

# drugnet Ireland

Newsletter of the Drug Misuse Research Division

Issue 4, February 2002

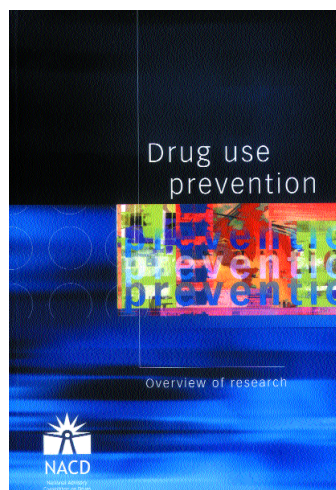
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Welcome to Issue 4 of Drugnet Ireland. Drugnet Ireland is the newsletter of the Drug Misuse Research Division of the Health Research Board. The role of this publication is to disseminate information, news and research among interested parties involved in the drugs area in Ireland. The articles in this issue cover recent developments at national and European level, initiatives by a number of organisations working in the area of drug misuse, as well as local and international news.

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## NACD Publishes First Report



The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) published its first report, *Drug Use Prevention: An Overview of Research*, on 7 December 2001. Eoin Ryan TD, Minister for Local Development with special responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy, launched the report and the NACD's new web site [www.nacd.ie](http://www.nacd.ie).

The main conclusion of the report is that there is no single drug problem requiring one solution – various problematic combinations of substances, patterns of use and influencing factors exist – but that there is a need to target and prevent use of the most dangerous substances. The report identifies the

most serious drug problems as involving opiates and being largely associated with deprivation. In his speech launching the report, Minister Ryan said 'in order to succeed, drug prevention programmes must not function in isolation, but must work in partnership with schools, community groups, families, and youth groups'. The author of the report, Dr Mark Morgan of St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, also emphasised the need for partnership and the importance of educational opportunities. Raising public awareness of the importance of deprivation as a predisposing factor for the most damaging forms of drug misuse was identified as another important strategy in order to win general acceptance of the need for the large resources that will be needed to deal with these problems.

The report also identifies a need for broadly-based programmes focusing on experimental drug use by young people of all social classes. Dr Morgan said that information alone has very limited effect in preventing drug misuse among young people and there is a need for continued investment in approaches that emphasise personal and social development. Irish school-based programmes, especially in the area of Social Personal and Health Education, are consistent with best practice in this regard. However, the impact of these programmes will be limited without the support of community and family.

The NACD was established in July 2000 to advise the government in relation to the prevalence, prevention, treatment and consequences of problem drug use in Ireland, based on the committee's analysis and interpretation of research findings and information available to it. It is currently overseeing a three-year prioritised programme of research and evaluation on the extent, nature, causes and effects of drug misuse in Ireland, identifying the contribution that can be made by the relevant interests. The committee commissions research; recent tenders have included an overview of research on the use of Buprenorphine in the treatment of Opiate Dependence Syndrome; a literature review on the consequences of drug misuse; and a national longitudinal study, designed to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment and other intervention strategies used in Ireland for Opiate Dependence Syndrome with adult opiate users.

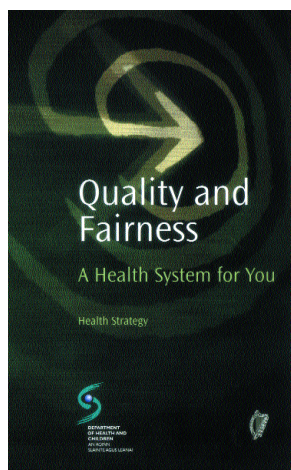


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The committee's membership reflects statutory, community, voluntary, academic and research interests as well as representation from the relevant government departments. The committee operates under the aegis of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation. In addition to commissioning research on prioritised issues, the NACD has

established a Community/Voluntary Sector Grant Scheme.

Information on the work of the NACD can be obtained from the Director, Mairéad Lyons, NACD, Floor 3, Shelbourne House, Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Tel. (01) 667 0760, or by visiting the new web site [www.nacd.ie](http://www.nacd.ie)



Initiatives to improve the health and well-being of drug misusers will be advanced.

New Health Strategy

## New Health Strategy endorses National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008

Last November the government launched its new health strategy Quality and Fairness: A Health System for You. It is the result of the largest consultation process ever undertaken in the preparation of a strategy, involving over 1,800 submissions. The new strategy sets out four national goals and identifies specific objectives and actions to achieve each goal over the next 7-10 years. Reduction of health inequalities is one of the objectives under the national goal of achieving better health for everyone. To help attain this objective, initiatives to improve the health and well-being of drug misusers will be advanced. The implementation of the National Drugs Strategy by 2008 is identified as the action required in this area, and the following key elements in this strategy are highlighted:

- Develop a national awareness campaign highlighting the dangers of drugs, the first stage to commence by the end of 2001;
- Develop formal links at local, regional and national levels with the National Alcohol Policy by the end of 2001, and ensure co-ordination between the different measures being undertaken;

- Have specific actions aimed at younger people that will involve close links between the Department of Education and Science, the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health and Children, and health boards;
- Have immediate access for drug misusers to professional assessment and counselling by health boards, followed by commencement of treatment as deemed appropriate not later than one month after assessment;
- Have access for under-18s to treatment following the development of an appropriate protocol for dealing with this age group;
- Increase the number of treatment places for opiate users to 6,000 by the end of 2001 and 6,500 by the end of 2002;
- Continue to implement the recommendations of the Steering Group on Prison-Based Drug Treatment Services;
- Have in place, in each health board, a service user charter by the end of 2002; and
- Have in place, in each health board, a range of treatment and rehabilitation options as part of a planned programme of progression for each drug misuser, by the end of 2002.

## British-Irish Council Summit Discusses Drug Misuse

Drug misuse was the main issue discussed at the second meeting of the British-Irish Council, held in Dublin Castle on 30 November 2001. The meeting, hosted by the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, and attended by the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and leaders from Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands, heard a report on Ireland's anti-drugs campaign from Minister of State Eoin Ryan. The Council emphasised the commitment of all members at the highest level to dealing with the problem of drug misuse and agreed to cooperate in the two key areas of demand reduction and supply reduction. An enhanced programme of information exchange will

cover cooperation on models of best practice, research data pilot programmes, and rehabilitation and reintegration strategies. The Council also noted the success of Ireland's Criminal Assets Bureau in its discussion on how best to target the assets of criminals engaged in drug trafficking. In order to advance work in agreed areas, the Council has established a group of senior officials to prepare recommendations for future cooperation. The work of the group will be reviewed by a Ministerial meeting on drugs, which will report on progress to a future British-Irish Council summit.

## Drug Treatment Centre Board Publishes Annual Report

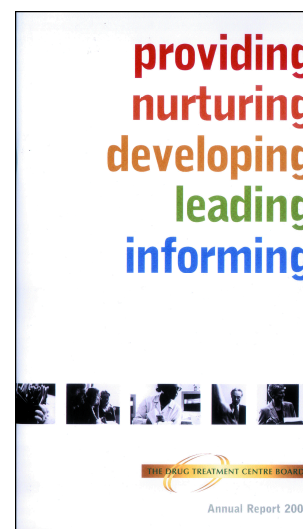
The inaugural annual report of the Drug Treatment Centre Board (DTCB), for 2000, has been published. The DTCB, located at Trinity Court in Dublin, is the longest-established drug treatment service in Ireland, dating back to 1969. Some of the key developments and highlights in the DTCB during 2000 were:

- A 'walk-in' rapid assessment service was established. Between June and December 2000, 226 assessments were carried out.
- A women's health clinic was established in partnership with the GUIDE clinic of St James' Hospital. Service provision primarily consists of distributing and administering contraceptives, giving advice on contraception, smear-testing, screening for sexually-transmitted infections and counselling. From September to December 2000, 30 female clients regularly accessed this service.
- A parenting course was set up in partnership with the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Children. In addition, there were a total of 5,290 child visits to the Children's Play Therapy Department (CPTD), and 4,275 parental visits. In any given month, 120 individual children attended, with an average of 25 children attending each day. Two additional childcare workers were appointed.

- There were 4,681 individual attendances for counselling services, with a further 440 family members attending family support groups.
- 1,034 clients received treatment services, and of these, 833 were on methadone treatment. This represents 16.5% of those treated on a national basis. A further 152 were treated on an in-patient basis in St Michael's Ward, Beaumont Hospital.
- The hepatitis C clinic recorded 960 attendances.

Information on the work of the DTCB, including its annual report for 2000, can be found at its new web site, [www.addictionireland.ie](http://www.addictionireland.ie)



## New Initiatives at Merchants Quay

In July 2001 Merchants Quay Ireland (MQI) launched its annual report for 2000. MQI is the new name for the combined Franciscan social services based at Merchant's Quay, the Merchant's Quay Drugs Project and the Fáilteú Resource Centre, which caters for the daytime needs of homeless people. MQI has a single management structure, which provides a solid foundation for consolidating and developing services in the coming years.

The annual report states that during 2000 MQI provided needle exchange services to 3,360 drug users, 645 of whom were new drug users. The Fáilteú Resource Centre has seen an increase in the number of homeless people using the service, from 111 per day in 1999 to 176 per day in 2000. Those attending include more young people, more women and children and, in particular, more homeless drug users. This last group is considered extremely marginalised and vulnerable: their drug use often

means they cannot access homeless services and their homelessness makes it difficult for them to participate in drug treatment programmes. To address this issue, MQI has formed a partnership with Dublin Simon to provide an open access hostel catering for active drug users. A joint management group has been formed, supported by the Homeless Agency and backed by the government. MQI expects the hostel to open some time in 2002.

MQI has also launched two new web sites:

- [www.mqi.ie](http://www.mqi.ie), aimed at raising public awareness in relation to drug use, homelessness and related issues; and
- [www.clubscene.ie](http://www.clubscene.ie), aimed at clubbers, containing advice and information in relation to dance drug use, and the harm-reduction and treatment services that are available. The web site also includes advice for concerned parents and friends of people who are using drugs.

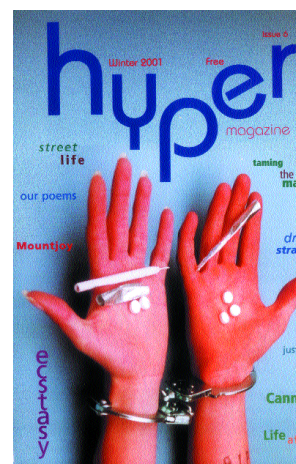
## HYPER Magazine Relaunched

Soilse, the Northern Area Health Board rehabilitation project, relaunched *HYPER* magazine in December 2001. The magazine is written and produced by young people taking part in the Soilse project, and comprises feature articles, interviews, personal accounts of experiences of drug use, and regular columns. This is the sixth issue of the magazine and it is being published after a break of about a year. In July 1999 *HYPER* won an award in the British-based Total Publishing Awards competition for design innovations. The magazine was selected from over 400 entries.

The aim of Soilse's full-time programme is to provide a structured developmental intervention for young

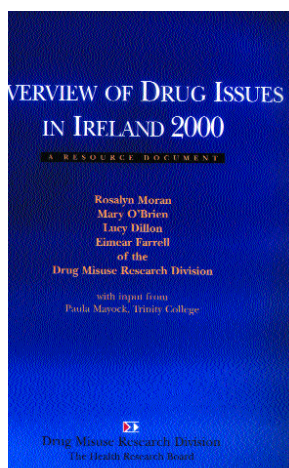
people who are in transition from a drug-dependent to an independent lifestyle. There is a maximum of twelve participants per group and during the programme they learn a range of journalism and publishing skills. It is hoped to produce one issue of *HYPER* during each four-month programme and eventually to have four issues a year.

*HYPER* is edited by Sandra Burke, and published by Soilse, the Northern Area Health Board's Addiction, Rehabilitation and Training Centre, 6-7 North Frederick Street, Dublin 1. Tel: (01) 872 4535. Email: [soilsehyper@eircom.net](mailto:soilsehyper@eircom.net)





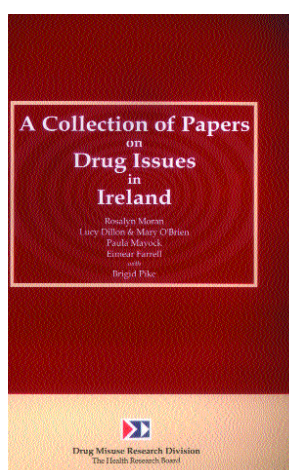
# New DMRD Publications in 2001



## DMRD Publications

DMRD publications may be ordered from the Drug Misuse Research Division, Health Research Board, 73 Baggot Street, Dublin 2. Alternatively, they may be accessed electronically via the Health Research Board's web site – [www.hrb.ie](http://www.hrb.ie)

For further information, please contact Mary Dunne, Administrative Assistant, Drug Misuse Research Division, Tel: (01) 676 1176, ext. 160, email: [mdunne@hrb.ie](mailto:mdunne@hrb.ie)



## Overview of Drug Issues in Ireland 2000 – A Resource Document

*R Moran, M O'Brien, L Dillon and E Farrell with P Mayock*

This document draws together a wide range of information on drug issues collected up until mid-2000 and not readily available. The following topics are covered:

- **Drugs Strategy, Budget and Funding Arrangements** - Rosalyn Moran outlines Irish government strategy in relation to illegal drugs and the main mechanisms to implement the strategy.
- **The Legal Framework** - Mary O'Brien, Lucy Dillon and Rosalyn Moran give a brief account of the legislation relevant to the control of drugs. The implications of the most recent changes in legislation, and the organisation and process involved in the enforcement of the drugs laws in Ireland, are discussed. The authors also describe developments in the supply- and demand-reduction activities of law enforcement agencies.
- **Research Findings on Drug Use** - Mary O'Brien describes the results of studies that have researched the use of drugs by different groups in Ireland, e.g. general population surveys, school and youth surveys.
- **Health Issues and Consequences of Drug Misuse** - Mary O'Brien and Lucy Dillon give an overview of the clients who present for drug treatment in Ireland, their characteristics, patterns of drug use and risk behaviour. Much of the data presented in this chapter comes from the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). The chapter presents patterns and trends in relation to drug-related infectious diseases, psychiatric co-morbidity and drug-related mortality.
- **Social Issues and Public Attitudes associated with Drug Misuse** - Paula Mayock and Rosalyn Moran present the results of studies that examined social issues associated with drug misuse, e.g. housing, homelessness, public nuisance, and community problems.
- **Law Enforcement and Drug-Related Crime** - Mary O'Brien summarises drug-related data gathered by law enforcement agencies, outlining available data on charges for drug offences, the number and quantity of drug seizures, the price and purity of drugs, and the sources of supply and trafficking patterns.
- **Demand-Reduction Interventions** - Eimear Farrell, Rosalyn Moran and Lucy Dillon describe demand-reduction interventions under way in Ireland. The authors stress the need to develop a culture of evaluation and the need for ongoing training and support for such evaluation.

## A Collection of Papers on Drug Issues in Ireland

*R Moran, L Dillon, M O'Brien, P Mayock and E Farrell with B Pike*

This collection addresses four issues of interest to all those working in the area of illegal drug use in Ireland.

**The National Drugs Strategy and Structural Mechanisms** – Rosalyn Moran and Brigid Pike overview the National Drugs Strategy 2001–2008, and the main institutional mechanisms to implement it. The authors also summarise the main evaluation frameworks in place in Ireland.

**Drug-Related Infectious Diseases** Lucy Dillon and Mary O'Brien review the data available in Ireland on drug-related infectious diseases (hepatitis B and C and HIV). Injecting drug use is one of the main risk categories to which HIV-positive cases are attributed in Ireland each year. The data also suggest that hepatitis C is highly prevalent among injecting drug users. It is reported that while harm-reduction programmes contained the spread of drug-related infectious diseases to some extent, a significant proportion of Irish injecting drug users continue to engage in risky behaviours.

**Cocaine Use in Ireland: An exploratory study** – Paula Mayock presents the results of the first study on cocaine use in Ireland. The findings strongly suggest increased availability and use of cocaine in Ireland. Most respondents made reference to the visibility of cocaine on the club and pub scenes. In addition, available statistical indicators, coupled with the reports of service providers, suggest that cocaine use has become more apparent among clients in treatment for heroin misuse. While there is no systematic evidence of widespread cocaine misuse in Ireland, the broad picture uncovered is one of increased likelihood of cocaine use among certain groups of poly-drug users.

**Women, Children and Drug Use** – Eimear Farrell reviews the Irish literature on women, children and drug use. About a quarter of drug users who present for drug treatment in Ireland are women. They are more likely than men to suffer negative consequences from their drug use. The author identifies two barriers preventing women from accessing treatment – lack of crèche facilities and fears of being seen as an 'unfit mother'. The author also finds that research in the area has focused almost exclusively on pregnant opiate addicts. Consequently, there is a lack of information on how drug use affects women in general, and the children of drug-using parents.

# New Head of DMRD

The Health Research Board was pleased to welcome Dr Hamish Sinclair as head of the Drug Misuse Research Division in July 2001. He holds a primary degree in physiology, an MSc in community health and a PhD in health services research. Prior to joining the Health Research Board he was a lecturer in the Department of Community Health and General Practice, Trinity College Dublin. Dr Sinclair has published extensively in a number of national and international journals. He held one of the first HRB fellowships in health services research. His specialist interests are in the areas of economic evaluation, research methodology, health inequalities, and health services research. He is co-author of the recently-published *Inequalities in Health in Ireland - Hard Facts (2001)*. 'We are

delighted that Dr Sinclair has joined the HRB. We have no doubt that his extensive research expertise will be of great benefit in the field of drug misuse', CEO Dr Ruth Barrington said. Staff at the DMRD are looking forward to working under his direction.

A number of other people have joined the staff of the Drug Misuse Research Division during the past year. Mary Dunne was appointed to the new post of administrative assistant and Martin Keane was appointed research officer. Brian Galvin, senior information specialist, and Louise Farragher, information specialist, are setting up the new National Documentation Centre on Drugs Misuse. Brigid Pike joined the division as researcher in December.



## DMRD Staff:

Front (l to r): Mary O'Brien, Hamish Sinclair, Louise Farragher. Back: Mary Dunne, Lucy Dillon, Brian Galvin, Martin Keane, Tracy Kelleher, Paul Cahill

## National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)

Staff at the Drug Misuse Research Division would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work done by all those who participate in the NDTRS. We are aware of the considerable effort involved in collecting the data. We very much appreciate the



willing support and co-operation and above all the cheerfulness with which people participate.

A very Happy New Year to all our colleagues throughout the country!

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## Minister Launches Drug Use Among Prisoners Study

On 4 July John O'Donoghue, TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, announced new measures to tackle the problem of drug misuse in prisons. The announcements were made at the launch of the report **Drug Use among Prisoners: An Exploratory Study**, published by the Drug Misuse Research Division of The Health Research Board.

Among the main findings, summarised by author Lucy Dillon at the launch, were the fact that inmates, who continued to use illicit drugs while in prison, greatly reduced the quantity of drugs they used and the frequency with which they used them, compared to their drug use in the community. However, she also highlighted that, where heroin is used, prisoners reported that it is characterised by a high level of risk behaviour in relation to the spread of drug-related infectious diseases (hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV), through the sharing of injecting equipment.

In welcoming the report, Minister O'Donoghue said that it contains 'important information and insights of long-term relevance for us all'. He also announced that he had 'directed the prison services to accelerate the development of drug-free regimes, wings and facilities across the prison system and to build up detoxification and counselling services'. This will be carried out across

the entire prison system over three years. In conclusion, the Minister stated that significant progress had been made in dealing with the problem of drug misuse in Irish prisons since the study was carried out. 'This report nevertheless sets out a clear picture of drug misuse by persons in custody, which represents a unique and challenging situation and a tremendous challenge for the prison system', he said.

In concluding, Professor Michael Murphy, chair of the Health Research Board, outlined that recommendations made in the report could have a major impact on policy in the area of drug use among prisoners. He also said that the study highlights the need for further research in the area of drug use among prisoners, in order that both policy and practice can be developed on a sound knowledge base.

For further information, please contact Lucy Dillon, Research Officer, Drug Misuse Research Division, Tel: (01) 6761176 extn165, Email: ldillon@hrb.ie



Minister John O'Donoghue, Prof. Michael Murphy, and Lucy Dillon (author) at the launch of the report

# The EDDRA Column

EDDRA stands for Exchange on Drug Demand Reduction Action. The project has been running since 1998 under the sponsorship of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The main activity of EDDRA is to collect information on demand-reduction projects at national level throughout the European Union (EU). The EDDRA manager in each member state carries out this task. This information is then entered on the EDDRA database in Lisbon, Portugal, and can be accessed through the Internet using the web site address [www.emcdda.org](http://www.emcdda.org).

The main purpose of the EDDRA project is to provide a comparative information resource for researchers, practitioners, policy makers and project managers across the EU on what is best practice in the demand reduction field. Recently the EDDRA database has been used to conduct exploratory analysis of interventions in the fields of prevention and outreach.

Currently there are eighteen projects representing best practice in drug demand reduction services in Ireland included on the EDDRA database. Prior to qualifying, each project has fulfilled the criteria of quality auditing set out by the EMCDDA. The key requirements of quality auditing are:

- the project must be evaluated, and
- the project must be based on a coherent structure, underpinned by a sound theoretical perspective and clear rationales underpinning the aims and objectives.

Martin Keane, EDDRA manager for Ireland, says he hopes to increase the number of Irish projects on the EDDRA database during 2002. In pursuit of this aim he is keen to encourage the development of a culture of evaluation among project leaders, and is willing to assist project managers to structure their projects within a theoretical framework. These activities are designed to prepare projects for quality auditing and for eventual inclusion on the EDDRA database.

If you are involved with, or know of a drug project that you think may be eligible for inclusion in the EDDRA database, please contact Martin Keane, EDDRA Manager for Ireland, Drug Misuse Research Division, Health Research Board, 19 Clanwilliam Terrace, Dublin 2. Tel. (01) 6761 176, ext. 169. Email: [mkeane@hrb.ie](mailto:mkeane@hrb.ie)

## Irish Drug Demand-Reduction Projects Included on EDDRA Database

Area of Intervention	Project Name	Organisation Responsible
Prevention	The Changeling Project	Graffiti Theatre Company
	Copping On	City of Dublin VEC
	Walk Tall	Dept. of Education and Science
	Fás Le Chéile	North Western Health Board
	Healthy Schools Project	North Eastern Health Board
	Sound Decisions	North Eastern Health Board
	On My Own Two Feet	Department of Education and Science
	Family Communication and Self Esteem	Southern Health Board
Rehabilitation	The Re-integration Programme	Merchants Quay Ireland
	The Pathways Project	City of Dublin VEC
	The Bridge Project	Probation and Welfare Service
	The Soilse Project	Eastern Regional Health Authority
	The Saol Project	Eastern Regional Health Authority
Treatment	The CARP Project (Killinarden)	Killinarden Addiction Response Programme
	The JADD Project (Jobstown)	Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency
	The ARC Project (Crumlin)	Addiction Response Crumlin
	AISÉIRÍ	AISÉIRÍ
Harm Reduction	Health Promotion Unit	Merchants Quay Ireland



# State of the Drugs Problem in the EU

In November 2001 the Lisbon-based European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) presented its 6th annual report, outlining the drug situation in the EU during 2000 and highlighting new trends and developments. The report's key findings on drug demand and supply, and responses to drug use, in Ireland are summarised below.

Cannabis is still the most commonly used illicit substance throughout the EU, and Ireland is no exception. Twenty per cent of the Irish general population (18–64 year olds) and 30% of young Irish adults (18–34 year olds) have lifetime experience of cannabis use. Recent use (expressed as last 12 months use) of cannabis is reported by 1 to 9% of European adults – in Ireland the figure was 9%. Recent use of other illegal substances rarely exceeds 1% among adults. Young adults (18–34 year olds) report a higher prevalence than for adults aged 18–64 years old. In Ireland, Spain and the UK the figures tend to be somewhat higher than in other countries. Figures of illegal drug taking in general, by 15–16 year old school students are largely determined by cannabis figures. In the majority of countries the prevalence of lifetime cannabis use has increased – however, among Irish school students (15–16 year olds) lifetime experience of cannabis has dropped from 37% to 32%.

In relation to problematic drug use, the mean age of clients in treatment throughout the EU is 29 years, and 27 years for new clients. In Ireland, the mean age for all clients in treatment is 24.6 years, and 22.7 years for new clients. In Ireland, drug users are young reflecting the general demographic situation.

In most countries, opiates are the main drug for new clients entering treatment (especially heroin). The variation between countries is quite high – from 22.4% in Finland to 84.2% in Greece, but the most frequent percentages are between 50% and 70% – in Ireland the figure was 55%. Until 1996, the trend in heroin use in Ireland was towards increased smoking; however, more recently, injecting is again increasing. Apart from heroin, other main substances for which treatment is sought are cannabis (over 15% in Belgium, Denmark, Finland and Ireland) and cocaine (especially the Netherlands and Spain). The proportion of those seeking treatment for problem cocaine use in Ireland is low at between 1% and 2%.

In recent years the number of acute drug-related deaths at EU level has stabilised, at between 7,000 and 8,000 per year. Different national trends are reported – some countries had reported an upward trend until recently – for example, Greece, Ireland

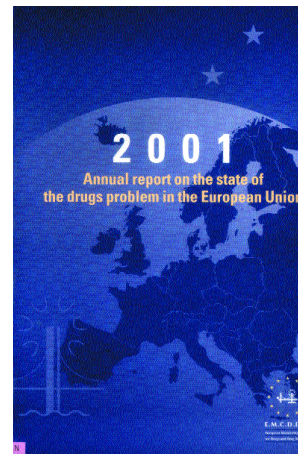
(where a decrease was observed in 1999) and Portugal. The authors of the report state that these increases were probably related to a later expansion of heroin use in these countries during the 1990s, and that recording practices may also have improved.

Drug law offences rose in most EU countries in the last three years, the highest increases were in Greece, Ireland and Portugal. Cannabis remains the most common drug involved in 'arrests', and the majority of reported drug offences are for possession of an illegal substance.

Ireland's recent *National Drugs Strategy 2001–2008* is part of an EU-wide initiative to develop national policies and strategies. Similarly, responses to the problem of illicit drug use in Ireland are broadly in line with approaches being taken across Europe.

- Drug prevention in schools is a top priority across all member states. The report found that peer approaches are favoured, but are difficult to put into practice.
- A number of innovative harm reduction strategies are noted, including chill-out facilities, interactive websites and Ireland's initiatives in training and support for nightclub staff responding to drug-related situations. The report describes in detail on-site pill-testing, mainly of synthetic drugs, in clubs and at dance events, which has been adopted in Spain, the Netherlands and Austria.
- Demand for drug substitution treatment is still high across the EU. Substitution treatment has been expanding moderately in the EU. Buprenorphine, which is the main substitution substance in France, has now been introduced in Belgium, Denmark, Finland (for detoxification), Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Austria and the United Kingdom. Heroin is prescribed on a selective basis in the UK. Experimental heroin prescription is available in the Netherlands and a heroin prescription trial is to be initiated in Germany. Luxembourg is considering a heroin prescription trial. Drug-free objectives continue to dominate treatment in Greece, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The 2001 Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union may be accessed online at the EMCDDA's web site [www.emcdda.org](http://www.emcdda.org)



Until 1996, the trend in heroin use in Ireland was towards increased smoking, however, more recently injecting is again increasing.

# European Legal Database on Drugs

The European Legal Database on Drugs (ELDD) is the EMCDDA's online database of information on European drugs-related legislation. The database contains:

- Legal texts in their original format to allow researchers and analysts to consult original data sources directly, an indispensable tool for monitoring and analysing legislative developments in the Member States.
- Country profiles of the national situation in the EU Member States, which have been compiled from reports submitted by the Reitox National Focal Points from the texts of national laws and regulations.
- Comparative studies including tables, data-capture grids, charts and figures relevant to the legal situation in the EU Member States.



- Main trends in drug law, a section which provides an overview of the legal position of EU countries with regard to illicit drugs
- News and registration features which enable users to keep abreast of new developments.

[www.emcdda.org](http://www.emcdda.org)

## From DRUGNET Europe

### On-site pill-testing interventions in the EU

Cited from Gregor Burkhart, Drugnet Europe 31 (Sept–Oct) 2001

In 2000 the EMCDDA commissioned a study of the goals, methods, results and evaluation efforts related to pill-testing interventions in the EU. The study, undertaken by the Austrian organisation 'Check-It!', was prompted by concerns about the pharmaceutical content of pills sold as ecstasy.

Pill-testing interventions are needed to develop contacts with users and raise awareness of preventative and harm-reduction issues. They also help policy-makers and prevention and outreach workers learn more about substances and consumption trends.

These on-site pill-testing interventions could provide data on the social contexts of this type of drug use, and help in the provision of information to potential and existing users.

Further evaluation studies are now needed to assess the usefulness of this type of intervention.

[www.emcdda.org/responses/themes/outreach\\_pilltesting.shtml](http://www.emcdda.org/responses/themes/outreach_pilltesting.shtml)

### Study to compare national drug strategies in the EU

Cited from Danilo Ballotta, Drugnet Europe 31 (Sept–Oct) 2001

The EMCDDA is undertaking a comparative study of the EU member states' national drug strategies. Over the past two years, seven states have adopted drug strategies.

The study will compare the content, objectives and targets of these strategies, and will assess their compatibility with the six targets of the EU Action Plan (2000–2004) and drug co-ordination efforts at national and regional levels.

The study, to be conducted in close co-operation with the European Commission (Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs), is scheduled for completion by mid-2002. It builds on a previous EMCDDA report on 'Drug co-ordination arrangements in the EU member states' (March 2001).

[www.emcdda.org/policy\\_law/national.shtml](http://www.emcdda.org/policy_law/national.shtml)



## Community Involvement in Drugs Strategy – A Seminar

'Communities, Families and Drug Users: Our Role in Implementing the National Drugs Strategy 2001–2008', a seminar focussing on the work of those most directly affected by the drugs problem, was held in Dublin Castle on 11 December 2001. The seminar was organised by City Wide Drugs Crisis Campaign. Ray Henry of the National Drugs Strategy Team opened the seminar and Dr Mary Ellen McCann introduced the three speakers.

- Anna Quigley, co-ordinator of City Wide Drugs Crisis Campaign, gave an overview of community involvement in the National Drugs Strategy since its launch in 1996. There are two aspects to this involvement: the delivery of services by local groups in cooperation with statutory agencies, and the efforts of these groups to influence policy. There are over 220 projects supported by the local drug task forces, delivering education, treatment and a range of other services. The main lesson to be learned from the first phase of the strategy is that projects based in the community can deliver needs-driven services. Furthermore, they have a valuable contribution to make to the process of developing these services into an efficient and just response to the needs of drug users.
- Cathal Holland, co-chair of City Wide Family Support Network, described the response of local

communities to the drugs crisis since the early 1980s, and in particular the role of families in delivering services and advocating change. He illustrated the plight of families isolated as a result of the drugs crisis, and underlined the need to offer a range of counselling, mediation and therapeutic support services.

- Thomas Larkin, co-ordinator of UISCE (Union for Improved Services, Communication and Education), spoke about the experiences of drug users over the past five years, and how treatment services have developed as a result of responding to issues raised by drug users themselves. The early approach, involving little more than the administration of methadone, is gradually being replaced by a broader-based service providing training and other services.

Following these presentations, the participants discussed the experience of the first five years of the national drugs strategy, and attended workshops dealing with a number of specific themes.

Information on the work of City Wide Drugs Crisis Campaign may be obtained from their offices at 175 North Strand Road, Dublin 1. Tel. (01) 836 5090. Email: citywide@dna.ie

There are over 220 projects supported by the local drug task forces

Community Involvement in Drugs Strategy – A Seminar

## EAP Conference on Drugs and Alcohol Abuse and the Workplace

The 22nd annual Employment Assistant Programme (EAP) conference, entitled 'Drug and Alcohol Abuse – Workplace Implications for Health and Safety', was held in the Stillorgan Park Hotel, Dublin, on 19–20 September 2001. Maurice Quinlan, director of the EAP Institute, opened the conference.

In his paper '**The Pharmacological Effects of Drugs**' Dr Desmond Corrigan, director, School of Pharmacy, Trinity College Dublin, and chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs, described the complex psychoactive and neurological effects of drug misuse, including those which have implications for the work situation, such as impaired co-ordination, learning, and memory. Dr Corrigan emphasised that it was drug users and not necessarily drug addicts who are at risk from such behavioural effects. A number of international initiatives aimed at countering the harmful effects of drug use in the workplace were described.

Bernard McCann, of the White House Office of National Drug Strategy, outlined efforts to counter the adverse effects on productivity and safety in his paper '**History and Experience of Drug-Free Workplace Efforts in the US**'. He explained the importance of changes in technology, legislation and workplace

demographics in implementing these programmes.

Anya Pierce, head of Toxicology at Beaumont Hospital in Dublin, explained how the development of scientific and legal standards in the area of drug testing in Europe has differed from similar developments in the US. In a paper entitled '**Creating a Drug-Free Workplace – the European Experience**', she described the emergence of the European Workplace Testing Society (EWDTS), aimed at coordinating and standardising work in this area across Europe.

Pat Gilbride, personnel officer in the ESB, described the company's addiction intervention and recovery programme, involving management, colleagues, union and family, and provided an account of a specific drug-related EAP in the workplace. A thorough education programme on addiction and substance misuse bolsters the company's early intervention policy.

Dr Elizabeth Gibby explained the approach of the health and safety executive in dealing with the problem of substance misuse at work. Dr Gibby is head of the Psycho-Social Issues Policy Unit at the Health and Safety Executive in London.

## ESSD Conference

The European Society for Social Drug Research (ESSD) held its 12th annual conference in Venice on 4–6 October 2001. Researchers working in the field of drug use throughout Europe presented papers on a variety of subjects. Sessions followed a number of themes, including 'Drugs and Lifestyle', 'New Drugs and Combinations', 'Policy Responses', 'Drug Control and Market Dynamics', 'Generations of Users' and 'Women and Drugs'. Irish research was well represented at the conference with eight papers of Irish interest:

- Butler, S. (Department of Social Studies, Trinity College Dublin) 'Coping with ambivalence: Ireland's methadone protocol of 1998';
- Dillon, L. (Drug Misuse Research Division, Health Research Board) 'A prison's drug culture: Findings from an exploratory study';
- Mayock, P. (Addiction Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin) 'The utility of young people's responses to research concerning their drug use';
- Morgan, M. (St Patrick's College) 'Social and economic development and drug use: A country-level analysis';
- O'Gorman, A. (National Advisory Committee on Drugs) 'Social and structural processes in the development of localised heroin scenes';
- Quigley, P. (Addiction Service, Domville House) 'Social exclusion, violence and intoxication in an economic boom'; and
- Woods, M. 'Drug policy in the Republic of Ireland: Warfare or peace process?'

## PSI Conference – Drug-Related Papers

The 31st annual conference of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) was held in Westport in November 2001. Three papers dealt with drug misuse.

*Kathryn Bayly, AIDS/Drugs Service/NAHB/EHRA*  
**Adolescent substance misuse: How theories of contributing factors can influence systemic practice in counselling adolescent opiate users and their families**

This presentation reviewed some of the theories associated with substance misuse among adolescents. The theories related to factors such as parental influences, peer pressure, school problems and family dynamics, each of which is generally viewed as pre-emptive / explanatory for the resultant substance misuse. A review of a case study allowed these factors to be viewed in terms of structured counselling within a methadone programme.

*Veronica O'Doherty, SEHB*  
**Adolescents in community care clinics: Research outcomes of a group intervention**

The identification of adolescents' perceptions of their own risk behaviours and coping strategies is a central factor in their successful treatment within a

community care setting. Factors influencing such perceptions among young people, which were outlined, included locus of control and social support. In order to ensure that appropriate intervention and treatment strategies are introduced, this research emphasised the need for treatment professionals to listen to this young client group and adapt the service to meet their specific needs.

*Rik Loose, LSB College, Dublin*  
**Towards a differential diagnosis of addiction**  
 Addiction as a psychopathology usually presents itself in a uniform way. It is generally accepted that the treatment of addiction is rather problematic and, in fact, finds itself in an impasse. This paper argued that behind the simplicity and uniformity of the clinical picture of addiction hides a clinical structure of enormous complexity. It also argued that it is possible to approach some of this complexity from a psychoanalytic point of view. In addition, it was argued that in order to overcome the impasse of addiction treatment cognisance will need to be taken of the structural complexities underlying addiction and the consequences for treatment.

## ELISAD Conference

The 13th annual conference of the European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs (ELISAD) was held in Stockholm on 25–27 October 2001. The conference was hosted by CAN, the Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs. The theme was Alcohol and Drug Information for Young People, and workshops focused on experiences of the Prevnet Network, the use and evaluation of prevention tools in documentation centres, and ethical and political aspects of providing information to young people.

The director of CAN, Björn Hibell, presented a report on the ESPAD 99 study. Other papers included a report on drugs information in youth mass media in

European countries, presented by Susanna Ronconi of Italy, and a discussion of the role of information workers in evaluating literature used in drug prevention programmes, presented by Jaap van der Stel of the Netherlands. The importance of international cooperation among information workers concerning technical developments was stressed during discussions on the ELISAD Internet Gateway Project, and on thesaurus development in the drugs and alcohol field, which was addressed by Dagobert Soergel, compiler of the widely-used AOD Thesaurus.

ELISAD plans to publish papers from the conference in its regular journal. This will be available through the organisation's web site at [www.elisad.org](http://www.elisad.org)

# Recent Articles

The following are brief summaries of a selection of articles published in international journals during 2001, relating to the drugs situation in Ireland.

## Blood-borne infections in Dublin's opiate users

Fitzgerald M, Barry J, O'Sullivan P & Thornton L

*Irish Journal of Medical Science* 2001, 170 (1): 32-34

Injecting drug users are at high risk of contracting blood-borne infections. Ireland has had a harm-reduction policy of methadone maintenance and needle exchange since 1992. The aim of this study was to estimate prevalence of hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV infection and appropriate uptake of hepatitis B vaccine in methadone attendees and to make recommendations for a simple record-based surveillance system. A retrospective study was made of 138 client records for evidence of laboratory tests or test results for blood-borne viruses and appropriate immunisation against hepatitis B. A total of 60% of clients had evidence of one or more laboratory tests in their notes. Of those tested for individual viruses, 5.1% were positive for hepatitis B surface antigen, 78.8% had antibodies to hepatitis C and 16.7% were HIV positive. Nearly two-thirds of clients had no evidence of vaccination or information on prior immunity in their records. The authors concluded that a standardised written protocol for screening blood-borne viruses and for immunisation against hepatitis B in methadone service attendees were clearly needed. This was subsequently introduced by the Eastern Region Health Authority.

## Opiate-related deaths in Dublin

Ward M, Barry J

*Irish Journal of Medical Science* 2001, 170 (1): 35-37

Intravenous drug misuse, principally heroin, occurs primarily in the Greater Dublin area. Methadone maintenance treatment has been an important part of the response to opiate misuse in Dublin since 1992. The aim of this study was to determine the number of opiate-related deaths in Dublin City and County during 1999, to establish the number of methadone-related deaths and determine the proportion of deaths associated with methadone prescribed according to guidelines. A retrospective review of all coroners' inquest files in Dublin City and County during 1999 was undertaken. There were 84 opiate-related deaths. Seventy-eight (92.9%) were male. Seventy-three (86.9%) had two or more drugs identified toxicologically. There were 45 methadone-related deaths, of which 15 (33.3%) were receiving methadone prescribed according to guidelines. Opiate-related deaths occur primarily in males in the 25-34 year age group and are associated with a high level of polydrug use. Diverted methadone accounted for the majority of deaths involving methadone.

## Heroin Smoking by 'chasing the dragon' in young opiate users in Ireland: stability and associations with the use to 'come down' off 'Ecstasy'

Gervin, M, Hughes, R, Bamford, L, Smyth, BP, Keenan, E

*Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment* 2001, 20 (4): 297-300

The authors examined the frequency of commencing opiate use by 'chasing the dragon' (smoking heroin) to 'come down' off Ecstasy, and the stability of heroin smoking in young opiate takers. A total of 102 subjects were assessed using a semi-structured interview. Ninety-two subjects had used Ecstasy. Of these, 68 reported having smoked heroin to come down off Ecstasy at some time and were found to have used Ecstasy more frequently and in larger amounts. Thirty-six reported that their first experience of using opiates was to come down off Ecstasy, 28 citing this as the primary reason for starting. Eighty-six of the 102 commenced opiates by smoking heroin, 61 of whom progressed to injecting after a mean of 2.9 years. This was associated with starting illicit drug use earlier, starting heroin earlier, and a history of using Ecstasy. The article examines the implications for service planners in developing responses to illicit drug use among adolescents.

## Syringe borrowing persists in Dublin despite harm reduction interventions

Smyth, BP, Barry, J & Keenan, E

*Addiction* 2001, 96 (5): 717-727

The authors used a cross-sectional survey of 246 injecting drug users (IDUs) in treatment to determine the frequency of syringe borrowing and related characteristics. Over 70% (173) of the participants had reported syringe borrowing in the previous six months. Multivariate analysis indicated that early school-leaving, parental unemployment, and close social relationships with other IDUs were significantly associated with syringe borrowing. The authors conclude by acknowledging the need to identify and confront the underlying assumptions that IDUs may have in regard to the perceived risk of borrowing syringes.

## Methods for estimating prevalence of opiate use as an aid to policy and planning

Comiskey, CM

*Journal of Substance Use & Misuse* 2001, 36 (1-2): 131-150

The extent of hidden drug use continues to impede public health planning. This article examines various methods used to estimate the prevalence of opiate use. These include multisource enumeration, death multiplier, multiple indicator, and capture recapture methods. The feasibility and the data requirements for each of these methods are illustrated for the first time in an Irish context. Estimates presented are the result of intensive collaboration between previously unconnected government, health and legal agencies. Finally, the implications of the methods and their results for the planning and provision of medical and social policy are highlighted and discussed.

## The following articles were also published during 2001

### Public health dimensions of benzodiazepine regulation

Quigley, PA

*Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment* 2001, 20 (4): 297-300

### Unexplained deaths among injecting drug users: a case of probable Clostridium myonecrosis

Williamson N, Archibald C, Van Vliet JS  
*Canadian Medical Association Journal* 2001, 165(5):609-11

### A capture-recapture study of the prevalence and implications of opiate use in Dublin

Comiskey CM, Barry JM

*European Journal of Public Health* 2001, 11(2):198-200.

### Screening for hepatitis C (HCV) in specialist centres and in primary care

Cullen W, Bury G, O'Kelly FD

*Irish Medical Journal* 2001, 94(1):25-6

### Fact, fiction, and function: mythmaking and the social construction of ecstasy use.

McElrath K, McEvoy K

*Substance Use and Misuse* 2001, 36(1-2):1-22.

### An analysis of 15-19-year-old first attenders at the Dublin Needle Exchange, 1990-97

Mullen L, Barry J

*Addiction* 2001, 96(2):251-8.

### Update: Clostridium novyi and unexplained illness among injecting-drug users - Scotland, Ireland, and England, April-June 2000

Abrahamian FM

*Annals of Emergency Medicine* 2001, 37(1):107-9

### Phenylalkylamine abuse among opiate addicts attending a methadone treatment programme in the Republic of Ireland

Kavanagh P, Dunne J, Feely J, Maguire R, Corrigan D, Keating JJ, Meegan MJ, Clancy JM, Burdett J.

*Addiction Biology* 2001, 6(2) 177-181

### Prevalence of antibodies to hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV and risk factors in entrants to Irish prisons: a national cross-sectional survey

Long J, Allwright S, Barry J, Reynolds SR, Thornton L, Bradley F & Parry JV

*British Medical Journal* 2001, 323 (7323): 1209-3

### The changing epidemiology of HIV infection in injecting drug users in Dublin, Ireland

Clarke S, Keenan E, Bergin C, Lyons F, Hopkins S, Mulcahy F

*HIV Med.* 2001, 2(4): 86-89

### Driving under the influence of an intoxicant in Ireland

Flynn KJ, Harrington G, Furney P, Leavy CP, Cusack DA

*Medico-Legal Journal of Ireland* 2001, 7 (2): 86-89

## Upcoming Events in 2002 – A Selection

### February

Monday 11 February 7.30pm

**Lecture:** Motivation and the treatment of addiction

**Guest Speaker:** Robin Davidson

**Venue:** Joly Lecture Theatre, Trinity College, Dublin 2

**Organised by:** Addiction Research Centre, Goldsmith Hall, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

Tel. +353 (01) 6083647; Fax: +353 (01) 6083790;

Email: addiction.research@tcd.ie

Thursday 21 February

**COCA (Conference on Crack and Cocaine) – Crack and Heroin Challenging the Status Quo**

**Venue:** London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, Holloway Road, London, England

**Organised by:** COCA in association with The Stapleford Trust, Henley Road, Claverdon, Warwickshire CV35.

Tel/Fax: +44 (019) 2684 2984;

Email: stapcen@globalnet.co.uk

**Information:** COCA aims to raise awareness of the changing needs of the crack, cocaine and heroin user, through information dissemination and networking to purchasers, providers and public concerning the issues surrounding drug use.

### March

Friday 1 March – Saturday 2 March

**5th Annual General Practice Conference on Opiate Misuse**

**Venue:** Four Seasons Hotel, Simonscourt Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland

**Organised by:** Carol White, IGCP, 4-5 Lincoln Place, Dublin 2. Tel. +353 (01) 676 3705;

Fax: +353 (01) 676 5850; Email: carol@igcp.ie

**Information:** The theme of this conference is 'Meeting the Unmet Need – Addicts Waiting for Treatment'.

Sunday 3 March – Thursday 7 March

**13th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm**

**Venue:** Slovenia

**Organised by:** Andrej Kastelic, Conference President, Centre for the Treatment of Drug Addiction, Zaloska 29, SI 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. Tel: +386 (01) 5421 350; Fax: +386 (01) 5421 354;

Email: andrej.kastelic@guest.arnes.si

**Information:** Includes sessions on social inclusion and exclusion, harm reduction and policy reform.

Wednesday 13 March – Sunday 17 March

**1st Annual Telematics and Prevention Conference**

**Venue:** Athens, Greece

**Organised by:** Prevnet Network, A-Clinic Foundation, Fredrikatu 20B 18, 001200 Helsinki, Finland.

Tel: +358 (09) 6220 2948; Fax: 358 9 6220 2948;

Email: tracy.powers-erkkila@a-klinikka.fi

**Information:** This is a four day training and informational exchange on the use of telematics within the drug prevention area.

Wednesday 20 March – Friday 22 March

**CityWide Family Support Network Conference**

**Venue:** The Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth

**Organised by:** Philip Keegan, CityWide Family Support

Network, 175 North Strand Road, Dublin 1.

Tel: +353 (01) 8365090; Fax: +353 (01) 8364849;

Email: citywide@dna.ie

**Information:** The conference will highlight the invaluable work of family support to date in relation to drug use within the family.

Sunday 24 March – Wednesday 27 March

**Club Health Conference**

**Venue:** Rimini, Italy

**Organised by:** Regione Emilia Romagna, Conference Secretariat, Simmetrie and Partners srl, Via Dagnini 23, 40137 Bologna, Italy. Tel. +39 (051) 444 471;

Fax: +39 (051) 444 513; Email: simmetri@tin.it;

Website: www.clubhealth.org.uk

**Information:** Club Health 2000, the 1st International Conference on Night-life, Substance Use and Related Health Issues, provided the first forum for the exchange of information and the promotion of good practice at an international level. The conference will bring together researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

Monday 25 March 7.30pm

**Lecture: Treating Kids: the Uses and Limits of Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment**

**Guest Speaker:** Elliott Currie

**Venue:** Joly Lecture Theatre, Trinity College, Dublin 2

**Organised by:** Addiction Research Centre, Goldsmith Hall, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

Tel. +353 (01) 6083647; Fax: +353 (01) 6083790;

Email: addiction.research@tcd.ie

Monday 25 March – Wednesday 27 March

**Drug Policies and their Impacts**

**Venue:** Wilton Park, Wiston House, Steyning, West Sussex BN443DZ, UK

**Organised by:** Caroline Burness-Smith, Wilton Park, Wiston House, Steyning, West Sussex BN443DZ, UK. Tel. +44 (0) 1903 815020; Fax: +44 (0) 1903 815931;

Email: caroline.burness@wiltonpark.org.uk

**Information:** This conference will examine whether national and international policies effectively reduce the production and supply of illegal drugs.

### April

Monday 22 April 7.30pm

**Lecture: Recreational drug-use and contemporary youth cultures**

**Guest Speaker:** Fiona Measham

**Venue:** Joly Lecture Theatre, Trinity College, Dublin 2

**Organised by:** Addiction Research Centre, Goldsmith Hall, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

Tel. +353 (01) 6083647; Fax: +353 (01) 6083790;

Email: addiction.research@tcd.ie

### May

Monday 13 May – Wednesday 15 May

**3rd International Conference on Drugs and Young People**

**Venue:** AJC Conference Centre, Randwick, Sydney NSW, Australia

**Organised by:** Conference Secretariat, Australian Drug

Foundation, PO BOX 818, North Melbourne, Victoria 3051, Australia. Tel: +61 (03) 9278 8101;

Fax: +61 (03) 9328 3008; Email: events@adf.org.au

**Information:** Conference themes include prevention/education, health promotion, diversity and inclusion, drug use, drug treatment, policy and legal issues.

Tuesday 14 May – Thursday 16 May

**5th Conference of the European Opiate Addiction Treatment Association**

**Venue:** Oslo, Norway

**Organised by:** Egil Haga, Unit for Addiction Medicine/University of Oslo, Kirkevn 166, 0470 Oslo.

Tel: +47 230 16057; Fax: +47 230 16051;

Email: egil.haga@psykiatri.uio.no

**Information:** Covers the development of maintenance treatment methodology.

### August

Sunday 4 August – Friday 9 August

**16th International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety**

**Venue:** Montreal, Canada

**Organised by:** ICADTS – T 2002, Opus 3 Inc., 417 rue Saint-Pierre, Suite 203, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 2MA, Canada. Tel: +1 (514) 395 1808; Fax: +1 (514) 395 1801; Website: www.saaq.gouv.qc/t2002

**Information:** Aims to contribute to knowledge on traffic safety and drug and alcohol use.

### September

Wednesday 18 September – Thursday 19 September

**23rd Annual EAP Conference 'Creating a Drug-Free Workplace'**

**Venue:** Stillorgan Park Hotel, Dublin, Ireland

**Organised by:** 'Employee Assistance Professionals' Conference Administrator, EAP Institute, 143 Barrack Street, Waterford, Ireland. Tel: +353 (051) 855 733; Fax: +353 (051) 879 626; Email: eapinstitute@eircom.net

Wednesday 26 September

**2nd Annual Conference 'Debating Drug and Alcohol Policies'**

**Venue:** Trinity College, Dublin 2

**Organised by:** Addiction Research Centre, Goldsmith Hall, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

Tel. +353 (01) 6083647; Fax: +353 (01) 6083790; Email: addiction.research@tcd.ie

If you have information on upcoming conferences or other events, please let us know so that we can include it in future issues of Drugnet Ireland. Send information to Drugnet Ireland, Drug Misuse Research Division, 73 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2. (01) 6761176; Email bgalvin@hrb.ie.

### Drugnet Ireland Mailing List

If you wish to have your name included on the mailing list for future issues of Drugnet Ireland, please send your contact details to: Drugnet Ireland, Drug Misuse Research Division, Health Research Board, 73 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2. (01) 6761176; Email bgalvin@hrb.ie

Please indicate if you would also like to be included on the mailing list for Drugnet Europe.