

# National Drug Treatment Reporting System

## 2011 – 2017 Alcohol Data

### Introduction

In this bulletin, trends in **treated problem alcohol use** are described for the seven-year period from 2011 to 2017. The data are taken from the **National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)**, the national surveillance system that records and reports on cases of drug and alcohol treatment in Ireland.

### Overview

In this seven-year period 55,675 cases were treated for **alcohol** as a main problem.

- The number of cases decreased to **7,350** in 2017 from a high of 8,876 in 2011.
- The proportion of new cases decreased from 52.3% in 2011 to 47.6% in 2017.

### Level of problem alcohol use

- In 2017, the **median age** at which cases first started drinking for those treated for problem alcohol use was 16 years, similar to previous years.
- Almost three-quarters (72.0%) of all cases were classified as **alcohol dependent**. *For definition of alcohol dependent please see page 5.*
- The proportion of previously treated cases classified as **alcohol dependent** increased from 68.1% in 2011 to 78.5% in 2017.
- In 2017, 74.2% of males were classified as **alcohol dependent**, as compared to 68.1% of females.

### Socio-demographics

- In 2017, the **median age** of treated cases was 41 years, similar to previous years.
- Almost two-thirds of cases were **male** (64.9%).
- Cases recorded as **Irish Traveller** in ethnicity represented 1.6% of all cases.
- Over half (52.1%) of cases were **unemployed**.
- The proportion of cases that were **homeless** increased from 6.2% in 2011 to 8.4% in 2017.
- In 2017, cases recorded as **homeless** was more prevalent among males (10.1%) than females (5.4%).

- Almost one-third (31.6%) of females were aged **50** and over compared to one-quarter (25.0%) of males.

### Polydrug use

Polydrug use remained relatively steady in the period 2011 (19.0%) to 2017 (19.8%). Polydrug use dipped to a low of 17.4% in 2016 but increased to 19.8% in 2017, accounting for almost one-fifth of those treated for problem alcohol use.

- **Cannabis** was the most common additional drug used. The number of cases reported declined steadily from 68.0% in 2011 to 57.7% in 2016, but increased to 60.5% in 2017.
- **Cocaine** was the second most common additional drug recorded. This has increased from 28.8% in 2011 to 41.8% in 2017.
- In 2017, **cocaine** as an additional drug was more common among males (44.4%) than females (34.2%).
- **Benzodiazepines** were the third most common additional drug reported (22.9%). The proportion reporting **benzodiazepines** as an additional problem increased from 22.4% in 2011 to 28.6% in 2016, and then decreased to 22.9% in 2017.
- In 2017, **opiates** as an additional drug are more common among females (20.5%) than males (12.2%).

## NDTRS cases 2011-2017

This bulletin presents **alcohol treatment data** from the NDTRS for the period 2011–2017.<sup>1</sup>

Data in this bulletin supersede all previously published data from NDTRS publications.

In the seven-year period, a total of 55,675 cases were treated for problem alcohol use.<sup>2,3</sup>

The number of cases treated decreased from 8,876 in 2011 to 7,350 in 2017 (Table 1).

The proportion of *new* cases presenting to treatment decreased from 52.3% in 2011 to 47.6% in 2017. The proportion of *previously treated* cases increased over the reporting period, from 46.3% in 2011 to 49.7% in 2017.

**Table 1: No. of cases with alcohol as a main problem, by treatment status, NDTRS 2011 to 2017**

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8876</b>		<b>8609</b>		<b>7819</b>		<b>7760</b>		<b>7618</b>		<b>7643</b>		<b>7350</b>	
New Cases	4645	(52.3)	4149	(48.2)	3708	(47.4)	3772	(48.6)	3553	(46.6)	3678	(48.1)	3500	(47.6)
Previously Treated	4110	(46.3)	4353	(50.6)	3932	(50.3)	3807	(49.1)	3948	(51.8)	3783	(49.5)	3652	(49.7)
Treatment Status Unknown	121	(1.4)	107	(1.2)	179	(2.3)	181	(2.3)	117	(1.5)	182	(2.4)	198	(2.7)

## Type of service provider

In 2017, over half (53.0%) of cases were treated in outpatient facilities similar to previous years (Table 2). Four out of every ten cases (40.1%) were treated in residential settings, again similar to previous years.

Alcohol treatment figures from general practitioners are currently not collected by the NDTRS.

**Table 2: No. of cases in treatment with alcohol as a main problem, by type of service provider, NDTRS 2011 to 2017**

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8876</b>		<b>8609</b>		<b>7819</b>		<b>7760</b>		<b>7618</b>		<b>7643</b>		<b>7350</b>	
Outpatient	4635	(52.2)	4510	(52.4)	4221	(54.0)	4133	(53.3)	4018	(52.7)	4005	(52.4)	3894	(53.0)
Inpatient*	3378	(38.1)	3309	(38.4)	2809	(35.9)	2803	(36.1)	2916	(38.3)	2994	(39.2)	2994	(40.1)
Low threshold	591	(6.7)	519	(6.0)	521	(6.7)	605	(7.8)	480	(6.3)	495	(6.5)	436	(5.9)
Prison	272	(3.1)	271	(3.1)	268	(3.4)	219	(2.8)	204	(2.7)	149	(1.9)	71	(1.0)

\* Includes any service where the client stays overnight, e.g., in-patient detoxification, therapeutic communities, respite and step down

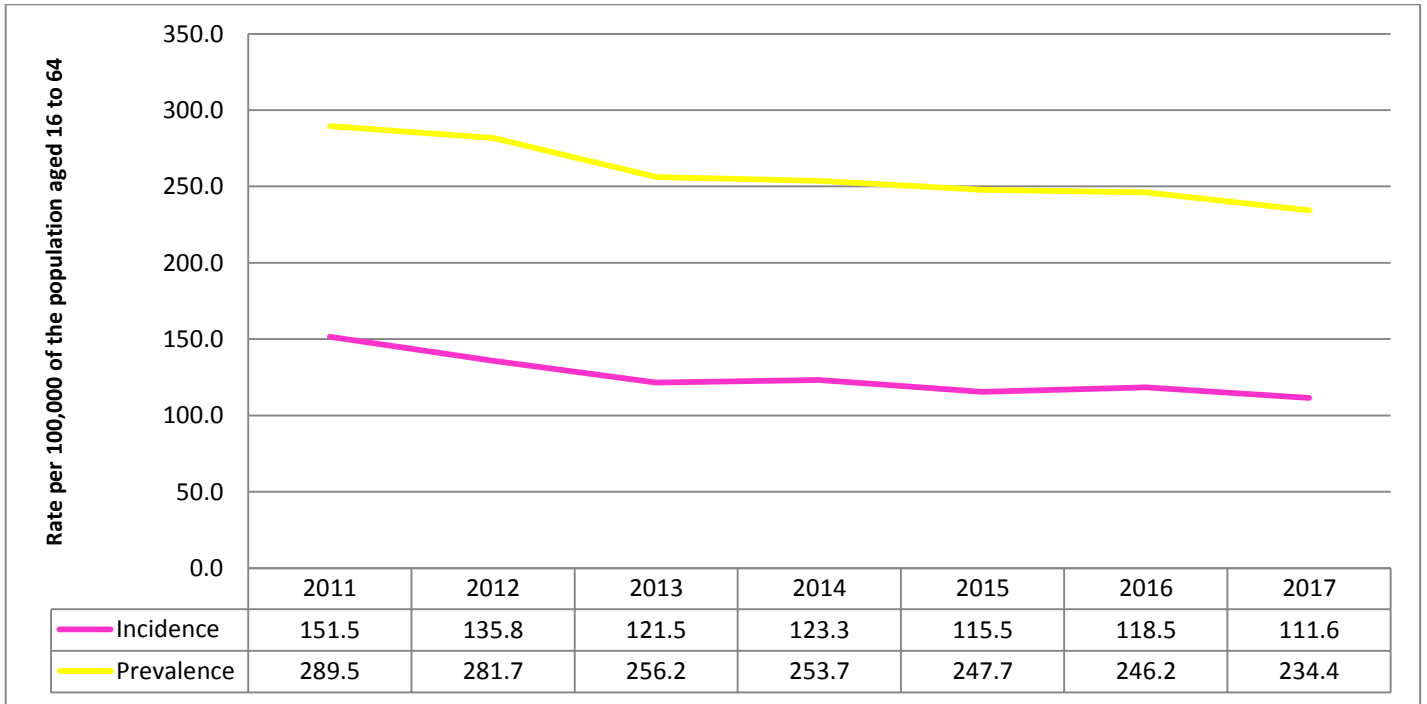
## Incidence and prevalence of treatment

Annual rates for the incidence (new cases) and prevalence (all cases) of treated problem alcohol use were calculated per 100,000 of the population age 15 to 64 years based on census figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO)<sup>4</sup> (Figure 1).

Incidence decreased from 151.5 cases per 100,000 in

2011, to 111.6 cases in 2017.

Prevalence, which includes both new cases and those cases returning to treatment, also decreased, from 289.5 cases per 100,000 in 2011 to 234.4 cases per 100,000 in 2017.



**Figure 1 Incidence and prevalence of treated problem alcohol use per 100,000 of the 15-64 year-old population, NDTRS 2011 to 2017**

## Polydrug use

In 2017, 19.8% of alcohol cases treated for problem alcohol use reported **problem use of more than one drug** (polydrug use) (Table 3). This proportion remained similar over the reporting period.

**Cannabis** (60.5%) was the most common additional drug reported by cases treated for problem alcohol use in 2017, followed by **cocaine** (41.8%) and then **benzodiazepines** (22.9%). Cocaine has increased from 28.8% in 2011 to 41.8% in 2017. The proportion of

cases reporting benzodiazepines as an additional problem drug decreased from 28.6% in 2016 to 22.9% in 2017.

The proportion of cases reporting **cannabis** declined from 68.0% in 2011 to 57.7% in 2016, but increased to 60.5% in 2017.

The proportion of cases with a **novel psychoactive substance (NPS)** as an additional problem decreased from 4.6% in 2011 to 1.2% in 2017.

**Table 3: Polydrug use in cases treated for problem alcohol use, NDTRS 2011 to 2017**

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8876</b>		<b>8609</b>		<b>7819</b>		<b>7760</b>		<b>7618</b>		<b>7643</b>		<b>7350</b>	
Alcohol only	7187	(81.0)	6999	(81.3)	6258	(80.0)	6252	(80.6)	6196	(81.3)	6315	(82.6)	5898	(80.2)
Reported other additional drug(s)	1689	(19.0)	1610	(18.7)	1561	(20.0)	1508	(19.4)	1422	(18.7)	1328	(17.4)	1452	(19.8)

**Table 4: Polydrug use - additional problem drugs: all cases and new cases, NDTRS 2011 to 2017**

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)
<b>All cases</b>														
Cannabis	1149	(68.0)	1057	(65.7)	1008	(64.6)	953	(63.2)	852	(59.9)	766	(57.7)	878	(60.5)
Cocaine	486	(28.8)	453	(28.1)	458	(29.3)	426	(28.2)	462	(32.5)	470	(35.4)	607	(41.8)
Benzodiazepines	378	(22.4)	419	(26.0)	424	(27.2)	421	(27.9)	357	(25.1)	380	(28.6)	332	(22.9)
Opiates	232	(13.7)	251	(15.6)	236	(15.1)	230	(15.3)	200	(14.1)	202	(15.2)	207	(14.3)
MDMA	232	(13.7)	227	(14.1)	187	(12.0)	173	(11.5)	142	(10.0)	99	(7.5)	134	(9.2)
Amphetamines	72	(4.3)	68	(4.2)	87	(5.6)	57	(3.8)	66	(4.6)	51	(3.8)	49	(3.4)
Z Drugs	17	(1.0)	40	(2.5)	40	(2.6)	38	(2.5)	39	(2.7)	33	(2.5)	27	(1.9)
Other	49	(2.9)	50	(3.1)	46	(2.9)	48	(3.2)	27	(1.9)	38	(2.9)	62	(4.3)
NPS	78	(4.6)	50	(3.1)	27	(1.7)	18	(1.2)	27	(1.9)	30	(2.3)	18	(1.2)
Volatile Inhalants	12	(0.7)	10	(0.6)	8	(0.5)	7	(0.5)	~	~	~	~	6	(0.4)
<b>New cases</b>														
Cannabis	576	(72.0)	496	(68.6)	473	(68.1)	442	(65.2)	385	(61.6)	340	(57.3)	408	(62.2)
Cocaine	229	(28.6)	204	(28.2)	199	(28.6)	201	(29.6)	225	(36.0)	221	(37.3)	290	(44.2)
Benzodiazepines	145	(18.1)	153	(21.2)	139	(20.0)	158	(23.3)	109	(17.4)	149	(25.1)	122	(18.6)
MDMA	118	(14.8)	101	(14.0)	90	(12.9)	84	(12.4)	72	(11.5)	57	(9.6)	57	(8.7)
Opiates	84	(10.5)	78	(10.8)	61	(8.8)	75	(11.1)	50	(8.0)	62	(10.5)	63	(9.6)
Amphetamines	25	(3.1)	29	(4.0)	39	(5.6)	21	(3.1)	28	(4.5)	19	(3.2)	22	(3.4)
NPS	27	(3.4)	19	(2.6)	12	(1.7)	~	~	14	(2.2)	10	(1.7)	8	(1.2)
Z Drugs	10	(1.3)	12	(1.7)	11	(1.6)	13	(1.9)	9	(1.4)	7	(1.2)	13	(2.0)
Other	25	(3.1)	18	(2.5)	18	(2.6)	21	(3.1)	10	(1.6)	18	(3.0)	29	(4.4)
Volatile inhalants	~	~	7	(1.0)	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~

~ Cells with five cases or fewer

## Level of problem alcohol use

In 2017, the median age to start drinking for cases in treatment for problem alcohol use was 16 years (Table 5). This trend remained steady over the seven-year period.

Over the period, the majority of those (72.0%) treated were classified as **alcohol dependent** (by the health care professional treating them). The proportion of cases classified as dependent increased from 58.8% in 2011 to 72.0% in 2017.

In 2017, approximately two-thirds (66.8%) of *new* cases (those who have never been treated for problem alcohol use before) were classified as alcohol dependent.

**Hazardous:** a pattern of alcohol use that increases the risk of harmful consequences for the user. The term describes drinking over the recommended limits by a person who has no apparent alcohol-related health problems. Includes experimental drinking. [AUDIT score 8 – 15: Increasing risk]

**Harmful:** a pattern of use that results in damage to physical or mental health; can include negative social consequences. [AUDIT score 16 – 19: High risk]

**Dependent:** a cluster of behavioural, cognitive, and physiological symptoms. Typically, includes a strong desire to consume alcohol, impaired control over its use, persistent drinking despite harmful consequences, a higher priority given to drinking than to other activities and obligations, increased alcohol tolerance. Also notably a physical withdrawal reaction when alcohol use is discontinued. [AUDIT score 20+: Possible dependence]

**Table 5: Age first started drinking and level of problem alcohol use, NDTRS 2011 to 2017**

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)
<b>All cases</b>	<b>8876</b>		<b>8609</b>		<b>7819</b>		<b>7760</b>		<b>7618</b>		<b>7643</b>		<b>7350</b>	
Median age first started drinking (range)	15	12-22	15	12-22	15	11-22	16	12-22	16	12-22	16	12-22	16	12-22
<i>Level of problem alcohol use*</i>														
Hazardous	1570	(17.7)	964	(11.2)	872	(11.2)	851	(11.0)	673	(8.8)	748	(9.8)	711	(9.7)
Harmful	1493	(16.8)	1544	(17.9)	1483	(19.0)	1417	(18.3)	1396	(18.3)	1279	(16.7)	1174	(16.0)
Dependent	5215	(58.8)	4794	(55.7)	4450	(56.9)	4644	(59.8)	4719	(62.0)	4957	(64.9)	5290	(72.0)
<b>New Cases</b>	<b>4645</b>		<b>4149</b>		<b>3708</b>		<b>3772</b>		<b>3553</b>		<b>3677</b>		<b>3500</b>	
Median age first started drinking (range)	16	12-22	16	12-22	16	12-21	16	12-22	16	12-22	16	12-22	16	12-22
<i>Level of problem alcohol use*</i>														
Hazardous	1067	(23.0)	654	(15.8)	573	(15.5)	494	(13.1)	370	(10.4)	426	(11.6)	412	(11.8)
Harmful	1000	(21.5)	956	(23.0)	911	(24.6)	858	(22.7)	802	(22.6)	731	(19.9)	674	(19.3)
Dependent	2337	(50.3)	2010	(48.4)	1881	(50.7)	2008	(53.2)	2026	(57.0)	2212	(60.2)	2339	(66.8)
<b>Previously Treated</b>	<b>4110</b>		<b>4351</b>		<b>3930</b>		<b>3807</b>		<b>3946</b>		<b>3783</b>		<b>3652</b>	
Median age first started drinking (range)	15	11-21	15	11-22	15	11-22	15	11-23	15	12-22	15	12-22	15	12-22
<i>Level of problem alcohol use*</i>														
Hazardous	489	(11.9)	292	(6.7)	284	(7.2)	324	(8.5)	285	(7.2)	300	(7.9)	277	(7.6)
Harmful	480	(11.7)	571	(13.1)	544	(13.8)	543	(14.3)	572	(14.5)	515	(13.6)	445	(12.2)
Dependent	2799	(68.1)	2723	(62.6)	2528	(64.3)	2537	(66.6)	2633	(66.7)	2649	(70.0)	2865	(78.5)
<b>Treatment status unknown</b>	<b>121</b>		<b>107</b>		<b>179</b>		<b>181</b>		<b>117</b>		<b>182</b>		<b>198</b>	

\* Where recorded. The proportion of cases where level of alcohol use is not known is not shown in the table

## Sociodemographic characteristics

The **median age** of treated cases increased over the seven-year period, from 38 years in 2011 to 41 years in 2017 (Table 6). The **median age** of new cases also continued to rise, from 36 years in 2011 to 40 years in 2017.

In 2017, the proportion of new cases **aged under 18 years** was 2.6%. This has decreased from 5.5% in 2011.

The majority of cases in 2017 were **male** (64.9%), similar to previous years.

The proportion of cases recorded as **homeless** increased from 6.2% in 2011 to 8.4% in 2017.

In 2017, 1.6% of cases identified as Irish Traveller. The proportion of Travellers in the general population is 0.7% (2016 Census).<sup>5</sup>

In 2017, 23.5% of cases reported ceasing education (for the first time) before the age of 16 years, a slight decrease on previous years.

Unemployment rates have not decreased notably over the reporting period. In 2017, over half (52.1%) of cases were **unemployed**. Unemployment rates were higher among previously treated cases (58.7%) than new cases (45.3%).

**Table 6: Socio-demographic characteristics of cases treated for problem alcohol use, NDTRS 2011 to 2017**

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)	n	(%)
<b>All cases</b>	<b>8876</b>		<b>8609</b>		<b>7819</b>		<b>7760</b>		<b>7618</b>		<b>7643</b>			
Median age (range)	38	18-61	40	19-63	40	19-64	40	20-63	41	21-64	41	21-64	41	21-64
Under 18	335	(3.8)	285	(3.3)	220	(2.8)	163	(2.1)	103	(1.4)	124	(1.6)	112	(1.5)
Male	5942	(66.9)	5673	(65.9)	5072	(64.9)	4966	(64.0)	4961	(65.1)	4884	(63.9)	4769	(64.9)
Homeless	549	(6.2)	486	(5.6)	507	(6.5)	494	(6.4)	572	(7.5)	613	(8.0)	620	(8.4)
Traveller	142	(1.6)	178	(2.1)	144	(1.8)	208	(2.7)	141	(1.9)	161	(2.1)	118	(1.6)
Education ceased before 16 years	2334	(26.3)	2357	(27.4)	2066	(26.4)	1991	(25.7)	1965	(25.8)	1808	(23.7)	1726	(23.5)
Employed	1777	(20.0)	1647	(19.1)	1545	(19.8)	1628	(21.0)	1724	(22.6)	1889	(24.7)	2056	(28.0)
Unemployed	4943	(55.7)	4789	(55.6)	4356	(55.7)	4377	(56.4)	4215	(55.3)	4110	(53.8)	3827	(52.1)
Retired/unable to work including disability	1056	(11.9)	1141	(13.3)	986	(12.6)	912	(11.8)	925	(12.1)	964	(12.6)	887	(12.1)
<b>New Cases</b>	<b>4645</b>		<b>4149</b>		<b>3708</b>		<b>3772</b>		<b>3553</b>		<b>3678</b>			
Median age (range)	36	17-61	37	17-64	38	18-64	39	19-63	39	20-64	40	20-64	40	19-64
Under 18	255	(5.5)	213	(5.1)	176	(4.7)	125	(3.3)	83	(2.3)	87	(2.4)	90	(2.6)
Male	3077	(66.2)	2667	(64.3)	2368	(63.9)	2420	(64.2)	2279	(64.1)	2290	(62.3)	2234	(63.8)
Homeless	175	(3.8)	124	(3.0)	154	(4.2)	156	(4.1)	148	(4.2)	160	(4.4)	166	(4.7)
Traveller	90	(1.9)	102	(2.5)	73	(2.0)	104	(2.8)	60	(1.7)	78	(2.1)	50	(1.4)
Education ceased before 16 years	1120	(24.1)	1061	(25.6)	902	(24.3)	882	(23.4)	815	(22.9)	768	(20.9)	768	(21.9)
Employed	1082	(23.3)	986	(23.8)	949	(25.6)	962	(25.5)	1014	(28.5)	1176	(32.0)	1209	(34.5)
Unemployed	2351	(50.6)	2036	(49.1)	1772	(47.8)	1916	(50.8)	1725	(48.6)	1690	(45.9)	1587	(45.3)
Retired/unable to work including disability	514	(11.1)	517	(12.5)	451	(12.2)	410	(10.9)	384	(10.8)	404	(11.0)	367	(10.5)
<b>Previously Treated</b>	<b>4110</b>		<b>4353</b>		<b>3932</b>		<b>3807</b>		<b>3948</b>		<b>3783</b>			
Median age (range)	41	20-62	41	21-63	41	22-64	41	22-63	42	23-64	43	24-64	43	24-64
Under 18	78	(1.9)	70	(1.6)	42	(1.1)	33	(0.9)	19	(0.5)	20	(0.5)	17	(0.5)
Male	2780	(67.6)	2927	(67.2)	2570	(65.4)	2420	(63.6)	2599	(65.8)	2480	(65.6)	2394	(65.6)
Homeless	352	(8.6)	358	(8.2)	342	(8.7)	325	(8.5)	405	(10.3)	433	(11.4)	432	(11.8)
Traveller	49	(1.2)	73	(1.7)	69	(1.8)	96	(2.5)	77	(2.0)	70	(1.9)	62	(1.7)
Education ceased before 16 years	1186	(28.9)	1273	(29.2)	1129	(28.7)	1072	(28.2)	1124	(28.5)	1003	(26.5)	912	(25.0)
Employed	669	(16.3)	642	(14.7)	570	(14.5)	638	(16.8)	688	(17.4)	674	(17.8)	804	(22.0)
Unemployed	2522	(61.4)	2702	(62.1)	2485	(63.2)	2357	(61.9)	2423	(61.4)	2331	(61.6)	2145	(58.7)
Retired/unable to work including disability	528	(12.8)	600	(13.8)	513	(13.1)	482	(12.7)	527	(13.3)	540	(14.3)	498	(13.6)
<b>Treatment status unknown</b>	<b>121</b>		<b>107</b>		<b>179</b>		<b>181</b>		<b>117</b>		<b>182</b>		<b>198</b>	

## Focus on cases by gender

This section focuses on socio-demographic characteristics of cases based on gender in 2017 (Table 7).

**Table 7: Socio-demographic and polydrug characteristics by gender, NDTRS 2017**

	Male		Female	
	n	(%)	n	(%)
All cases	4769	(64.9)	2561	(34.8)
Median age (range)	40	21-63	43	21-66
Under 35	1517	(31.9)	638	(24.9)
35-49	2047	(43.0)	1102	(43.1)
50+	1193	(25.0)	808	(31.6)
Traveller	83	(1.7)	35	(1.4)
Education ceased before 16	1233	(25.9)	487	(19.0)
Employed	1338	(28.1)	709	(27.7)
Unemployed	2639	(55.3)	1185	(46.3)
Homeless	482	(10.1)	138	(5.4)
Dependent alcohol use	3538	(74.2)	1743	(68.1)
Reported other additional drug(s)	1081	(29.3)	365	(16.6)
Opiates	132	(12.2)	75	(20.5)
Cocaine	480	(44.4)	125	(34.2)
Benzodiazepines	225	(20.8)	104	(28.5)
Cannabis	696	(64.4)	177	(48.5)
New Cases	2234	(63.8)	1253	(35.8)
Median age (range)	38	20-63	43	19-65
Under 35	853	(38.1)	357	(28.5)
35-49	893	(40.0)	490	(39.1)
50+	482	(21.6)	405	(32.3)
Traveller	38	(1.7)	12	(1.0)
Education ceased before 16	519	(23.2)	243	(19.4)
Employed	800	(35.8)	401	(32.0)
Unemployed	1070	(47.9)	515	(41.1)
Homeless	120	(5.4)	46	(3.7)
Dependent alcohol use	1539	(68.9)	793	(63.3)
Reported other additional drug(s)	498	(28.7)	156	(14.2)
Opiates	42	(8.4)	21	(13.5)
Cocaine	235	(47.2)	55	(35.3)
Benzodiazepines	85	(17.1)	37	(23.7)
Cannabis	322	(64.7)	84	(53.8)

The **median age** of treated cases in 2017 was higher for females (43 years) than males (40 years). This is also reflected in the median age for new cases entering treatment (38 years for males and 43 years for females).

Females also account for a higher proportion of cases in treatment aged **50 years or over** (31.6%) than males aged **50 years or over** (25.0%).

**Homelessness** was more prevalent among males (10.1%) than females (5.4%).

The proportion of cases who reported an additional other drug was higher for males (29.3%) than for females (16.6%). The four most common additional drugs (cannabis, cocaine, benzodiazepines, and opiates) for cases in alcohol treatment remain the same for both males and females. There are, however, differences in the proportion reporting use of these drugs based on gender.

**Cannabis** is the most common additional problem drug used for both males and females; however, it is reported at a much higher proportion for males (64.4%) than females (48.5%). **Cocaine** shows a similar trend (44.4% males and 34.2% females).

Conversely, **benzodiazepines** are reported at a greater rate by females (28.5%) than males (20.8%). Similarly **opiates** are reported at a greater rate (20.5%) by females than males (12.2%).

In 2017, 74.2% of males were classified as **alcohol dependent**, as compared to 68.1% of females.

## Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area of residence\*

In 2017, the highest number of **cases resided** in CHO 5 (Table 8). The number of cases fluctuated for all CHOs over the period.

It should be noted, however, that poor levels of participation in the NDTRS by alcohol services in some CHOs affects this geographic analysis.

**Table 8: Number of cases treated for problem alcohol use, by CHO area of residence, NDTRS 2011 to 2017**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>All cases</b>	<b>8876</b>	<b>8609</b>	<b>7819</b>	<b>7760</b>	<b>7618</b>	<b>7643</b>	<b>7350</b>
CHO 1	1135	1290	864	765	870	945	952
CHO 2	502	484	449	400	430	452	395
CHO 3	494	391	456	504	489	507	487
CHO 4	1784	1675	1613	1617	1365	1411	1242
CHO 5	1815	1667	1413	1311	1349	1264	1316
CHO 6	284	255	318	345	314	245	298
CHO 7	1014	1079	1028	976	873	800	842
CHO 8	942	961	844	971	880	856	727
CHO 9	730	585	673	707	852	912	882
Other/unknown	176	222	161	164	196	251	209
<b>New cases</b>	<b>4645</b>	<b>4149</b>	<b>3708</b>	<b>3772</b>	<b>3553</b>	<b>3678</b>	<b>3500</b>
CHO 1	595	616	462	402	430	487	434
CHO 2	246	217	209	198	188	227	216
CHO 3	228	171	190	248	247	256	234
CHO 4	909	872	770	749	646	694	641
CHO 5	963	848	672	624	619	586	630
CHO 6	142	109	150	183	154	108	152
CHO 7	588	504	485	445	383	360	355
CHO 8	543	475	436	533	440	435	360
CHO 9	361	271	278	335	379	427	404
Other/unknown	70	66	56	55	67	98	74
<b>Previously Treated</b>	<b>4110</b>	<b>4353</b>	<b>3932</b>	<b>3807</b>	<b>3948</b>	<b>3783</b>	<b>3652</b>
CHO 1	537	663	399	359	431	434	477
CHO 2	253	266	237	198	240	218	177
CHO 3	257	216	235	238	236	247	248
CHO 4	863	795	812	846	710	690	594
CHO 5	832	808	730	675	723	661	658
CHO 6	126	136	155	147	150	127	134
CHO 7	409	553	521	488	468	412	453
CHO 8	386	467	376	405	427	411	339
CHO 9	358	297	367	350	445	447	447
Other/unknown	89	152	100	101	118	136	125



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**\*LHO areas in each Community Healthcare Organisation area:**

CHO 1 – Donegal LHO, Sligo/Leitrim/West Clare LHO and Cavan/Monaghan LHO

CHO 2 – Galway LHO, Roscommon and Mayo LHO

CHO 3 – Clare LHO, Limerick LHO, North Tipperary/East Limerick LHO

CHO 4 – Kerry LHO, North Cork LHO, North Lee LHO, South Lee LHO and West Cork LHO

CHO 5 – South Tipperary LHO, Carlow/Kilkenny LHO, Waterford LHO and Wexford LHO

CHO 6 – Wicklow LHO, Dun Laoghaire LHO and Dublin South East LHO

CHO 7 – Kildare/West Wicklow LHO, Dublin West LHO, Dublin South City LHO and Dublin South West LHO

CHO 8 – Laois/Offaly LHO, Longford/Westmeath LHO, Louth LHO and Meath LHO

CHO 9 – Dublin North LHO, Dublin North Central LHO and Dublin North West LHO

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## References

This document may be cited as: Health Research Board (2019) Alcohol treatment in Ireland 2011 to 2017. Available at: [www.drugsandalcohol.ie/30202](http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/30202) and at [www.hrb.ie/publications](http://www.hrb.ie/publications)

1. More detailed information on the NDTRS methodology can be found in previously published HRB Trends Series papers at <http://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/alcohol-and-drug-treatment/publications/>
2. The NDTRS interactive tables (2004 to 2016) will be updated to reflect the changes at <http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/key-info/>
3. The NDTRS make every attempt to ensure as complete coverage of services as possible; however the number of services participating in the reporting system does vary year to year. This makes small fluctuations in the numbers of cases more difficult to interpret
4. Population data is taken from the Central Statistics Office at [www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/pme/populationandmigrationestimatesapril2018/](http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/pme/populationandmigrationestimatesapril2018/)
5. Data on ethnicity is taken from the 2016 Census from the CSO at <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cp8iter/p8iter/p8e/>

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