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

Josie Smith

Head of Substance Misuse

Health Protection, Public Health Wales

Changing trends ?

(or only part of the picture)

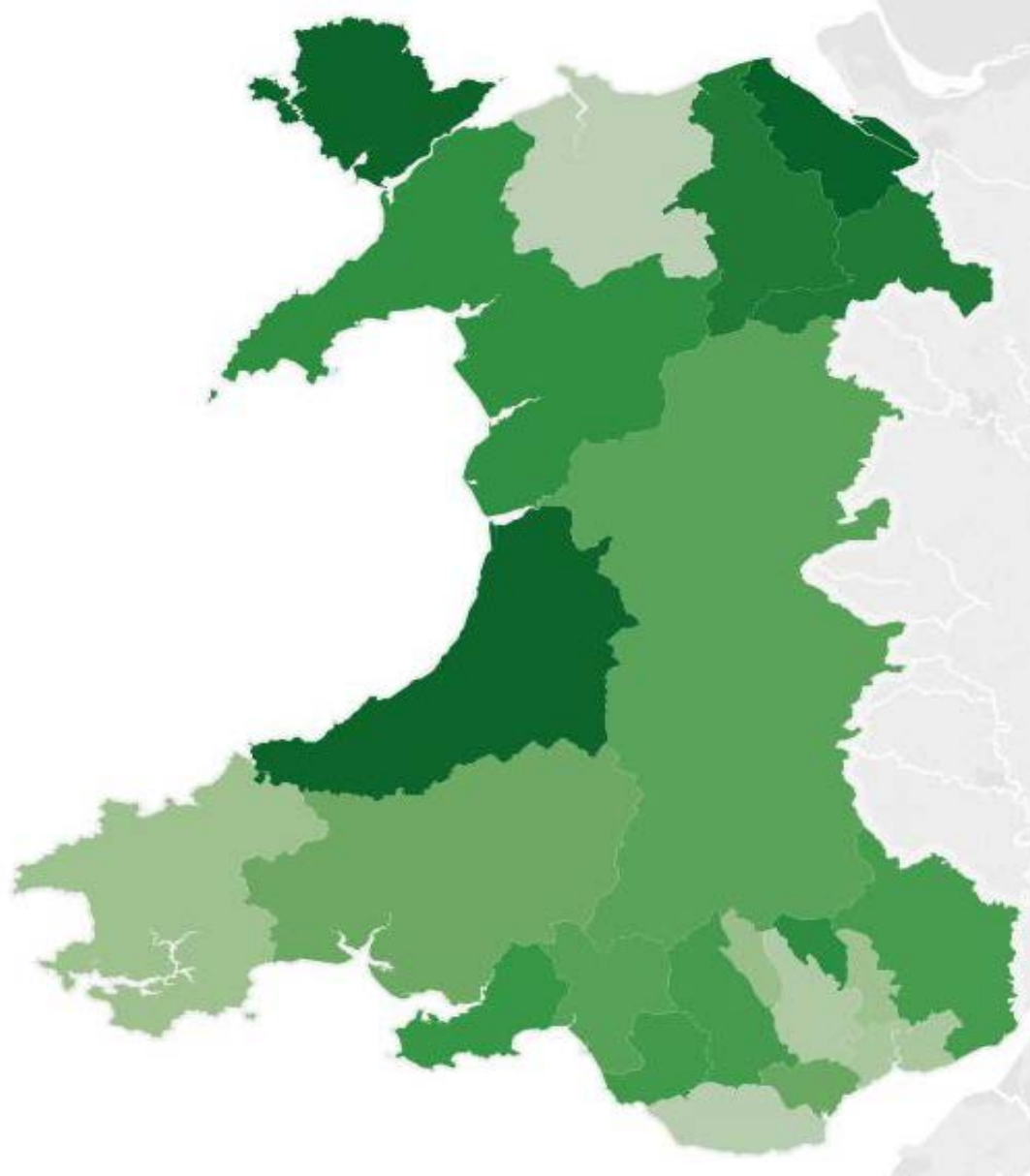
2015-16

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



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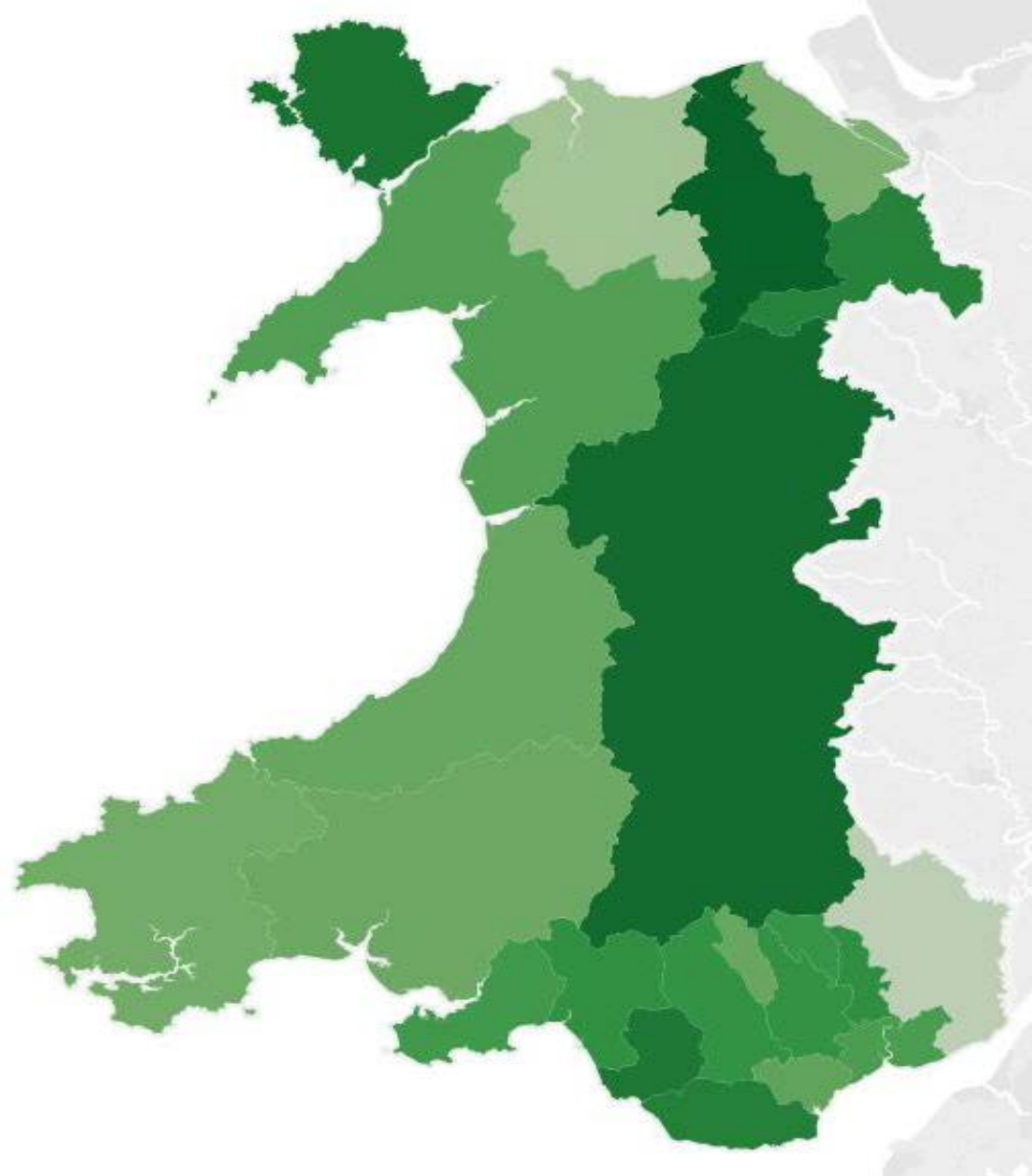
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Avg. Length of time inj..

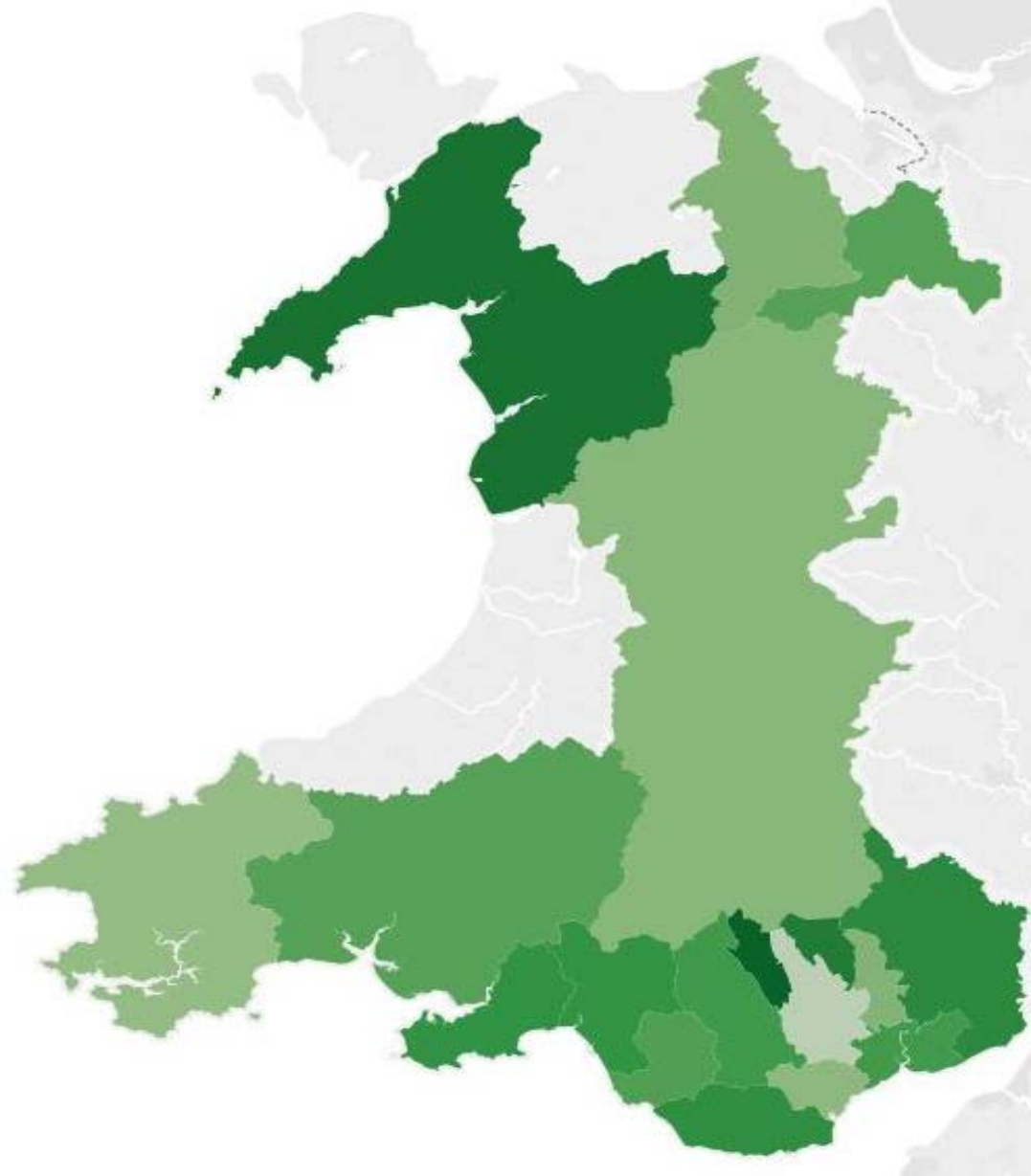
98.0 202.0

Average length of injecting: Opioids

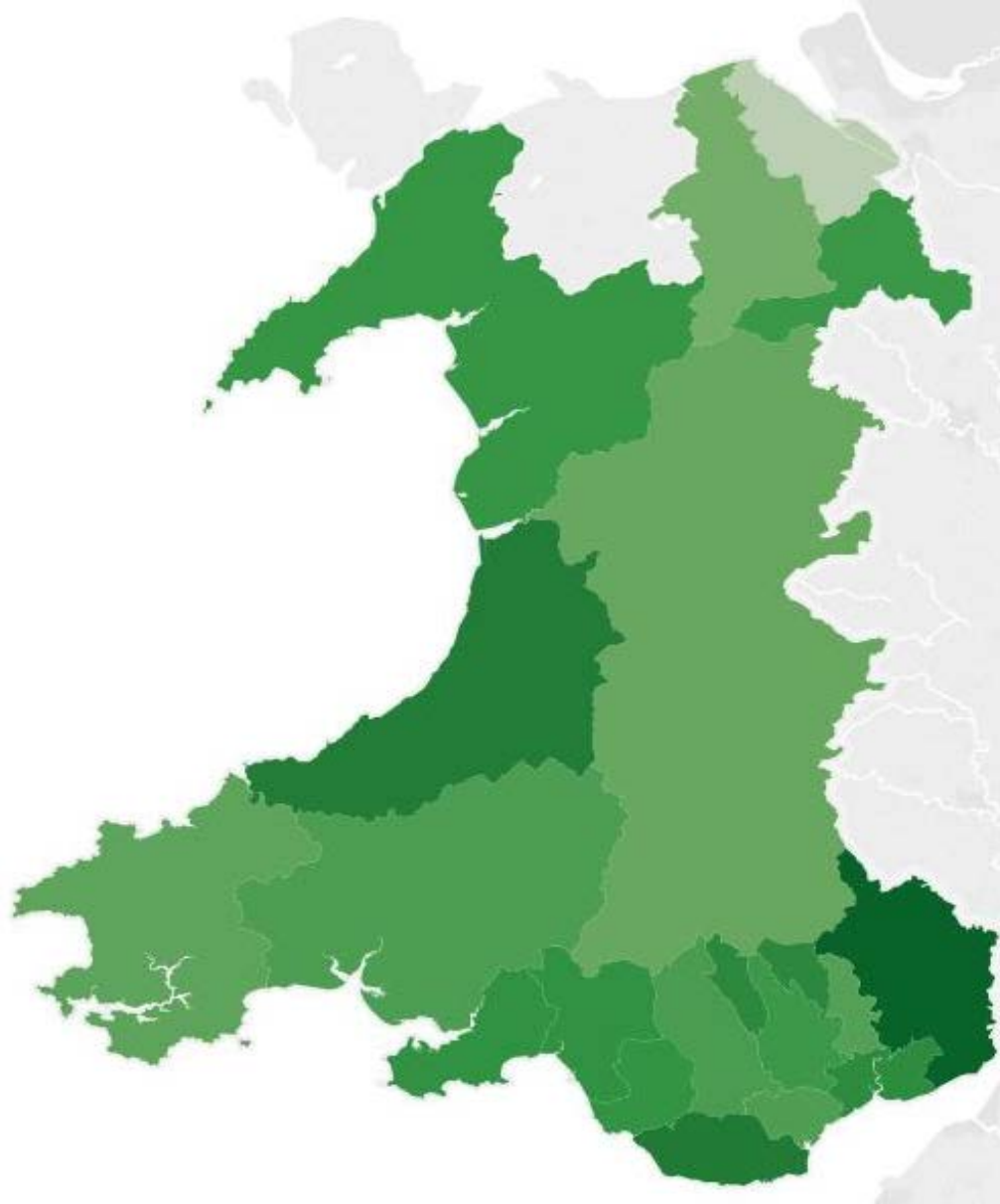


Avg. Length of time inj..
78.8 218.2

Average length of injecting: Stimulants



Average length of injecting: NPS (primary)



Avg. Length of time inj..
18.0 211.3

NPS (any use) 2014-15

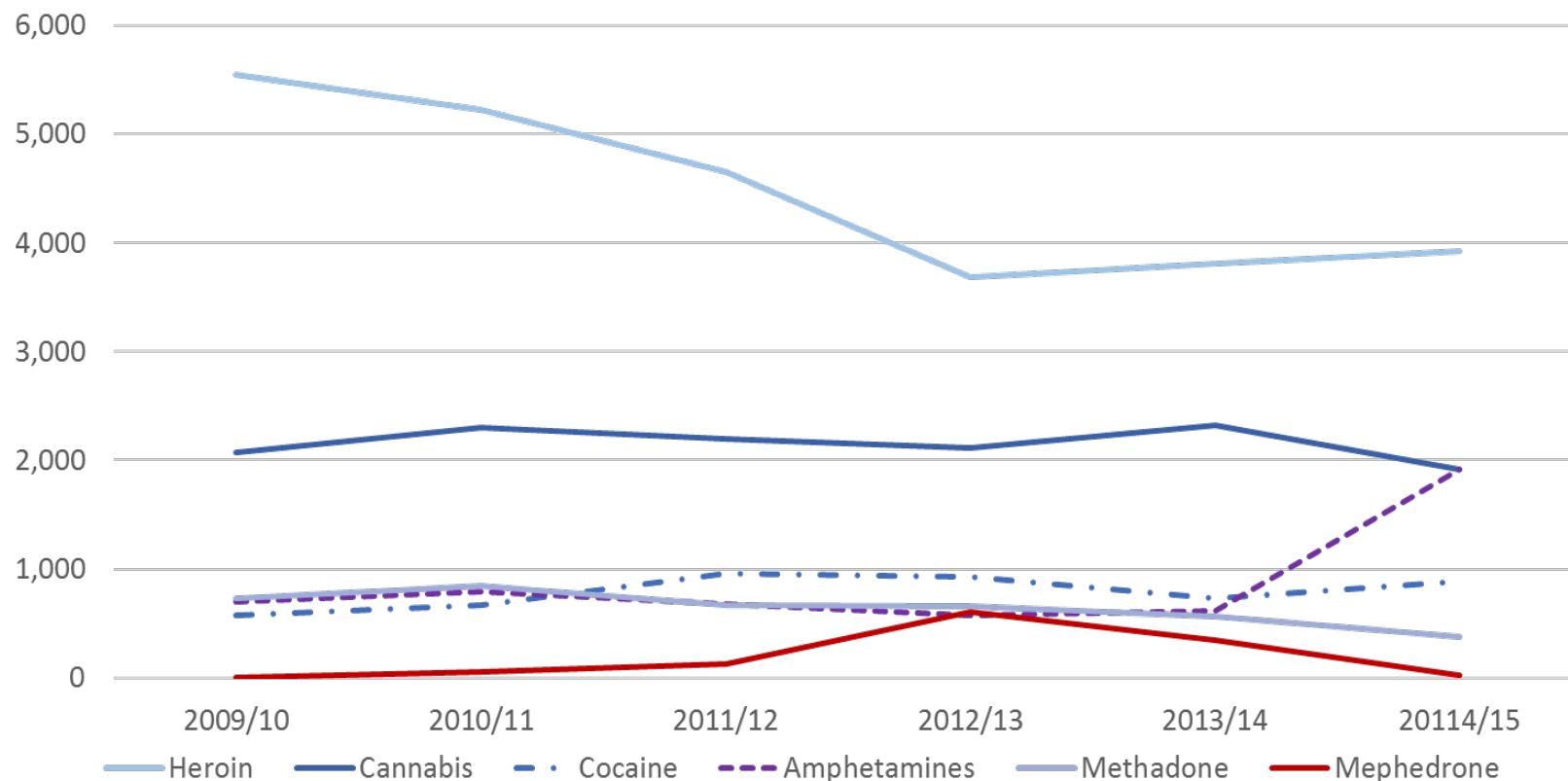
Harm Reduction Database Wales, 2016



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Specialist drug treatment



Referrals by primary drug, WNDSM, 2014



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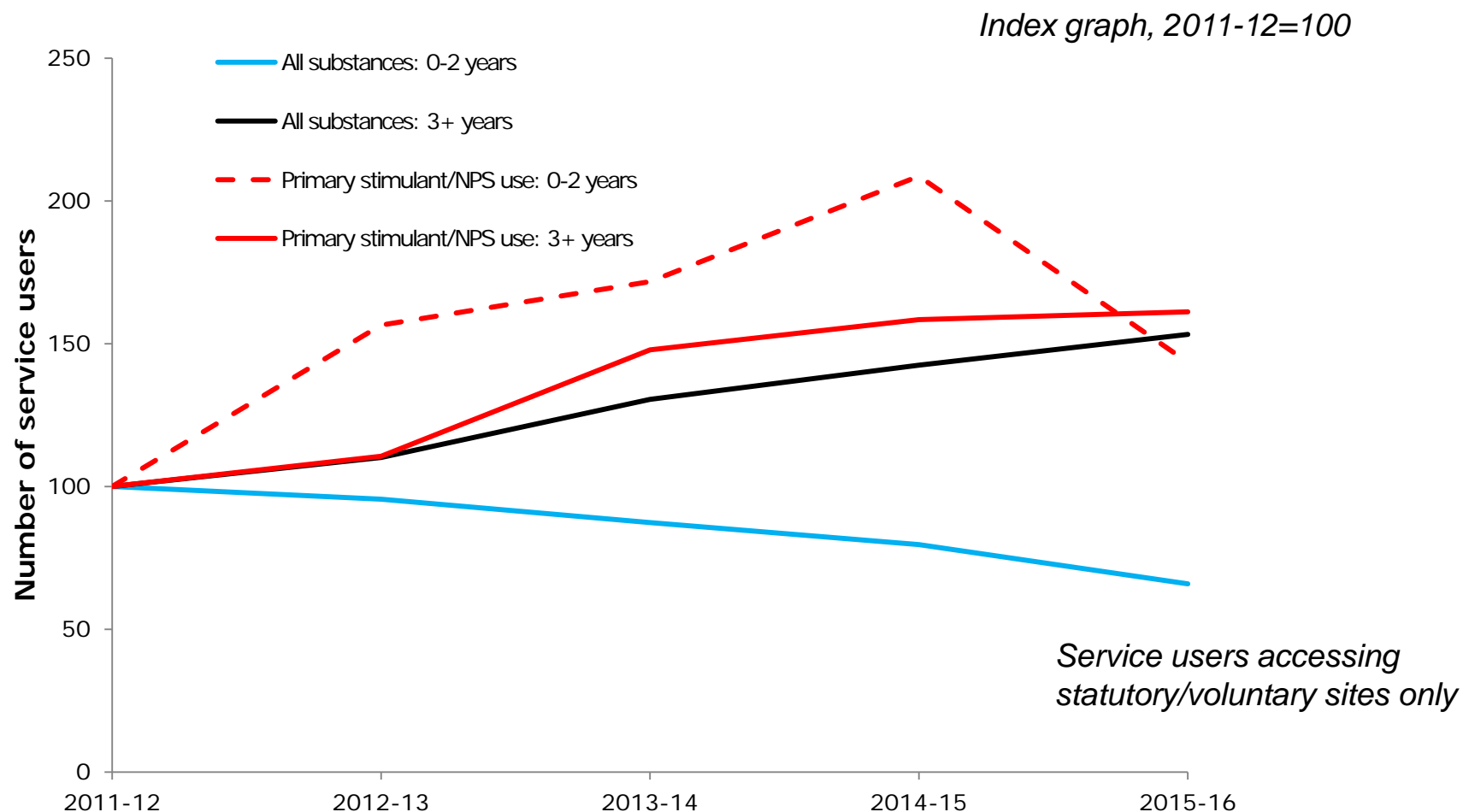
Position	2014/15	2013/14
1 Non-mover	5F-PB-22	5F-PB-22
2 Non-mover	5F-AKB48	5F-AKB48
3 Up one	Methiopropamine	Mephedrone
4 Down One	Mephedrone	Methiopropamine
5 Non-mover	Ethylphenidate	Ethylphenidate
6 Up two	3-Fluorophenmetrazine	5-MeO-DALT
7 New entry	MDMB-CHMICA	Ketamine
8 New entry	Ethylone	3-Fluorophenmetrazine
9 Non-mover	Etizolam	Etizolam
10 New entry	Methoxphenidine	Phenylethylamine



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NSP activity: self-reported injecting careers



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

1. Craine et al 2009. Incidence of hepatitis C in drug injectors: the role of homelessness, opiate substitution treatment, equipment sharing, and community size. *Epidemiology and Infection*; 137 (9), 1255-1265
2. Hope et al. Unlinked Anonymous Monitoring, Health Protection Agency/Public Health England



Blood borne virus: HIV/HCV co-infection

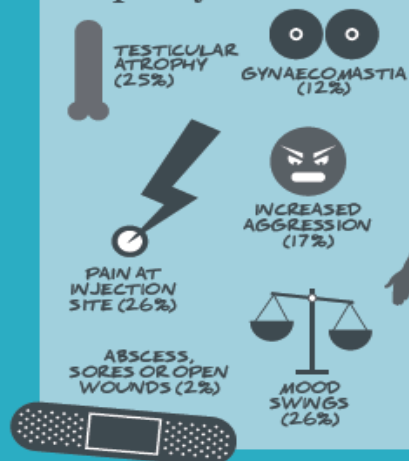
- HIV –new infections in people who inject drugs – risk: MCAT /ATS injecting
- Injecting vs sexual transmission?... *“first cluster of IDU cases in 14 years ...”*
- Contact tracing ongoing...including prisons (male and female)
- Chemsex



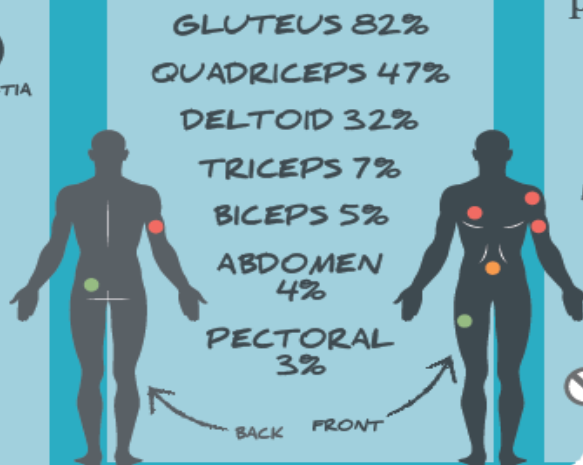
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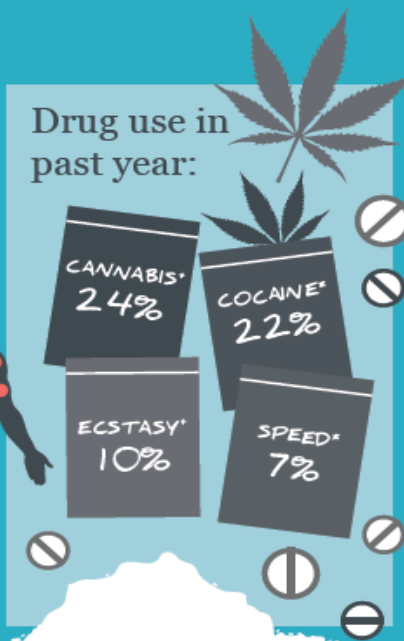
Adverse effects in past year:



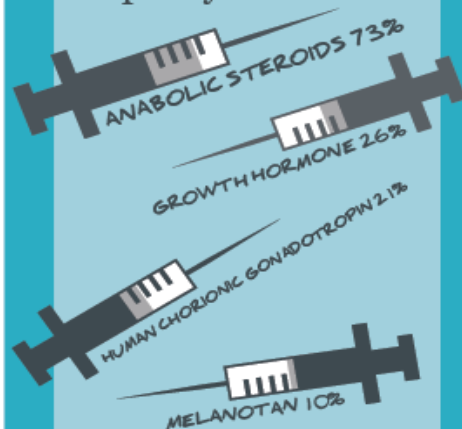
Injection sites:



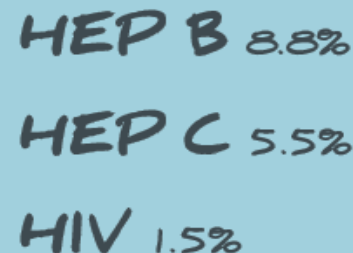
Drug use in past year:



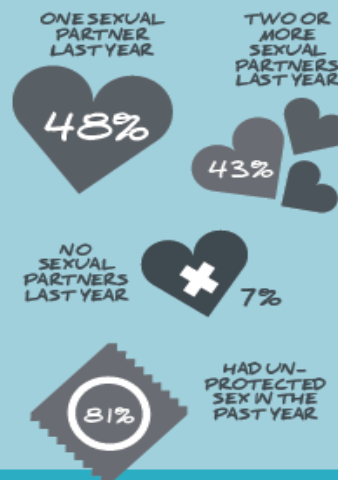
Injected... in past year:



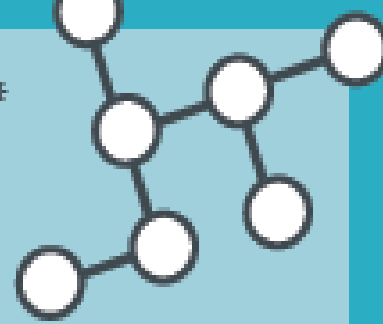
Infections*:



Sexual behaviour:



Infections:*



HEP B 8.8%

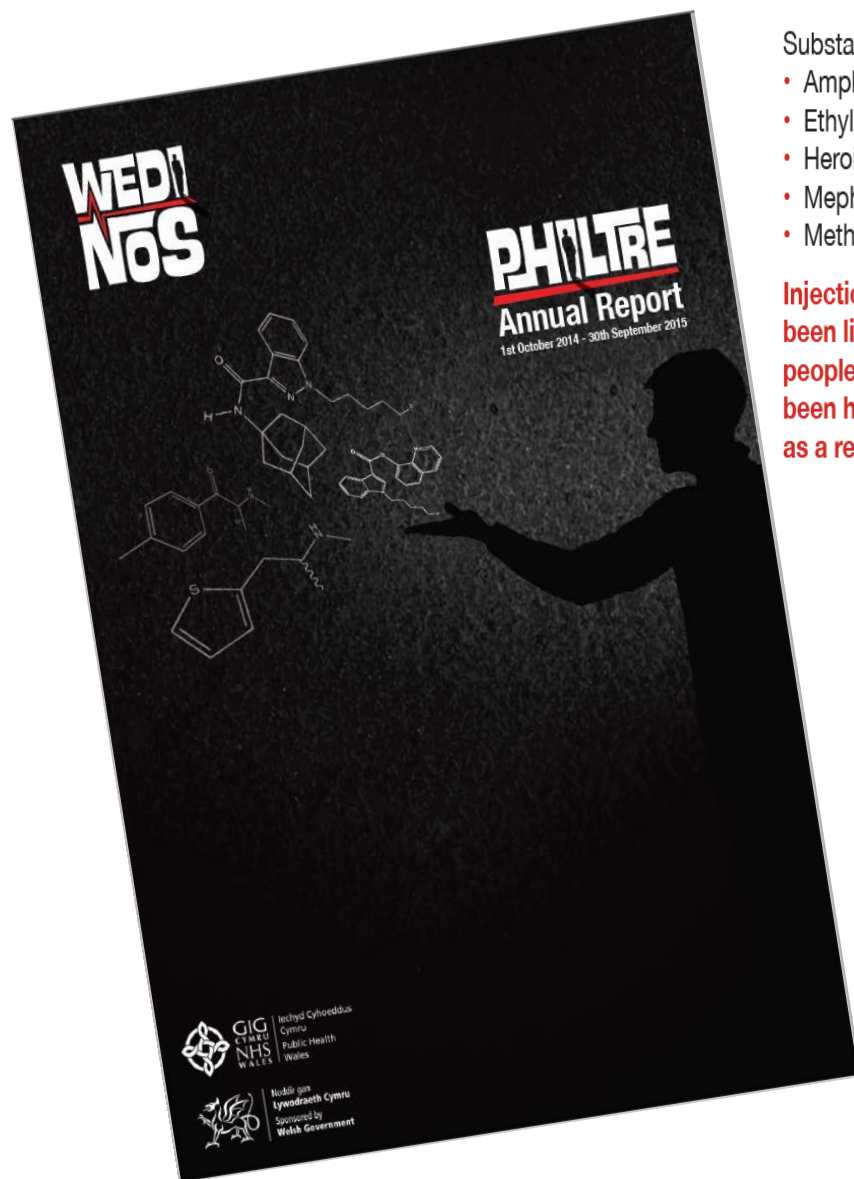
HEP C 5.5%

HIV 1.5%



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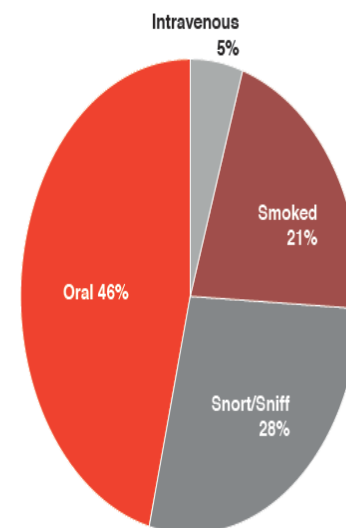


Substances submitted to WEDINOS that had intravenous listed as the method of consumption include:

- 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.

Chart 8: Method of consumption:
All psychoactive samples



“... 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
- } Groin Amputations

Injecting site infections, DVT and amputation

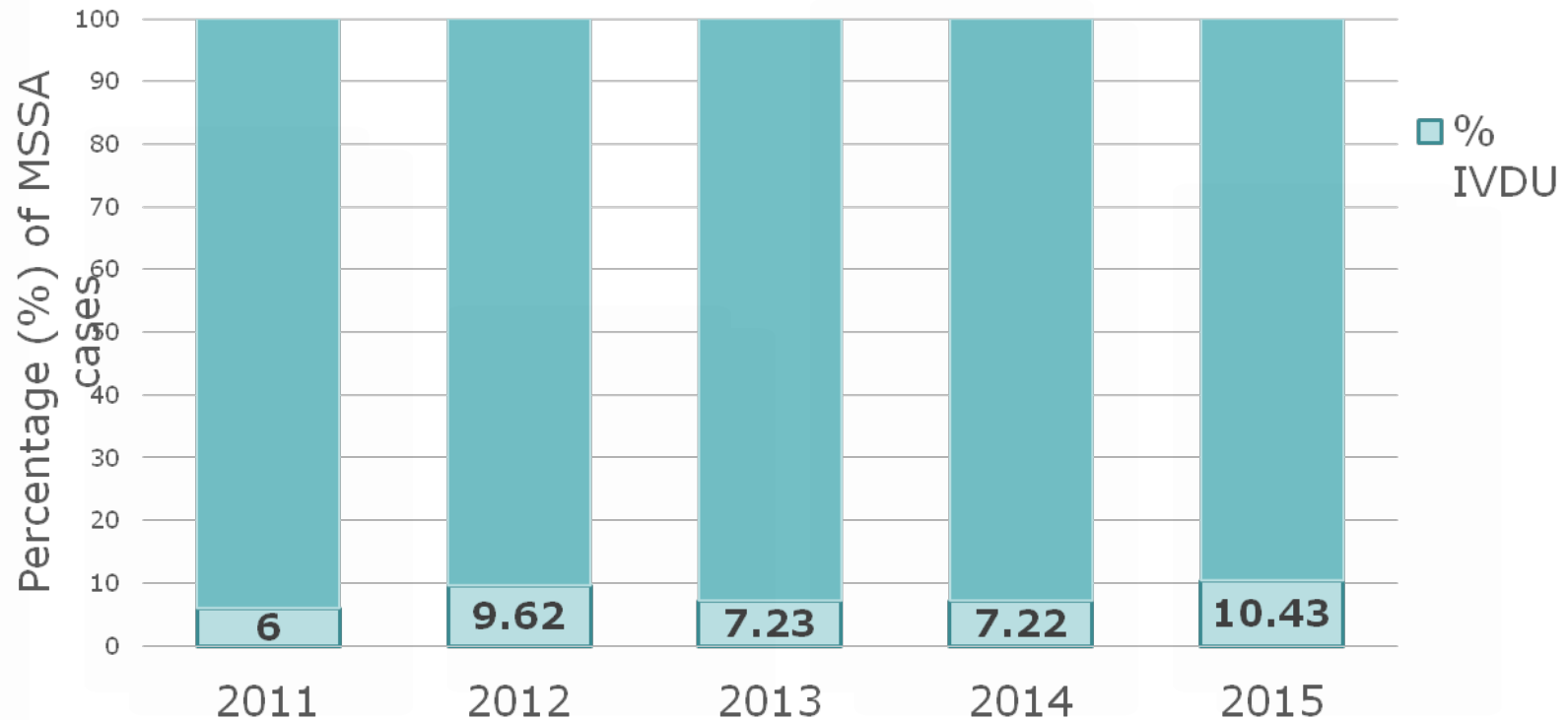
- Abscesses
- Major reconstructive surgery to femoral veins 'looked like they had dissolved'
- ITU
- Amputations



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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)



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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



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