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Impact of Test on Arrest: An Examination of Drug Testing and Drug Intervention Record data

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Contents

1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Methodology	2
3.0 Drug Testing Data	
3.1 Liverpool DAAT	3
3.2 Sefton DAT	6
3.3 Wirral DAAT	9
3.4 Merseyside Summary and Comparison from Drug Testing data	12
4.0 DIR Data	
4.1 Liverpool DAAT	13
4.2 Sefton DAT	17
4.3 Wirral DAAT	20
4.4 Merseyside Summary and Comparison from DIR data	23
5.0 Summary and Conclusions	25
6.0 References	28

List of Figures

Fig 1: Liverpool DAAT Numbers of Tests Pre and Post	3
Fig 2: Liverpool DAAT Negative and Positive Tests	3
Fig 3: Liverpool DAAT Gender	4
Fig 4: Liverpool DAAT Age	5
Fig 5: Sefton DAT Numbers of Tests Pre and Post	6
Fig 6: Sefton DAT Negative and Positive Tests	6
Fig 7: Sefton DAT Gender	7
Fig 8: Sefton DAT Age	8
Fig 9 Wirral DAAT Numbers of Tests Pre and Post	9
Fig 10: Wirral DAAT Negative and Positive Tests	9
Fig 11: Wirral DAAT Gender	10
Fig 12: Wirral DAAT Age	11
Fig 13: Liverpool DAAT DIR Gender	13
Fig 14: Liverpool DAAT DIR Age	13
Fig 15 Liverpool DAAT Weekly spend on Illicit Drugs	15
Fig 16: Liverpool DAAT Injecting	16
Fig 17: Sefton DAT DIR Gender	17
Fig 18: Sefton DAT DIR Age	17
Fig 19: Sefton DAT Weekly spend on Illicit Drugs	19
Fig 20: Sefton DAT Injecting	19
Fig 21: Wirral DAAT DIR Gender	20
Fig 22: Wirral DAAT DIR Age	20
Fig 23: Wirral DAAT Weekly spend on Illicit Drugs	22
Fig 24 Wirral DAAT Injecting	22

List of Tables

Table 1: Liverpool DAAT Pre and Post by Offence	4
Table 2: Sefton DAT Pre and Post by Offence	7
Table 3: Wirral DAAT Pre and Post by Offence	10
Table 4: Liverpool DAAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Offence	14
Table 5: Liverpool DAAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Drug Use	14
Table 6: Sefton DAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Offence	18
Table 7: Sefton DAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Drug Use	18
Table 8: Wirral DAAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Offence	21
Table 9: Wirral DAAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Drug Use	21

1.0 Introduction

The Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) was first introduced to the intensive areas in 2003 and extended to the whole of England and Wales in May 2005. The main objective of DIP is to divert drug-using offenders out of crime and into treatment. Critical to this scheme is the drug-testing provision, introduced as part of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act in 2000 in order to deter drug use amongst individuals under criminal justice supervision. This stipulated that any individual aged over 18 years charged with a trigger offence such as theft or burglary could be tested for the use of opiates and cocaine (Home Office 2004).

In April 2006, drug-testing provision was expanded in the 97 Basic Command Units testing on charge. The Drugs Act 2005 introduced new legislation allowing individuals arrested for trigger offences to be drug tested. This enabled testing to be conducted earlier in the custody process in the hope of engaging more people in DIP (Drugs Act 2005). To facilitate this, positive test results necessitated clients to attend and remain at an initial drug assessment (Home Office 2006).

Merseyside has five custody suites in which drug testing takes place: Belle Vale, Copy Lane, St Anne's Street, Wavertree Road and Wirral. This report will look at the characteristics of clients coming through the custody suites both in the six months prior to the introduction of Test on Arrest and the six months since its introduction. It is hoped that this information will assist the Merseyside D(A)AT's in providing an insight into the nature of clients coming through the DIP process, and allow them to use this information to target more effectively and by this increase engagement.

2.0 Methodology

Two data sets were examined for this report, drug testing data supplied by Merseyside police and Drug Interventions Record data received from Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral DIP teams.

Drug Testing

Information regarding tests successfully completed between October 2005 and September 2006 at the five Merseyside custody suites listed previously were analysed. For each custody suite, demographic information, the number of tests, the result of each test and the offence for which the client had been arrested were examined. Tests have been split into two separate time periods, the six months prior to the introduction of Test on Arrest (October 2005 to March 2006) and the six months after its introduction (April 2006 to September 2006). These categories are referred to throughout the report as Pre and Post.

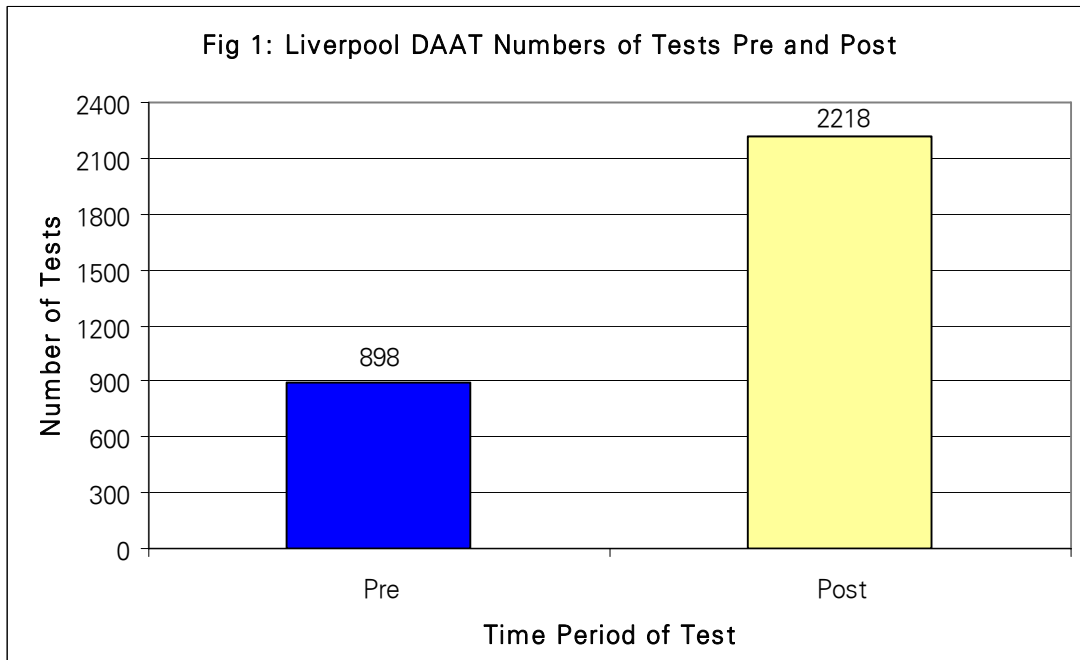
DIR Data

Data from the Drug Interventions Records (DIR) was examined for the same 12-month period. Data was taken from all clients who were assessed in the five Merseyside custody suites. Clients' demographic information, the offence for which they had been arrested, details of drug use, weekly spend on drugs and injecting habits were recorded. Again, these records were split into two time periods (pre and post the introduction of Test on Arrest). Data provided on drug use, weekly spend and injecting was controlled to those who had used drugs in the last month. Clients could list more than one drug of use so numbers will be in excess of 100% in the drug use tables.

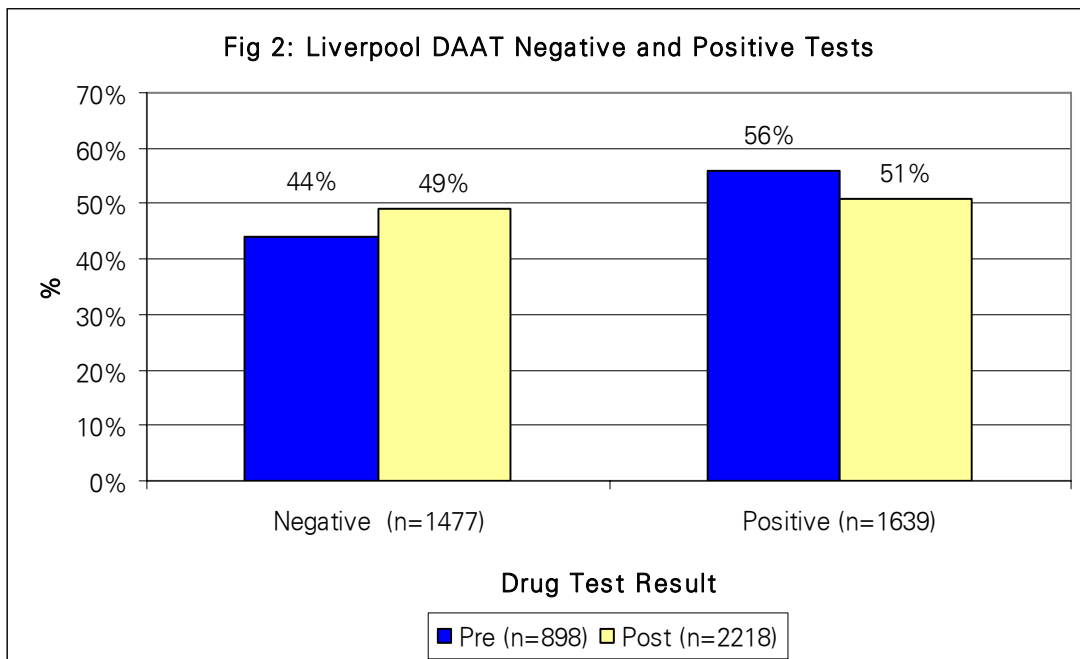
For both the Drug Testing data and the DIR data, offences have been collapsed into more robust categories. For all figures, percentages have been rounded to the nearest integer.

3.0 Drug Testing Data

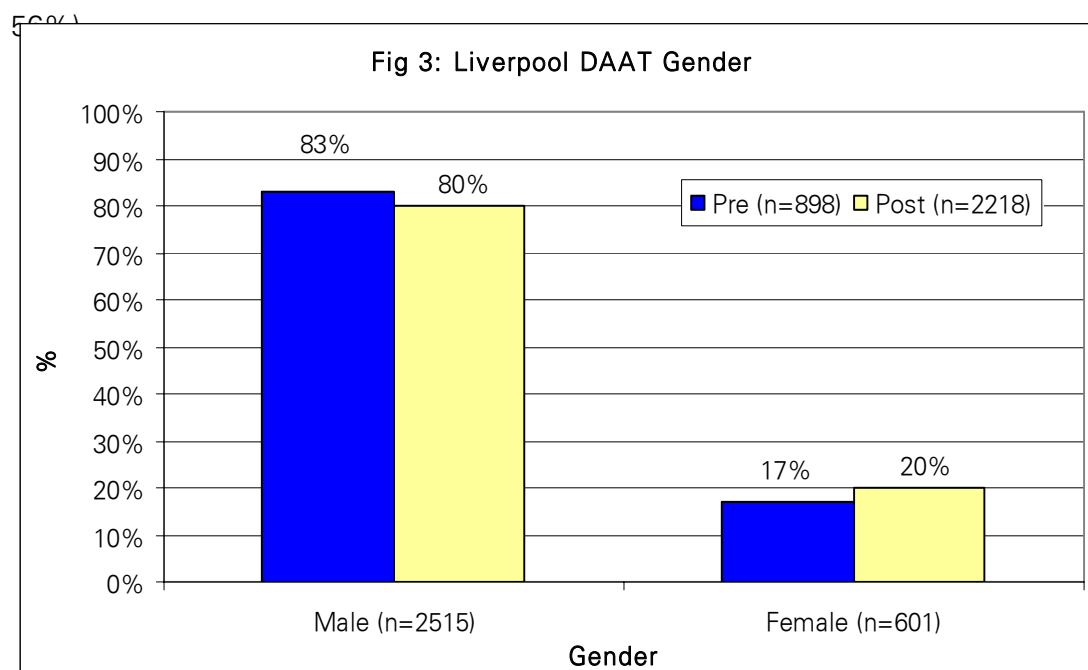
3.1 Liverpool DAAT



There were a much larger number of tests completed in the six months after the introduction of Test on Arrest than in the six months prior to the scheme's introduction (2,218 compared to 898).



Rates of positive testing were lower post Test on Arrest than pre (51% compared to

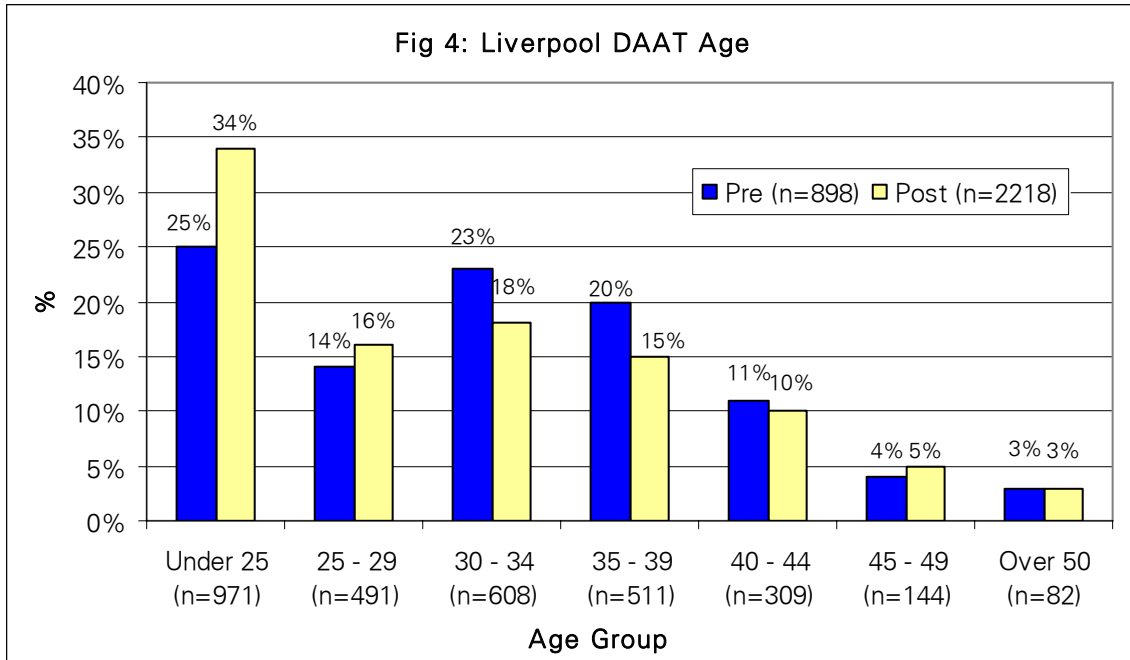


The proportion of females tested increased slightly post Test on Arrest (20%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (17%).

Table 1: Liverpool DAAT Pre and Post by Offence

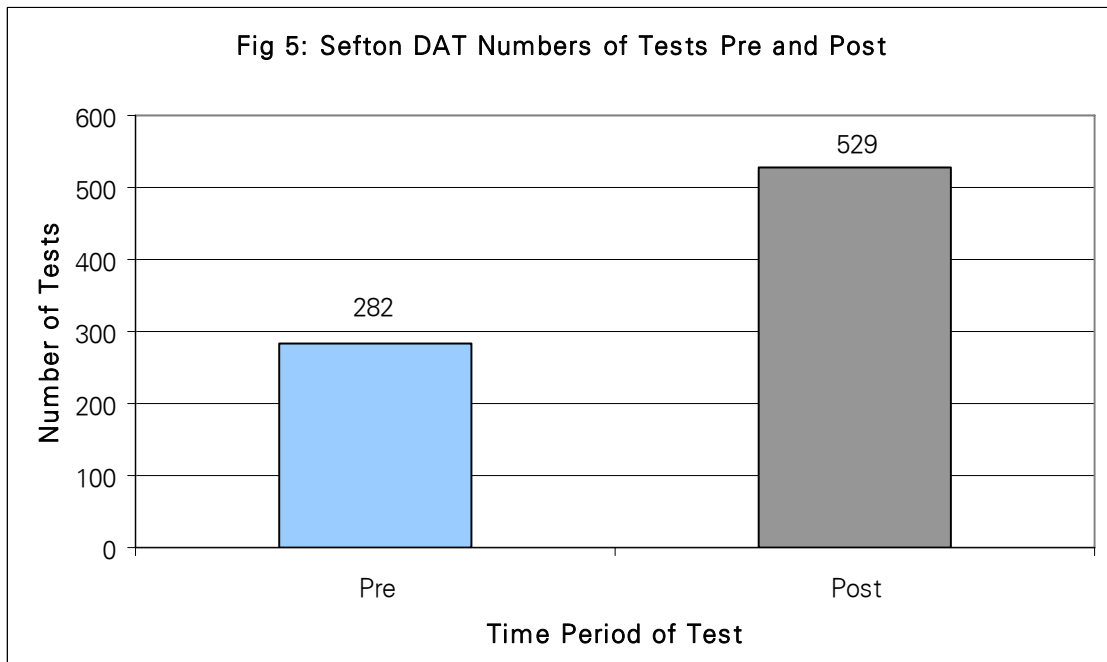
Offence	Pre (n=898)	Post (n=2218)	Total
Begging	59 (7%)	123 (6%)	182 (6%)
Burglary	96 (11%)	319 (14%)	415 (13%)
Deception	24 (3%)	57 (3%)	81 (3%)
Handling	28 (3%)	41 (2%)	69 (2%)
MDA	139 (15%)	313 (14%)	452 (15%)
Prostitution		24 (<1%)	24 (1%)
Robbery	52 (6%)	153 (7%)	205 (7%)
Theft	462 (51%)	949 (43%)	1411 (45%)
Theft - Vehicle	38 (4%)	225 (10%)	263 (8%)
Violence		9 (<1%)	9 (<1%)
Other		5 (<1%)	5 (<1%)

Theft was the most common offence of clients tested across the 12 months. Proportionally there were more theft offenders pre Test on Arrest (51%) than post Test on Arrest (43%). In addition, theft of a vehicle made up a greater proportion of offences post Test on Arrest (10%) than pre (4%). The proportion of burglary offences also increased post Test on Arrest (14%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (11%).

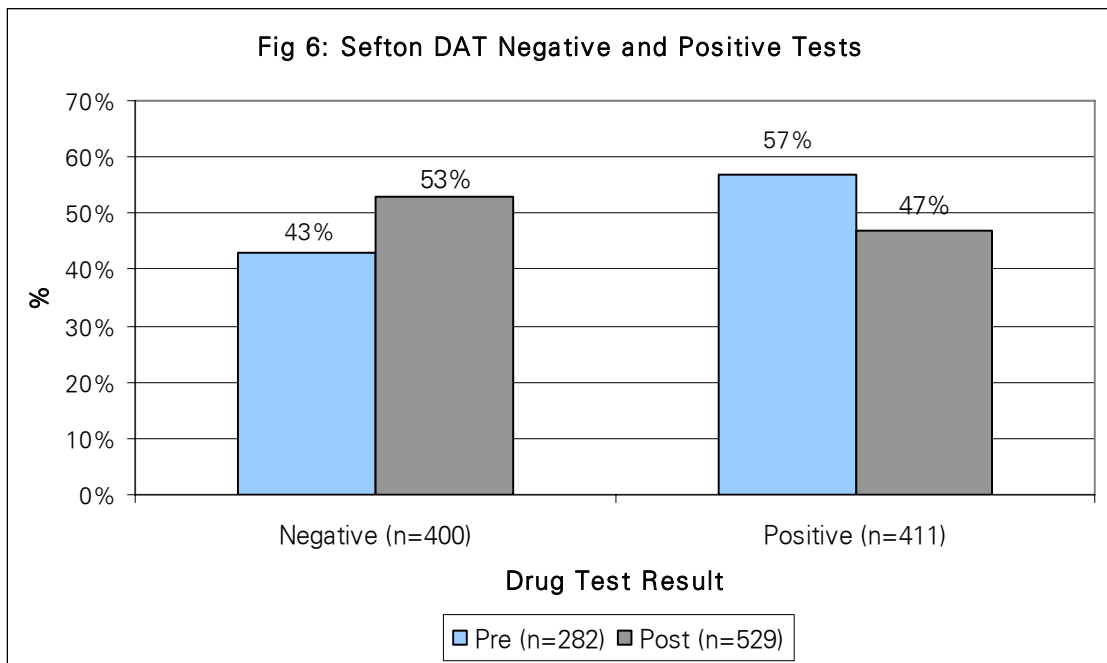


There was a considerable increase in the proportion of arrestees tested who were under 25 post Test on Arrest (34%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (25%). There were proportionally more arrestees tested pre Test on Arrest between 30 and 44 years old than post (53% compared to 43%).

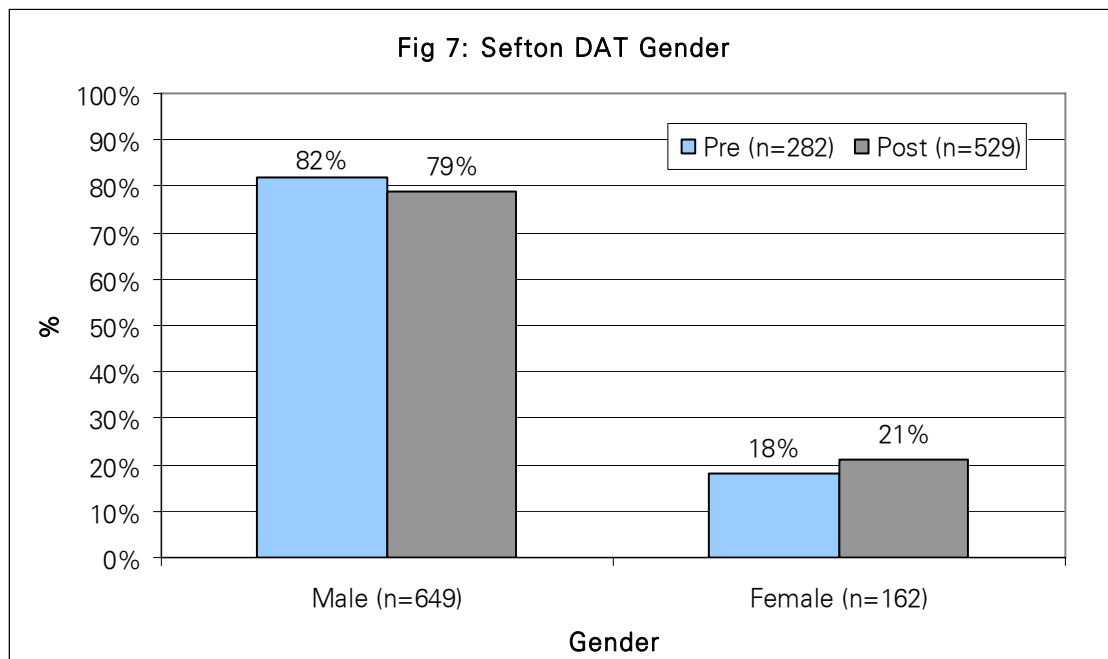
3.2 Sefton DAT



There were a much larger number of tests completed in the six months after the introduction of Test on Arrest than in the six months prior to the scheme's introduction (529 compared to 282).



Rates of positive testing were much lower post Test on Arrest than pre (47% compared to 57%).

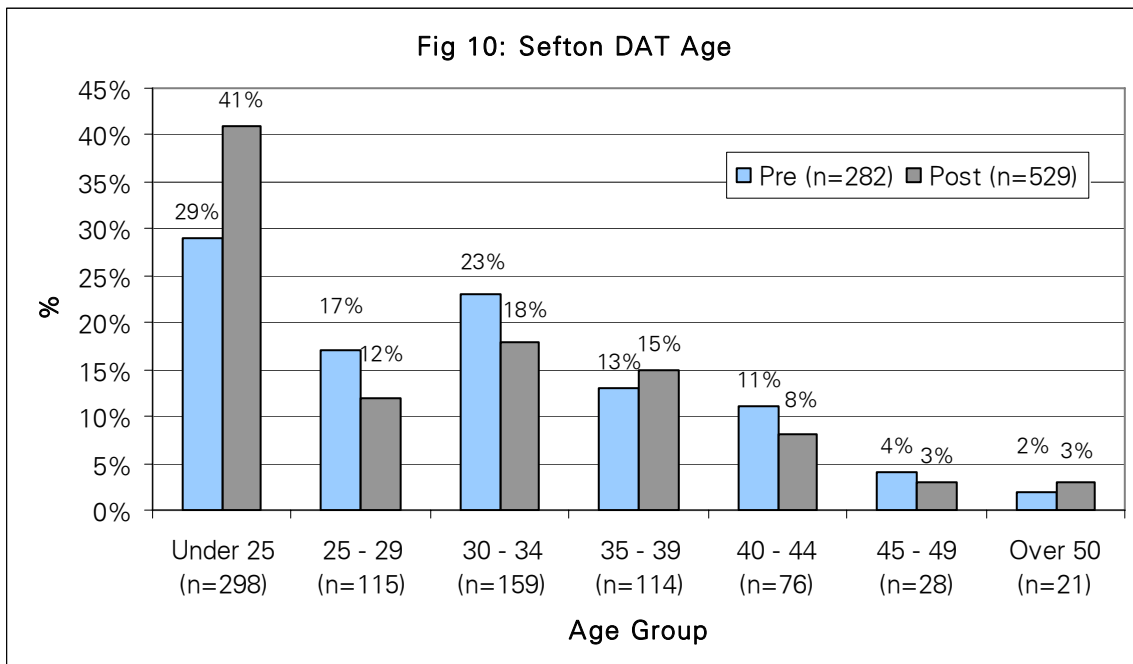


There was a slight difference between the proportion of females who were tested pre Test on Arrest (18%) and post Test on Arrest (21%).

Table 2: Sefton DAT Pre and Post by Offence

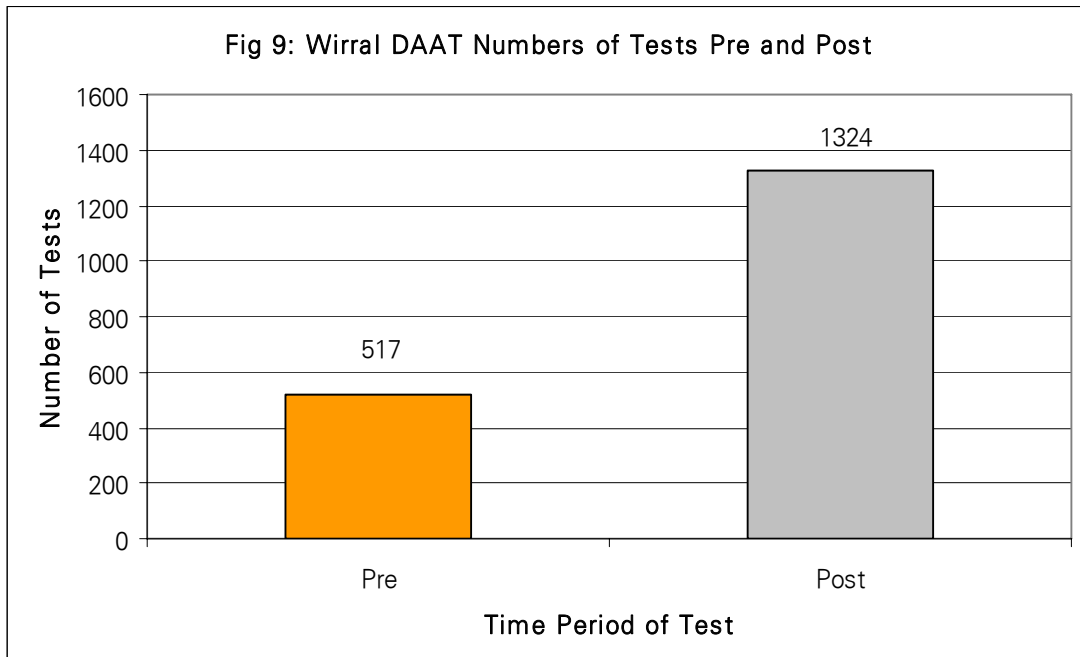
Offence	Pre (n=282)	Post (n=529)	Total
Begging	7 (2%)		7 (1%)
Burglary	47 (17%)	115 (22%)	162 (20%)
Deception	6 (2%)	22 (4%)	28 (3%)
Handling	10 (4%)	7 (1%)	17 (2%)
MDA	47 (17%)	81 (15%)	128 (16%)
Robbery	5 (2%)	21 (4%)	26 (3%)
Theft	141 (50%)	227 (43%)	368 (45%)
Theft – Vehicle	19 (7%)	50 (9%)	69 (9%)
Violence		2 (<1%)	2 (<1%)
Other		4 (1%)	4 (<1%)

The most common offence across the 12 months was theft (45%). There was a considerable difference between pre and post Test on Arrest figures for theft. A larger proportion of theft offenders were tested pre Test on Arrest (50%) than post Test on Arrest (43%). Burglary was more common among arrestees tested post Test on Arrest (22%) than pre (17%).

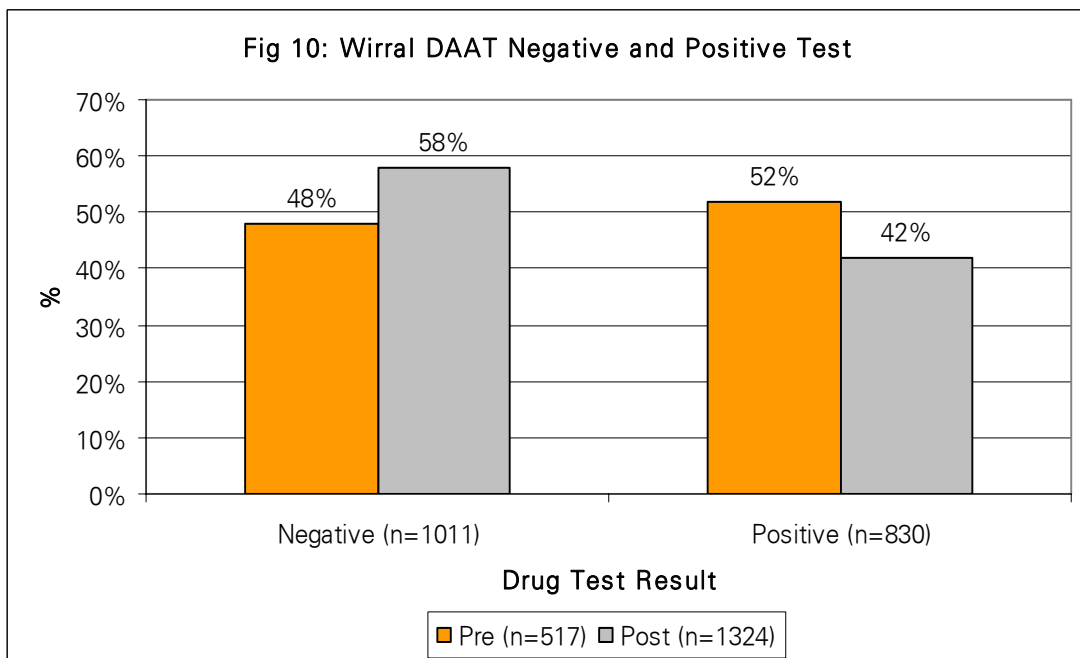


There was variation in the distribution of testeas across age groups when pre and post Test on Arrest periods were compared. The proportion of clients under 25 was substantially higher post Test on Arrest (41%) than pre Test on Arrest (29%). In addition, the proportion of clients who were between 25 and 34 was lower post Test on Arrest (30%) than pre Test on Arrest (40%).

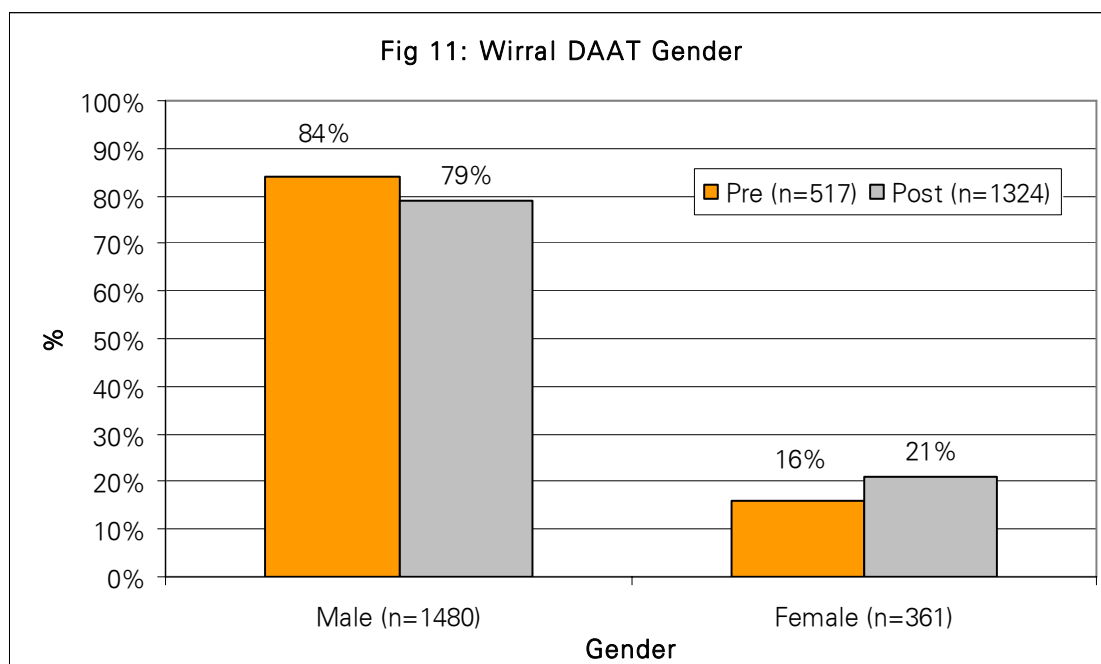
3.3 Wirral DAAT



There were a much larger number of tests completed in the six months after the introduction of Test on Arrest than in the six months prior to the scheme's introduction (1,324 compared to 517).



Rates of positive testing were much lower post Test on Arrest than pre (42% compared to 52%).

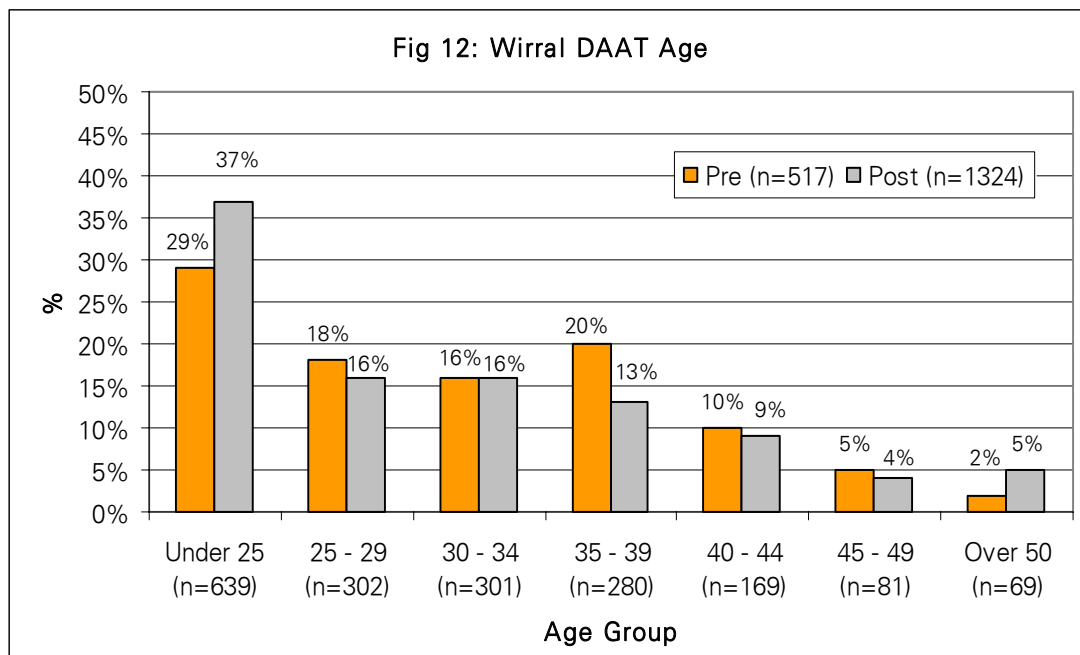


There was an increase in the proportion of females who were tested post Test on Arrest (21%) compared to pre Test on Arrest (16%).

Table 3: Wirral DAAT Pre and Post by Offence

Offences	Pre (n=517)	Post (n=1324)	Total
Begging		3 (<1%)	3 (<1%)
Burglary	59 (11%)	241 (18%)	300 (16%)
Deception	23 (4%)	33 (3%)	56 (3%)
Handling	12 (2%)	10 (1%)	22 (1%)
MDA	62 (12%)	157 (12%)	219 (12%)
Robbery	16 (3%)	54 (4%)	70 (4%)
Theft	299 (58%)	672 (51%)	971 (53%)
Theft – Vehicle	46 (9%)	146 (11%)	192 (10%)
Violence		4 (<1%)	4 (<1%)
Other		4 (<1%)	4 (<1%)

The most common offence across the 12-month period was theft (53%). There was a decrease in the proportion of theft offenders post Test on Arrest (51%) compared to pre Test on Arrest (58%). Burglary offences increased substantially post Test on Arrest (18%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (11%).



The most substantial differences in the age of arrestees tested pre and post Test on Arrest can be seen in the under 25 and 35-39 year old age groups. There was a substantial increase in the proportion of clients who were under 25 post Test on Arrest (37%) compared to pre Test on Arrest (29%). Conversely there was a decrease in the proportion of clients between 35 and 39 post Test on Arrest (13%) compared to pre Test on Arrest (20%).

3.4 Merseyside Summary and Comparison from Drug Testing data

Liverpool DIP had the most tests completed across the 12 month period, both pre and post Test on Arrest. Wirral DIP saw a 156% increase from pre to post Test on Arrest in the number of tests completed, the highest increase across the three areas.

There was an overall decrease in the proportion of positive tests post Test on Arrest when compared to pre Test on Arrest. Wirral DIP had the lowest proportion of positive tests completed post Test on Arrest. The introduction of Test on Arrest had less of an impact in Liverpool than the other two areas on the proportion of positive test results.

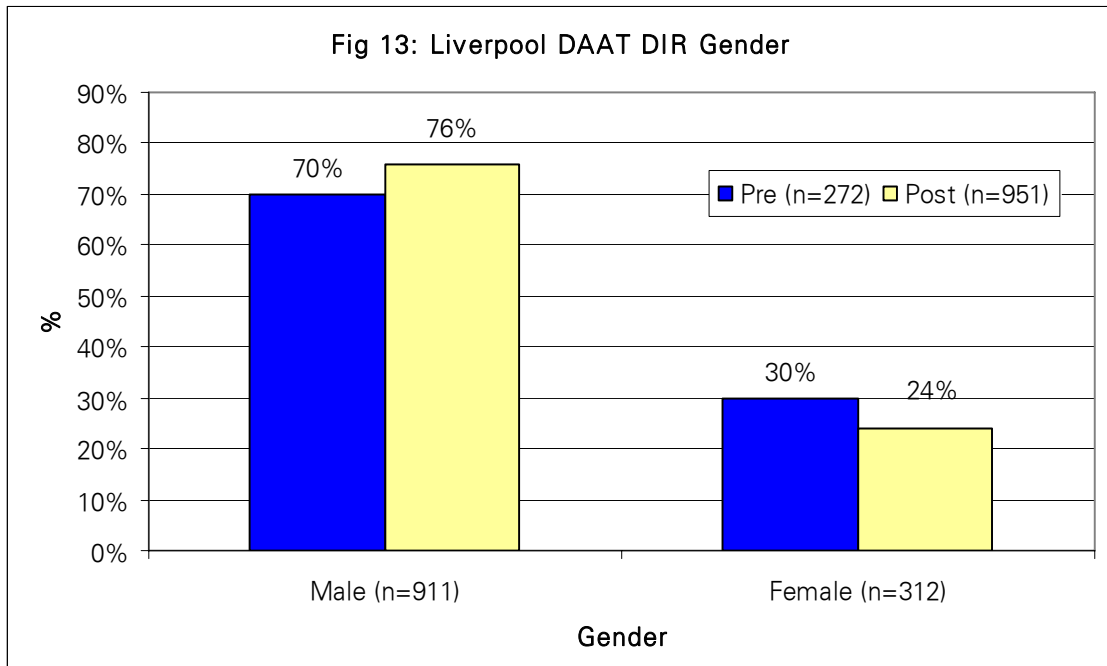
There was an increase in the proportion of females tested post Test on Arrest when compared to pre Test on Arrest across all areas. This pattern was more pronounced on the Wirral than in the two other areas.

Theft was the most common offence across the 12-month period for all areas. All three areas saw a reduction in the proportion of theft offenders tested. For each area, there was an increase in the proportion of burglary offences post Test on Arrest when compared to pre Test on Arrest. In addition, Liverpool had a considerable increase in the proportion of vehicle theft crimes post Test on Arrest when compared to pre Test on Arrest.

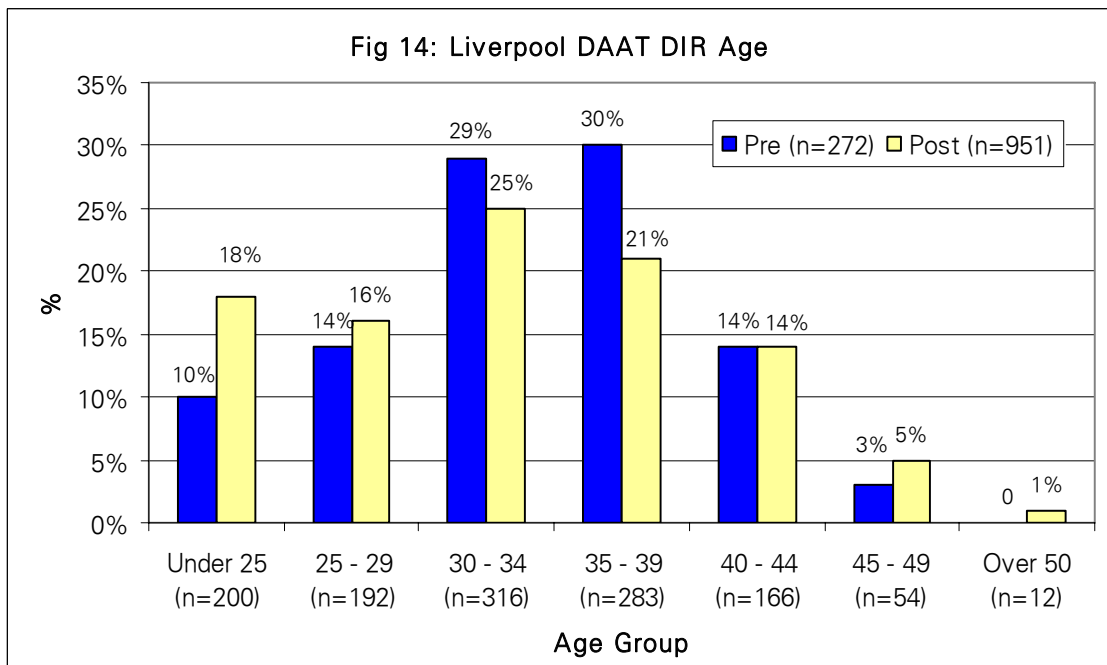
Arrestees under the age of 25 were the most common age group both pre and post Test on Arrest. There was a substantial increase in the proportion of tests completed for under 25 year olds post Test on Arrest across all areas. Whilst Liverpool and Wirral DIP showed a decrease in the proportion of clients tested who were between 35 and 39, Sefton DIP showed a slight increase. It was also found that the proportion of clients who were between 30 and 34 in Liverpool and Sefton DIP decreased post Test on Arrest, whereas the age group remained unchanged across the 12-month period for Wirral DIP.

4.0 DIR Analysis

4.1 Liverpool DAAT



There were proportionally less females assessed post Test on Arrest (24%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (30%).



The proportion of clients assessed who were between 30 and 39 was lower post Test on Arrest (46%) than pre (59%). There was a considerable increase (8%) in the proportion of clients post Test on Arrest who were under 25 at the time of their assessment.

Table 4: Liverpool DAAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Offence

Offence	Pre (n=268)	Post (n=943)	Total
Begging	8 (3%)	44 (5%)	52 (4%)
Breach	12 (4%)	18 (2%)	30 (2%)
Breach of Peace	3 (1%)	7 (1%)	10 (1%)
Burglary	22 (8%)	109 (12%)	131 (11%)
Criminal Damage	2 (1%)	2 (<1%)	4 (<1%)
Deception	3 (1%)	8 (1%)	11 (1%)
Drug Offences	24 (9%)	123 (13%)	147 (12%)
Fraud	1 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	5 (<1%)
Handling	5 (2%)	21 (2%)	26 (2%)
Motoring Offences	2 (1%)	3 (<1%)	5 (<1%)
Possession of Offensive Weapon	2 (1%)	4 (<1%)	6 (<1%)
Prostitution	4 (1%)	7 (1%)	11 (1%)
Public Order	3 (1%)	7 (1%)	10 (1%)
Robbery	15 (6%)	53 (6%)	68 (6%)
Theft	11 (4%)	99 (10%)	110 (9%)
Theft - Shoplifting	67 (25%)	237 (25%)	304 (25%)
Theft - Vehicle	18 (7%)	103 (11%)	121 (10%)
Vagrancy	5 (2%)		5 (<1%)
Violence	9 (3%)	25 (3%)	34 (3%)
Warrant	49 (18%)	57 (6%)	106 (9%)
Other	3 (1%)	12 (1%)	15 (1%)

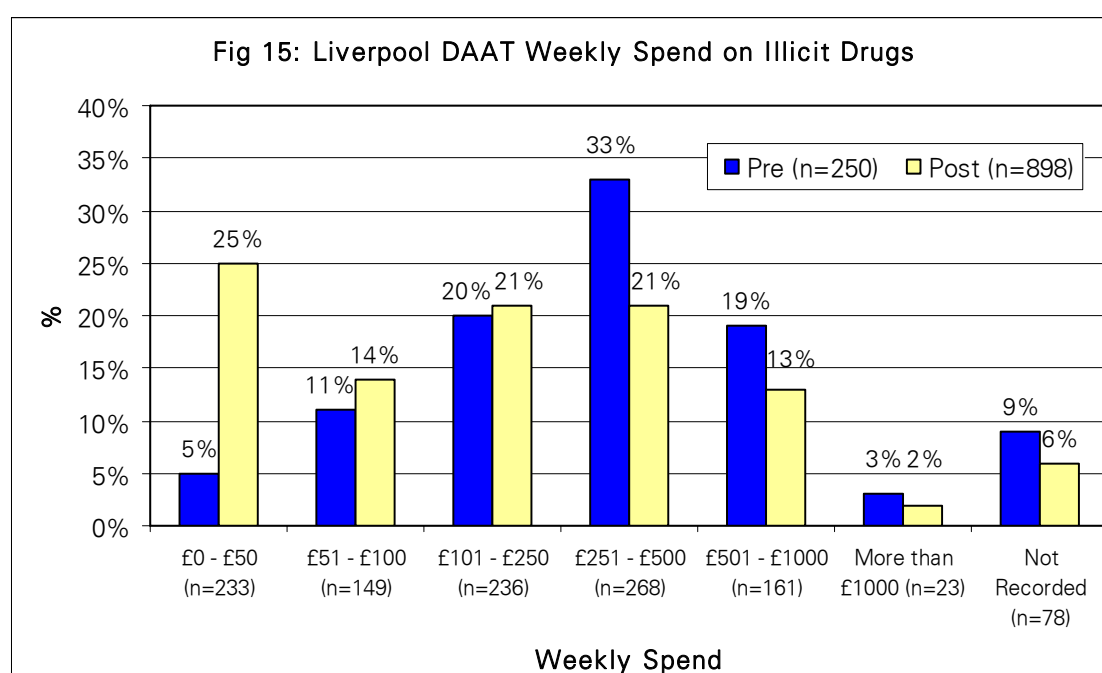
NB. 4 clients did not provide a response in this section in the pre test on arrest period, 8 did not provide a response post test on arrest.

Shoplifting was the most common offence (25%) committed by clients assessed across the 12 months. There was an increase in the proportion of burglary offences post Test on Arrest (12%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (8%). There was also an increase in theft offences post Test on Arrest compared to pre Test on Arrest, excluding shoplifting, where the proportion of offences remained the same between the two time periods. The proportion of car theft offences increased post Test on Arrest (11%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (7%). Finally, there was a substantial decrease in the proportion of clients who had been arrested on a warrant (18% to 6%).

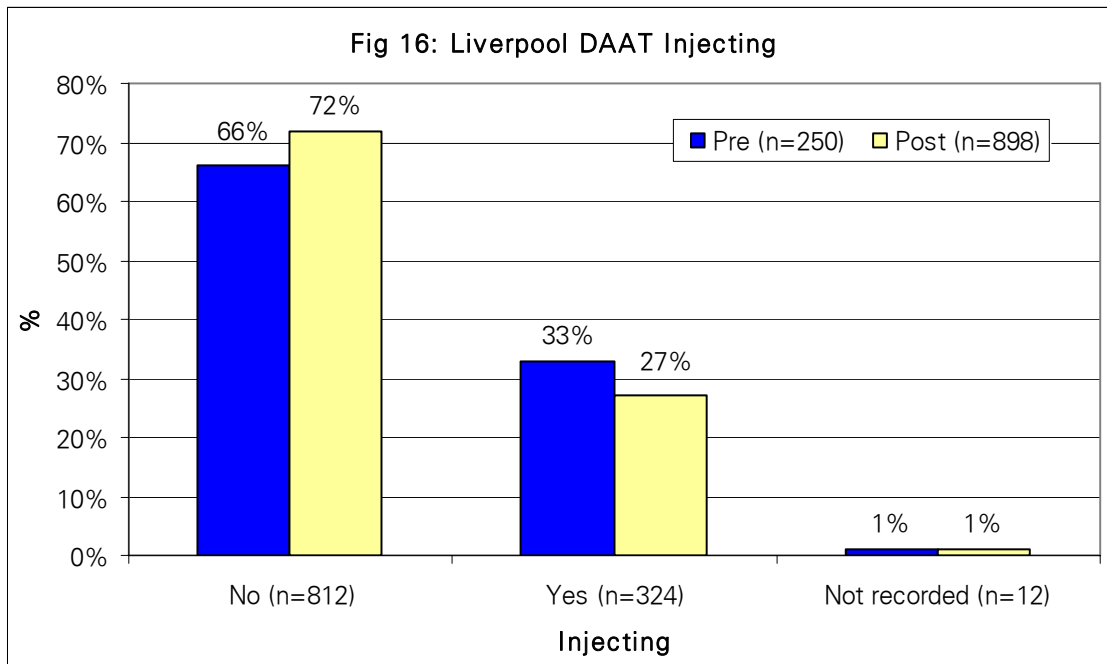
Table 5: Liverpool DAAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Drug Use

	Pre (n=250)	Post (n=898)	Total (n=1148)
Amphet.	1 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	5 (<1%)
Benzo.	11 (4%)	16 (2%)	27 (2%)
Cannabis	21 (8%)	113 (13%)	134 (12%)
Cocaine	20 (8%)	274 (31%)	294 (26%)
Crack	169 (68%)	504 (56%)	673 (59%)
Ecstasy	1 (<1%)	10 (1%)	11 (1%)
Heroin	202 (81%)	562 (63%)	764 (67%)
Methadone	26 (10%)	83 (9%)	109 (9%)
Other		9 (1%)	9 (1%)

Heroin was the drug most commonly used by clients assessed over the 12-month period (67%). The proportion of clients who reported use of heroin decreased substantially post Test on Arrest (pre 81%, post 63%). Additionally, there was a decrease in the proportion of reported crack users post Test on Arrest (56%) when compared to pre (68%). Conversely, there was a considerable increase in the proportion of clients reporting cocaine use post Test on Arrest (31%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (8%). There was also a rise of 5% in the proportion of clients reporting cannabis use post Test on Arrest.

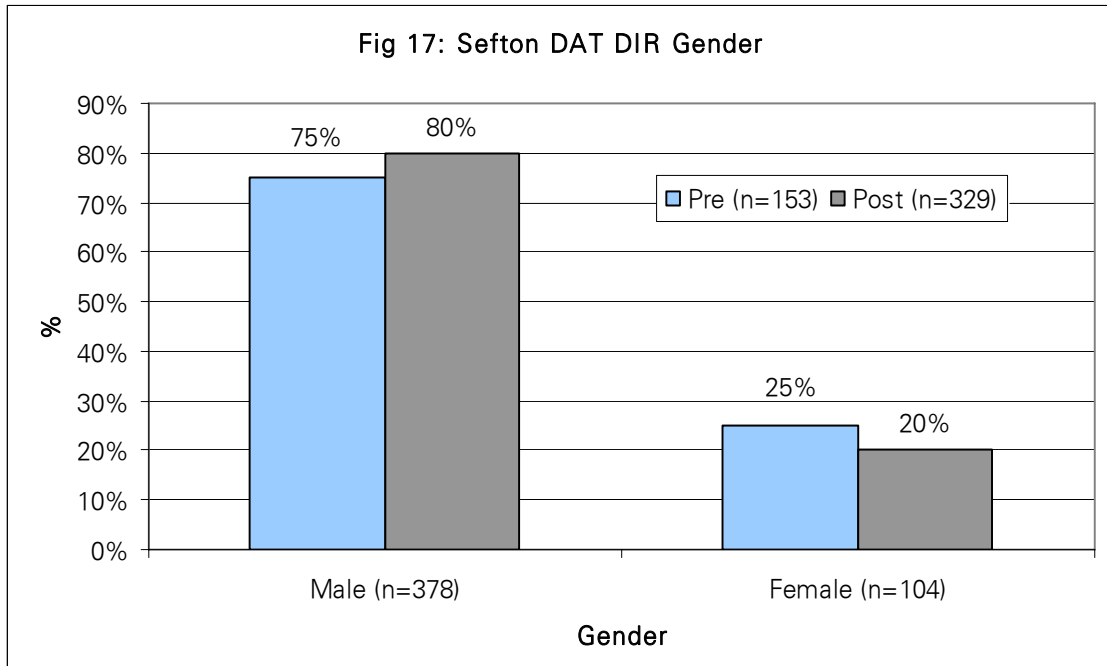


Levels of weekly spend on drugs varied greatly over the two time periods. Post Test on Arrest a much greater proportion of clients reported spending £0-£50 a week on drugs (25%) than before the scheme's introduction (5%). In contrast, there was a decrease in the proportion of clients spending between £251 and £1000 post Test on Arrest (34%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (52%).

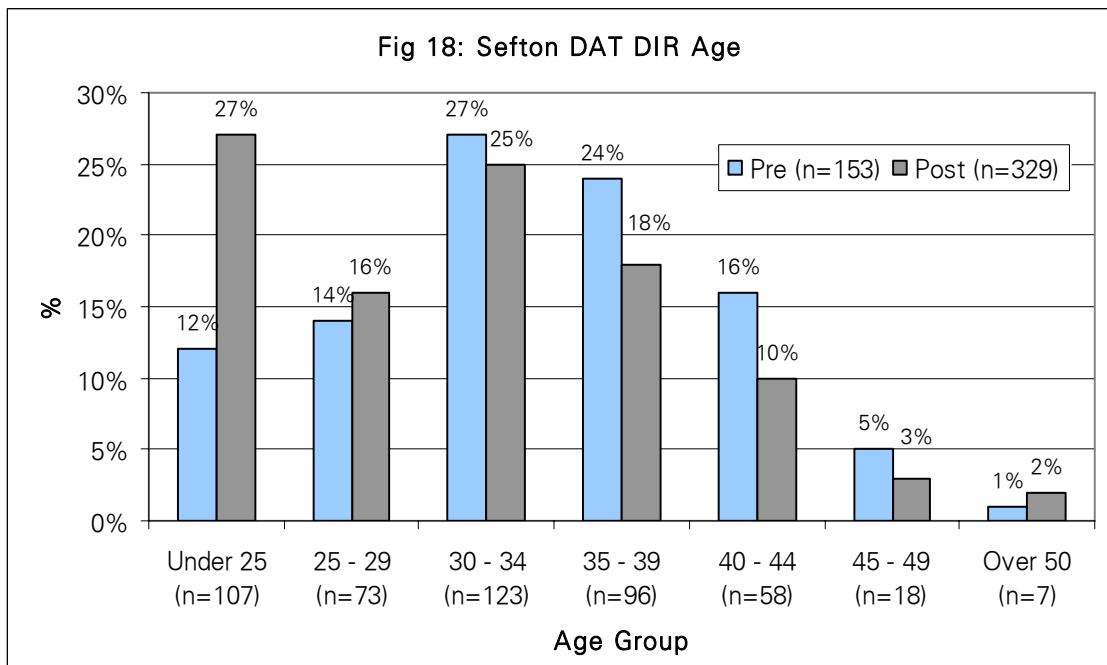


There was a decrease in the proportion of clients who reported injecting in the past month post Test on Arrest (27%) when compared to pre (33%).

4.2 Sefton DAT



There were a lower proportion of female clients assessed post Test on Arrest (20%) than pre Test on Arrest (25%).



The proportion of clients over 30 who were assessed decreased post Test on Arrest (58%) compared to pre Test on Arrest (73%). There was a large difference in the

proportion of clients assessed who were under 25 pre (12%) and post Test on Arrest (27%).

Table 6: Sefton DAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Offence

Offences	Pre (n=140)	Post (n=307)	Total
Begging	3 (2%)		3 (1%)
Breach	6 (4%)	9 (3%)	15 (3%)
Burglary	13 (9%)	36 (12%)	49 (11%)
Criminal Damage	1 (1%)	1 (<1%)	2 (<1%)
Deception		3 (1%)	3 (1%)
Drug Offences	21 (15%)	49 (16%)	70 (16%)
Fraud	1 (1%)	4 (1%)	5 (1%)
Handling	6 (4%)	6 (2%)	12 (3%)
Motoring Offences	5 (4%)	6 (2%)	11 (2%)
Possession of Offensive Weapon		3 (1%)	3 (1%)
Prostitution		2 (1%)	2 (<1%)
Public Order		2 (1%)	2 (<1%)
Robbery	3 (2%)	14 (5%)	17 (4%)
Theft	11 (8%)	19 (6%)	30 (7%)
Theft – Shoplifting	54 (39%)	104 (34%)	158 (35%)
Theft – Vehicle	6 (4%)	22 (7%)	28 (6%)
Vagrancy	1 (1%)		1 (<1%)
Violence	6 (4%)	17 (6%)	23 (5%)
Warrant		2 (1%)	2 (<1%)
Other	3 (2%)	8 (3%)	11 (2%)

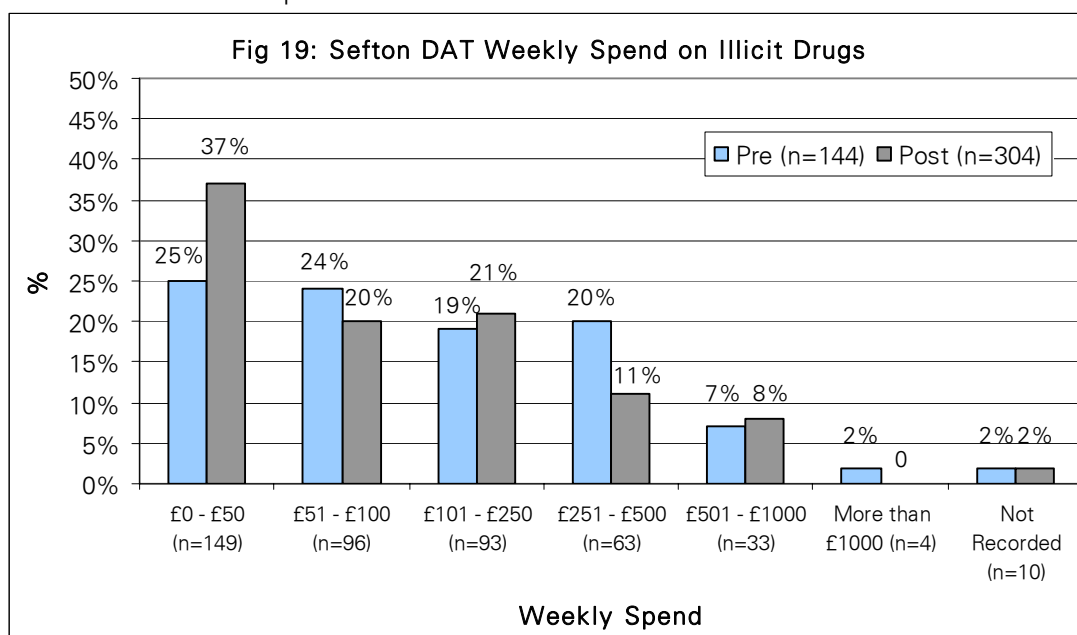
NB. 13 clients did not provide a response in this section in the pre test on arrest period, 22 did not provide a response post test on arrest.

The most commonly reported offence across the 12 months was shoplifting (35%). There was a lower proportion of shoplifting offenders assessed post Test on Arrest (34%) compared to pre Test on Arrest (39%). There was a slight increase in the proportion of burglary offenders assessed post Test on Arrest (12%) compared to pre Test on Arrest (9%).

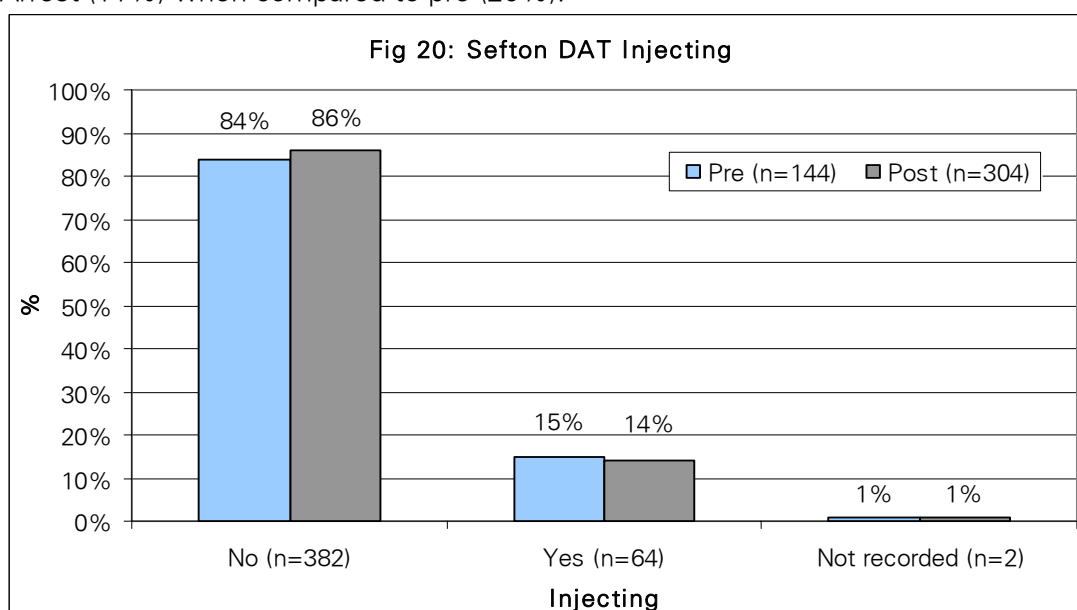
Table 7: Sefton DAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Drug Use

	Pre (n=144)	Post (n=304)	Total (n=448)
Amphet.	3 (2%)		3 (1%)
Benzo.	13 (9%)	7 (2%)	20 (4%)
Cannabis	23 (16%)	60 (20%)	83 (19%)
Cocaine	29 (20%)	123 (40%)	152 (34%)
Crack	86 (60%)	129 (42%)	215 (48%)
Ecstasy	1 (1%)	1 (<1%)	2 (<1%)
Heroin	117 (81%)	172 (57%)	289 (65%)
Methadone	9 (6%)	24 (8%)	33 (7%)

Heroin was the drug most commonly used by clients assessed over the 12-month period (65%). The proportion of clients who reported use of heroin decreased substantially post Test on Arrest (pre 81%, post 57%). Additionally, there was a decrease in the proportion of clients who reported crack use post Test on Arrest (42%) when compared to pre (60%). Conversely, the proportion of clients assessed reporting cocaine use showed a large increase post Test on Arrest (40%). There was also a rise of 4% in reported cannabis use.

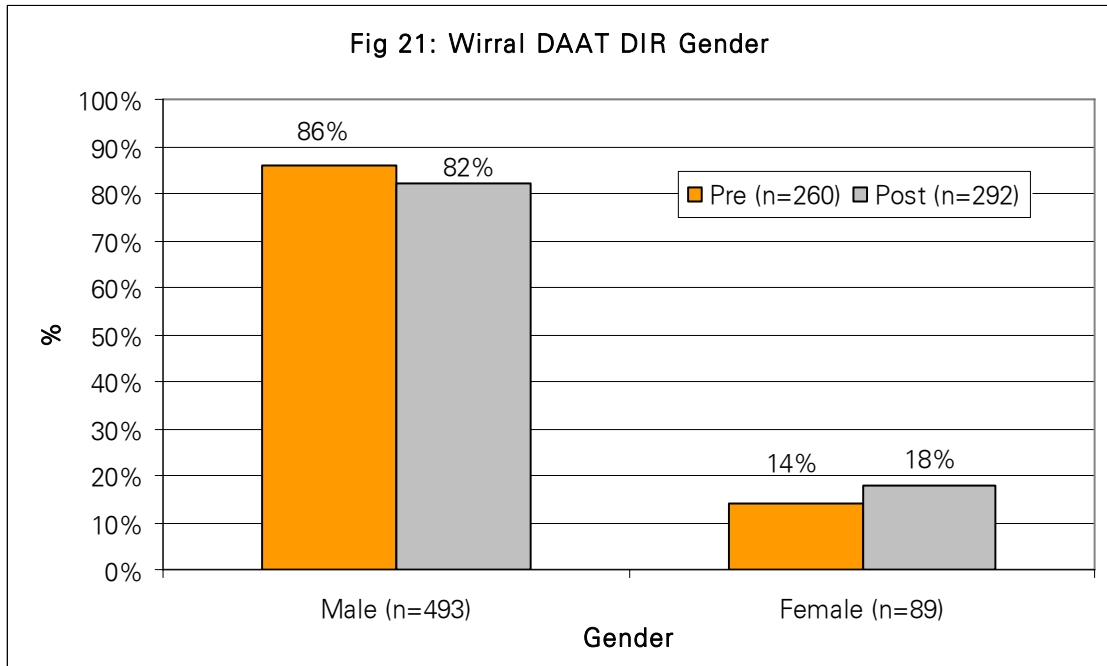


Levels of weekly spend on drugs varied greatly over the two time periods. There was an increase in the proportion of clients spending between £0 and £50 per month post Test on Arrest (37%) when compared to pre (25%). In contrast, there was a decrease in the proportion spending between £251 and £500 post Test on Arrest (11%) when compared to pre (20%).

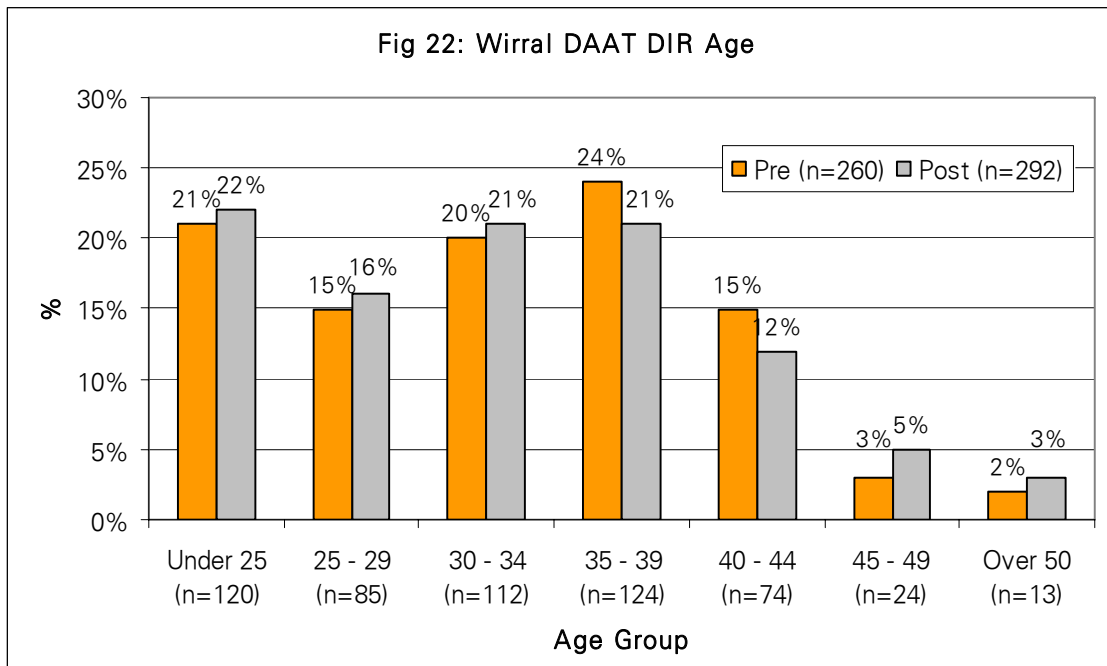


The proportions of clients assessed who were currently injecting were similar pre and post Test on Arrest.

4.3 Wirral DAAT



There was an increase in the proportion of females assessed post Test on Arrest (18%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (14%).



Overall there was little difference between the two time periods across the age groups, with the exception of clients who were between 35 and 39 and 40 and 44. These two age groups combined decreased post Test on Arrest (33%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (39%). The proportions of clients assessed who were under 25 were similar pre (21%) and post (22%) Test on Arrest.

Table 8: Wirral DAAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Offence

Offence	Pre (n=260)	Post (n=292)	Total
Begging		1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Breach	9 (3%)		9 (2%)
Breach of Peace	2 (1%)		2 (<1%)
Burglary	24 (9%)	50 (17%)	74 (13%)
Criminal Damage	4 (2%)		4 (1%)
Deception		3 (1%)	3 (1%)
Drug Offences	43 (17%)	55 (19%)	98 (18%)
Fraud	1 (<1%)	2 (1%)	3 (1%)
Handling	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	4 (1%)
Motoring Offences	7 (3%)	2 (1%)	9 (2%)
Possession of Offensive Weapon	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	2 (<1%)
Public Order	3 (1%)	2 (1%)	5 (1%)
Robbery	5 (2%)	9 (3%)	14 (3%)
Theft	22 (8%)	41 (14%)	63 (11%)
Theft - Shoplifting	90 (35%)	83 (28%)	173 (31%)
Theft – Vehicle	19 (7%)	34 (12%)	53 (10%)
Violence	21 (8%)	2 (1%)	23 (4%)
Warrant	5 (2%)	2 (1%)	7 (1%)
Other	2 (1%)	3 (1%)	5 (1%)

NB. There were no clients that did not provide a response in this section in the pre or post test on arrest periods.

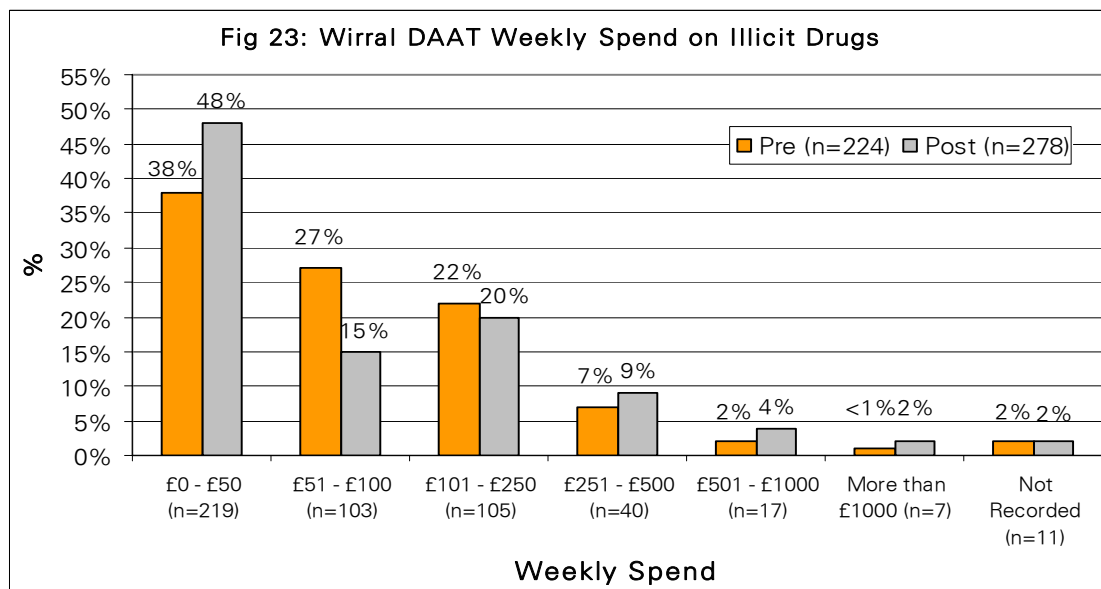
The most common offence committed by clients assessed over the 12-month period was shoplifting (31%). Proportionally, the number of burglary offenders increased post Test on Arrest (17%) compared to pre Test on Arrest (9%). The proportion of theft offenders also increased (8% compared to 14%) as did the proportion of clients reporting car theft (7% compared to 12%). Conversely, the proportion of clients assessed reporting shoplifting as their offence decreased post Test on Arrest (28%) when compared to pre Test on Arrest (35%). In addition, there was a decrease in the proportion of violent offenders assessed (pre 8%, post 1%).

Table 9: Wirral DAAT Pre and Post (DIR) by Drug Use

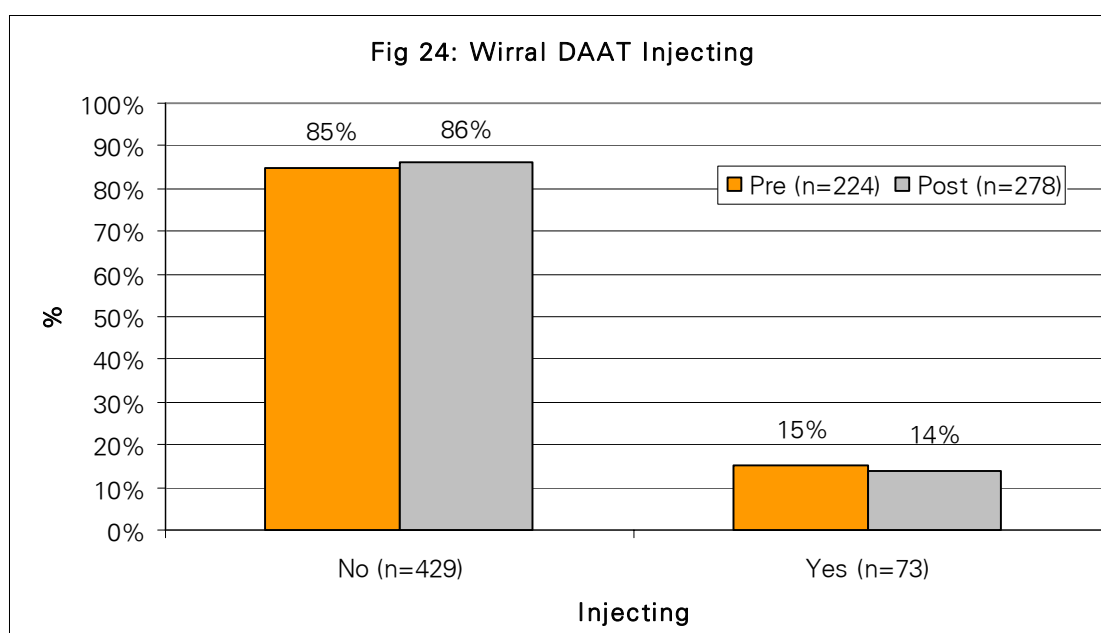
	Pre (n=224)	Post (n=278)	Total (n=502)
Amphet.	5 (2%)	7 (3%)	12 (2%)
Benzo.	7 (3%)	15 (5%)	22 (4%)
Cannabis	53 (24%)	80 (29%)	133 (26%)
Cocaine	65 (29%)	104 (37%)	169 (34%)
Crack	106 (47%)	125 (45%)	231 (46%)
Ecstasy	5 (2%)	15 (5%)	20 (4%)
Heroin	136 (61%)	157 (56%)	293 (58%)
Methadone	65 (29%)	70 (25%)	135 (27%)

Heroin was the drug most commonly used by clients assessed over the 12-month period (58%). The proportion of clients who reported use of heroin decreased post

Test on Arrest (pre 61%, post 56%). Conversely, the proportion of clients assessed reporting cocaine use showed an increase post Test on Arrest (37% compared to 29%). There was also a proportional rise in reported cannabis use post Test on Arrest (5%). Crack use was reported by similar proportions of clients assessed before and after the introduction Test on Arrest.



There was an increase in the proportion of clients spending between £0 and £50 per month post Test on Arrest (48%) when compared to pre (38%). In contrast, there was a decrease in the proportion spending between £51 and £100 post Test on Arrest (15%) when compared to pre (27%).



The proportions of clients assessed who were currently injecting were similar pre and post Test on Arrest.

4.4 Merseyside Summary and Comparison from DIR data

There was a difference in the proportion of female clients assessed pre and post Test on Arrest across all areas. Both Liverpool and Sefton DIP saw a decrease in the proportion of females assessed post Test on Arrest when compared to pre Test on Arrest. However, there was an increase in the proportion of females assessed by Wirral DIP.

Both Liverpool (8%) and Sefton (15%) showed substantial proportional increases in the number of full DIP assessments completed for clients under 25 post Test on Arrest when compared to pre Test on Arrest. This large increase was not evidenced in Wirral's assessments. Differences between the areas were also seen regarding clients between 30 and 34 years of age. Clients in this age group made up a lower proportion of assessments post test on Arrest than pre for Liverpool and Sefton whilst on the Wirral the proportion of 30 to 34 year olds actually increased slightly. In all areas there was a decrease post Test on Arrest in the proportion of clients assessed who were between 35 and 39. This was most evident for Liverpool DIP. Both Sefton and Wirral assessed a lower proportion of clients between 40 and 44 years old post Test on Arrest than before the scheme's introduction. This was not replicated in Liverpool however, where proportions remained the same.

Shoplifting was the offence most commonly committed by clients assessed over the 12-month period for all areas. Whilst there was a proportional decrease in this offence post Test on Arrest in both Sefton and Wirral, proportions remained the same in Liverpool. There was a proportional increase in burglary and theft of a vehicle across all three areas post Test on Arrest. The proportions of clients reporting theft as their offence increased post Test on Arrest in both Liverpool and Wirral but there was a decrease in Sefton.

Heroin was the most commonly used drug in all areas over the 12-month period. The proportions of clients reporting the use of heroin decreased post Test on Arrest in each of the D(A)AT areas, though more so in Liverpool (18%) and Sefton (24%) than Wirral (5%). This decrease was in the main offset by a proportional increase in reported cocaine users post Test on Arrest (Liverpool 23%, Sefton 20% and Wirral

8%). In comparison to the other two areas Wirral had much lower rates of reported heroin use among clients assessed pre test on arrest.

Findings for all three areas demonstrated that clients assessed post Test on Arrest had a lower weekly spend than those assessed before the scheme's introduction. In particular, all areas saw an increase in the proportion of client's spending between £0 and £50 a week. This was most marked in Liverpool where 5% of clients assessed pre Test on Arrest spent under £50 compared to 25% post Test on Arrest. All areas showed a proportional increase in the levels of low level weekly spending post Test on Arrest, with Liverpool having the greatest increase in the proportion of clients spending between £0 and £50 per week (20%).

With the exception of Liverpool, which showed a decrease post Test on Arrest in the proportion of clients who had injected in the last month, there was no obvious indication in the other two areas that Test on Arrest had altered the proportion of injectors being assessed.

5.0 Summary and Conclusions

This final section attempts to draw together evidence from the drug testing and DIR data to highlight the impact of test on arrest on the characteristics of clients being identified through DIP.

Liverpool DAAT

When examining gender, the DIR and drug testing data provide contradictory indicators of the impact of Test on Arrest. According to drug testing data the period after the scheme's introduction saw an increase in the proportion of females tested. However, there was a decrease in the proportion of females assessed by Liverpool DIP.

There was a substantial increase in the proportion of clients under 25 post Test on Arrest and a decrease in the proportion of clients aged 35 to 39 evidenced by both the drug testing and DIR data sets.

There was an increase in the proportion of burglary and theft of a vehicle reported post Test on Arrest compared to pre Test on Arrest evidenced by both the drug testing and DIR data. According to the drug testing data the proportion of theft offences decreased post Test on Arrest when compared to pre Test on Arrest, whereas, DIR data showed an increase.

Sefton DAT

The drug testing data showed a slight increase in the proportion of females tested post Test on Arrest when compared to pre Test on Arrest. This finding was not reflected in the DIR data, where there was 5% decrease in the proportion of females assessed post Test on Arrest.

There was a considerable increase in the proportion of clients under 25 seen post Test on Arrest, confirmed by both the drug testing and DIR data. Aside from this no consistent pattern emerged between the two data sets. The drug testing data indicated that the proportion of clients between the ages of 25 and 34 who were

tested decreased post Test on Arrest, whilst, the DIR data indicated that it was the proportion of clients assessed between the ages of 30 and 39 that saw a decrease.

There was an overall increase in the proportion of burglary offences post Test on Arrest evidenced by both the drug testing and DIR data. There was an increase in theft of a vehicle post Test on Arrest when compared to pre Test on Arrest across both data sets. Theft through shoplifting is not used as an individual offence category in the drug testing data, therefore, it is possible that the decrease in the proportion of shoplifting offenders post Test on Arrest in the DIR data is linked to the decrease in theft offenders in the drug testing data.

Wirral DAAT

The data sets suggested that the introduction of Test on Arrest had resulted in more females being tested and assessed.

The considerable increase in the proportion of clients who were under 25 being tested post Test on Arrest was not mirrored in the DIR data where there was only an increase of 1% in the proportion of clients assessed who were under 25.

There was an increase in the proportion of both burglary and theft of a vehicle offences post Test on Arrest, evidenced in both the drug testing data and the DIR data. As for Liverpool the decrease seen in the proportion of clients reporting shoplifting as their offence through the DIR data is likely to be reflected in the drug testing data through the decrease seen in the more general theft category.

Merseyside

A number of key similarities and differences have emerged across the three areas examined.

Proportions of under 25 year olds increased post Test on Arrest in both data sets for Liverpool and Sefton but only in drug testing data for the Wirral. This may be because many young people on the Wirral had not got to the level or did not have the profile of drug use that made them suitable for entry into the DIP and therefore assessment. Further work would be needed to ascertain whether this is the case or

if Liverpool and Sefton are better at engaging these young people with the programme.

In all three areas burglary and car theft offences were more common post Test on Arrest than pre. As burglary is such a high impact crime it is encouraging that the introduction of the scheme has led to more of these offenders being identified in the DIP process. The presence of more car theft crimes may in part reflect the younger age profile of individuals tested and assessed after the introduction of Test on Arrest.

There was an increase in the proportion of females tested post Test on Arrest in all three areas. However, Wirral was the only area with equivalent increase in females assessed. Further investigation may be needed to ascertain why this is the case, it may be that a lower proportion of females test positive than males in Liverpool and Sefton and are therefore less likely to become engaged in the Required Assessment process. Alternatively Wirral may be better than Liverpool and Sefton at engaging effectively with potential female clients.

The introduction of Test on Arrest has definitely meant that a different group of drug takers are being identified through the DIP process. All three areas saw an increase in the proportion of clients assessed who admitted using cocaine and a reduction in proportions using heroin. There was also a reduction post Test on Arrest in the weekly spend on drugs of clients assessed. This all points to Test on Arrest bringing individuals with what could be viewed as a less problematic pattern of use into contact with the DIP process.

6.0 References

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