

Statistics from the Northern Ireland Substitute Prescribing Database: 31 March 2008

This bulletin summarises information on individuals referred to the Northern Ireland Substitute Prescribing Scheme (SPS). It relates to those referred up to and including the 31 March 2008 and focuses on those clients in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services during 2007/08. It is the third bulletin reporting on information collected on the Substitute Prescribing Database (SPD), which was established in April 2004. It collects detailed data, including information on drugs misused and injecting behaviour on these individuals at various stages throughout their course of Substitute Prescribing treatment.

Summary

During 2007/08:

- A total of 507 individuals were in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services.
- 86 individuals discontinued from the scheme – the main reason given was ‘managed discontinuation of SP’.

On 31 March 2008:

- 367 individuals were receiving substitute medication.
- 328 of those individuals had been stabilised. Almost half (49%) of clients were stabilised on buprenorphine, and a further 47% were stabilised on methadone.
- 295 of those individuals had been stabilised and had been subject to at least one review.
- At review stage, 24% reported heroin as their main problem drug, compared to 75% when first assessed for substitute prescribing treatment.
- Of those individuals who had injected, 15% reported injecting in the four weeks prior to review, compared to 52% who had injected in the four weeks prior to their first assessment.

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1 Introduction

1.1 The scale and pattern of drug misuse in Northern Ireland differs from that in other parts of the UK. For many years the number of heroin dependent persons was small and the Northern Ireland Committee on Drug Misuse (NICDM) considered that it was not appropriate to introduce a widespread Substitute Prescribing programme in Northern Ireland. The Drug Strategy for Northern Ireland requested that NICDM should keep the situation under review.

1.2 Subsequently NICDM asked the DHSSPS to commission research to establish more accurately the number of problem heroin users in Northern Ireland. The report: *Prevalence of Problem Heroin Use in Northern Ireland* was published in March 2002 and estimated that there were between 695 and 1250 problem heroin users in Northern Ireland. The DHSSPS also commissioned a report: *Review of Research on Substitute Prescribing for Opiate Dependence and Implications for Northern Ireland*. This report, together with the DHSSPS's response to the recommendations in contained, was published in January 2003, and recommended the development of Substitute Prescribing services.

1.3 The Substitute Prescribing Implementation Group was created by the DHSSPS and in February 2004 *Northern Ireland Guidelines on Substitution Treatment for Opiate Dependence* were published. The new guidelines, including the arrangements for the monitoring and evaluation of Substitute Prescribing, were introduced on 1 April 2004.

1.4 Subsequently the Public Health Information and Research Branch (PHIRB) formerly known as Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU), in conjunction with the

treatment services responsible for delivering Substitute Prescribing, developed a series of monitoring forms. The Northern Ireland Substitute Prescribing Database (SPD) has been developed and is maintained by PHIRB. All data is supplied in an anonymised form to PHIRB for input to the SPD.

1.5 The Northern Ireland Substitute Prescribing Database (SPD) was developed and, using the SP1, SP2 and SP3 forms, data collection began on 1 April 2004.

1.6 There are currently thirteen statutory specialist drug services from across Northern Ireland supplying data on problem drug users presenting to be considered for Substitute Prescribing treatment.

1.7 It is important to note that the SPD holds information only on those with problem opiate use who have been assessed for Substitute Prescribing treatment (for more information see Annex C). It does not provide information on other opiate users who have not engaged in Substitute Prescribing or other drug users. It therefore cannot be used as a reflection of the scale or nature of problem opiate use in Northern Ireland. Details of other related research projects are available online at:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/public_health/statistics_and_research-drugs_alcohol-2.htm

Participation in the Substitute Prescribing Database

1.8 Up to the end of March 2008, there were a total of 898 referrals (relating to 692 individuals) to the Substitute Prescribing Scheme. During 2007/08, 507 individuals were in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services in Northern Ireland.

Chart 1: Progress of clients.

During 2007/08:

507 clients were in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services⁽¹⁾.

86 clients discontinued treatment (at various stages of Substitute Prescribing treatment).

On 31 March 2008:

48 clients were at assessment (SP1) stage, no further information had been received on them.

6 clients were waiting to begin receiving Substitute Prescribing medication (SP2).

367 clients were receiving Substitute Prescribing medication⁽²⁾,
of these:

39 clients had not yet been stabilised.

328 clients had been stabilised,
of these:

295 clients had been stabilised and had been subject to at least one review (SP3).

(1) These clients were at some stage of Substitute Prescribing treatment at some time during 2007/08 – they had an SP1 form completed on or before 31/3/2008 (excludes those who discontinued before 1/4/2007).

(2) These clients were in receipt of SP medication on 31/3/2008 – they had not discontinued by 31/3/2008, had an SP2 form completed and were not waiting to begin receiving SP medication.

1.9 Subsequent analyses within this report will be based on the sections in bold text in Chart 1.

2 Profile of Service Users (SP1)

2.1 The information presented in this section has been collected using the SP1 Form (Annex D), which is completed following assessment if the client is considered suitable for Substitute Prescribing treatment. The SP1 form collects information such as the client's personal details, their referral details, their drug use, their treatment history and their living circumstances.

2.2 Information in sections two to six of this report is presented on the 507 individuals who were in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services during 2007/08.

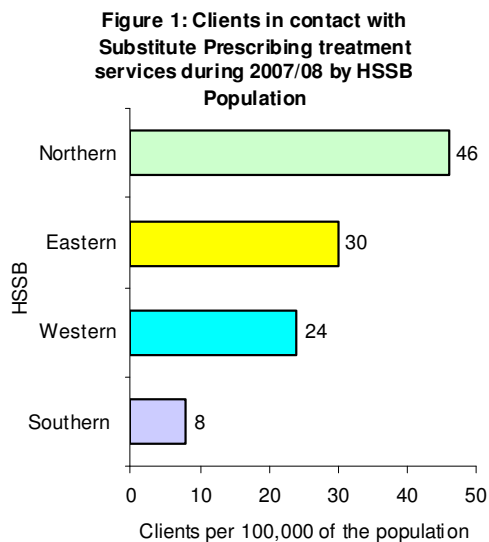
Geography

2.3 Map 1 (Annex A) and Table 1 (Annex B) provide a breakdown of the 507 clients who were in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services during 2007/08 by Health & Social Services Board (HSSB). The largest proportion of all those receiving treatment were in the Northern HSSB (41%), while a further 40% were receiving treatment in the Eastern HSSB. More than one in ten (14%) were receiving treatment in the Western HSSB and the remaining 6% were receiving treatment in the Southern HSSB.

2.4 It should be noted that these figures are based on where people presented for treatment, not their place of residence. Data on place of residence for those included in the database are incomplete as only 5-figure postcodes are collected and, in some instances, this information is missing or erroneous. For clients whose

area of residence could be determined, (489 clients) 93% lived in the same HSSB area as they were treated in. This suggests that HSSB of treatment is a good proxy for HSSB of residence.

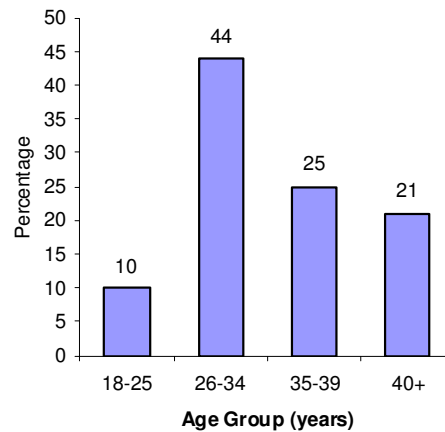
2.5 The incidence of treatment per 100,000 HSSB population is shown in Figure 1, below. The Northern HSSB reports the highest incidence of referrals for Substitute Prescribing (46 clients per 100,000 population). This is followed by the Eastern HSSB (30 clients per 100,000 population), Western HSSB (24 clients per 100,000 population) and Southern HSSB (8 clients per 100,000 population).



Age and Gender of Service Users

2.6 The mean age, on 31 March 2008, of clients in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services was 34 years. Figure 2 shows that over two fifths of clients (44%) were aged between 26 and 34 years, a quarter (25%) were aged 35-39 years and 21% were aged 40 years and over. One in ten (10%) were aged between 18 and 25 years (Table 2).

Figure 2: Clients in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services during 2007/08 by age group



2.7 Table 3 shows that males accounted for almost three quarters (74%) of clients in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services during 2007/08.

3 Drugs of Misuse

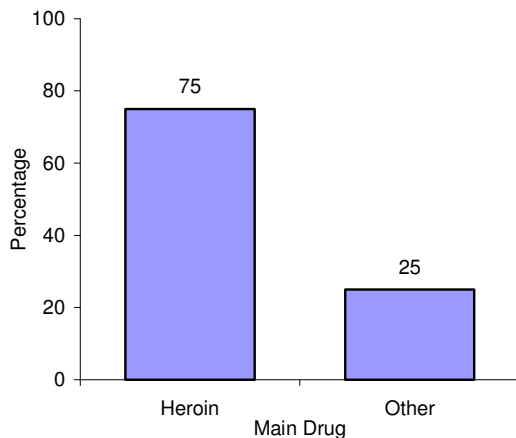
Background

3.1 Eligibility for Substitute Prescribing is based on the presence of opiate dependency, although Substitute Prescribing treatment may be deemed suitable in some cases where there is problematic use of non-opiates. The database records information on the main problem drug for the client and up to four other drugs that the client may be using; these drugs do not have to be opiates.

Main Drug of Misuse

3.2 Table 4 (Figure 3) shows that heroin is the most commonly reported main problem drug with three-quarters (75%) of clients reporting using it.

Figure 3: Main Problem Drug Reported



Main Drug of Misuse by HSSB

3.3 Table 4 shows that heroin was the most commonly reported main drug of misuse across the four HSSBs. The Southern HSSB had the largest proportion (93%) of clients who reported heroin as their main drug, followed by the Northern HSSB (84%), Eastern HSSB (69%) and then the Western HSSB (60%).

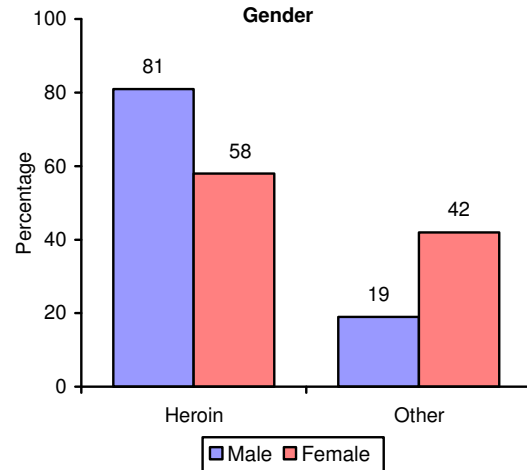
Main Drug of Misuse by Age

3.4 Table 5 shows that heroin was the most commonly reported main drug across all age groups. The proportion of clients reporting heroin as their main problem drug ranged from 81% for those aged 35-39 years to 64% for those aged 40 years and over.

Main drug of Misuse by Gender

3.5 Figure 4 (Table 6), shows that heroin was the most frequently reported main problem drug for both males and females – 81% of males and 58% of females reported it as their main problem drug.

Figure 4: Main Problem Drug of Misuse by Gender



All Drugs of Misuse

3.6 Up to five problem drugs can be recorded on the SP1 form, although the main problem drug should be an opiate. Table 7 shows the full range of problem drugs reported. Heroin was the most commonly reported drug of misuse – reported by 79% of clients. Benzodiazepines were the next most commonly reported drug, reported by 42% of clients. More than one third of clients reported DHC (35%) and cannabis (34%) as problem drugs.

4 Injecting and Other Routes of Administration

4.1 Clients are asked about their injecting behaviour at two stages on the SP1 form. In the Drug Use Profile section of the form they are asked about the route of administration of each of the drugs they use and in the Drug Treatment Details section of the form they are asked about their injecting/sharing history.

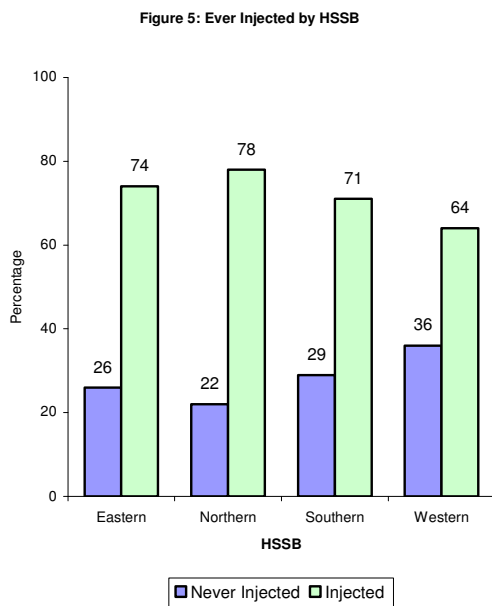
4.2 Table 8 shows the route of administration recorded for the main problem drug for each client. Almost three fifths (56%) of clients reported that

their main route of administration was injecting.

4.3 Almost all of those that reported injecting (276 out of 285 clients; 97%), stated that their main problem drug was heroin.

Injecting Behaviour by HSSB

4.4 Table 9 and Figure 5 show that almost three quarters (74%) of clients reported that they had injected at some time in their lives. In the Northern HSSB 78% had injected at some stage in their life. In the Eastern HSSB 74% of clients had ever injected, 71% in the Southern HSSB and 64% in the Western HSSB.



Injecting Behaviour by Age and Gender

4.5 Table 10 shows the breakdown of clients that have ever engaged in injecting behaviour by gender and age. More than three in four (78%) clients presenting for treatment who reported that they had ever injected were male. Less than one in four (22%) clients that reported that they had injected were females. A larger proportion

of clients in both age categories (18-19 years and aged 30 years and over) that had injected were male, 73% of those aged 18-29 years were male and 27% were female, compared to 80% of those aged 30 years and over were male and 20% were female.

5 Blood Borne Virus Testing

5.1 The SP1 form records if individuals presenting for treatment have been tested for HIV, Hepatitis B (Hep B) or Hepatitis C (Hep C). Clients are asked if they have ever been tested; if they have been tested within the last 12 months; or if they have never been tested.

5.2 Table 11a shows that nearly two fifths (38%) of clients reported that they had been tested for HIV, just over one fifth (21%) had been tested for HIV in the last 12 months, and over two fifths (41%) had never been tested for HIV. Table 11b shows that over two fifths (41%) of clients had been tested for Hep B, over one quarter (28%) had been tested for Hep B in the last 12 months, and nearly one third (31%) had never been tested for Hep B. Table 11c shows that over two fifths (41%) had been tested for Hep C, over one quarter (28%) had been tested for Hep C in the last 12 months and almost one third (31%) had never been tested for Hep C.

Blood Borne Virus Testing by HSSB

5.3 The Southern HSSB had the largest proportion of clients who have been tested within 12 months of their SP1 form being completed for HIV (36%), Hep B (36%) or Hep C (36%). The Eastern HSSB had the second largest proportion (24%) of clients having had an HIV test within the last 12 months, followed by the Northern HSSB (18%) and then the Western HSSB (17%). The Northern HSSB had the second largest proportion (34%) of clients having been

tested Hep B within the last 12 months, followed by the Eastern HSSB (24%) and the Western HSSB (17%). The Northern HSSB also had the second largest proportion (34%) of clients who had been tested in the last 12 months for Hep C, followed by the Eastern HSSB (25%) and the Western HSSB (17%).

Virus Testing by Age

5.4 Table 12a-c shows that a larger proportion of clients in the younger age groups than clients in the older age groups had been tested for blood borne viruses in the last 12 months. Table 12a shows that over one quarter (28%) of clients aged 18-25 years had been tested for HIV within the last 12 months, while just under one fifth (18%) of those aged 40 years and over had been tested for HIV in the last 12 months. Table 12b shows that over one third (35%) of clients aged 18-25 years and 37% of those aged 26-29 years had been tested for Hep B in the last 12 months, compared to just over one fifth (21%) of those aged 40 years and over had been tested for Hep B in the last 12 months. Table 12c shows that over one third (35%) of clients aged 18-25 years and 37% of those aged 26-29 years had been tested for Hep C in the last 12 months, compared to just over one fifth (22%) of those aged 40 years and over had been tested for Hep B in the last 12 months.

Virus Testing by Gender

5.5 Table 13a shows that around one fifth of both male (21%) and female (20%) clients had been tested for HIV in the last 12 months, a larger proportion of male (39%) than female (35%) clients had ever been tested for HIV, and a smaller proportion of male (40%) than female (45%) clients had never been tested for

HIV. Table 12b shows that a larger proportion of male (30%) than female (23%) clients had been tested for Hep B in the last 12 months, around two fifths of both male (42%) and female (39%) clients had ever been tested for Hep B. A smaller proportion of male (29%) than female (38%) clients had never been tested for Hep B. Table 12c shows that a larger proportion of male (30%) than female (24%) clients had been tested for Hep C in the last 12 months, around two fifths of both male (42%) and female (38%) clients had ever been tested for Hep C. A smaller proportion of male (28%) than female (38%) clients had never been tested for Hep C.

Hepatitis B Vaccinations

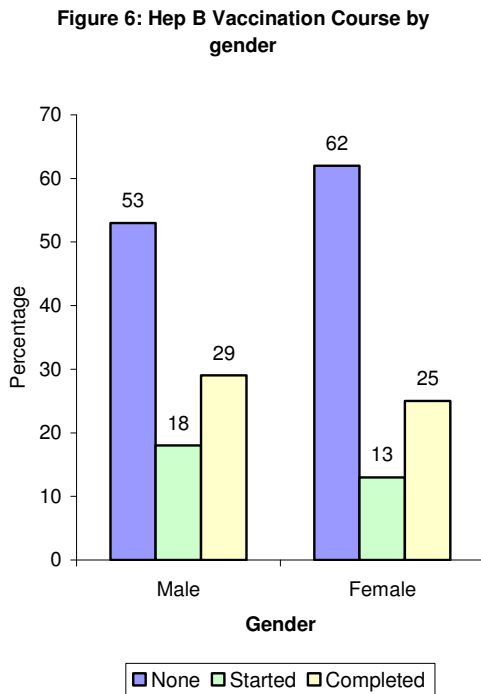
5.6 Table 14 shows that more than half (55%) of clients at initial assessment stage had not taken the Hepatitis B vaccination course. Over one quarter (28%) of clients had received all three injections in the course. Less than one tenth (8%) had received one injection in the Hepatitis B vaccination course and 9% had received two injections. The Western HSSB had the largest proportion of clients (74%) who had not taken the Hepatitis B vaccination course, followed by the Eastern HSSB (70%), under two fifths (39%) in the Northern HSSB and one quarter (25%) in the Southern HSSB.

Hepatitis B Vaccinations by Age

5.7 Table 15 shows that nearly one third of clients aged 18-29 years (30%), 30-34 years (30%) and 35-39 years (31%) had completed the three injections in the vaccination course, compared to 20% of those aged 40 years and over. Over half of clients in each age group had not had any injections, this ranged from 66% of those aged over 40 to 50% of those aged 35-39.

Hepatitis B Vaccinations by Gender

5.8 Table 16 and Figure 6 show that 62% of females and over half (53%) of males reported that they had not taken the Hepatitis B vaccination course. A larger proportion of males than females had completed the course of three injections - 29% of males compared to 25% of females.



* For 6 clients, it is not known whether they started the course or not

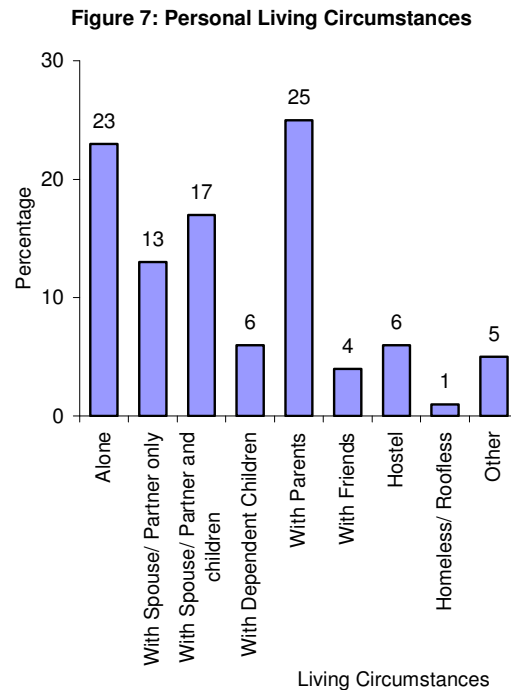
6 Client Details

6.1 The Client Details section of the SP1 form collects information from the client in relation to their living circumstances and their employment status.

Personal Living Circumstances

6.2 Table 17 and Figure 7 show that a quarter of clients (25%) reported that they

were currently living with their parents. A further 23% reported that they lived alone. At assessment stage 17% reported that they were living with 'spouse/partner and children' whilst 13% reported that they were living with 'spouse/partner only'. Six percent reported that they were living with 'dependent children'. The largest proportion (29%) of male clients lived with their parents, one quarter (25%) lived alone and 15% lived with spouse/partner and children. While for female clients, the largest proportion (25%) lived with spouse/partner and children, 17% lived alone and 14% lived with their parents.

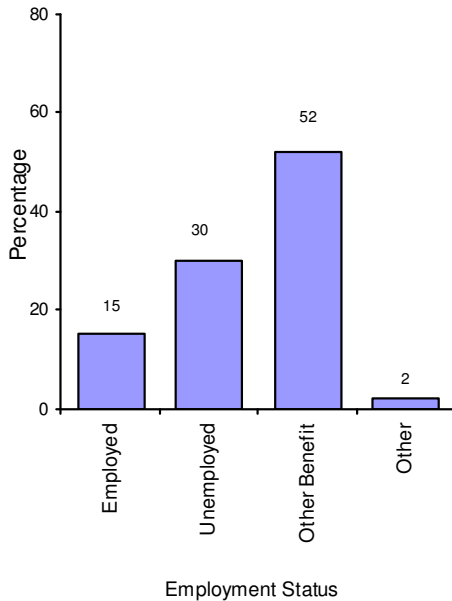


Employment Status

6.3 Table 18 and Figure 8 show that more than half (52%) of clients reported that they were receiving benefits not linked to Job Seekers Allowance or government training schemes. This compares to 30% of clients who reported that they were unemployed and receiving

Job Seeker's Allowance, and a further 15% in employment.

Figure 8: Employment Status



7 Client Stabilisation Form (SP2)

7.1 The information presented in this section has been collected using the SP2 form (Annex D). The SP2 form is completed in one of three situations:

- the client has stabilised on substitute medication; or
- if three months after completion of their SP1 form:
 - they either are on a waiting list to begin receiving substitute medication; or
 - they have begun substitute medication but have not yet stabilised.

7.2 The SP2 form collects information on the client's substitute medication, their supervision and treatment, and any testing for HIV/Hepatitis that they have been offered or undertaken.

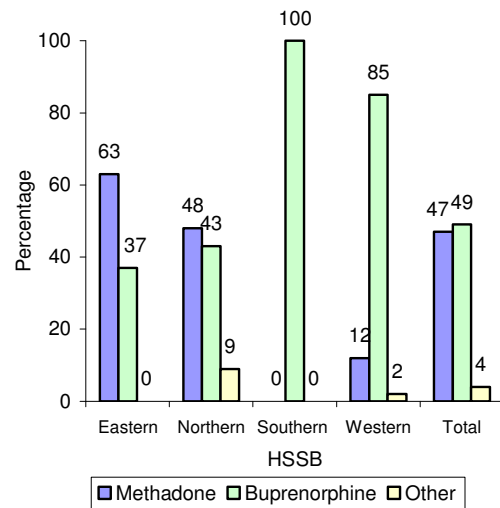
7.3 Information in the remaining sections of this report is presented based on the information held on the Substitute Prescribing database as of 31 March 2008. As of 31 March 2008, a total of 48 clients were at assessment stage – no subsequent information had been received about them since their SP1 form had been completed. A further six clients were reported to be on a waiting list to begin receiving substitute medication. On 31 March 2008, a total of 367 clients were in receipt of substitute medication - information in sections eight to eleven of this report is presented on these 367 clients.

8 Substitute Medication

Type of Substitute Medication

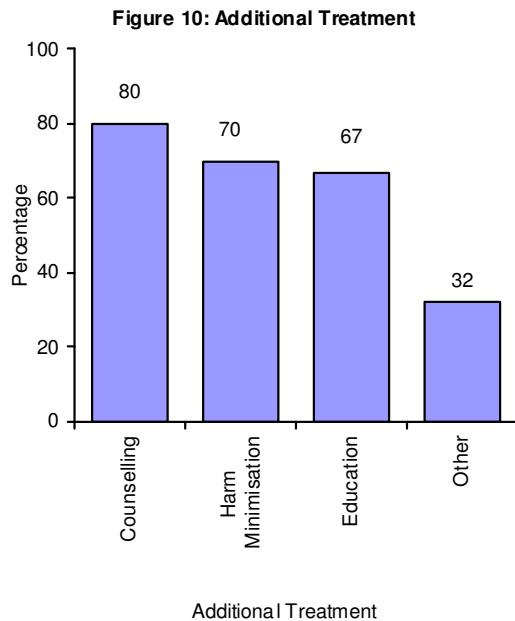
8.1 Table 19 and Figure 9 show details of the 367 clients who were in receipt of substitute medication (whether they had stabilised or not) on 31 March 2008. A slightly higher proportion of clients were in receipt of buprenorphine (49%) than methadone (47%).

Figure 9: Substitute Medication by HSSB



9 Additional Treatment

9.1 Table 20 and Figure 10 show the uptake of additional treatment by clients in receipt of substitute medication. Four fifths (80%) clients were in contact with Counselling Services while 70% were involved in Harm Minimisation Work. More than two thirds of clients (67%) were in Education programmes.



Additional Treatment by HSSB

9.2 Table 20 shows that all 21 clients in the Southern HSSB were receiving counselling. In the Western HSSB 98% were receiving counselling compared to 76% in the Northern HSSB and 75% in the Eastern HSSB. In the Northern HSSB 85% were involved in Harm Minimisation Work compared to 67% in the Eastern HSSB, 39% in the Western HSSB and 38% in the Southern HSSB.

10 Prescription of Benzodiazepines

10.1 The SP2 form also records if clients are being prescribed benzodiazepines. Table 21 shows that of

the 367 clients who were on substitute medication at 31 March 2008, almost half (49%) were being prescribed benzodiazepines.

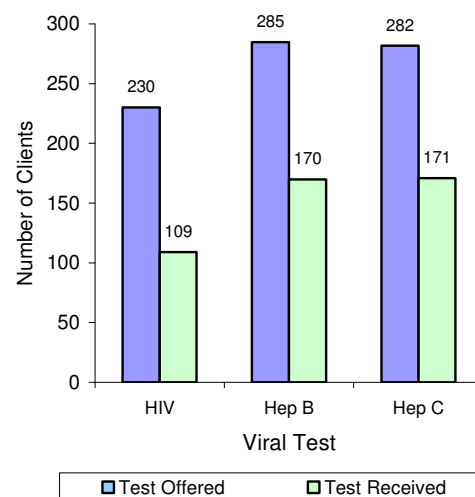
11 Viral Testing During Treatment

11.1 The SP2 form records if, during this treatment episode, the client has been offered a test for each of HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C and if offered, whether they took the tests. Where tests for Hepatitis C have been taken, the result of the test is recorded and where the results of the test have been positive, the SP2 form records if the client has been referred to a liver specialist (Table 22).

HIV Tests

11.2 Of the 367 clients receiving substitute medication 230 clients (63%) were offered a test for HIV – 109 clients (47% of those who were offered the test) took the test (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Number of Clients being Offered and Receiving Viral Tests



HIV Tests by HSSB

11.3 Nineteen of the twenty one clients in the Southern HSSB were offered the test for HIV - seventeen took the test (89% of those offered it). In the Eastern HSSB, 78% of clients were offered HIV tests – 28% of those offered the test, took the test. In the Western HSSB, 24 of 41 clients (59%) were offered HIV tests – 17 of the 24 offered the test, took the test (71%). In the Northern HSSB, 47% of clients were offered HIV tests – 59% of those offered the test, took the test.

Hepatitis B Tests

11.4 Of the 367 clients receiving substitute medication 285 clients (78%) were offered a test for Hepatitis B – 170 clients (60% of those who were offered the test) had taken the test.

Hepatitis B Tests by HSSB

11.5 Table 22 shows that 19 of the clients in the Southern HSSB were offered the test for Hepatitis B and 17 took the test. Of the clients in the Northern HSSB, 80% were offered a Hepatitis B test, of these, 82% took the test. In the Eastern HSSBs, 79% were offered Hepatitis B tests and 27% took it. In the Western HSSB 59% of clients were offered Hepatitis B test and 71% of them took the test.

Hepatitis C Tests

11.6 Of the clients receiving substitute medication 282 clients (77%) were offered a test for Hepatitis C, of these, 171 (61%) took the test. Of the clients who took the test for Hepatitis C, 22% tested positive.

Hepatitis C Tests by HSSB

11.7 Nineteen of the twenty one clients in the Southern HSSB were offered the test

for Hepatitis C. Of these 17 were tested. In the Northern HSSB, 79% were offered a Hepatitis C test and 83% took it. In the Eastern HSSB 78% of clients were offered a Hepatitis C test and 29% took it, and in the Western HSSB 59% of clients were offered the test and 71% took it.

11.8 All (100%) clients who tested positive for Hepatitis C were referred to a Liver Specialist.

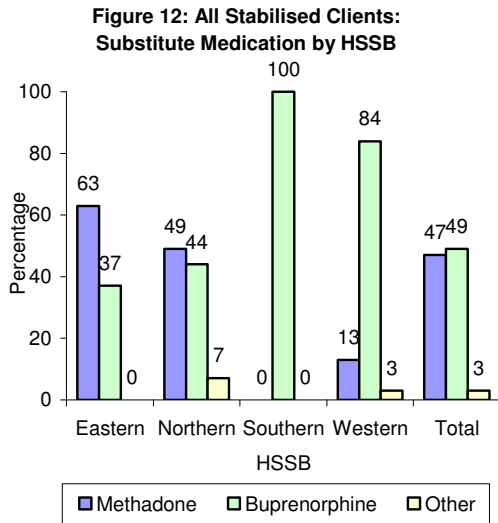
12 Stabilised Clients

12.1 Table 23 shows that 328 (89%) of the 367 clients receiving substitute medication on 31 March 2008 were stabilised. Information in sections 12 and 13 of this report is presented on these 328 clients who were stabilised on their substitute medication.

12.2 All 21 clients in the Southern HSSB who were receiving substitute medication were stabilised. Almost all clients in the Eastern HSSB (94%) and the Western HSSB (93%) were stabilised. In comparison, 83% of clients in the Northern HSSB receiving substitute medication were stabilised.

Substitute Medication

12.3 Table 24 and Figure 12 show that 162 (49%) of stabilised clients were being prescribed buprenorphine compared to 155 (47%) who were being prescribed methadone.



Stabilised Clients by HSSB

12.4 Under two thirds (63%) of clients in the Eastern HSSB compared to almost half (49%) of clients in the Northern HSSB and 13% of clients in the Western HSSB were stabilised on methadone. While all (100%) clients in the Southern HSSB, together with 84% of clients in the Western HSSB were stabilised on buprenorphine. In the Northern HSSB, 44% were stabilised on buprenorphine and 37% of clients in the Eastern HSSB.

Dosages of Substitute Medication

12.5 Tables 25a to 26b show the different levels of dosage of methadone, buprenorphine for the 317 clients that are stabilised on these substitute drugs.

Methadone

12.6 Table 25b shows that 155 clients have stabilised on methadone. Their dosages range from 12 to 200 milligrams, with an average dosage of 69.8 milligrams (Table 25a). Table 25b shows that more than half (52%) of these clients were being prescribed a dosage of between 61 and 100 milligrams whilst a further 32% were

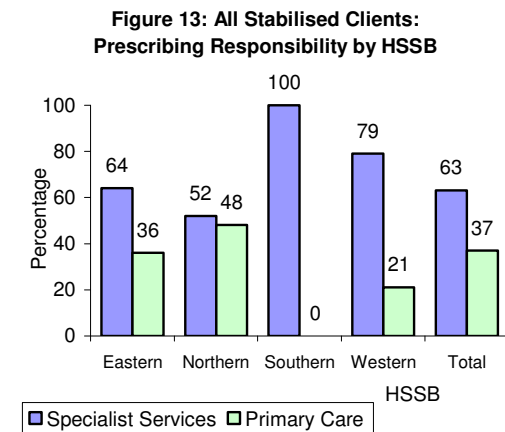
being prescribed a dosage of between 40 and 60 milligrams.

Buprenorphine

12.7 Table 26b shows that a further 162 clients have stabilised on buprenorphine. Dosages of buprenorphine range from 2 to 24 milligrams, with an average dosage of 11.5 milligrams (Table 26a). Table 26b shows that over two fifths (41%) of clients were being prescribed a dosage of between 10 and 13 milligrams, over a quarter (28%) were being prescribed a dosage of less than 10 and a further quarter (25%) were being prescribed a dosage between 14 and 16 milligrams.

13 Prescribing Responsibility

13.1 Table 27 and Figure 13 show that prescribing responsibility remains with specialist services for almost two thirds (63%) of stabilised clients. Prescribing responsibility for all twenty one stabilised clients in the Southern HSSB remains with specialist services. Prescribing responsibility remains with specialist services for 30 (79%) of the 38 stabilised clients in the Western HSSB, compared to 64% of stabilised clients in the Eastern HSSB and 52% of stabilised clients in the Northern HSSB.



14 Client Review / Discontinuation Form (SP3)

14.1 The information presented in this section has been collected using the SP3 Form (Annex D). The SP3 form is completed in one of three situations:

- the client has still not stabilised (three months after the 3-month 'non stabilised' SP2 form); or
- they have been stabilised and are now subject to the 3-month review; or
- they have discontinued treatment (which can happen at any stage of their treatment).

14.2 The SP3 form collects information on the reason for the client review, details of their substitute medication, their current drug use, results of any salivary testing / urinalysis testing that they may have taken, if the client is currently injecting and details of their current personal living circumstances. If the SP3 form is being completed because the client has discontinued then the date of discontinuation and reason for discontinuation are recorded.

14.3 On 31 March 2008, a total of 295 stabilised clients had been subject to at least one review. The information presented in sections 14 to 19 is based on the details recorded at the latest review for these clients. Details of those clients who discontinued from Substitute Prescribing treatment is covered in section 20.

15 Substitute Prescribing Medication at Review

15.1 Table 28 shows the substitute medication for all 295 stabilised clients at review, it shows the Substitute Prescribing Medication at SP2 stabilisation and if they were on the same medication or on different medication at their last review in 2007/08.

15.2 Of those clients who stabilised on methadone, 99% were still being prescribed it at their latest review. The corresponding figure for buprenorphine was 87%. A small proportion (8%) of clients who had stabilised changed their SP medication at review stage.

Substitute Medication at Review

15.3 Table 29 shows that over half (55%) of clients were being prescribed methadone at the time of their latest review, and just over two fifths (43%) were being prescribed buprenorphine.

Dosage of Substitute Medication

15.4 For the 160 clients who were stabilised on methadone at review stage, dosages range from 12 milligrams to 210 milligrams, with an average dosage of 73.0 milligrams (Table 30a). Table 30b shows that 56% of clients were being prescribed a dosage of between 61 and 100 milligrams of methadone whilst over one quarter (29%) of clients were being prescribed a dosage of between 40 and 60 milligrams.

15.5 Dosages for the 126 clients who were stabilised on buprenorphine at review stage ranged from 2.8 to 70 milligrams, with an average dosage of 12.3 milligrams (Table 31a). One third of clients (33%) were being prescribed a dosage of buprenorphine of between 10 and 13 milligrams, a further 29% were being prescribed a dosage between 14 and 16 milligrams and another 29% were being prescribed a dosage of less than 10 milligrams (Table 31b).

Comparison of Dosage between Stabilisation and Review

15.6 Although there has been a crossover between stabilisation medication and review medication for 23 of the 295

clients, Tables 25a to 31b can be used to compare the difference in the average dosage of substitute medication between stabilisation and review. The average dosage of methadone has increased from 69.8 milligrams at stabilisation to 73.0 milligrams for stabilised clients at their latest review. The average dosage of buprenorphine has increased slightly from 11.5 milligrams to 12.3 milligrams.

16 Main Problem Drug Comparison

16.1 Table 32 shows, for the 295 clients who have been subject to at least one review, a comparison between the main problem drug recorded on their SP1 form and the main problem drug recorded at their review.

16.2 Nearly two fifths (38%) of clients who had stabilised and reached review stage, reported no problem drug at review stage, just under one quarter (24%) reported heroin as their main problem drug, 17% reported diazepam and 14% reported cannabis as their main problem drug at review. Of those who had reported heroin to be their main problem drug at initial assessment (SP1), one third (33%) reported no problem drug at review stage, 31% reported heroin to still be their main problem drug, 16% reported cannabis and 14% reported diazepam as their main problem drug at review.

17 Salivary/Urinalysis Testing

17.1 Table 33 shows the information recorded in the Salivary Testing / Urinalysis section on the SP3 form. It should be noted that there are methodological differences across and between HSSBs in terms of testing for illicit drugs and therefore, comparisons between HSSBs should be made with caution. These differences may be

attributable to type of test used, timing issues or client or clinical needs.

17.2 Almost all of the clients that had stabilised and reached review (258 of 295 clients) had received at least one salivary or urinalysis test - 35 clients had not been tested and 2 clients had been tested but results were not known at the time the review form had been completed. Two fifths of clients tested (40%) had more than one failed test and 39% had sample clear of illicit drugs. The remaining 21% had one failed test.

18 Injecting Behaviour at Review

18.1 Table 34 shows that over four fifths (85%) of stabilised clients at review stage reported having not injected in the last 4 weeks. At SP1 stage the corresponding figure was 48% (104 of the 217 clients). Of those who said that they had injected in the four weeks prior to the completion of their SP1 form, 84% reported that they had not injected in the four weeks prior to their review. However, 13% of clients who reported that they had not injected in the four weeks prior to the completion of their SP1 form confirmed that they had injected during the four weeks prior to their review.

19 Client Details at Review

Personal Living Circumstances

19.1 Table 35 shows that for clients that were living with their parents at their initial assessment (SP1) 44% were still living with their parents, 21% were living alone, and 14% were living with spouse/partner only at their review stage. Nearly three quarters (70%) of clients living alone at their initial assessment were still living alone at review stage. Also, 78% of clients living with spouse/partner

and children at initial assessment were still living with spouse/partner and children. Of those who live with spouse/partner only 38% had the same living circumstances at their review, 32% were now living alone and 24% were now living with spouse/partner and children. The other living circumstances with dependent children, with friends, hostel, homeless/roofless and other had a small number of clients in each category.

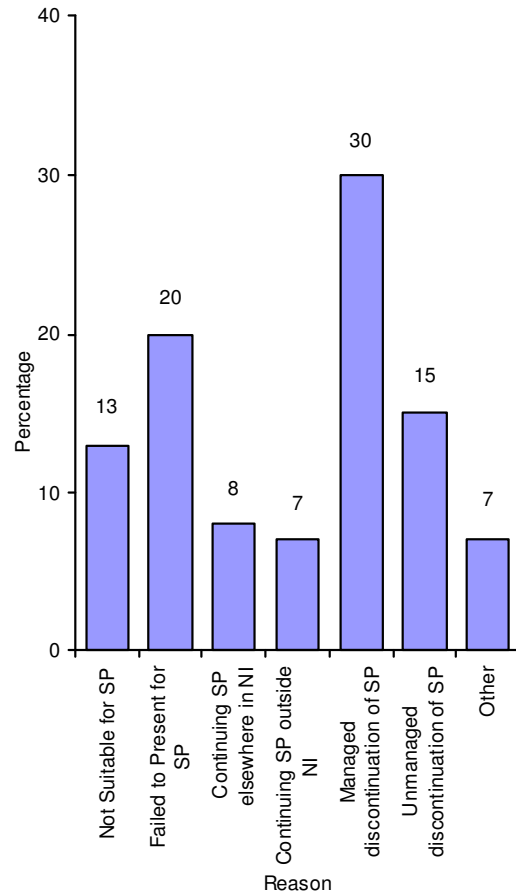
Employment Status

19.2 Table 36 shows that 63% of clients who were in employment at the SP1 stage were still in employment at review stage the remaining clients were either unemployed receiving job seekers allowance (16%) or receiving another benefit (20%). Of those clients who reported they were unemployed receiving job seekers allowance at SP1 stage 15% reported at review stage they were in employment, 30% were still unemployed receiving job seekers allowance and 56% were receiving another benefit.

20 Discontinuation from Substitute Prescribing Treatment

20.1 Table 37 and Figure 14 show that 86 clients discontinued from Substitute Prescribing treatment between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008. The largest proportion (30%) underwent 'managed discontinuation', 20% failed to present for SP, 15% underwent 'unmanaged discontinuation', and a further 13% of clients were discontinued because they were 'not suitable for Substitute Prescribing'.

Figure 14: Reason for Discontinuation



21 2007/08 Activity Compared to 2006/07

21.1 During 2007/08 there were a total of 507 individuals in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services. This represents a 10% increase when compared to the 463 clients in contact during 2006/07. (Table C1)

21.2 Map C1 shows a breakdown of the number of clients in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services by HSSB area during 2007/08 and 2006/07. Across three of the four areas the number of clients has increased: in the NHSSB the figure has increased from 194 to 208; in the EHSSB it has increased from

189 to 201; in the WHSSB the figure has increased from 50 to 70; and in the SHSSB the number of clients in contact with services has decreased from 30 to 28.

21.3 During 2007/08 a total of 86 clients discontinued from treatment (at any stage of treatment). This represents a decrease of 9% on the corresponding figure (95) for 2006/07.

On 31 March 2008

21.4 A total of 367 clients were being prescribed substitute medication on 31 March 2008. This compared to 323 clients on 31 March 2007, an increase of 44 clients or 14%.

21.5 On 31 March 2008, 328 of the 367 clients being prescribed substitute medication had been stabilised. At the end of March 2007, 290 of the 323 clients being prescribed substitute medication had been stabilised. This represents a 13% increase in the number of clients that had been stabilised.

21.6 Of the 328 clients that had reached stabilisation by 31 March 2008, 295 had been subject to at least one review. The same figures for 31 March 2007 show that 260 of 290 clients that had reached stabilisation had been subject to at least one review.

22 Acknowledgements

22.1 PHIRB would like to thank all the people involved in collecting the information presented in this bulletin – particularly the treatment agencies who have collected and provided data, and individuals presenting for treatment for providing the information. PHIRB are also grateful to members of the Regional Substitute Prescribing Group and Dr Ian

McMaster in DHSSPS for their support and assistance.

23 Editorial Notes

23.1 Data were first collected for the Substitute Prescribing database in Northern Ireland from 1 April 2004.

23.2 Percentages may not always add to 100 due to rounding.

23.3 Any comments or questions concerning the data contained in this publication, or requests for further information, should be addressed to:

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23.4 Further copies of this publication can be obtained from the above address, or online at

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/public_health/statistics_and_research/h-drugs_alcohol-2.htm

Many other statistical and research reports from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety's Information and Analysis Directorate are available at this web address.

24 The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

24.1 The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is the principal source of official statistical information

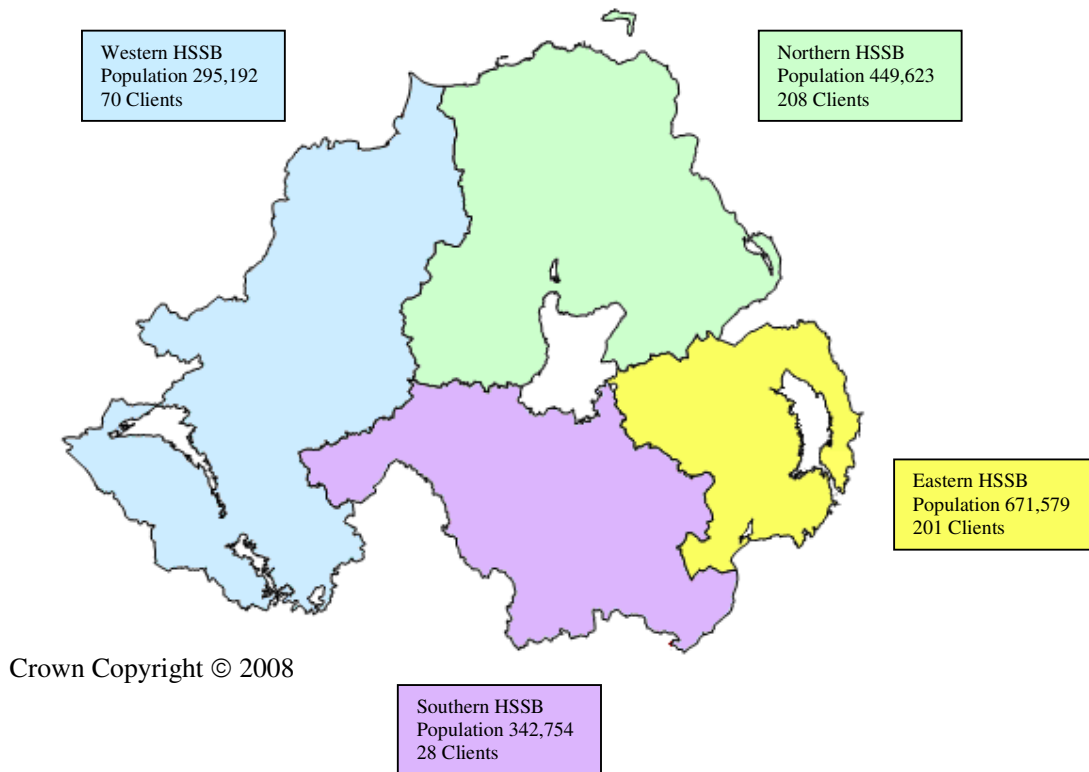
about Northern Ireland. Further information is available from the NISRA website at www.nisra.gov.uk or via e-mail at info.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk.

25 Future Publications

25.1 This Substitute Prescribing publication will be updated on an annual basis. The next Substitute Prescribing Statistical Bulletin will be published in September 2009. Updates on key statistics may be published from time to time.

ANNEX A

Map 1: All Clients in Contact With Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08 by HSSB



NB Health & Social Services Board population figures based on NISRA Census mid-year estimates 2007.

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Table 1: All Clients ⁽¹⁾ in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08 by HSSB

numbers and percentages

HSSB	Number	Percentage
Eastern	201	40
Northern	208	41
Southern	28	6
Western	70	14
Total	507	100

⁽¹⁾ These clients were at some stage of Substitute Prescribing treatment at some time during 2007/08 – they were referred on or before 31/3/2008 (excludes those who discontinued before 1/4/2007).

Table 2: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Age by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Age ⁽¹⁾	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
18-25 years	11	29	0	9	49
26-34 years	84	98	12	31	225
35-39 years	58	45	10	15	128
40 years & over	48	36	6	15	105
Total	201	208	28	70	507

Percentages

18-25 years	5	14	0	13	10
26-34 years	42	47	43	44	44
35-39 years	29	22	36	21	25
40 years & over	24	17	21	21	21
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ Age groups 18-21 and 22-25 years, and 26-29 and 30-34 years have been combined as they contained cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

Table 3: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Gender by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Gender	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Male	145	159	22	50	376
Female	56	49	6	20	131
Total	201	208	28	70	507

Percentages

Male	72	76	79	71	74
Female	28	24	21	29	26
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Table 4: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Main Drug by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Main Drug ⁽¹⁾	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Heroin	139	175	26	42	382
Other Drugs ^{(2) (3)}	62	33	2	28	125
Total	201	208	28	70	507

Percentages

Heroin	69	84	93	60	75
Other Drugs ⁽³⁾	31	16	7	40	25
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ A breakdown of all the main drug categories has not been presented as it contained cell counts of less than five. The main drug categories have therefore been reduced to 'heroin' and 'other drugs'; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ The table contains one cell count of less than five but this falls within the 'other drug' category which is not specific and hence not disclosive.

⁽³⁾ The other drug category includes; Dihydrocodeine, Codeine & Paracetamol, Codeine, Buprenorphine, Nubain, Methadone, Tramadol, 'other opiates' and 'other drugs'.

Table 5: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Main Drug by Age

numbers and percentages						
Main Drug ⁽¹⁾	18-25 years	26-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years & over	Total
Heroin	38	79	94	104	67	382
Other Drugs ⁽²⁾	11	23	29	24	38	125
Total	49	102	123	128	105	507
<u>Percentages</u>						
Heroin	78	77	76	81	64	75
Other Drugs ⁽²⁾	22	23	24	19	36	25
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ Age groups 18-21 and 22-25 years have been combined as they contained cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified. The main drug categories have also been reduced to 'heroin' and 'other drugs' due to small cell counts.

⁽²⁾ The other drug category includes; Dihydrocodeine, Codeine & Paracetamol, Codeine, Buprenorphine, Nubain, Methadone, Tramadol, 'other opiates' and 'other drugs'.

Table 6: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Main Drug by Gender

<u>numbers and percentages</u>			
Main Drug ⁽¹⁾	Male	Female	Total
Heroin	306	76	382
Other Drugs ⁽²⁾	70	55	125
Total	376	131	507
<u>Percentages</u>			
Heroin	81	58	75
Other Drugs ⁽²⁾	19	42	25
Total	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ A breakdown of all the main drug categories has not been presented as it contained cell counts of less than five. The main drug categories have therefore been reduced to 'heroin' and 'other drugs'; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ The other drug category includes; Dihydrocodeine, Codeine & Paracetamol, Codeine, Buprenorphine, Nubain, Methadone, Tramadol, 'other opiates' and 'other drugs'.

Table 7: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: All Drugs of Misuse by HSSB

	numbers and percentages				
	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
<u>Persons</u> ⁽¹⁾	201	208	28	70	507
Heroin	149	183	26	44	402
Benzodiazepines	104	82	6	21	213
Dihydrocodeine	83	73	-	-	177
Cannabis	71	72	6	24	173
Other Opiates	47	9	0	18	74
Methadone / Buprenorphine	26	19	-	-	56
Cocaine	-	16	-	16	43
Crack Cocaine	6	29	0	5	40
Codeine & Paracetamol	10	-	-	18	38
Ecstasy	-	13	-	-	22
Amphetamines	-	9	-	-	18
Other Drugs	11	16	0	9	36
<u>Percentages</u>					
Heroin	74	88	93	63	79
Benzodiazepines	52	39	21	30	42
Dihydrocodeine	41	35	-	-	35
Cannabis	35	35	21	34	34
Other Opiates	23	4	0	26	15
Methadone / Buprenorphine	13	9	-	-	11
Cocaine	-	8	-	23	8
Crack Cocaine	3	14	0	7	8
Codeine & Paracetamol	5	-	-	26	7
Ecstasy	-	6	-	-	4
Amphetamines	-	4	-	-	4
Other Drugs	5	8	0	13	7
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ Cells with counts of less than five have not been presented in the table along with second lowest count in the row and in some cases the third lowest (at HSSB level); this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified. In some instances cells that are not presented had a cell count of more than five (this only applies to the cells which were the second or third lowest count in the row).

Table 8: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Main Drug by Route of Administration

numbers and percentages

Main Drug ⁽¹⁾	Inject	Other ⁽²⁾	Total
Heroin	276	106	382
Other Drugs ⁽³⁾	9	116	125
Total	285	222	507

Percentages

Heroin	72	28	100
Other Drugs ⁽³⁾	7	93	100
Total	56	44	100

⁽¹⁾ A breakdown of all main drug and all routes of administration categories have not been presented as it contained cell counts of less than five. Therefore, the main drug categories have been reduced to 'heroin' and 'other drugs', and the routes of administration have been reduced to 'inject' and 'other'; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ The other category for route of administration includes; oral, smoke, sniff and 'other'.

⁽³⁾ The other drug category includes; Dihydrocodeine, Codeine & Paracetamol, Codeine, Buprenorphine, Nubain, Methadone, Tramadol, 'other opiates' and 'other drugs'.

Table 9: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Ever Injected by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Ever Injected	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Never Injected	53	45	8	25	131
Injected	148	163	20	45	376
Total	201	208	28	70	507
 <u>Percentages</u>					
Never Injected	26	22	29	36	26
Injected	74	78	71	64	74
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Table 10: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Ever Injected by Age and Gender

numbers and percentages

Age ⁽¹⁾	Injected		Never Injected		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
18-29 years	78	29	27	17	151
30 years & over	215	54	56	31	356
Total	293	83	83	48	507
Percentages					
18-29 years	73	27	61	39	100
30 years & over	80	20	64	36	100
Total	78	22	63	37	100

⁽¹⁾ Age groups 18-21, 22-25 and 26-29 years, and 30-34 and 35-39 years have been combined as they contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

Table 11: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Blood Borne Virus Testing (HIV/ Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C) by HSSB

numbers and percentages

(a) HIV

	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Ever Tested	82	74	10	24	190
Tested in Last 12 Months	47	37	10	12	106
Never Tested	71	94	8	34	207
Total ⁽¹⁾	200	205	28	70	503

Percentages

Ever Tested	41	36	36	34	38
Tested in Last 12 Months	24	18	36	17	21
Never Tested	36	46	29	49	41
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ The figures exclude 4 individuals whose test status is unknown.

(b) Hepatitis B

	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Ever Tested	76	97	10	25	208
Tested in Last 12 Months	48	71	10	12	141
Never Tested	76	40	8	33	157
Total ⁽²⁾	200	208	28	70	506

Percentages

Ever Tested	38	47	36	36	41
Tested in Last 12 Months	24	34	36	17	28
Never Tested	38	19	29	47	31
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽²⁾ The figures exclude 1 individual whose test status is unknown.

Table 11 (continued)

(c) Hepatitis C

	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Ever Tested	77	96	10	25	208
Tested in Last 12 Months	49	71	10	12	142
Never Tested	74	41	8	33	156
Total ⁽¹⁾	200	208	28	70	506
<u>Percentages</u>					
Ever Tested	39	46	36	36	41
Tested in Last 12 Months	25	34	36	17	28
Never Tested	37	20	29	47	31
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ The figures exclude 1 individual whose test status is unknown.

Table 12: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Blood Borne Virus Testing (HIV/ Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C) by Age

numbers and percentages

(a) HIV

	18-25 years ⁽¹⁾	26-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years & over	Total
Ever Tested	7	33	47	64	39	190
Tested in Last 12 Months	13	26	29	19	19	106
Never Tested	27	43	46	45	46	207
Total ⁽²⁾	47	102	122	128	104	503

Percentages

Ever Tested	15	32	39	50	38	38
Tested in Last 12 Months	28	25	24	15	18	21
Never Tested	57	42	38	35	44	41
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ Age groups 18-21 and 22-25 years have been combined as they contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ The figures exclude 4 individuals whose test status is unknown.

(b) Hepatitis B

	18-25 years ⁽³⁾	26-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years & over	Total
Ever Tested	11	33	53	64	47	208
Tested in Last 12 Months	17	38	34	30	22	141
Never Tested	20	31	36	34	36	157
Total ⁽⁴⁾	48	102	123	128	105	506

Percentages

Ever Tested	23	32	43	50	45	41
Tested in Last 12 Months	35	37	28	23	21	28
Never Tested	42	30	29	27	34	31
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

⁽³⁾ Age groups 18-21 and 22-25 years have been combined as they contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽⁴⁾ The figures exclude 1 individual whose test status is unknown.

Table 12 (continued)

(c) Hepatitis C

	18-25 years ⁽¹⁾	26-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years & over	Total
Ever Tested	11	32	52	65	48	208
Tested in Last 12 Months	17	38	34	30	23	142
Never Tested	20	32	37	33	34	156
Total ⁽²⁾	48	102	123	128	105	506

Percentages

Ever Tested	23	31	42	51	46	41
Tested in Last 12 Months	35	37	28	23	22	28
Never Tested	42	31	30	26	32	31
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ Age groups 18-21 and 22-25 years have been combined as they contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ The figures exclude 1 individual whose test status is unknown.

Table 13: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Blood Borne Virus Testing (HIV/ Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C) by Gender

numbers and percentages

(a) HIV

	Male	Female	Total
Ever Tested	144	46	190
Tested in Last 12 Months	80	26	106
Never Tested	149	58	207
Total ⁽¹⁾	373	130	503

Percentages

Ever Tested	39	35	38
Tested in Last 12 Months	21	20	21
Never Tested	40	45	41
Total	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ The figures exclude 4 individuals whose test status was unknown.

(b) Hepatitis B

	Male	Female	Total
Ever Tested	157	51	208
Tested in Last 12 Months	111	30	141
Never Tested	107	50	157
Total ⁽²⁾	375	131	506

Percentages

Ever Tested	42	39	41
Tested in Last 12 Months	30	23	28
Never Tested	29	38	31
Total	100	100	100

⁽²⁾ The figures exclude 1 individual whose test status was unknown.

Table 13 (continued)

(c) Hepatitis C

	Male	Female	Total
Ever Tested	158	50	208
Tested in Last 12 Months	111	31	142
Never Tested	106	50	156
Total ⁽¹⁾	375	131	506

Percentages

Ever Tested	<i>42</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>41</i>
Tested in Last 12 Months	<i>30</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>28</i>
Never Tested	<i>28</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>31</i>
Total	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

⁽¹⁾ The figures exclude 1 individual whose test status was unknown.

Table 14: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Hep B Vaccination Course by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Hep B Vaccinations ⁽¹⁾	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
None	138	81	7	50	276
1 Injection	-	-	-	-	39
2 Injections	-	-	-	-	45
3 Injections	-	-	-	-	141
Total ⁽²⁾	197	208	28	68	501

Percentages

None	70	39	25	74	55
1 Injection	-	-	-	-	8
2 Injections	-	-	-	-	9
3 Injections	-	-	-	-	28
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ A breakdown by HSSB level is not presented as the table contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ The figures exclude 6 individuals whose test status is unknown.

Table 15: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Hep B Vaccination Course by Age

numbers and percentages

Hep B Vaccinations	18-29 years ⁽¹⁾	30-34 years	35-39 years	40 years & over	Total
None	83	63	63	67	276
1 Injection	10	8	14	7	39
2 Injections	12	15	10	8	45
3 Injections	45	36	40	20	141
Total ⁽²⁾	150	122	127	102	501
<u>Percentages</u>					
None	55	52	50	66	55
1 Injection	7	7	11	7	8
2 Injections	8	12	8	8	9
3 Injections	30	30	31	20	28
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ Age groups 18-21, 22-25 and 26-29 years have been combined as they contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ The figures exclude 6 individuals whose test status was unknown.

Table 16: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Hep B Vaccination Course by Gender

numbers and percentages

Hep B Vaccinations	Male	Female	Total
None	195	81	276
1 Injection	32	7	39
2 Injections	35	10	45
3 Injections	108	33	141
Total ⁽¹⁾	370	131	501

Percentages

None	53	62	55
1 Injection	9	5	8
2 Injections	9	8	9
3 Injections	29	25	28
Total	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ The figures exclude 6 individuals whose vaccination status was unknown.

Table 17: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Personal Living Circumstances by Gender

numbers and percentages

Personal Living Circumstances ⁽¹⁾	Male	Female	Total
Alone	94	22	116
With spouse/ partner only	47	17	64
With spouse/ partner and children	55	33	88
With dependent children	-	-	31
With parents	109	18	127
With friends	-	-	22
Hostel	22	6	28
Homeless/Roofless	6	0	6
Other	21	4	25
Total	376	131	507

Percentages

Alone	25	17	23
With spouse/ partner only	13	13	13
With spouse/ partner and children	15	25	17
With dependent children	-	-	6
With parents	29	14	25
With friends	-	-	4
Hostel	6	5	6
Homeless/Roofless	2	0	1
Other	6	3	5
Total	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ A gender breakdown is not presented for those living with dependent children and for those living with friends as they contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

The table contains one cell count of less than five but this falls within the 'other' category which is not specific and hence not disclosive.

Table 18: All Clients in Contact with Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2007/08: Employment Status

numbers and percentages

Employment Status	Number	%
In employment	78	15
Unemployed (Job Seeker's Allowance)	154	30
Receiving other Benefit	265	52
Other ⁽¹⁾	10	2
Total	507	100

⁽¹⁾ The other category includes students, pensioners/retired and on Government training scheme.

Table 19: All Clients Receiving Substitute Prescribing Medication on 31 March 2008: Substitute Medication by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Substitute Medication ⁽¹⁾	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Methadone	91	78	0	5	174
Buprenorphine	53	69	21	35	178
Other	0	14	0	1	15
Total	144	161	21	41	367
<u>Percentages</u>					
Methadone	63	48	0	12	47
Buprenorphine	37	43	100	85	49
Other	0	9	0	2	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ The table contains one cell count of less than five but this falls within the 'other' category which is not specific and hence not disclosive.

Table 20: All Clients Receiving Substitute Prescribing Medication on 31 March 2008: Additional Treatment by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Additional Treatment	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Counselling	107	123	21	40	291
Harm Minimisation Work	96	137	8	16	257
Education	100	101	19	27	247
Other⁽¹⁾	24	69	20	5	118
Persons⁽²⁾	143	161	21	41	366
 Percentages					
Counselling	75	76	100	98	80
Harm Minimisation Work	67	85	38	39	70
Education	70	63	90	66	67
Other⁽¹⁾	17	43	95	12	32
Persons	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ The other category includes psychotherapy, occupational & social rehabilitation, family support and detoxification.

⁽²⁾ The figures exclude 1 individual who did not receive any additional treatment.

Table 21: All Clients Receiving Substitute Prescribing Medication on 31 March 2008: Benzodiazepine Prescription by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Benzodiazepines Prescribed? ⁽¹⁾	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Not Prescribed	-	-	-	-	185
Prescribed	-	-	-	-	178
Total ⁽²⁾	143	160	21	39	363
<u>Percentages</u>					
Not Prescribed	-	-	-	-	51
Prescribed	-	-	-	-	49
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ A breakdown of individuals who have been prescribed benzodiazepines at HSSB level is not presented as it contains some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ The figures exclude 4 individuals as it was not known if they were being prescribed benzodiazepines.

Table 22: All Clients Receiving Substitute Prescribing Medication on 31 March 2008: Those Who Were Offered and Those Who Have Taken a Test for HIV, Hep B and Hep C by HSSB

numbers and percentages						
Test		Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Persons		144	161	21	41	367
HIV	No. Offered	112	75	19	24	230
	No. Taken	31	44	17	17	109
Hep B	No. Offered	114	128	19	24	285
	No. Taken	31	105	17	17	170
Hep C	No. Offered	112	127	19	24	282
	No. Taken	32	105	17	17	171
	Positive Test⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	-	37
	Referral to Liver Specialist⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	-	37
<u>Percentages</u>						
Persons		100	100	100	100	100
HIV	No. Offered	78	47	90	59	63
	No. Taken⁽²⁾	28	59	89	71	47
Hep B	No. Offered	79	80	90	59	78
	No. Taken⁽²⁾	27	82	89	71	60
Hep C	No. Offered	78	79	90	59	77
	No. Taken⁽²⁾	29	83	89	71	61
	Positive Test⁽³⁾	-	-	-	-	22
	Referral to Liver Specialist^{(1) (3)}	-	-	-	-	100

⁽¹⁾ A HSSB level breakdown on individuals had a positive Hep C test, and on individuals who had been referred to liver specialists has not been presented as it contained cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ Number of tests taken expressed as a percentage of the number of tests offered.

⁽³⁾ Number of positive Hep C tests expressed as a percentage of the number of Hep C tests taken.

⁽⁴⁾ Number of referrals expressed as percentage of positive Hep C tests.

Table 23: Clients stabilised on 31 March 2008 as Percentage of Clients Receiving Substitute Prescribing Medication on 31 March, by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Persons	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
On Substitute Prescribing medication	144	161	21	41	367
Stabilised	135	134	21	38	328
Number stabilised as % of number on Substitute Prescribing medication	94	83	100	93	89

Table 24: All Stabilised Clients on 31 March 2008: Substitute Medication by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Substitute Medication	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Methadone	85	65	0	5	155
Buprenorphine	50	59	21	32	162
Other	0	10	0	1	11
Total	135	134	21	38	328
 <u>Percentages</u>					
Methadone	63	49	0	13	47
Buprenorphine	37	44	100	84	49
Other	0	7	0	3	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ The table contains one cell count of less than five but this falls within the 'other' category which is not specific and hence not disclosive.

Table 25a: All Stabilised Clients on 31 March 2008: Methadone Dosage

Statistic	Dosage in Milligrams
Mean	69.8
Median	70.0
Minimum	12.0
Maximum	200.0

Table 25b: All Stabilised Clients on 31 March 2008: Methadone Dosages

Dosage in Milligrams	Number	Percentage
Less than 40	14	9
40 to 60	49	32
61 to 100	81	52
101 and above	11	7
Total	155	100

Table 26a: All Stabilised Clients on 31 March 2008: Buprenorphine Dosage

Statistic	Dosage in Milligrams
Mean	11.5
Median	12.0
Minimum	2.0
Maximum	24.0

Table 26b: All Stabilised Clients on 31 March 2008: Buprenorphine Dosages

Dosage in Milligrams	Number	Percentage
Less than 10	45	28
10 to 13	67	41
14 to 16	41	25
17 and above	9	6
Total	162	100

Table 27: All Stabilised Clients on 31 March 2008: Prescribing Responsibility by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Prescribing Responsibility	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Specialist Services	86	70	21	30	207
Primary Care	49	64	0	8	121
Total	135	134	21	38	328

Percentages

Specialist Services	<i>64</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>63</i>
Primary Care	<i>36</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>37</i>
Total	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Table 28: Substitute Prescribing Medication at Stabilisation Compared to Substitute Prescribing Medication at SP3 Review on 31 March 2008

numbers and percentages

Persons ⁽¹⁾		Substitute Prescribing medication at SP3 Review stage		
		On same SP drug	On different SP drug	Total
Substitute Prescribing medication at SP2 Stabilisation	Methadone	144	2	146
	Buprenorphine	122	18	140
	Other	6	3	9
	Total	272	23	295

Percentages		Substitute Prescribing medication at SP3 Review stage		
		On same SP drug	On different SP drug	Total
Substitute Prescribing medication at SP2 Stabilisation	Methadone	99	1	100
	Buprenorphine	87	13	100
	Other	67	33	100
	Total	92	8	100

⁽¹⁾ The table contains two cell counts of less than five but this information is not disclosive as it has not been specified which substitute prescribing medication the clients are receiving at SP3 Review Stage.

**Table 29: All Stabilised Clients, with Review (SP3) on 31 March 2008:
Substitute Medication by HSSB**

numbers and percentages					
Substitute Medication ⁽¹⁾	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Methadone	-	-	-	-	161
Buprenorphine	-	-	-	-	126
Other	-	-	-	-	8
Total	124	124	18	29	295
<u>Percentages</u>					
Methadone	-	-	-	-	55
Buprenorphine	-	-	-	-	43
Other	-	-	-	-	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ A HSSB breakdown is not presented as it contained cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure no individual can be identified.

**Table 30a: All Stabilised Clients, with Review (SP3) on 31 March 2008:
Methadone Dosage**

Statistic	Dosage in Milligrams
Mean	73.0
Median	72.5
Minimum	12.0
Maximum	210.0

**Table 30b: All Stabilised Clients, with Review (SP3) on 31 March 2008:
Methadone Dosages**

Dosage in Milligrams	Number	Percentage
Less than 40	12	8
40 to 60	46	29
61 to 100	89	56
101 +	13	8
Total	160⁽¹⁾	100

⁽¹⁾ This figure excludes 1 individual whose methadone dosage was unknown at their last review in 2007/08.

**Table 31a: All Stabilised Clients, with Review (SP3) on 31 March 2008:
Buprenorphine Dosage**

Statistic	Dosage in Milligrams
Mean	12.3
Median	12.0
Minimum	2.8
Maximum	70.0

**Table 31b: All Stabilised Clients, with Review (SP3) on 31 March 2008:
Buprenorphine Dosages**

Dosage in Milligrams	Number	Percentage
Less than 10	36	29
10 to 13	42	33
14 to 16	37	29
17 and above	11	9
Total	126	100

Table 32: The Percentage of All Stabilised Clients, with Review (SP3) on 31 March 2008: Main Problem Drug Reported at SP1 and SP3 Stage

percentages

Main Problem Drug at SP1 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Main Problem Drug at SP3 ⁽¹⁾					Total
	No Reported Problem Drug	Cannabis	Heroin	Diazepam	Other Drugs ⁽³⁾	
<u>Percentages</u>						
Heroin	33	16	31	14	6	100
Other drugs ⁽⁴⁾	55	7	3	23	12	100
Total	38	14	24	17	7	100

⁽¹⁾ Numbers are not presented in this table as it contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ A breakdown of all main drugs has not been presented due to small cell counts. Instead the main drug category on the SP1 form has been reduced to heroin and other drugs and on the SP3 form it has been reduced to no problem drug, cannabis, heroin, diazepam, and other drugs; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽³⁾ The 'other main drug' category at SP3 stage includes; Cannabis, 'Other Stimulants', Cocaine, Ecstasy, Amphetamines, Dihydrocodeine, Codeine, Morphine, Diazepam, Codeine & Paracetamol, and Temazepam.

⁽⁴⁾ The 'other main drug' category at SP1 stage includes; Methadone, Nubain, Dihydrocodeine, Codeine, Buprenorphine, Codeine & Paracetamol and Tramadol.

Table 33: All Stabilised Clients, with Review (SP3) on 31 March 2008: Results of Salivary /Urinalysis Testing⁽¹⁾ by HSSB

numbers and percentages

Result^{(1) (2)}	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
Sample Clear of Illicit Drugs	-	-	-	-	101
1 Failed Test	-	-	-	-	55
More than 1 Failed Test	-	-	-	-	102
Total^{(3) (4)}	123	94	16	25	258

Percentages

Sample Clear of Illicit Drugs	-	-	-	-	39
1 Failed Test	-	-	-	-	21
More than 1 Failed Test	-	-	-	-	40
Total	100	100	100	100	100

⁽¹⁾ It should be noted that there are methodological differences across and within boards in terms of testing for illicit drugs and therefore, comparisons between boards should be made with caution. These differences may be attributable to type of test used, timing issues or client or clinical needs.

⁽²⁾ A breakdown at HSSB has not been presented as it contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽³⁾ The figures excludes 35 individuals had not taken salivary / urinalysis testing.

⁽⁴⁾ The figures excludes 2 individuals had taken salivary / urinalysis testing but the results were not known at the time the review form was completed.

**Table 34: All Stabilised Clients, with Review (SP3) on 31 March 2008:
Comparison of SP1 and SP3 Reports of Injecting in the Last Four Weeks**

numbers and percentages

		Injected in the Last Four weeks, at Review (SP3)		
		Yes	No	Total
Injected in the Last Four Weeks, at Assessment (SP1)	Yes	18	95	113
	No	14	90	104
	Total ⁽¹⁾	32	185	217

Percentages

		Injected in the Last Four weeks, at Review (SP3)		
		Yes	No	Total
Injected in the Last Four Weeks, at Assessment (SP1)	Yes	16	84	100
	No	13	87	100
	Total	15	85	100

⁽¹⁾ The figures exclude 71 individuals who have never injected and 7 individuals whose injecting status in the last 4 weeks was unknown.

Table 35: The Percentage of All Stabilised Clients, with Review (SP3) on 31 March 2008: Personal Living Circumstances at Assessment (SP1) and Review (SP3)

percentages

		Personal Living Circumstances on SP3										
Personal Living Circumstances on SP1		Alone	With spouse/ partner only	With spouse/ partner and children	With dependent children	With parents	With friends	Hostel	Homeless / Roofless	In Prison/YOC	Other – specify ⁽²⁾	Total
<u>Percentages</u> ⁽¹⁾												
Alone		70	7	7	7	4	0	3	0	1	0	100
With spouse/partner only		32	38	24	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	100
With spouse/partner and children		4	2	78	12	2	0	2	0	0	0	100
With dependent children		11	6	17	61	6	0	0	0	0	0	100
With parents		21	14	12	2	44	1	0	0	1	4	100
With friends		40	10	0	0	0	20	20	10	0	0	100
Hostel		63	11	5	0	0	5	16	0	0	0	100
Homeless/Roofless		50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Other – specify ⁽²⁾		67	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	11	100

⁽¹⁾ Numbers are not presented in this table as it contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

⁽²⁾ The majority of these individuals are living with other family relatives

Table 36: The Percentage of All Stabilised Clients, with Review (SP3) on 31 March 2008: Employment Status at Assessment (SP1) and Review (SP3)

percentages

Employment Status on SP1	Employment Status on SP3						Total
	In Employment	On Government Training Scheme	Student	Unemployed (Job Seekers Allowance)	Receiving Other Benefits	Other	
Percentages ⁽¹⁾							
In Employment	63	0	0	16	20	0	100
On Government Training Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Student	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Unemployed (Job Seekers Allowance)	15	0	0	30	56	0	100
Receiving Other Benefits	3	0	1	6	90	1	100
Other	14	0	0	14	71	0	100

⁽¹⁾ Numbers are not presented in this table as it contained some cell counts of less than five; this is to ensure individuals cannot be identified.

Table 37: Reason for Discontinuation during 2007/08

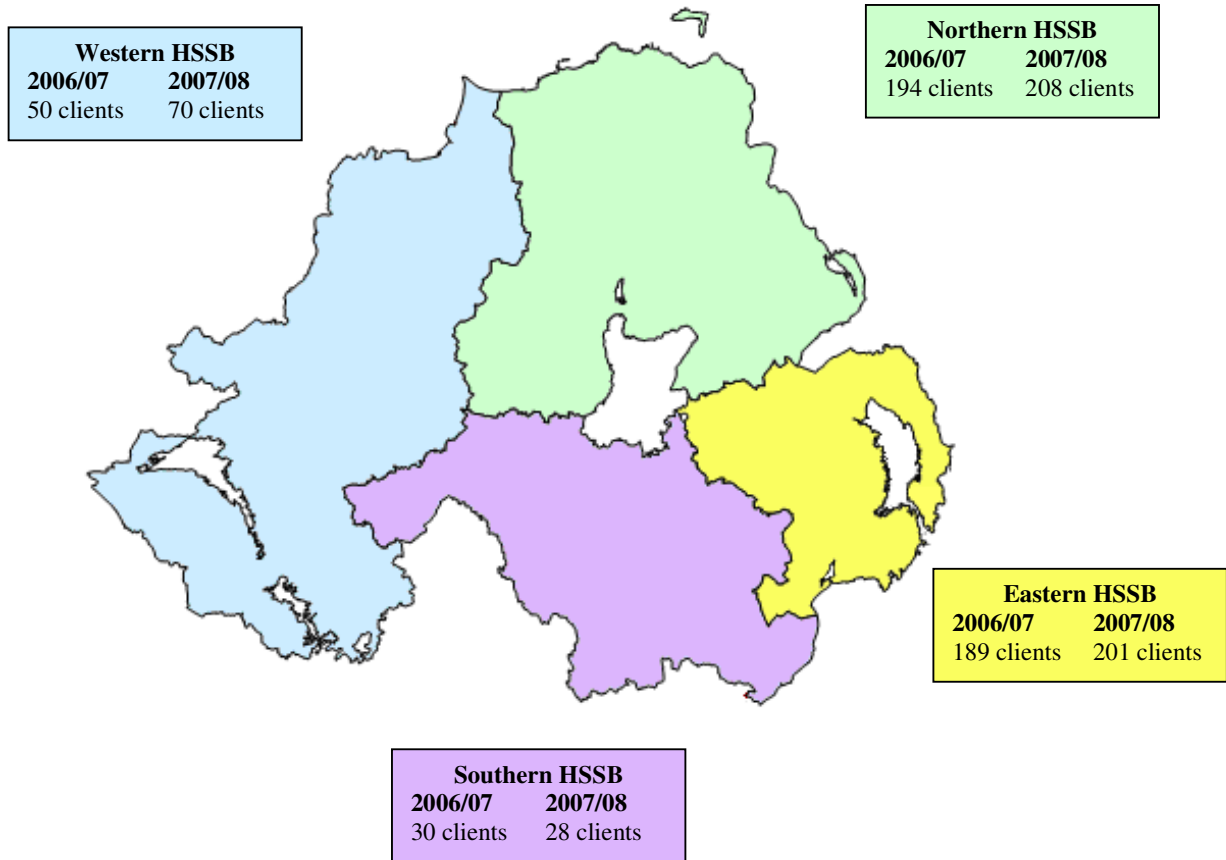
numbers and percentages

Reason	Number	Percentage
Not suitable for SP	11	13
Failed to present for SP	17	20
Continuing SP elsewhere in NI	7	8
Continuing SP outside NI	6	7
Managed discontinuation of SP	26	30
Unmanaged discontinuation of SP	13	15
Other	6	7
Total	86	100

ANNEX C – Comparative Information for 2006/07

TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
Map C1	All Clients in Contact With Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2006/07 and 2007/08 by HSSB	65
Table C1	2007/08 activity compared to 2006/07.	66

Map C1: All Clients in Contact With Substitute Prescribing Treatment Services during 2006/07⁽¹⁾ and 2007/08⁽²⁾ by HSSB



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⁽¹⁾ These clients were at some stage of Substitute Prescribing treatment at some time during 2006/07 – they were referred on or before 31/3/2007 (excludes those who discontinued before 1/4/2006).

⁽²⁾ These clients were at some stage of Substitute Prescribing treatment at some time during 2007/08 – they were referred on or before 31/3/2008 (excludes those who discontinued before 1/4/2007).

Table C1: 2007/08 activity compared to 2006/07.

numbers and percentages

Breakdown of Clients	2006/07	2007/08	% Change
<u>During the year</u>			
Clients in contact with Substitute Prescribing treatment services during the year	463	507	+ 10
Clients Discontinued during the year	95	86	- 9
<u>On 31 March</u>			
Clients in receipt of Substitute Prescribing Medication	323	367	+ 14
Clients Stabilised	290	328	+ 13
Clients Stabilised with at least 1 Review	260	295	+ 13

CLIENT REFERENCE

Agency Code SP REF

Agency Reporter Key Worker

Date form completed Is Client on waiting list for Substitute Prescribing treatment? Yes No

SUBSTITUTE MEDICATION

SUBSTITUTE DRUG USED: Methadone Buprenorphine Other (Specify) _____

DOSAGE: Daily Alternate Days Other (Please Specify) _____

Date of first dose (dd/mm/yy) Dose (milligrams)

Has Stabilisation been achieved? Yes No

SUPERVISION & TREATMENT

WHO HAS PRESCRIBING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CLIENT? (tick one only): Specialist Services Primary Care (GP) →

NOME OF GP PRACTICE

SUPERVISION ARRANGEMENTS (tick one only): All doses supervised All doses supervised (except wk-ends etc) Other (please specify) _____

ADDITIONAL TREATMENT (tick all that apply): Counselling Psychotherapy Occupational / Social rehabilitation Family Support Harm minimisation work Education Detoxification (alcohol / benzodiazepines etc) Other (Please Specify) _____

NOMINATED PHARMACY:

OTHER INFORMATION

Is the Client being prescribed Benzodiazepines Yes No Don't Know

TESTING FOR HIV / HEPATITIS

Has the client been offered a test for the following within the current treatment episode? (a) HIV Yes No (b) Hepatitis B Yes No (c) Hepatitis C Yes No

Has the client been tested for the following within the current treatment episode? (a) HIV Yes No (b) Hepatitis B Yes No (c) Hepatitis C Yes No

If yes to c: Did client test positive to Hepatitis C? Yes No

If Yes – Has client been referred to a liver specialist? Yes No

Has client started a Hepatitis B vaccination course within current treatment episode? Yes No

Send this copy to: DRUG & ALCOHOL INFORMATION & RESEARCH UNIT, ANNEX 2, CASTLE BUILDINGS, BELFAST BT4 3SQ (PHONE: 028 90 522 520)

CLIENT REFERENCE

Agency Code SP REF

Agency Reporter Key Worker

Date form completed (dd/mm/yy)

REASON FOR REVIEW

Please tick as appropriate Regular Review
 Review requested by Client
 Review requested by Services
 Other (Please Specify) _____

Date of next scheduled Review (month/year)

SUBSTITUTE MEDICATION

SUBSTITUTE DRUG USED: Methadone Buprenorphine Other (Please Specify) _____

DOSAGE: Dose (milligrams) Daily Alternate Days Other (Please Specify) _____

SUPERVISION ARRANGEMENTS: All doses supervised All doses supervised (except wk-ends etc) Other (Please Specify) _____

DRUG USE (PLEASE COMPLETE IN RESPECT OF ANY CURRENT PROBLEM DRUG USE BY CLIENT)

NB: ONLY DRUGS BEING CURRENTLY USED SHOULD BE INCLUDED (SUBSTITUTE DRUG SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED)

Problem drug	Drug used	Frequency (Please tick)				Route(s)	Prescribed? Yes/No/Both	Use in the last 4 Weeks (Y/N)
		Daily	Wkly	Mthly	Occnal			
Problem drug 1								
Problem drug 2								
Problem drug 3								
Problem drug 4								
Problem drug 5								

DOES CLIENT SHOW SIGNS OF PROBLEM ALCOHOL USE? (Please tick) Yes No Don't Know

SALIVARY TESTING / URINALYSIS

HAS A SALIVA TEST / URINALYSIS BEEN CARRIED OUT SINCE LAST REVIEW? Yes No

IF YES - WERE SAMPLES CLEAR? Yes No - 1 Negative test No - More than 1 Negative test Other (Please specify) _____

IF SAMPLE(S) NOT CLEAR - PLEASE INDICATE WHAT WAS FOUND (tick all that apply) Opiates Ecstasy Benzodiazepines Cannabis Cocaine Stimulants Other (please specify) _____

SUBSTITUTE DRUG METABOLITES PRESENT? Yes - present on all occasions Missing on one occasion Missing more than once Other (please specify) _____

INJECTING

HAS CLIENT INJECTED IN PAST 4 WEEKS? Yes No Don't Know

IF YES: HAS CLIENT SHARED INJECTING EQUIPMENT IN THE PAST 4 WEEKS? Yes No Don't Know

CLIENT DETAILS / OTHER INFORMATION

LIVING WITH (tick one only) Alone With spouse/partner only With spouse/partner and children With dependant children only With parents With friends Hostel Homeless / Roofless In Prison/YOC Other (specify) _____

EMPLOYMENT STATUS (tick one only) In employment On Govt training scheme Student Unemployed (Job Seekers Allowance) Receiving Other Benefit Other (specify) _____

BEHAVIOUR Please indicate any problems with the clients behaviour: (tick all that apply) No reported problems Missed doses Time-keeping problems ID problems (Pharmacy) Attitudes towards staff Missed appointments Other (specify) _____

Is Client being prescribed benzodiazepines? Yes No

DISCONTINUATION (please complete form above to best of your ability)

DATE CLIENT DISCONTINUED SUBSTITUTE PRESCRIBING (dd/mm/yy):

REASON FOR DISCONTINUATION OF SUBSTITUTE PRESCRIBING (tick one only): Not suitable for Substitute Prescribing Failed to present for Substitute Prescribing Continuing Substitute Prescribing elsewhere in Northern Ireland Continuing Substitute Prescribing outside Northern Ireland Detoxification Managed discontinuation of Substitute Prescribing Unmanaged discontinuation of Substitute Prescribing Deceased Other (specify) _____

Send this copy to: DRUG & ALCOHOL INFORMATION & RESEARCH UNIT, ANNEX 2, CASTLE BUILDINGS, BELFAST BT4 3SQ (PHONE: 028 90 522 520)

Recent and Future Publications from the Public Health Information and Research Branch

Statistical Bulletins

Number	Title	Publication Date
1/2008	Statistics from the Northern Ireland Drug Addicts Index 2007	March 2008
2/2008	Statistics from the Northern Ireland Needle and Syringe Exchange Scheme: 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008	August 2008
4/2008	Statistics on Smoking Cessation in Northern Ireland: 2007/08	September 2008
5/2008	Statistics from the Northern Ireland Drug Misuse Database: 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008	October 2008

Results from the 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey

Published jointly with the National Advisory Committee on Drugs, Ireland

Number	Title	Publication Date
Bulletin 1	Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland: First Results	January 2008
Bulletin 2	Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland: Health Board (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results	July 2008
Bulletin 4	Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland: Cocaine Results	October 2008

Copies of these publications can be obtained online at:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/public_health/statistics_and_research-drugs_alcohol-2.htm