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

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

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Drug treatment demand 2022

Total number of cases treated

12,009

37% new cases

57% previously treated cases

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Treatment provided

Service type 2022

69% outpatient

12% inpatient

10% low threshold

6% prison

3% general practitioner

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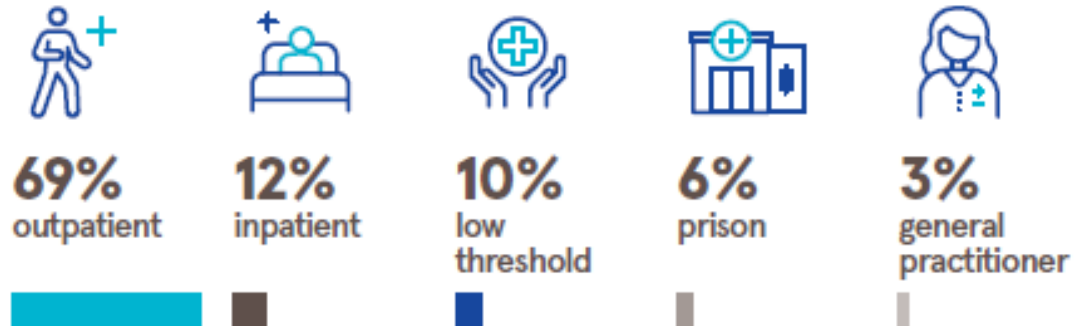
Main problem drug

34% cocaine

33% opioids

19% cannabis

11% benzodiazepines

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Main problem drug by age

age started treatment

19 years or younger **cannabis**

20–34 years **cocaine**

35 years or older **opioids**

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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**

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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

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Short Report

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

Ita Condron, 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) N = 1580		Gambling plus an additional problem (GA) N = 1419		Total 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

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

An Tionól Saoránach | The Citizens' Assembly

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
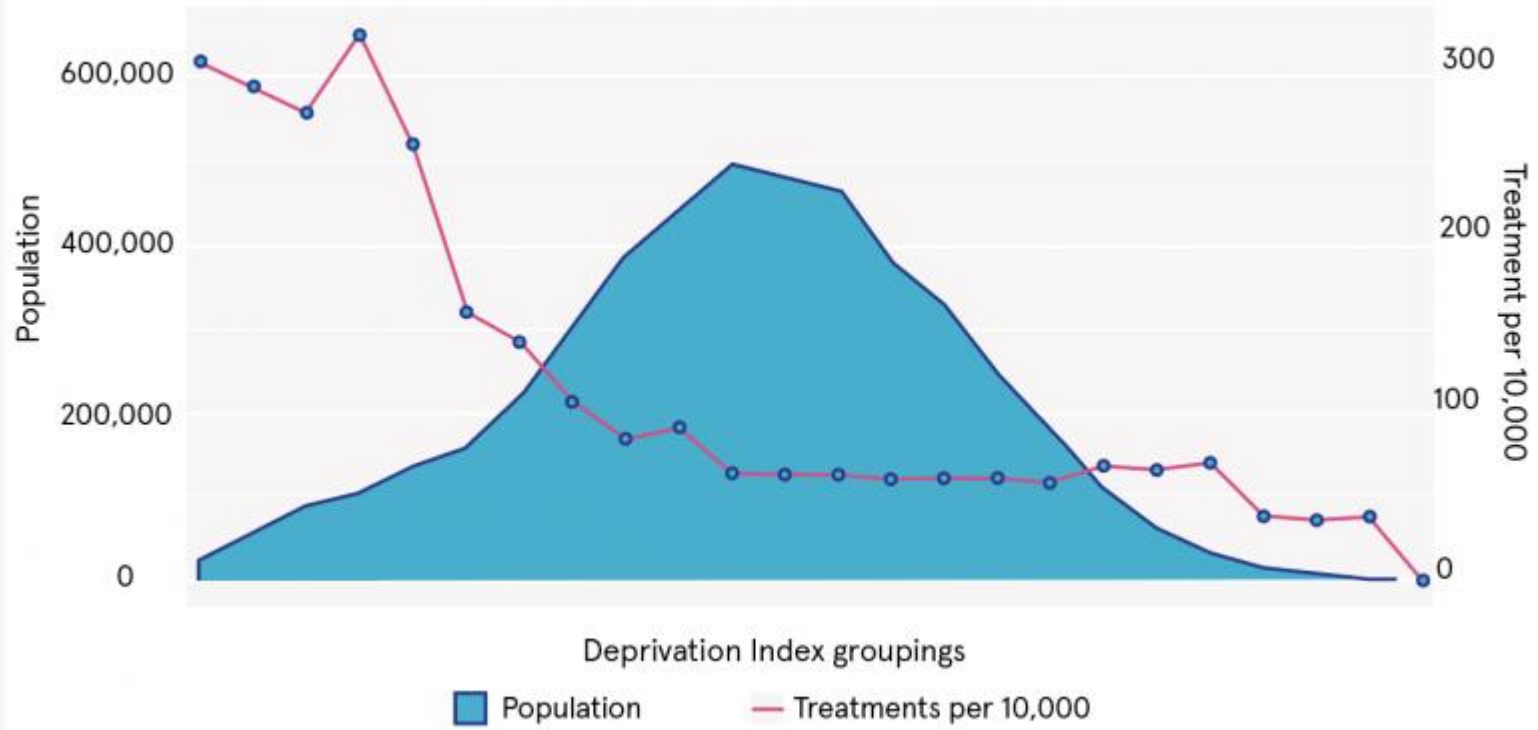
Impact 2023 & Creating Our Future

Population and treatment rate by deprivation

Population axis (left): 0, 200,000, 400,000, 600,000

Treatment per 10,000 axis (right): 0, 100, 200, 300

Deprivation Index groupings

Legend:
- Population
- Treatments per 10,000

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Characteristics

Gender

28% females
72% males

-33+ 33 yrs median age

14% homeless

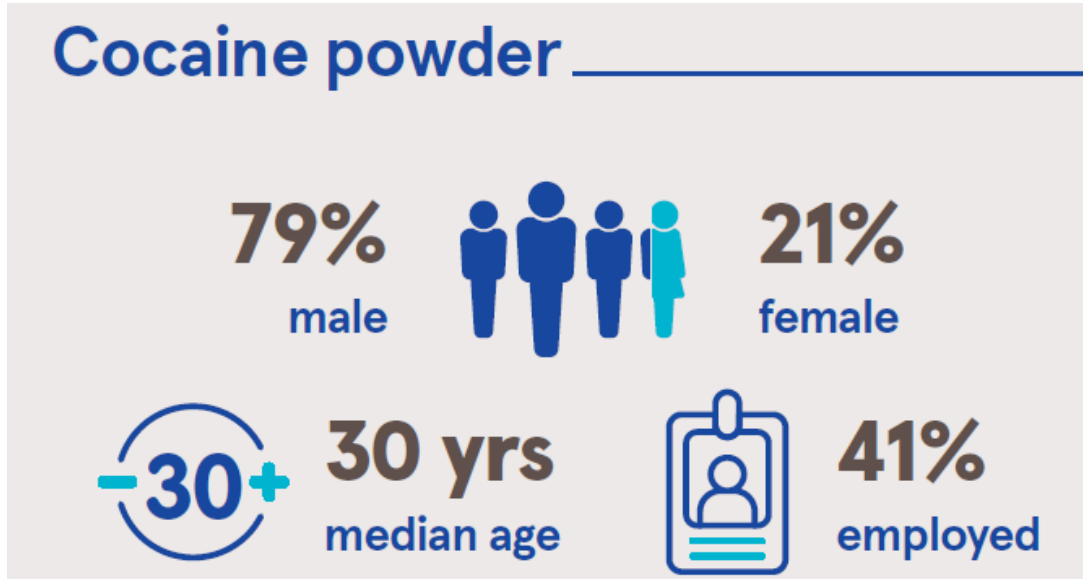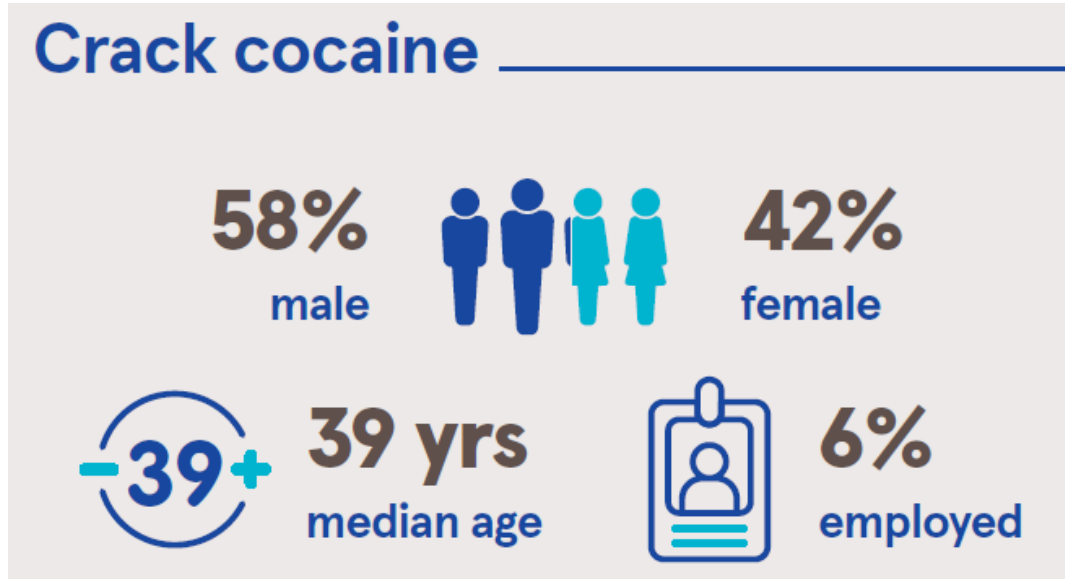22% employed

21% ever injected

Cocaine
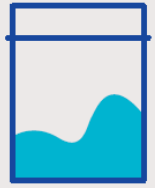
4,048 cocaine cases

78% powder

22% crack

Powder cocaine and crack cocaine

Cocaine powder

79% male

21% female

30 yrs median age

41% employed

Powder cocaine and crack cocaine

Crack cocaine

58% male

42% female

39 yrs median age

6% employed

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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