



Treated problem drug use in Ireland

2008 figures from the National Drug Treatment Reporting System



**Alcohol and Drug Research Unit
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Summary

Significant improvements in the NDTRS 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 by HSE area of residence.

There were 14,518 cases treated in 2008, of which 6,576 entered treatment in that year. As in previous years, 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 7,643 in 2007 to 7,942 in 2008. (Tables 1 and 2)

The average annual incidence for the period 2004 to 2008 was highest in counties Waterford, Wexford, Louth, 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 9.4%, from 426 in 2006 to 466 in 2007. (Figure 4)

The numbers of 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 79.6 in 2007 to 85.8 in 2008. (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 2008 were opiates (43.9%), cannabis (31.8%) and cocaine (16.8%). The proportion of new cases treated for opiates increased in 2008, as it had in the preceding two years; however, the proportions of new cases treated for cocaine decreased between 2007 and 2008. (Table 7)

The majority (70.0%) of cases treated in 2008 reported problem use of more than one substance, which was almost 3 percentage points higher than the 2007 figure. Polysubstance use increases the complexity of these cases, and is associated with poorer treatment outcomes. (Table 8)

Cannabis (40.7%) and cocaine (36.8%) were the two most common additional problem drugs reported in 2008, as they were in 2006 and 2007. Alcohol was reported as an additional problem substance in 41.4% all treated cases. The proportion of cases treated for benzodiazepines as an additional problem substance increased by 7.5% between 2007 and 2008. (Table 10)

In total, 561 new injector cases entered treatment in 2008, an increase of 88 cases since 2007. More than two-in-five of these were still injecting on entry to treatment and 40.8% reported sharing injecting equipment, a lower percentage than in 2007. (Table 12)

In general, problem drug users in treatment are young and male, have low levels of education and are unlikely to be employed. Over 14% of all new cases treated in 2008 were aged under 18 years, a slight increase from 2007. More than 3% of previously treated cases were aged under 18 years, a slight increase from 2007. The proportion of new cases in employment decreased by more than 5% between 2007 and 2008. (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 describes all of the individuals who receive treatment for problem drug use at each treatment centre in a calendar year. All cases treated 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;
- **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 area structure.

Regional health authority	Health board	HSE area
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 region	Local health office		
Dublin North East	North West Dublin Dublin North Central	North Dublin Cavan/Monaghan	Louth Meath
Dublin Mid-Leinster	Dun Laoghaire Dublin South East Dublin South City	Dublin South West Dublin West Kildare/West Wicklow	Wicklow East Longford/Westmeath Laois/Offaly
South	Cork South Lee Cork North Lee West Cork	North Cork Kerry Carlow/Kilkenny	South Tipperary Waterford Wexford
West	Donegal Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan Galway	Mayo Roscommon North Tipperary/ 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). The NDTRS 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 Pampidou 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 supplies 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 (Corrigan and O'Gorman 2007) 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 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 these data and return completed forms to the NDTRS. ADRU staff in the HRB compile anonymous, aggregated data, which are analysed and reported at national and EU levels. Central Treatment List (CTL) staff 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 the 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.

The number of all types of services providing treatment and returning data to the NDTRS increased between 2007 and 2008. In 2008, 293 treatment services, comprising 179 outpatient services, 34 residential facilities, six low-threshold services, and 74 general practitioners returned data. The process of recruiting services that have not participated in the NDTRS to date is ongoing.

The data presented in this paper provide a description of problem drug use in Ireland by HSE area of residence. There were 64,217 cases treated between 2004 and 2008, of whom 28,006 entered treatment during that period. Of these cases, 26,529 (94%) lived in Ireland at an identified address, 1,438 (5%) lived in Ireland but had no identified address, and 69 (0.2%) did not live in Ireland. The tables presenting data on service provision and treatment status are based on the total number of 64,217 treated cases (Tables 1 and 2). Table 3 presents data on the 28,006 cases who entered treatment during the period under review. The remainder of the tables relates to the 26,529 cases who entered treatment and whose HSE region of residence 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) (NDTRS 2004–2008)

Type of treatment facility	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of services (Number of cases treated)					
All cases in treatment	(11235)	(12100)	(12744)	(13620)	(14518)
Outpatient	144 (7487)	146 (8156)	146 (8626)	173 (9258)	179 (9987)
Residential	19 (739)	21 (827)	23 (994)	27 (1075)	34 (1160)
Low threshold*	3 (310)	3 (289)	3 (234)	5 (126)	6 (159)
General practitioner	95 (2699)	99 (2828)	66 (2890)	83 (3161)	74 (3212)

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

Numbers of cases treated

Table 2 Number (%) of cases in treatment, by treatment status (NDTRS 2004–2008)

Treatment status	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number (%)					
All cases in treatment	11235	12100	12744	13620	14518
Cases continuing in methadone treatment from previous year*	6433 (57.3)	6924 (57.2)	7269 (57.0)	7643 (56.1)	7942 (54.7)
Entries to treatment each year	4802	5176	5475	5977	6576
Of which:					
Previously treated cases returning to treatment	2765 (24.6)	2970 (24.5)	3000 (23.5)	3309 (24.3)	3700 (25.4)
New cases	1858 (16.5)	2054 (17.0)	2278 (17.9)	2476 (18.2)	2716 (18.7)
Treatment status unknown†	179 (1.6)	152 (1.3)	197 (1.5)	192 (1.4)	160 (2.4)

* Data provided by the Central Treatment List.

† Relevant data not recorded on the NDTRS form returned.

Table 3 Number (%) of cases entering treatment, by place of residence (NDTRS 2004–2008)

Place of residence	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number (%)					
All cases entering treatment	4802	5176	5475	5977	6576
Specified HSE region	4506 (93.8)	4877 (94.2)	5191 (94.8)	5684 (95.0)	6271 (95.4)
Ireland unknown	291 (6.1)	290 (5.6)	273 (5.0)	288 (4.8)	294 (4.5)
Not resident in Ireland	5 (0.1)	9 (0.2)	11 (0.2)	5 (0.1)	11 (0.1)

The tables and figures presented from this point on exclude cases whose HSE region of residence is not known, and cases who are not normally resident in Ireland.

Table 4 Number (%) of cases entering treatment, by HSE region of residence and by treatment status (NDTRS 2004–2008)

HSE region of residence	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	4506	4877	5191	5684	6271
Dublin North East	1347 (29.9)	1484 (30.4)	1510 (29.1)	1507 (26.5)	1721 (27.4)
Dublin Mid-Leinster	1870 (41.5)	1876 (38.5)	1996 (38.5)	2149 (37.8)	2313 (36.9)
South	886 (19.7)	1047 (21.5)	1104 (21.3)	1210 (21.3)	1299 (20.7)
West	403 (8.9)	470 (9.6)	581 (11.2)	818 (14.4)	938 (15.0)
Previously treated cases	2555	2760	2781	3091	3464
Dublin North East	850 (33.3)	942 (34.1)	810 (29.1)	813 (26.3)	895 (25.8)
Dublin Mid-Leinster	1303 (51.0)	1331 (48.2)	1347 (48.4)	1476 (47.8)	1596 (46.1)
South	281 (11.0)	334 (12.1)	388 (14.0)	463 (15.0)	547 (15.8)
West	121 (4.7)	153 (5.5)	236 (8.5)	339 (11.0)	426 (12.3)
New cases	1790	1976	2228	2419	2654
Dublin North East	442 (24.7)	488 (24.7)	629 (28.2)	634 (26.2)	776 (29.2)
Dublin Mid-Leinster	503 (28.1)	489 (24.7)	567 (25.4)	599 (24.8)	651 (24.5)
South	588 (32.8)	700 (35.4)	698 (31.3)	727 (30.1)	731 (27.5)
West	257 (14.4)	299 (15.1)	334 (15.0)	459 (19.0)	496 (18.7)
Treatment status unknown	161	141	182	174	153

Table 5 Number (%) of cases entering treatment, by former health board area of residence and by treatment status (NDTRS 2004–2008)

Former health board area of residence	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	4506	4877	5191	5684	6271
Southern	378 (8.4)	490 (10.0)	513 (9.9)	556 (9.8)	629 (10.0)
North Western	118 (2.6)	108 (2.2)	102 (2.0)	120 (2.1)	149 (2.4)
Midland	196 (4.3)	175 (3.6)	195 (3.8)	267 (4.7)	235 (3.7)
Western	105 (2.3)	178 (3.6)	193 (3.7)	290 (5.1)	404 (6.4)
Mid-Western	180 (4.0)	184 (3.8)	286 (5.5)	408 (7.2)	385 (6.1)
North Eastern	374 (8.3)	365 (7.5)	470 (9.1)	436 (7.7)	449 (7.2)
South Eastern	529 (11.7)	609 (12.5)	636 (12.3)	708 (12.5)	734 (11.7)
East Coast Area(of Dublin and Wicklow)	202 (4.5)	236 (4.8)	299 (5.8)	325 (5.7)	317 (5.1)
South Western Area (of Dublin and Wicklow and all of Kildare)	1420 (31.5)	1388 (28.5)	1443 (27.8)	1490 (26.2)	1680 (26.8)
Northern Area (Dublin city and county)	973 (21.6)	1119 (22.9)	1040 (20.0)	1071 (18.8)	1272 (20.3)
Address in Ireland unknown*	31 (0.7)	25 (0.5)	14 (0.3)	13 (0.2)	17 (0.3)
Previously treated cases	2555	2760	2781	3091	3464
Southern	108 (4.2)	165 (6.0)	165 (5.9)	228 (7.4)	257 (7.4)
North Western	29 (1.1)	22 (0.8)	33 (1.2)	42 (1.4)	49 (1.4)
Midland	82 (3.2)	66 (2.4)	77 (2.8)	118 (3.8)	82 (2.4)
Western	43 (1.7)	75 (2.7)	101 (3.6)	153 (4.9)	211 (6.1)
Mid-Western	49 (1.9)	56 (2.0)	102 (3.7)	144 (4.7)	166 (4.8)
North Eastern	130 (5.1)	125 (4.5)	148 (5.3)	189 (6.1)	176 (5.1)
South Eastern	178 (7.0)	183 (6.6)	242 (8.7)	260 (8.4)	323 (9.3)
East Coast Area (of Dublin and Wicklow)	140 (5.5)	180 (6.5)	195 (7.0)	216 (7.0)	216 (6.2)
South Western Area (of Dublin and Wicklow and all of Kildare)	1064 (41.6)	1060 (38.4)	1050 (37.8)	1114 (36.0)	1256 (36.3)
Northern Area (Dublin city and county)	720 (28.2)	817 (29.6)	662 (23.8)	624 (20.2)	719 (20.8)
Address in Ireland unknown*	12 (0.5)	11 (0.4)	6 (0.2)	3 (0.1)	9 (0.3)
New cases	1790	1976	2228	2419	2654
Southern	257 (14.4)	317 (16.0)	332 (14.9)	317 (13.1)	359 (13.5)
North Western	86 (4.8)	79 (4.0)	68 (3.1)	75 (3.1)	96 (3.6)
Midland	107 (6.0)	105 (5.3)	116 (5.2)	139 (5.7)	141 (5.3)
Western	59 (3.3)	97 (4.9)	92 (4.1)	134 (5.5)	190 (7.2)
Mid-Western	112 (6.3)	123 (6.2)	174 (7.8)	250 (10.3)	210 (7.9)
North Eastern	236 (13.2)	224 (11.3)	303 (13.6)	236 (9.8)	264 (9.9)
South Eastern	347 (19.4)	420 (21.3)	392 (17.6)	435 (18.0)	402 (15.1)
East Coast Area (of Dublin and Wicklow)	56 (3.1)	50 (2.5)	89 (4.0)	93 (3.8)	88 (3.3)
South Western Area (of Dublin and Wicklow and all of Kildare)	307 (17.2)	283 (14.3)	328 (14.7)	332 (13.7)	385 (14.5)
Northern Area (Dublin city and county)	206 (11.5)	264 (13.4)	326 (14.6)	398 (16.5)	512 (19.3)
Address in Ireland unknown*	17 (0.9)	14 (0.7)	8 (0.4)	10 (0.4)	7 (0.3)
Treatment status unknown	161	141	182	174	153

*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, by local health office (LHO) area of residence and by treatment status (NDTRS 2004–2008)

Local health office area of residence	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	4506	4877	5191	5684	6271
Dun Laoghaire	70 (1.6)	87 (1.8)	118 (2.3)	112 (2.0)	125 (2.0)
Dublin South East	64 (1.4)	60 (1.2)	68 (1.3)	92 (1.6)	76 (1.2)
Dublin South City	362 (8.0)	344 (7.1)	318 (6.1)	336 (5.9)	419 (6.7)
Dublin South West	420 (9.3)	422 (8.7)	482 (9.3)	485 (8.5)	556 (8.9)
Dublin West	546 (12.1)	531 (10.9)	475 (9.2)	503 (8.8)	524 (8.4)
North West Dublin	307 (6.8)	326 (6.7)	354 (6.8)	394 (6.9)	568 (9.1)
Dublin North Central	382 (8.5)	524 (10.7)	414 (8.0)	390 (6.9)	402 (6.4)
North Dublin	284 (6.3)	266 (5.5)	272 (5.2)	287 (5.0)	302 (4.8)
Kildare/West Wicklow	109 (2.4)	109 (2.2)	177 (3.4)	171 (3.0)	194 (3.1)
Wicklow (east coast)	68 (1.5)	89 (1.8)	113 (2.2)	121 (2.1)	116 (1.8)
Kerry	39 (0.9)	69 (1.4)	63 (1.2)	68 (1.2)	73 (1.2)
Donegal	76 (1.7)	53 (1.1)	56 (1.1)	69 (1.2)	71 (1.1)
Sligo/Leitrim	42 (0.9)	55 (1.1)	46 (0.9)	51 (0.9)	78 (1.2)
Longford/Westmeath	89 (2.0)	66 (1.4)	119 (2.3)	164 (2.9)	118 (1.9)
Laois/Offaly	107 (2.4)	109 (2.2)	76 (1.5)	103 (1.8)	117 (1.9)
Galway	69 (1.5)	115 (2.4)	124 (2.4)	196 (3.4)	275 (4.4)
Mayo	20 (0.4)	41 (0.8)	35 (0.7)	53 (0.9)	70 (1.1)
Roscommon	16 (0.4)	22 (0.5)	34 (0.7)	41 (0.7)	59 (0.9)
Limerick	105 (2.3)	111 (2.3)	172 (3.3)	300 (5.3)	269 (4.3)
Clare	42 (0.9)	37 (0.8)	67 (1.3)	65 (1.1)	56 (0.9)
North Tipperary/East Limerick	33 (0.7)	35 (0.7)	47 (0.9)	43 (0.8)	60 (1.0)
Louth	179 (4.0)	205 (4.2)	220 (4.2)	150 (2.6)	146 (2.3)
Meath	159 (3.5)	113 (2.3)	175 (3.4)	182 (3.2)	196 (3.1)
Cavan/Monaghan	36 (0.8)	47 (1.0)	74 (1.4)	104 (1.8)	107 (1.7)
Carlow/Kilkenny	157 (3.5)	168 (3.4)	159 (3.1)	161 (2.8)	194 (3.1)
South Tipperary	96 (2.1)	78 (1.6)	86 (1.7)	117 (2.1)	142 (2.3)
Wexford	131 (2.9)	185 (3.8)	203 (3.9)	238 (4.2)	213 (3.4)
Waterford	145 (3.2)	178 (3.6)	188 (3.6)	192 (3.4)	183 (2.9)
Cork	338 (7.5)	421 (8.6)	445 (8.6)	488 (8.6)	556 (8.9)
Cork – North Lee*	*	*	*	*	271 (4.3)
Cork – South Lee*	*	*	*	*	185 (3.0)
North Cork*	*	*	*	*	60 (1.0)
West Cork*	*	*	*	*	40 (0.6)
LHO area unknown†	15 (0.3)	11 (0.2)	11 (0.2)	8 (0.1)	6 (0.1)
Previously treated cases	2555	2760	2781	3091	3464
Dun Laoghaire	49 (1.9)	65 (2.4)	83 (3.0)	84 (2.7)	82 (2.4)
Dublin South East	48 (1.9)	47 (1.7)	35 (1.3)	55 (1.8)	59 (1.7)
Dublin South City	295 (11.5)	286 (10.4)	247 (8.9)	276 (8.9)	337 (9.7)
Dublin South West	307 (12.0)	315 (11.4)	369 (13.3)	349 (11.3)	415 (12.0)
Dublin West	422 (16.5)	424 (15.1)	362 (13.1)	396 (12.8)	409 (11.8)
North West Dublin	217 (8.5)	249 (9.0)	242 (8.7)	237 (7.7)	331 (9.6)
Dublin North Central	308 (12.1)	396 (14.3)	246 (8.8)	224 (7.2)	223 (6.4)
North Dublin	195 (7.6)	172 (6.2)	174 (6.3)	163 (5.3)	165 (4.8)
Kildare/West Wicklow	46 (1.8)	40 (1.4)	75 (2.7)	94 (3.0)	101 (2.9)
Wicklow (east coast)	43 (1.7)	68 (2.5)	77 (2.8)	77 (2.5)	75 (2.2)
Kerry	10 (0.4)	27 (1.0)	17 (0.6)	27 (0.9)	22 (0.6)
Donegal	12 (0.5)	8 (0.3)	19 (0.7)	25 (0.8)	22 (0.6)
Sligo/Leitrim	17 (0.7)	14 (0.5)	14 (0.5)	17 (0.5)	27 (0.8)
Longford/Westmeath	44 (1.7)	33 (1.2)	47 (1.7)	76 (2.5)	53 (1.5)
Laois/Offaly	38 (1.5)	33 (1.2)	30 (1.1)	42 (1.4)	29 (0.8)
Galway	31 (1.2)	52 (1.9)	69 (2.5)	99 (3.2)	128 (3.7)
Mayo	6 (0.2)	14 (0.5)	16 (0.6)	29 (0.9)	47 (1.4)
Roscommon	6 (0.2)	9 (0.3)	16 (0.6)	25 (0.8)	36 (1.0)
Limerick	23 (0.9)	36 (1.3)	58 (2.1)	97 (3.1)	128 (3.7)
Clare	14 (0.5)	9 (0.3)	25 (0.9)	26 (0.8)	18 (0.5)
North Tipperary/East Limerick	12 (0.5)	11 (0.4)	19 (0.7)	21 (0.7)	20 (0.6)
Louth	53 (2.1)	79 (2.9)	70 (2.5)	66 (2.1)	50 (1.4)
Meath	64 (2.5)	32 (1.2)	59 (2.1)	64 (2.1)	86 (2.5)
Cavan/Monaghan	13 (0.5)	14 (0.5)	19 (0.7)	59 (1.9)	40 (1.2)

Local health office area of residence	2004	2005	2006		2007	2008
			Number	(%)		
Carlow/Kilkenny	70 (2.7)	59 (2.1)	74 (2.7)		65 (2.1)	92 (2.7)
South Tipperary	30 (1.2)	23 (0.8)	30 (1.1)		46 (1.5)	50 (1.4)
Wexford	39 (1.5)	55 (2.0)	70 (2.5)		75 (2.4)	95 (2.7)
Waterford	39 (1.5)	46 (1.7)	68 (2.4)		74 (2.4)	86 (2.5)
Cork	98 (3.8)	138 (5.0)	145 (5.2)		201 (6.5)	235 (6.7)
Cork - North Lee*	*	*	*		*	112 (3.2)
Cork - South Lee*	*	*	*		*	79 (2.3)
North Cork*	*	*	*		*	29 (0.8)
West Cork*	*	*	*		*	15 (0.4)
LHO area unknown†	6 (0.2)	6 (0.2)	5 (0.2)		2 (0.1)	3 (0.1)
New cases	1790	1976	2228		2419	2654
Dun Laoghaire	19 (1.1)	19 (1.0)	33 (1.5)		26 (1.1)	35 (1.3)
Dublin South East	16 (0.9)	12 (0.6)	30 (1.3)		32 (1.3)	15 (0.6)
Dublin South City	60 (3.4)	53 (2.7)	56 (2.5)		52 (2.1)	74 (2.8)
Dublin South West	92 (5.1)	93 (4.7)	93 (4.2)		126 (5.2)	127 (4.8)
Dublin West	106 (5.9)	79 (4.0)	89 (4.0)		93 (3.8)	109 (4.1)
North West Dublin	78 (4.4)	66 (3.3)	92 (4.1)		140 (5.8)	225 (8.5)
Dublin North Central	58 (3.2)	111 (5.6)	147 (6.6)		148 (6.1)	160 (6.0)
North Dublin	70 (3.9)	87 (4.4)	87 (3.9)		110 (4.5)	127 (4.8)
Kildare/West Wicklow	60 (3.4)	68 (3.4)	96 (4.3)		65 (2.7)	81 (3.1)
Wicklow (east coast)	21 (1.2)	19 (1.0)	26 (1.2)		35 (1.4)	38 (1.4)
Kerry	27 (1.5)	42 (2.1)	44 (2.0)		41 (1.7)	50 (1.9)
Donegal	63 (3.5)	41 (2.1)	37 (1.7)		43 (1.8)	47 (1.8)
Sligo/Leitrim	23 (1.3)	38 (1.9)	31 (1.4)		32 (1.3)	49 (1.8)
Longford/Westmeath	42 (2.3)	30 (1.5)	70 (3.1)		83 (3.4)	60 (2.3)
Laois/Offaly	65 (3.6)	75 (3.8)	46 (2.1)		56 (2.3)	81 (3.1)
Galway	36 (2.0)	58 (2.9)	55 (2.5)		95 (3.9)	144 (5.4)
Mayo	13 (0.7)	27 (1.4)	19 (0.9)		24 (1.0)	23 (0.9)
Roscommon	10 (0.6)	12 (0.6)	18 (0.8)		15 (0.6)	23 (0.9)
Limerick	65 (3.6)	70 (3.5)	108 (4.8)		192 (7.9)	134 (5.0)
Clare	27 (1.5)	28 (1.4)	40 (1.8)		36 (1.5)	37 (1.4)
North Tipperary/East Limerick	20 (1.1)	24 (1.2)	26 (1.2)		22 (0.9)	39 (1.5)
Louth	121 (6.8)	115 (5.8)	138 (6.2)		80 (3.3)	91 (3.4)
Meath	94 (5.3)	79 (4.0)	111 (5.0)		111 (4.6)	106 (4.0)
Cavan/Monaghan	21 (1.2)	30 (1.5)	53 (2.4)		45 (1.9)	67 (2.5)
Carlow/Kilkenny	86 (4.8)	108 (5.5)	85 (3.8)		86 (3.6)	98 (3.7)
South Tipperary	66 (3.7)	55 (2.8)	56 (2.5)		70 (2.9)	91 (3.4)
Wexford	90 (5.0)	126 (6.4)	133 (6.0)		162 (6.7)	117 (4.4)
Waterford	105 (5.9)	131 (6.6)	118 (5.3)		117 (4.8)	96 (3.6)
Cork	229 (12.8)	275 (13.9)	286 (12.8)		276 (11.4)	309 (11.7)*
Cork - North Lee*	*	*	*		*	154 (5.8)
Cork - South Lee*	*	*	*		*	103 (3.9)
North Cork*	*	*	*		*	28 (1.1)
West Cork*	*	*	*		*	24 (0.9)
LHO area unknown†	7 (0.4)	5 (0.3)	5 (0.2)		6 (0.2)	1 (0.0)
Treatment status unknown	161	141	182		174	153

* 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 estimated figures for 2007 and 2008, and for local health office areas using CSO estimated figures for 2008 (CSO 2009).

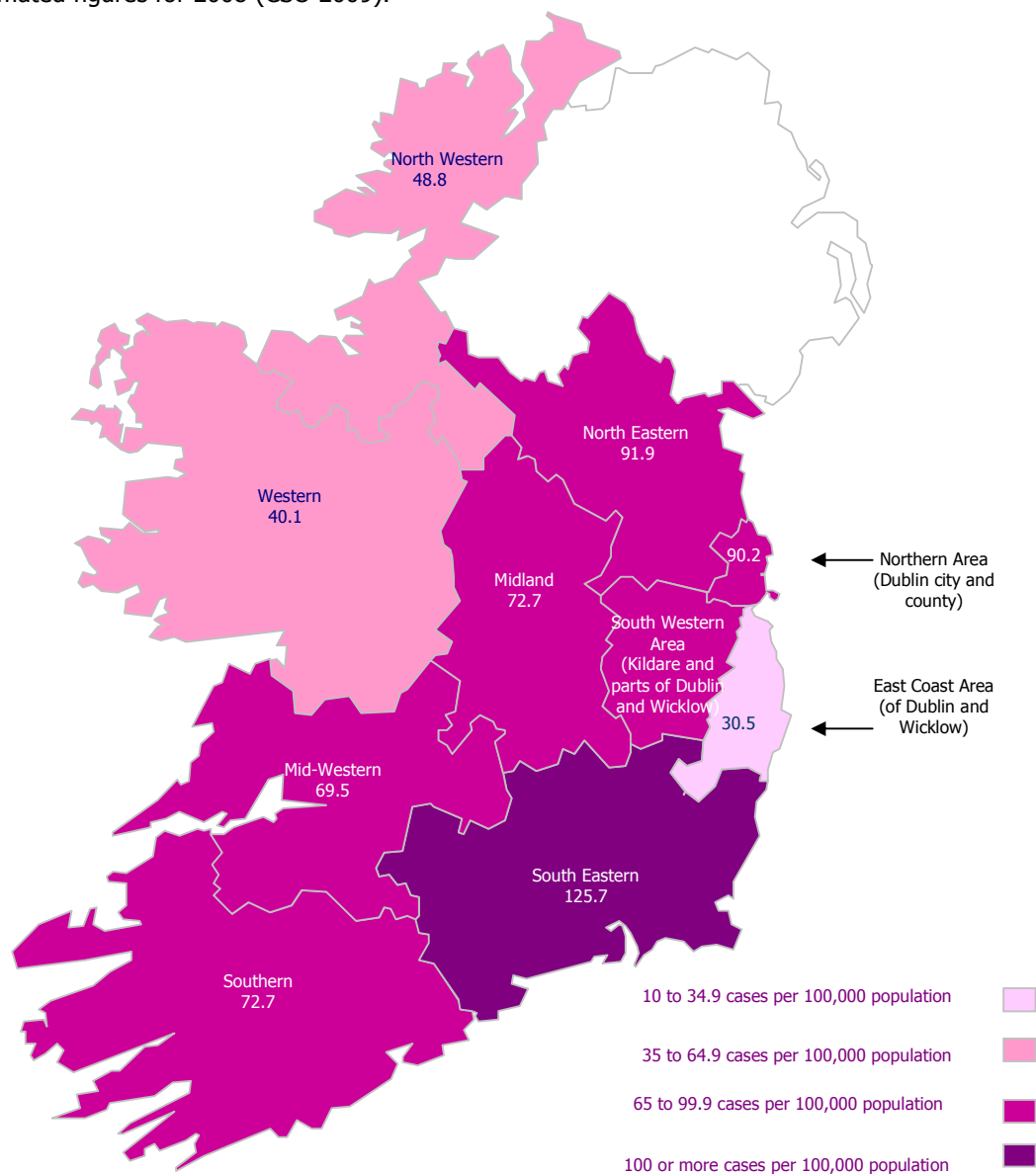


Figure 1 Average annual incidence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds, by former health board area of residence, per 100,000 of the population (NDTRS 2004–2008; CSO 2009)

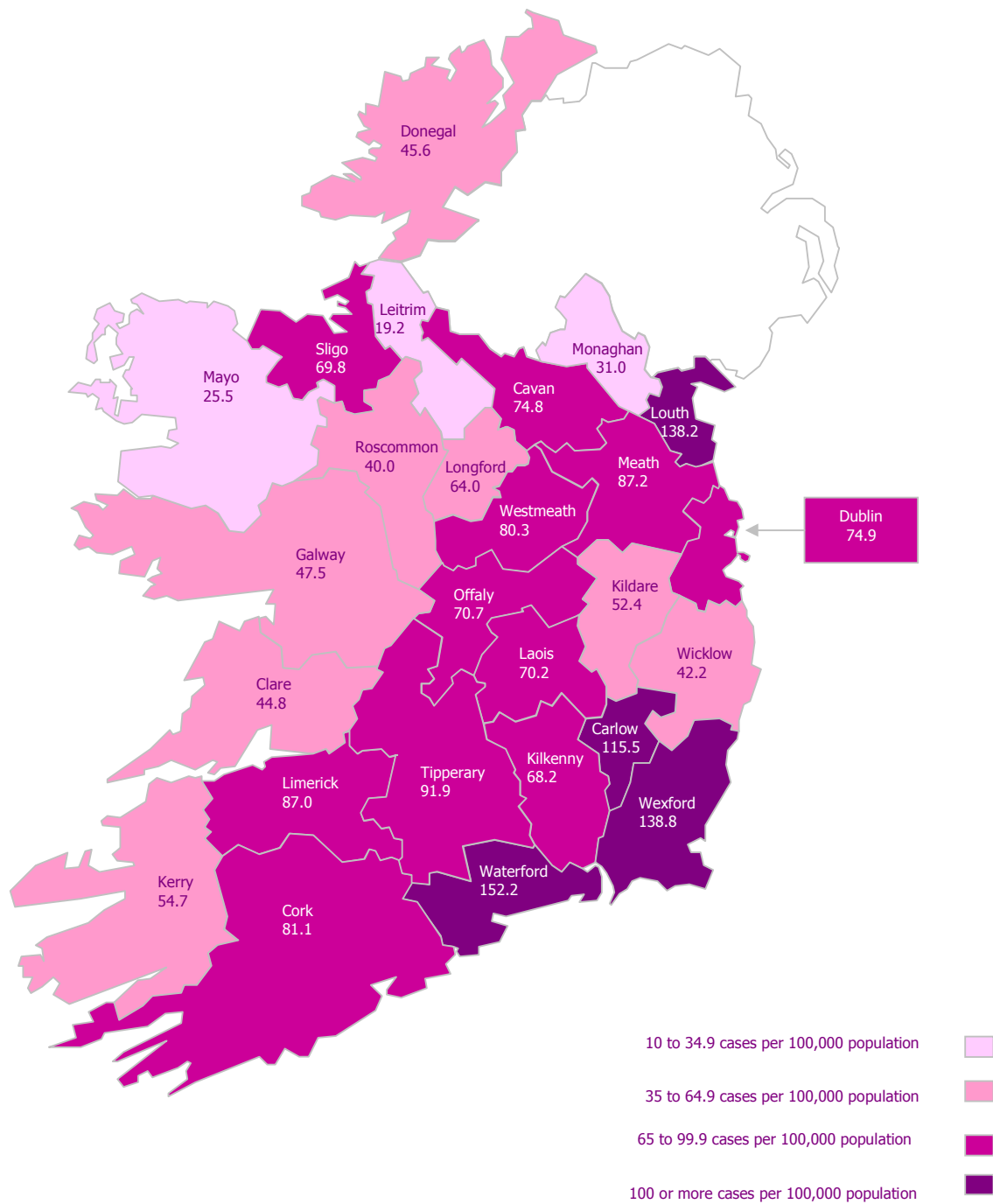


Figure 2 Average annual incidence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds, by county of residence, per 100,000 of the population (NDTRS 2004–2008; CSO 2009)

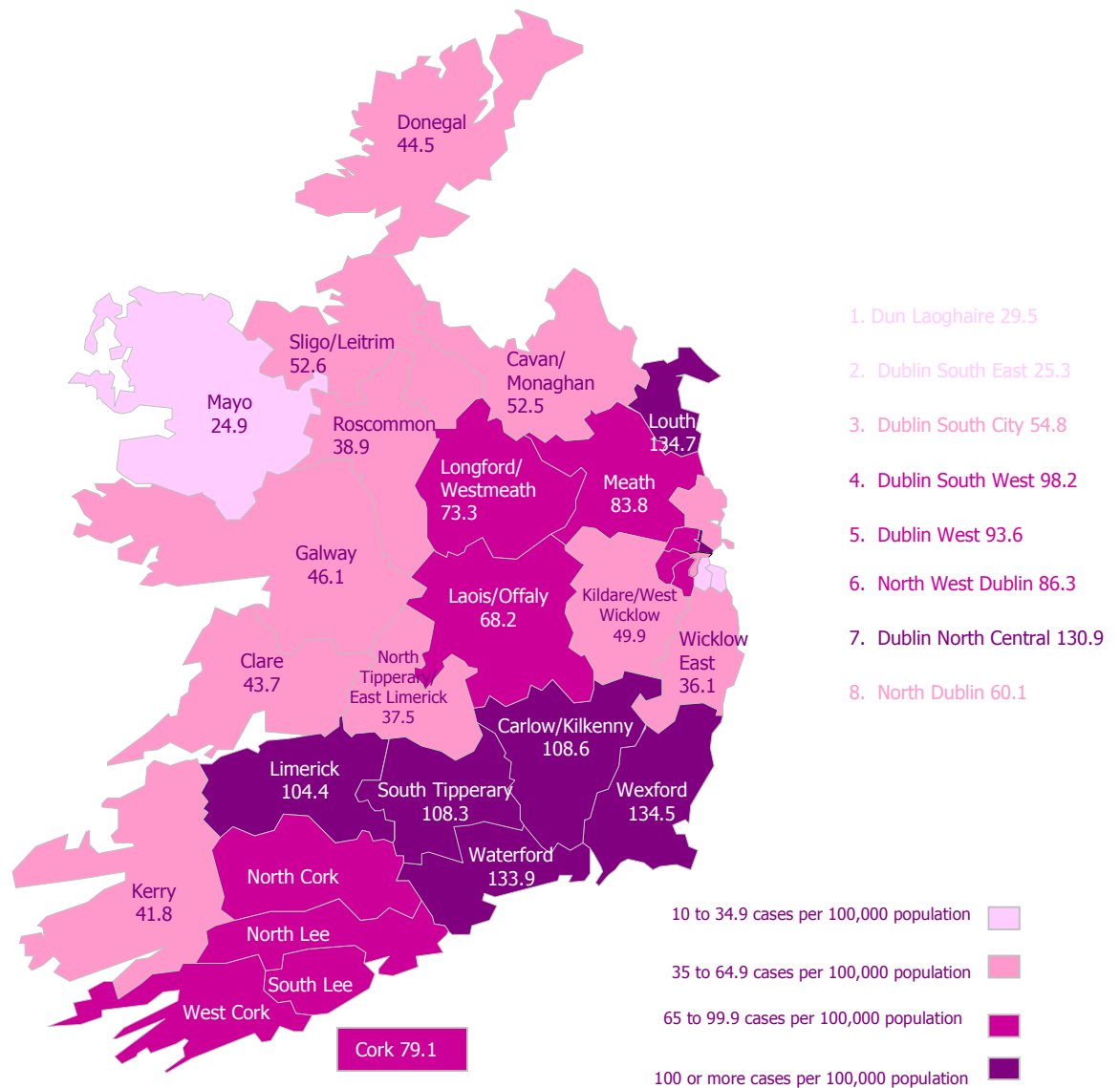


Figure 3 Average annual incidence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds, by local health office area of residence, per 100,000 of the population (NDTRS 2004–2008; CSO 2009)

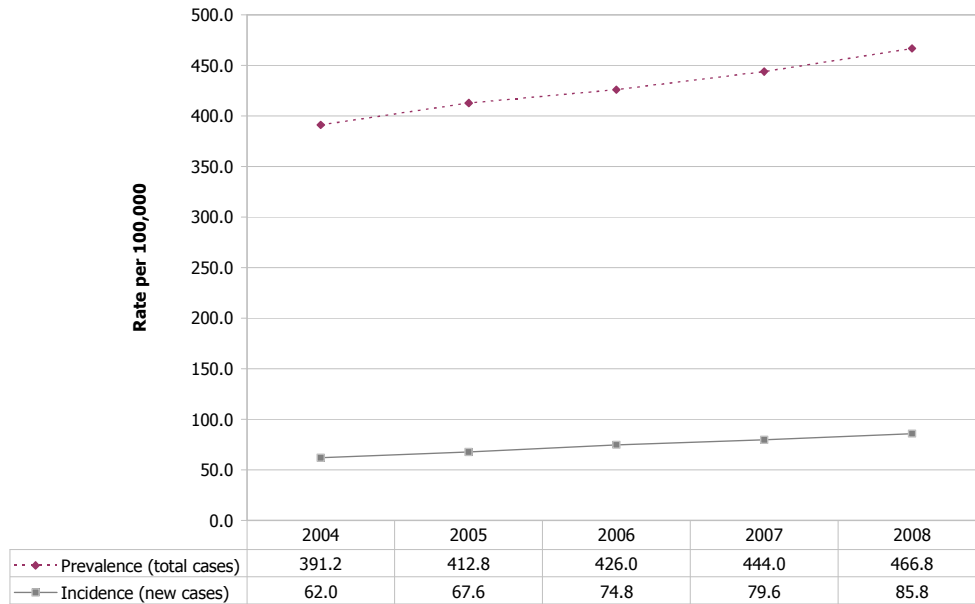


Figure 4 Incidence and prevalence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds, per 100,000 population, 2004 to 2008 (NDTRS 2004–2008; CSO 2007, 2009)

Main and additional problem drugs

Table 7 Main problem drug used, by treatment status (NDTRS 2004–2008)

Main problem drug	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	4506	4877	5191	5684	6271
Opiates	2863 (63.5)	3094 (63.4)	3280 (63.2)	3575 (62.9)	3955 (63.1)
Ecstasy	139 (3.1)	124 (2.5)	95 (1.8)	128 (2.3)	103 (1.6)
Cocaine	331 (7.3)	467 (9.6)	552 (10.6)	770 (13.5)	761 (12.1)
Amphetamines	23 (0.5)	36 (0.7)	30 (0.6)	39 (0.7)	36 (0.6)
Benzodiazepines	103 (2.3)	75 (1.5)	96 (1.8)	163 (2.9)	167 (2.7)
Volatile inhalants	31 (0.7)	27 (0.6)	23 (0.4)	32 (0.6)	28 (0.4)
Cannabis	991 (22.0)	1039 (21.3)	1096 (21.1)	958 (16.9)	1191 (19.0)
Other	25 (0.6)	15 (0.3)	19 (0.4)	19 (0.3)	30 (0.5)
Previously treated cases	2555	2760	2781	3091	3464
Opiates	2108 (82.5)	2281 (82.6)	2237 (80.4)	2404 (77.8)	2678 (77.3)
Ecstasy	33 (1.3)	30 (1.1)	29 (1.0)	42 (1.4)	36 (1.0)
Cocaine	119 (4.7)	175 (6.3)	194 (7.0)	290 (9.4)	300 (8.7)
Amphetamines	7 (0.3)	14 (0.5)	9 (0.3)	14 (0.5)	10 (0.3)
Benzodiazepines	50 (2.0)	30 (1.1)	40 (1.4)	72 (2.3)	87 (2.5)
Volatile inhalants	2 (0.1)	5 (0.2)	3 (0.1)	7 (0.2)	12 (0.3)
Cannabis	224 (8.8)	219 (7.9)	260 (9.3)	255 (8.2)	329 (9.5)
Other	12 (0.5)	6 (0.2)	9 (0.3)	7 (0.2)	12 (0.3)
New cases	1790	1976	2228	2419	2654
Opiates	654 (36.5)	722 (36.5)	912 (40.9)	1032 (42.7)	1166 (43.9)
Ecstasy	103 (5.8)	92 (4.7)	65 (2.9)	85 (3.5)	66 (2.5)
Cocaine	195 (10.9)	275 (13.9)	342 (15.4)	462 (19.1)	446 (16.8)
Amphetamines	16 (0.9)	22 (1.1)	21 (0.9)	25 (1.0)	26 (1.0)
Benzodiazepines	47 (2.6)	42 (2.1)	50 (2.2)	85 (3.5)	74 (2.8)
Volatile inhalants	28 (1.6)	21 (1.1)	19 (0.9)	24 (1.0)	16 (0.6)
Cannabis	736 (41.1)	794 (40.2)	809 (36.3)	694 (28.7)	845 (31.8)
Other	11 (0.6)	8 (0.4)	10 (0.4)	12 (0.5)	15 (0.6)
Treatment status unknown	161	141	182	174	153

Table 8 Number (%) of treated cases who used more than one substance, by treatment status (NDTRS 2004–2008)

Treatment status	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	4506	4877	5191	5684	6271
All cases who used more than one drug	3157 (70.1)	3401 (69.7)	3692 (71.1)	3816 (67.1)	4387 (70.0)
Previously treated cases	2555	2760	2781	3091	3464
Previously treated cases who used more than one drug	1811 (70.9)	1934 (70.1)	2007 (72.2)	2115 (68.4)	2494 (72.0)
New cases	1790	1976	2228	2419	2654
New cases who used more than one drug	1244 (69.5)	1374 (69.5)	1555 (69.8)	1607 (66.4)	1816 (68.4)
Treatment status unknown	161	141	182	174	153

Table 9 Number (%) of problem substances used, by treatment status (NDTRS 2004–2008)

Number of problem drugs used	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	4506	4877	5191	5684	6271
One substance	1349 (29.9)	1476 (30.3)	1499 (28.9)	1868 (32.9)	1882 (30.0)
Two substances	1252 (27.8)	1385 (28.4)	1404 (27.0)	1548 (27.2)	1667 (26.6)
Three substances	1128 (25.0)	1103 (22.6)	1200 (23.1)	1267 (22.3)	1482 (23.6)
Four substances	777 (17.2)	913 (18.7)	1088 (21.0)	1001 (17.6)	1240 (19.8)
Previously treated cases	2555	2760	2781	3091	3464
One substance	744 (29.1)	826 (29.9)	774 (27.8)	976 (31.6)	969 (28.0)
Two substances	699 (27.4)	774 (28.0)	732 (26.3)	870 (28.1)	896 (25.9)
Three substances	679 (26.6)	646 (23.4)	669 (24.1)	678 (21.9)	883 (25.5)
Four substances	433 (16.9)	514 (18.6)	606 (21.8)	567 (18.3)	716 (20.7)
New cases	1790	1976	2228	2419	2654
One substance	546 (30.5)	602 (30.5)	673 (30.2)	812 (33.6)	837 (31.5)
Two substances	505 (28.2)	573 (29.0)	625 (28.1)	631 (26.1)	737 (27.8)
Three substances	413 (23.1)	430 (21.8)	479 (21.5)	559 (23.1)	578 (21.8)
Four substances	326 (18.2)	371 (18.8)	451 (20.2)	417 (17.2)	502 (18.9)
Treatment status unknown	161	141	182	174	153

Table 10 Additional problem substances used, by treatment status (NDTRS 2004–2008)

Additional problem substance(s) used*	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	3157	3401	3692	3816	4389
Opiates	712 (22.6)	686 (20.2)	701 (19.0)	654 (17.1)	769 (17.5)
Ecstasy	631 (20.0)	645 (19.0)	597 (16.2)	638 (16.7)	637 (14.5)
Cocaine	1029 (32.6)	1144 (33.6)	1362 (36.9)	1368 (35.8)	1615 (36.8)
Amphetamines	206 (6.5)	195 (5.7)	205 (5.6)	181 (4.7)	131 (3.0)
Benzodiazepines	859 (27.2)	963 (28.3)	1043 (28.3)	932 (24.4)	1402 (31.9)
Volatile inhalants	45 (1.4)	31 (0.9)	23 (0.6)	24 (0.6)	23 (0.5)
Cannabis	1239 (39.2)	1417 (41.7)	1579 (42.8)	1630 (42.7)	1787 (40.7)
Alcohol	993 (31.5)	1136 (33.4)	1460 (39.5)	1516 (39.7)	1816 (41.4)
Other	100 (3.2)	80 (2.4)	73 (2.0)	110 (2.9)	171 (3.9)
Previously treated cases	1811	1934	2007	2115	2495
Opiates	569 (31.4)	515 (26.6)	463 (23.1)	464 (21.9)	518 (20.8)
Ecstasy	214 (11.8)	223 (11.5)	197 (9.8)	235 (11.1)	260 (10.4)
Cocaine	648 (35.8)	717 (37.1)	827 (41.2)	836 (39.5)	1010 (40.5)
Amphetamines	66 (3.6)	69 (3.6)	88 (4.4)	77 (3.6)	59 (2.4)
Benzodiazepines	668 (36.9)	739 (38.2)	765 (38.1)	662 (31.3)	958 (38.4)
Volatile inhalants	12 (0.7)	9 (0.5)	9 (0.4)	9 (0.4)	14 (0.6)
Cannabis	757 (41.8)	844 (43.6)	925 (46.1)	904 (42.7)	1050 (42.1)
Alcohol	357 (19.7)	439 (22.7)	576 (28.7)	662 (31.3)	865 (34.7)
Other	55 (3.0)	42 (2.2)	30 (1.5)	59 (2.8)	76 (3.0)
New cases	1244	1374	1555	1607	1817
Opiates	123 (9.9)	150 (10.9)	194 (12.5)	172 (10.7)	236 (13.0)
Ecstasy	401 (32.2)	407 (29.6)	394 (25.3)	394 (24.5)	369 (20.3)
Cocaine	355 (28.5)	401 (29.2)	477 (30.7)	502 (31.2)	582 (32.0)
Amphetamines	138 (11.1)	123 (9.0)	113 (7.3)	103 (6.4)	69 (3.8)
Benzodiazepines	161 (12.9)	198 (14.4)	257 (16.5)	255 (15.9)	423 (23.3)
Volatile inhalants	31 (2.5)	20 (1.5)	14 (0.9)	14 (0.9)	9 (0.5)
Cannabis	449 (36.1)	527 (38.4)	583 (37.5)	681 (42.4)	702 (38.6)
Alcohol	599 (48.2)	663 (48.3)	846 (54.4)	816 (50.8)	919 (50.6)
Other	37 (3.0)	36 (2.6)	41 (2.6)	50 (3.1)	90 (5.0)
Treatment status unknown	102	93	130	94	77

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

Table 11 Main problem drug and associated additional drugs used by new cases entering treatment (NDTRS 2004–2008)

	Main problem drug							
	Opiates	Ecstasy	Cocaine	Amphetamines	Benzo-diazepines	Volatile inhalants	Cannabis	Other
New cases	2893	334	1384	93	215	56	2591	31
Additional problem drug(s) used*	Number (%)							
Opiates	563 (19.5)†	15 (4.5)	95 (6.9)	4 (4.3)	55 (25.6)	2 (3.6)	136 (5.2)	5 (16.1)
Ecstasy	273 (9.4)	0 (0.0)†	548 (39.6)	45 (48.4)	42 (19.5)	4 (7.1)	1047 (40.4)	6 (19.4)
Cocaine	1068 (36.9)	156 (46.7)	22 (1.6)†	32 (34.4)	63 (29.3)	2 (3.6)	968 (37.4)	6 (19.4)
Amphetamines	61 (2.1)	81 (24.3)	118 (8.5)	0 (0.0)†	2 (0.9)	0 (0.0)	282 (10.9)	2 (6.5)
Benzodiazepines	951 (32.9)	16 (4.8)	138 (10.0)	3 (3.2)	10 (4.7)†	1 (1.8)	170 (6.6)	5 (16.1)
Volatile inhalants	7 (0.2)	2 (0.6)	8 (0.6)	1 (1.1)	5 (2.3)	5 (8.9)†	60 (2.3)	0 (0.0)
Cannabis	1604 (55.4)	216 (64.7)	900 (65.0)	54 (58.1)	106 (49.3)	35 (62.5)	12 (0.5)†	15 (48.4)
Alcohol	749 (25.9)	166 (49.7)	823 (59.5)	44 (47.3)	121 (56.3)	37 (66.1)	1886 (72.8)	17 (54.8)
Other	104 (3.6)	12 (3.6)	28 (2.0)	1 (1.1)	11 (5.1)	0 (0.0)	96 (3.7)	2 (6.5)

* 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

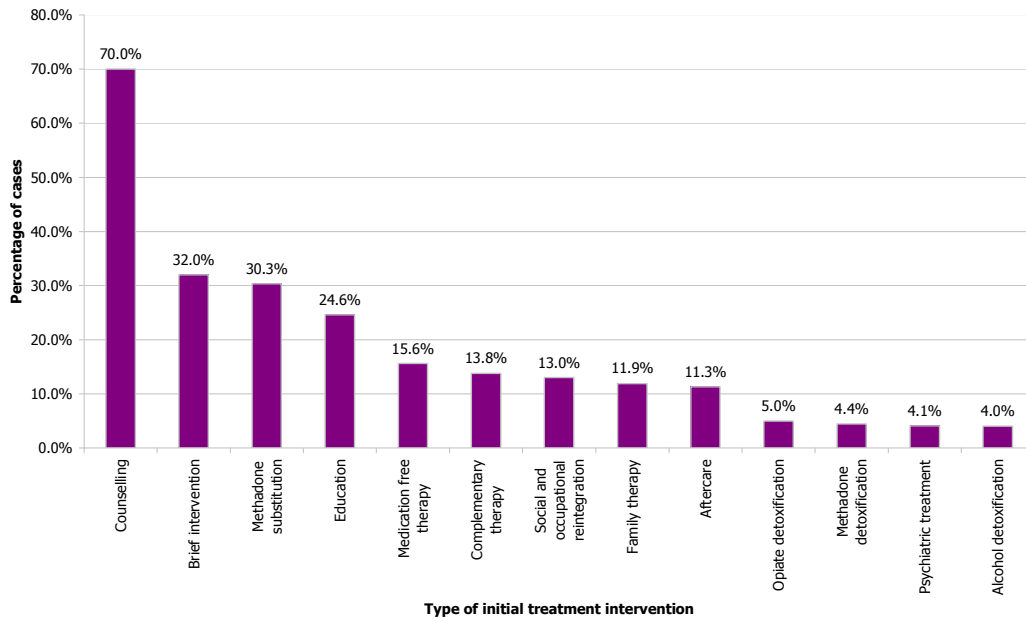


Figure 5 Percentage of cases entering treatment in 2008 who availed of each type of initial treatment intervention provided (NDTRS 2008)

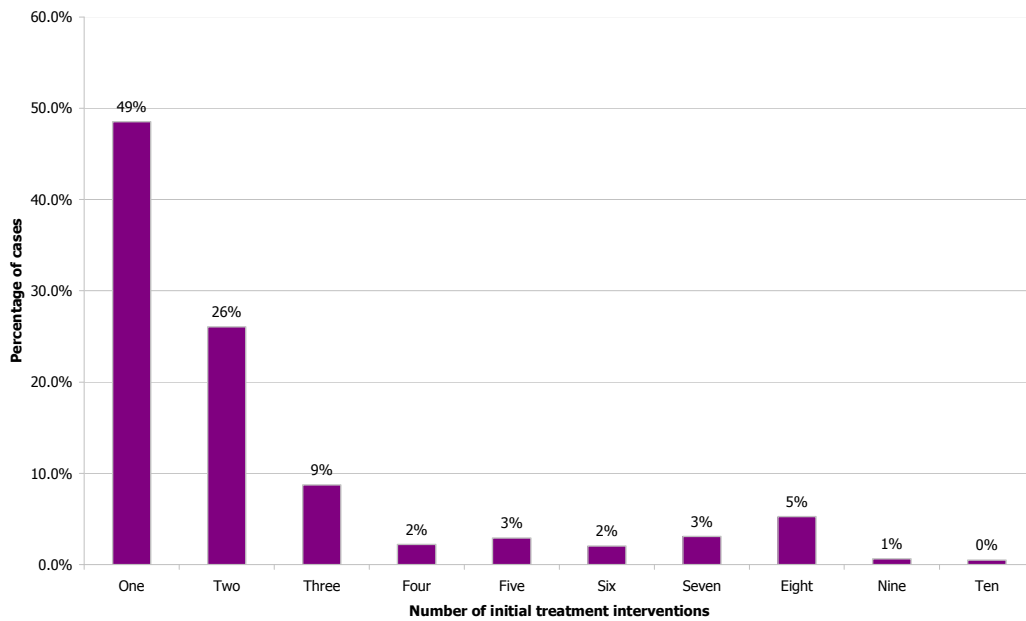


Figure 6 Percentage of cases entering treatment in 2008, by the number of initial treatment interventions availed of (NDTRS 2008)

Risk behaviours

Table 12 Risk behaviours reported by all cases entering treatment, by treatment status (NDTRS 2004–2008)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All cases	4356	4707	4992	5465	6271
Number (%) who had ever injected	2074 (47.6)	2164 (46.0)	2104 (42.1)	2289 (41.9)	2430 (38.8)
Of whom:*					
Ever shared	1245 (27.6)	1305 (26.8)	1239 (23.9)	1317 (23.2)	1317 (21.0)
Currently injecting	990 (22.0)	918 (18.8)	954 (18.4)	966 (17.0)	1000 (15.9)
Median age (range†) started drug use, in years	14 (11–21)	15 (11–23)	14 (11–22)	14 (11–22)	14 (11–23)
Median age (range†) started injecting, in years	19 (15–29)	19 (14–30)	19 (15–30)	20 (15–31)	20 (15–32)
Previously treated cases	2448	2639	2660	2976	3464
Number (%) who had ever injected	1679 (68.6)	1745 (66.1)	1595 (60.0)	1761 (59.2)	1835 (54.6)
Of whom:*					
Ever shared	1064 (63.4)	1112 (63.7)	1012 (63.4)	1067 (60.6)	1078 (58.7)
Currently injecting	739 (44.0)	704 (40.3)	707 (44.3)	699 (39.7)	747 (40.7)
Median age (range†) started drug use, in years	14 (11–21)	14 (11–21)	14 (11–21)	14 (11–21)	14 (11–22)
Median age (range†) started injecting, in years	19 (15–29)	19 (14–30)	19 (15–29)	19 (15–30)	20 (15–31)
New cases	1770	1940	2173	2362	2654
Number (%) who had ever injected	333 (18.8)	358 (18.5)	423 (19.5)	473 (20.0)	561 (21.6)
Of whom:*					
Ever shared	152 (45.6)	160 (44.7)	188 (44.4)	227 (48.0)	229 (40.8)
Currently injecting	213 (64.0)	189 (52.8)	215 (50.8)	233 (49.3)	241 (43.0)
Median age (range†) started drug use, in years	15 (11–21)	15 (11–24)	15 (12–24)	15 (11–23)	15 (11–25)
Median age (range†) started injecting, in years	21 (15–34)	20 (15–31)	20 (15–32)	21 (15–33)	21 (15–33)
Treatment status unknown	138	128	159	127	96

* 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 entering treatment, by treatment status (NDTRS 2004–2008)

Characteristics*	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number (%)				
All cases entering treatment	4506	4877	5191	5684	6271
Median age (range†)	25 (16–40)	26 (16–41)	27 (17–42)	27 (17–42)	28 (16–44)
Under-18s	415 (9.2)	404 (8.3)	363 (7.0)	422 (7.4)	492 (7.8)
Males	3291 (73.0)	3613 (74.1)	3983 (76.7)	4332 (76.2)	4608 (73.5)
Living with parents/family	2393 (53.1)	2536 (52.0)	2664 (51.3)	2835 (49.9)	3170 (50.6)
Homeless	197 (4.4)	217 (4.4)	265 (5.1)	279 (4.9)	351 (5.6)
Non-Irish nationals	123 (2.7)	162 (3.3)	195 (3.8)	240 (4.2)	251 (4.0)
Early school leavers	892 (19.8)	986 (20.2)	1040 (20.0)	1132 (19.9)	1303 (20.8)
Still at school	271 (6.0)	275 (5.6)	222 (4.3)	252 (4.4)	303 (4.8)
Employed (16–64-year-olds)	956 (22.0)	1025 (21.8)	1069 (21.2)	1055 (19.0)	918 (15.1)
Previously treated cases	2555	2760	2781	3091	3464
Median age (range†)	27 (19–41)	28 (19–42)	28 (19–43)	29 (19–43)	29 (19–44)
Under-18s	64 (2.5)	72 (2.6)	72 (2.6)	87 (2.8)	107 (3.1)
Males	1782 (69.7)	1972 (71.4)	2093 (75.3)	2320 (75.1)	2486 (71.8)
Living with parents/family	1250 (48.9)	1291 (46.8)	1343 (48.3)	1396 (45.2)	1583 (45.7)
Homeless	136 (5.3)	155 (5.6)	156 (5.6)	177 (5.7)	243 (7.0)
Non-Irish nationals	69 (2.7)	74 (2.7)	95 (3.4)	134 (4.3)	116 (3.3)
Early school leavers	599 (23.4)	685 (24.8)	660 (23.7)	735 (23.8)	871 (25.1)
Still at school	31 (1.2)	29 (1.1)	22 (0.8)	42 (1.4)	56 (1.6)
Employed (16–64-year-olds)	445 (17.5)	460 (16.8)	447 (16.2)	431 (14.0)	378 (11.0)
New cases	1790	1976	2228	2419	2654
Median age (range†)	22 (15–39)	23 (15–39)	24 (15–40)	24 (16–41)	25 (15–42)
Under-18s	338 (18.9)	326 (16.5)	285 (12.8)	328 (13.6)	374 (14.1)
Males	1392 (77.8)	1542 (78.0)	1758 (78.9)	1867 (77.2)	2009 (75.7)
Living with parents/family	1065 (59.5)	1175 (59.5)	1227 (55.1)	1353 (55.9)	1518 (57.2)
Homeless	52 (2.9)	54 (2.7)	103 (4.6)	90 (3.7)	99 (3.7)
Non-Irish nationals	50 (2.8)	84 (4.3)	93 (4.2)	98 (4.1)	133 (5.0)
Early school leavers	264 (14.7)	274 (13.9)	339 (15.2)	366 (15.1)	410 (15.4)
Still at school	234 (13.1)	240 (12.1)	196 (8.8)	208 (8.6)	242 (9.1)
Employed (16–64-year-olds)	487 (29.4)	542 (29.7)	590 (28.0)	590 (25.7)	523 (20.8)
Treatment status unknown	161	141	182	174	153

* 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

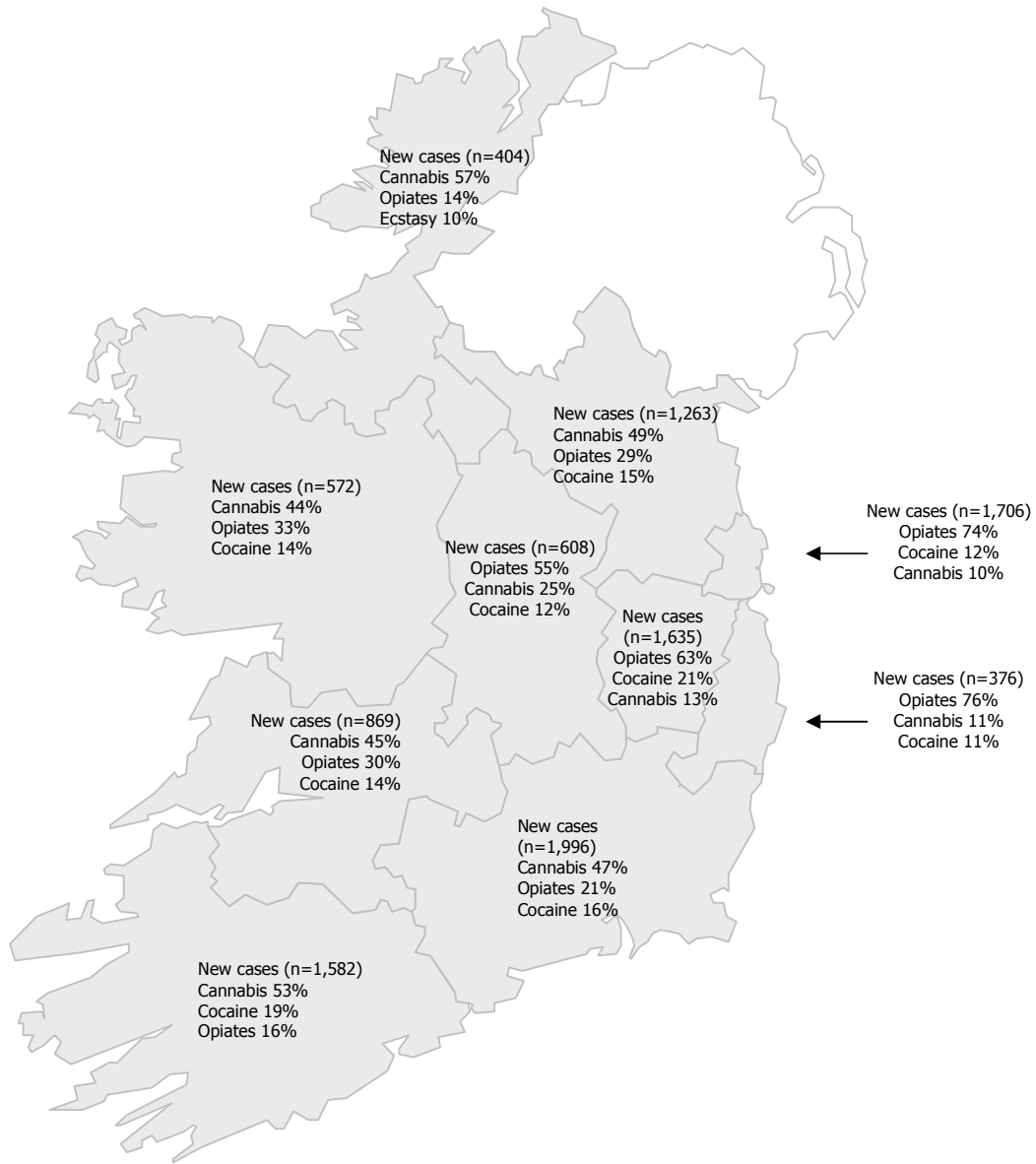


Figure 7 The three most common main problem drugs among new cases, by former health board area of residence (NDTRS 2004–2008)

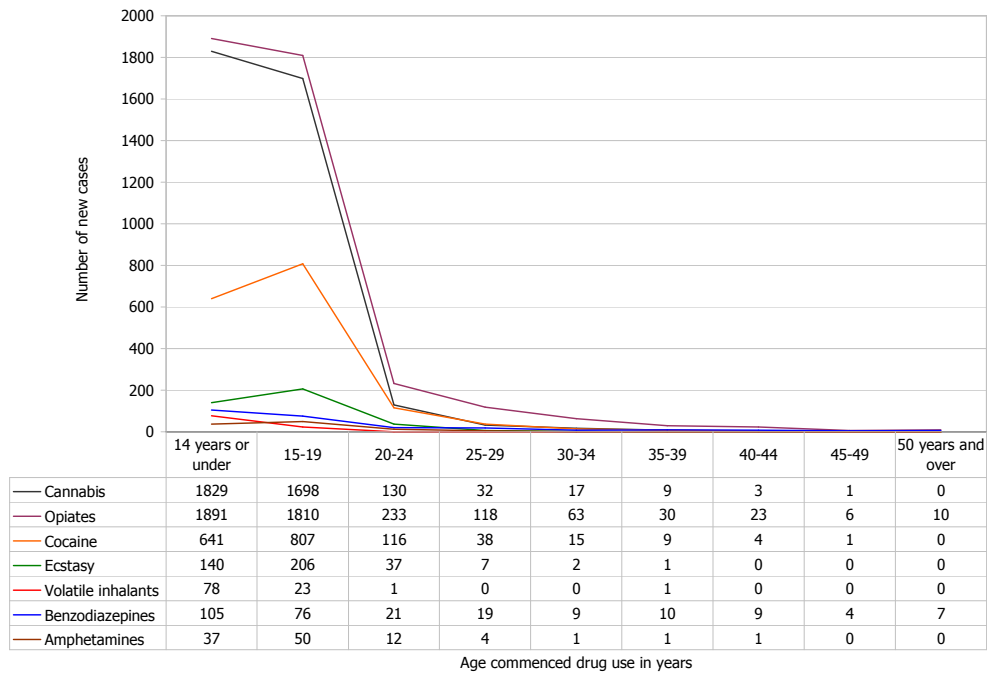


Figure 8a Age at first use of main problem drug by new cases entering treatment (NDTRS 2004–2008)

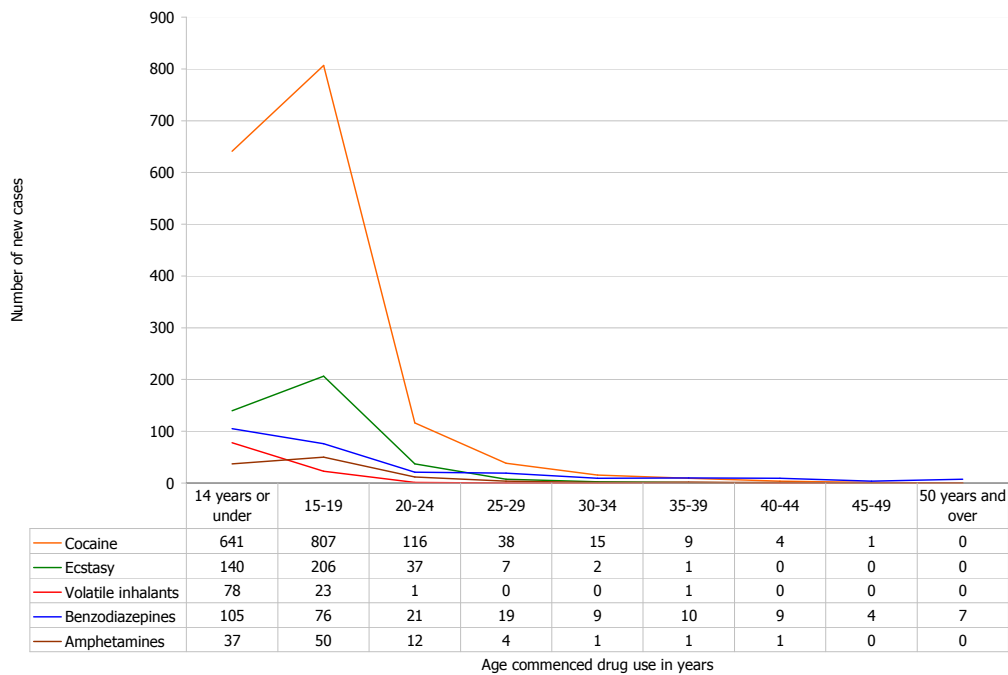


Figure 8b Age at first use of main problem drug (excluding opiates and cannabis) by new cases entering treatment (NDTRS 2004–2008)

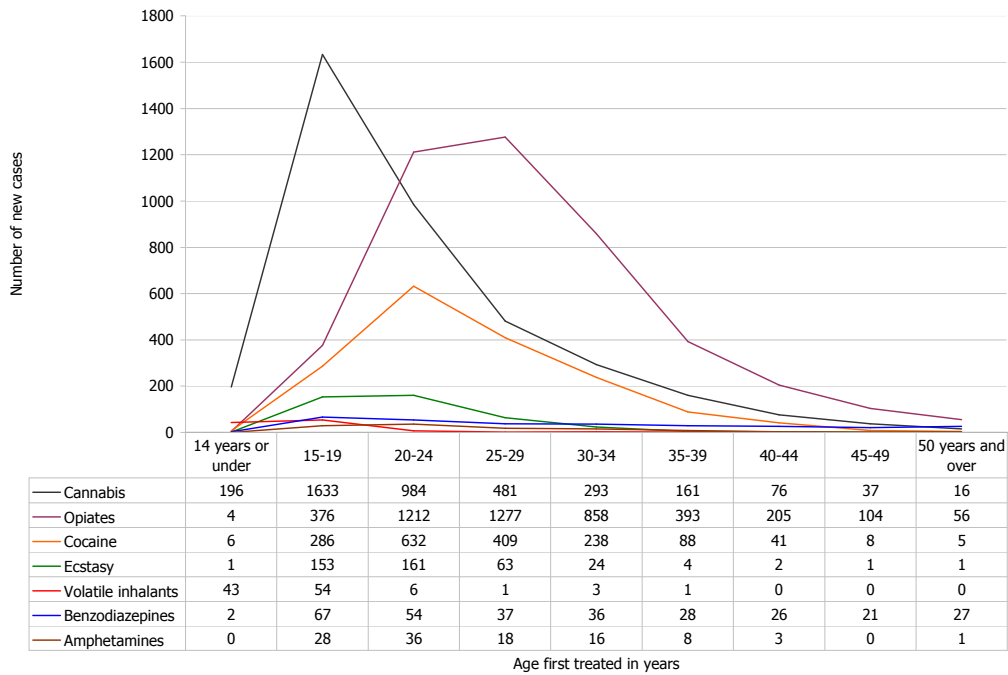


Figure 9a Age attended first treatment, by main problem drug, for new cases entering treatment (NDTRS 2004–2008)

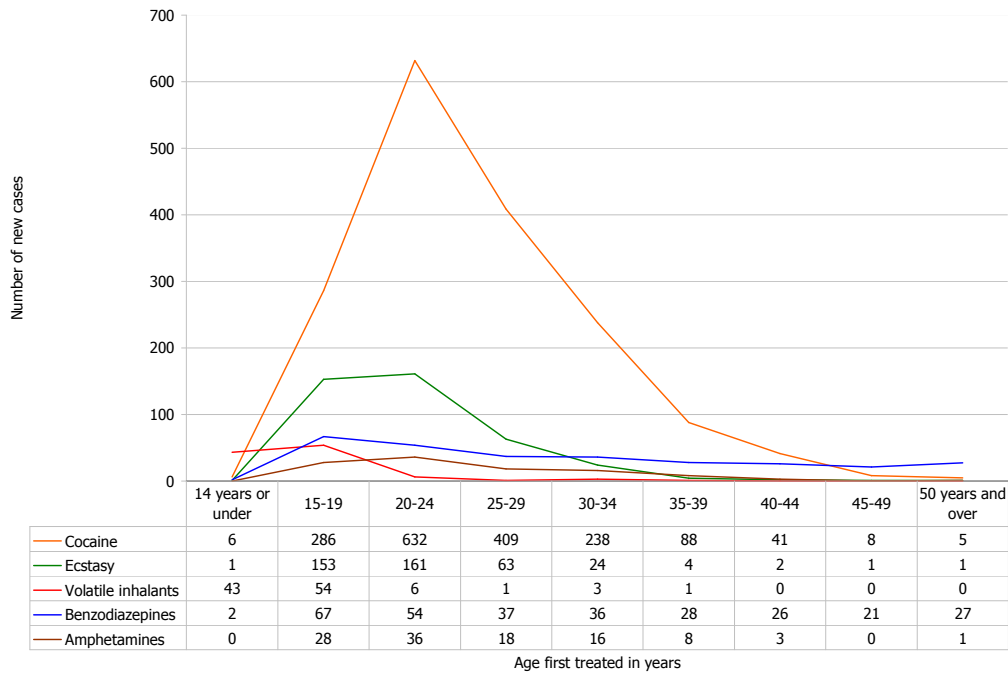


Figure 9b Age attended first treatment, by main problem drug (excluding opiates and cannabis), for new cases entering treatment (NDTRS 2004–2008)

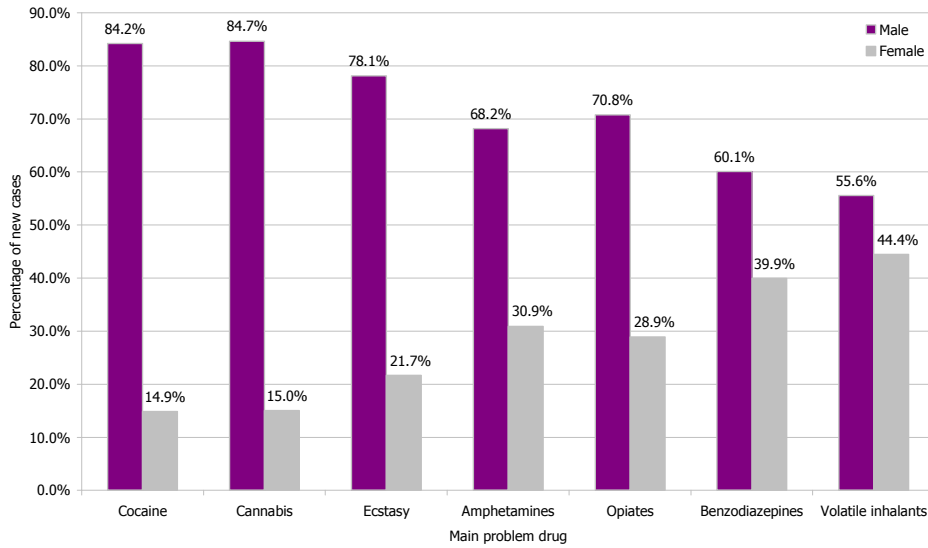


Figure 10 Main problem drug, by gender, for new cases entering treatment (NDTRS 2004–2008)

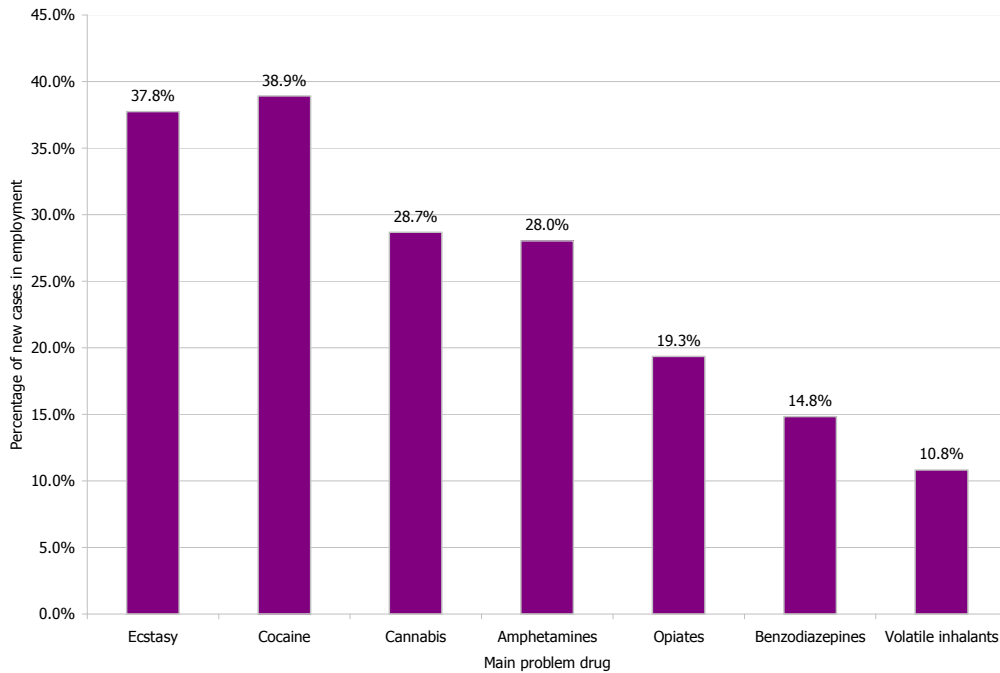


Figure 11 Main problem drug for new cases aged 16–64 years in employment and entering treatment (NDTRS 2004–2008)

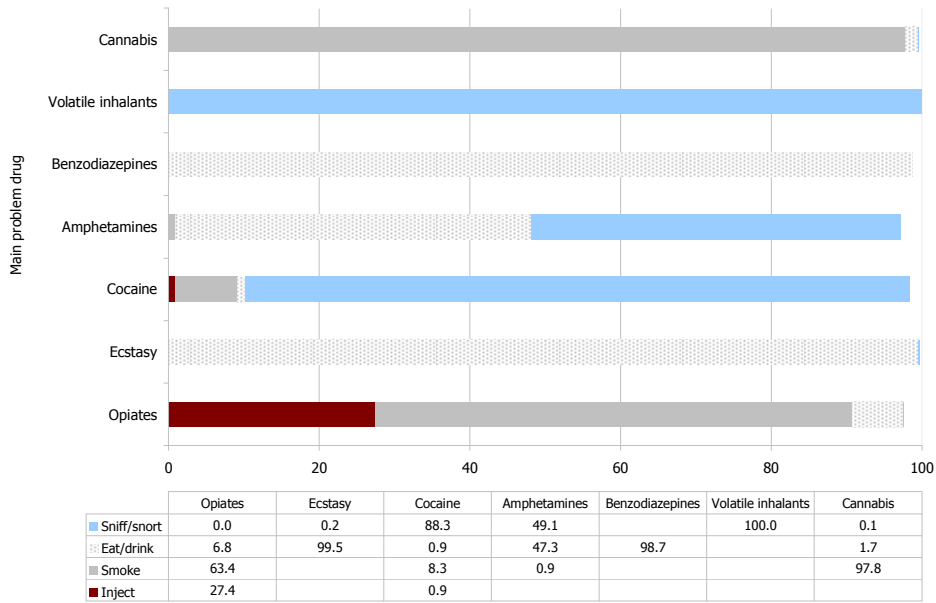


Figure 12 Route of administration of selected main problem drugs for new cases entering treatment (NDTRS 2004–2008)

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