Statistics for young people’s specialist substance misuse services in England 2013-14 from NDTMS

This statistical release presents key results from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) on the number of young people (aged under 18) in contact with drug and alcohol treatment providers and GPs in England in 2013-14, and the proportion leaving services who completed their treatment. These figures do not include clients treated in prisons.

The results provided here are produced by Manchester University National Drug Evidence Centre (NDEC) from data collected by NDTMS and form part of National Statistics:

- 19,126 young people accessed specialist substance misuse services in 2013-14. This is a decrease of 906 individuals (4.5%) since 2012-13 and a decrease of 1,562 individuals (7.6%) since 2011-12
- The most common routes into specialist services were from youth offending teams (27%) and mainstream education (19%)
- Of the 19,126 young people accessing specialist services in 2013-14, the majority were white British (80%). Two thirds were male (66%). Just over half (53%) were aged 16 or over
- The majority of young people accessing specialist services did so for problems with cannabis (71%) or alcohol (20%) as their primary substance
- Over four fifths (82%) of young people accessing specialist services said they were living with their parents or other relatives. Five per cent (5%) stated their accommodation status was living in care, living in care as a looked after child or living independently as a looked after child
- Of those entering services in 2013-14 just over half (52%) were in mainstream education; 18% said they were not in education or employment
- Less than half of young people entering specialist services (41%) did so with zero or one vulnerable factors. The majority of young people reported two to four vulnerable factors (58%)
- Of the 23,147 first interventions starting in 2013-14, 22,800 (99%) began within three weeks of referral. The average (mean) wait to commence their first specialist intervention was two days
- The average (mean) number of days a young person received their latest episode of specialist interventions for during 2013-14 was 151 days (just over five months). Opiate users tended to spend the longest time accessing interventions, on average just under six months (177 days) and cocaine users spent on average the shortest time (138 days)
- 12,510 young people exited specialist services in 2013-14 and 9,852 (79%) of these did so in a planned way no longer requiring specialist treatment

These figures report data that was collected on young people whose treatment falls within the definition: “Young people’s specialist substance misuse treatment is a care planned medical, psychosocial or specialist harm reduction intervention aimed at alleviating current harm caused by a young person’s substance misuse.”

More information on NDTMS is available on the PHE website, www.nta.nhs.uk/ndtms.aspx

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