

National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System (NPIRS) National Bulletin Ireland 2010

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The Health Research Board (HRB) provides statistical reports and related database research on mental health service activity. Later this year, the Executive Summary report on in-patient activity from the National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System (NPIRS) for 2010 will be published along with the full report on CD-ROM. In the interim, we provide summary information for each HSE area and in relation to the national picture. This bulletin presents national data for 2010. The Mental Health Information Systems (MHIS) Unit would like to thank services for providing quarterly returns – your cooperation has resulted in timelier reporting. We look forward to your continued support in the future.

Rosalyn Moran
Head of MHIS

Introduction

This bulletin is a synopsis of data from the National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System (NPIRS) for 2010. The rates reported below were calculated using the Census of Population 2006 (Central Statistics Office 2007) and all rates are per 100,000 total population.

All and first admissions 2010 – national statistics

There were 19,619 admissions to Irish psychiatric units and hospitals in 2010, a rate of 462.7 per 100,000 population (Figure 1), a decrease in the number (20,195) and rate of admissions (476.3) from 2009. There was an increase in the number of first admissions from 5,972 in 2009 to 6,266 in 2010. The rate of first admissions also increased from 140.9 in 2009 to 147.8 per 100,000 in 2010. Re-admissions accounted for 68% of all admissions, the first time this proportion has dropped to below 70% of all admissions since 1980.

There was an equal proportion of male and female admissions, and the rate of admissions were also similar, with males having a rate of 464.6 per 100,000 and females, 460.9. Males had a higher rate of first admissions (159.0) than females (136.6). The 45–54 year age group had the highest rate of all admissions, at 727.7 per 100,000 total population, while the 18–19 year age group had the highest rate of first admissions, at 291.6 per 100,000.

Single persons accounted for over half of all (54.5%) and first (51.5%) admissions. Divorced persons had the highest rate of all (1,122.0) and first (280.5) admissions, while married persons had the lowest, at 335.5 for all admissions and 119.0 per 100,000 for first admissions.

The unskilled occupational group had the highest rate of all (749.2) and first (175.1) admissions. However, as 52% of occupations were returned as unknown or unspecified in 2010, making assignment to a socio-economic group impossible, caution should be exercised when interpreting data on socio-economic group.

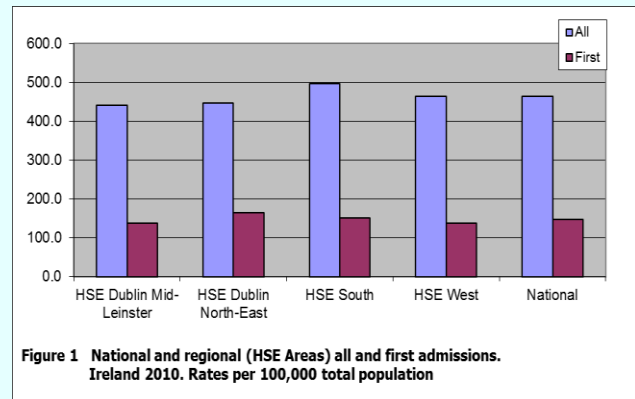


Figure 1 National and regional (HSE Areas) all and first admissions. Ireland 2010. Rates per 100,000 total population

Depressive disorders accounted for 29% of all and 30% of first admissions; schizophrenia accounted for almost 20% of all and 12% of first admissions; while alcoholic disorders accounted for 9% of all and 10% of first admissions. Admissions for depressive disorders, schizophrenia, alcoholic disorders and mania accounted for 68% of all admissions.

Depressive disorders had the highest rate of all admissions, at 132.8 per 100,000, followed by schizophrenia, at 90.1, and mania, at 49.4 (Figure 2). Similarly, depressive disorders had the highest rate of first admissions, at 44.7 per 100,000, followed by neuroses, at 18.2, and schizophrenia, at 17.7.

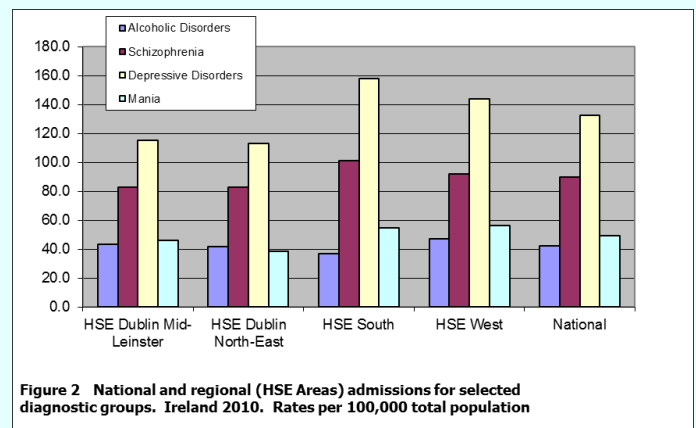


Figure 2 National and regional (HSE Areas) admissions for selected diagnostic groups. Ireland 2010. Rates per 100,000 total population

Eight per cent of all and 9% of first admissions were involuntary, representing no change in all admissions from 2009 and one percentage point increase in involuntary first admissions from 2009. Similarly, there was little change in the rate of involuntary all admissions, at 37.8 per 100,000 compared with 38.5 in 2009.

National discharges and deaths

There were 19,614 discharges from, and 140 deaths in, Irish psychiatric units and hospitals in 2010. Males accounted for 62% of deaths, and 58% of all deaths were aged 75 years and over.

Almost half (48%) of all discharges occurred within two weeks of admission; 20% occurred within two to four weeks and 26% occurred within one to three months. Ninety-four per cent of discharges occurred within three months of admission and 2% of discharges occurred after one year or more in hospital.

Thirty-nine per cent of discharges with alcoholic disorders, 27% with depressive disorders and 19% with schizophrenia occurred within one week of admission. Over 90% of all discharges for most disorders occurred within three months of admission, with the exception of organic mental disorder, schizophrenia, intellectual disability and development disorders. The average length of stay for all discharges, excluding those of one year or more, was 26.0 days (median 14.0 days). Discharges with a diagnosis of organic mental disorder had the longest average length of stay, at 45.6 days (median 22.0 days).

Health Service Executive (HSE) areas admissions and discharges

HSE South had the highest rate of all admissions, at 496.6 per 100,000 population, while Dublin North-East had the highest rate of first admissions, at 164.4 (Figure 1).

Females had higher rates of all admissions compared with males in Dublin Mid-Leinster (458.6 for females and 420.9 for males) and Dublin North-East (453.4 for females and 440.9 for males). Males had higher rates of first admissions than females in all areas, ranging from 175.9 in Dublin North-East to 143.6 in Dublin Mid-Leinster.

Age groups were condensed into two distinct groups, under 45 years and 45 years and over. The 45 years and over group had the highest rate of admissions in all HSE areas, with rates ranging from 678.9 in Dublin North-East to 601.9 in HSE West.

Depressive disorders had the highest rate of all and first admissions in all HSE areas, with rates for all admissions ranging from 158.2 per 100,000 in HSE South to 113.0 in Dublin North-East. Rates for first admissions ranged from 52.0 in HSE West to 36.5 in Dublin Mid-Leinster.

HSE South had the highest rate of involuntary all admissions, at 46.4 per 100,000, followed by HSE West, at 40.9, and Dublin North-East, at 31.8. Dublin Mid-Leinster had the lowest rate, at 31.2 per 100,000.

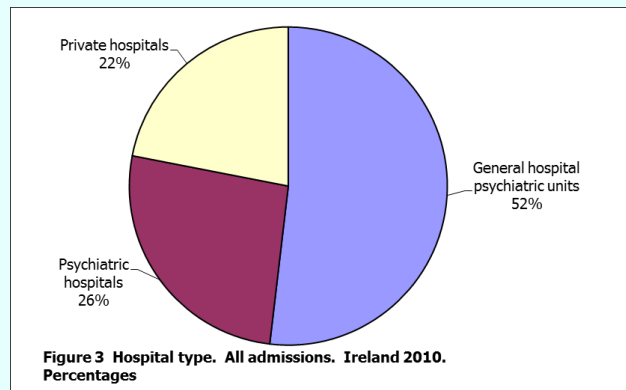
Discharges for Dublin Mid-Leinster had the longest average length of stay, at 27.5 days (median 15.0 days), followed by Dublin North-East, at 25.8 days (median 13.0 days), HSE West, at 25.5 days (median 14.0 days), and HSE South, at 25.0 days (median 13.0 days).

There were 55 admissions of non-residents in 2010, and 202 admissions for persons with no fixed abode.

Hospital type

Fifty-two per cent of all admissions and 52% of first admissions were to general hospital psychiatric units. Twenty-six per cent of all admissions were to public psychiatric hospitals and 22% were to private hospitals (Figure 3).

Involuntary admissions accounted for 10% of all admissions to psychiatric hospitals, 10% of admissions to general hospital psychiatric units and 2% of admissions to private hospitals. Discharges from private hospitals had the longest average length of stay, at 33.5 days (median 29.0 days).



Individual units and hospitals

All admission rates were highest for units and hospitals in Waterford, at 553.1 per 100,000, and lowest in Cavan/Monaghan, at 142.3.

Children and adolescents

There were 435 admissions for children and adolescents under 18 years in 2010, an increase in admissions from 2009 (367). Females accounted for over half of all (53%) and first (53%) admissions. Thirty-five per cent of all admissions were aged 17 years on admission, 33% were aged 16 years, 13% were aged 15 years, 11% were aged 14 years, and 7% were aged 11–13 years.

Depressive disorders accounted for 28% of all and 29% of first admissions for under 18s. Eleven per cent had a diagnosis of neurosis, 9% had a diagnosis of schizophrenia and 8% had a diagnosis of eating disorders.

Almost 63% of all admissions for under 18s were to dedicated child and adolescent in-patient units, almost 29% were to general hospital psychiatric units, 7% were to psychiatric hospitals and just 2% were to private hospitals.

Ninety-five per cent of those admitted in 2010 were discharged in 2010. The average length of stay for under 18s admitted and discharged in 2010 was 33.2 days. The average length of stay was longest for child and adolescent units, at 47.1 days (median 41.0), followed by private hospitals, at 27.9 days (median 25.0), general hospital psychiatric units, at 11.4 days (median 4.0), and psychiatric hospitals, at 7.4 days (median 5.0).

References

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

Daly A and Walsh D (2011) HRB Statistics Series 15 *Activities of Irish Psychiatric Units and Hospitals 2010*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

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