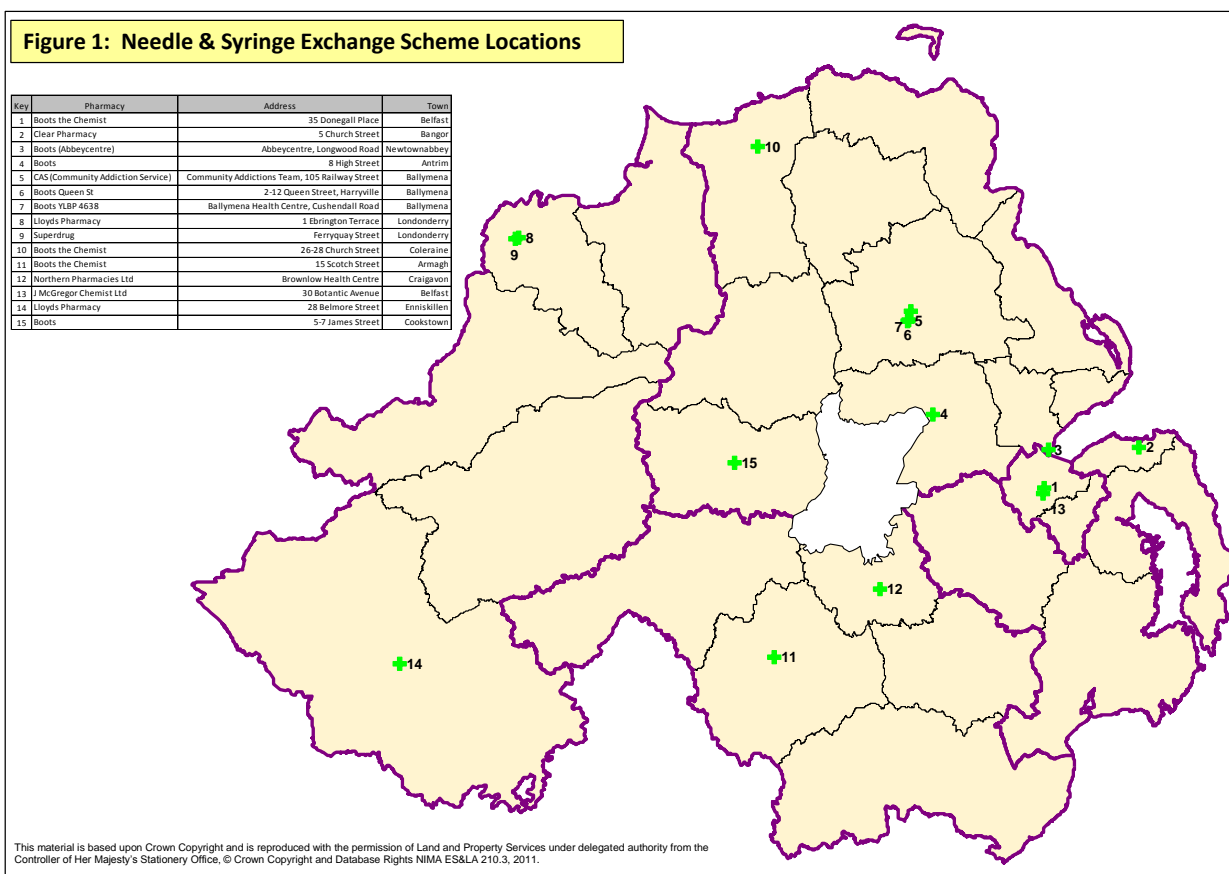


Annual Report of the Needle & Syringe Exchange Scheme for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014

This report summarises data that is collected on the operation of the Northern Ireland Needle and Syringe Exchange Scheme (NSES). It relates to the twelve-month period between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014. The anonymised data is collected by the 14 pharmacies and 1 Trust-based service that participate in the Northern Ireland Needle and Syringe Exchange Scheme (NSES) which was introduced in April 2001.

Location of services

Between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014 each Health & Social Care Trust in N. Ireland participated in the Scheme through 14 pharmacies and 1 Community Addiction Team Service based in Railway St, Ballymena. The services can be seen in the map (Figure 1). There are also three outreach services, two in Belfast and one in Ballymena.



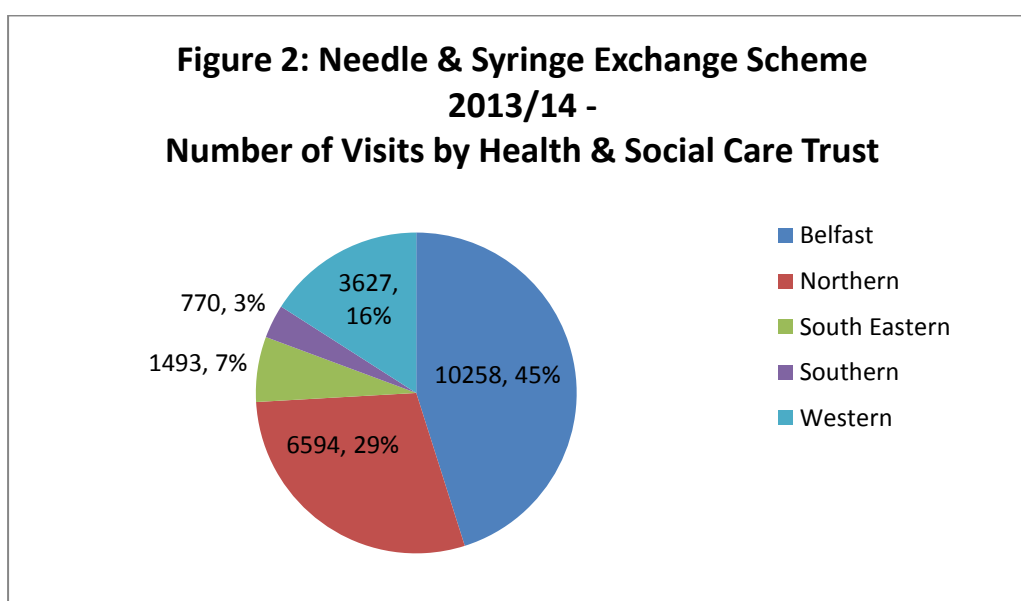
Number of Visits to the Pharmacies

A total of 22,742 visits to facilitate the exchange of needles and syringes were made to the service over the twelve month period between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014. This is an increase in demand of 1,522 (7%) visits on the 2012/13 figure (21,220). Table 1 and Figure 2

below show the number of visits by each Health and Social Care Trust. The Belfast Trust had the highest number of visits (45%) and the Southern Trust the lowest number of visits (3%).

Table 1: Number of Visits by Health & Social Care Trust of Pharmacy

Trust of Pharmacy	No of Visits	% of Visits by Trust of Pharmacy
Belfast	10258	45%
Northern	6594	29%
South Eastern	1493	7%
Southern	770	3%
Western	3627	16%
Total	22742	100%



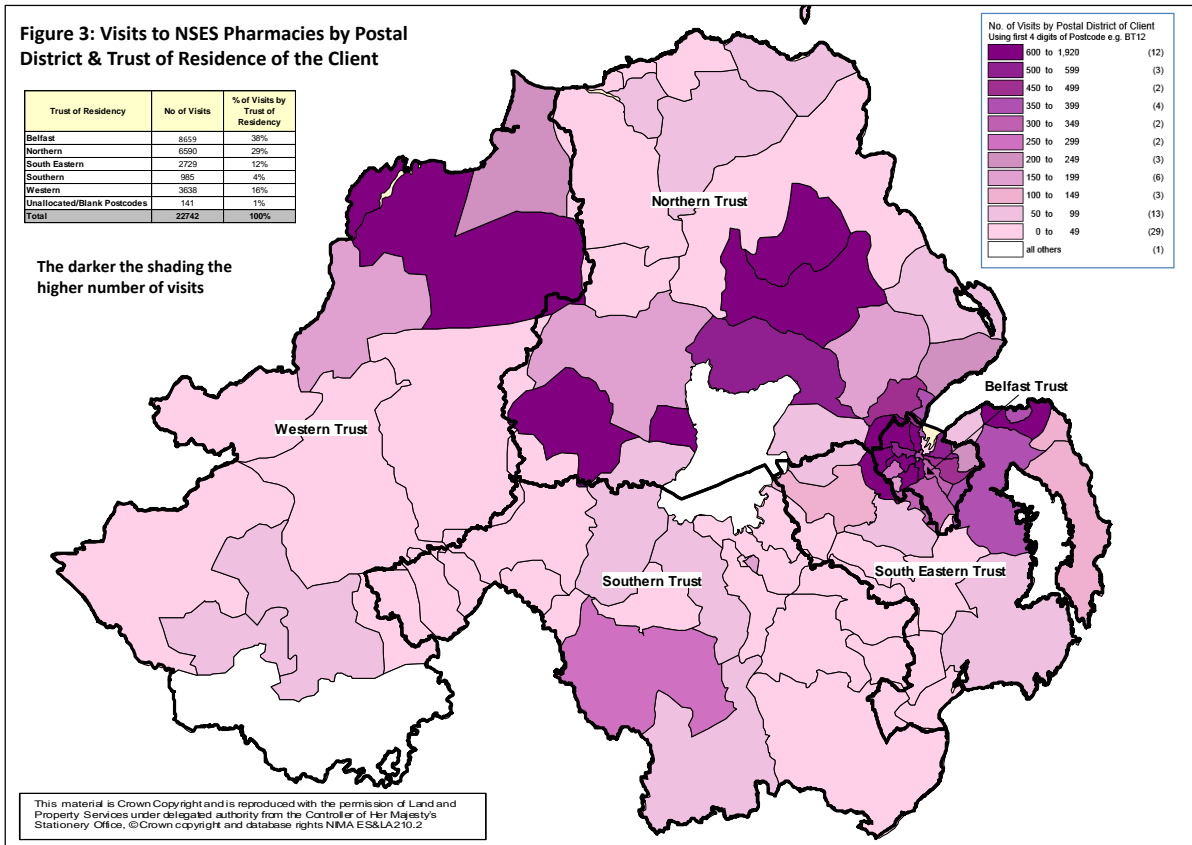
Number of Visits made by Health & Social Care Trust of Residents

Data collected by the pharmacies includes the first 4 digits of the client’s postcode e.g. BT12 and this allows a restricted amount of analysis on the Trust of Residence of each client. Table 2 and Figure 3 shows the highest percentage of visits made was from residents of Belfast Trust (38%) and the lowest was from the Southern Trust (4%). A small number of postcodes (1%) were not submitted to the database and 12 visits were made by non-residents of Northern Ireland.

Table 2: Number of Visits by Health & Social Care Trust of Residence

Trust of Residency	No of Visits	% of Visits by Trust of Residency
Belfast	8659	38%
Northern	6590	29%
South Eastern	2729	12%
Southern	985	4%
Western	3638	16%
Unallocated/Blank Postcodes	141	1%

Total	22742	100%
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The number of visits made per 100,000 HSCT population can be seen in Table 3 ranging from the highest, Belfast Trust (2477 visits per 100,000 population) to the lowest, Southern Trust (269 visits per 100,000 population).

Table 3: Visits per 100,000 Health & Social Care Trust Population

Trust of Residency	Number of Visits	Trust Population	Clients per 100,000 population
Belfast	8659	349,618	2477
Northern	6590	466,724	1412
South-Eastern	2729	350,788	778
Southern	985	365,712	269
Western	3638	296,883	1225
Unallocated/Blank Postcodes	141	n/a	n/a
Total	22,742	1,829,725	1,243

Population Source: NISRA Mid-Year Estimates published June 2014

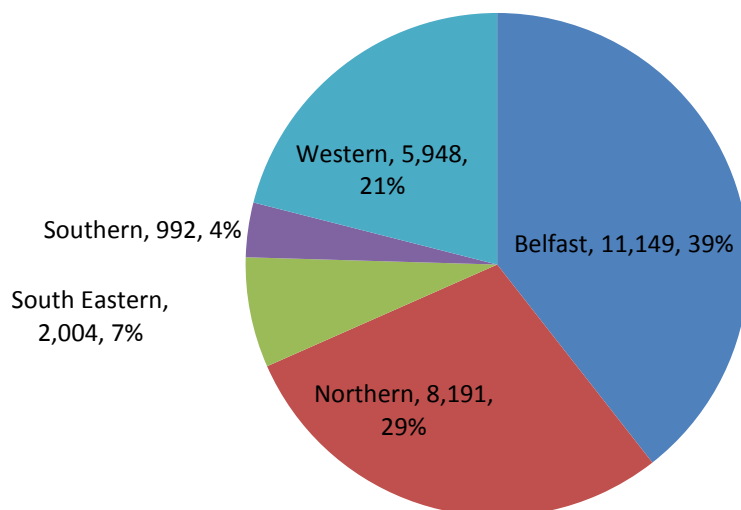
Number of Packs Issued by Health & Social Care Trust

Table 4 and Figure 4 show the number and percentage of packs issued by each Trust through their participating pharmacies. The Belfast Trust issued the highest number of packs (39%) and the lowest number was issued by the Southern Trust (4%).

Table 4: Number and Percentage of Packs issued by Health & Social Care Trust of Pharmacy

Trust of Pharmacy	Total Packs	% of Total
Belfast	11,149	39%
Northern	8,191	29%
South Eastern	2,004	7%
Southern	992	4%
Western	5,948	21%
Total	28,284	100%

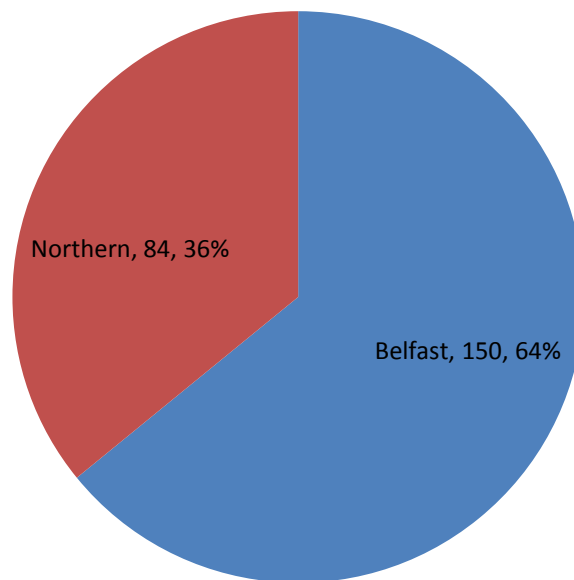
**Figure 4: Needle & Syringe Exchange Scheme
Number & Percentage of Packs Issued by Health & Social Care Trust of
Pharmacy 2013/14**



Number and Percentage of Packs Issued to Outreach Workers

Needle Exchange outreach services are provided within 2 Trust areas in N Ireland: the Belfast Trust area and the Northern Trust area. In the Belfast area, outreach is provided by the Belfast Trust through the Belfast Drug Outreach Team and the Homeless Health Care Project. In the Northern area, it is provided by a voluntary organisation, Threshold. The outreach workers visit pharmacies to obtain packs on behalf of clients. Figure 5 shows the number and percentage of packs issued to outreach workers in the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014. Of the total packs issued to outreach workers, the highest number, 150 (64%), was issued to Belfast Trust staff while 36% of packs was issued to Northern Trust. Please note that concerns were raised about the quality of the 2012/13 Outreach data. Problems in this connection are being addressed.

Figure 5: Number and Percentage of Packs issued to Outreach Workers



Age of Clients using the Needle & Syringe Exchange Scheme

The highest percentage of clients using the Scheme was in the 31 and over age band (53%) which is a 2% increase in last year's percentage. The 26-30 year old category saw a decrease of 3% in the visits made (23%). In the 18-25 age band, visits decreased by 1% from last year to 22% while there was a slight increase in the number of visits by the Under 18s. Table 5, 5a and Figure 6 show the numbers and percentages by age band. Please note the figures are shown by Trust of Residence of the client.

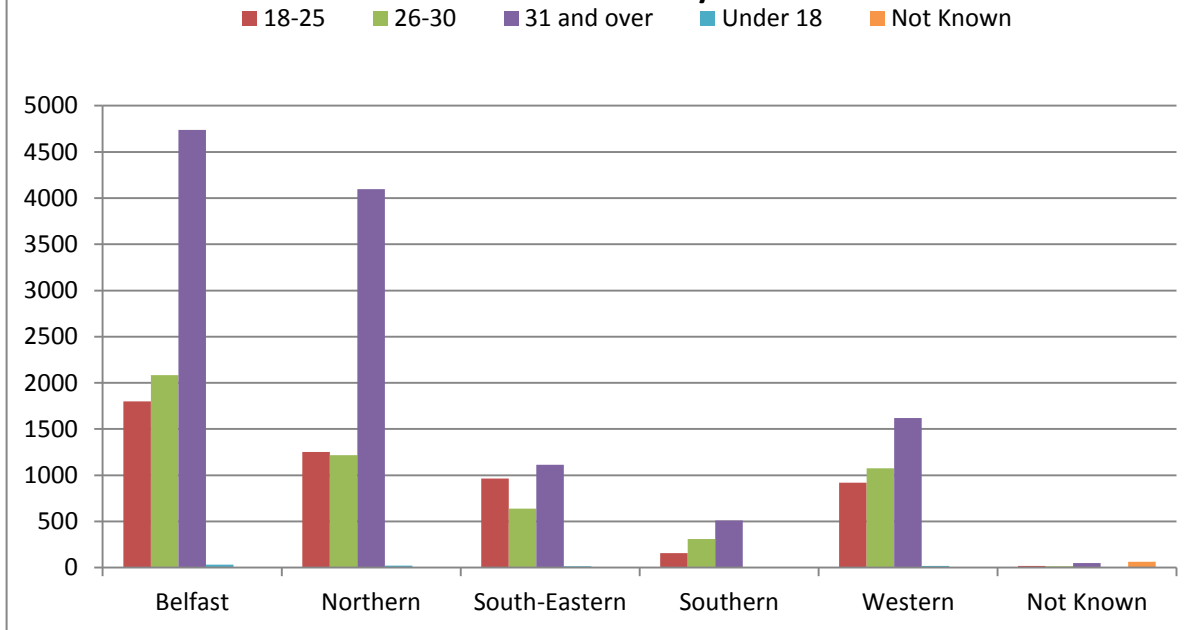
Table 5: Number of Clients by Age-Band by Health & Social Care Trust of Residence

Age-Band	Health & Social Care Trust of Residency of Client						Total
	Belfast	Northern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western	Not Known	
Under 18	32	21	16	5	17	0	91
18-25	1800	1253	963	157	920	17	5110
26-30	2084	1216	638	310	1077	14	5339
31 and Over	4739	4096	1112	512	1621	48	12128
Not Recorded	4	4	0	1	3	62	74
Total	8659	6590	2729	985	3638	141	22742

Table 5a: Percentage of Clients by Age-Band by Health & Social Care Trust of Residence

Age-Band	Health & Social Care Trust of Residency of Client						Total
	Belfast	Northern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western	Not Known	
Under 18	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
18-25	21%	19%	35%	16%	25%	12%	22%
26-30	24%	18%	23%	31%	30%	10%	23%
31 and Over	55%	62%	41%	52%	45%	34%	53%
Not Recorded	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	44%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Figure 6: Needle & Syringe Exchange Scheme
No. of Clients by Age-Band by Health & Social Care Trust of Residence 2013/14**

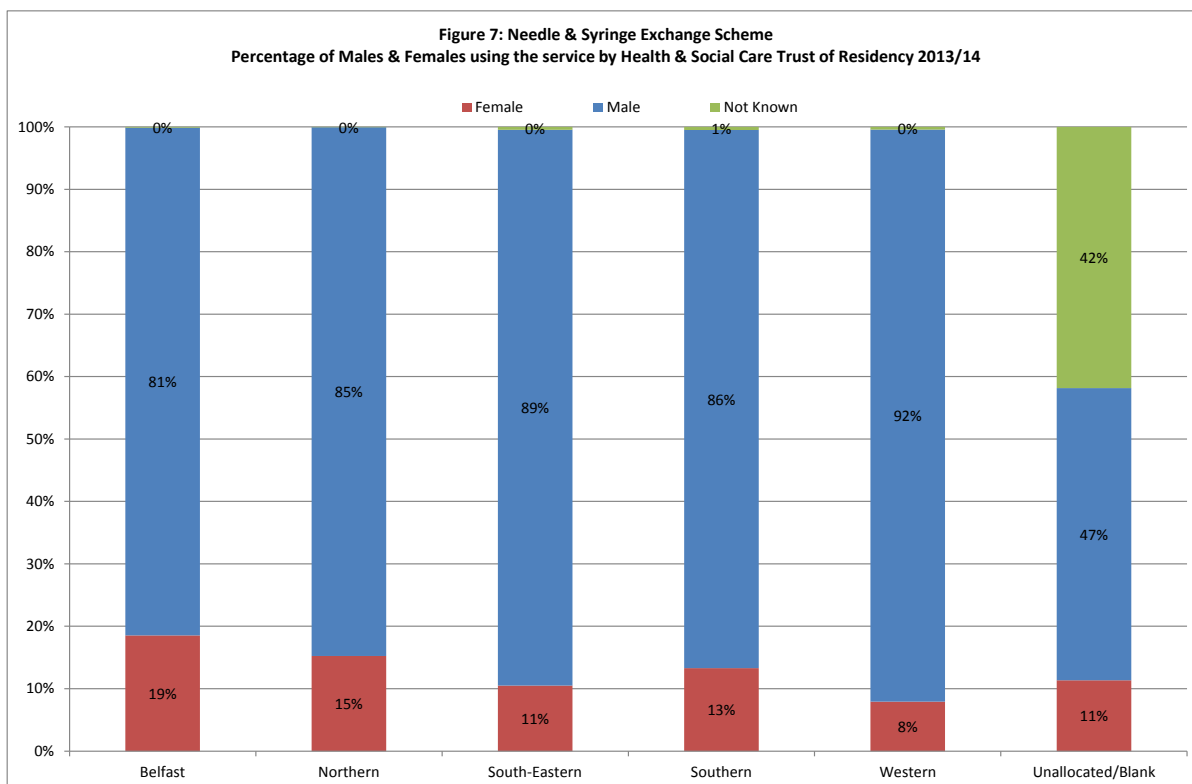


Gender of Clients using the Needle & Syringe Exchange Scheme

Table 6 and Figure 7 illustrate the number and percentage of males and females using NSES by their Health & Social Care Trust of Residency. The service is used mainly by male clients (85%). The highest percentage of females using the service (19%) is in the Belfast Trust.

Table 6: Number and Percentage of Males & Females using NSES by Trust of Residence

Trust	Female	% of Trust Total	Male	% of Trust Total	Not Recorded	% of Trust Total	Total
Belfast	1604	19%	7044	81%	11	0%	8659
Northern	1004	15%	5582	85%	4	0%	6590
South-Eastern	287	11%	2429	89%	13	0%	2729
Southern	131	13%	849	86%	5	1%	985
Western	288	8%	3334	92%	16	0%	3638
Unallocated/Blank	16	11%	66	47%	59	42%	141
Total	3330	15%	19304	85%	108	0%	22742



Number of Clients injecting Opioids, Steroids, Stimulants and Other Drugs

Under the Scheme data defining the “user type” is collected on those injecting Amphetamines, Opiates, Steroids, Opiate & Steroid, Steroid & Tanning, Tanning and User Type Not Known. Two pharmacies issued packs to Insulin users. Participating pharmacies collected 68% of data on injecting detail which is a significant increase on last year (50%). Of the total visits to the Scheme it was recorded that 37% of users injected steroids rising to 38% when Steroid & Tanning are included in this figure. Those injecting opiates rose to 28%. Table 7 and 7a illustrate the various types of drug users who used the Scheme. Figure 8 charts the trend since 2012/13.

Table 7: Number of Visits by User Type and Trust of Pharmacy

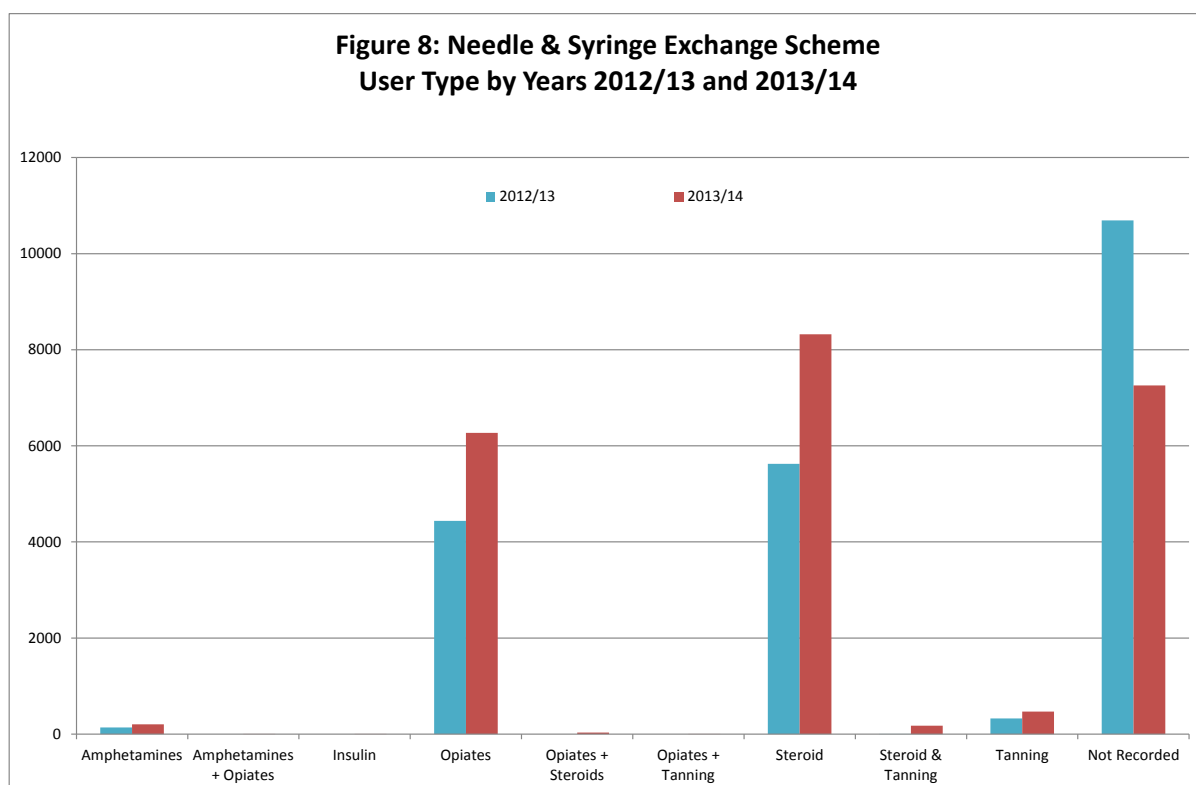
Trust of Pharmacy	Amphetamines	Amphetamines + Opiates	Insulin	Opiates	Opiates + Steroids	Opiates + Tanning	Steroid	Steroid & Tanning	Tanning	Not Recorded	Total Visits
Belfast	9		3	2896	16	3	2801	16	249	4265	10258
Northern	177	3		2117	5	1	1672	5	118	2496	6594
South Eastern	2			119	2		1302	3	26	39	1493
Southern	1			353	6	1	171	11	21	206	770
Western	15		1	786	3		2376	140	53	253	3627
Total	204	3	4	6271	32	5	8322	175	467	7259	22742

Table 7a: Percentage of Visits by User Type and Trust of Pharmacy

Trust of Pharmacy	Amphetamines	Amphetamines + Opiates	Insulin	Opiates	Opiates + Steroids	Opiates + Tanning	Steroid	Steroid & Tanning	Tanning	Not Recorded	Total Visits
Belfast	0%	0%	0%	28%	0%	0%	27%	0%	2%	43%	100%
Northern	3%	0%	0%	32%	0%	0%	25%	0%	2%	38%	100%
South Eastern	0%	0%	0%	8%	0%	0%	87%	0%	2%	3%	100%
Southern	0%	0%	0%	46%	1%	0%	22%	1%	3%	27%	100%
Western	0%	0%	0%	22%	0%	0%	66%	4%	1%	7%	100%
Total	1%	0%	0%	28%	0%	0%	37%	1%	2%	31%	100%

Figure 8 highlights that the increase from last year reflects an increase in reporting of User Type.

Figure 8: Needle & Syringe Exchange Scheme User Type by Years 2012/13 and 2013/14

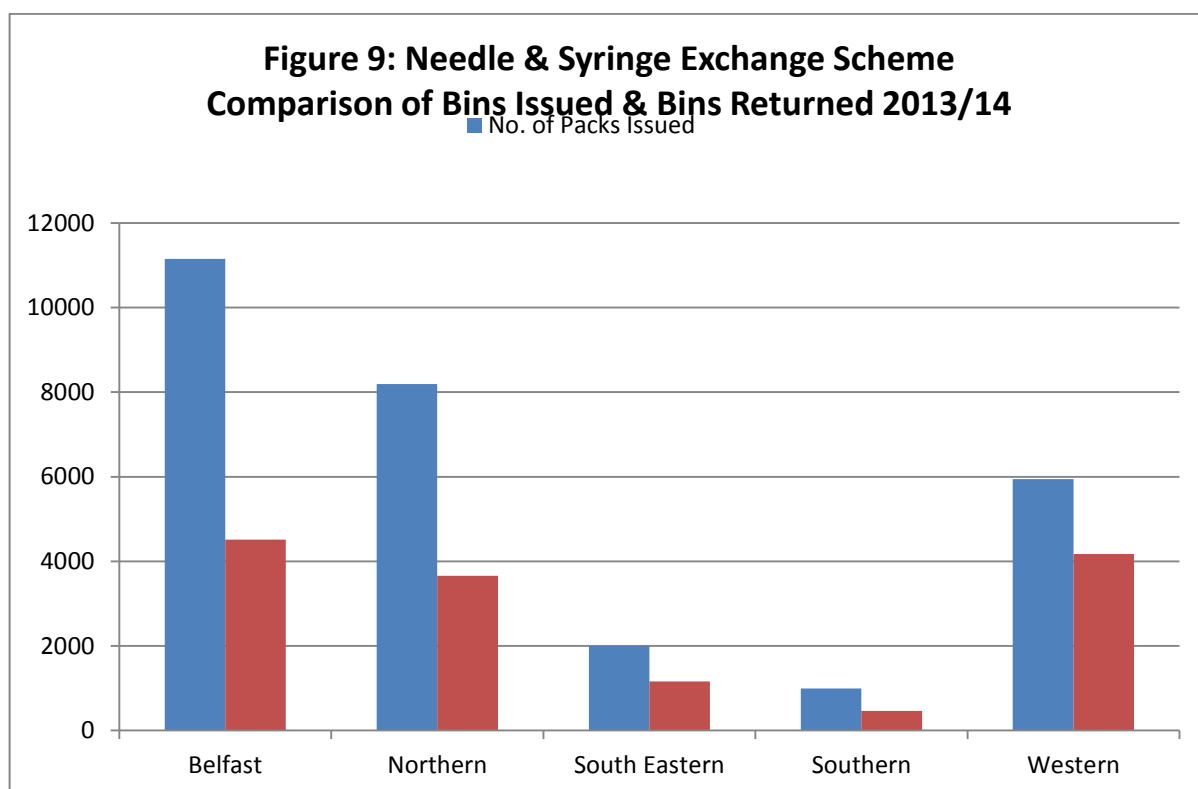


Number and Percentage of Return of Bins

A cin bin is a sealed container which is used to safely dispose of used needles and syringes and the aim is for clients to return their used bins to the pharmacy for secure disposal. Each pack contains a bin. Clients may request extra bins and these are accounted for in the figures. During 2013/14 data shows that 49% of bins issued to users were returned, showing that the return rate has increased by 1% since 2012/13. The Western Trust had the highest number of bins returned (70%) and the lowest return rate of 41% was by Belfast Trust. Table 8 and Figure 9 shows the number and percentage of bins returned to pharmacies.

Table 8: Number and percentage of bins returned to pharmacies by Health & Social Care Trust of Pharmacy

Trust of Pharmacy	No. of Packs Issued	No. of Bins Returned	% of Bins Returned
Belfast	11149	4,517	41%
Northern	8191	3,658	45%
South Eastern	2004	1,164	58%
Southern	992	465	47%
Western	5948	4,175	70%
Grand Total	28284	13,979	49%



Cross Boundary Flow

Table 9 illustrates the cross-boundary flow of clients accessing the Scheme. In comparing the Health & Social Care Trust of Residence of the client and the Trust of the Pharmacy that they visit it is noteworthy that 46.4% of clients from the South-Eastern Trust visit a pharmacy in the Belfast Trust. Of the clients who are residents of the Southern Trust 14.2% visit Belfast Trust pharmacies and 9% visit Northern Trust pharmacies. In the Western Trust 97% of clients visit a Western Trust Pharmacy.

Table 9: A cross-reference of Health & Social Care Trust of the Clients and the Trust of Pharmacies Visited

Trust of Residency of Clients using NSES	Trust of Pharmacies					
	Belfast Pharmacies	Northern Pharmacies	South Eastern Pharmacies	Southern Pharmacies	Western Pharmacies	Total
Belfast	8189	403	54	5	8	8659
% of Residents	94.6%	4.7%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	100.0%
Northern	548	5954	35	10	43	6590
% of Residents	8%	90.3%	1%	0%	1%	100%
South-Eastern	1265	46	1388	23	7	2729
% of Residents	46.4%	1.7%	50.9%	0.8%	0.3%	100.0%
Southern	140	89	14	722	20	985
% of Residents	14.2%	9.0%	1.4%	73.3%	2.0%	100.0%
Western	28	78		2	3530	3638
% of Residents	0.8%	2.1%	0.0%	0.1%	97.0%	100.0%
Not Recorded	88	24	2	8	19	141
%	62.4%	17.0%	1.4%	5.7%	13.5%	100.0%