Infections in injectors in Wales (and what to watch for...)

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Health Protection, Public Health Wales
## Changing trends?
(or only part of the picture)

### 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary substance</th>
<th>Pharmacy only</th>
<th>Any stat/vol service use</th>
<th>2015-16 Total</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>% change from previous year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NPSs</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>-0.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioids</td>
<td>5194</td>
<td>4482</td>
<td>9676</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>1.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIEDs</td>
<td>8464</td>
<td>4134</td>
<td>12598</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td>-3.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimulants</td>
<td>1517</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>2319</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>15327</td>
<td>9601</td>
<td>24928</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Average length of injecting: Opioids

Harm Reduction Database Wales, 2016
Average length of injecting: Stimulants

Harm Reduction Database Wales, 2016
Average length of injecting: NPS (primary)
NPS (any use) 2014-15

Harm Reduction Database Wales, 2016
Specialist drug treatment

Referrals by primary drug, WNDSM, 2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Non-mover</td>
<td>5F-PB-22</td>
<td>5F-PB-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Non-mover</td>
<td>5F-AKB48</td>
<td>5F-AKB48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Up one</td>
<td>Methiopropamine</td>
<td>Mephedrone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Down One</td>
<td>Mephedrone</td>
<td>Methiopropamine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Non-mover</td>
<td>Ethylphenidate</td>
<td>Ethylphenidate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Up two</td>
<td>3-Fluorophenmetrazine</td>
<td>5-MeO-DALT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 New entry</td>
<td>MDMB-CHMICA</td>
<td>Ketamine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 New entry</td>
<td>Ethylone</td>
<td>3-Fluorophenmetrazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Non-mover</td>
<td>Etizolam</td>
<td>Etizolam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 New entry</td>
<td>Methoxphenidine</td>
<td>Phenylethylamine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NSP activity: self-reported injecting careers

Index graph, 2011-12=100

- All substances: 0-2 years
- All substances: 3+ years
- Primary stimulant/NPS use: 0-2 years
- Primary stimulant/NPS use: 3+ years

Number of service users

Service users accessing statutory/voluntary sites only

Harm Reduction Database Wales, 2016
Blood borne virus: HCV

• Prevalence of Hepatitis C infection rates in South Wales
  – Cardiff & Vale 2006: 38%\(^1\)
    2011: 28\(^%\)^2
    2014: 36.6%\(^2\)
  – Swansea 2006: 42\(^%\)^1
    2014: 71.7\(^%\)^2

plus linked clusters

Blood borne virus: HIV/HCV co-infection

• HIV –new infections in people who inject drugs – risk: MCAT /ATS injecting

• Injecting vs sexual transmission?... “first cluster of IDU cases in 14 years ...”

• Contract tracing ongoing...including prisons (male and female)

• Chemsex
IPEDS 2015 SURVEY RESULTS
ipedinfo.co.uk

Adverse effects in past year:
- Testicular atrophy (25%)
- Gynaecomastia (12%)
- Pain at injection site (56%)
- Abscess, sores or open wounds (22%)
- Increased aggression (17%)
- Mood swings (26%)

Injection sites:
- Gluteus 82%
- Quadriceps 47%
- Deltoid 32%
- Triceps 7%
- Biceps 5%
- Abdomen 4%
- Pectoral 3%

Drug use in past year:
- Cannabis 24%
- Cocaine 22%
- Ecstasy 10%
- Speed 7%

Injected in past year:
- Anabolic steroids 73%
- Growth hormone 26%
- Human chorionic gonadotropin 1%
- Melanotan 10%

Infections:
- Hep B 8.8%
- Hep C 5.5%
- HIV 1.5%

Sexual behaviour:
- One sexual partner last year 48%
- Two or more sexual partners last year 43%
- No sexual partners last year 7%
- Had unprotected sex in the past year 81%

To take part in our 2016 survey visit www.ipedinfo.co.uk or ask:
Infections:

- **HEP B** 8.8%
- **HEP C** 5.5%
- **HIV** 1.5%
Substances submitted to WEDINOS that had intravenous listed as the method of consumption include:
- Amphetamine
- Ethylphenidate
- Heroin
- Mephedrone
- Methamphetamine

Injection of NPS, particularly mephedrone, has already been linked to clusters of hepatitis C infection amongst people who inject drugs in Wales. Concerns have also been highlighted amongst drugs services within Scotland as a result of individuals injecting ethylphenidate.

“… whilst 5 per cent stated intravenous administration, this is up from 3 per cent in 2013-14”
Impacts:

• Physical:
  - Granular (‘gritty’) lumps remain
  - Abscesses
  - DVTs
  - Severe weight loss

• Psychological: Memory loss/Psychosis / suicidal ideation

• Sexual health and vulnerability

• Criminal Justice
Injecting site infections, DVT and amputation

- Abscesses
- Major reconstructive surgery to femoral veins ‘looked like they had dissolved’
- ITU
- Amputations
Initial investigation of MSSA infection in PWID

Provisional results regarding episodes of MSSA bacteraemia in Cwm Taf UHB. Total cases over 5 year period -397. For each episode of MSSA bacteraemia the microbiologist (Dr Wei Wan) collected information on risk factors -not clear how systematically this was carried out. Small numbers but increasing trend. (NB: this data may include multiple episodes of bacteraemia from the same patients)
Responses

• Information and awareness raising
Responses

- Information and awareness raising
- Training: SMaSH (Substance Misuse and Sexual Health) L1 & L2
- Increased detection: DBS / clinics
- Redevelopment of enhanced surveillance (BBV and bacterial infections)
- Injecting equipment provision/5 year plan
- Chemsex packs
- Prevalence estimate of problematic & injecting drug use
- Service redesign
What’s that coming over the hill?....

- Chemsex and Swinging = heterosexual transmission / injecting / STIs

- Crack?

- Impact of legislative change
Contact details

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