

Referral of European and third country non-national clients in Belgian substance use treatment

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BACKGROUND: Disparities in the access of health care and substance use treatment for migrants and ethnic minorities (MEM)

- Disparities in access to and utilisation of health care and substance use treatment for MEM (Saloner & LeCook, 2013; Alegría et al., 2008; Wells et al., 2001)
 - Among those with perceived needs for care, MEM are more likely to have no or 'less than needed' access
 - Confounding relationship with other variables, such as SES (LeCook & Alégría, 2015)
- Research on these disparities in access not so elaborate in Europe
 - Limited data (Lemmens et al., 2017)

BACKGROUND: Previous Belgian research

- Delruyn et al. (2008)
 - Database triangulation
 - MEM vs. non-MEM
 - 13-15% MEM
 - More often ambulant outpatient services
 - More often referred by informal and low-threshold sources
- Blomme et al. (2017)
 - Differential presence of non-nationals in Belgian substance use treatment (SUT):
 - Overrepresentation in low-threshold services, underrepresentation in residential treatment (especially in Flanders)
- De Kock et al., (2017)
 - Emerging evidence on disparities in SUT

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Did the types of solicited services differ between Belgian and non-national clients?
2. Did referral source (gender, age, education, employment and primary substance use) differ between Belgian and non-national clients?

METHODOLOGY

- **TDI Data**: new entry treatment episodes within Belgian drug treatment facilities
 - Between 2012 and 2014
 - Processed by Belgian Reitox National Focal Point
- **Descriptive analysis** and **bivariate associations** (Odds ratio's, 95% confidence intervals, $p < 0,05$)
 - Aggregated datasets
 - Nationality

METHODOLOGY: Limitations

- All new treatment episodes, not individual clients, nor treatment trajectories
 - 54 418 treatment episodes
 - 32 715 clients
- Not all services covered by TDI
- Aggregated dataset (consequences for analysis)
- Nationality ≠ MEM

HOWEVER: LARGEST RELIABLE DATASET THAT GIVES PRELIMINARY INSIGHT
IN DISPARITIES

KEY STATISTICS (1/6): MEM presence in treatment



BELGIAN NATIONALITY

- 92,4%
 - Unit general hospital: 29,7 %
 - Unit psychiatric hospital: 27,9 %
 - Day centre: 18,2 %



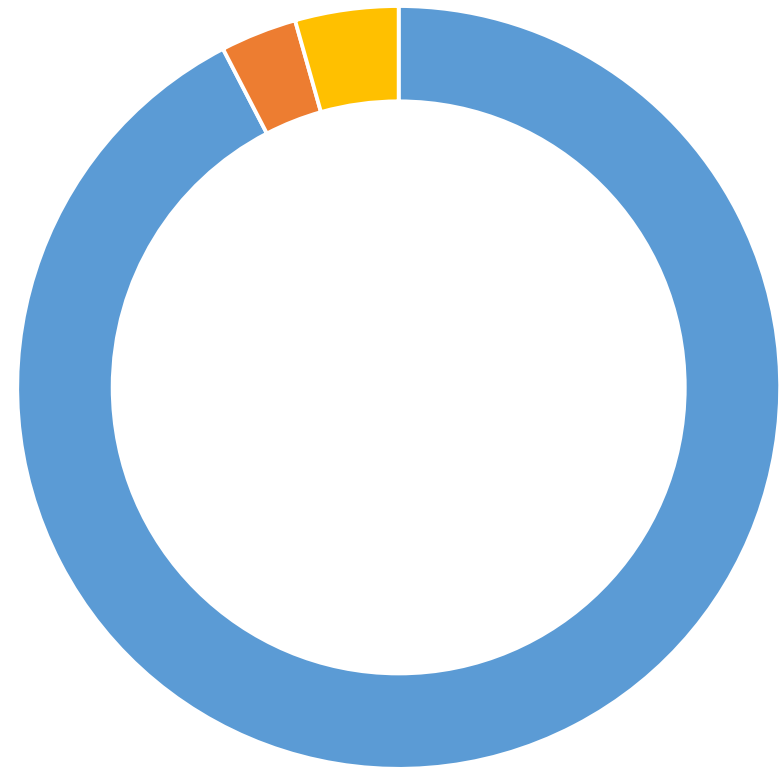
FOREIGN NATIONALITY, EU

- 3,2 %
 - Ambulant consultations: 34,6 %
 - Unit general hospital: 22,9 %
 - Unit psychiatric hospital: 13,7 %



FOREIGN NATIONALITY, NON-EU

- 4,4 %
 - Ambulant consultations: 38,2%
 - Day centre: 21%
 - Crisis unit: 18%



KEY STATISTICS (2/6): MEM presence in treatment



FLANDERS

- Belgian: 94,9 %
- Foreign: 5,1%
 - EU: 2,1%
 - Non-EU: 3%



BRUSSELS

- Belgian: 69,5%
- Foreign: 30,5%
 - EU: 10,9%
 - Non-EU: 19,6%



WALLONIA

- Belgian: 92,3%
- Foreign: 7,7%
 - EU: 4,2%
 - Non-EU: 3,5%

KEY STATISTICS (3/6): MEM presence in treatment

FLANDERS

- Belgian:

THE ODDS OF TREATMENT EPISODES INVOLVING FOREIGN NATIONALITIES WERE:

- 3,8 times higher for ambulant consultations
- 2,2 times higher for crisis unit
- 0,3 times higher for a unit in a psychiatric hospital

COMPARED TO TREATMENT EPISODES INVOLVING BELGIAN CLIENTS

⇒ ESPECIALLY FOR NON-EU NATIONALITIES

Foreign:

- Ambulant consultations: 35,7%
- Unit general hospital: 25,5%
- Unit psychiatric hospital: 13,6%

general hospital: 32,3%

centre: 22,4%

unit: 19,5%

ambulant consultations:

crisis unit: 32,7%

day centre: 16,4%

KEY STATISTICS (4/6): Referral source

SELF REFERRAL



22 482 treatment episodes

- 91,8 % Belgian
- 8,2 % Foreign
 - 3,5% EU
 - 4,7% non-EU

GENERAL PRACTITIONER



3 953 treatment episodes

- 95,3 % Belgian
- 4,7 % Foreign
 - 2,7 % EU
 - 2,0 % non-EU

OTHER DRUG TREATMENT CENTRES



2 313 treatment episodes

- 89,5 % Belgian
- 10,5 % Foreign
 - 4,2 % EU
 - 6,3 % non-EU

HOSPITAL



6 707 treatment episodes

- 95,3 % Belgian
- 4,7 % Foreign
 - 2,6 % EU
 - 2,1 % non-EU

KEY STATISTICS (5/6): Referral source

OTHER MEDICAL OR PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICE



3 003 treatment episodes

- 92,5 % Belgian
- 7,5 % Foreign
 - 2,7 % EU
 - 4,8 % non-EU

COURT



6 940 treatment episodes

- 93,8 % Belgian
- 6,2 % Foreign
 - 2,3 % EU
 - 3,9 % non-EU

OTHER



8 137 treatment episodes

- 92,5 % Belgian
- 7,5 % Foreign
 - 3,2 % EU
 - 4,3 % non-EU

KEY STATISTICS (6/6): Referral source

BELGIAN NATIONALITY

1. Self referral: 40,9%
2. Other: 15,2%
3. Court: 13%

Higher odds of being referred by more medically oriented services:

- OR 1,8 general practitioner
- OR 1,7 hospital

compared to foreign clients

Lower odds of being referred to outpatient SUT treatment for all referral sources (OR 0,2 court – OR 0,6 Hospitals), compared to foreign clients

FOREIGN NATIONALITY

Higher odds to be referred by other drug treatment centres (OR 1,4), and to be self referred (OR 1,3), compared to Belgian clients

FOREIGN, EU

1. Self referral: 46,2%
2. Other: 15,4%
3. Hospital: 10,2%

Higher odds for referral by medically oriented services (GP OR 1,8; hospital OR 1,7)

Lower odds of being referred to outpatient SUT treatment from court (OR 0,5), self referral (OR 0,7) psycho-social services (OR 0,5) compared to non-EU clients

FOREIGN, NON-EU

1. Self referral: 46,9%
2. Other: 15,6%
3. Court: 11,9%

Higher odds of referral by court (OR 1,3) and psychosocial services (OR 1,4)

Higher odds of being referred to outpatient SUT treatment especially when referred from court (OR 2) and psychosocial services (OR 2,2)

DISCUSSION

- Underrepresentation of foreigners in Belgian SUT treatment
 - Especially in Flanders
 - Foreigners more often located in outpatient treatment
- Differential access to treatment services for non-national populations
 - Belgian clients more medically oriented
 - Category 'other referral sources'
- Call for further research
 - Not limited to 'nationality'

Questions?

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	Total		Belgian		Not Belgian		Not Belgian, EU		Not Belgian, Not EU		OR not BE/ not-EU/	95% CI		p-value	OR	95% CI		p-value
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%								
Belgium																		
Ambulant	7431	14,97%	6045	13,18%	1386	36,66%	557	34,64%	829	38,15%	3,8123	3,5493	4,0947	<0.0001	3,8123	3,3331	4,3604	0,0268
Day Centre	9018	18,16%	8351	18,21%	667	17,64%	211	13,12%	456	20,98%	0,9622	0,8821	1,0496	0,3855	0,9622	0,8055	1,1495	<0.0001
Crisis Unit	3745	7,54%	3201	6,98%	544	14,39%	153	9,51%	391	17,99%	2,2400	2,0316	2,4698	<0.0001	2,2400	1,8352	2,7341	<0.0001
Therapeutic C	2023	4,07%	1834	4,00%	189	5,00%	98	6,09%	91	4,19%	1,2633	1,0835	1,4730	0,0028	1,2633	0,9425	1,6932	0,0078
General Hosp	14260	28,72%	13643	29,74%	617	16,32%	368	22,89%	249	11,46%	0,4606	0,4216	0,5032	<0.0001	0,4606	0,3863	0,5492	<0.0001
Psychiatric H	13171	26,53%	12793	27,89%	378	10,00%	221	13,74%	157	7,23%	0,2872	0,2577	0,3200	<0.0001	0,2872	0,2315	0,3563	<0.0001
TOTAL	49648	100,00%	45867	92,38%	3781	7,62%	1608	3,24%	2173	4,38%								
Flanders																		
Ambulant	4112	11,88%	3448	10,51%	664	37,37%	223	30,89%	441	41,80%	5,0824	4,5878	5,6303	<0.0001	1,6072	1,3162	1,9625	<0.0001
Day Centre	7601	21,97%	7159	21,81%	442	24,87%	133	18,42%	309	29,29%	1,1869	1,0625	1,3258	0,0024	1,8344	1,4572	2,3092	<0.0001
Crisis Unit	2336	6,75%	2245	6,84%	91	5,12%	29	4,02%	62	5,88%	0,7351	0,5928	0,9117	0,0049	1,4920	0,9499	2,3435	0,0806
Therapeutic C	739	2,14%	715	2,18%	24	1,35%	19	2,63%	5	0,47%	0,6148	0,4082	0,9260	0,0187	0,1762	0,0655	0,4741	0,0001
General Hosp	9799	28,32%	9502	28,95%	297	16,71%	179	24,79%	118	11,18%	0,4925	0,4338	0,5591	<0.0001	0,3820	0,2959	0,4931	<0.0001
Psychiatric H	10012	28,94%	9753	29,71%	259	14,58%	139	19,25%	120	11,37%	0,4036	0,3530	0,4614	<0.0001	0,5383	0,4129	0,7018	<0.0001
TOTAL	34599	100,00%	32822	94,86%	1777	5,14%	722	2,09%	1055	3,05%								
Wallonia																		
Ambulant	2464	21,72%	2152	20,55%	312	35,74%	152	31,67%	160	40,71%	2,1504	1,8577	2,4892	<0.0001	1,4818	1,1218	1,9574	0,0055
Day Centre	657	5,79%	617	5,89%	40	4,58%	13	2,71%	27	6,87%	0,7671	0,5528	1,0643	0,1115	2,6501	1,3484	5,2082	0,0034
Crisis Unit	537	4,73%	454	4,33%	83	9,51%	36	7,50%	47	11,96%	2,3186	1,8149	2,9621	<0.0001	1,6753	1,0615	2,6440	0,0254
Therapeutic C	995	8,77%	899	8,58%	96	11,00%	54	11,25%	42	10,69%	1,3158	1,0530	1,6441	0,0155	0,9440	0,6157	1,4472	0,7914
General Hosp	3534	31,15%	3311	31,61%	223	25,54%	143	29,79%	80	20,36%	0,7421	0,6339	0,8688	0,0002	0,6023	0,4400	0,8245	0,0015
Psychiatric H	3159	27,84%	3040	29,03%	119	13,63%	82	17,08%	37	9,41%	0,3859	0,3166	0,4703	<0.0001	0,5045	0,3336	0,7629	0,0010
TOTAL	11346	100,00%	10473	92,31%	873	7,69%	480	4,23%	393	3,46%								
Brussels																		
Ambulant	855	23,09%	445	17,30%	410	36,25%	182	44,83%	228	31,45%	2,7180	2,3195	3,1850	<0.0001	0,5646	0,4394	0,7255	<0.0001
Day Centre	760	20,52%	575	22,36%	185	16,36%	65	16,01%	120	16,55%	0,6792	0,5657	0,8155	<0.0001	1,0406	0,7483	1,4470	0,8132
Crisis Unit	872	23,55%	502	19,52%	370	32,71%	88	21,67%	282	38,90%	2,0049	1,7120	2,3478	<0.0001	2,3003	1,7397	3,0416	<0.0001
Therapeutic C	289	7,80%	220	8,55%	69	6,10%	25	6,16%	44	6,07%	0,6946	0,5250	0,9190	0,0104	0,9847	0,5933	1,6343	0,9523
General Hosp	927	25,03%	830	32,27%	97	8,58%	46	11,33%	51	7,03%	0,1969	0,1574	0,2463	<0.0001	0,5922	0,3896	0,9000	0,0133
TOTAL	3703	100,00%	2572	69,46%	1131	30,54%	406	10,96%	725	19,58%								

Referral type (2012-2014)		Total (n=54418)		Belgian nationality (n=50475)		Foreign nationality (n=3943)		Foreign nationality, EU (n=1687)		Foreign nationality, non-EU (n=2256)		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Belgium	Self referral		22482	41,99%	20645	40,90%	1837	46,59%	780	46,24%	1057	46,85%
		Outpatient	6899	30,69%	6006	29,09%	893	48,61%	341	43,72%	552	52,22%
	General practitioner		3953	7,38%	3768	7,47%	185	4,69%	106	6,28%	79	3,50%
		Outpatient	1027	25,98%	946	25,11%	81	43,78%	42	39,62%	39	49,37%
	Other drug treatment		2313	4,32%	2070	4,10%	243	6,16%	98	5,81%	145	6,43%
		Outpatient	848	36,66%	706	34,11%	142	58,44%	57	58,16%	85	58,62%
	Hospital		6707	12,53%	6392	12,66%	315	7,99%	172	10,20%	143	6,34%
		Outpatient	1859	27,72%	1739	27,21%	120	38,10%	61	35,47%	59	41,26%
	Other medical or psycho-		3003	5,61%	2777	5,50%	226	5,73%	82	4,86%	144	6,38%
		Outpatient	1510	50,28%	1353	48,72%	157	69,47%	48	58,54%	109	75,69%
	Court		6940	12,96%	6510	12,90%	430	10,91%	161	9,54%	269	11,92%
		Outpatient	1047	51,88%	708	44,58%	339	78,84%	115	71,43%	224	83,27%
	Other		8137	15,20%	7526	14,91%	611	15,50%	260	15,41%	351	15,56%
		Outpatient	3371	41,43%	2969	39,45%	402	65,79%	159	61,15%	243	69,23%
Unknown		883	1,62%	787	1,56%	96	2,43%	28	1,66%	68	3,01%	
Total		54418	100,00%	50475	100,00%	3943	100,00%	1687	100,00%	2256	100,00%	

Referral type (2012-2014)			Belgian / foreign				EU / non-EU			
			OR	95% CI		p-value	OR	95% CI		p-value
Belgium	Self referral		0,7778	0,7283	0,8306	<0,0001	0,9495	0,8356	1,0789	0,4266
		Outpatient	0,4337	0,3939	0,4775	<0,0001	0,7106	0,5900	0,8559	0,0003
	General practitioner		1,8221	1,3961	1,8897	<0,0001	1,8221	1,3518	2,4562	<0,0001
		Outpatient	0,4304	0,3190	0,5808	<0,0001	0,6731	0,3738	1,2121	0,1864
	Other drug treatment		0,6447	0,5621	0,7395	<0,0001	0,8846	0,6789	1,1525	0,3633
		Outpatient	0,3681	0,2808	0,4827	<0,0001	0,9813	0,5835	1,6505	0,9434
	Hospital		1,6554	1,4708	1,8631	<0,0001	1,6541	1,3121	2,0853	<0,0001
		Outpatient	0,6073	0,4806	0,7674	<0,0001	0,7824	0,4956	1,2351	0,2918
	Other medical or psycho-		0,9485	0,8248	1,0907	0,4579	0,7381	0,5584	0,9756	0,0323
		Outpatient	0,4176	0,3116	0,5596	<0,0001	0,4533	0,2535	0,8108	0,0071
	Court		1,1981	1,0802	1,3289	0,0006	0,5022	0,6236	0,9427	0,0116
		Outpatient	0,2160	0,1679	0,2778	<0,0001	0,5022	0,3144	0,8023	0,0036
	Other		0,9454	0,8641	1,0343	0,2206	0,9727	0,8167	1,1584	0,7559
		Outpatient	0,3387	0,2848	0,4029	<0,0001	0,6997	0,4995	0,9801	0,0375
Unknown										
Total										