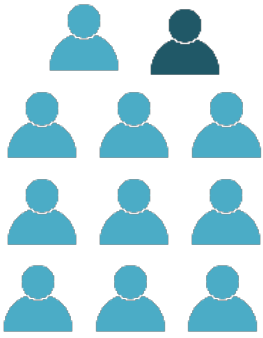


# Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Drugs Misuse Summary

*Drug misuse is associated with a range of mental and physical health problems as well as a wide array of complex social issues.*



## Consumption

It is difficult to accurately estimate local drug use. National estimates suggest at least **one in eleven** (9.4%) adults aged 16-59, used drugs in the last year. This is equivalent to around **22,000 Leicester residents**.

**Cannabis** is the most frequently used drug, followed by powder **cocaine** and **ecstasy**.



Source: Drug Misuse statistics June 2022



There are an estimated 2600 **crack cocaine and/or opiate** users in Leicester, of whom around half are in treatment.

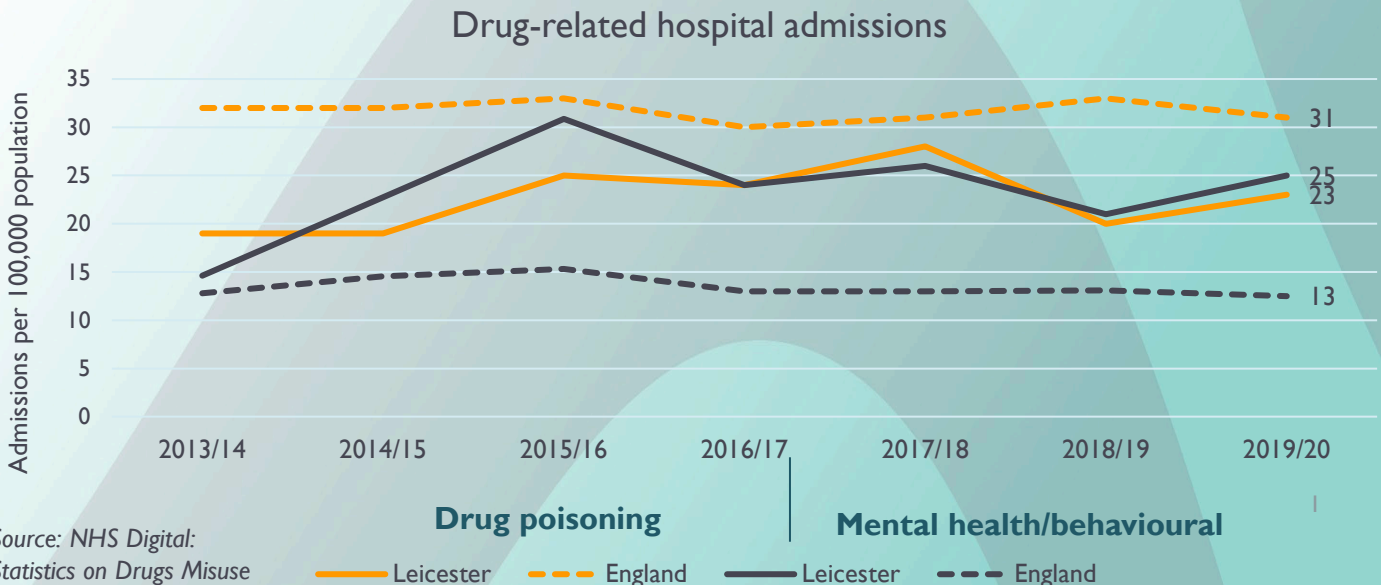
Source: Public Health England, Estimates of opiate and crack cocaine use prevalence, 2017

**New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)**, such as the synthetic cannabinoid '**Spice**', have increased in popularity in recent years.



## Impact

Hospital admissions for drug-related **poisoning** are lower than England. Admissions for drug-related **mental health and behavioural disorders** are higher than England



## Current services in Leicester

**Community-based treatment services:**  
Specialist treatment, recovery support, advice and guidance

**Inpatient detox:**  
10-day detox provided locally, in Nottingham

**Recovery community:**  
Advice, mutual aid, peer support

**No.5 Recovery Hub:**  
recovery support for people living a 'street lifestyle'

## Leicester's treatment population



In 2021/22 over 2,000 people accessed community-based drug treatment in Leicester. Many received treatment for more than 1 drug: half (58%) were opiate users or non-opiate users, (of which 15% were opiate only, 9% non-opiate only and 27% alcohol only)

Some demographic groups are over-represented in the **treatment population** compared to Leicester's general adult (18+) population.



Sources: National Drug Treatment Monitoring System; ONS, Census 2021; ONS Mid-year population estimates. 2021

Further information can be found at [www.leicester.gov.uk/jsna](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/jsna)

## Social issues associated with drugs misuse



People in drug treatment often have complex, wide-ranging needs. Those in drug treatment are more likely to have mental health needs, an insecure housing situation, be unemployed, and be in contact with the criminal justice system.

### Drugs Misuse Chapter: Key statistics

Table 1. National comparisons*	Leicester	England
Adults in treatment at specialist drug misuse services: rate per 1000 population, 2020/21	5.8	4.5
Users of opiates or crack or both per 1000 population age 15-64, 2017	14	9
'Very high' user 'Complexity' score among community drug treatment population, 2018/19	43%	32%
Drug misuse deaths per 100,000 population-years, 2018-20	5.0	5.0
Referrals to community drug treatment from the criminal justice system, 2021/22	22%	13%
Adults entering treatment with a mental health treatment need, 2021/22	71%	68%
Adults entering treatment who had a problem with their housing situation, 2021/22	23%	21%
Adults entering community treatment who are in regular employment, 2021/22	26%	30%
Adults entering community treatment who live with children, 2021/22	17%	20%
Adults referred to Hepatitis C treatment, 2021/22	6.0%	8.2%
Successful completions of treatment (Opiates), 2021/22	4.5%	5.2%
Successful completions of treatment (Non-opiates), 2021/22	37%	34%
Re-presentations within 6 months of successfully completing treatment (Opiates), 2121/22	20.5%	15.3%
Re-presentations within 6 months of successfully completing treatment (Non-opiates), 2121/22	8.8%	6.2%