

Northamptonshire

The Police

The Northamptonshire Police service covers area of 914 square miles with a population of 683,800. The service employs over 1200 officers and 100 support staff. Adam Simmons, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire has announced the creation of an Organised Crime and Drugs Team as he states that 60% of serious and organised crime is drug-related.¹

The area

Northamptonshire Police covers the local authority area of Northamptonshire County Council, with seven city and borough councils within it.

The poorest areas in the authority are Corby, Northampton and Wellingborough. Corby is the most deprived and had the highest unemployment rate in the county in 2010-11². Corby is also growing very fast – predicted to grow by 100,000 by 2020, possibly meaning more funding will be needed for substance abuse treatment.³

A lower number of people think that drug use and drug dealing is a very or fairly large problem than the rest of the England and Wales, 21% compared to 24% nationally.⁴

Crime

The 2011 Joint Strategic needs Assessment state that there has been an 11% reduction in recorded crime from 09/10 to 11/12.

Self-reported shoplifting of people in treatment is 1% higher than the national average, however, drug selling, other theft and assault are significantly lower, even when looking specifically at the DIP referral cohort.⁵

There were 7,869 offences of robbery, burglary, theft of or from a motor vehicle in 10/11 in Northamptonshire– although all sections have reduced from 09/10. Shoplifting has been slowly increasing in the area, from 239 incidents in Dec 2011 to 432 in Oct 2012.⁶

The total number of recorded drug offences was 1968 across police force area, which is an increase of 13.8% from 09/10 compared to a drop of 1.4% in England and Wales overall. Recorded drug offences were 3 per 1,000 population compared to 4 nationally.⁷

¹ <http://www.northants.police.uk/default.aspx?id=11158&datewant=yes>

² <http://stats.northantsinfohub.co.uk/bytheme?themeld=35&themeName=JSNA>

³ http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/em_northamptonshire_ypsmmtp_10_part1_final.doc.pdf

⁴ <http://www.clinks.org/services/sfc/sfcresources/sfc-statistical-toolkit>

⁵ <http://stats.northantsinfohub.co.uk/bytheme?themeld=35&themeName=JSNA>

⁶ <http://www.ukcrimestats.com/>

⁷ <http://www.clinks.org/services/sfc/sfcresources/sfc-statistical-toolkit>

Health

In The East Midlands in 2011-12 there were 22 hospital admissions for drug poisoning per every 100,000 people, and more of those patients were female than male.

In Northamptonshire there were 232 hospital admissions where the primary diagnosis was poisoning by drugs, and 325 admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of drug-related mental or behaviour disorder.⁸

There was the same amount of drug deaths in 2009 as 2010, although this shows a slight decrease per 100,000 people as population has risen.⁹

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2011 made no mention of substance misuse – however the 212 JSNA did include a small paragraph on substance misuse.

Drug Intervention Programme: Northamptonshire received with £853,645 in DIP funding in 12/13, with £296.619 coming from the Home Office and the rest from the Department of Health.

121 or 25% of referrals to treatment were related to a criminal justice referral, 26% of these clients being new to treatment.¹⁰

DIP is provided by Bridge Substance Misuse and CAN in Northamptonshire.

Drug Services

There were 1855 people in treatment in 2010-11 down from a high of 2212 in 2008-09, which may be reflected in the decrease in successful completions. NTDMS states that successful treatment outcomes have dropped from a high of 377 in 08/09 to 124 in 10/11. However, the 2010-11 Treatment Plan for Northamptonshire states that the percentage of people completing treatment has risen since Payment by Results started, from 23% in January 11 to 55% in August 11, these figures representing more recent information than that available via NDTMS at the time of writing.¹¹

Northamptonshire has a higher number of BAME accessing treatment than national average and this has increased in 2011-12.

⁸ <https://catalogue.ic.nhs.uk/publications/public-health/drug-misuse/drug-misu-eng-2012/drug-misu-eng-2012-rep.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/projects/icdp/our-work-programmes/substance-abuse-deaths/>

¹⁰ <http://stats.northantsinfohub.co.uk/bytheme?themeld=35&themeName=JSNA>

¹¹ <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/social-care/plans/prevent/Documents/PDF%20Documents/Northamptonshire%20DAAT%20Needs%20Assessment%202011-12%20%28PDF%20Format%201.52MB%29.pdf>

9% of clients aged 18-24, 91% to clients aged 25 and older. This is reflective of our treatment system population;

Opiate and/or crack use on entering treatment is significantly higher than national averages, with cocaine use recorded as significantly lower. The prevalence of injecting drug users entering treatment is higher than the national average; however the number of clients who report sharing equipment is lower.¹²

Drug Use

There are 8 opiate and or crack user/injectors per 1000 people in Northamptonshire which is lower than England's average.¹³

There were 3499 opiate/crack users in 2011-12 in Northamptonshire, which is below average for East midlands and the Country in general.¹⁴

Self-reported drug use in the East Midlands region is lower than the national average and has fallen to 2.6% in 2011-12 from a high of 3.4% in 2006-7; this is again broadly reflected by similar patterns nationwide.¹⁵

Drugs in the media

The Northampton Chronicle and Echo carries coverage of drug issues which is broader than many comparable local and regional press, including coverage of issues of national policy, novel psychoactive substances (often referred to as "legal highs") and prescribed medication.

Northamptonshire Police press releases tend to focus on successful operations against the supply of drugs, but have also drawn attention to efforts by the police to support drug users into treatment to, focussing on prevention and safety.

Police and Crime Commissioner Alan Simmonds has created a team within the police force to tackle serious organised crime and drugs¹⁶; this has attracted significant media attention locally and nationally. Much of the commentary focuses on production and supply, but does acknowledge the harm that drug use causes.

¹² <http://stats.northantsinfohub.co.uk/bytheme?themeld=35&themeName=JSNA>

¹³ <http://stats.northantsinfohub.co.uk/bytheme?themeld=35&themeName=JSNA>

¹⁴ <http://www.nta.nhs.uk/yem-northamptonshire.aspx>

¹⁵ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/drugs-misuse-dec-1112/>

¹⁶ <http://www.northants.police.uk/default.aspx?id=11158&datewant=yes>