

# The HRB's national health information systems

SDAP meeting  
March 2025

Dr Sarah Craig, Business Lead, NHIS

# Overview



Overview of our systems



Successful SDAP  
collaborations



Opportunities for NHIS  
use

# Strategic objectives

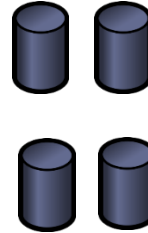


## National Health Information Systems Unit

32 staff



4 systems



4 topic areas

Mental Health (NPIRS)

Disability (NASS)

Drugs and Alcohol  
(NDRDI and NDTRS)

# Overview of the 4 HRB Systems

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## **National In-patient Psychiatric Reporting System (NPIRS)**

Established 1963

c. 18,000 admissions & 18,000 discharges

- Database recording admissions to and discharges from psychiatric hospitals

## **National Ability Supports System (NASS)**

Established 2018 (merge of 2 older disability databases)

c. 73,000 records

- Service planning database for HSE funded disability services

## **National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)**

Established 1990

c.25,000 cases p.a

- Epidemiological database recording treated drug and alcohol and other behavioural addictions

## **National Drug-related Deaths Index (NDRDI)**

Established 2005

c. 800 p.a

- Census of drug and alcohol related deaths matching 5 sources of data (Coronial files, HIPE, GMR, CTL, PCRS )

# Main outputs from the NHIS



Publication of  
reports/web  
updates



Data requests,  
bespoke analysis



Research  
collaborations



Interactive tables



SDAP projects

# Successful SDAP collaborations using NHIS data

# Successful SDAP collaborations

Year	Applicant	HRB dataset
2021	RCSI	NDTRS and NDRDI
2021	St James Hospital	NDTRS and NDRDI
2023	RCSI	NDTRS and NDRDI



# RCSI project NDTRS and NDRDI, 2021

- A multi-indicator analysis of the supply, composition and patterns of use of prescription drugs with potential for misuse and the associated harms and responses in Ireland between 2010-2020
- Anonymised data for 10-year period from **NDTRS and NDRDI**
- Other data sources include HSE-PCRS, State Laboratory, Medical Bureau of Road Safety (MBRS) **National Drugs and Alcohol Survey (NDAS)**, National Self-Harm Registry, Irish Prison Services



**RCSI**

ROYAL  
COLLEGE  
OF SURGEONS  
IN IRELAND

# St James Hospital INCLUDE project 2021

- INCLUDE: Integrating National Repositories for the Cooperation Linkage and Understanding of a Data Driven approach to the needs of Excluded people
- Using NDTRS and NDRDI data
- Other data sources: HIPE, Central Treatment List (CTL), Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS), Prison Management Information System, St James's Hospital Inclusion Health Database



# RCSI project 2023

- Impact of guidance issued during COVID-19 to expand take-home doses of opioid agonist treatment (OAT) in Ireland: a population-based analysis of prescribing practices and patient outcomes 2018 to 2023
- Anonymised data from **NDTRS and NDRDI 2018-23**
- **Other data sources include** HSE-PCRS



# Opportunities in HRB data

# Data points for each NHIS

## NPIRS

- Age
- Sex
- Ethnicity
- Employment status
- Legal status
- Homelessness
- Dates of admission and discharge,  
Admission and discharge diagnosis.

## NASS

- Sex
- Date of birth
- Ethnicity
- Residential circumstances
- Specialist disability services used/  
required
- Type of disability
- Diagnosis.

# Data points for each NHIS ctd

## NDTRS

- Sex
- Date of birth
- Sexual orientation
- Educational level
- Ethnicity
- Homelessness
- Dual diagnosis
- Drug use and risk behaviour
- Intervention/treatment, discharge (to & when).

## NDRDI

- Sex
- Date of birth
- Ethnicity
- Homelessness
- Mental health
- Problem drug use at time of death
- Risk behaviours
- Drug treatment history
- Toxicology
- Details of death itself.



## Recent developments

NDTRS – Engagement with the Gambling Regulator on gambling module

NDTRS - New modules added on drug related intimidation and dual diagnosis

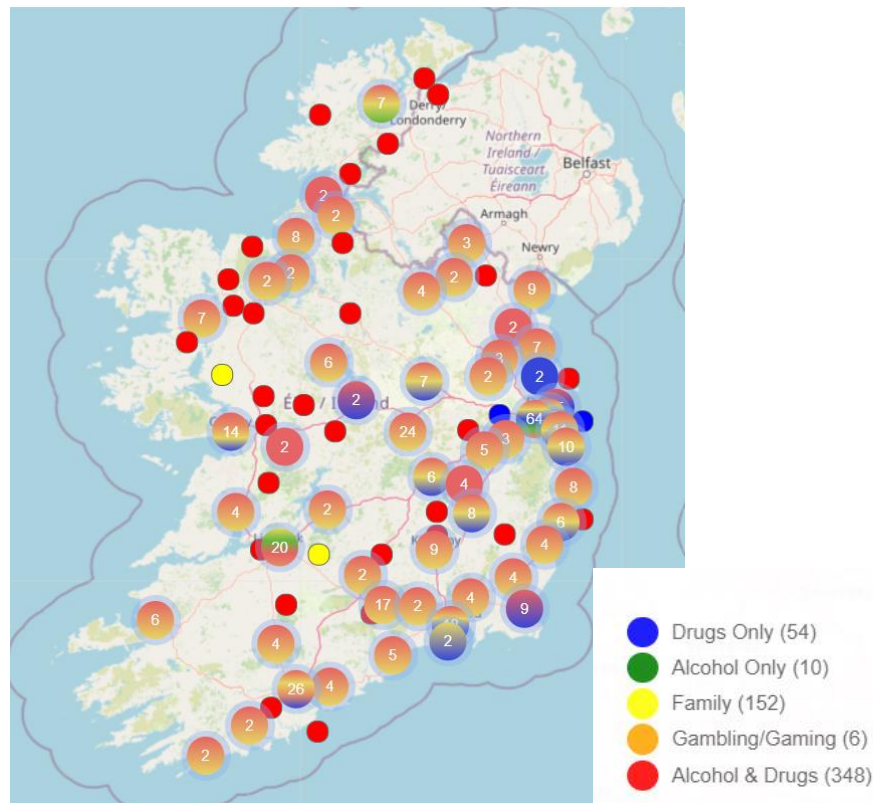
NDRDI – resumption of collection of probable suicide deaths for DOH started 2024

NDRDI – addition of PCRS data so can examine more closely deaths with prescribable drugs implicated

# Mapping of data

- Recent additions of HRs and IHAs to our systems
- Interactive map to identify location and type of services (partnership HRB/DOH)

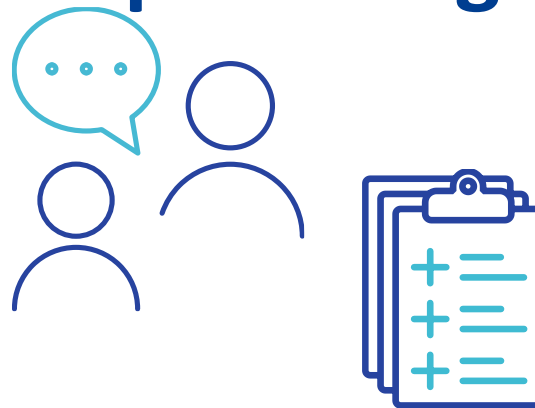
[https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/services\\_map](https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/services_map)





# NHIS requirements when providing data

- Initial engagement on feasibility
- Completion of data request form
- NHIS as collaborator or co-applicant
- Data usage agreement
- Destruction of data when project is complete



**Thanks for listening**  
**Any questions?**

