

# “ PPP ”

## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

### Key statistics on substance misuse all Wales

Total		Heroin	Alcohol	Cannabis	All others
Persons	35,687	6,036	16,543	4,141	8,967
Males	25,043	4,393	11,154	3,214	6,282
Females	10,644	1,643	5,389	927	2,685

**Welsh Assembly Government statistics** - Clients seen by the Welsh NHS showing all substances misused in 2006-07; published November 2007)

- 2006-07 'All Cases' figure is a 29% increase on those for 2005-06 [All Cases 2005-06 = 27,741]
- Alcohol cases were up by 40% on the same period and drug cases up 20%.

### Key UK statistics:

Britain is experiencing an explosion in addiction:

- Rhondda, Cynon, Taff has the highest figures for drug misuse in Wales. The **lowest rate** was found in **Flintshire**.
- However, as a region of Wales, **North West Wales has been named as the country's worst drug death region**. A report from the International Centre for Drug Policy at the University of London found **Gwynedd and Anglesey had the highest rate of deaths per population in Wales last year**, with **eight out of 100,000** killed by drugs – a figure that is comparable with some of the urban areas of the UK like Liverpool and Brighton.
- Out of a population of around 250,000, researchers found an approximate total of **820 heroin users aged between 15-44 were living in North West Wales, almost 1.2% of the population**.

Assembly Government figures show that alcohol-related deaths in Wales have more than doubled in 15 years - 407 people died as a result of drinking alcohol in 2005 compared to 199 in 1992.

- The figures reveal that:  
Between 1991 and 2005 the **alcohol-related death rate in Wales** soared from six in every 100,000 people to **12 per 100,000 people**;

**The PPP comments.... We believe the above figures to be true particular those from NHS admissions. The situation in Wales and in North Wales in particular, is deteriorating and the WAG policies via the Police and Social services are not working. We believe that North Wales Police skewed priorities have contributed to this decline and only in recent months have they begun to address this problem with some success. We agree with the opposition reports criticising the WAG neglect of the routes to rehabilitation.**

**The NWPF must stop dabbling in everything from street cleaning to social work AND concentrate on prevention of the recruitment of new users and addicts by dealers and stopping the illegal supply and abuse of alcohol by young people.**

**We would like to see our representatives from all parties putting pressure on Police leadership to this end and on the alcohol retailers to be more responsible particularly the Supermarkets who are all running cheap alcohol advertising campaigns currently.**