

**Treated problem drug use in Ireland: Figures for
2007 from the National Drug Treatment Reporting
System**



**Alcohol and Drug Research Unit, Health
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Summary

Significant improvements in the NDTRS's data collection processes and procedures mean that the HRB is now able to report on the information collected from treatment centres on a more regular basis. From 2009, the figures on the extent of treated drug and alcohol use will be published within a year of collection. Trends papers will also be published regularly to examine changes over time. The data presented in this paper provide a description of problem drug use in Ireland in 2007 by HSE area of residence.

There were 13,620 cases treated in 2007, of which 5,977 entered treatment in that year. As in 2006, the majority of cases attended outpatient services. The number of individuals in methadone treatment from the preceding calendar year and carried forward on 1 January increased from 7,269 in 2006 to 7,643 in 2007. (Tables 1 and 2)

The average annual incidence for the period 2003 to 2007 was highest in Waterford, Louth, Wexford and Carlow, with all reporting more than 100 cases per 100,000 of their population. (Figure 2)

The prevalence of treated problem drug use among 15-64-year-olds living in Ireland expressed per 100,000 of the population increased by 4%, from 426 in 2006 to 445 in 2007. (Figure 4)

New cases entering treatment are an indirect indicator of recent trends in problem drug use. The incidence of treated problem drug use among 15-64-year-olds per 100,000 of the population living in Ireland increased from 75 in 2006 to 80 in 2007. (Figure 4)

An opiate (mainly heroin) was the most common main problem drug reported by all cases entering treatment. (Table 7)

The main problem drugs reported by new cases in 2007 were opiates (42.7%), cannabis (28.7%) and cocaine (19.1%). The proportion of new cases treated for opiates and cocaine has increased since 2006; however, the proportion of new cases treated for cannabis has decreased. (Table 7)

The majority of cases treated in 2007 reported problem drug use of more than one substance (67.1%), which was slightly lower than in 2006 (71.1%). Polysubstance use increases the complexity of these cases, and is associated with poorer treatment outcomes. (Table 8)

Cannabis (42.7%) and cocaine (35.8%) were the two most common additional problem drugs reported in 2007, similar to 2006. However, alcohol was reported as an additional problem substance in 40% of all treated cases. Polysubstance use increases the complexity of these cases, and is associated with poorer treatment outcomes. (Table 10)

In total, 473 new injector cases entered treatment in 2007, an increase of 50 cases since 2006. Almost half of these were still injecting on entry to treatment and 48% reported sharing injecting equipment, again an increase from 2006. (Table 12)

In general, problem drug users in treatment are young and male, have low levels of education and are unlikely to be employed. Almost 14% of all new cases treated in 2007 were aged under 18 years of age, a slight increase from 2006. Almost 3% of previously treated cases were aged under 18 years, similar to 2006. (Table 13)

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Glossary of terms

The median is the value at the mid-point in a sequence of numerical values ranged in ascending or descending order. It is defined as the value above or below which half of the values lie. Unlike the mean (average), the median is not influenced by extreme values (or outliers). For example, in the case of five drug users aged 22, 23, 24, 24 and 46 years respectively, the median (middle value) is 24 years, whereas the mean is 27.8 years. While both the median and the mean describe the central value of the data. In this case, the median is more useful since the mean is influenced by the one older person in this example.

Incidence is a term used to describe the number of new cases of disease or events that develop among a population during a specified time interval. For example, in 2007, 10 opiate users living in a specific county sought treatment for the first time. The incidence is the number of new opiate cases treated divided by the population living in the county (say 31,182 persons in this example) expressed per given number of the population, i.e., per 100, per 1,000, per 10,000, per 100,000 etc.

The calculation in this case is as follows: $(10/31,182) \times 100,000$, which gives an incidence rate of 32 per 100,000 of the specific county population in 2007.

Prevalence is a term used to describe the proportion of people in a population who have a disease or condition at a specific point or period in time. For example, in 2007, 10 opiate users living in a specific county sought treatment for the first time, 20 opiate users returned to treatment in the year and five opiate users continued in treatment from the previous year; in total there are 35 people treated for problem opiate use in 2007. The prevalence is the total number of cases (35) divided by the population living in the county (31,182 persons) expressed per given number of the population, i.e., per 100, per 1,000, per 10,000, per 100,000 etc.

The calculation in this case is as follows: $(35/31,182) \times 100,000$, which gives a prevalence rate of 112 per 100,000 of the specific county population in 2007.

All cases treated describe all of the individuals who receive treatment for problem drug use at each treatment centre in a calendar year. All cases treated will include: -

- **Previously treated cases** describes individuals who were treated previously for problem drug use at any treatment centre and have returned to treatment in the reporting year; and
- **New cases treated** describes individuals who have never been treated for problem drug use; and
- **Status unknown** describes individuals whose status with respect to previous treatment for problem drug use is not known.

Health Service Executive (HSE)

On 1 January 2005, the 10 health boards managing the health services in Ireland were replaced by a single entity, the Health Service Executive (HSE). The former health boards were responsible for health care provision to populations in specific geographical areas. In the interest of continuity of care, the HSE maintained these 10 areas for an interim period and called them HSE areas. The former Eastern Regional Health Authority was known as the HSE Eastern region for this interim period. The table below presents the past health board structure and the interim HSE areas structure:

Regional Health Authority	Health boards	HSE areas
Not applicable	North Eastern Health Board	HSE North Eastern Area
Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA*)	Northern Area Health Board	HSE Northern Area
Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA)	East Coast Area Health Board	HSE East Coast Area
Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA)	South Western Area Health Board	HSE South Western Area
Not applicable	Midland Health Board	HSE Midland Area
Not applicable	South Eastern Health Board	HSE South Eastern Area
Not applicable	Southern Health Board	HSE Southern Area
Not applicable	Mid-Western Health Board	HSE Mid-Western Area
Not applicable	North Western Health Board	HSE North Western Area
Not applicable	Western Health Board	HSE Western Area

*The ERHA was known as the HSE Eastern Region for the interim period

HSE Regions

Following a number of years of re-structuring, health care is now provided through four HSE regions and 32 local health offices (LHOs). The local health offices are based on the geographical boundaries of the former community care areas. The table below presents the current HSE structure:

HSE regions	Local health offices		
HSE Dublin North East	North West Dublin Dublin North Central	North Dublin Cavan/Monaghan	Louth Meath
HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster	Dublin South Dublin South East Dublin South City	Dublin South West Dublin West Kildare/West Wicklow	Wicklow East Longford/Westmeath Laois/Offaly
HSE South	Cork South Lee Cork North Lee West Cork	North Cork Kerry Carlow/Kilkenny	Tipperary South Waterford Wexford
HSE West	Donegal Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan Galway	Mayo Roscommon Tipperary North/ East Limerick	Limerick Clare

Introduction

Background

The figures and information in this document are based on data collected through the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). This is an epidemiological database on treated drug and alcohol misuse in Ireland. It is co-ordinated by staff at the Alcohol and Drug Research Unit (ADRU) of the Health Research Board (HRB) on behalf of the Department of Health and Children.

Established in 1990 to record drug misuse only, the NDTRS recorded problematic use of alcohol only in cases where it was an additional problem substance, that is, where the client's main reason for entering treatment was drug misuse but he/she also reported problematic use of alcohol (Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation 2001; Hartnoll 1994; EMCDDA and Pompidou Group 2000).

However, it became increasingly evident that alcohol was the main problem substance in Ireland and that a large proportion of cases used both alcohol and drugs (Long et al. 2004a). In parts of the country, particularly outside Dublin, alcohol and drug treatment services are integrated. Failure to include alcohol data in reporting systems leads to an underestimation of problem substance use, and of the workload of addiction services (Long et al. 2004b). In recognition of this, the remit of the NDTRS was extended in 2004 to include cases where alcohol is recorded as the main or only reason for seeking treatment. The overlap between problem alcohol and other drug use has been identified in the current strategic plans of a number of drugs task forces, which have emphasised the need for treatment services that can address the many forms of polysubstance use.

Impact of information provided

The HRB supply service providers and policy makers with relevant data from the NDTRS to inform local and national substance misuse policy and planning. In recent years this information has central to drug strategy and policy decisions:

1996 NDTRS data were used to identify a number of local areas with problematic heroin use (Ministerial Task Force 1996). These areas were later designated as Local Drugs Task Force (LDTF) areas and are continuing to provide strategic responses to drug misuse in their communities.

2004 NDTRS data were used to describe treatment-seeking characteristics and behaviours of those aged under 18 years and to inform the deliberations of the working group on treatment of under-18-year-olds (2005).

2007 NDTRS data were used to inform some of the recommendations of the working group on drugs rehabilitation (2007), and by the working group on residential services (O'Gorman and Corrigan 2008) to help estimate the number of residential places required to address severe alcohol and drug problems in Ireland.

Methods

Data collection and reporting

Significant improvements in the NDTRS's data collection processes and procedures mean that the HRB is now able position to report on the information collected from treatment centres on a more regular basis. From 2009, the figures on the extent of treated drug and alcohol use will be published within a year of collection. Trends papers will also be published regularly to examine changes over time.

The NDTRS requires that one form be completed for each new client coming for first treatment and for each previously-treated client returning to treatment for problem drug and/or alcohol use in a calendar year. Service providers at treatment centres throughout Ireland collect data on each individual who attends for first treatment or returns to treatment

in a calendar year. ADRU staff in the HRB compile anonymous, aggregated data, which are analysed and reported at national and EU levels. The Central Treatment List (CTL) provide the HRB with data on the number of individuals who were receiving methadone treatment on 31 December in the preceding year and carried forward to 1 January in the current year.

For the purpose of the NDTRS, treatment is broadly defined as 'any activity which aims to ameliorate the psychological, medical or social state of individuals who seek help for their substance misuse problems'. Clients who attend needle-exchange services are not included in this reporting system. As of 2004, clients who report alcohol as their main problem drug are included in this reporting system. Treatment options for alcohol cases include one or more of the following: brief intervention, alcohol detoxification, psychiatric treatment, medication-free therapy, counselling, family therapy, social and/or occupational reintegration, education/awareness programmes and complementary therapies. Treatment is provided in both residential and non-residential settings.

In the case of the data for 'previously treated cases', there is a possibility that individuals appear more than once in the database: for example, where a person receives treatment at more than one centre.

Treatment is provided in both residential and non-residential settings (Table 1). The number of all of types of services providing treatment and returning data to the NDTRS has increased between 2006 and 2007. In 2007, 288 treatment services, comprising 173 outpatient services, 27 residential facilities, five low-threshold services and 83 general practitioners, returned data. The process of recruiting services that have not participated in the NDTRS to date is ongoing. There may be small differences in figures previously published owing to minor corrections to the data, as a result of quality control procedures.

The data presented in this paper provide a description of problem drug use in Ireland by HSE area of residence. There were 61,214 cases treated between 2003 and 2007, of which 27,001 entered treatment during the reporting period. Of these cases, 25,312 (94%) lived in Ireland at an identified address, 1,656 (6%) lived in Ireland with no identified address, and 33 (0.1%) did not live in Ireland. The tables presenting data on service provision and treatment status are based on the total number of 61,214 treated cases (Tables 1 and 2). Table 3 presents data on the 27,001 cases who entered treatment during the period under review. The remainder of the tables are based on the 25,312 cases who entered treatment and whose HSE region of residence in Ireland was known.

Outline of document

The tables and figures presented examine:

- service provision
- number of cases treated
- incidence and prevalence of treated drug use
- main and additional problem substances
- initial treatment provision
- risk behaviours
- main socio-demographic characteristics of treated cases
- relationship between main problem drug and selected socio-demographic characteristics.

Service provision

Table 1 Number and types of service providing treatment for problem drug use and number of cases in treatment (in brackets) in Ireland and reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Type of treatment facility	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Number of services (Number of cases treated)				
All cases in treatment	(11515)	(11235)	(12100)	(12744)	(13620)
Outpatient	132 (7808)	144 (7487)	146 (8156)	146 (8626)	173 (9258)
Residential	17 (900)	19 (739)	21 (827)	23 (994)	27 (1075)
Low threshold*	3 (269)	3 (310)	3 (289)	3 (234)	5 (126)
General practitioner	91 (2527)	95 (2699)	99 (2828)	66 (2890)	83 (3161)
Service type unknown†	1 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

*Low-threshold services are services that provide low-dose methadone or drop-in facilities only.

† Relevant data not recorded on the NDTRS form returned.

* Data provided by the Central Treatment List.

Numbers of cases treated

Table 2 Number (%) of cases in treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Treatment status	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Number (%)				
All cases in treatment	11515	11235	12100	12744	13620
Cases continuing in methadone treatment from previous year	5944 (51.6)	6433 (57.3)	6924 (57.2)	7269 (57.0)	7643 (56.1)
Entries to treatment each year	5571	4802	5176	5475	5977
Of which:					
Previously treated cases returning to treatment	3192 (27.7)	2765 (24.6)	2970 (24.5)	3000 (23.5)	3309 (24.3)
New cases	2245 (19.5)	1858 (16.5)	2054 (17.0)	2278 (17.9)	2476 (18.2)
Treatment status unknown*	134 (1.2)	179 (1.6)	152 (1.3)	197 (1.5)	192 (1.4)

*Relevant data not recorded on the NDTRS form returned.

Table 3 Number (%) of cases entering treatment in Ireland, by place of residence, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Place of residence	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	5571	4802	5176	5475	5977
Specified HSE region	5054 (90.7)	4506 (93.8)	4877 (94.2)	5191 (94.8)	5684 (95.0)
Ireland unknown	514 (9.2)	291 (6.1)	290 (5.6)	273 (5.0)	288 (4.8)
Not resident in Ireland	3 (0.1)	5 (0.1)	9 (0.2)	11 (0.2)	5 (0.1)

From this point on tables exclude cases whose HSE region of residence is not known or cases who are not normally resident in Ireland.

Table 4 Number (%) of cases entering treatment in Ireland, by HSE region of residence and by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

HSE region of residence	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	5054	4506	4877	5191	5684
Dublin North East	1499 (29.7)	1347 (29.9)	1484 (30.4)	1510 (29.1)	1507 (26.5)
Dublin Mid-Leinster	1802 (35.7)	1870 (41.5)	1876 (38.5)	1996 (38.5)	2149 (37.8)
South	1255 (24.8)	886 (19.7)	1047 (21.5)	1104 (21.3)	1210 (21.3)
West	498 (9.9)	403 (8.9)	470 (9.6)	581 (11.2)	818 (14.4)
Previously treated cases	2838	2555	2760	2781	3091
Dublin North East	963 (33.9)	850 (33.3)	942 (34.1)	810 (29.1)	813 (26.3)
Dublin Mid-Leinster	1238 (43.6)	1303 (51.0)	1331 (48.2)	1347 (48.4)	1476 (47.8)
South	470 (16.6)	281 (11.0)	334 (12.1)	388 (14.0)	463 (15.0)
West	167 (5.9)	121 (4.7)	153 (5.5)	236 (8.5)	339 (11.0)
New cases	2097	1790	1976	2228	2419
Dublin North East	499 (23.8)	442 (24.7)	488 (24.7)	629 (28.2)	634 (26.2)
Dublin Mid-Leinster	517 (24.7)	503 (28.1)	489 (24.7)	567 (25.4)	599 (24.8)
South	774 (36.9)	588 (32.8)	700 (35.4)	698 (31.3)	727 (30.1)
West	307 (14.6)	257 (14.4)	299 (15.1)	334 (15.0)	459 (19.0)
Treatment status unknown	119	161	141	182	174

Table 5 Number (%) of cases entering treatment in Ireland, by former health board area of residence and by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Former health board area of residence	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number (%)					
All cases entering treatment	5054	4506	4877	5191	5684
Southern	645 (12.8)	378 (8.4)	490 (10.0)	513 (9.9)	556 (9.8)
North West	120 (2.4)	118 (2.6)	108 (2.2)	102 (2.0)	120 (2.1)
Midland	228 (4.5)	196 (4.3)	175 (3.6)	195 (3.8)	267 (4.7)
Western	160 (3.2)	105 (2.3)	178 (3.6)	193 (3.7)	290 (5.1)
Mid-Western	218 (4.3)	180 (4.0)	184 (3.8)	286 (5.5)	408 (7.2)
North Eastern	387 (7.7)	374 (8.3)	365 (7.5)	470 (9.1)	436 (7.7)
South Eastern	610 (12.1)	529 (11.7)	609 (12.5)	636 (12.3)	708 (12.5)
East Coast (of Dublin and Wicklow)	271 (5.4)	202 (4.5)	236 (4.8)	299 (5.8)	325 (5.7)
South West (of Dublin and Wicklow and all of Kildare)	1248 (24.7)	1420 (31.5)	1388 (28.5)	1443 (27.8)	1490 (26.2)
North Dublin (City and County)	1112 (22.0)	973 (21.6)	1119 (22.9)	1040 (20.0)	1071 (18.8)
In Ireland but complete address unknown*	55 (1.1)	31 (0.7)	25 (0.5)	14 (0.3)	13 (0.2)
Previously treated cases	2838	2555	2760	2781	3091
Southern	267 (9.4)	108 (4.2)	165 (6.0)	165 (5.9)	228 (7.4)
North West	40 (1.4)	29 (1.1)	22 (0.8)	33 (1.2)	42 (1.4)
Midland	91 (3.2)	82 (3.2)	66 (2.4)	77 (2.8)	118 (3.8)
Western	62 (2.2)	43 (1.7)	75 (2.7)	101 (3.6)	153 (4.9)
Mid-Western	65 (2.3)	49 (1.9)	56 (2.0)	102 (3.7)	144 (4.7)
North Eastern	146 (5.1)	130 (5.1)	125 (4.5)	148 (5.3)	189 (6.1)
South Eastern	203 (7.2)	178 (7.0)	183 (6.6)	242 (8.7)	260 (8.4)
East Coast (of Dublin and Wicklow)	171 (6.0)	140 (5.5)	180 (6.5)	195 (7.0)	216 (7.0)
South West (of Dublin and Wicklow and all of Kildare)	954 (33.6)	1064 (41.6)	1060 (38.4)	1050 (37.8)	1114 (36.0)
North Dublin (City and County)	817 (28.8)	720 (28.2)	817 (29.6)	662 (23.8)	624 (20.2)
In Ireland but complete address unknown*	22 (0.8)	12 (0.5)	11 (0.4)	6 (0.2)	3 (0.1)
New cases	2097	1790	1976	2228	2419
Southern	373 (17.8)	257 (14.4)	317 (16.0)	332 (14.9)	317 (13.1)
North West	75 (3.6)	86 (4.8)	79 (4.0)	68 (3.1)	75 (3.1)
Midland	135 (6.4)	107 (6.0)	105 (5.3)	116 (5.2)	139 (5.7)
Western	94 (4.5)	59 (3.3)	97 (4.9)	92 (4.1)	134 (5.5)
Mid-Western	138 (6.6)	112 (6.3)	123 (6.2)	174 (7.8)	250 (10.3)
North Eastern	229 (10.9)	236 (13.2)	224 (11.3)	303 (13.6)	236 (9.8)
South Eastern	401 (19.1)	347 (19.4)	420 (21.3)	392 (17.6)	435 (18.0)
East Coast (of Dublin and Wicklow)	95 (4.5)	56 (3.1)	50 (2.5)	89 (4.0)	93 (3.8)
South West (of Dublin and Wicklow and all of Kildare)	256 (12.2)	307 (17.2)	283 (14.3)	328 (14.7)	332 (13.7)
North Dublin (City and County)	270 (12.9)	206 (11.5)	264 (13.4)	326 (14.6)	398 (16.5)
In Ireland but complete address unknown*	31 (1.5)	17 (0.9)	14 (0.7)	8 (0.4)	10 (0.4)
Treatment status unknown	119	161	141	182	174

*Refers to cases living in Wicklow who were not assigned a specific electoral division code; it is not possible to assign such cases to a former health board area of residence.

Table 6 Number (%) of cases entering treatment in Ireland, by local health office (LHO) area of residence and by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Local health office	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	5054	4506	4877	5191	5684
Dublin South	137 (2.7)	70 (1.6)	87 (1.8)	118 (2.3)	112 (2.0)
Dublin South East	69 (1.4)	64 (1.4)	60 (1.2)	68 (1.3)	92 (1.6)
Dublin South City	373 (7.4)	362 (8.0)	344 (7.1)	318 (6.1)	336 (5.9)
Dublin South West	360 (7.1)	420 (9.3)	422 (8.7)	483 (9.3)	485 (8.5)
Dublin West	488 (9.7)	546 (12.1)	531 (10.9)	477 (9.2)	505 (8.9)
North West Dublin	389 (7.7)	307 (6.8)	326 (6.7)	352 (6.8)	392 (6.9)
Dublin North Central	447 (8.8)	382 (8.5)	524 (10.7)	414 (8.0)	390 (6.9)
North Dublin	271 (5.4)	284 (6.3)	266 (5.5)	272 (5.2)	287 (5.0)
Kildare and South West Wicklow	68 (1.3)	109 (2.4)	109 (2.2)	177 (3.4)	171 (3.0)
Wicklow (East coast)	65 (1.3)	68 (1.5)	89 (1.8)	113 (2.2)	121 (2.1)
Kerry	113 (2.2)	39 (0.9)	69 (1.4)	63 (1.2)	68 (1.2)
Donegal	51 (1.0)	76 (1.7)	53 (1.1)	56 (1.1)	69 (1.2)
Sligo/Leitrim	69 (1.4)	42 (0.9)	55 (1.1)	46 (0.9)	51 (0.9)
Longford/Westmeath	105 (2.1)	89 (2.0)	66 (1.4)	119 (2.3)	164 (2.9)
Laois/Offaly	123 (2.4)	107 (2.4)	109 (2.2)	76 (1.5)	103 (1.8)
Galway	90 (1.8)	69 (1.5)	115 (2.4)	124 (2.4)	196 (3.4)
Mayo	31 (0.6)	20 (0.4)	41 (0.8)	35 (0.7)	53 (0.9)
Roscommon	39 (0.8)	16 (0.4)	22 (0.5)	34 (0.7)	41 (0.7)
Limerick	113 (2.2)	105 (2.3)	111 (2.3)	172 (3.3)	300 (5.3)
Clare	52 (1.0)	42 (0.9)	37 (0.8)	67 (1.3)	65 (1.1)
Tipperary NR	44 (0.9)	33 (0.7)	35 (0.7)	47 (0.9)	43 (0.8)
Louth	229 (4.5)	179 (4.0)	205 (4.2)	220 (4.2)	150 (2.6)
Meath	127 (2.5)	159 (3.5)	113 (2.3)	175 (3.4)	182 (3.2)
Cavan/Monaghan	31 (0.6)	36 (0.8)	47 (1.0)	74 (1.4)	104 (1.8)
Carlow/Kilkenny	145 (2.9)	157 (3.5)	168 (3.4)	159 (3.1)	161 (2.8)
Tipperary SR	154 (3.0)	96 (2.1)	78 (1.6)	86 (1.7)	117 (2.1)
Wexford	149 (2.9)	131 (2.9)	185 (3.8)	203 (3.9)	238 (4.2)
Waterford	162 (3.2)	145 (3.2)	178 (3.6)	188 (3.6)	192 (3.4)
Cork*	531 (10.5)	338 (7.5)	421 (8.6)	445 (8.6)	488 (8.6)
LHO area unknown†	29 (0.6)	15 (0.3)	11 (0.2)	10 (0.2)	8 (0.1)
Previously treated cases	2838	2555	2760	2781	3091
Dublin South	87 (3.1)	49 (1.9)	65 (2.4)	83 (3.0)	84 (2.7)
Dublin South East	47 (1.7)	48 (1.9)	47 (1.7)	35 (1.3)	55 (1.8)
Dublin South City	281 (9.9)	295 (11.5)	286 (10.4)	247 (8.9)	276 (8.9)
Dublin South West	286 (10.1)	307 (12.0)	315 (11.4)	370 (13.3)	349 (11.3)
Dublin West	376 (13.2)	422 (16.5)	427 (15.5)	363 (13.1)	397 (12.8)
North West Dublin	277 (9.8)	217 (8.5)	246 (8.9)	241 (8.7)	236 (7.6)
Dublin North Central	355 (12.5)	308 (12.1)	396 (14.3)	246 (8.8)	224 (7.2)
North Dublin	181 (6.4)	195 (7.6)	172 (6.2)	174 (6.3)	163 (5.3)
Kildare and South West Wicklow	29 (1.0)	46 (1.8)	40 (1.4)	75 (2.7)	94 (3.0)
Wicklow (East coast)	37 (1.3)	43 (1.7)	68 (2.5)	77 (2.8)	77 (2.5)
Kerry	57 (2.0)	10 (0.4)	27 (1.0)	17 (0.6)	27 (0.9)
Donegal	9 (0.3)	12 (0.5)	8 (0.3)	19 (0.7)	25 (0.8)
Sligo/Leitrim	31 (1.1)	17 (0.7)	14 (0.5)	14 (0.5)	17 (0.5)
Longford/Westmeath	51 (1.8)	44 (1.7)	33 (1.2)	47 (1.7)	76 (2.5)
Laois/Offaly	40 (1.4)	38 (1.5)	33 (1.2)	30 (1.1)	42 (1.4)
Galway	37 (1.3)	31 (1.2)	52 (1.9)	69 (2.5)	99 (3.2)
Mayo	9 (0.3)	6 (0.2)	14 (0.5)	16 (0.6)	29 (0.9)
Roscommon	16 (0.6)	6 (0.2)	9 (0.3)	16 (0.6)	25 (0.8)
Limerick	31 (1.1)	23 (0.9)	36 (1.3)	58 (2.1)	97 (3.1)
Clare	17 (0.6)	14 (0.5)	9 (0.3)	25 (0.9)	26 (0.8)
Tipperary NR	13 (0.5)	12 (0.5)	11 (0.4)	19 (0.7)	21 (0.7)
Louth	101 (3.6)	53 (2.1)	79 (2.9)	70 (2.5)	66 (2.1)
Meath	34 (1.2)	64 (2.5)	32 (1.2)	59 (2.1)	64 (2.1)

Local health office	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Number (%)				
Cavan/Monaghan	11 (0.4)	13 (0.5)	14 (0.5)	19 (0.7)	59 (1.9)
Carlow/Kilkenny	57 (2.0)	70 (2.7)	59 (2.1)	74 (2.7)	65 (2.1)
Tipperary SR	42 (1.5)	30 (1.2)	23 (0.8)	30 (1.1)	46 (1.5)
Wexford	57 (2.0)	39 (1.5)	55 (2.0)	70 (2.5)	75 (2.4)
Waterford	47 (1.7)	39 (1.5)	46 (1.7)	68 (2.4)	74 (2.4)
Cork*	209 (7.4)	98 (3.8)	138 (5.0)	145 (5.2)	201 (6.5)
LHO area unknown [†]	13 (0.5)	6 (0.2)	6 (0.2)	5 (0.2)	2 (0.1)
New cases	2097	1790	1976	2228	2419
Dublin South	45 (2.1)	19 (1.1)	19 (1.0)	33 (1.5)	26 (1.1)
Dublin South East	22 (1.0)	16 (0.9)	12 (0.6)	30 (1.3)	32 (1.3)
Dublin South City	77 (3.7)	60 (3.4)	53 (2.7)	56 (2.5)	52 (2.1)
Dublin South West	66 (3.1)	92 (5.1)	93 (4.7)	93 (4.2)	126 (5.2)
Dublin West	99 (4.7)	106 (5.9)	79 (4.0)	90 (4.0)	94 (3.9)
North West Dublin	104 (5.0)	78 (4.4)	66 (3.3)	91 (4.1)	139 (5.7)
Dublin North Central	83 (4.0)	58 (3.2)	111 (5.6)	147 (6.6)	148 (6.1)
North Dublin	82 (3.9)	70 (3.9)	87 (4.4)	87 (3.9)	110 (4.5)
Kildare and South West Wicklow	36 (1.7)	60 (3.4)	68 (3.4)	96 (4.3)	65 (2.7)
Wicklow (East coast)	28 (1.3)	21 (1.2)	19 (1.0)	26 (1.2)	35 (1.4)
Kerry	56 (2.7)	27 (1.5)	42 (2.1)	44 (2.0)	41 (1.7)
Donegal	39 (1.9)	63 (3.5)	41 (2.1)	37 (1.7)	43 (1.8)
Sligo/Leitrim	36 (1.7)	23 (1.3)	38 (1.9)	31 (1.4)	32 (1.3)
Longford/Westmeath	52 (2.5)	42 (2.3)	30 (1.5)	70 (3.1)	83 (3.4)
Laois/Offaly	83 (4.0)	65 (3.6)	75 (3.8)	46 (2.1)	56 (2.3)
Galway	50 (2.4)	36 (2.0)	58 (2.9)	55 (2.5)	95 (3.9)
Mayo	21 (1.0)	13 (0.7)	27 (1.4)	19 (0.9)	24 (1.0)
Roscommon	23 (1.1)	10 (0.6)	12 (0.6)	18 (0.8)	15 (0.6)
Limerick	68 (3.2)	65 (3.6)	70 (3.5)	108 (4.8)	192 (7.9)
Clare	34 (1.6)	27 (1.5)	28 (1.4)	40 (1.8)	36 (1.5)
Tipperary NR	31 (1.5)	20 (1.1)	24 (1.2)	26 (1.2)	22 (0.9)
Louth	119 (5.7)	121 (6.8)	115 (5.8)	138 (6.2)	80 (3.3)
Meath	92 (4.4)	94 (5.3)	79 (4.0)	111 (5.0)	111 (4.6)
Cavan/Monaghan	18 (0.9)	21 (1.2)	30 (1.5)	53 (2.4)	45 (1.9)
Carlow/Kilkenny	88 (4.2)	86 (4.8)	108 (5.5)	85 (3.8)	86 (3.6)
Tipperary SR	109 (5.2)	66 (3.7)	55 (2.8)	56 (2.5)	70 (2.9)
Wexford	92 (4.4)	90 (5.0)	126 (6.4)	133 (6.0)	162 (6.7)
Waterford	112 (5.3)	105 (5.9)	131 (6.6)	118 (5.3)	117 (4.8)
Cork*	317 (15.1)	229 (12.8)	275 (13.9)	286 (12.8)	276 (11.4)
LHO area unknown [†]	15 (0.7)	7 (0.4)	5 (0.3)	5 (0.2)	6 (0.2)
Treatment status unknown	119	161	141	182	174

* The LHO area coding for County Cork was inconsistent for the period 2003-2007.

[†] Refers to cases living in Wicklow who were not assigned a specific electoral division code and to cases living in other counties who were not assigned a specific county code; it is not possible to assign such cases to an LHO area of residence.

Incidence and prevalence of treated drug use

In order to adjust for variation in population size by geographical area, the actual incidence of treated drug use in each area was calculated using the average number of new cases over the five-year period living in each of the 10 former health board areas, 26 counties and 32 local health office areas; this average was divided by the population aged 15–64 years living in the respective former health board areas and counties, using the census figures for 2003 to 2006 and CSO estimation figures for 2007, and for local health office areas using CSO estimation figures for 2007 (Census 2007).

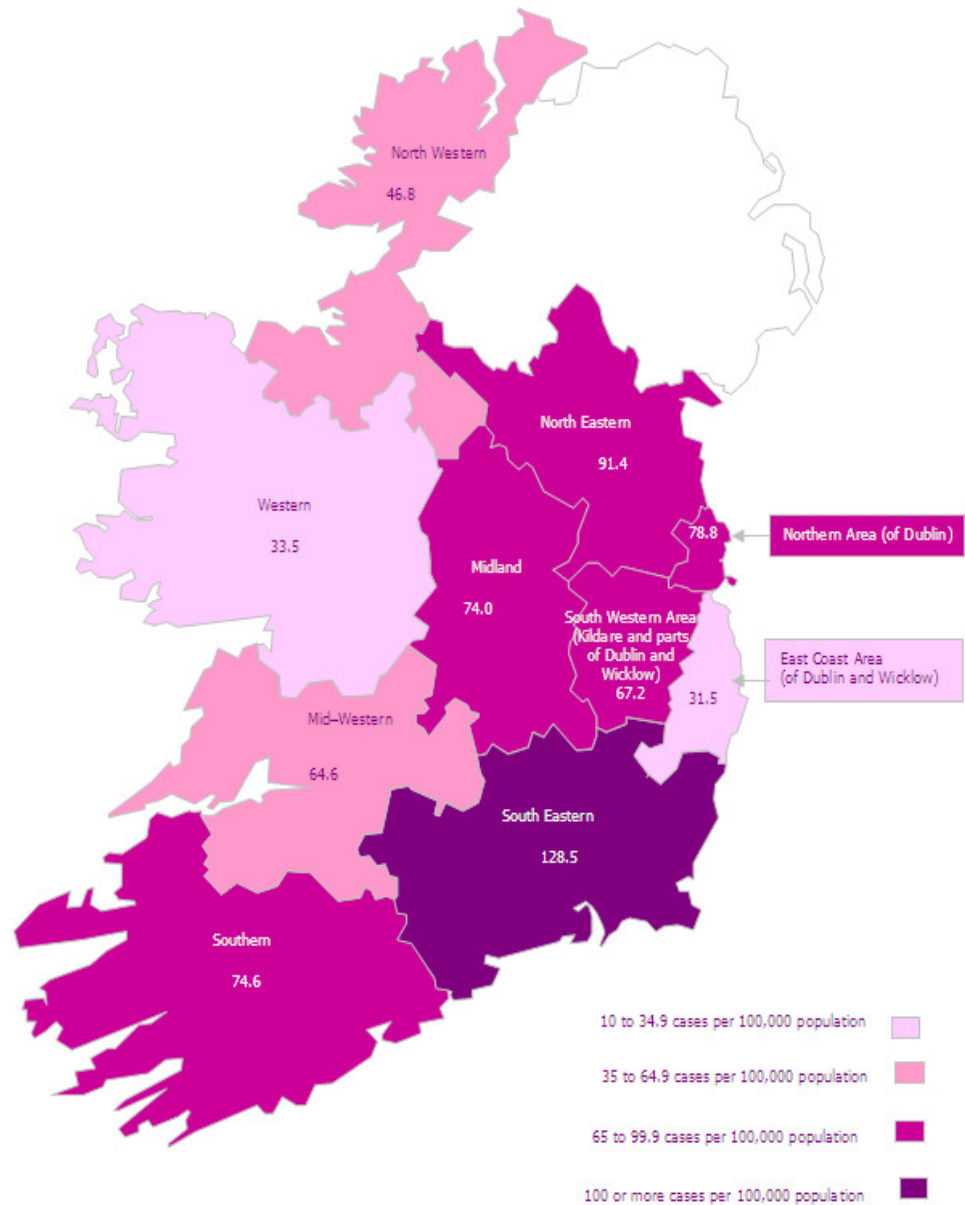


Figure 1 Average annual incidence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds living in Ireland, by former health board area of residence, based on returns to the NDTRS per 100,000 of the population, 2003 to 2007 (Central Statistics Office 2007)

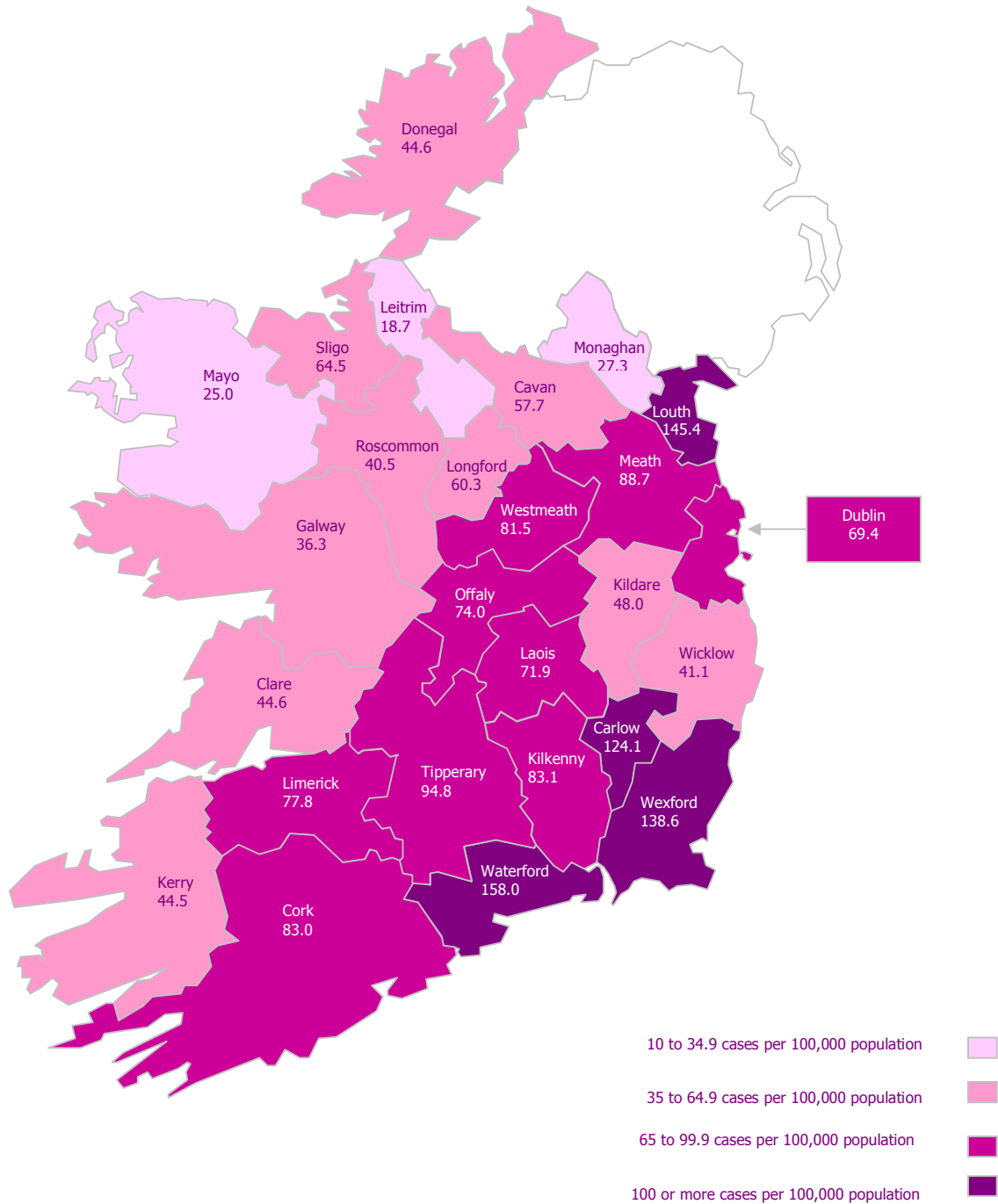


Figure 2 Average annual incidence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds living in Ireland, by county, based on returns to the NDTRS per 100,000 of the population, 2003 to 2007 (Central Statistics Office 2007)

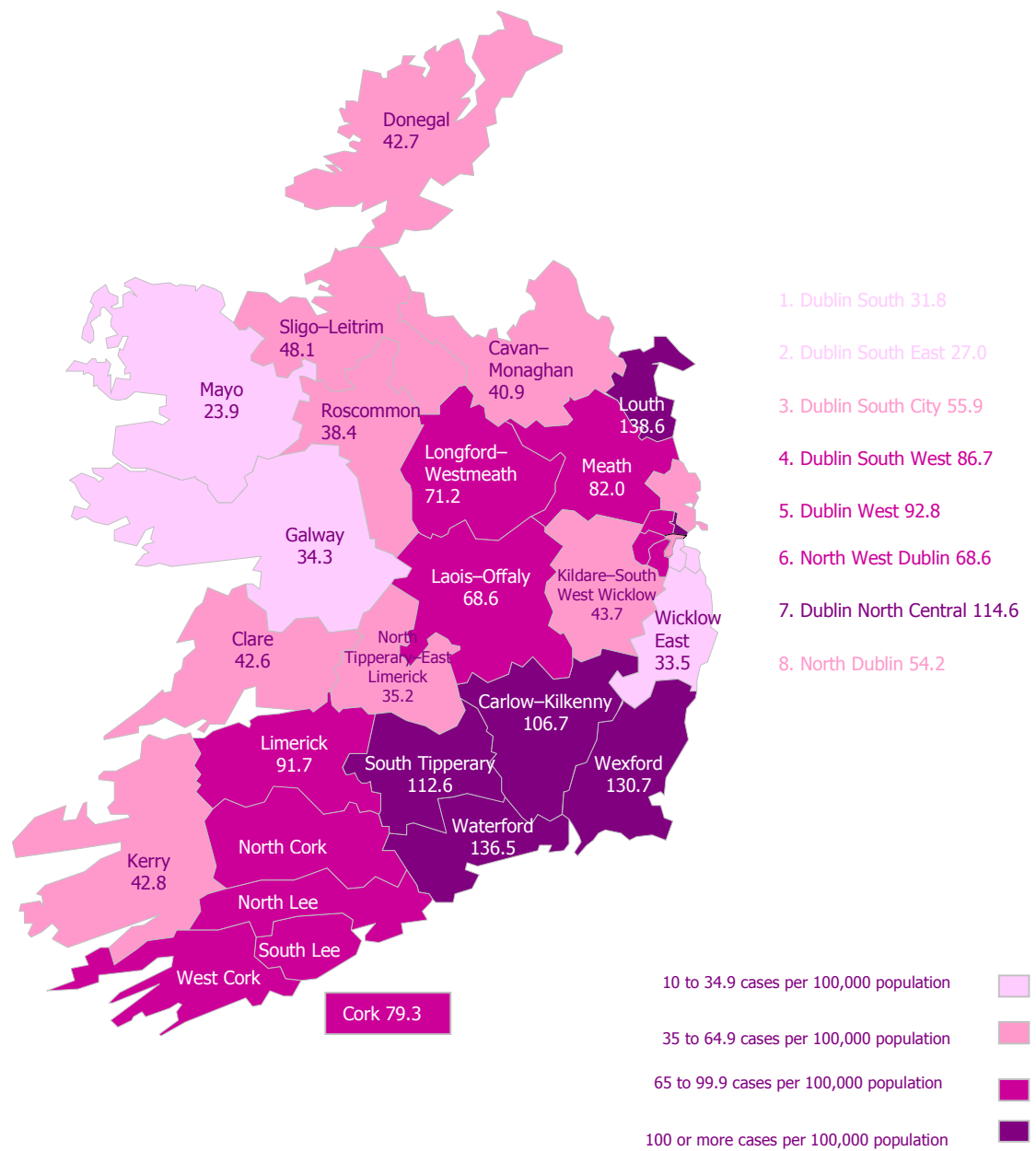


Figure 3 Average annual incidence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds living in Ireland, based on returns to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007, by local health office area, per 100,000 of the estimated 2007 population (Central Statistics Office 2007)

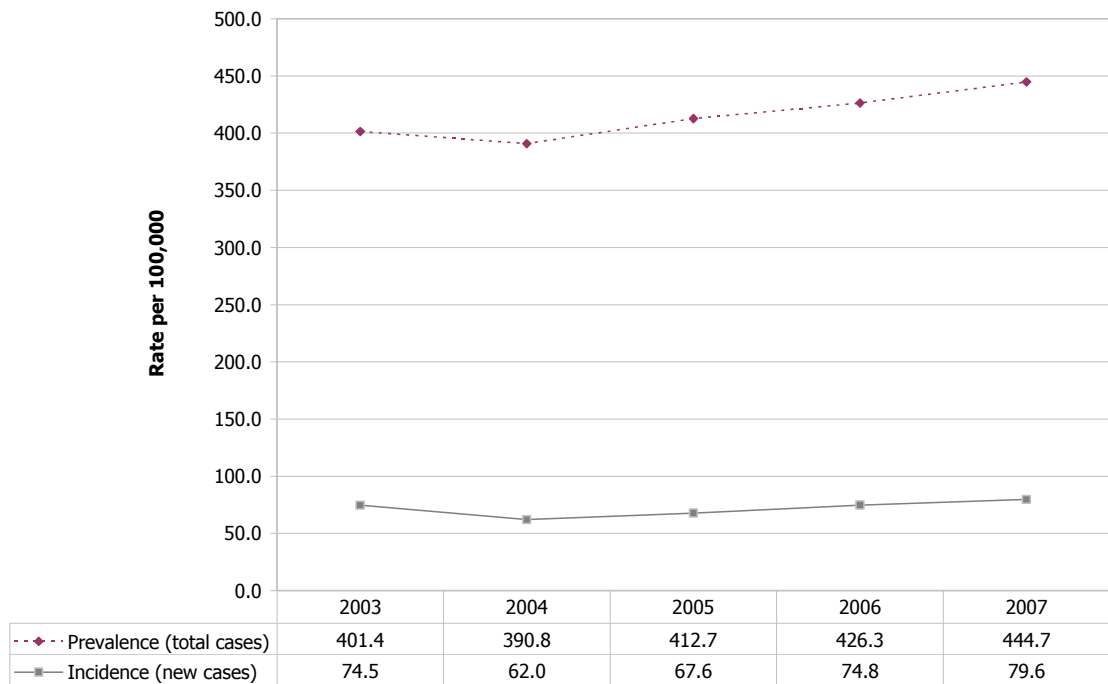


Figure 4 Incidence and prevalence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds living and treated in Ireland, based on returns to the NDTRS and the CTL per 100,000 population, 2003 to 2007 (Central Statistics Office 2007)

Main and additional problem drugs

Table 7 Main problem drug used by cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Main problem drug	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	5054	4506	4877	5191	5684
Opiates	3029 (59.9)	2863 (63.5)	3094 (63.4)	3280 (63.2)	3575 (62.9)
Ecstasy	219 (4.3)	139 (3.1)	124 (2.5)	95 (1.8)	128 (2.3)
Cocaine	253 (5.0)	331 (7.3)	467 (9.6)	552 (10.6)	770 (13.5)
Amphetamines	35 (0.7)	23 (0.5)	36 (0.7)	30 (0.6)	39 (0.7)
Benzodiazepines	76 (1.5)	103 (2.3)	75 (1.5)	96 (1.8)	163 (2.9)
Volatile inhalants	24 (0.5)	31 (0.7)	27 (0.6)	23 (0.4)	32 (0.6)
Cannabis	1384 (27.4)	991 (22.0)	1039 (21.3)	1096 (21.1)	958 (16.9)
Others	34 (0.7)	25 (0.6)	15 (0.3)	19 (0.4)	19 (0.3)
Previously treated cases*	2838	2555	2760	2781	3091
Opiates	2190 (77.2)	2108 (82.5)	2281 (82.6)	2237 (80.4)	2404 (77.8)
Ecstasy	69 (2.4)	33 (1.3)	30 (1.1)	29 (1.0)	42 (1.4)
Cocaine	96 (3.4)	119 (4.7)	175 (6.3)	194 (7.0)	290 (9.4)
Amphetamines	14 (0.5)	7 (0.3)	14 (0.5)	9 (0.3)	14 (0.5)
Benzodiazepines	49 (1.7)	50 (2.0)	30 (1.1)	40 (1.4)	72 (2.3)
Volatile inhalants	2 (0.1)	2 (0.1)	5 (0.2)	3 (0.1)	7 (0.2)
Cannabis	401 (14.1)	224 (8.8)	219 (7.9)	260 (9.3)	255 (8.2)
Others	17 (0.6)	12 (0.5)	6 (0.2)	9 (0.3)	7 (0.2)
New cases*	2097	1790	1976	2228	2419
Opiates	759 (36.2)	654 (36.5)	722 (36.5)	912 (40.9)	1032 (42.7)
Ecstasy	150 (7.2)	103 (5.8)	92 (4.7)	65 (2.9)	85 (3.5)
Cocaine	148 (7.1)	195 (10.9)	275 (13.9)	342 (15.4)	462 (19.1)
Amphetamines	21 (1.0)	16 (0.9)	22 (1.1)	21 (0.9)	25 (1.0)
Benzodiazepines	27 (1.3)	47 (2.6)	42 (2.1)	50 (2.2)	85 (3.5)
Volatile inhalants	20 (1.0)	28 (1.6)	21 (1.1)	19 (0.9)	24 (1.0)
Cannabis	955 (45.5)	736 (41.1)	794 (40.2)	809 (36.3)	694 (28.7)
Others	17 (0.8)	11 (0.6)	8 (0.4)	10 (0.4)	12 (0.5)
Treatment status unknown	119	161	141	182	174

Table 8 Use of more than one drug by cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Treatment status	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	5054	4506	4877	5191	5684
All cases who used more than one drug	3760 (74.4)	3157 (70.1)	3401 (69.7)	3692 (71.1)	3816 (67.1)
Previously treated cases	2838	2555	2760	2781	3091
Previously cases who used more than one drug	2091 (73.7)	1811 (70.9)	1934 (70.1)	2007 (72.2)	2115 (68.4)
New cases	2097	1790	1976	2228	2419
New cases who used more than one drug	1588 (75.7)	1244 (69.5)	1374 (69.5)	1555 (69.8)	1607 (66.4)
Treatment status unknown	119	161	141	182	174

Table 9 Number of problem drugs used by cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Number of problem drugs used	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	5054	4506	4877	5191	5684
One	1294 (25.6)	1349 (29.9)	1476 (30.3)	1499 (28.9)	1868 (32.9)
Two	1498 (29.6)	1252 (27.8)	1385 (28.4)	1404 (27.0)	1548 (27.2)
Three	1244 (24.6)	1128 (25.0)	1103 (22.6)	1200 (23.1)	1267 (22.3)
Four	1018 (20.1)	777 (17.2)	913 (18.7)	1088 (21.0)	1001 (17.6)
Previously treated cases	2838	2555	2760	2781	3091
One	747 (26.3)	744 (29.1)	826 (29.9)	774 (27.8)	976 (31.6)
Two	836 (29.5)	699 (27.4)	774 (28.0)	732 (26.3)	870 (28.1)
Three	702 (24.7)	679 (26.6)	646 (23.4)	669 (24.1)	678 (21.9)
Four	553 (19.5)	433 (16.9)	514 (18.6)	606 (21.8)	567 (18.3)
New cases	2097	1790	1976	2228	2419
One	509 (24.3)	546 (30.5)	602 (30.5)	673 (30.2)	812 (33.6)
Two	636 (30.3)	505 (28.2)	573 (29.0)	625 (28.1)	631 (26.1)
Three	516 (24.6)	413 (23.1)	430 (21.8)	479 (21.5)	559 (23.1)
Four	436 (20.8)	326 (18.2)	371 (18.8)	451 (20.2)	417 (17.2)
Treatment status unknown	119	161	141	182	174

Table 10 Additional problem drugs used by cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Additional problem drug(s) used*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number (%)					
All cases entering treatment	3759	3157	3401	3692	3816
Opiates	711 (18.9)	712 (22.6)	686 (20.2)	701 (19.0)	654 (17.1)
Ecstasy	968 (25.8)	631 (20.0)	645 (19.0)	597 (16.2)	638 (16.7)
Cocaine	1095 (29.1)	1029 (32.6)	1144 (33.6)	1362 (36.9)	1368 (35.8)
Amphetamines	326 (8.7)	206 (6.5)	195 (5.7)	205 (5.6)	181 (4.7)
Benzodiazepines	993 (26.4)	859 (27.2)	963 (28.3)	1043 (28.3)	932 (24.4)
Volatile inhalants	41 (1.1)	45 (1.4)	31 (0.9)	23 (0.6)	24 (0.6)
Cannabis	1445 (38.4)	1239 (39.2)	1417 (41.7)	1579 (42.8)	1630 (42.7)
Alcohol	1288 (34.3)	993 (31.5)	1136 (33.4)	1460 (39.5)	1516 (39.7)
Others	130 (3.5)	100 (3.2)	80 (2.4)	73 (2.0)	110 (2.9)
Previously treated cases	2090	1811	1934	2007	2115
Opiates	489 (23.4)	569 (31.4)	515 (26.6)	463 (23.1)	464 (21.9)
Ecstasy	367 (17.6)	214 (11.8)	223 (11.5)	197 (9.8)	235 (11.1)
Cocaine	650 (31.1)	648 (35.8)	717 (37.1)	827 (41.2)	836 (39.5)
Amphetamines	120 (5.7)	66 (3.6)	69 (3.6)	88 (4.4)	77 (3.6)
Benzodiazepines	778 (37.2)	668 (36.9)	739 (38.2)	765 (38.1)	662 (31.3)
Volatile inhalants	14 (0.7)	12 (0.7)	9 (0.5)	9 (0.4)	9 (0.4)
Cannabis	842 (40.3)	757 (41.8)	844 (43.6)	925 (46.1)	904 (42.7)
Alcohol	557 (26.7)	357 (19.7)	439 (22.7)	576 (28.7)	662 (31.3)
Others	64 (3.1)	55 (3.0)	42 (2.2)	30 (1.5)	59 (2.8)
New cases	1588	1244	1374	1555	1607
Opiates	198 (12.5)	123 (9.9)	150 (10.9)	194 (12.5)	172 (10.7)
Ecstasy	584 (36.8)	401 (32.2)	407 (29.6)	394 (25.3)	394 (24.5)
Cocaine	421 (26.5)	355 (28.5)	401 (29.2)	477 (30.7)	502 (31.2)
Amphetamines	205 (12.9)	138 (11.1)	123 (9.0)	113 (7.3)	103 (6.4)
Benzodiazepines	191 (12.0)	161 (12.9)	198 (14.4)	257 (16.5)	255 (15.9)
Volatile inhalants	27 (1.7)	31 (2.5)	20 (1.5)	14 (0.9)	14 (0.9)
Cannabis	556 (35.0)	449 (36.1)	527 (38.4)	583 (37.5)	681 (42.4)
Alcohol	707 (44.5)	599 (48.2)	663 (48.3)	846 (54.4)	816 (50.8)
Others	63 (4.0)	37 (3.0)	36 (2.6)	41 (2.6)	50 (3.1)
Treatment status unknown	81	102	93	130	94

* By cases reporting use of one, two or three additional drugs.

Table 11 Main problem drug and associated additional drugs used by new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland and reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

New cases	2694	416	1176	93	187	57	2710	35
	Main problem drug							
	Opiates	Ecstasy	Cocaine	Amphetamines	Benzo-diazepines	Volatile inhalants	Cannabis	Others
Additional problem drug(s) used*	Number (%)							
Opiates	572 (21.2) †	16 (3.8)	88 (7.5)	4 (4.3)	42 (22.5)	3 (5.3)	107 (3.9)	5 (14.3)
Ecstasy	305 (11.3)	0 (0.0)	487 (41.4)	48 (51.6)	37 (19.8)	7 (12.3)	1286 (47.5)	10 (28.6)
Cocaine	1005 (37.3)	182 (43.8)	14 (1.2)	32 (34.4)	54 (28.9)	3 (5.3)	861 (31.8)	5 (14.3)
Amphetamines	75 (2.8)	114 (27.4)	122 (10.4)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	366 (13.5)	2 (5.7)
Benzodiazepines	817 (30.3)	12 (2.9)	96 (8.2)	3 (3.2)	9 (4.8)	1 (1.8)	119 (4.4)	5 (14.3)
Volatile inhalants	8 (0.3)	7 (1.7)	6 (0.5)	1 (1.1)	3 (1.6)	6 (10.5)	75 (2.8)	0 (0.0)
Cannabis	1546 (57.4)	281 (67.5)	778 (66.2)	54 (58.1)	80 (42.8)	35 (61.4)	7 (0.3)	15 (42.9)
Alcohol	584 (21.7)	214 (51.4)	671 (57.1)	40 (43.0)	115 (61.5)	36 (63.2)	1949 (71.9)	22 (62.9)
Others	66 (2.4)	15 (3.6)	26 (2.2)	2 (2.2)	11 (5.9)	0 (0.0)	103 (3.8)	4 (11.4)

* By cases reporting use of one, two or three additional drugs.

† Additional problem drug(s) used may be a form of drug in the same family as the main problem drug.

Initial treatment provision

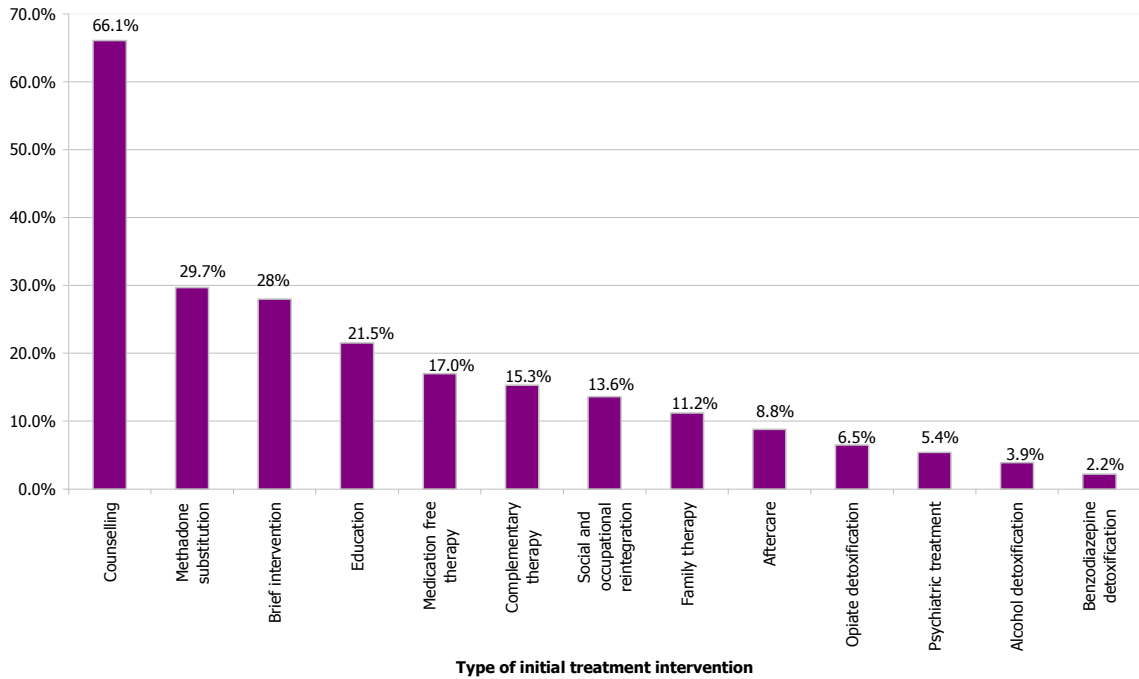


Figure 5 Percentage of cases living and entering treatment in Ireland who availed of each type of initial treatment intervention provided, reported to the NDTRS, 2007

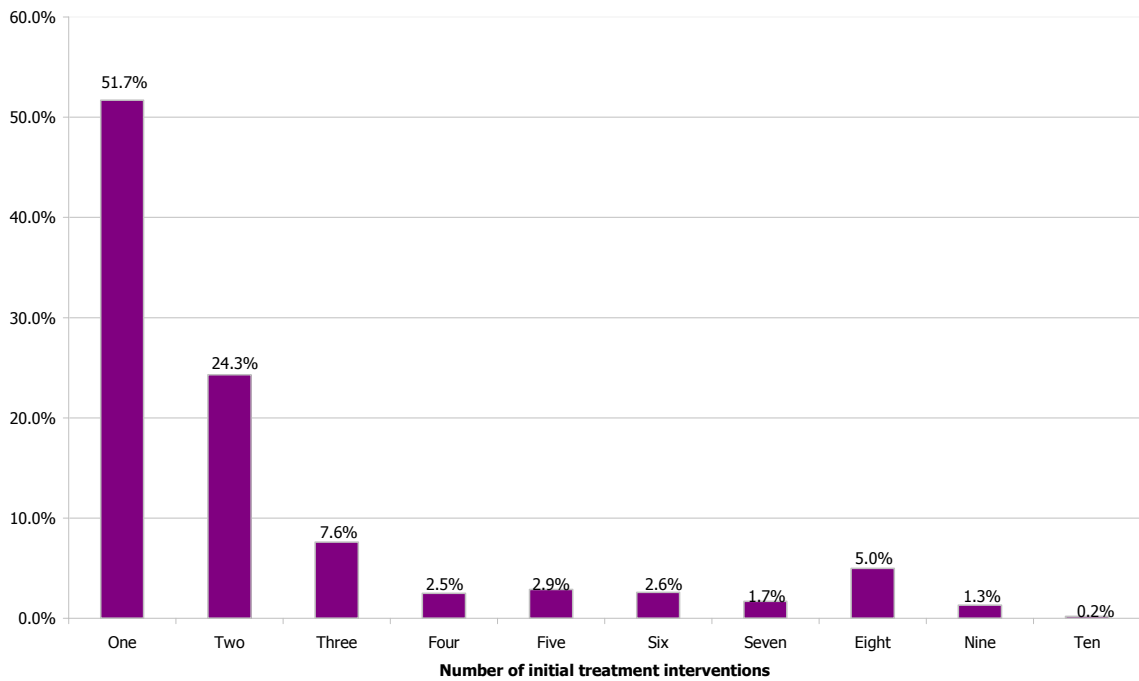


Figure 6 Percentage of cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by the number of initial treatment interventions availed of, reported to the NDTRS, 2007

Risk behaviours

Table 12 Risk behaviours reported by all cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All cases	4924	4356	4707	4992	5465
Number (%) who had ever injected	2233 (45.3)	2074 (47.6)	2164 (46.0)	2104 (42.1)	2289 (41.9)
Of whom: [†]					
Ever shared	1378 (27.3)	1245 (27.6)	1305 (26.8)	1239 (23.9)	1317 (23.2)
Currently injecting	1000 (19.8)	990 (22.0)	918 (18.8)	954 (18.4)	966 (17.0)
Median age (range*) started drug use, in years	14 (11-21)	14 (11-21)	15 (11-23)	14 (11-22)	14 (11-22)
Median age (range*) started injecting, in years	19 (15-29)	19 (15-29)	19 (14-30)	19 (15-30)	20 (15-31)
Previously treated cases	2747	2448	2639	2660	2976
Number (%) who had ever injected	1722 (62.7)	1679 (68.6)	1745 (66.1)	1595 (60.0)	1761 (59.2)
Of whom: [†]					
Ever shared	1147 (66.6)	1064 (63.4)	1112 (63.7)	1012 (63.4)	1067 (60.6)
Currently injecting	687 (39.9)	739 (44.0)	704 (40.3)	707 (44.3)	699 (39.7)
Median age (range*) started drug use, in years	14 (11-20)	14 (11-21)	14 (11-21)	14 (11-21)	14 (11-21)
Median age (range*) started injecting, in years	19 (15-28)	19 (15-29)	19 (14-30)	19 (15-29)	19 (15-30)
New cases	2075	1770	1940	2173	2362
Number (%) who had ever injected	461 (22.2)	333 (18.8)	358 (18.5)	423 (19.5)	473 (20.0)
Of whom: [†]					
Ever shared	214 (46.4)	152 (45.6)	160 (44.7)	188 (44.4)	227 (48.0)
Currently injecting	298 (64.6)	213 (64.0)	189 (52.8)	215 (50.8)	233 (49.3)
Median age (range*) started drug use, in years	15 (12-22)	15 (11-21)	15 (11-24)	15 (12-24)	15 (11-23)
Median age (range*) started injecting, in years	20 (15-31)	21 (15-34)	20 (15-31)	20 (15-32)	21 (15-33)
Treatment status unknown	102	138	128	159	127

[†] It is not possible to ascertain the exact percentage of injectors with each risk factor of interest as not all known injectors provided the relevant information.

* Age range presented is the 5th to 95th percentile (90% of cases are included within this range).

Main socio–demographic characteristics of treated cases

Table 13 Socio–demographic characteristics of cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Characteristics*	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	5054	4506	4877	5191	5684
Median age (range [†])	25 (16-41)	25 (16-40)	26 (16-41)	27 (17-42)	27 (17-42)
Under 18s	526 (10.4)	415 (9.2)	404 (8.3)	363 (7.0)	422 (7.4)
Males	3577 (70.8)	3291 (73.0)	3613 (74.1)	3983 (76.7)	4332 (76.2)
Living with parents/family	2817 (55.7)	2393 (53.1)	2536 (52.0)	2664 (51.3)	2835 (49.9)
Homeless	195 (3.9)	197 (4.4)	217 (4.4)	265 (5.1)	279 (4.9)
Non-Irish nationals	168 (3.3)	123 (2.7)	162 (3.3)	195 (3.8)	240 (4.2)
Early school leavers	974 (19.3)	892 (19.8)	986 (20.2)	1040 (20.0)	1132 (19.9)
Still at school	377 (7.5)	271 (6.0)	275 (5.6)	222 (4.3)	252 (4.4)
Employed (16-64-year-olds)	1080 (22.3)	956 (22.0)	1025 (21.8)	1069 (21.2)	1055 (19.0)
Previously treated cases	2838	2555	2760	2781	3091
Median age (range [†])	26 (19-41)	27 (19-41)	28 (19-42)	28 (19-43)	29 (19-43)
Under 18s	86 (3.0)	64 (2.5)	72 (2.6)	72 (2.6)	87 (2.8)
Males	1953 (68.8)	1782 (69.7)	1972 (71.4)	2093 (75.3)	2320 (75.1)
Living with parents/family	1454 (51.2)	1250 (48.9)	1291 (46.8)	1343 (48.3)	1396 (45.2)
Homeless	124 (4.4)	136 (5.3)	155 (5.6)	156 (5.6)	177 (5.7)
Non-Irish nationals	86 (3.0)	69 (2.7)	74 (2.7)	95 (3.4)	134 (4.3)
Early school leavers	617 (21.7)	599 (23.4)	685 (24.8)	660 (23.7)	735 (23.8)
Still at school	43 (1.5)	31 (1.2)	29 (1.1)	22 (0.8)	42 (1.4)
Employed (16-64-year-olds)	559 (19.9)	445 (17.5)	460 (16.8)	447 (16.2)	431 (14.0)
New cases	2097	1790	1976	2228	2419
Median age (range [†])	22 (15-39)	22 (15-39)	23 (15-39)	24 (15-40)	24 (16-41)
Under 18s	430 (20.5)	338 (18.9)	326 (16.5)	285 (12.8)	328 (13.6)
Males	1539 (73.4)	1392 (77.8)	1542 (78.0)	1758 (78.9)	1867 (77.2)
Living with parents/family	1323 (63.1)	1065 (59.5)	1175 (59.5)	1227 (55.1)	1353 (55.9)
Homeless	62 (3.0)	52 (2.9)	54 (2.7)	103 (4.6)	90 (3.7)
Non-Irish nationals	78 (3.7)	50 (2.8)	84 (4.3)	93 (4.2)	98 (4.1)
Early school leavers	338 (16.1)	264 (14.7)	274 (13.9)	339 (15.2)	366 (15.1)
Still at school	325 (15.5)	234 (13.1)	240 (12.1)	196 (8.8)	208 (8.6)
Employed (16-64-year-olds)	501 (26.1)	487 (29.4)	542 (29.7)	590 (28.0)	590 (25.7)
Treatment status unknown	119	161	141	182	174

* It is not possible to ascertain the percentage with each characteristic of interest from the total number because not all forms had complete data.

† Age range presented is the 5th to 95th percentile (90% of cases are included within this range).

Relationship between main problem drug and selected socio-demographic characteristics

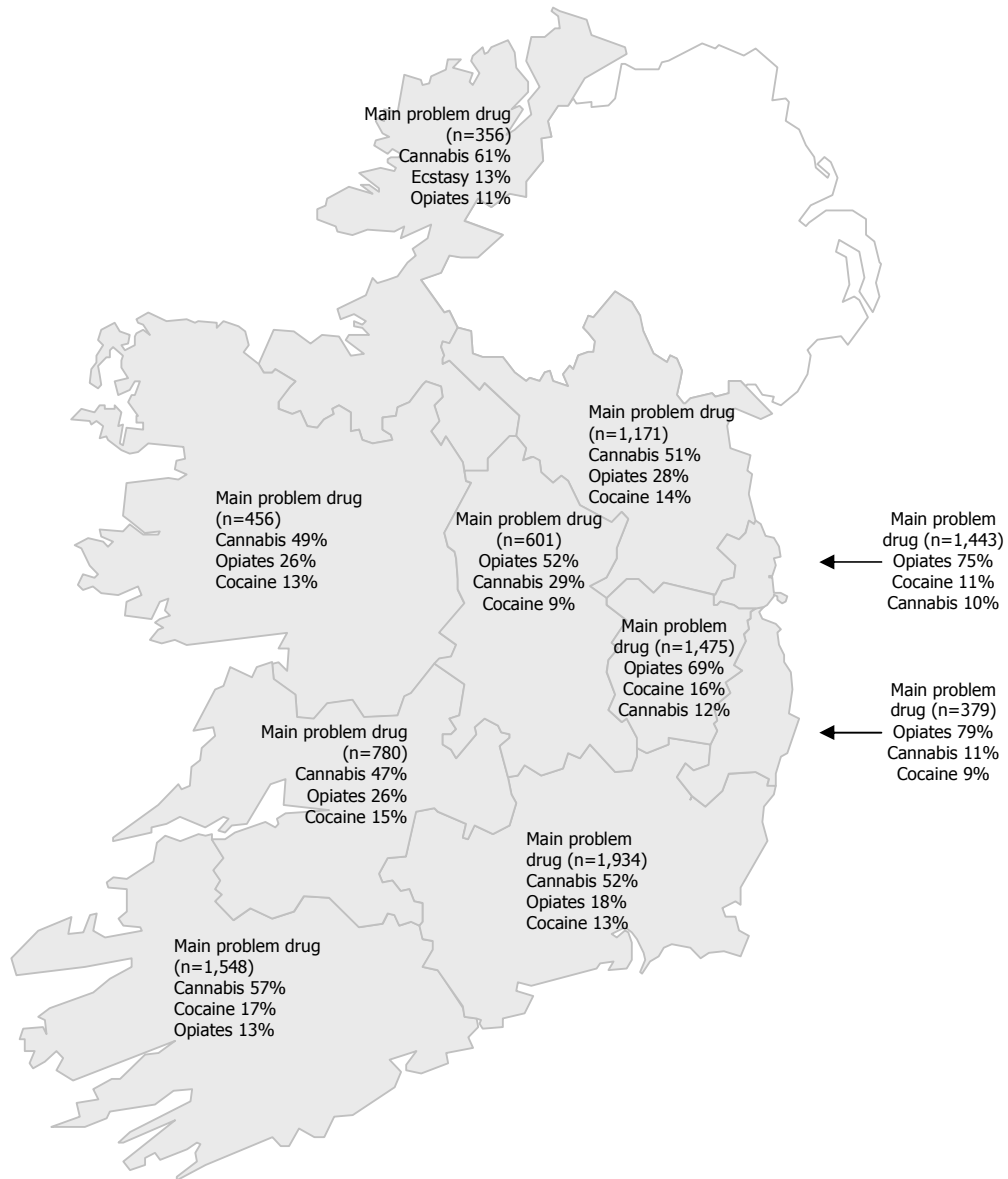


Figure 7 The three most common main problem drugs, by former health board area, for new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

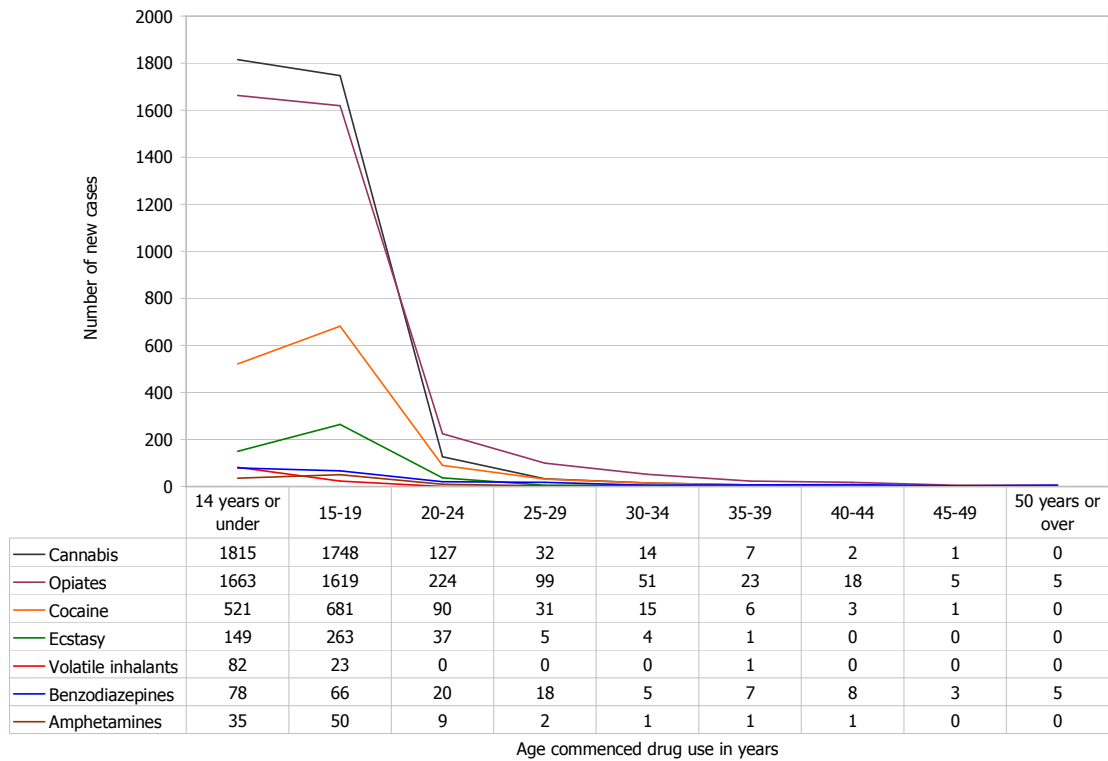


Figure 8a Age at first use of main problem drug by new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

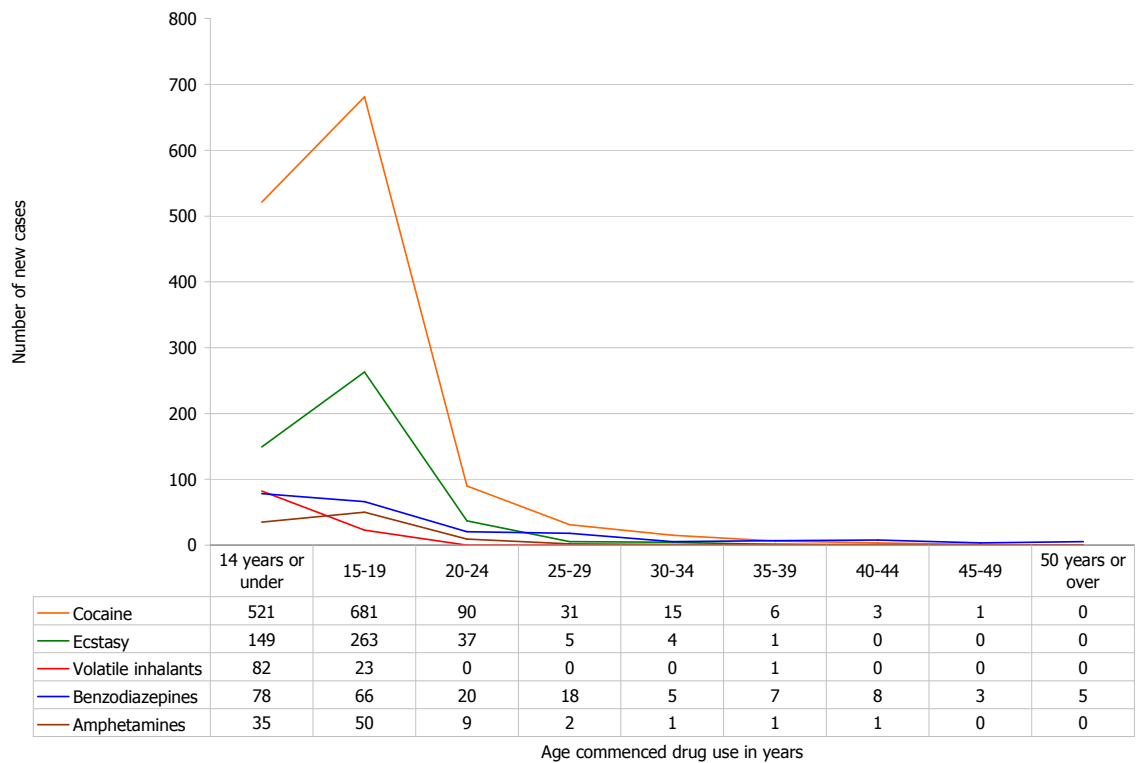


Figure 8b Age at first use of main problem drug (excluding opiates and cannabis) by new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

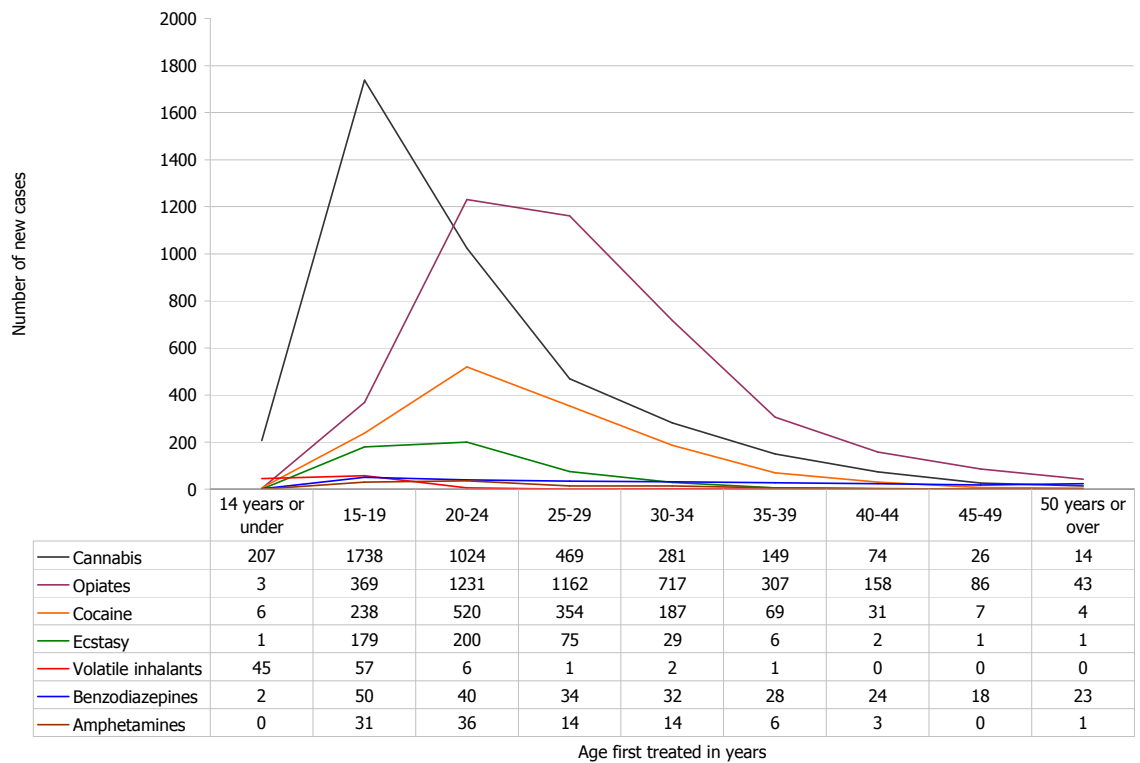


Figure 9a Age attended first treatment, by main problem drug, for new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

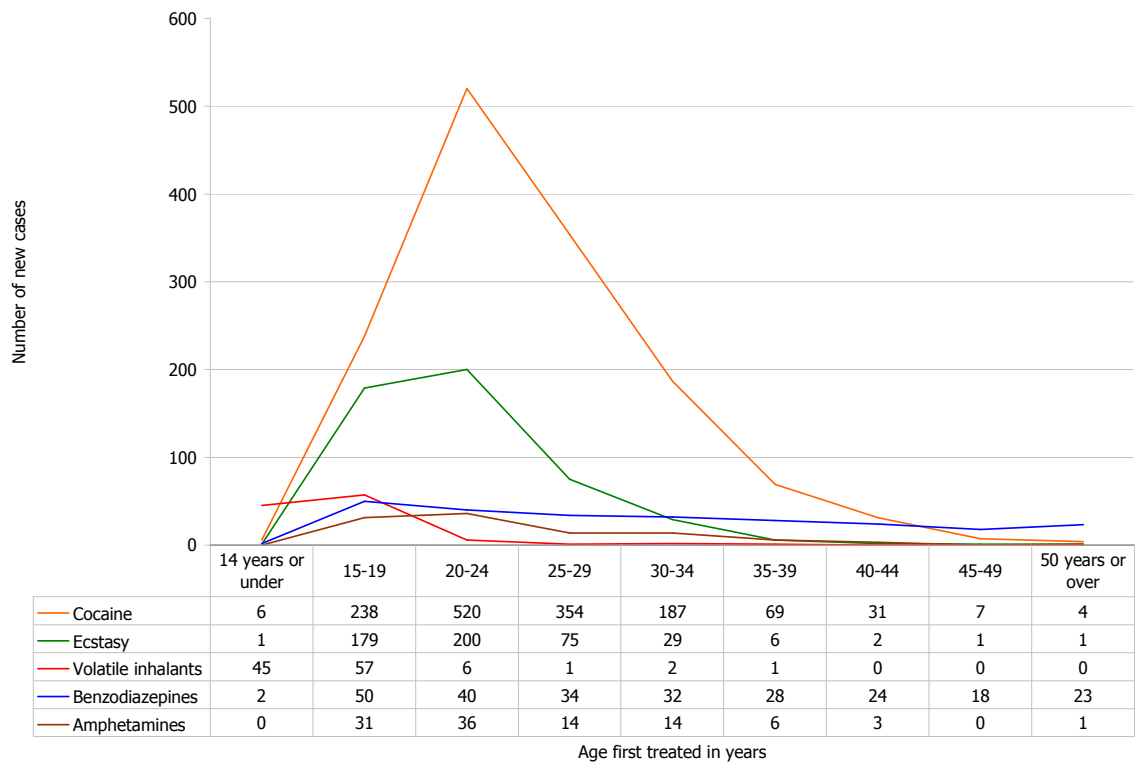


Figure 9b Age attended first treatment, by main problem drug (excluding opiates and cannabis), for new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

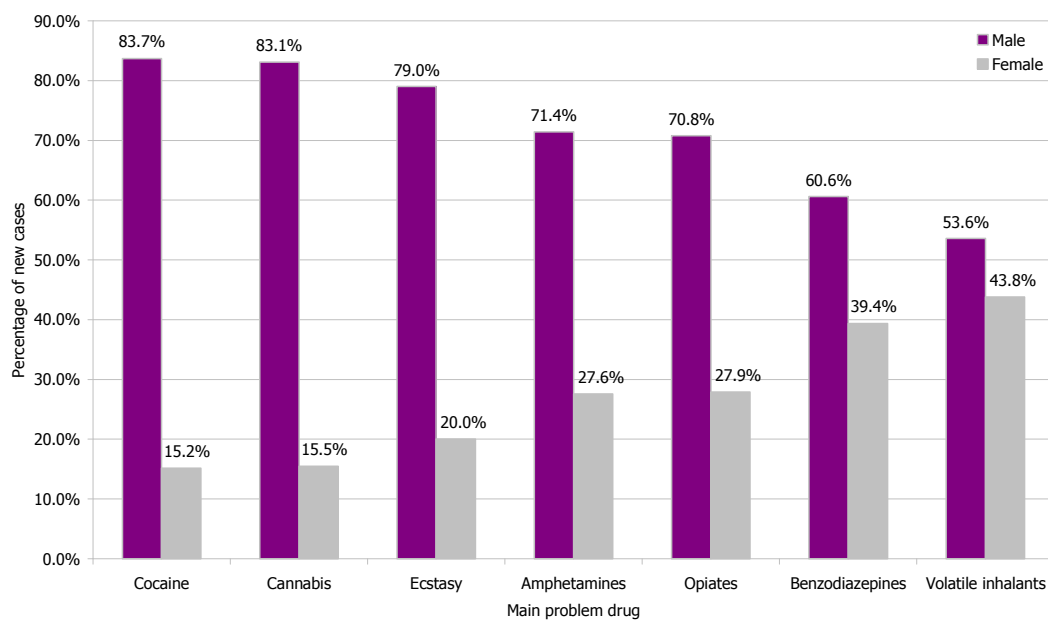


Figure 10 Main problem drug, by gender, for new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

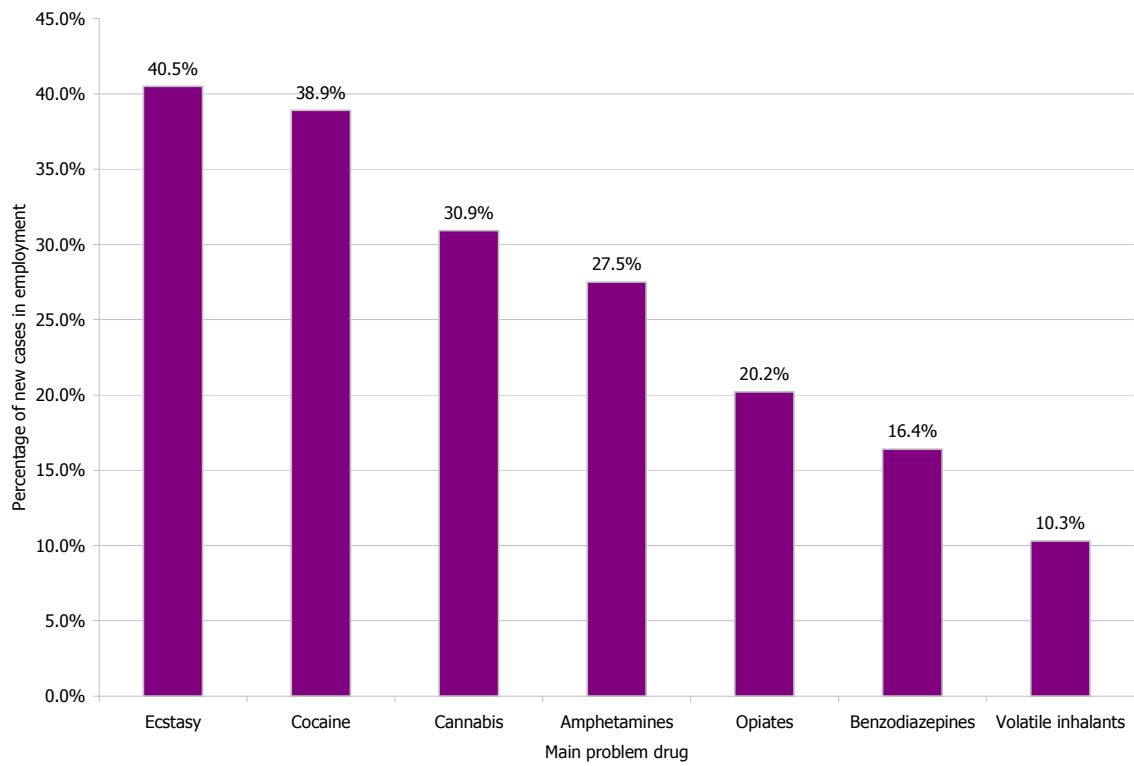


Figure 11 Main problem drug for new cases aged 16–64 years in employment and living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

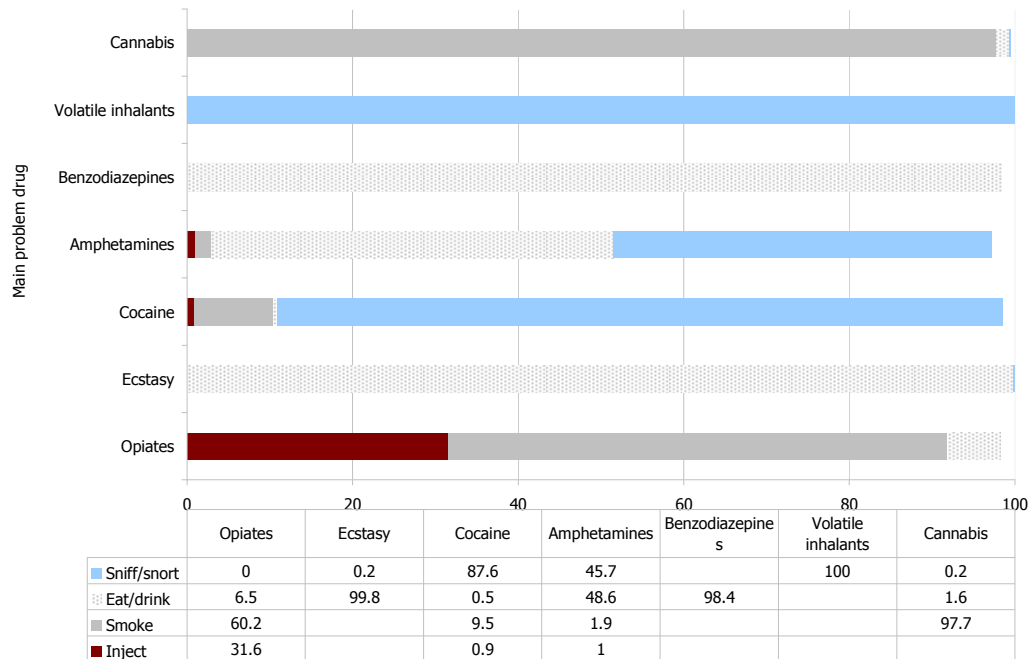


Figure 12 Route of administration of selected main problem drugs for new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Acknowledgements

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