<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Analysis of service-users attending Matt Talbot Services (MTS) from 2007-2010.</th>
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Background:

- More than a quarter (27.3%) of 15-24 year-olds in Ireland experimented with illegal substances in their lives.
- Nearly 1-in-12 (8.2%) drug treatment cases was to a service-user under 18 years of age.
- Approximately 1-in-7 (14.8%) deaths due to drugs occurred in under-25s.
- Matt Talbot Services (MTS) is a day treatment service for young substance-users within Cork/Kerry area of Ireland.
- They provide a specialised, individualised counselling service for 14 – 23 year olds, and an after-care service to reduce the incidence of relapse.
- This exploratory work will serve as a base for future pharmaceutical care interventions and research on adolescent use of illegal and prescription substances.

Aims:
The aims were as follows:
1. Analyse demographic information on service-users attending MTS between 2007 and 2010.
2. Describe the type and nature of substance use among service-users.
3. Perform inferential statistics to detect patterns in service-user behaviour.

Method:

- Data from the records of entrants to the service between 2007 and 2010 (n=291) was collected and included:
  - Demographic data
  - Educational and employment history
  - Substance use history
  - Treatment details
- Data was analysed using Predictive Analytics SoftWare Statistics (PASW; SPSS Inc. Chicago, Ill.) version 18.0.
- Descriptive analysis was performed on the data. Inferential tests measuring for association were also performed.

Results:
Results of the analysis of service-user demographics and substance history can be seen in Table 1, and Figures 1 and 2.

Table 1. Demographics of service-users (n=291)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service-user Demographics</th>
<th>Number of service-users (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>276 (94.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age mean ± SD (years)</td>
<td>16.7 ± 2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish nationality</td>
<td>281 (96.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with parents/family</td>
<td>249 (85.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in an urban area</td>
<td>142 (48.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>102 (35.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Primary substance of abuse

- Those who first experimented before 13 years of age were 1.4 times more likely to be daily users (p=0.033)
- Greater number of substances used monthly by urban dwellers (p=0.004) and early school-leavers (p=0.018)
- Those who first experimented before 13 years of age were 3.9 times more likely to have used benzodiazepines in the previous month (p=0.003)

Conclusions:

- Substance use by adolescents in the Cork/Kerry area is a serious issue.
- Pharmacists possess the ideal background and knowledge to develop interventions which will form part of a substance withdrawal algorithm in the wider challenge of service-user rehabilitation.
- Recognition of the problem and establishing the level of substance use is the first step towards meaningful resolution which will require all stakeholders’ input.

Limitations:

- Tobacco use was not surveyed; it is often the 1st substance to be experimented with.
- Study was based on self-reported data; patients may not remember details of past use accurately.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank all the staff of Matt Talbot Services for the cooperation they provided us throughout the duration of the study.

References available on request. Any comments should be directed to kev.mur21@gmail.com