# The Public Health Call to Action for Drug Use - Northamptonshire

## Prevalence

There are an estimated* 3,415 opiate and/or crack users in Northamptonshire, equivalent to 7.5 per 1,000 adult population.

National survey results^ show that amongst respondents aged 16-59:
- 34.6% had ever used drugs
- 9.0% had used drugs in the last year
- 2.1% had used drugs at least once a month in the past year, equivalent to 8,785 individuals in Northamptonshire

In a 2017 survey of secondary school pupils in Northamptonshire:
- 77% of respondents thought that it was “just not right” for someone of their age to use cannabis
- 11% of respondents had used drugs
- 4% of respondents had used drugs in the last month, equivalent to 1,711 young people aged 12 to 16 across the county

## Costs

In 2018/19, the total budget for substance misuse services (combined drugs and alcohol) is £7 million, which includes:
- £5.5 million for structured treatment services including detox and specialist prescribing
- £800k for holistic recovery services supporting housing, employment, wellbeing and social integration
- £380k for young people’s treatment and prevention services
- £160k for services to support families affected by substance misuse
- £155k for drug and alcohol awareness training aimed at professionals and workplaces

According to the NDTMS 2016/17 Social Return on Investment Tool, structured treatment for drug use in Northamptonshire has provided £5.7 million in benefits to the NHS, social care and housing services, and prevented £12.2 million in crime related costs

## Health Burden

- In 2014/15-16/17, 306 young people aged 15 to 24 were hospitalised due to substance misuse
- In 2016/17, there were 721 hospital admissions for drug related mental and behavioural issues
- In 2016/17, there were 286 hospital admissions for illicit drug poisoning
- In 2015-17, there were 89 registered deaths due to substance misuse

A 2015/16 survey of patients in local drug services found that 53.3% had a current mental health need

## Risk Factors

A local study of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) found that 48.7% of people in the county experienced at least one ACE, and 10.6% had 4+ ACES

Compared to people with no ACES, those with 4+ ACES were 4.7 times more likely to have used cannabis, and 6.6 times more likely to have used heroin or crack

National survey results (2017/18 CSEW) show that men are roughly twice as likely as women to have used drugs in the last year

## Treatment

### Adult structured treatment figures Mar 17-Feb 18:
- 1,457 opiate users treated, of which 9.0% successfully completed treatment and did not return to services within 6 months, compared to the national average of 6.4%
- 513 non-opiate users treated, of which 34.5% successfully completed and did not return to services within 6 months (national average 36.6%)

Local data shows that in 2017/18, young people’s substance misuse services engaged 170 under 18s in structured treatment for drug misuse with a successful completion rate of 67.6%

In 2016/17, an estimated 46.6% of opiate users (1,354 individuals) weren’t accessing specialist treatment services

In 2016/17, 26.9% of Northamptonshire adults in treatment for drug misuse were also in contact with mental health services

## Comparison with Benchmark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compared with benchmark</th>
<th>Better</th>
<th>Similar</th>
<th>Worse</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults 16 and 17 not in education, employment or training (NEET)</td>
<td>In 2016, 6.7% of 16 and 17 year olds were not in employment, education or training (NEET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GP patients aged 18+ were not recorded as having depression</td>
<td>In 2016/17, 11.5% of GP patients aged 18+ were recorded as having depression</td>
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<td>Domestic abuse related crime was 27.3 per 1,000 population</td>
<td>In 2016/17, the rate of domestic abuse related crime reported to the police was 27.3 per 1,000 population</td>
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*2014/15 estimates; ^2017/18 Crime Survey for E&W; °NHS Digital; **Office for National Statistics - Data sourced from Public Health England unless stated otherwise. Icons by Freepik from flaticon.com; Produced by Public Health Intelligence, Northamptonshire County Council
**Vision:**
Our vision is to prevent, treat and reduce the health and social related harms caused by drug misuse to individuals, families and communities in Northamptonshire. We want to ensure the best use of resources to meet the needs of the population, whilst enabling a high functioning system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whole system approach</th>
<th>Widening access to services</th>
<th>Behavioural approaches</th>
<th>Evidence Based Approach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preventing and tackling drug use requires good partnership working across the system to understand the potential causes and minimize barriers people face in successful recovery.</td>
<td>Reducing the barriers for those with a mental health and substance misuse problem (dual diagnosis) accessing treatment. Ensuring that those from the whole population are able to access service regardless of geography or any of the protected characteristics. Harm reduction for people using drugs who are not in treatment.</td>
<td>Improvement in treatment outcomes for people within the treatment service, reducing drug deaths in ageing population of drug users, increasing the number of people in treatment,</td>
<td>We will ensure that the service continues to utilise the most up to date guidance and research. There will also be regular engagement with service users.</td>
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<td><strong>Achieved through:</strong></td>
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<td>• Developing a strategy and establishing a county partnership for substance misuse.</td>
<td>• Working with service providers to ensure that there is regular monitoring of access.</td>
<td>• Ensuring that Recovery sustains a drug free lifestyle through, employment, accommodation and drug free social networks.</td>
<td>• Take account of the key feedback from service user forums.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Developing a person centred co-produced service that meets patient needs.</td>
<td>• Working with NHS to minimize barriers in relation to dual diagnosis. Reducing overdoses.</td>
<td>• Ensuring that patients are discharged when recovered.</td>
<td>• Carry out and publish research to improve the treatment system in Northamptonshire.</td>
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<th>Our Commitment / Enablers</th>
<th>System partnerships - engage and co produce with partners and stakeholders e.g. NHS, local government, schools, workplaces and prisons.</th>
<th>Continued investment in prevention, better access to target populations and promoting MECC*.</th>
<th>Engagement and co-production of research aligning with evidence. Evaluation to monitor and assure service delivery and quality.</th>
<th>Embed Health in All Policies - a common way of analysing the health impact of drugs; creating places which support and generate good health; governance/policy ideas based on collaboration.</th>
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<td>Reducing inequalities - services which mitigate inequalities and work to overcome- by location, approach, policy.</td>
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**Measures of Success**
- Development of countywide Substance Misuse Partnership and Strategy
- Strengthening the link between mental health and drugs and alcohol services
- Continued improvement in treatment outcomes for service users
- Reduction in deaths for those within the treatment service
- Increase in the number of people entering treatment

*Making every contact count*