



Irish Needle Exchange Forum

Injecting Melanotan Survey among services in Ireland

Due to the recent increase in publicity regarding the tanning substance Melanotan a brief survey was undertaken to gather further information about the prevalence of Melanotan injecting.

Fig.1

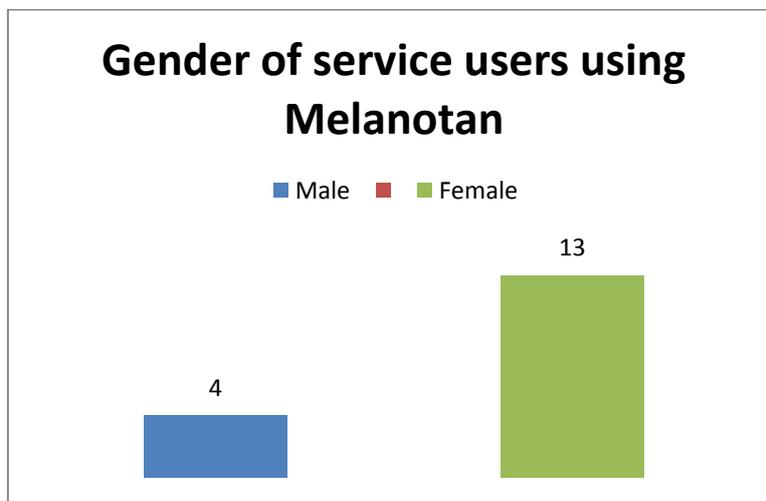


Fig.2

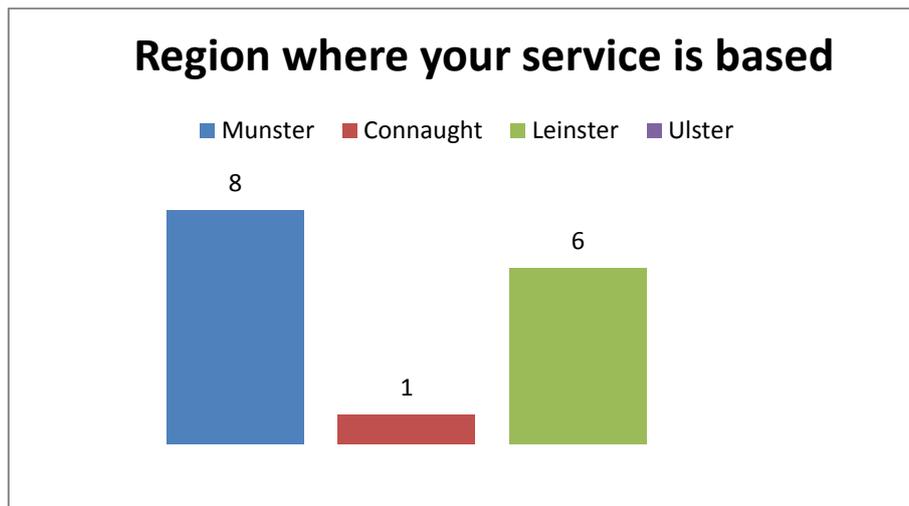
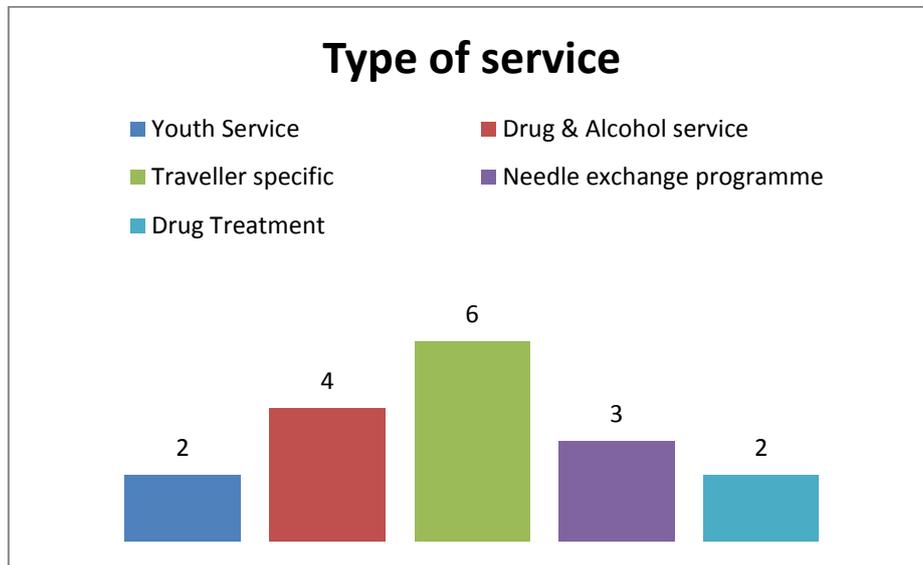




Fig.3



Have service users reported any negative effects they suspect are related to of Melanotan use? if yes, please give further details

- Pigmentation in skin
- Continuous need to maintain the great colour, but after cycles of abuse, whites of eyes turning darker colour and also palms of hands,
- mood swings, blotchiness
- Some reported feeling some nausea, stomach pains and or dizziness.
- patchy skin; lumps on breast



Were reasons given by the service user why or how they started using Melanotan ?

- Quicker and safer than sunbeds and friends doing it .
- Steroid user use for competition.
- Summer holiday's
- Growing up called names skinny and milky or red head with freckles.
- To get an all year round tan, cheaper than sun beds .
- Tanning - client has adverse reactions to prolonged exposure to sunlight.
- Fast way to get a colour and cheaper .
- To get a good tan prior to an event, i.e. wedding / Christening. Their peers were also using this and had reported no side effects.
- Reduce risk of cancer
- To have a permanent tan and it was cheaper than sun beds and spray tans
- To have a good tan without the sun bed or sun shower
- Tanning Purposes
- Wanting a tan
- To tone up skin colour



Please give details if you are aware of what internet sites or other sources which are used to purchase Melanotan

- Mostly gyms or tanning shops.
- I have heard from sources that Melanotan is been sold in pub toilets
- Through family members or internet

Are service users and workers in your service aware about the dangers of Injecting Melanotan.

- Not really - some staff and only due to their own research
- As much as possible. Awareness about liver damage or the un natural colour when client abuses and skin discolouring
- Yes, I have given them a leaflet produced locally, and gone through safe injecting practices
- Many workers confuse Melanotan and melatonin. This leads to confusion are the effects of the drugs.
- No not enough information
- Unconfirmed dangers
- Our service users have been given a session on the Melanotan and the dangers from our workers

Further information please contact

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