

# National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System (NPIRS) National Bulletin Ireland 2007

December 2008

*As part of our national reporting role in relation to mental health service activity, the Mental Health Research Unit (MHRU) of the Health Research Board (HRB) presents data from the National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System (NPIRS) for 2007. The MHRU would like to thank services for providing quarterly returns – your cooperation has resulted in timelier reporting. We look forward to your continued support in the future.*

Rosalyn Moran  
Head of MHRU

## Introduction

This bulletin is a synopsis of data from the NPIRS for 2007 and that reported in *Activities of Irish Psychiatric Units and Hospitals 2007* (Daly *et al.* 2007). The *Activities* report presents information on all and first admissions nationally, regionally (by HSE area) and locally, by individual service, by county and by hospital type.

The rates reported below were calculated using the Census of Population 2006 (Central Statistics Office, 2007) and all rates are per 100,000 total population.

There are differences in data reported in this bulletin and data reported by the Mental Health Commission (2008) due to differences in data coverage and different methods of assigning records to a HSE area. In addition, the HRB does not record Admission Orders to detain Voluntary Patients and thus there are differences in legal status. Please consult *Activities of Irish Psychiatric Units and Hospitals 2007* for further clarification.

## All and first admissions 2007 – national statistics

There were 20,769 admissions to Irish psychiatric units and hospitals in 2007, a rate of 489.9 per 100,000 (Figure 1). There were 5,853 first admissions, a rate of 138.0 per 100,000. There were 14,916 re-admissions in 2007, accounting for 72% of all admissions, a rate of 351.8 per 100,000.

There was an equal proportion of male and female all admissions and females had a higher rate of all admissions, at 491.3 per 100,000 compared with males, at 488.4. Males accounted for 53% of first admissions and had a higher rate of first (146.2) admissions, compared with females (129.9). The 45–54-year age group had the highest rate of all admissions, at 780.9 per 100,000, followed by the 35–44-year age group, at 735.8. The 20–24-year age group had the highest rate of first admissions, at 208.8 per 100,000, followed by the 18–19-year age group, at 203.9.

Divorced persons had the highest rate of all (645.0) and first admissions (183.1). Single and widowed males had higher rates of all admissions than single and widowed females, while females who were married or divorced had higher rates of admission than married or divorced males.

The unskilled occupational group had the highest rate of all (986.8) admissions, while agricultural workers had the highest rate of first (222.6) admissions. However, it is worth noting that 47% of returns did not specify an occupation, making assignment to a socio-economic group impossible.

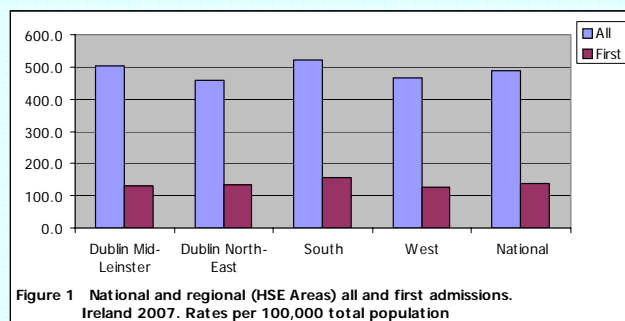


Figure 1 National and regional (HSE Areas) all and first admissions. Ireland 2007. Rates per 100,000 total population

Depressive disorders accounted for 28% of all admissions and 31% of first admissions; schizophrenia accounted for 19% of all and 12% of first admissions, while alcoholic disorders accounted for 13% of all and 14% of first admissions. All and first admission rates for depressive disorders were highest, at 138.3 and 42.6 per 100,000, respectively (Figure 2).

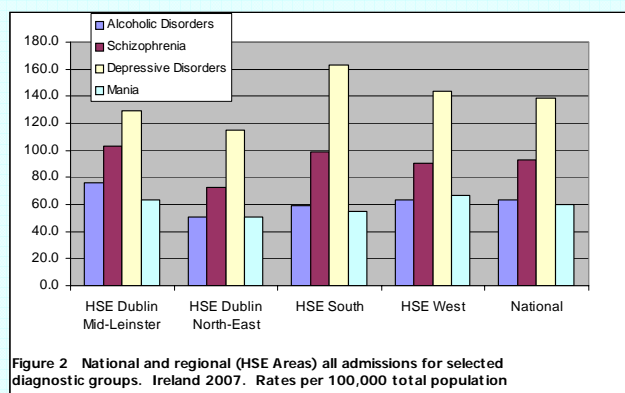


Figure 2 National and regional (HSE Areas) all admissions for selected diagnostic groups. Ireland 2007. Rates per 100,000 total population

Nine per cent of all admissions and 10% of first admissions were non-voluntary, a reduction of 2% for all admissions and first admissions since 2006. The rate of non-voluntary all admissions in 2007 was 41.4 per 100,000 population, while that for first admissions was 13.3.

## National discharges and deaths

There were 20,498 discharges and 173 deaths in Irish psychiatric units and hospitals in 2007.

Almost half (49%) of all discharges in 2007 occurred within two weeks of admission, 70% within four weeks and 94% within three months. Two per cent of discharges occurred after one year or more in hospital.

Forty-four per cent of those discharged with a diagnosis of alcoholic disorders, 28% with depressive disorders and 20% with schizophrenia were discharged within one week of admission. Almost all discharges

for alcoholic disorders (99%), depressive disorders (95%) and schizophrenia (88%) occurred within three months of admission. The average length of stay (excluding those in hospital for one year or more) was 25.5 days (median 13 days). Discharges with a diagnosis of organic mental disorder had the longest average length of stay, at 51.2 days (median 26 days). Those with a diagnosis of development disorder had the shortest average length of stay, at 6.6 days (median 5 days).

### Health Service Executive (HSE) areas admissions and discharges

HSE South had the highest rate of all (520.9) and first (155.7) admissions in 2007 (Figure 1). Dublin Mid-Leinster had the second-highest rate of all admissions, at 501.6 per 100,000, while the Dublin North-East had the second-highest rate of first admissions, at 132.6 per 100,000.

Males had higher rates of all admissions in HSE South (535.3) and HSE West (479.7) compared with females (506.3 in HSE South and 452.6 in HSE West). Females had the highest rate of all admissions in HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster, at 512.3 per 100,000, and Dublin North-East, at 482.3. Males had the highest rate of first admissions compared to females in three of the four HSE areas, with rates ranging from 171.8 in HSE South to 135.5 in Dublin Mid-Leinster.

The 45-year and over age group had the highest rate of admission in Dublin Mid-Leinster and Dublin North-East, at 874.8 and 756.9 per 100,000, respectively. The 35–44-year age group had the highest rate of admission in HSE South (782.0) and West (753.2). Single persons accounted for over half of all admissions resident in each HSE area in 2007.

Depressive disorders had the highest rate of all and first admissions across all HSE areas, with rates for all admissions ranging from 163.2 in HSE South to 114.8 in Dublin North-East (Figure 2). Rates for first admissions ranged from 53.3 in HSE South to 33.7 in Dublin North-East.

HSE South had the highest rate of non-voluntary (all) admissions, at 56.0 per 100,000, followed by Dublin Mid-Leinster, at 37.5. HSE South had the highest rate of non-voluntary first admissions, at 16.0 per 100,000, followed by Dublin North-East, at 13.1.

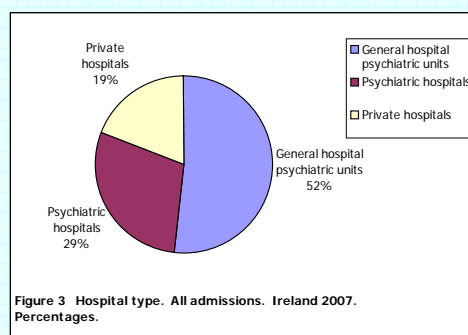
The longest average length of stay was in HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster at 26.6 days (median 14 days), followed by HSE South, at 26.1 days (median 13 days), Dublin North-East, at 25.4 days (median 13 days), and HSE West, at 23.6 days (median 13 days).

There were 66 admissions of non-residents in 2007.

### Hospital type

Over half (52%) of all admissions to units and hospitals in 2007 were to general hospital psychiatric units, 29% were to psychiatric hospitals (including the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum, St Joseph's Intellectual Disability Service, Portrane, and Carraig Mór, Cork) and 19% were to private hospitals (Figure 3).

One-third (33%) of discharges from general hospital psychiatric units and 36% from psychiatric hospitals occurred within one week of admission, compared with 13% from private hospitals. Private hospitals had the longest average length of stay, at 33.7 days (median 27 days).



### Individual units and hospitals

All admission rates were highest in Roscommon Mental Health catchment area, at 753.1 per 100,000 population, followed by Wicklow, at 620.9, and Kerry, at 601.4. Cavan/Monaghan had the lowest rate of all admissions, at 181.8 per 100,000.

Units and hospitals in Waterford Mental Health catchment area had the highest rate of all admissions for depressive disorders, at 247.1 per 100,000, while Cluain Mhuire Mental Health catchment area 1 (South County Dublin) had the lowest rate, at 37.7 per 100,000.

Mental Health catchment area 2 (Dublin South East) had the highest rate of all admissions for schizophrenia, at 142.4 per 100,000, while Mental Health catchment area 8 (North County Dublin) had the lowest rate of all admissions for schizophrenia, at 20.3.

Wicklow had the highest rate of all admissions for alcoholic disorders, at 163.9 per 100,000, while Cavan/Monaghan had the lowest, at 13.5.

### Children and adolescents

There were 364 admissions of children and adolescents (under 18 years of age) in 2007, of which 249 were first admissions. Females accounted for over half (58%) of all and first (57%) admissions. Forty-one per cent of all admissions were aged 17 years at admission, 26% were aged 16 years and 12% were aged 15 years. A further 10% were aged 14 years, 5% were aged 13 years and 6% were aged 6 to 12 years.

Depressive disorders accounted for 24% of all and 25% of first admissions for persons under 18 years of age. Fifteen per cent of all admissions had a diagnosis of eating disorders, 13% had a diagnosis of neuroses and 9% had a diagnosis of schizophrenia.

### References

Central Statistics Office (2007) *Census 2006. Volume 1 – Population Classified by Area*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

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