Nottinghamshire County Council



Substance Misuse (2022)

What is substance misuse?

'Substance misuse' is 'intoxication by – or regular excessive consumption of and/or dependence on – psychoactive substances, leading to social, psychological, physical or legal problems. This includes both drugs and alcohol and is associated with a wide range of health and social issues. Alcohol alone represents 10% of the burden of disease and death in the UK, placing it in the top three lifestyle risk factors with smoking & obesity.

Synthetic estimates suggest approx. 1 in 4 adults in Nottinghamshire use substances frequently.

There are approximately

12,800

people dependent on substances.

Alcohol represents the greatest need...



2/3 of those dependent are on alcohol



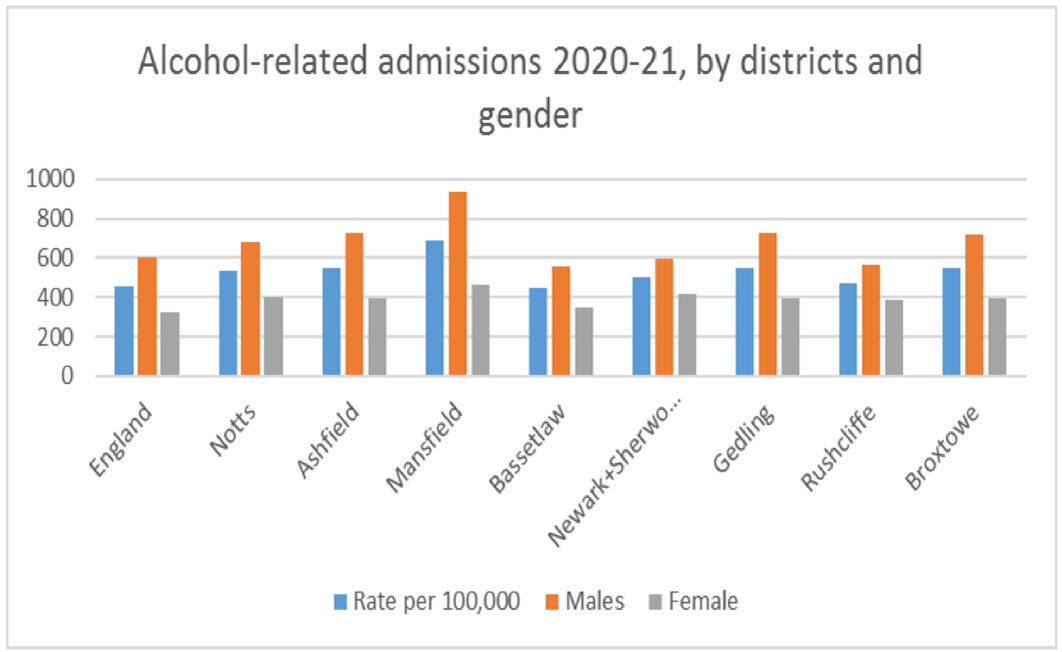
of those who use substances frequently are drinking at levels that could be harmful to their health

Key Message

We have excellent local treatment services but could enhance work on:

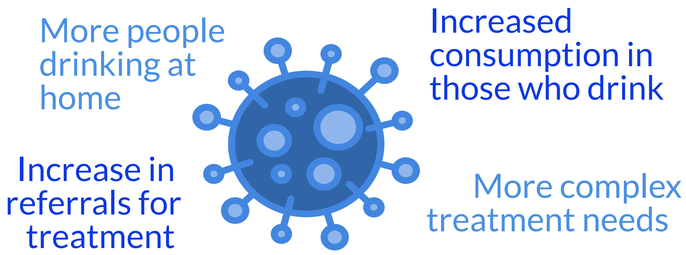
- education
- prevention
- reducing the supply of substances
- improving pathways for vulnerable individuals.

To be effective in reducing substance misuse and its associated harms we aim work in partnership to establish a Nottinghamshire Combating Substance Misuse Partnership and implement the new national 10 year Drug Strategy (From Harm to Hope).



Admissions across Nottinghamshire are higher than the England average, apart from in Bassetlaw.

Since Covid-19 some changes have been observed:



Nottinghamshire alcohol-related hospital admission episodes (2019-21)

