In 2007/08, heroin addiction was the most common drug of choice (30% of all cases) and cannabis (16%) was the second highest.

Crack was reported as the drug of choice for 14% of cases, more than half of whom were from BME groups.

The average age for heroin, methadone or opiate users was roughly 40 years, crack 35 years, cocaine 31 years and cannabis 24 years.

Roughly two thirds of all those in treatment were male, ranging from 51% male for cocaine to 82% for cannabis.

**Comments**

**First drug of choice by those known to services (2007/08)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug (first choice)</th>
<th>Average age</th>
<th>% Male</th>
<th>%BME K&amp;C population 21%</th>
<th>Proportion of the total known to services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crack</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methadone</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other opiates</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription drugs</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other drugs</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All drugs</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RBKC data request from NTA (2007/08)
In 2007/08, approximately 1,400 Kensington and Chelsea residents received some form of treatment for drug use.

- The majority live in either the North Kensington (W10) area or Earl’s Court (SW5).

- Southwest Chelsea (SW10) also has a higher than average proportion of users receiving treatment.

Comparison Rate per 1,000 population
Kensington and Chelsea 9.2
London No comparison data
England No comparison data

To find out more information about the Council services available please visit the [Council’s website](#).

Drugs: Location of Problematic Users

Problematic drug users (heroin, methadone, other opiate or crack problem) (2007/08)

Comments

- Problematic drug users are characterised as using heroin, methadone or other opiates, or crack.
- The North Kensington (W10) area has the highest proportion of problematic drug users in treatment of any postcode area in the borough.
- Earl’s Court (SW5) and West Chelsea (SW10) also have higher than average proportions of problematic drug users compared to the borough as a whole.

Source: RBKC data request from NTA (2007/08), Exeter 2008
Drugs: Location of Problematic Users

Problematic drug users (heroin, methadone, other opiate or crack problem) (2007/08)

Small area information:
Number of residents aged 15+ known to drug action services, using heroin, methadone, other opiates or crack (2007/08)
(Per 1,000 total postcode population)

Source: RBKC data request from NTA (2007/08), Exeter 2008

Comparison | Rate per 1,000 population
--- | ---
Kensington and Chelsea | 5.8
London | No comparison data
England | No comparison data

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Comments

- The highest number of admissions for drug misuse occur in Earl’s Court, St Charles and Notting Barns wards. Admission rates in these wards are more than twice the borough average.

- The most common cause of admission is ‘Mental and behavioural disorders due to opiates, cannabis and cocaine’.
Ward information:

Annual number of residents admitted to hospital for drug misuse, based on 5 year average.

(Rate per 100,000 total ward population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward Information</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kensington and Chelsea</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>No comparison data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>No comparison data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Codes included in analysis are ICD-10 F11-F16, F18, and F19

To find out more information on this subject, please visit the London Health Observatory’s website.

Source: Dr Foster Intelligence, GLA Low population estimates (2007)
Drugs: Deaths from Drug Misuse and Poisoning
Deaths (2001-08)

Comments

- Deaths of Kensington and Chelsea residents from drug misuse and poisoning have ranged from 7 to 15 per year since 2001.
- The number of deaths annually appears to have dropped, although numbers are small so prone to fluctuation.

Notes: For drug misuse the underlying cause of death was defined as ICD-10 codes F11-F16, F18, and F19.
For drug poisoning the underlying cause of death was defined as ICD-10 codes X40-X44, X60-64, X85, and Y10-Y14.