

National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Data

Dr Suzi Lyons, Senior Researcher

National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)

- On-line national surveillance database on treated problem drug and alcohol use
 - Funded by the Department of Health
 - Follows European methodology for core data
 - Drugs, alcohol, Affected Family Members, other addictions (gambling, gaming, etc)
- 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)

People with alcohol problems increasingly combining drink and cocaine, HRB says

Cocaine surpasses cannabis as the most common additional drug amo

Expand



HRB Research Board

Cocaine use most common for those seeking treatment in Ireland - report

Updated / Tuesday, 20 Jun 2023 06:38



Over 12,000 cases were treated for problem drug abuse last year



By **Fergal Bowers**
Health Correspondent

Cocaine is the most common drug for people seeking treatment in Ireland, according to a new report from the Health Research Board.

hrb.ie

What it is used for?

- Mandatory reporting to Europe and UN
- National strategies & policies
- Planning/funding/evaluation
- Annual reports/funding applications for individual services
- Academic research
- Media

'Point of contact' data collection



- On-line, point of contact, data entry portal
- Controlled access
- Type of data collected:
 - age, gender, living arrangements, employment status, drug types used, treatment type and where it is provided

Treatment demand data

- Case based (not individuals)
- Entries to treatment in the calendar year
- Wide variety of treatments included:
 - Brief intervention, counselling, relapse prevention, education awareness etc
 - Family therapy, Affected Family Members
 - Detoxification, opioid agnostic treatment, residential treatment

Drug treatment data 2022: an example

Drug treatment demand 2022

Total number of cases treated

12,009



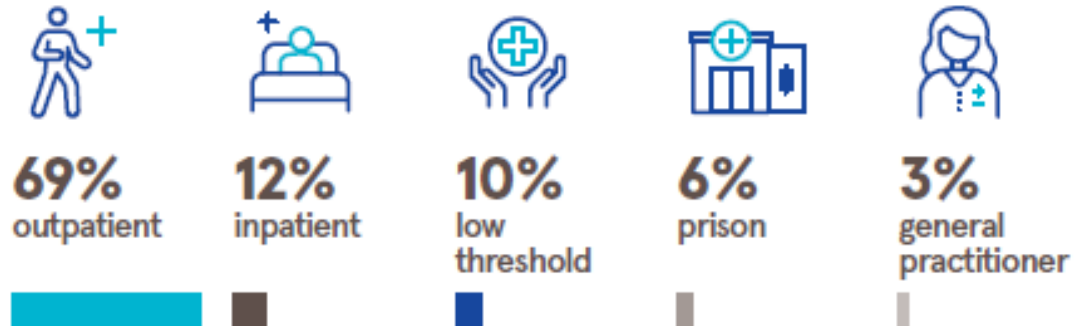
37%
new cases



57%
previously treated cases

Treatment provided

Service type 2022



Main problem drug



34%
cocaine



33%
opioids



19%
cannabis



11%
benzodiazepines



Main problem drug by age

age started treatment



19 years
or younger
cannabis



20-34 years
cocaine



35 years or older
opioids

First drug ever used

Main problem	First drug used	Age first used drugs
Powder cocaine	59% cannabis 27% cocaine	16 years
Crack cocaine	55% cannabis 9% cocaine	15 years
Opioids	56% cannabis	15 years
Cannabis	95% cannabis	14 years
Benzodiazepines	60% cannabis 18% benzodiazepines	15 years

First drug ever used

Main problem	First drug used	Age first used drugs
Powder cocaine	59% cannabis 27% cocaine	16 years
Crack cocaine	55% cannabis 9% cocaine	15 years
Opioids	56% cannabis	15 years
Cannabis	95% cannabis	14 years
Benzodiazepines	60% cannabis 18% benzodiazepines	15 years

Cannabis



65%
Never treated
before

32%
Previously
treated



23 yrs
Age



76%
Male

24%
Female



21%
Student



6%
Homeless



39%
Polydrug
Use

Cannabis most commonly used with cocaine (joint 1st), alcohol (joint 1st) and benzodiazepines

Short Report

Gambling in Ireland: profile of treatment episodes from a national treatment reporting system

Ita Condrón, Suzi Lyons and Anne Marie Carew

Health Research Board, Dublin, Ireland

Table 1. Demographic profile of treatment episodes for problem gambling

Variable	Gambling only (GO)		Gambling plus an additional problem (GA)		Total	
	N = 1580		N = 1419		N = 2999	
Sex						
Male	1473	93.2%	1340	94.4%	2813	93.8%
Female	104	6.6%	78	5.5%	182	6.1%
Age (years)						
	34	(21, 57)	33	(21, 54)	34	(21, 56)
Education						
Primary level incomplete	10	0.6%	20	1.4%	30	1.0%
Primary level	110	7.0%	167	11.8%	277	9.2%
Junior cert	390	24.7%	500	35.2%	890	29.7%
Leaving cert	677	42.8%	533	37.6%	1210	40.3%
Third level	269	17.0%	135	9.5%	404	13.5%
Never went to school	~	~	~	~	~	~

Discussion

Press release

Ministers Harris, Flanagan, and Byrne announce health-led approach to the possession of drugs for personal use



Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use

[Supporting recovery.](#)

There are two components to the Health Diversion Approach whereby a person in possession of drugs, determined by An Garda Síochána to be for personal use, on the first occasion would be referred by An Garda Síochána on a mandatory basis to the Health Service Executive (HSE) for a health screening

Principles



Participation

Where student, staff and the wider campus community are actively engaged in deciding on and implementing health and wellbeing promotion actions.



Partnership

Where trans-disciplinary collaborations and cross-sector partnerships are fostered to create connections between health, learning and the campus structure.



Evidence based

Where formulation of policies and practices are guided by evidence, and where knowledge is created through action and research.



Sustainability

Where health and wellbeing of the campus community is infused in the everyday policies, teaching and learning, and research and innovation.

Discussion

- Improve coverage of addiction treatment
- Improve understanding trends
 - Under-representation of younger people
- Provide evidence both for local and national policies
- Pivotal moment in drug-treatment policy
 - Need to measure any impact



Impact 2023 & Creating Our Future



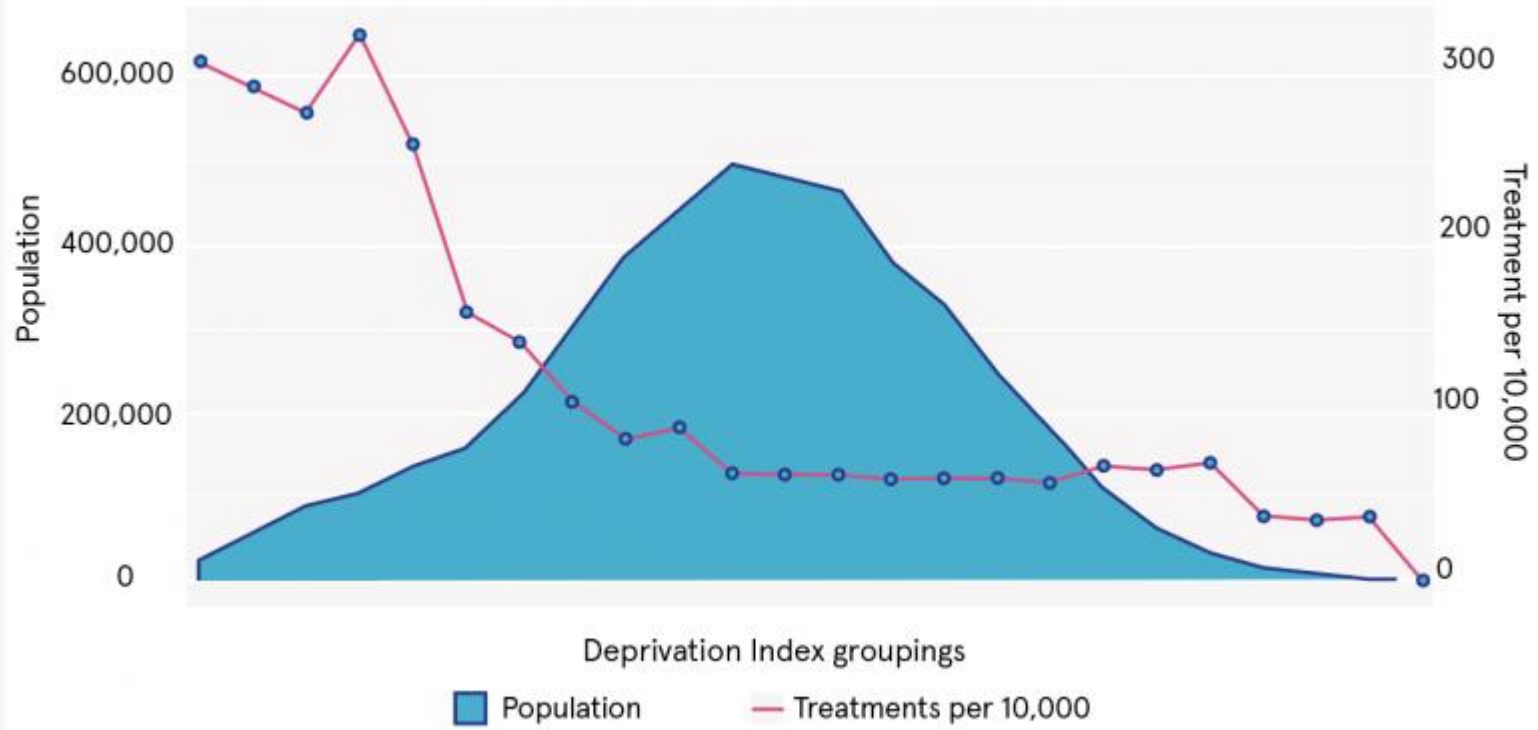
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Impact 2030

Ireland's Research and
Innovation Strategy



Population and treatment rate by deprivation



Characteristics

Gender _____



33 yrs
median age



14%
homeless

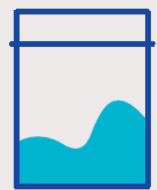


22%
employed



21%
ever
injected

Cocaine



4,048
cocaine
cases

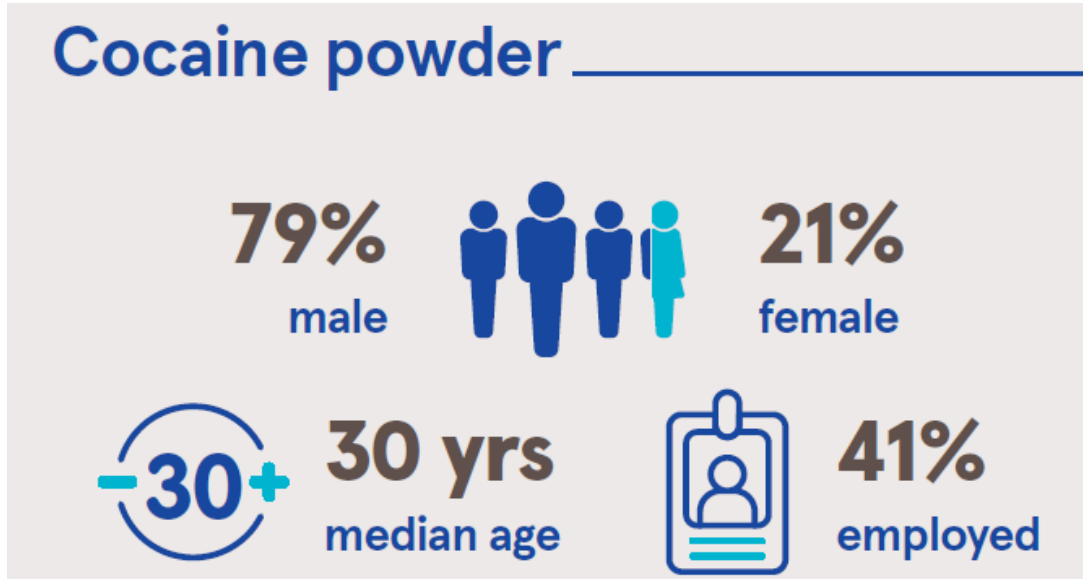


78%
powder

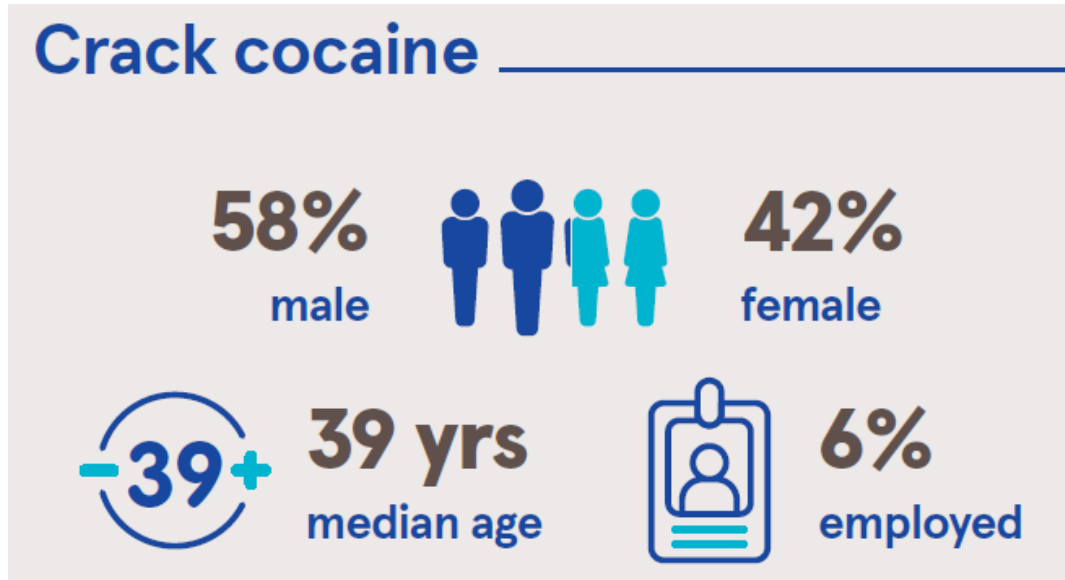


22%
crack

Powder cocaine and crack cocaine



Powder cocaine and crack cocaine



Key trends over time (2016-2022)

- Increase in cocaine cases
- Decrease in the proportion of opioid cases
- Decrease in the numbers reporting injecting
- Mixing drugs (polydrug use) is common