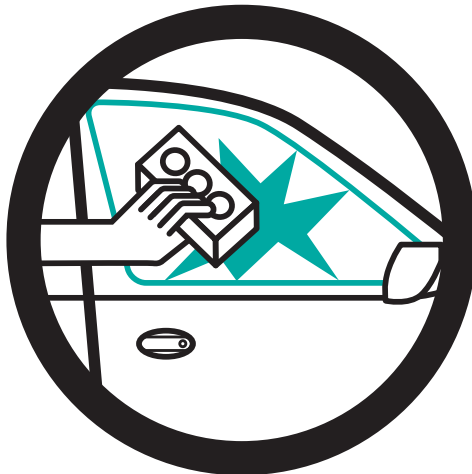




Treat addiction, cut crime

How treatment and recovery services
reduce drug-related offending

Drug addiction and crime



A typical addict spends around **£1,400** per month on drugs:
2½ times the average mortgage

Many addicts commit crime to pay for their drugs

Heroin, cocaine or crack users commit up to half of all acquisitive crimes –
shoplifting, burglary, robbery, car crime, fraud, drug dealing

Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery



Treatment and recovery are key parts of the government's strategy to tackle drug addiction and the crime it causes

Treatment helps drug users to recover from addiction, preventing crime and cutting health costs

Drug treatment also improves the lives of users, their families and communities

Drug-related crime costs society

The annual bill for drug-related crime runs to billions of pounds

Between them, every ten addicts not in treatment in 2010-11 committed:

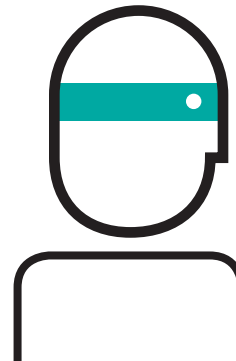
13 robberies and bag snatches

23 burglaries

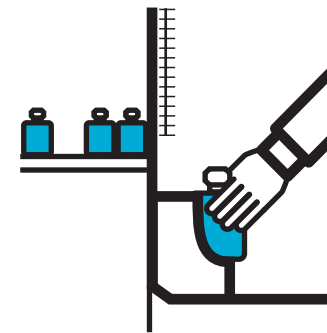
21 car-related thefts

And more than 380 shoplifting thefts

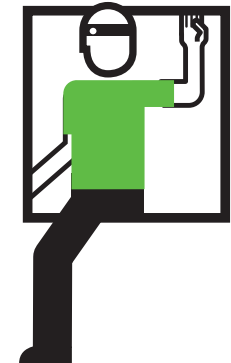
Any drug addict not in treatment costs society an average £26,074 a year. This includes:



Robbery
£5,513



Shoplifting
£4,798



House burglary
£1,228

Source: 'Estimating the crime reduction benefits of drug treatment and recovery' NTA, 2012

Drug treatment cuts crime



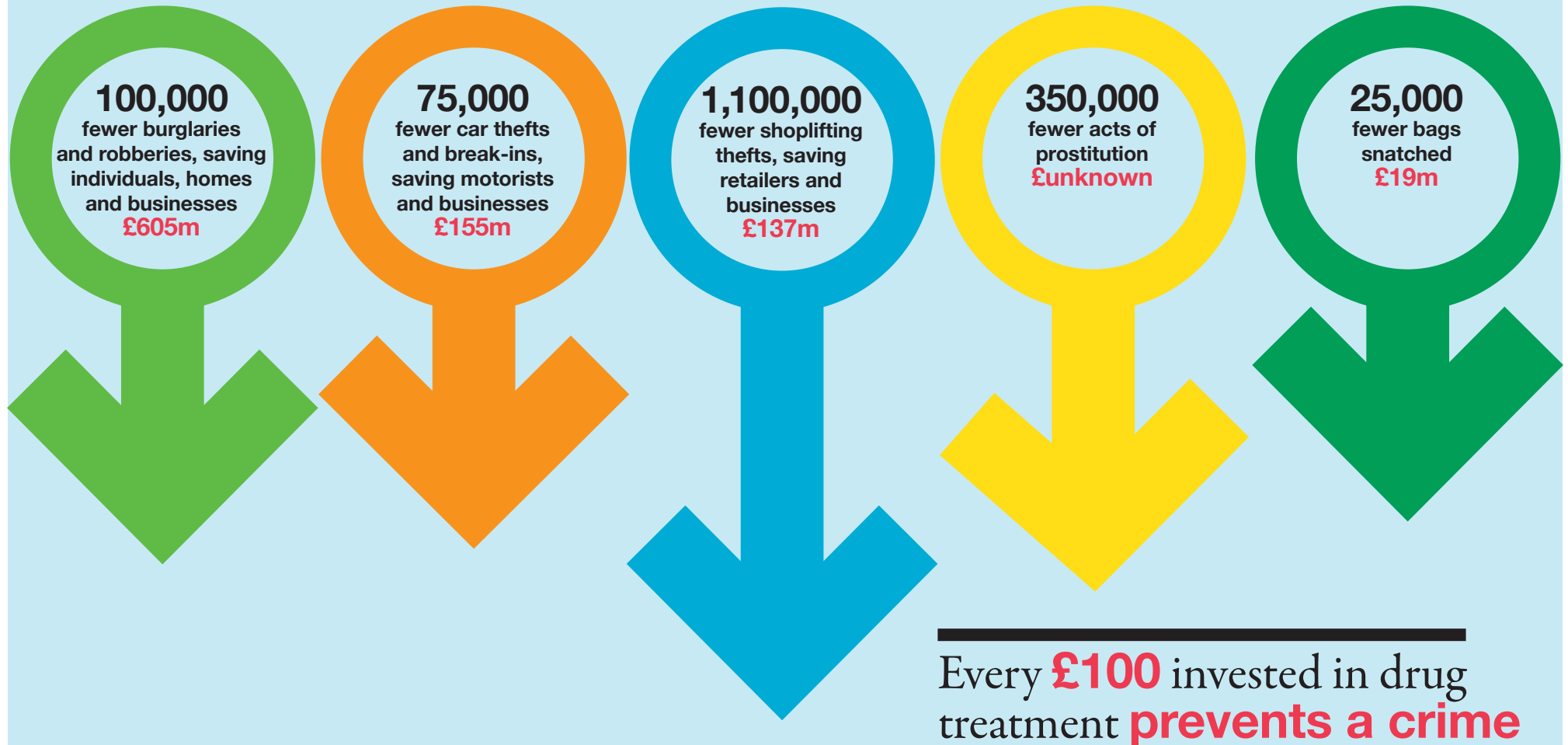
The moment they start treatment, drug addicts commit less crime

The crime they commit falls by almost half when they complete a treatment programme or stay in treatment for up to two years

The longer a drug user stays in treatment, the bigger the drop in his or her offending

Drug treatment prevented an estimated 4.9m offences in 2010-11

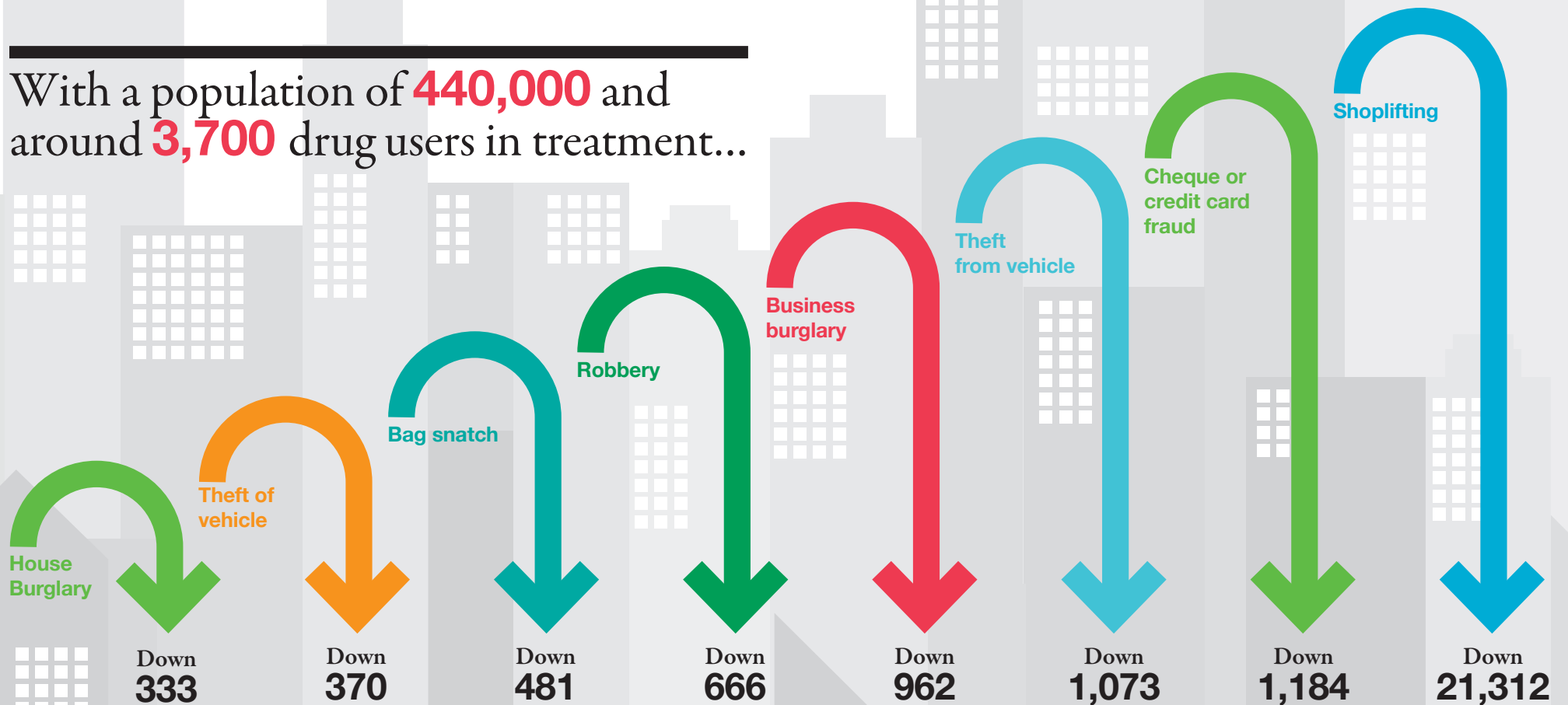
This includes:



Source: 'Estimating the crime reduction benefits of drug treatment and recovery' NTA, 2012

Drug treatment could cut 95,000 offences in a large city

With a population of **440,000** and around **3,700** drug users in treatment...

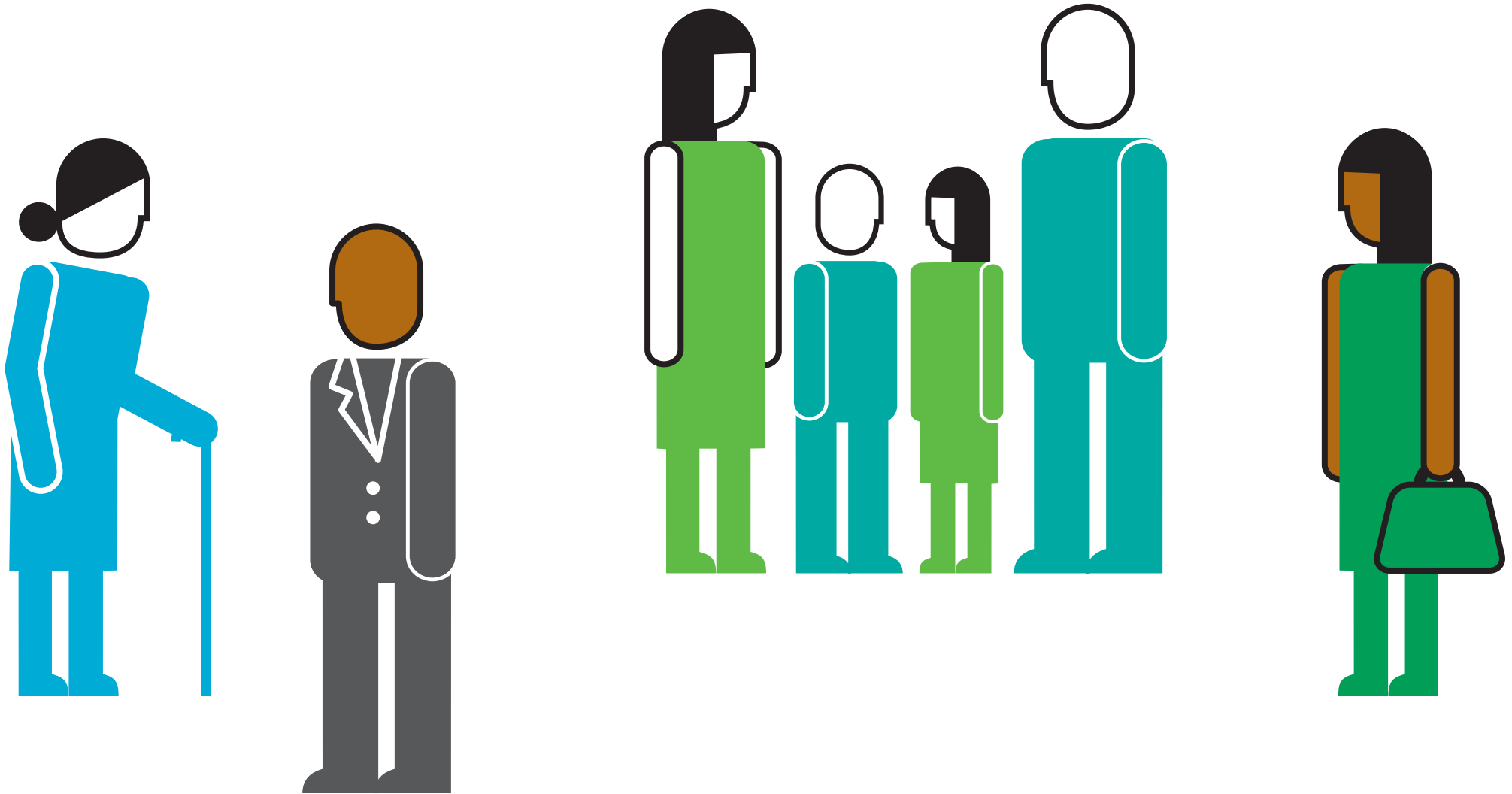


Estimated crimes prevented in 2011-12 = **94,979**

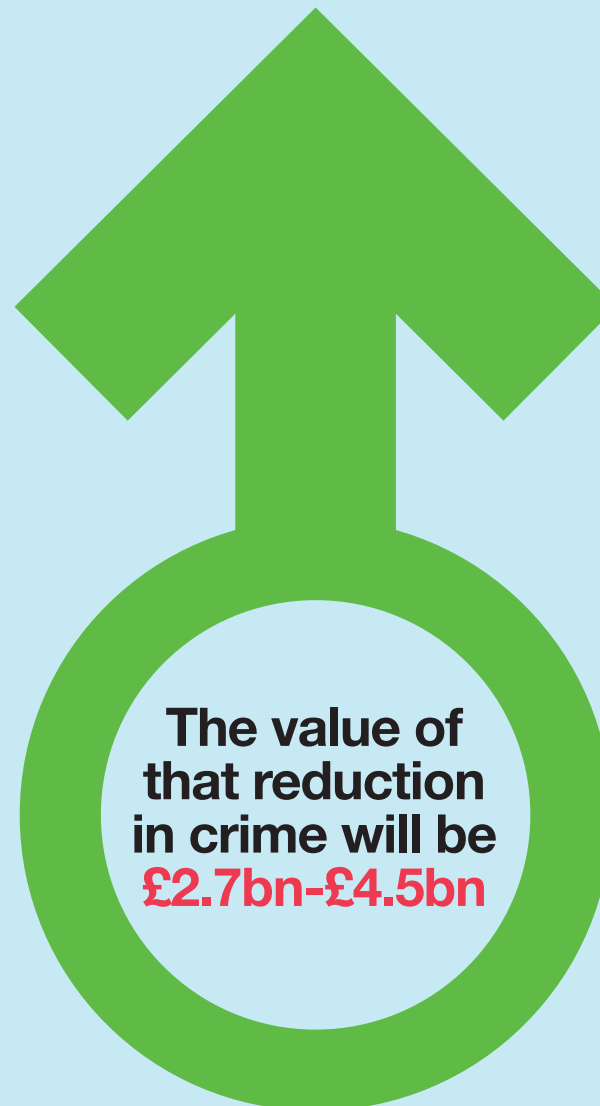
Estimated benefit = **£17.9m**

Source: 'Estimating the crime reduction benefits of drug treatment and recovery' NTA, 2012

Fewer crimes means fewer victims



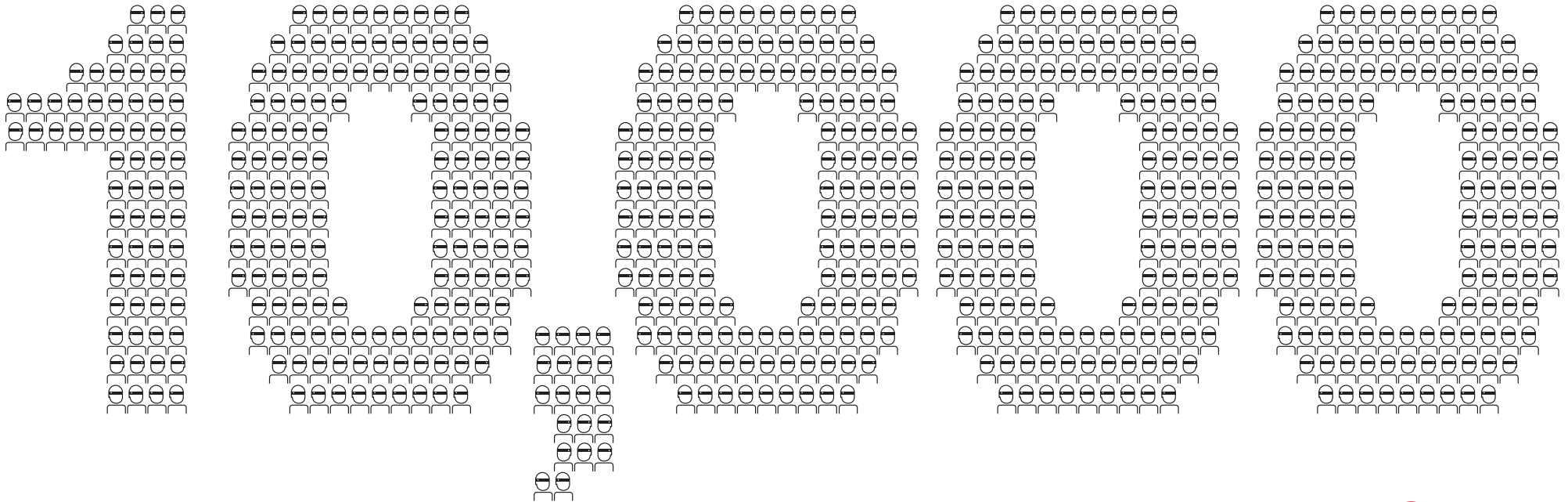
If spending on drug treatment is maintained



Source: 'Estimating the crime reduction benefits of drug treatment and recovery' NTA, 2012

If spending on drug treatment is cut

For every **£1m disinvested** in treatment there would be an estimated



crimes per year, **costing around £1.8m**

Source: 'Estimating the crime reduction benefits of drug treatment and recovery' NTA, 2012

What the public says

77% think drug treatment is a sensible use of public money

Source: DrugScope/ICM, 2009

80% believe drug treatment makes society better and safer

Source: IPSOS MORI/NTA, 2009

66% fear crime would increase without drug treatment

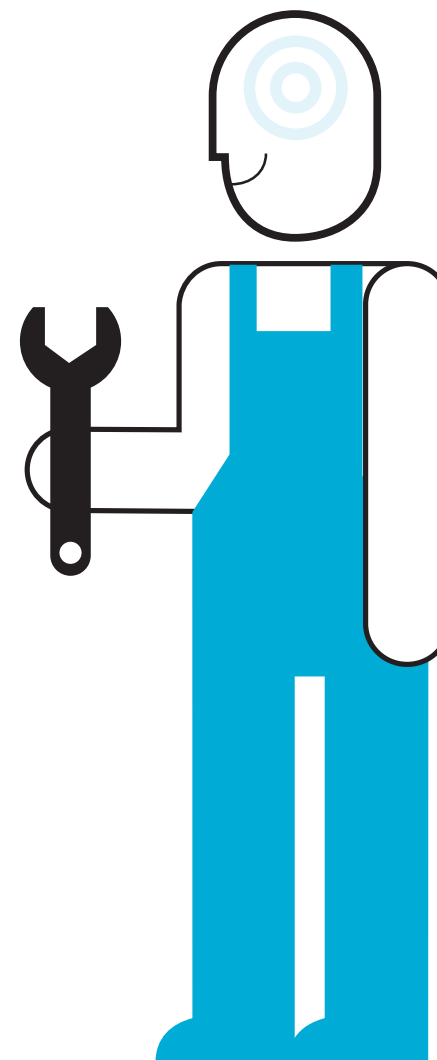
Source: IPSOS MORI/NTA, 2009

The long-term benefits of recovery

Drug treatment provides further gains when users leave successfully and sustain their recovery

The average drug-taking career of a heroin user is 20 years. Treatment may reduce this by up to 9 years

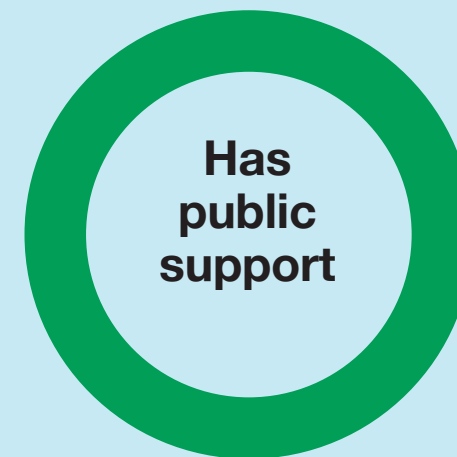
If all the drug users who started their recovery in 2010-11 sustain it, the estimated benefit would be **£2.6bn**



Every £1 spent on drug treatment saves £2.50 to society



Source: DTORS. Home Office, 2007



How you can make a difference...

Police and crime commissioners

- make treating drug addiction a priority
- actively support continued investment in public health by local authorities
- support the Drug Interventions Programme

Police

- establish links with health and wellbeing boards
- maintain strong links with commissioners and treatment services
- support the Drug Interventions Programme

Prison governors

- support high-quality, evidence-based drug treatment to reduce re-offending
- maintain strong links with community treatment for offenders being released so their treatment continues
- be active in local drugs partnerships and commissioning groups

Probation

- encourage offender managers to refer drug-dependent offenders to community treatment services so they can recover from addiction

Community safety partnerships

- maintain strong links with drug and alcohol action teams, and health and wellbeing boards, in new public health arrangements

Find out more at www.nta.nhs.uk...



Slide pack: *Why Invest? How drug treatment and recovery services work for individuals, community and society*
www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/whyinvestjan2012.pdf

NTA research: *Estimating the Crime Reduction Benefits of Drug Treatment and Recovery*
www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/vfm2012.pdf

The Impact of Drug Treatment on Reconviction
www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/theimpactoftreatmentonreconviction.pdf