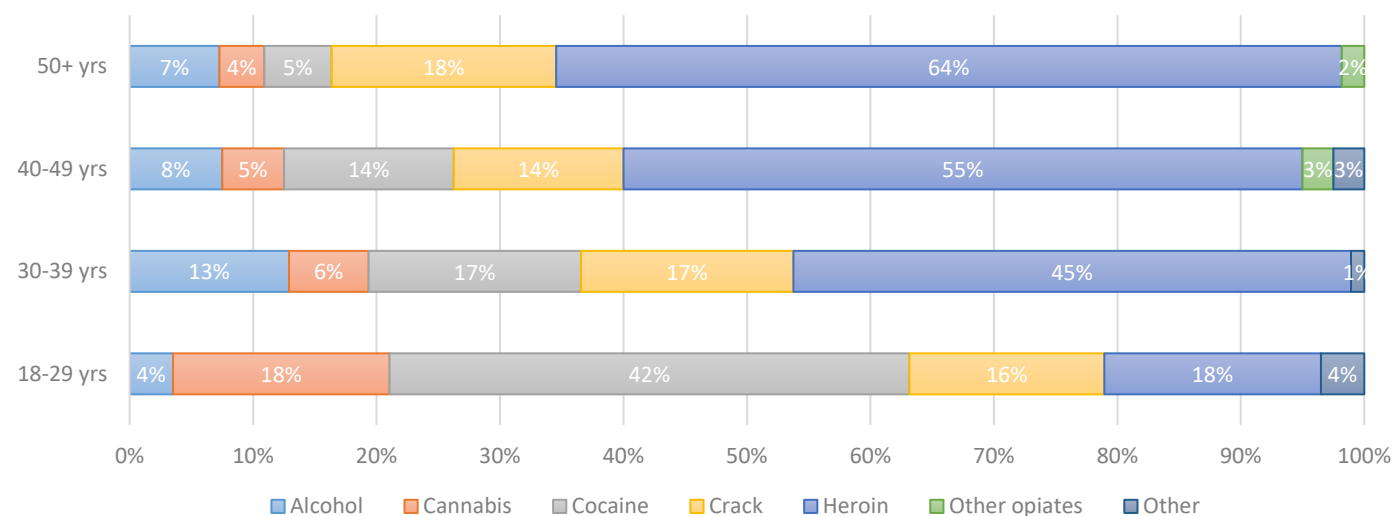


Figure 18 shows the proportions of the main substance for each age group in the year ending March 2023. Generally, there were larger proportions of cocaine recorded as the main substance in the younger age groups and larger proportions of heroin in the older age groups. Just over two in five (42%) 18-29 year olds reported cocaine as their main substance, and proportions decreased as age increased, while the proportion of heroin peaked in those aged 50 years or over (64%), which then decreased as age decreased. Proportions of alcohol and cannabis peaked in those aged 30-39 years (13%) and 18-29 year olds (18%) respectively. Notably, proportions of cack were similar across all age groups.

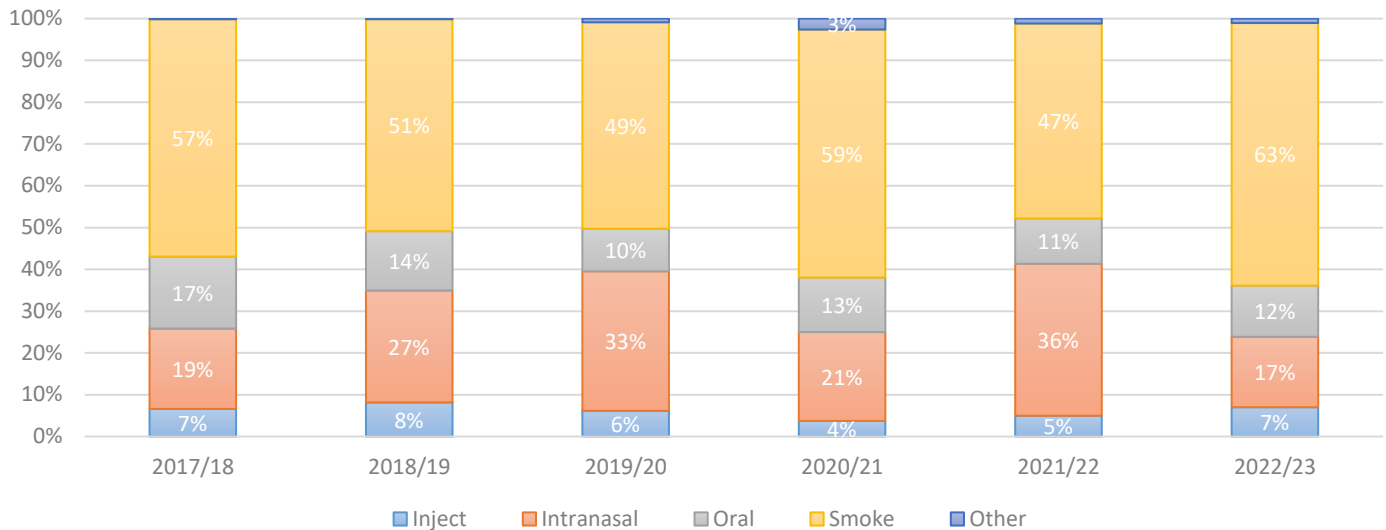
Figure 18: Main substance and age group of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23



ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION

The route of administration of the main substance is shown in *Figure 19*. In the year ending March 2023, just over three in five of the Wirral CJIT contacts smoked their main substance (n=179, 63%), which is a 16% increase on the previous year and the largest proportion of the six-year period, as well as the largest proportion of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 54%). One in six clients administered their main substance intranasally in the year ending March 2023 (n=48, 17%), which is a 20% decrease when compared to the previous year, the lowest proportion of the six years and smaller than the Merseyside figure (24%).

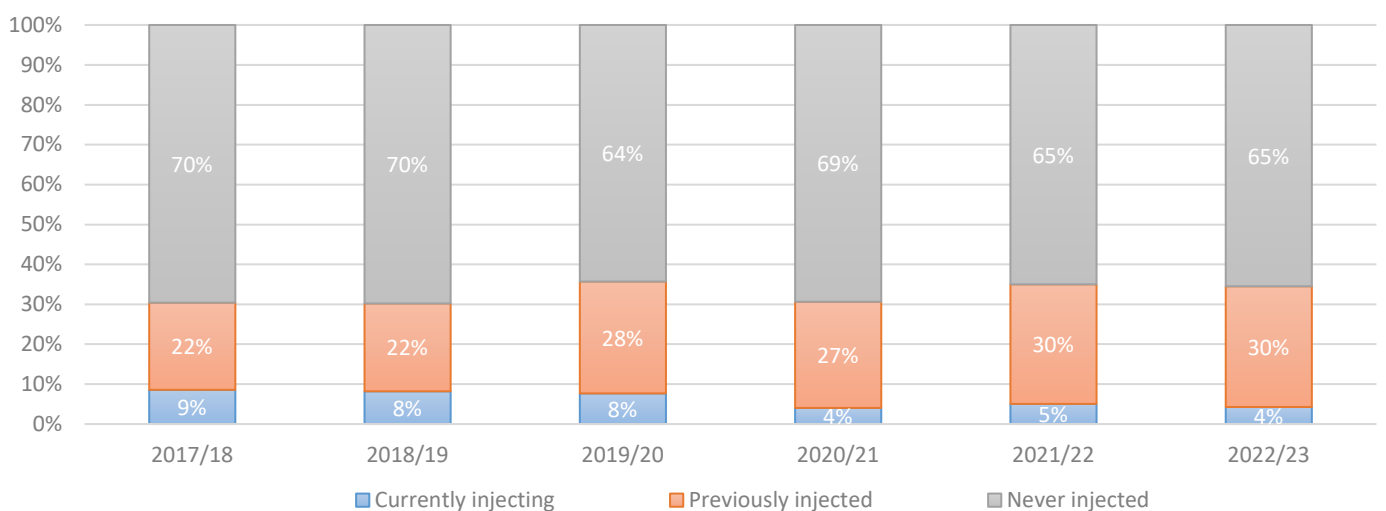
Figure 19: Route of administration of the main substance used by Wirral CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23



INJECTING STATUS

Around two in three Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 stated they had never injected (n=184, 65%), followed by three in ten who previously injected but were not currently (n=85, 30%) and 4% who were currently injecting at the time of their assessment (n=12; *Figure 20*). These figures are in line with the previous two years and proportions of clients currently injecting in the years ending March 2021 and March 2023 are the lowest of the six-year period. Notably, the proportion of Wirral CJIT contacts in the year ending March 2023 who reported to have previously injected was the largest of the five CJITs and around double the Merseyside figure (16%).

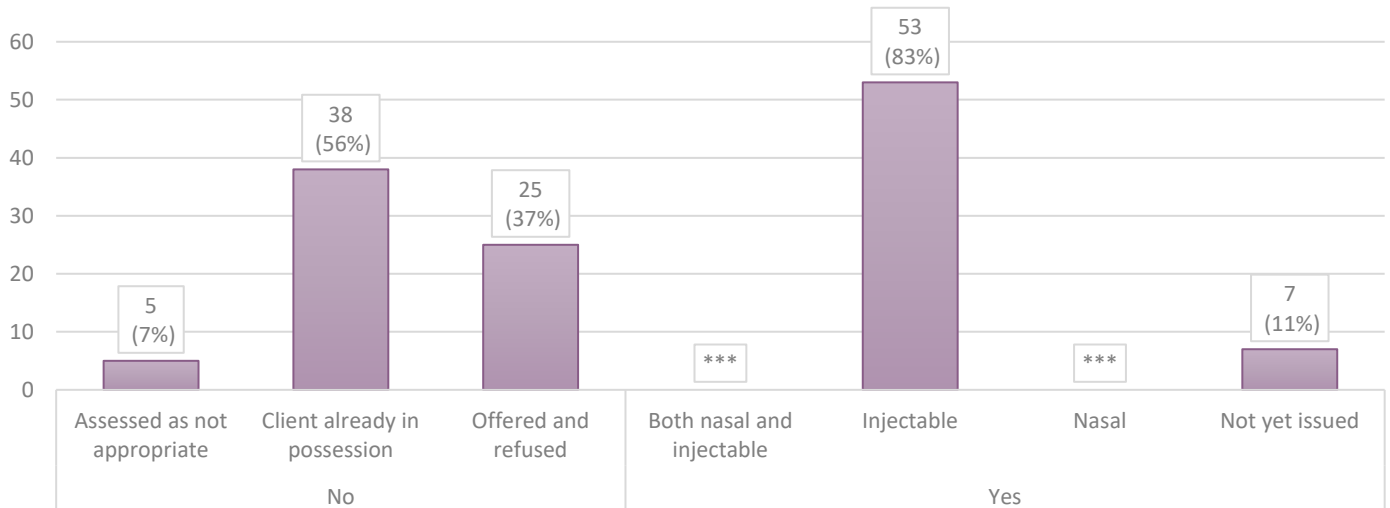
Figure 20: Injecting status of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23



NALOXONE PROVISION

Just under half of the clients who reported an opioid as their main substance in 2022/23 were issued with naloxone (n=64, 48%), which is a larger proportion than the Merseyside figure (41%). Of the clients issued with naloxone, over four in five were supplied with injectable naloxone (n=53, 83%), while of the clients who were not issued with naloxone, less than three in five were already in possession of adequate naloxone (n=38, 56%), and just under two in five were offered naloxone but refused (n=25, 37%; *Figure 21*).

Figure 21: Issue of naloxone to Wirral CJIT contacts who reported opiates as their main substance, 2022/23

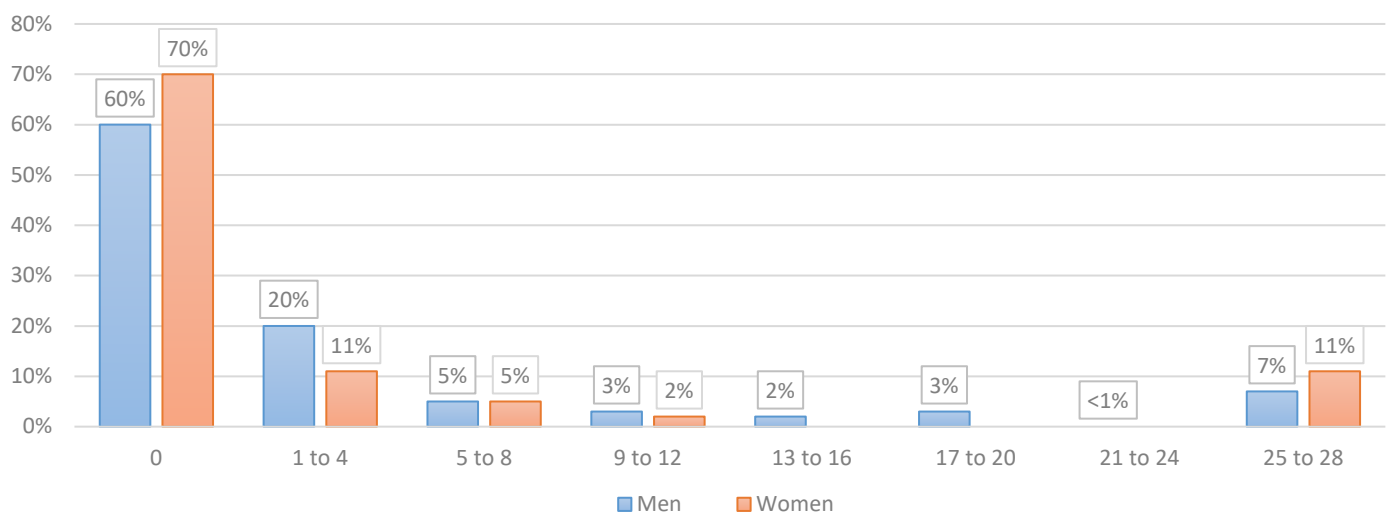


ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Figure 22 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 2023. Three in five men did not consume alcohol (n=144, 60%), which is an increase on the previous twelve-month period (53%), though a smaller proportion than the Merseyside figure (66%).

Seven in ten women did not consume alcohol in the 28 days prior to their CJIT contact in the year ending March 2023 (n=31, 70%; *Figure 22*), which is a substantial increase on the previous year (40%) and the largest proportion of the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 55%).

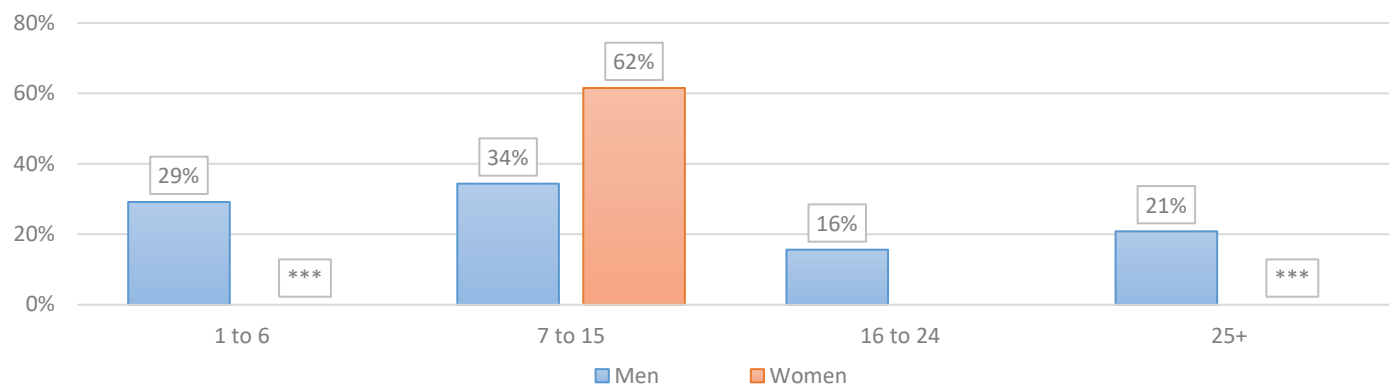
Figure 22: Number of drinking days in the 28 days prior to assessment for Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23



The daily average number of units of alcohol consumed by Wirral residents in the 28 days prior to CJIT contact in the year ending March 2023 are shown in *Figure 23*. Around a third of the 96 men who drank alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily (n=33, 34%), followed by those who consumed 1-6 units (n=28, 29%). Proportions are somewhat similar to the previous twelve-month period and the Merseyside figures.

Of the 13 women who consumed alcohol in the 28 days prior to their assessment in the year ending March 2023, just over three in five consumed 7-15 units of alcohol daily (n=8, 62%; *Figure 23*). This is an increase on the previous year (38%) and the largest proportion of the Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 36%).

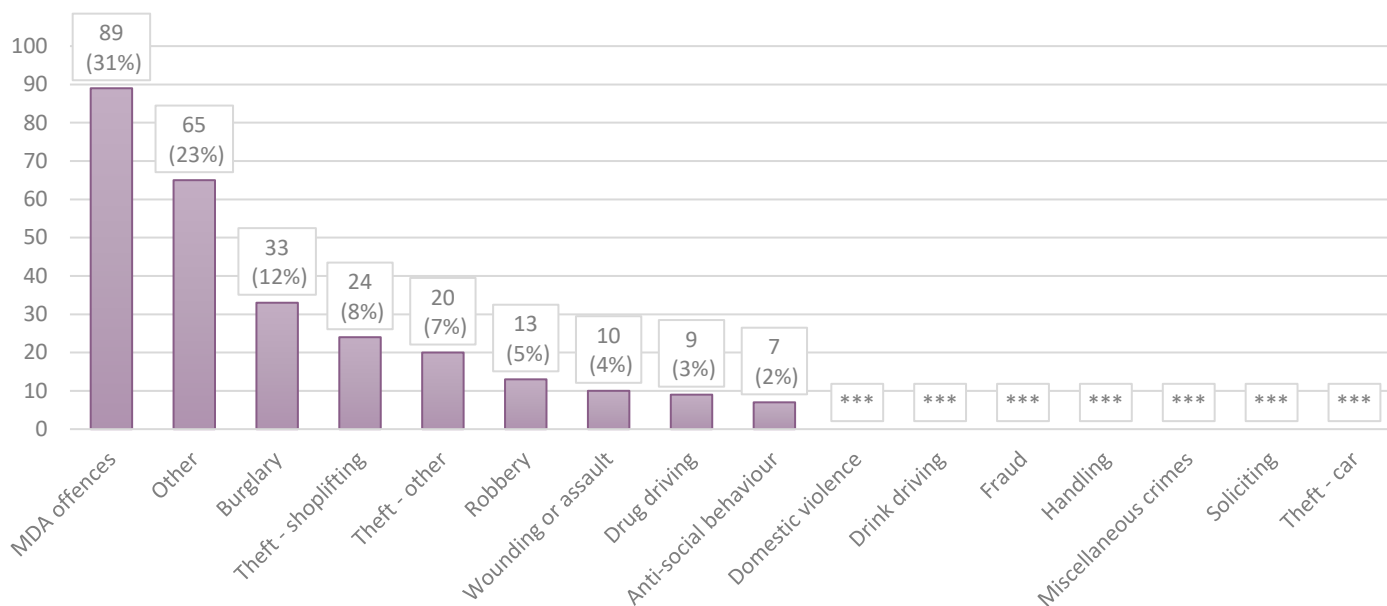
Figure 23: Number of units of alcohol (daily average) consumed by Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23



OFFENDING

The offence that prompted Wirral CJIT clients’ current or most recent contact with the criminal justice system in the year ending March 2023 is shown in *Figure 24*. Just under one-third of the offences were Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) offences (n=89, 31%)⁷, followed by just under one-quarter of offences categorised as ‘other’ (n=65, 23%). The proportion of MDA offences is smaller than the Merseyside figure (38%) and the proportion of other offences is similar to the Merseyside figure (25%). Furthermore, Wirral reported the largest proportion of burglary (12%) of the five Merseyside CJITs (Merseyside total: 5%).

Figure 24: Offence that prompted current/most recent contact with the criminal justice system for Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23



⁷ Just over two-thirds of the MDA offences were possession (n=61, 69%), while the remainder were supply (n=28, 31%).

Figure 25 shows six-year trends of the main offending categories for Wirral residents. There was a substantial increase in the proportion of MDA offences in the year ending March 2023, which is the largest proportion of the six years, and there was a slight increase in burglary in 2022/23, when compared to the previous year. Proportions of other offences⁸, theft - shoplifting and wounding or assault decreased in 2022/23 when compared to the previous year, with the proportion of theft - shoplifting the smallest of the six-year period.

Figure 25: Main offences that prompted current/most recent contact with the criminal justice system for Wirral CJIT contacts, 2017/18 - 2022/23

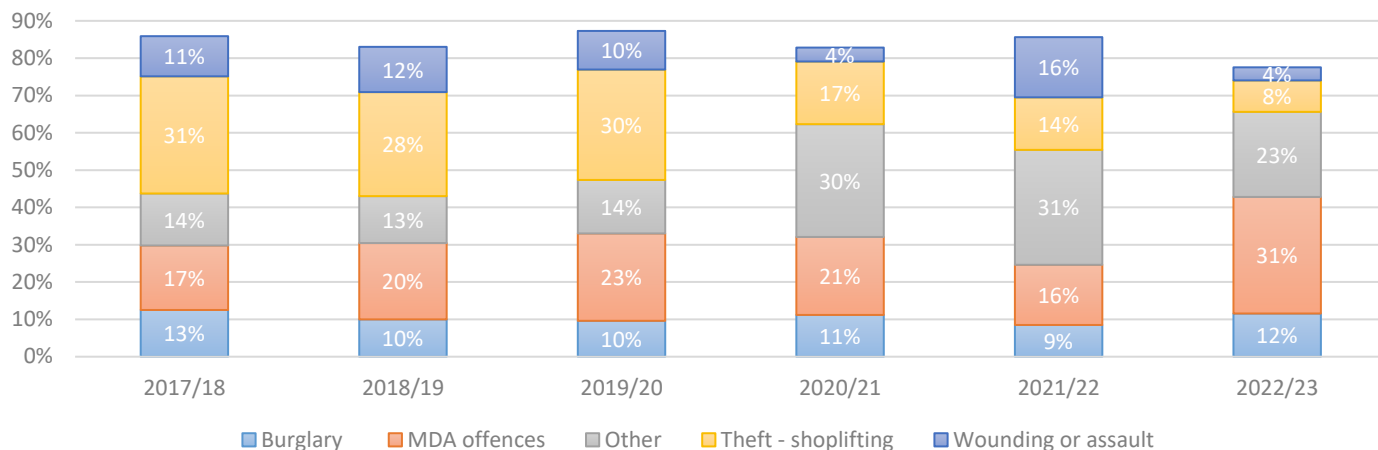
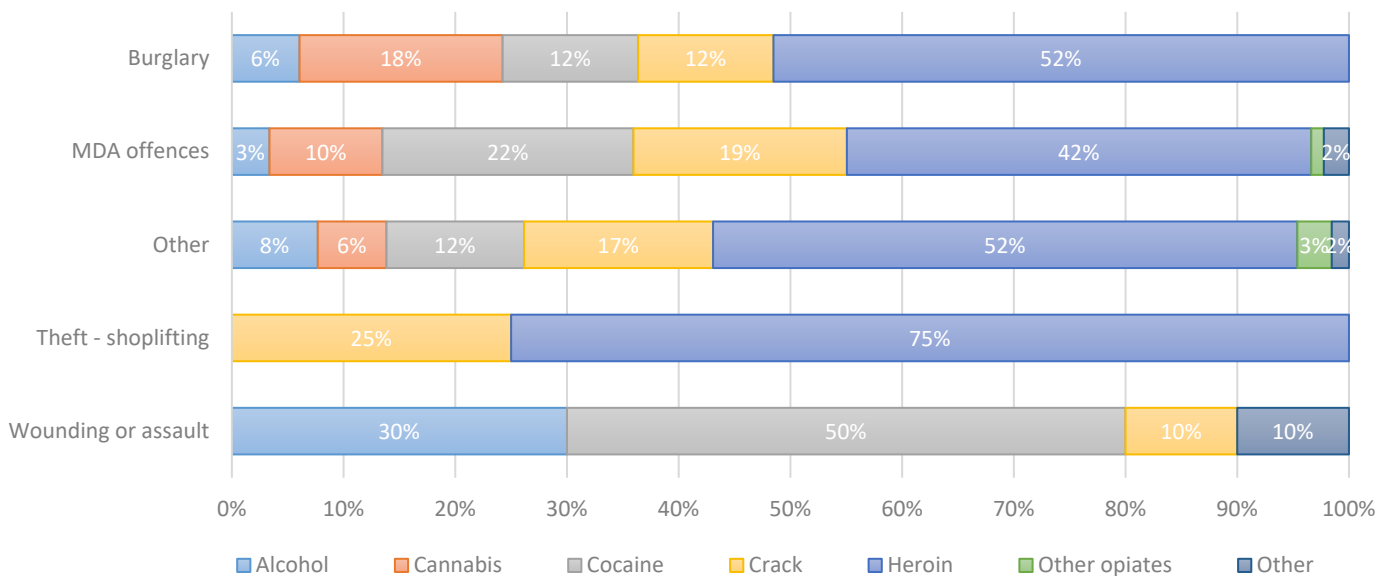


Figure 26 shows the proportions of the main substance for the most common offences recorded for Wirral CJIT contacts assessed in the year ending March 2023. Of the episodes with burglary and other offences recorded, just over half reported heroin as the main substance (both 52%), while for MDA offences just over two in five (42%) reported heroin, followed by just over one in five (22%) cocaine. Three-quarters (75%) of theft - shoplifting had heroin recorded as the main substance, followed by one-quarter (25%) that was crack, and half (50%) of wounding or assault had cocaine recorded as the main substance, followed by alcohol (30%).

Figure 26: Main substance and offence of Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23



⁸ Note that anti-social behaviour, drink driving, drug driving and miscellaneous crimes against society were added as reference items to core dataset Q in April 2022, which may affect the trends of offences categorised as 'other'.

REFERRALS TO STRUCTURED TREATMENT

Of the clients taken onto the CJIT caseload, 141 (122 individuals) were referred to structured treatment in the year ending March 2023 (Figure 27), which is an increase on the 116 referrals (108 individuals) in the previous year⁹.

Figure 27: Referrals to structured treatment for Wirral CJIT contacts, 2022/23



141 (122 individuals)
referrals to structured treatment

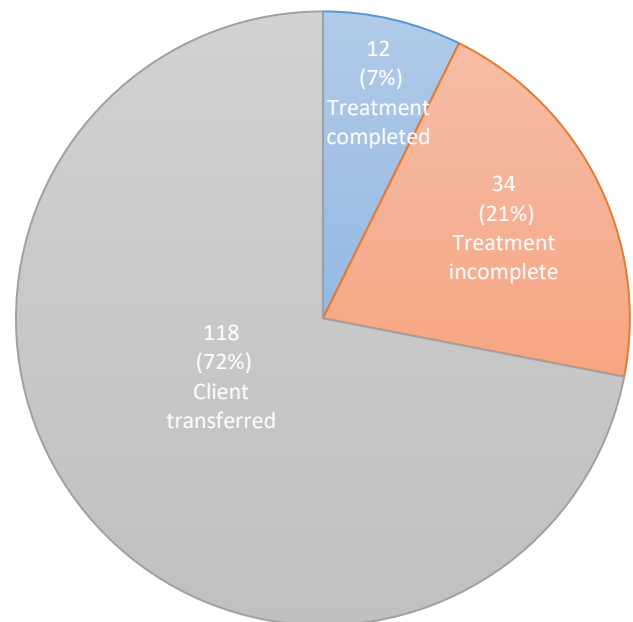
TREATMENT OUTCOMES

There were 164 clients (138 individuals) closed from the Wirral CJIT caseload in the year ending March 2023¹⁰. Of these, almost three-quarters transferred prior to the completion of treatment (n=118, 72%), while around one in five did not complete treatment (n=34, 21%) and under one in ten completed treatment (n=12, 7%; Figure 28).

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: 45%).

Of the 118 Wirral residents who transferred in the year ending March 2023 prior to the completion of treatment, a quarter were on the CJIT caseload for less than a month (n=30, 25%), and around half were on the caseload between one and three months (n=60, 51%).

Figure 28: Discharges from the Wirral CJIT caseload, 2022/23



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 where the date was between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, regardless of when the client was taken onto the CJIT caseload.

¹⁰ Figures include discharges from the CJIT caseload where the date was between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 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, gender 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 \(end 2022/23\)](#).

APPENDIX B: RATES OF CJIT CONTACTS PER 100,000 ADULT POPULATION IN MERSEYSIDE, 2022/23

In the year ending March 2023, 135.8 individuals per 100,000 adult population in Merseyside were assessed by one of the local CJITs. Wirral had the second highest number of individuals in contact with the CJIT in the twelve months ending March 2023, though the second smallest rate (97.0 per 100,000)¹¹.

CJIT/LA	CJIT contacts (individuals)	
	Number	Rate (per 100,000 adult population)
Knowsley	148	121.0
Liverpool	784	194.9
Sefton	203	89.2
St Helens	202	136.6
Wirral	249	97.0
<i>Total Merseyside residents (individuals)</i>	<i>1,571</i>	<i>135.8</i>



¹¹ Rates have been calculated using [mid-2022 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.

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About the Public Health Institute

The Public Health Institute (PHI) within the Faculty of Health, 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 have extensive experience across various datasets which contribute to the surveillance systems developed and managed by PHI.

DIP and criminal justice monitoring

PHI has been monitoring criminal justice interventions for offenders 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 dataset, 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 dataset 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 and engaged with DIP, and highlight any issues with the DIP process.

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 has been continually developing to meet local needs.

