

2025 | Drug Treatment Demand in Ireland



HRB Health Research Board

HRB StatLink Series 30

Drug treatment demand

Total number of cases treated

15,422



33%
new cases



61%
previously treated cases

Main problem drug



42%
cocaine



25%
opioids



15%
cannabis



11%
benzodiazepines

Breakdown by gender

69%
Male

34 years
Median age



30%
Female

36 years
Median age

Main problem drug by age

age started treatment



cannabis
19 years or under



cocaine
20–44 years



opioids
45 years or over

Research. Evidence. Action.

Risk factors



18%
of all cases
ever injected



4%
of new cases
ever injected



26%
of previously treated
cases ever injected

Polydrug use



62%
of cases use
more than
one drug

Drugs most commonly used together



1st
cocaine plus
alcohol



2nd
cocaine plus
cannabis

Cocaine



6,535
cocaine
cases



73%
powder



27%
crack

Powder cocaine

76%
Male

24%
Female



32 years
median age



38%
employed

Crack cocaine

55%
Male

45%
Female



40 years
median age



5%
employed

All percentages cited above are a proportion of the total number of cases

NEED ADVICE

If you have any concerns regarding drugs please visit
www.drugs.ie or call 1800 459 459