

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland

2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Polydrug Use Results

This bulletin presents key findings on polydrug use (the use of more than one substance within a specific time period) in Ireland and Northern Ireland. It presents data collected in the All Ireland Drug Prevalence Survey 2006/2007 relating to polydrug use on a last month (current use) basis. The focus is on the combinations of both legal and illegal drugs based on information obtained from the second drug prevalence survey of households. The bulletin also examines gender and age differences and the relationship between the use of a particular substance and the use of another substance. The survey was carried out by Ipsos MORI in Ireland and by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency in Northern Ireland according to standards set by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

Ireland – Key Findings

- One-fifth (20%) of all adults aged 15-64 in Ireland had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) in the last month.
- The most commonly reported form of polydrug use is a combination of alcohol and tobacco.
- Five percent of all adults had used tobacco only in the previous month.
- Among all adults, polydrug use involving any illegal drugs is small at 3%.
- A higher percentage of females (23%) than males (17%) had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) during the last month.
- Combined use of alcohol and tobacco was more frequently reported by males (29%) than females (24%).
- The combination of alcohol, tobacco and any illegal drugs was more common among males (3%) than females (0.9%).
- A larger proportion of young adults aged 15-34 (31%) reported using a combination of alcohol and tobacco than older adults aged 35-64 (23%).
- Just over four-fifths (81%) of those who had smoked tobacco, had also used alcohol in the last month.
- The majority of current cannabis users also reported using alcohol (91%) and tobacco (88%).

Northern Ireland – Key Findings

- Just over one-fifth (21%) of all adults aged 15-64 in Northern Ireland had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) in the last month.
- The most commonly reported form of polydrug use among all adults is a combination of alcohol and tobacco; this is also true for gender and age.
- Four percent of all adults had used tobacco only in the previous month.
- Among all adults, polydrug use involving any illegal drugs is small at 2%.
- A higher percentage of females (24%) than males (18%) had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) during the last month.
- Combined use of alcohol and tobacco was more frequently reported by males (21%) than females (16%).
- A larger proportion of young adults aged 15-34 (23%) reported using a combination of alcohol and tobacco than older adults aged 35-64 (15%).
- Over three-quarters (78%) of all adults who had smoked tobacco, had also used alcohol in the last month.
- The majority of current cannabis users also reported using alcohol (98%) and tobacco (76%).

Ireland and Northern Ireland Comparison – Key Findings

- Approximately one-fifth of all adults in both Northern Ireland (21%) and Ireland (20%) had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) in the last month.
- The most common form of polydrug use among all adults is a combination of alcohol and tobacco for both jurisdictions and is more prevalent in Ireland (27%) than in Northern Ireland (18%).
- Similar proportions of respondents smoked tobacco only in both Ireland (5%) and Northern Ireland (4%), while a larger proportion of respondents consumed alcohol only in Ireland (50%) than in Northern Ireland (43%).
- Combinations that involved the use of sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants were generally higher among older adults than young adults in both jurisdictions.
- In both Ireland and Northern Ireland, combinations that involved the use of any illegal drugs were reported by a small minority of respondents.

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Introduction

The survey was commissioned by the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) in Ireland and the Public Health Information and Research Branch (PHIRB), formerly known as the Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU), within the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) in Northern Ireland.

The main focus of the survey was to obtain prevalence rates for key illegal drugs, such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine and heroin, on a lifetime (ever used), last year (recent use), and last month (current use) basis. Similar prevalence questions were also asked of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs such as sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants. Attitudinal and demographic information was also sought from respondents.

Methodology

The questionnaire and methodology for this survey were based on best practice guidelines drawn up by the EMCDDA. The questionnaires were administered through face-to-face interviews with respondents aged between 15 and 64 normally resident in households in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Thus persons outside these age ranges, or who do not normally reside in private households, have not been included in the survey. This approach is commonly used throughout the EU and because of the exclusion of those living in institutions (for example, prisons, hostels) this type of prevalence survey is usually known as a general population survey.

Fieldwork for the survey was carried out between October 2006 and May 2007 and the final achieved sample was 6,969 (4,967 in Ireland and 2,002 in Northern Ireland). The response rate for the survey was 65% in Ireland and 62% in Northern Ireland. Area based sampling was applied in Ireland. The first stage involved stratifying by Health Board¹/Regional Drugs Task Force (RDTF) area in Ireland. Within the Health Board/RDTF strata Electoral Divisions (EDs) were selected as areas. In Northern Ireland, the first stage involved stratifying by Health and Social Services Board (HSSB) areas and within the strata simple random sampling was used. The achieved sample was weighted by gender, age, RDTF area in Ireland and HSSB area in Northern Ireland, to maximise representativeness of the general population. The effects of stratification, clustering and weighting have been incorporated in the interval estimates (i.e. design

effect adjusted). Details of the methodology have been published on the websites of the NACD (<http://www.nacd.ie/>) and the DHSSPS (<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/>) in comprehensive technical reports containing copies of the questionnaires used in each jurisdiction.

The Research Advisory Group (RAG) decided to change from using a pen and paper interviewing technique to computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), where the interviewer records responses electronically. This technique has several advantages: interviews can be administered more quickly; human error is minimised, yielding higher-quality data; and data input is managed more efficiently, thus cutting costs.²

What is Prevalence?

The term prevalence refers to the proportion of a population who has used a drug over a particular time period. In general population surveys, prevalence is measured by asking respondents in a representative sample drawn from the population to recall their use of drugs. The three most widely used recall periods are: lifetime (ever used a drug), last year (used a drug in the last twelve months), and last month (used a drug in the last 30 days). Provided a sample is representative of the total population, prevalence information obtained from a sample can be used to infer prevalence in the population.

Lifetime prevalence refers to the proportion of the sample that reported ever having used the named drug at the time they were surveyed. A person who records lifetime prevalence may – or may not – be currently using the drug. Lifetime prevalence should not be interpreted as meaning that people have necessarily used a drug over a long period of time or that they will use the drug in the future.

Last year prevalence refers to the proportion of the sample that reported using a named drug in the year prior to the survey. For this reason, last year prevalence is often referred to as recent use.

Last month prevalence refers to the proportion of the sample that reported using a named drug in the 30 day period prior to the survey. Last month prevalence is often referred to as current use. A proportion of those reporting current use may be occasional (or first-time) users who happen to have used in the period leading up to the survey – it should therefore be appreciated that current use is not synonymous with regular use.

1 Since January 2005 the Health Boards in Ireland have undergone restructuring and are merged under one authority – the Health Service Executive. However for the purpose of comparison with 2002/3 data, we have continued to weight the data by the former Health Board areas as these correspond with the Regional Drugs Task Force (RDTF) structures. The above reference relates to the Health Board structures details in *Bulletin 2: Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey – Health Board (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results (Revised)* June, 2005.

2 EMCDDA Handbook on Population Surveys.

As with other European surveys, people over the age of 64 are excluded from this survey, as they grew up in an era when both the use and availability of illegal drugs were very limited. Therefore surveys with older people have, to date, shown very low rates of use even on a lifetime basis. This situation will change over time as the younger population grows older. Hence lifetime prevalence rates are likely to increase for a considerable period of time. When examining the data and comparing results over time, last year use is the best reflection of changes as it refers to recent use. Last month use is equally valuable as it refers to current use.

Previous Publications

First results from the second Drug Prevalence Survey 2006/2007 were published in Bulletin 1 (January 2008). It gave lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates for key drugs for the Island of Ireland, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Bulletin 2, published in June 2008, contained comparable information for Ireland and its constituent Regional Drugs Task Force areas (former Health Board areas) and Northern Ireland and its constituent Health and Social Services Board areas.

Bulletin 3 (2006/7 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cannabis Results) was published in December 2008, it examines age of first use; regular use; type of cannabis used; method by which cannabis is used; how and where cannabis is obtained; reasons for stopping use; attitudes to cannabis use and perceptions of risk, together with the typical profile of cannabis users.

Bulletin 4 (2006/7 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cocaine Results) was published in October 2008 and contains prevalence rates for the use of cocaine (cocaine powder or crack cocaine) and other information relating to cocaine use in Ireland and Northern Ireland for 2006/7 and also provides comparison information between 2002/3 and 2006/7. Results are given for all respondents, and are also presented by gender and by age (young adults aged 15-34 and older adults aged 35-64).

Bulletin 6 (2006/7 Drug Prevalence Survey: Sedatives or Tranquillisers, and Anti-depressants Results) was published in March 2009 and contains prevalence rates for the use of sedatives or tranquillisers, and anti-depressants and other information in relation to sedative or tranquilliser and anti-depressant use in Ireland and Northern Ireland for 2006/7. Results are given for all respondents, and are also presented by gender and by age (young adults aged 15-34 and older adults aged 35-64).

Understanding the Results in this Bulletin

This bulletin (Bulletin 5) is concerned with polydrug use, that is, the use of more than one drug within the last month, in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Results are given for all respondents aged 15-64, by gender and by age (young adults aged 15-34 and older adults aged 35-64) based on data provided for last month use.

Readers should note that the total sample size for each group is given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates presented in the accompanying tables are rounded to one decimal place and are rounded to whole numbers in the text (except for percentages less than 1%).

As in all sample surveys, the greater the sample size the more statistically reliable are the results. Some of the differences in prevalence rates in the tables will be attributable to natural sample variations. Detailed confidence intervals for all individual drug prevalence rates can be found on the websites of the NACD and DHSSPS. Confidence intervals are not available for the polydrug combinations listed in this bulletin.

Invalid responses have been excluded from all analyses. Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to either the effect of rounding or where respondents could give more than one answer. Where the figure 0.0% appears it does not mean that no-one has used the drug, rather it means that in this category no respondent reported use.

In 2006/7, the Z-Test was used to compare differences in polydrug use for selected variables such as gender, age etc and between the findings in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Chi-Square examined the association between the use of one substance and the use of other substances. For the purposes of this study, a p-value of less than 0.05 indicated that a true association or relationship existed and the differences were not due to chance. It should be noted, that due to small cell counts for some of the polydrug combinations the chi-square test was not appropriate to determine associations.

Interpreting the Data

In each of the tables:

- All figures are based on weighted data
- All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place
- All figures are based on valid responses
- Data is based on last month use

For the purpose of this study:

- 'legal drugs' refers to alcohol, tobacco, sedatives or tranquillisers, and anti-depressants
- 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents
- 'no legal or illegal drugs' refers to none of the above specified (legal or illegal) drugs in the last month – this category has replaced the 'Nothing' category in the previous Bulletin 5 (2002/2003).

Definition of Polydrug Use

There are a number of forms of polydrug use. The most general definition (and the form reported here) is concurrent drug use, which involves a person using at least two substances during the same time period (for example, having used both cocaine and ecstasy in the last month).

Polydrug use is associated with a number of negative consequences including mental and physical ill-health, violence, aggression and a range of social problems. Polydrug use is more likely to result in accidents and death (including death from overdose) than when a single substance is consumed.

There is evidence that polydrug use is common among people seeking drug treatment. The majority of cases treated in 2007 in Ireland reported problem drug use of more than one substance (67%), which was slightly lower than in 2006 (71%). Polydrug use increases the complexity of these cases, and is associated with poorer treatment outcomes (HRB 2009)³. Earlier research shows that the pattern of 'additional' drugs was linked to the main problem drug, the most common additional problem drugs were cannabis followed by benzodiazepines, other opiates and then cocaine (HRB 2005)⁴.

In considering the results presented here, note that the figures for prevalence are for that specific combination of drugs ONLY. Thus, the figures for alcohol only, refers to that group of people who consumed alcohol only, i.e. that group did not use any other substance, during that specified interval. A higher percentage than this will actually have consumed alcohol, but will also have used another substance (for example, smoked tobacco). The important point is that the tables presented in this report are not aimed at presenting information on the prevalence of *individual* substances but rather at the combination of drugs.

Future Publication

A further publication from the Drug Prevalence Survey will present analysis of data on alcohol use for Ireland only.

3 Alcohol and Drug Research Unit of the Health Research Board (2009) *Treated problem drug use in Ireland: Figures for 2007 from the National Drug Treatment Reporting System*. Available at www.hrb.ie/publications.

4 Drug Misuse Research Division of the Health Research Board (2005), *Trends in treated problematic drug use in Ireland, 1998 to 2002*, Occasional Paper No. 17/2005.

Results – Ireland

Polydrug Use – Last Month Prevalence

All adults (Table 1)

Results from Table 1 show that one-fifth (20%) of the adult population aged 15-64 in Ireland had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) in the last month. In other words a large proportion of adults are not current users of any substance.

While the largest proportion of respondents (50%) had consumed alcohol only, the most frequent combination of polydrug use involved the two most familiar legal substances, i.e. alcohol and tobacco (26%). Five percent of respondents had used tobacco only.

Looking at the overall figures, the percentages involving other forms of polydrug use, (apart from the combination of alcohol and tobacco) was low. The second most frequently reported combination of polydrug use was alcohol, sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants (3%) followed by alcohol and any illegal drugs (3%) and tobacco and any illegal drugs (2%). Again, it should be noted that these drug use combinations do not indicate the level of consumption of any individual drug on its own. The proportions of all adults reporting various other polydrug combinations range from 0.1% to 2.3%.

Gender (Tables 2 & 3)

A higher percentage of females (23%) than males (17%) had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) during the last month. Also, higher percentages of females than males reported using tobacco only (7% and 3%, respectively), alcohol, sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants (4% and 2%, respectively), tobacco, sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants (3% and 2% respectively), alcohol and anti-depressants (2% and 1%, respectively) and tobacco and anti-depressants (2% and 1%, respectively).

Higher percentages of males than females reported using alcohol and tobacco (29% and 24%, respectively), alcohol and any illegal drugs (4% and 1%, respectively), tobacco and any illegal drugs (4% and 1%, respectively) and alcohol, tobacco and any illegal drugs (3% and 0.9%, respectively).

Age (Tables 4 & 5)

A comparison of young and older adults in Ireland shows a number of similarities and differences. A similar proportion of young adults (20%) and older adults (19%) reported they had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) in the last month. A larger proportion of young adults (31%) than older adults (23%) reported using alcohol and tobacco, and also the combination of alcohol and any illegal drugs (5% and 1% respectively), tobacco and any illegal drugs (4% and 1% respectively) and the combination of alcohol, tobacco and any illegal drugs (4% and 0.8% respectively).

However, larger proportions of older adults than young adults reported using alcohol only (53% and 47% respectively) and the following combinations: alcohol, sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants (4% and 2%, respectively); tobacco, sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants (3% and 1%, respectively); alcohol, sedatives or tranquillisers (3% and 0.9% respectively); alcohol and anti-depressants (2% and 1%, respectively); tobacco and sedatives or tranquillisers (2% and 0.6% respectively); tobacco and anti-depressants (2% and 1% respectively); sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants (1% and 0.6%, respectively); and alcohol, tobacco and anti-depressants (1% and 0.4%).

Relationship between use of particular substances and use of other substances – All adults (Table 6)

Patterns of polydrug use change when the data for specific drugs used was analysed. This table presents the pattern of association between the use of one substance and the use of another. For example, of those respondents who used alcohol (3653), 36% also used tobacco and 3% also used cannabis in the last month.

In general the commonly used legal substances (alcohol and tobacco) are associated with less use of other substances than vice-versa. Thus, it can be seen that of those who had smoked tobacco, over four-fifths (81%) had drunk alcohol. However, for both of these substances, the proportion of respondents using them in combination with other legal or illegal drugs was quite low.

In contrast, users of cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants, and cocaine were more likely to have used legal substances as well as other illegal substances. For example, of those who had used cannabis within the last month, the vast majority (91%) had used alcohol and 88% had smoked tobacco. Of those who had used amphetamine-type stimulants, all (100%) had used alcohol, 84% had used tobacco, 79% cannabis, 33% cocaine, 5% had used sedatives or tranquillisers and 5% had used anti-depressants.

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Gender (Tables 7 & 8)

When comparing alcohol consumption amongst males and females, there is no consistent pattern. Of those who had used alcohol, males (5%) were more likely than females (1%) to also use cannabis. Conversely, larger proportions of female than male users of alcohol reported also using sedatives or tranquillisers (3% and 2%, respectively) and anti-depressants (4% and 2%, respectively).

Among users of tobacco, larger proportions of males than females reported also using alcohol (88% and 74%, respectively) and cannabis (11% and 3%, respectively), while larger proportions of females than males reported also using sedatives or tranquillisers (5% and 3%, respectively) and anti-depressants (6% and 3%, respectively).

Among users of anti-depressants, larger proportions of males (9%) used cannabis than females (3%) and similarly among users of sedatives or tranquillisers, larger proportions of males (7%) than females (3%) also used cannabis. It should be noted, that due to small cell counts for some of the polydrug combinations the chi-square test was not appropriate to determine associations.

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Age (Tables 9 & 10)

Differences between young adults aged 15-34 and older adults aged 35-64 in the use of many of the substances were observed, mainly for alcohol and tobacco. Among users of alcohol, larger proportions of young adults than older adults reported using tobacco (41% and 31%, respectively), cannabis (5% and 1%, respectively) and amphetamine-type stimulants (1% and 0.1%, respectively). However, larger proportions of older adults than young adults who used alcohol also reported using sedatives or tranquillisers (4% and 1%, respectively) and anti-depressants (3% and 2%, respectively).

Similar results were observed among users of tobacco, where larger proportions of young adults than older adults reported also using alcohol (85% and 78%, respectively), cannabis (10% and 3%, respectively) and cocaine (2% and 0.1%, respectively). In contrast, larger proportions of older adults than young adults who were users of tobacco reported also using sedatives or tranquillisers (7% and 2%, respectively) and anti-depressants (7% and 3%, respectively). It should be noted, that due to small cell counts for some of the polydrug combinations the chi-square test was not appropriate to determine associations.

Results – Northern Ireland

Polydrug Use – Last Month Prevalence

All adults (Table 11)

Just over one-fifth (21%) of all adults aged 15-64 in Northern Ireland had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) in the last month. The largest proportion of respondents (43%) had consumed alcohol only, and the most frequent combination of polydrug use was alcohol and tobacco (18%). Four percent of respondents had used tobacco only.

The percentage of respondents reporting polydrug use (excluding the combination of alcohol and tobacco) was low. The second most frequently reported combination of polydrug use was alcohol, tobacco and any illegal drugs (2%), followed by alcohol and any illegal drugs (1%) and alcohol and anti-depressants (1%). The proportions of all adults reporting various other polydrug use combinations ranged from 0.1% to 1%.

Gender (Tables 12 & 13)

A higher percentage of females (24%) than males (18%) had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) during the previous month. Also, a higher percentage of females than males reported using alcohol and anti-depressants (2% and 0.5%, respectively) and tobacco, sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants (2% and 0.4%, respectively).

Larger proportions of males than females reported using alcohol only (46% and 40%, respectively), alcohol and tobacco (21% and 16%, respectively) and alcohol and any illegal drugs (2% and 0.6%, respectively).

Age (Tables 14 & 15)

A comparison of young and older adults in Northern Ireland shows a number of similarities and differences. A similar proportion of young adults (22%) and older adults (20%) reported they had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) in the last month. A larger proportion of young adults (23%) than older adults (15%) reported using alcohol and tobacco, and also the combination of alcohol and any illegal drugs (2% and 0.2%, respectively). However, larger proportions of older adults than young adults reported using the following combinations: alcohol and anti-depressants (2% and 0.3%, respectively); alcohol and sedatives or tranquillisers (2% and 0.3%, respectively); alcohol, tobacco, sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants (1% and 0.4%, respectively); sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants (1% and 0.3%, respectively); and alcohol, tobacco and sedatives or tranquillisers (1% and 0.3%, respectively).

Relationship between use of particular substances and use of other substances – All adults (Table 16)

Patterns of polydrug use change when the data for specific drugs used was analysed. This table presents the pattern of association between the use of one substance and the use of another. For example, of those respondents who used alcohol (1392), 33% also used tobacco and 4% also used cannabis in the last month.

Overall, it is evident that the use of alcohol and tobacco is associated to a lesser extent with the use of other legal or illegal drugs than vice-versa. Therefore, of those who had smoked tobacco nearly four-fifths (78%) had drunk alcohol. However, for both of these substances, the proportions of respondents using them in combination with other legal or illegal drugs were quite low.

In contrast, users of cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants, and cocaine were more likely to have used legal substances as well as other illegal substances. Of those who had used cannabis within the last month, the vast majority (98%) had used alcohol and just over three-quarters (76%) had smoked tobacco. Of those who had used amphetamine-type stimulants, 93% had used alcohol, 61% had used tobacco, 42% cannabis, 4% cocaine, 23% had used sedatives or tranquillisers and 18% had used anti-depressants.

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Gender (Tables 17 & 18)

When comparing alcohol consumption between males and females, there is no consistent pattern. Of those who had used alcohol, males (5%) were more likely than females (2%) to also use cannabis. Conversely, larger proportions of female than male users of alcohol reported also using sedatives or tranquillisers (7% and 4%, respectively) and anti-depressants (8% and 4%, respectively).

Among users of tobacco, larger proportions of males than females reported also using alcohol (83% and 73%, respectively) and cannabis (9% and 4%, respectively), while larger proportions of females than males reported also using sedatives or tranquillisers (16% and 9%, respectively) and anti-depressants (18% and 8%, respectively).

Another significant gender difference among polydrug users was for those who used sedatives or tranquillisers, where a larger proportion of males (8%) than females (1%) reported also using cannabis. Similarly, for users of anti-depressants, males (13%) were more likely than females (2%) to also use cannabis. It should be noted, that due to small cell counts for some of the polydrug combinations the chi-square test was not appropriate to determine associations.

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Age (Tables 19 & 20)

Differences between young adults aged 15-34 and older adults aged 35-64 in the use of many of the substances were observed, mainly for alcohol and tobacco users. Among users of alcohol, larger proportions of young adults than older adults reported using tobacco (39% and 29%, respectively), cannabis (5% and 3%, respectively) and amphetamine-type stimulants (2% and 0.6%, respectively). However, larger proportions of older adults than young adults who used alcohol also reported using sedatives or tranquillisers (8% and 2%, respectively) and anti-depressants (7% and 4%, respectively).

Similar results were observed among users of tobacco, where larger proportions of young adults than older adults reported also using alcohol (83% and 73%, respectively), and cocaine (1% and 0%, respectively). In contrast, larger proportions of older adults than young adults who were users of tobacco reported also using sedatives or tranquillisers (20% and 4%, respectively) and anti-depressants (17% and 7%, respectively).

Significant differences between young adults and older adults were also observed among users of amphetamines-type stimulants, where larger proportions of respondents aged 35-64 than those aged 15-34 reported also using cannabis (100% and 23%, respectively) and sedatives or tranquillisers (65% and 10%, respectively). Among users of anti-depressants, young adults (13%) were more likely than older adults (3%) to report also using cannabis, while older adults (54%) were more likely than young adults (34%) to also report the use of sedatives or tranquillisers.

Comparison – Ireland and Northern Ireland

A number of important similarities in polydrug use emerged from Northern and Ireland.

The first was the proportion (around one-fifth) of respondents in both jurisdictions who had not used any drugs (legal or illegal) in the last month. It is also important to note that this pattern of non-use is not confined to a single gender or age-group. However, in both Ireland and Northern Ireland, a larger proportion of females than males reported no legal or illegal drug use, but there is no significant difference in non-use between young and older adults.

Another finding was that the most common form of polydrug use among all adults in both jurisdictions is alcohol and tobacco, and this combination is more prevalent in Ireland (27%) than in Northern Ireland (18%). Larger proportions of males than females, and young adults than older adults, reported this combination in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In both Ireland and Northern Ireland, the largest proportion of respondents used alcohol only during the previous month, 50% in Ireland compared to 43% in Northern Ireland. The difference was most pronounced in the case of older adults; 44% in Northern Ireland were current users compared to 53% in Ireland.

The combination of polydrug use for alcohol, tobacco and any illegal drugs was reported by a small minority of respondents in Ireland (2%) and Northern Ireland (2%). The proportions of polydrug use involving any illegal drugs are low in both jurisdictions.

Combinations that involved the use of sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants were generally higher among older adults than young adults in both jurisdictions.

Table 1: Ireland

Drug use combinations – All adults (15-64)			
	Last month prevalence	Frequency n = 4967	Percent
1	Alcohol only	2487	50.1
2	Alcohol, Tobacco	1315	26.5
3	No legal or illegal drugs	974	19.6
4	Tobacco only	260	5.2
5	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	161	3.3
6	Alcohol, Any illegal drugs ¹	131	2.6
7	Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	120	2.4
8	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	115	2.3
9	Alcohol, Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	108	2.2
10	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	96	1.9
11	Alcohol, Anti-depressants	95	1.9
12	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	79	1.6
13	Tobacco, Anti-depressants	77	1.5
14	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	67	1.4
15	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	48	1.0
16	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants	48	1.0
17	Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti- depressants	45	0.9
18	Sedatives or Tranquillisers only	32	0.6
19	Anti-depressants only	14	0.3
20	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	9	0.2
21	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	7	0.1
22	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	5	0.1
23	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Any illegal drugs	3	0.1

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ For the purpose of this study, "Any illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 2: Ireland

Drug use combinations – Males			
	Last month prevalence	Frequency n =2513	Percent
1	Alcohol only	1275	50.7
2	Alcohol, Tobacco	739	29.4
3	No legal or illegal drugs	420	16.7
4	Alcohol, Any illegal drugs ¹	101	4.0
5	Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	94	3.7
6	Tobacco only	88	3.5
7	Alcohol, Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	86	3.4
8	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	63	2.5
9	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	46	1.8
10	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	39	1.5
11	Alcohol, Anti-depressants	37	1.5
12	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	35	1.4
13	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	29	1.1
14	Tobacco, Anti-depressants	28	1.1
15	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	24	0.9
16	Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	22	0.9
17	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants	19	0.8
18	Sedatives or Tranquillisers only	17	0.7
19	Anti-depressants only	5	0.2
20	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	5	0.2
21	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	2	0.1
22	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	2	0.1
23	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Any illegal drugs	1	0.0

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ For the purpose of this study, "Any illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 3: Ireland

Drug use combinations – Females			
	Last month prevalence	Frequency n =2454	Percent
1	Alcohol only	1213	49.4
2	Alcohol, Tobacco	577	23.5
3	No legal or illegal drugs	554	22.6
4	Tobacco only	173	7.0
5	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	98	4.0
6	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	69	2.8
7	Alcohol, Anti-depressants	59	2.4
8	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	57	2.3
9	Tobacco, Anti-depressants	49	2.0
10	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	45	1.8
11	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	39	1.6
12	Alcohol, Any illegal drugs ¹	31	1.2
13	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants	29	1.2
14	Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	26	1.1
15	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	24	1.0
16	Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	23	1.0
17	Alcohol, Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	22	0.9
18	Sedatives or Tranquillisers only	15	0.6
19	Anti-depressants only	9	0.3
20	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	4	0.2
21	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	3	0.1
22	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Any illegal drugs	2	0.1
23	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	2	0.1

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ For the purpose of this study, "Any illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 4: Ireland

Drug use combinations – Young adults (15-34)			
	Last month prevalence	Frequency n =2315	Percent
1	Alcohol only	1081	46.7
2	Alcohol, Tobacco	706	30.5
3	No legal or illegal drugs	466	20.1
4	Tobacco only	116	5.0
5	Alcohol, Any illegal drugs ¹	106	4.6
6	Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	93	4.0
7	Alcohol, Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	87	3.8
8	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	48	2.1
9	Alcohol, Anti-depressants	34	1.5
10	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	33	1.4
11	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	26	1.1
12	Tobacco, Anti-depressants	25	1.1
13	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	21	0.9
14	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	14	0.6
15	Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	13	0.6
16	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	13	0.5
17	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants	10	0.4
18	Sedatives or Tranquillisers only	7	0.3
19	Anti-depressants only	6	0.3
20	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	4	0.2
21	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	2	0.1
22	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	1	0.1
23	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Any illegal drugs	1	0.0

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ For the purpose of this study, "Any illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 5: Ireland

Drug use combinations – Older adults (35-64)			
	Last month prevalence	Frequency n = 2652	Percent
1	Alcohol only	1406	53.0
2	Alcohol, Tobacco	610	23.0
3	No legal or illegal drugs	508	19.2
4	Tobacco only	145	5.5
5	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	114	4.3
6	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	82	3.1
7	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	75	2.8
8	Alcohol, Anti-depressants	61	2.3
9	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	53	2.0
10	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	53	2.0
11	Tobacco, Anti-depressants	52	1.9
12	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	35	1.3
13	Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	32	1.2
14	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants	29	1.1
15	Tobacco, Any illegal drugs ¹	27	1.0
16	Alcohol, Any illegal drugs	26	1.0
17	Sedatives or Tranquillisers only	25	0.9
18	Alcohol, Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	21	0.8
19	Anti-depressants only	7	0.3
20	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	5	0.2
21	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	4	0.1
22	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	3	0.1
23	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Any illegal drugs	2	0.1

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ For the purpose of this study, "Any illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 6: Ireland

Use of one substance by users of another substance – All adults (15-64)								
	Last Month Prevalence	Users of Alcohol	Users of Tobacco	Users of Cannabis	Users of ATS ¹	Users of Cocaine	Users of ST ²	Users of AD ³
<i>N (weighted)</i>	4967	3653	1619	128	19	25	147	154
Alcohol	73.4		81.2	90.6	100.0	100.0	65.3	62.1
Tobacco	32.6	36.1		88.3	84.2	80.0	45.6	50.0
Cannabis	2.6	3.2	7.0		78.9	60.0	4.7	5.8
ATS ¹	0.4	0.5	1.0	11.7		25.0	0.7	0.6
Cocaine	0.5	0.7	1.2	11.7	33.3		0.7	0.0
ST ²	3.0	2.6	4.1	5.5	5.3	4.0		38.3
AD ³	3.1	2.6	4.8	7.0	5.3	0.0	40.1	

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants (Ecstasy and Amphetamines)

² Sedatives or Tranquillisers

³ Anti-Depressants

Table 7: Ireland

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Males								
	Last Month Prevalence	Users of Alcohol	Users of Tobacco	Users of Cannabis	Users of ATS ¹	Users of Cocaine	Users of ST ²	Users of AD ³
<i>N (weighted)</i>	2513	1966	844	99	13	19	60	58
Alcohol	78.2		87.6	92.0	100.0	100.0	63.9	63.8
Tobacco	33.6	37.6		89.9	92.3	84.2	47.5	48.3
Cannabis	4.0	4.7	10.5		84.6	63.2	6.6	8.6
ATS ¹	0.5	0.7	1.4	11.1		26.3	0.0	0.0
Cocaine	0.7	1.0	1.9	12.0	38.5		0.0	0.0
ST ²	2.4	2.0	3.4	4.0	0.0	0.0		38.6
AD ³	2.3	1.9	3.3	5.1	0.0	0.0	36.7	

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants (Ecstasy and Amphetamines)

² Sedatives or Tranquillisers

³ Anti-Depressants

Table 8: Ireland

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Females								
	Last Month Prevalence	Users of Alcohol	Users of Tobacco	Users of Cannabis	Users of ATS ¹	Users of Cocaine	Users of ST ²	Users of AD ³
<i>N (weighted)</i>	2454	1678	776	28	6	6	87	96
Alcohol	68.4		74.4	85.7	100.0	100.0	66.3	61.5
Tobacco	31.6	34.4		85.7	80.0	80.0	44.8	51.0
Cannabis	1.1	1.4	3.1		60.0	50.0	3.4	3.2
ATS ¹	0.2	0.4	0.5	10.7		33.3	1.1	1.0
Cocaine	0.2	0.4	0.5	10.7	33.3		1.1	0.0
ST ²	3.5	3.4	5.0	10.7	16.7	16.7		38.5
AD ³	3.9	3.5	6.3	10.7	16.7	0.0	42.5	

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants (Ecstasy and Amphetamines)

² Sedatives or Tranquillisers

³ Anti-Depressants

Table 9: Ireland

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Young adults (15-34)								
	Last Month Prevalence	Users of Alcohol	Users of Tobacco	Users of Cannabis	Users of ATS ¹	Users of Cocaine	Users of ST ²	Users of AD ³
<i>N (weighted)</i>	2315	1709	833	97	17	23	30	50
Alcohol	73.8		84.8	93.8	100.0	100.0	70.0	68.0
Tobacco	36.0	41.3		89.7	82.4	78.3	48.3	50.0
Cannabis	4.2	5.3	10.4		76.5	58.3	3.3	7.8
ATS ¹	0.7	1.0	1.7	13.4		21.7	3.3	2.0
Cocaine	1.0	1.3	2.2	14.4	31.3		3.3	0.0
ST ²	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.0	5.9	4.2		24.0
AD ³	2.2	2.0	3.0	4.1	5.9	0.0	40.0	

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants (Ecstasy and Amphetamines)

² Sedatives or Tranquillisers

³ Anti-Depressants

Table 10: Ireland

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Older adults (35-64)								
	Last Month Prevalence	Users of Alcohol	Users of Tobacco	Users of Cannabis	Users of ATS ¹	Users of Cocaine	Users of ST ²	Users of AD ³
<i>N (weighted)</i>	2652	1935	787	31	2	1	118	103
Alcohol	73.0		77.5	80.6	100.0	100.0	64.1	59.2
Tobacco	29.7	31.5		83.9	100.0	100.0	44.9	50.0
Cannabis	1.2	1.3	3.3		100.0	100.0	5.1	4.9
ATS ¹	0.1	0.1	0.3	6.5		100.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine	0.0	0.1	0.1	3.3	50.0		0.0	0.0
ST ²	4.4	3.9	6.7	19.4	0.0	0.0		45.6
AD ³	3.9	3.2	6.6	16.7	0.0	0.0	39.8	

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants (Ecstasy and Amphetamines)

² Sedatives or Tranquillisers

³ Anti-Depressants

Table 11: Northern Ireland

Drug use combinations – All adults (15-64)			
	Last month prevalence	Frequency n = 2002	Percent
1	Alcohol only	851	42.5
2	No legal or illegal drugs	424	21.2
3	Alcohol, Tobacco	363	18.1
4	Tobacco only	84	4.2
5	Alcohol, Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	35	1.7
6	Alcohol, Any illegal drugs	24	1.2
7	Alcohol, Anti-depressants	23	1.1
8	Anti-depressants only	22	1.1
9	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	20	1.0
10	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	19	1.0
11	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	19	1.0
12	Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	18	0.9
13	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants	17	0.8
14	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	16	0.8
15	Sedatives or Tranquillisers only	15	0.8
16	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	14	0.7
17	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	13	0.6
18	Tobacco, Anti-depressants	10	0.5
19	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	4	0.2
20	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	3	0.2
21	Tobacco , Any illegal drugs	3	0.1
22	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Any illegal drugs	2	0.1
23	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	1	0.1

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ For the purpose of this study, "Any illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 12: Northern Ireland

Drug use combinations – Males			
	Last month prevalence	Frequency n = 993	Percent
1	Alcohol only	452	45.5
2	Alcohol, Tobacco	206	20.7
3	No legal or illegal drugs	184	18.5
4	Tobacco only	37	3.7
5	Alcohol, Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	22	2.3
6	Alcohol, Any illegal drugs	17	1.8
7	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	9	0.9
8	Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	8	0.8
9	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	7	0.8
10	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	7	0.7
11	Sedatives or Tranquillisers only	6	0.7
12	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	6	0.6
13	Alcohol, Anti-depressants	5	0.5
14	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	5	0.5
15	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants	5	0.5
16	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	4	0.4
17	Tobacco, Anti-depressants	4	0.4
18	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	3	0.3
19	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Any illegal drugs	2	0.2
20	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	2	0.2
21	Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	1	0.1
22	Anti-depressants only	1	0.1

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

For the purpose of this study, "Any illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 13: Northern Ireland

Drug use combinations – Females			
	Last month prevalence	Frequency n = 1009	Percent
1	Alcohol only	399	39.6
2	No legal or illegal drugs	241	23.8
3	Alcohol, Tobacco	157	15.6
4	Tobacco only	47	4.7
5	Anti-depressants only	21	2.1
6	Alcohol, Anti-depressants	18	1.8
7	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	16	1.5
8	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	14	1.3
9	Alcohol, Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	12	1.2
10	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants	12	1.2
11	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	12	1.2
12	Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	10	1.0
13	Sedatives or Tranquillisers only	9	0.9
14	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	9	0.9
15	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	8	0.8
16	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	6	0.6
17	Tobacco, Anti-depressants	6	0.6
18	Alcohol, Any illegal drugs	6	0.6
19	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	1	0.1
20	Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	1	0.1
21	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	1	0.1
22	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	1	0.1

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ For the purpose of this study, "Any illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 14: Northern Ireland

Drug use combinations – Young adults (15-34)			
	Last month prevalence	Frequency n = 844	Percent
1	Alcohol only	340	40.2
2	Alcohol, Tobacco	192	22.7
3	No legal or illegal drugs	190	22.5
4	Tobacco only	37	4.4
5	Alcohol, Any illegal drugs	21	2.5
6	Alcohol, Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	20	2.4
7	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants	8	0.9
8	Anti-depressants only	7	0.8
9	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	4	0.5
10	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	3	0.4
11	Alcohol, Anti-depressants	3	0.3
12	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	3	0.3
13	Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	3	0.3
14	Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	2	0.3
15	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	2	0.3
16	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	2	0.3
17	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	2	0.2
18	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	2	0.2
19	Tobacco, Anti-depressants	2	0.2
20	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	1	0.2
21	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	1	0.1

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ For the purpose of this study, "Any illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 15: Northern Ireland

Drug use combinations – Older adults (35-64)			
	Last Month Prevalence	Frequency n = 1150	Percent
1	Alcohol only	511	44.4
2	No legal or illegal drugs	230	20.0
3	Alcohol, Tobacco	169	14.7
4	Tobacco only	47	4.1
5	Alcohol, Anti-depressants	20	1.7
6	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	18	1.5
7	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	17	1.5
8	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	16	1.4
9	Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	16	1.4
10	Anti-depressants only	16	1.3
11	Sedatives or Tranquillisers only	15	1.3
12	Alcohol, Tobacco, Any illegal drugs	15	1.3
13	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	14	1.2
14	Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers	12	1.0
15	Alcohol, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	11	0.9
16	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants	9	0.8
17	Tobacco, Anti-depressants	8	0.7
18	Alcohol, Any illegal drugs	3	0.2
19	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Any illegal drugs	2	0.2
20	Alcohol, Tobacco, Sedatives or Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	2	0.2
21	Alcohol, Tobacco, Anti-depressants, Any illegal drugs	1	0.1

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ For the purpose of this study, "Any illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 16: Northern Ireland

Use of one substance by users of another substance – All adults (15-64)								
	Last Month Prevalence	Users of Alcohol	Users of Tobacco	Users of Cannabis	Users of ATS ¹	Users of Cocaine	Users of ST ²	Users of AD ³
<i>N (weighted)</i>	2002	1392	590	53	20	7	142	150
Alcohol	69.5		78.0	97.8	92.6	100.0	53.0	53.6
Tobacco	29.5	33.1		75.8	61.2	59.7	52.1	48.5
Cannabis	2.6	3.7	6.8		41.6	75.6	3.9	5.1
ATS ¹	1.0	1.3	2.0	15.5		10.8	3.2	2.4
Cocaine	0.3	0.5	0.7	9.7	3.7		0.0	1.1
ST ²	7.1	5.4	12.5	10.5	23.3	0.0		49.2
AD ³	7.5	5.8	12.4	14.6	18.5	24.4	52.1	

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants (Ecstasy and Amphetamines)

² Sedatives or Tranquillisers

³ Anti-Depressants

Table 17: Northern Ireland

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Males								
	Last Month Prevalence	Users of Alcohol	Users of Tobacco	Users of Cannabis	Users of ATS ¹	Users of Cocaine	Users of ST ²	Users of AD ³
<i>N (weighted)</i>	993	742	306	36	10	7	57	42
Alcohol	74.7		82.8	96.8	100.0	100.0	55.2	61.6
Tobacco	30.9	34.3		75.0	64.8	59.7	50.8	54.8
Cannabis	3.7	4.8	9.0		48.5	75.6	8.1	12.6
ATS ¹	1.0	1.3	2.1	13.2		10.8	5.5	3.5
Cocaine	0.7	0.9	1.3	13.9	7.3		0.0	3.9
ST ²	5.7	4.2	9.4	12.6	31.4	0.0		58.5
AD ³	4.2	3.5	7.6	14.6	14.9	24.4	43.3	

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants (Ecstasy and Amphetamines)

² Sedatives or Tranquillisers

³ Anti-Depressants

Table 18: Northern Ireland

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Females								
	Last Month Prevalence	Users of Alcohol	Users of Tobacco	Users of Cannabis	Users of ATS ¹	Users of Cocaine	Users of ST ²	Users of AD ³
<i>N (weighted)</i>	1009	650	284	16	10	0	85	108
Alcohol	64.5		72.8	100.0	84.9	0.0	51.6	50.5
Tobacco	28.1	31.8		77.5	57.6	0.0	53.0	46.0
Cannabis	1.6	2.5	4.4		34.5	0.0	1.1	2.2
ATS ¹	1.0	1.3	2.0	20.7		0.0	1.7	2.0
Cocaine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0
ST ²	8.4	6.8	15.9	5.8	15.1	0.0		45.6
AD ³	10.7	8.4	17.6	14.6	22.2	0.0	58.0	

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants (Ecstasy and Amphetamines)

² Sedatives or Tranquillisers

³ Anti-Depressants

Table 19: Northern Ireland

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Young adults (15-34)								
	Last Month Prevalence	Users of Alcohol	Users of Tobacco	Users of Cannabis	Users of ATS ¹	Users of Cocaine	Users of ST ²	Users of AD ³
<i>N (weighted)</i>	844	600	276	31	15	5	19	35
Alcohol	71.0		83.5	96.3	90.2	100.0	65.6	62.1
Tobacco	32.8	38.6		68.2	48.7	84.7	54.8	55.5
Cannabis	3.7	5.1	7.8		22.8	65.3	4.9	13.5
ATS ¹	1.8	2.2	2.6	10.7		15.3	7.6	4.1
Cocaine	0.6	0.8	1.5	9.8	4.9		0.0	4.7
ST ²	2.3	2.1	3.8	3.0	9.8	0.0		33.5
AD ³	4.2	3.7	7.1	15.1	9.8	34.7	61.8	

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants (Ecstasy and Amphetamines)

² Sedatives or Tranquillisers

³ Anti-Depressants

Table 20: Northern Ireland

Use of one substance by users of another substance – Older adults (35-64)								
	Last Month Prevalence	Users of Alcohol	Users of Tobacco	Users of Cannabis	Users of ATS ¹	Users of Cocaine	Users of ST ²	Users of AD ³
<i>N (weighted)</i>	1150	789	312	21	5	2	123	115
Alcohol	68.6		73.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	51.1	51.0
Tobacco	27.1	28.8		87.0	100.0	0.0	51.7	46.3
Cannabis	1.8	2.7	5.9		100.0	100.0	3.7	2.5
ATS ¹	0.4	0.6	1.5	22.5		0.0	2.5	1.9
Cocaine	0.2	0.3	0.0	9.4	0.0		0.0	0.0
ST ²	10.7	8.0	20.4	21.8	65.3	0.0		54.0
AD ³	10.0	7.4	17.1	13.8	45.4	0.0	50.6	

All figures are based on weighted data.

All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

All figures are based on valid responses.

¹ Amphetamine-type stimulants (Ecstasy and Amphetamines)

² Sedatives or Tranquillisers

³ Anti-Depressants

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