

HRB Bulletin

National Drug-Related Deaths Index

Drug Poisoning Deaths in Ireland in 2022: Data from the National Drug-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI)

Cathy Kelleher, Fiona Riordan
and Arya Gopalakrishnan

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E-Appendix A Selected characteristics of the deceased and circumstances of death, NDRDI 2013 and 2022

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deaths		324	311	309	309	326	363	379	446	373	343
Employed	n	40	34	39	31	44	40	55	67	43	52
	%	12.3	10.9	12.6	10.0	13.5	11.0	14.5	15.0	11.5	15.2
Not in employment ^a	n	197	218	197	197	201	214	230	247	189	154
	%	60.8	70.1	63.8	63.8	61.7	59.0	60.7	55.4	50.7	44.9
Stable accommodation	n	235	241	251	246	261	283	304	350	290	237
	%	72.5	77.5	81.2	79.6	80.1	78.0	80.2	78.5	77.7	69.1
Relationship status single	n	228	238	226	219	227	252	286	335	289	236
	%	70.4	76.5	73.1	70.9	69.6	69.4	75.5	75.1	77.5	68.8
Parent of child(ren) under 18 years	n	36	45	46	45	28	43	49	60	46	32
	%	11.1	14.5	14.9	14.6	8.6	11.8	12.9	13.5	12.3	9.3
Place of incident											
Private dwelling	n	220	233	252	234	238	260	280	337	283	241
	%	67.9	74.9	81.6	75.7	73.0	71.6	73.9	75.6	75.9	70.3
Public place ^b	n	34	43	22	35	32	40	53	41	27	27
	%	10.5	13.8	7.1	11.3	9.8	11.0	14.0	9.2	7.2	7.9
Accommodation for people who are homeless	n	23	14	18	23	26	26	31	50	42	29
	%	7.1	4.5	5.8	7.4	8.0	7.2	8.2	11.2	11.3	8.5
With whom at the time of incident											
Alone at the time of incident	n	127	136	130	123	139	148	144	180	154	160
	%	39.2	43.7	42.1	39.8	42.6	40.8	38.0	40.4	41.3	46.6
<i>Alone and injecting at the time of incident</i>	n	27	27	24	18	21	26	20	24	16	16
	%	21.3	19.9	18.5	14.6	15.1	17.6	13.9	13.3	10.4	10.0

^a Refers to those unemployed, retired, or unable to work due to disability

^b Includes public place, street, or park, and derelict or other public building

E-Appendix B Number of drug poisoning deaths by HSE health region of incident, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

		Year of death									
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
HSE Dublin and North East	n	101	90	93	83	92	80	100	114	105	102
	%	31.2	28.9	30.1	26.9	28.2	22.0	26.4	25.6	28.1	29.7
HSE Dublin and Midlands	n	69	90	88	93	80	105	107	134	85	63
	%	21.3	28.9	28.5	30.1	24.5	28.9	28.2	30.0	22.8	18.4
HSE Dublin and South East	n	32	50	50	45	45	61	61	69	66	46
	%	9.9	16.1	16.2	14.6	13.8	16.8	16.1	15.5	17.7	13.4
HSE South West	n	26	31	31	39	38	39	50	58	53	51
	%	8.0	10.0	10.0	12.6	11.7	10.7	13.2	13.0	14.2	14.9
HSE Mid West	n	25	16	12	16	21	26	23	22	29	23
	%	7.7	5.1	3.9	5.2	6.4	7.2	6.1	4.9	7.8	6.7
HSE West and North West	n	27	16	23	20	25	25	30	36	22	14
	%	8.3	5.1	7.4	6.5	7.7	6.9	7.9	8.1	5.9	4.1
Ireland unknown / other ^a	n	44	18	12	13	25	27	8	13	13	44
	%	13.6	5.8	3.9	4.2	7.7	7.4	2.1	2.9	3.5	12.8

^a Other: relevant geocodes were not available

E-Appendix C Number of drug poisoning deaths by HSE health region of residence, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

		Year of death									
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
HSE Dublin and North East	n	114	87	91	83	92	89	97	116	105	100
	%	35.2	28.0	29.4	26.9	28.2	24.5	25.6	26.0	28.2	29.2
HSE Dublin and Midlands	n	71	83	88	84	73	102	106	130	87	80
	%	21.9	26.7	28.5	27.2	22.4	28.1	28.0	29.1	23.3	23.3
HSE Dublin and South East	n	39	48	52	44	51	71	63	69	71	58
	%	12.0	15.4	16.8	14.2	15.6	19.6	16.6	15.5	19.0	16.9
HSE South West	n	32	34	35	44	38	36	45	59	54	53
	%	9.9	10.9	11.3	14.2	11.7	9.9	11.9	13.2	14.5	15.5
HSE Mid West	n	28	18	14	17	26	27	27	23	30	25
	%	8.6	5.8	4.5	5.5	8.0	7.4	7.1	5.2	8.0	7.3
HSE West and North West	n	31	20	24	22	27	26	30	40	21	21
	%	9.6	6.4	7.8	7.1	8.3	7.2	7.9	9.0	5.6	6.1
Ireland unknown / other ^a	n	9	21	~	15	19	12	11	9	~	6
	%	2.8	6.8	~	4.9	5.8	3.3	2.9	2.0	~	1.7

^a Other: relevant geocodes were not available

~ Five deaths or fewer

E-Appendix D Number of drug poisoning deaths by county of residence, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

	Year of death									
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deaths	324	311	309	309	326	363	379	446	373	343
Dublin (city and county)	141	148	135	139	135	141	162	184	163	151
Cork (city and county)	22	31	29	37	41	34	37	52	40	42
Limerick (city and county)	11	15	8	14	12	14	11	18	15	14
Waterford (city and county)	~	7	13	~	10	11	7	14	20	9
Tipperary	8	9	13	9	11	18	19	11	13	12
Louth	15	11	10	8	10	12	12	15	10	11
Kildare	~	6	10	12	~	14	12	20	8	8
Wicklow	6	12	7	11	9	11	11	15	11	10
Meath	14	~	6	6	12	10	9	14	10	~
Galway	9	8	10	8	6	7	14	14	10	8
Kerry	11	8	7	11	~	~	8	7	14	11
Clare	13	~	~	~	9	8	10	~	9	7
Donegal	11	7	~	8	~	~	7	10	~	~
Wexford	~	6	~	~	8	14	9	11	9	12
Westmeath	6	~	~	~	~	9	~	6	6	8
Laois	8	6	7	~	6	~	8	6	~	~
Kilkenny	7	9	~	~	~	8	~	7	~	~
Cavan	~	~	~	7	6	7	~	7	~	~
Carlow	~	~	9	~	~	~	6	~	6	~
Offaly	~	~	~	~	~	~	7	6	~	7
Sligo	~	6	~	0	7	~	~	8	~	~
Mayo	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Longford	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	0
Monaghan	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Roscommon	~	~	~	~	7	~	~	~	~	~
Leitrim	~	0	~	0	~	~	~	~	0	0
Ireland unknown	0	0	~	0	0	~	0	0	0	0

~ Five deaths or fewer

E-Appendix E Characteristics of the deceased and deaths due to alcohol-only poisoning, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deaths		61	51	48	59	66	64	68	72	64	67
Male	n	49	39	31	45	48	49	50	45	51	47
	%	80.3	76.5	64.6	76.3	72.7	76.6	73.5	62.5	79.7	70.1
Female	n	12	12	17	14	18	15	18	27	13	20
	%	19.7	23.5	35.4	23.7	27.3	23.4	26.5	37.5	20.3	29.9
Median age (range ^a)		50 (25-71)	49 (26-70)	54 (27-68)	52 (33-66)	48.5 (31-71)	55 (28-68)	53 (30-69)	51.5 (31-72)	56.5 (28-75)	54 (31-76)
Homelessness ^b	n	~	~	~	7	~	~	7	6	6	~
	%	~	~	~	12.3	~	~	10.3	8.3	9.4	~
Heath and health behaviours											
History of alcohol dependency	n	35	22	23	33	40	31	42	48	40	43
	%	57.4	43.1	47.9	55.9	60.6	48.4	61.8	66.7	62.5	64.2
History of other drug misuse or dependency	n	8	~	~	~	10	~	9	10	~	6
	%	13.1	~	~	~	15.2	~	13.2	13.9	~	9.0
History of mental health issues	n	10	8	6	13	15	10	19	20	10	20
	%	16.4	15.7	12.5	22.0	22.7	15.6	27.9	27.8	15.6	29.9
Ever treated for any substance	n	9	~	~	15	11	8	12	15	6	14
	%	14.8	~	~	25.4	16.7	12.5	17.6	20.8	9.4	20.9
Place of incident											
Private dwelling	n	54	43	43	41	58	45	54	60	50	55
	%	88.5	84.3	89.6	69.5	87.9	70.3	79.4	83.3	78.1	82.1
With whom at the time of incident											
Alone	n	40	32	24	28	34	30	32	31	31	38
	%	65.6	62.7	50.0	47.5	51.5	46.9	47.1	43.1	48.4	56.7

^a Age range is 5th percentile to 95th percentile (90% of cases are included within this range)

^b Homelessness is based on the ETHOS Framework definition¹¹

~ Five deaths or fewer

E-Appendix F Characteristics of the deceased and deaths due to alcohol-related poisoning, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deaths		144	122	116	150	138	140	161	161	162	132
Male	n	104	91	77	105	98	94	115	105	117	91
	%	72.2	74.6	66.4	70.0	71.0	67.1	71.4	65.2	72.2	68.9
Female	n	40	31	39	45	40	46	46	56	45	41
	%	27.8	25.4	33.6	30.0	29.0	32.9	28.6	34.8	27.8	31.1
Median age (range ^a)		47 (23 - 67)	43 (24 - 70)	45 (24 - 66)	46 (29 - 67)	47 (28 - 67)	48.5 (27 - 68)	50 (26 - 69)	46 (26 - 69)	49.5 (26 - 73)	49.5 (30 - 75)
Homelessness ^b	n	13	11	13	25	19	16	16	18	23	11
	%	9.0	9.1	11.2	16.9	13.9	11.4	9.9	11.2	14.2	8.3
Health and health behaviours											
History of alcohol dependency	n	71	61	55	79	85	67	83	90	83	78
	%	49.3	50.0	47.4	52.7	61.6	47.9	51.6	55.9	51.2	59.1
History of other drug misuse or dependency	n	51	47	47	65	55	44	67	70	57	39
	%	35.4	38.5	40.5	43.3	39.9	31.4	41.6	43.5	35.2	29.5
History of mental health issues	n	49	31	43	57	44	46	56	68	55	43
	%	34.0	25.4	37.1	38.0	31.9	32.9	34.8	42.2	34.0	32.6
Ever treated for any substance	n	30	27	24	53	30	24	39	38	32	37
	%	20.8	22.1	20.7	35.3	21.7	17.1	24.2	23.6	19.8	28.0
Place of incident											
Private dwelling	n	115	99	91	107	110	98	119	125	123	99
	%	79.9	81.1	78.4	71.3	79.7	70.0	73.9	77.6	75.9	75.0
With whom at the time of incident											
Alone	n	77	68	54	64	69	72	63	77	74	75
	%	53.5	55.7	46.6	42.7	50.0	51.4	39.1	47.8	45.7	56.8

^a Age range is 5th percentile to 95th percentile (90% of cases are included within this range)

^b Homelessness is based on the ETHOS Framework definition¹¹

E-Appendix G Most common additional drugs implicated in alcohol-related poisoning deaths, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deaths		144	122	116	150	138	140	161	161	162	132
Most common additional drugs implicated with alcohol											
Diazepam	n	30	30	33	33	22	29	23	22	26	26
	%	20.8	24.6	28.4	22.0	15.9	20.7	14.3	13.7	16.0	19.7
Alprazolam	n	12	6	13	18	12	27	20	24	19	19
	%	8.3	4.9	11.2	12.0	8.7	19.3	12.4	14.9	11.7	14.4
Cocaine	n	6	9	12	13	9	15	17	25	24	14
	%	4.2	7.4	10.3	8.7	6.5	10.7	10.6	15.5	14.8	10.6
Methadone	n	11	19	15	25	15	13	24	19	22	13
	%	7.6	15.6	12.9	16.7	10.9	9.3	14.9	11.8	13.6	9.8
Zopiclone	n	18	19	14	24	7	7	19	12	16	12
	%	12.5	15.6	12.1	16.0	5.1	5.0	11.8	7.5	9.9	9.1
Heroin	n	20	22	17	25	20	20	26	23	17	11
	%	13.9	18.0	14.7	16.7	14.5	14.3	16.1	14.3	10.5	8.3
Chlordiazepoxide	n	8	~	~	~	8	9	6	8	6	7
	%	5.6	~	~	~	5.8	6.4	3.7	5.0	3.7	5.3
Olanzapine	n	6	~	~	8	6	~	6	~	6	7
	%	4.2	~	~	5.3	4.3	~	3.7	~	3.7	5.3
Pregabalin	n	0	~	6	16	11	13	14	17	16	7
	%	0.0	~	5.2	10.7	8.0	9.3	8.7	10.6	9.9	5.3
Tramadol hydrochloride	n	9	~	~	~	7	~	~	8	7	7
	%	6.3	~	~	~	5.1	~	~	5.0	4.3	5.3

a Pregabalin was included in routine postmortem toxicology screening by the State Laboratory from 2013

~ Five deaths or fewer