

The value of routine surveillance data in early warning

NDTRS team


The National Drugs Forum
14th November 2024



Research. Evidence. Action.

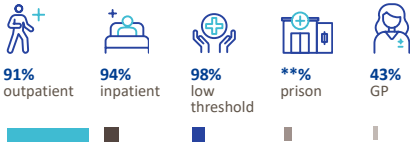
National Drug Treatment Reporting System

- On-line national surveillance database on treated problem drug and alcohol use
 - Funded by the Department of Health
 - Case based (not individuals)
 - Follows European methodology for core data
- Current national drugs strategy requires all publicly funded drug and alcohol services to complete the NDTRS for all people who use their services (Action 5.1.47)



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Service type coverage




91% outpatient

94% inpatient

98% low threshold

**% prison


43% GP



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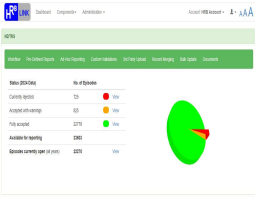
Opportunities for data contact

- 602 service providers across the country are providing data on addiction treatment
- 1218 active users
- 24,030+ episodes to date in 2024




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Real time data via on-line entry portal

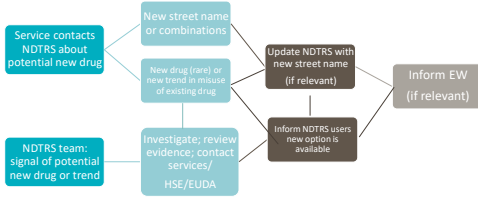


- Flexibility of an on-line portal
- Extensive range of drug options available (along with street names)
 - Can be updated almost instantly
- Link to service type
- Link to geographic area



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Data flow: NDTRS to Early Warning



Service contacts NDTRS about potential new drug

NDTRS team: signal of potential new drug or trend

New street name or combinations


New drug (rare) or new trend in misuse of existing drug

Investigate; review evidence; contact services/ HSE/EUDA

Update NDTRS with new street name (if relevant)

Inform NDTRS users new options available

Inform EW (if relevant)



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Monitoring trends

- Track evolution of any emerging trends
- Monitor the impact of any strategies or policies implement

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Value of routine surveillance in early warning

- Routine treatment surveillance can support the wider EW activities
 - Large number of users across wide range of services
 - On-line data entry/responsiveness
 - Real time data
 - Multiple opportunities
- Track evolution of emerging trends
 - Monitor the impact of any strategies or policies implemented

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