

Drug use in Ireland and Northern Ireland

Bulletin 1

First results from the 2010/11 Drug Prevalence Survey



The bulletin presents key findings from the third drug prevalence survey of households in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The survey sampled a representative number of people aged between 15 and 64 during late 2010 and early 2011. The survey was carried out according to standards set by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

Data relating to drug prevalence on a lifetime, last year (recent) and last month (current) basis for Ireland, Northern Ireland and the island of Ireland are presented in this bulletin. Statistically significant changes in prevalence rates between 2002/3, 2006/7 and 2010/11 are presented in the tables and comparisons between 2006/7 and 2010/11 are discussed at the end of each results section.

Key findings

- In Ireland, just over 27% reported using any illegal drugs in their lifetime. Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug with 25% of the adult population having ever used the drug. After cannabis, lifetime use was highest for ecstasy, cocaine and magic mushrooms (each 7%), followed by amphetamines (5%), LSD and poppers (each 4%). Less than 1% reported having ever used crack (0.6%), heroin (0.8%) or methadone (0.5%).
- In Northern Ireland more than one in four people surveyed (27%) reported having ever used any illegal drug; cannabis was the most commonly reported used illegal drug with 24% of respondents reporting having ever used it. The next most commonly reported illegal drugs were: poppers and ecstasy (each 9%); cocaine powder (6%); amphetamines and magic mushrooms (each 6%); LSD (5%); solvents (4%); crack (0.9%); and heroin (0.4%).
- In Ireland the lifetime prevalence rate for any illegal drugs was highest among those aged 25-34 years (42%) followed by the 35-44 (29%) and 15-24 (27%) age groups.
- In Northern Ireland lifetime use of any illegal drug ranged from 8% of adults aged 55-64 to 43% of those aged 25-34.
- A higher proportion of men than women continue to report lifetime, last year and last month use of any illegal drugs in Ireland. There is no indication of a narrowing of the gender gap in illegal drug use since the last survey.
- In Northern Ireland around one in three males (32%) and one in five females (22%) had ever used any illegal drug.
- In Ireland, drugs in the category 'Other opiates' are used by more than one in three respondents. The rate of last year use of other opiates is highest among women and among those aged 25-34.
- Women and older adults continue to report higher levels of use of sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants in Ireland.
- In Northern Ireland over one fifth of respondents reported having ever used sedatives and tranquillisers (21%) and anti-depressants (22%).
- On the island of Ireland 27% of all adults (15-64 years) reported taking any illegal drug at some point in their life. Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug with 25% of the population on the island having ever used the drug; 6% reported having used cannabis in the last year and 3% in the last month.
- In Ireland lifetime use of any illegal drugs has increased from 24% in 2006/7 to 27% in 2010/11 among all adults (15-64 yrs). Increases were found in lifetime use of cannabis (from 22% to 25%) and cocaine powder (from 5% to 7%). The level of recent and current drug use has been stable between 2006/7 and 2010/11 for all illegal drugs.

Comparison between 2006/7 and 2010/11

- In Northern Ireland, lifetime use and last month use of any illegal drug among all adults remained fairly similar between 2006/7 and 2010/11, while last year use of any illegal drugs decreased from 9% in 2006/7 to 7% in 2010/11. There was a decrease in last year use of cannabis from 7% in 2006/7 to 5% in 2010/11. The lifetime and last year use of other opiates decreased whilst there was an increase in the use of anti-depressants in the last year and last month and an increase in the lifetime and last year prevalence of methadone.
- While there were no significant changes in lifetime or last year use of alcohol since the last survey in Ireland, last month prevalence rates of alcohol decreased significantly (from 73% to 71%). There was also a significant decrease in the last month rate of tobacco (from 33% to 28%).
- Since the survey in 2006/7, lifetime use of any illegal drugs on the island of Ireland increased from 25% in 2006/7 to 27% in 2010/11 among all adults (15-64 yrs). While lifetime prevalence has increased, no significant changes were recorded in either last year or last month use of any illegal drugs between 2006/7 and 2010/11.

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Introduction

The survey was commissioned by the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) in Ireland and the Public Health Information & Research Branch (PHIRB) 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 (e.g. tranquillisers); attitudinal and demographic information was also sought from respondents.

Methodology

The questionnaire and methodology for this general population 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 years and who are normally resident in households in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Thus persons outside these age ranges, or who do not normally live in private households, have not been included in the survey (for example prisons, nursing homes etc.).

Fieldwork for the survey was carried out between October 2010 and May 2011 and the final achieved sample comprised of 7,669 respondents (5,134 in Ireland and 2,535 in Northern Ireland). The response rate for the survey was 60% in Ireland and 67% in Northern Ireland. Areas based sampling was applied in Ireland. The first stage involved stratifying by Health Board in Ireland¹. In Northern Ireland, the first stage involved stratifying by Health and Social Care Trust and within the strata, simple random sampling was used. The achieved sample was weighted by gender, age, region² in Ireland and by Health and Social Care Trust area in Northern Ireland³ to maximise its representativeness of the general population. The effects of stratification, clustering and weighing have been incorporated in the interval estimates (i.e. intervals are design effect adjusted). Details of the methodology have been summarised in a paper published on the websites of the NACD (<http://www.nacd.ie/>) and the DHSSPS (<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/>) and a comprehensive

technical report containing copies of the questionnaires used in both jurisdictions will be published separately.

Interviews were conducted using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). These techniques allow interviews to be conducted more efficiently and more accurately than other techniques such as pen-and-paper completion.

Please note:

- Prevalence rates for 'any illegal drugs' refers to the reported use of one or more of the following: amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers or solvents.
- In terms of comparisons between the surveys, tests of statistical significance for differences between the prevalence of 'Other opiates' are not reported. As a result of measurement changes between 2006/7 and 2010/11, the 'Other opiates' category is not comparable between the surveys. The measurement of 'Other opiates' in Ireland in 2002/3 included nine drugs: Opium, Temgesic®, Diconal®, Napps, MSTs®, Pethidine, DF118®, (Dihydrocodeine), Buprenorphine and Morphine. In 2006/7 the category 'Other opiates' was extended to be consistent with Northern Ireland and included: Codeine, Feminax, Kapake, Diffla, Dikes, Peach, Fentanyl (Durogesic®, Sublimaze®, Actiq®), Oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Oxynorm®), and Buprenorphine (Subutex®). In 2010/11 the category 'Other opiates' also asked specifically about substances containing codeine such as Maxilief, Migralief, Nurofen Plus, Codeine Phosp, Panadeine, Paracetamol/Caffeine/Codeine and Doxylamine, Paracodin, Paramol, Solpadeine, Solpadol, Syndol, Tylex, Uniflu Plus, Veganin Plus.
- In the Republic of Ireland the measurement of New Psychoactive Substances included herbal smoking mixtures/incense, party pills or herbal highs, bathsalts plant feeders or other powders, Kratom (Krypton), Salvia, Magic Mint, Divine Mint or Sally D and other new psychoactive substances mentioned by the respondent. In Northern Ireland, the category 'Legal Highs' includes party pills, herbal highs, party powders, Kratom and Salvia Divinorum; it does not include mephedrone as it is asked about separately.

1 Since January 2005 the Health Boards in Ireland have been restructured and merged under one authority, the Health Service Executive. For the purpose of facilitating comparisons between the 2002/3, 2006/7 and the current surveys, it was decided to continue to weigh the data by the former Health Board areas as these correspond with the Regional Drug Task Force (RDTF) structures.

2 The composition of the population in Ireland has changed substantially since Census 2006. Given that Census 2011 information was not available when weights were calculated, it was decided to weight the data using 2010 population estimates. For the purpose of constructing post-stratification weights, Regional Authority areas were used to define regions instead of Health Board/RDTF.

3 Since the 2006/7 Survey the Health and Social Services Boards and the Health and Social Care Trusts have been restructured. In the 2010/11 the sample was stratified and the data has been weighted by Health and Social Care Trust areas, while in the previous two surveys the sample was stratified and the data was weighted by the Health and Social Services Boards that existed at the time.

What is prevalence?

The term **prevalence** refers to the proportion of a population who have 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 that 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 future.

Last year prevalence refers to the proportion of the sample that reported using a named drug in the year prior to the survey. 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.

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.

Understanding the results of this bulletin

Results (revised) from the first (October 2003, revised June 2005) and second Drug Prevalence Surveys (January 2008) were previously published and gave lifetime, last year, and last month prevalence rates for key drugs for the island of Ireland, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The tables for this bulletin report drug prevalence rates for 2002/3, 2006/7 and 2010/11. Results are given for all respondents, and are also presented by gender and age. The results from comparing 2010/11 survey results with the 2006/7 and 2002/3 survey results are presented in the tables in this bulletin. Only 2010/11 and 2006/7 comparisons are discussed in the accompanying text.

The figures for Ireland in 2002/3 and 2006/7 reported in this bulletin may differ slightly from figures report in earlier publications. These differences are due to applying new estimation procedures which were necessary to ensure the comparability between 2002/3, 2006/7 and 2010/11 drug prevalence survey data.

All prevalence rates presented in the accompanying tables are rounded to one decimal place and are rounded to whole numbers in the text. Where it provides for a better understanding of the situation figures in the text are sometimes reported at one decimal place (e.g. small/low figures).

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. Details of confidence intervals for all of the figures contained in this bulletin can be found on the websites of the NACD and DHSSPS.

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.

When the figure 0.0% appears it does not mean that no-one in the population has used the drug, rather it means that in this category no respondent reported use. The confidence intervals will provide a range of likely prevalence rates for all categories of drug use.

The island of Ireland data was derived from the combined data from Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Statistical significance

Statistical significance tests (Newcombe-Wilson Hybrid) have been used for this bulletin and changes that are found to be statistically significant are reported. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance. This importance is reflected in an evaluation of effect size, which is a substantive issue.

The tests of statistical significance are used to establish the degree of confidence with which we can infer that the observed changes in drug prevalence between 2010/11 and 2006/7 and between 2010/11 and 2002/3 are not due to sampling error. A significance level of 5% has been specified which means that the likelihood that sampling error accounts for the observed change is less than 5%.

A general population drug prevalence survey has some limitations. As mentioned above, some groups with high drug use prevalence are not covered by this type of survey (for example the homeless, those in prison). Drug prevalence questions are considered to be sensitive and therefore people may refuse to participate or under-report their drug use. Moreover, for some groups the numbers included in the sample are too small for reliable prevalence estimations. General population prevalence estimates are therefore supplemented by other methods (e.g. capture-recapture for problem drug use and surveys targeting special populations (e.g. prisoners, students, early school leavers).

Results – Ireland

Key findings

- Of all adults in Ireland, just over 27% reported using any illegal drugs in their lifetime. Seven percent reported using any illegal drugs in the year prior to the survey (last year) and 3% reported use in the month prior to the survey (last month).
- Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug with 25% of the adult population having ever used the drug; 6% reported using cannabis in the last year and 3% reported use in the last month.
- Lifetime prevalence of all other illegal drugs was considerably lower than cannabis. For other illegal drugs highest lifetime use was reported for ecstasy, cocaine and magic mushrooms (each 7%), followed by amphetamines (5%), LSD and poppers (each 4%). Less than 1% reported having ever used crack (0.6%), heroin (0.8%) or methadone (0.5%).
- The lifetime prevalence rate for any illegal drugs was highest among those aged 25-34 years (42%) followed by the 35-44 (29%) and 15-24 (27%) age groups.
- A higher proportion of men than women continue to report lifetime, last year and last month use of any illegal drugs.
- There is no indication of a narrowing of the gender gap in illegal drug use.
- Other opiates are used by more than one in three respondents. The rate of last year use of other opiates is highest among women and among those aged 25-34 years.
- Women and older adults continue to report higher levels of use of sedatives or tranquillisers and anti-depressants.

- Lifetime prevalence rates have increased between 2006/7 and 2010/11 for any illegal drug use and a number of specific drugs including cannabis and cocaine. The level of current and recent drug use has been stable between 2006/7 and 2010/11 for all illegal drugs.
- While there are no statistically significant changes in lifetime or last year use of alcohol since the last survey, there has been a statistically significant decrease in last month use of alcohol from 73% to 71% and of tobacco use from 33% to 28%.

Ireland – Lifetime prevalence (see Table 1.1)

Results from the survey indicated that just over one in four (27%) of the population aged 15-64 years in Ireland have used an illegal drug in their lifetime.

Drug type

Cannabis use was the most commonly used illegal drug with 25% of the population having ever used the drug. Among other drugs, lifetime prevalence was highest for ecstasy, cocaine (total), magic mushrooms (each 7%), followed by amphetamines (5%), poppers (4%) and solvents (3%). Less than 1% reported having ever used crack (0.6%), heroin (0.8%) or methadone (0.5%).

Over one third of respondents reported lifetime use of other opiates (39%). Lifetime use of sedatives or tranquillisers was reported by 14% and anti-depressants by 10% of respondents.

Gender (see Table 1.2)

Lifetime use of any illegal drug was substantially higher among men (36%) than women (19%). Men were between three and four times more likely to report lifetime use of poppers (6% vs 2%), LSD (7% vs 2%) and solvents (4% vs 1%). Men were at least twice as likely to report lifetime use of cocaine, ecstasy, magic mushrooms (each 10% vs 4%) and amphetamines (7% vs 3%). For cannabis, lifetime use was almost twice as high for men (33%) than women (18%).

Women were more likely than men to report use of other opiates (42% vs 35%), sedatives or tranquillisers (16% vs 12%) and anti-depressants (12% vs 8%).

Age (see Table 1.4)

The highest lifetime prevalence for use of any illegal drugs was recorded amongst those aged 25-34 (42%) followed by the 35-44 (29%) and 15-24 (27%) age groups. Those aged between 25-34 years report highest lifetime prevalence of cannabis (39%), cocaine (13%), amphetamines (8%), ecstasy (15%), LSD (8%), magic mushrooms (12%), solvents (5%) and poppers (8%) while use of other opiates (42%) is most prevalent among those aged 35-44 years. Heroin (1%), methadone (1%) and anti-depressants (14%) are highest among those aged 45-54 year, while sedatives or tranquillisers is highest among those aged 55-64 years (21%).

Ireland – Last year prevalence (see Table 1.1)

The overall prevalence rate for last year use of any illegal drugs was 7% in Ireland.

Drug type

With regard to drug use in the year prior to the survey, cannabis was the most frequently reported illegal drug (6%). After cannabis, new psychoactive substance (4%) and cocaine (1.5%) were the next most widely used in Ireland. Less than one percent of those surveyed reported last year use of amphetamines, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, solvents, poppers, heroin and methadone.

Last year prevalence of other opiates was 28%, the rate for sedatives or tranquillisers was 7% and for anti-depressants it was 4%.

Gender (see Table 1.2)

Use of any illegal drug in the 12 months prior to the survey was higher among men (10%) than women (4%). Men were three times more likely than women to report last year use of cannabis (9% vs 3%) and new psychoactive substances (5.4% vs 1.6%) and cocaine powder (2.3% vs 0.7%).

Women (32%) were more likely than men (24%) to report use of other opiates in the last year.

Age (see Tables 1.3 and 1.4)

People aged between 15-24 years reported the highest last year use of any illegal drug (15%) followed by those aged between 25-34 years (10%) and the 35-44 years old (4%). Those aged 15-24 years also reported the highest use of cannabis (13%), new psychoactive substances (10%), amphetamines (1.5%), ecstasy (1.1%) and magic mushrooms (1%). Use was also highest in this age group for many other drugs, for most of which, last year prevalence rates were less than one percent.

Among those aged 25-34 years, last year use of other opiates (31%) and cocaine (3%) was highest. Last year use of sedatives or tranquillisers was highest among the 55-64 age group (10%) and for anti-depressants, use was highest among those aged between 45-54 years (7%).

Ireland – Last month prevalence (Table 1.1)

In the month preceding the survey, 3% of the population reported using any illegal drugs.

Drug type

In Ireland cannabis (3%) was the most commonly used illegal drug in the month preceding the survey. After cannabis, the most commonly used illegal drugs in the last month were cocaine (0.5%) followed by methadone (0.2%), amphetamines, ecstasy, solvents, poppers and heroin (each 0.1%).

The rate of last month use of other opiates was 14%, the rate for sedatives or tranquillisers was 3% and for anti-depressants, 4%.

Gender (Table 1.2)

The last month prevalence rate for any illegal drugs was 5% among men and 1% among women. Men were also over 5 times more likely to report use of cannabis in the last month. Men were more than twice as likely to use cocaine (0.8%) than women (0.3) in the last month.

Last month use of other opiates was substantially higher among women (17%) when compared to men (11%). Use of anti-depressants was higher among women (5% vs 3%) as was use of sedatives or tranquillisers (3% vs 2%).

Age (Tables 1.3 and 1.4)

The two youngest age groups reported the highest rate of last month use of any illegal drugs. Among the 15-24 age group last month use of any illegal drug was 6%, followed by 5% among those aged between 25-34 years. This rate declined with age thereafter. The prevalence of last month cannabis use was highest among the 15-24 age group (5%). Last month use of cocaine powder was highest among the 25-34 age group (1.3%).

The highest rate of last month prevalence of other opiates was among those aged 35-44 years at 16%. Use of sedatives or tranquillisers is highest among those aged 55-64 yrs (7%) and anti-depressants were most commonly used in the last month by the 45-54 age group (6%).

Gender and age (Table 1.5a – 1.5c)

Although lifetime prevalence for any illegal drug is higher among men than women, the pattern of lifetime use between the age groups is the same for men and women. For both men and women lifetime use is highest among those aged 25-34 years, followed by use among those in the 35-44 and 15-24 age groups. For men and women last year and last month prevalence of any illegal drug is highest among the youngest age group (15-24 yrs) and decreases with age. The same pattern holds for new psychoactive substances (last year use only).

Results – Ireland

Comparison 2006/7 – 2010/11

Significant changes (See Tables 1.1 – 1.3)

Any illegal drugs

Since the survey in 2006/7, lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased from 24% in 2006/7 to 27% in 2010/11 among all adults (15-64 yrs) in Ireland. Use among males increased from 30% to 36% while lifetime prevalence among females remained stable at 19%. For younger respondents (15-34 yrs) lifetime prevalence increased from 31% to 36% and for the older group (35-64 yrs) it increased from 18% to 21%. While

lifetime prevalence has increased, no significant changes in either last year or last month use of any illegal drugs were recorded between 2006/7 and 2010/11.

When considering the importance of changes in lifetime since the last survey, it should be borne in mind that lifetime prevalence of illegal drug use is higher among more recent birth cohorts than earlier birth cohorts, indicating the influence of a cohort effect.

Cannabis

Lifetime prevalence of cannabis use increased from 22% to 25% among all adults (15-64 yrs) since 2006/7. For men lifetime use of cannabis increased from 27% to 33% while it remained stable for women around 17%. For younger respondents (15-34 yrs), lifetime prevalence increased from 29% to 33% and for the older group (35-64 yrs), from 16% to 19%. There are no significant changes in either last year or last month use of cannabis since 2006/7.

Cocaine

Lifetime use of cocaine powder increased from 5% to 7% among all adults (15-64 yrs) since the last survey. Significant increases of lifetime use of cocaine powder are also recorded for men (7% to 10%) and for the older age group (35-64 yrs) of respondents (3% to 5%). There are no significant changes in either last year or last month use of cocaine powder.

Alcohol and tobacco

While there were no significant changes in lifetime or last year use of alcohol since the last survey, last month use of alcohol significantly decreased from 73% to 71%. There are no significant changes as far as men's drinking is concerned but women's drinking in the last month declined from 68% to 65%. Last year prevalence of alcohol among older adults (35-64 yrs) increased from 82% to 85%.

Since the last survey no significant changes were found in lifetime or last year prevalence rates of tobacco use. The rate of last month use of tobacco decreased significantly from 33% to 28%. Among women last year use of tobacco declined from 36% to 29% and last month use declined from 32% to 25%. No significant changes were found in men's tobacco use since the last survey.

Among older adults (35-64 yrs) last year and last month prevalence of tobacco decreased significantly. Last year prevalence decreased from 32% to 29% and the rate of last month prevalence for this age group also declined from 30% to 26%. Among younger adults (15-34 yrs) last month rates of tobacco use decreased from 36% to 31%.

Other significant changes

Table 1.1 shows that since the last survey there have been significant increases among all adults' (15-64 yrs) lifetime use of amphetamines (+1 percentage points), ecstasy (+1.4 percentage points), LSD (+ 1.5 percentage points) and sedatives or tranquillisers (+3.3 percentage points). When considering the importance of changes in lifetime since the last survey, it should be borne in mind that lifetime prevalence of illegal drug use is higher among more recent birth cohorts than earlier birth cohorts, indicating the influence of a cohort effect.

Since 2006/7 there were significant increases in last year prevalence for sedatives or tranquillisers (+1.8 percentage points) and solvents from (+0.1 percentage points). Significant increases in last month prevalence are found only for anti-depressants (+0.9 percentage points). Significant decreases were recorded for last year prevalence of ecstasy (-0.7 percentage points) and poppers (-0.3 percentage points) and last month use decreased for ecstasy (-0.2 percentage points).

For men (Table 1.2) there has been an increase in lifetime use of amphetamines (+2.0 percentage points), LSD (+2.6 percentage points), solvents (+1.5 percentage points), sedatives or tranquillisers (+4.3 percentage points) and anti-depressants (+2.4 percentage points). Sedatives or tranquillisers are the only drugs for which there is a significant increase (+2 percentage points) in men's use in the last year. A significant decrease was found for men's use of ecstasy in the last year (-1.2 percentage points) and for last month (-0.4 percentage points). Among women, sedatives or tranquillisers are the only drugs for which a significant increase was found and this for both lifetime use (+2.3 percentage points) and last year use (+ 1.6 percentage points). There are no significant changes for last month use.

Table 1.3 shows that among younger adults (15-34 years) since the last survey there has been an increase in lifetime use of LSD (+1.7 percentage points) and sedatives or tranquillisers (+4.2 percentage points). For this age group there is also an increase in last year use of sedatives or tranquillisers (2.2 percentage points). Decreases in last year use were found for poppers (-0.7 percentage points) and ecstasy (-1.5 percentage points). Last month use of ecstasy among younger adults decreased (-0.5 percentage points).

Among older adults (35-64 years) there has been an increase in the lifetime use of ecstasy (+1.4 percentage points), LSD (+1.5 percentage points), magic mushrooms (+1.7 percentage points), solvents (+.7 percentage points), sedatives or tranquillisers (+2.2 percentage points) and anti-depressants (+2.1 percentage points). However there are no significant changes for last year use among older adults. Of all drugs used in the last month, anti-depressants are the only ones for which a significant change (+1.5 percentage points) is found since the last survey.

Results – Northern Ireland

Key findings

- More than one in four people surveyed (27%) reported having ever used any illegal drug; seven percent reported using any illegal drug in the year prior to the survey; and less than one in twenty (3%) respondents reported using any illegal drug in the month prior to the survey.
- Cannabis was the most commonly reported illegal drug used with 24% of respondents reporting having ever used it; one in twenty (5%) respondents reported cannabis use in the last year and 3% of respondents reported use in the last month.
- After cannabis, the most commonly reported illegal drugs ever used were: poppers and ecstasy (each 9%); cocaine powder (6%); amphetamines and magic mushrooms (each 6%); LSD (5%); solvents (4%); crack (0.9%); and heroin (0.4%).
- Around one in three males (32%) and one in five females (22%) had ever used any illegal drug. Similar results were found for cannabis use, 29% of males and 19% of females had ever used cannabis.
- Nearly two fifths of young adults (15-34 years) had ever used any illegal drugs compared with one fifth (20%) of older adults (35-64 years). The lifetime prevalence rates for any illegal drug ranged from 8% of those aged 55-64 to 43% of those aged 25-34.
- Over one fifth of respondents reported having ever used sedatives and tranquillisers (21%) and anti-depressants (22%). Nearly one quarter (24%) of females reported lifetime use of sedatives and tranquillisers compared with 17% of males, and nearly three in ten (28%) females reported lifetime use of anti-depressants compared with 15% of males.
- In Northern Ireland, lifetime use and last month use of any illegal drug among all adults remained fairly similar between 2006/7 and 2010/11, while the last year use of any illegal drugs decreased from 9% in 2006/7 to 7% in 2010/11.
- Since 2006/7 there was a decrease in last year use of cannabis from 7% in 2006/7 to 5% in 2010/11 and a decrease in the lifetime and last year use of other opiates. The use of anti-depressants in the last year and last month has increased and the lifetime and last year use of methadone has increased.

Northern Ireland – Lifetime prevalence (Table 2.1)

Results from the survey indicated that more than one quarter (27%) of the Northern Ireland population aged 15-64 have ever used any illegal drugs.

Drug type

Cannabis was the most commonly reported illegal drug ever used, with 24% of respondents reporting lifetime use. Lifetime prevalence rates of other illegal drugs were: poppers and ecstasy (each 9%); cocaine powder (6%); amphetamines and magic mushrooms (each 6%); LSD (5%); and solvents (4%). Less than one percent of respondents reported ever using crack (0.9%) and heroin (0.4%).

Sixteen percent of respondents reported lifetime use of other opiates, and over one fifth of respondents reported lifetime use of sedatives and tranquillisers (21%) and anti-depressants (22%).

The lifetime prevalence rate was 2% for both mephedrone and legal highs.

Gender (Table 2.2)

Around one in three (32%) males compared with over one in five females (22%) had ever used any illegal drug.

Approximately three in ten males (29%) compared with two in ten females (19%) had ever used cannabis. Around one in ten males reported lifetime use of cocaine (including crack) (9%), amphetamines (8%), ecstasy (11%), LSD (7%), magic mushrooms (9%) and poppers (10%) compared with about one in twenty females reported having ever used cocaine (including crack) (5%), amphetamines (5%), ecstasy (6%), LSD (3%), magic mushrooms (3%) and poppers (8%).

Less than one in four (24%) females reported lifetime use of sedatives and tranquillisers compared with less than one in five (17%) males. Nearly three in ten (28%) females reported having ever used anti-depressants compared with 15% of males. Fourteen percent of males compared with 17% of females reported lifetime use of other opiates.

Age (Tables 2.3 and 2.4)

Nearly two fifths (37%) of young adults (15-34 years) had ever used any illegal drug compared with one fifth (20%) of older adults (35-64 years). The lifetime prevalence rates for any illegal drug ranged from 8% of those aged 55-64 to 43% of those aged 25-34.

The lifetime use of cannabis results showed that nearly one in three (32%) young adults (aged 15-34) had ever used cannabis compared with nearly one in five (18%) older adults (aged 35-64). The lifetime prevalence rates for cannabis ranged from 7% of those aged 55-64 to 38% of those aged 25-34.

Over one in ten young adults (15-34 years) had used cocaine (including crack) (11%), ecstasy (14%) and poppers (14%) compared with around one in twenty older adults (35-64 years) had used cocaine (including crack) (3%), ecstasy (5%) and poppers (5%).

The lifetime prevalence rates for sedatives and tranquillisers and anti-depressants showed that over one quarter of older adults (aged 35-64) had used them (26% and 28%, respectively) compared with 14% of young adults aged 15-34 (for both drug categories). The lifetime prevalence rates for other opiates was 13% for young adults aged 15-34 and 18% for older adults aged 35-64.

The lifetime prevalence rate for adults aged 15-24 was 6% for both mephedrone and legal highs.

Northern Ireland – Last year prevalence

(Table 2.1)

The overall prevalence rate for the use of any illegal drug in the year preceding the survey was 7%.

Drug type

In the year preceding the survey cannabis was the most commonly reported illegal drug used, with one in twenty respondents reporting its use (5%). Following cannabis, the most frequently reported illegal drugs used were cocaine (including crack) (2%), amphetamines and ecstasy (each 1%), poppers (0.8%).

Six percent of respondents reported last year use of other opiates, approximately one in ten respondents reported last year use of sedatives and tranquillisers (11%) and anti-depressants (12%).

One percent of respondents had used mephedrone and legal highs in the year preceding the survey.

Gender (Table 2.2)

Around one in ten male respondents (9%) compared with nearly one in twenty (4%) female respondents had used any illegal drug in the last year. Similar results were found for cannabis use with 7% of males and 3% of females having used it in the last twelve months.

Thirteen percent of females compared with 9% of males had used sedatives and tranquillisers in the last year. Similarly, 15% of females compared with 9% of males had used anti-depressants in the year preceding the survey. Males and females had similar last year prevalence rates for other opiates (6% and 7%, respectively).

Age (Tables 2.3 and 2.4)

Around one in ten respondents aged 15-24 years (13%) and 25-34 years (10%) had used any illegal drug in the year preceding the survey, the corresponding figures for those in the older age groups are 5% of those aged 35-44 years, 2% of those aged 45-54 years and 0.3% of those aged 55-64 years.

Less than one in ten young adults aged 15-34 years (9%) had used cannabis in the year preceding the survey compared with 2% of older adults aged 35-64 years. While, approximately one in seven older adults aged 35-64 had used sedatives and tranquillisers (14%), and anti-depressants (16%) compared with 6% of young adults aged 15-34 reported using sedatives and tranquillisers in the last year and 7% of young adults aged 15-34 with last year use of anti-depressants. The last year prevalence rate for other opiates was 6% for those aged 15-34 and 7% for those aged 35-64.

Northern Ireland – Last month prevalence

(Table 2.1)

In the month prior to the survey the prevalence rate for the use of any illegal drug was 3%.

Drug type

Cannabis (3%) was the most commonly reported illegal drug used in the month prior to the survey. Following cannabis, the most commonly reported illegal drugs used in the last month were cocaine (including crack) (0.5%), amphetamines and ecstasy (each 0.3%) and poppers (0.1%).

The prevalence rate for last month use of anti-depressants was 10%, and 8% for sedatives and tranquillisers. Four percent of respondents reported using other opiates in the month prior to the survey.

The last month prevalence rate for mephedrone was 0.1% and 0.2% for legal highs.

Gender (Table 2.2)

The last month prevalence rate of any illegal drug was 5% for males and 2% for females. Four percent of males had used cannabis in the last month compared with 1% of females. Half a percent (0.5%) of males and 0.1% of females had ecstasy use in the last month.

Nine percent of females compared with 7% of males reported having used sedatives and tranquillisers in the last month. Similarly, 13% of females compared with 8% of males had used anti-depressants in the month preceding the survey. Males and females had similar last month prevalence rates for other opiates (3% and 4%, respectively).

Age (Tables 2.3 and 2.4)

Last month prevalence for the use of any illegal drug was 6% for young adults aged 15-34 years compared with 2% for older adults aged 35-64.

Five percent of young adults (15-34 years) had used cannabis in the last month compared with 1% of older adults (35-64 years). Last month use of ecstasy was 0.6% for young adults aged 15-34 compared with 0.1% for older adults aged 35-64.

More than one in ten older adults (35-64 years) had last month use of sedatives and tranquillisers (11%) and anti-depressants (14%) compared with 4% and 5% (respectively) for young adults (15-34 years). Less than one in twenty young adults (aged 15-34) and older adults (aged 35-64) had used other opiates in the last month (3% and 4%, respectively).

Less than half a percent of young adults (15-34 years) had used mephedrone (0.1%) and legal highs (0.4%) in the month prior to the survey.

Northern Ireland – Results comparison

2006/7-2010/11

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant changes (Tables 2.1 – 2.3)

Any illegal drugs

Since the 2006/7 survey, there has been a decrease in last year prevalence of using any illegal drug. Last year prevalence decreased from 9.4% in 2006/7 to 6.6% in 2010/11. Last year use of any illegal drug for males decreased from 13.7% to 9.2%, while no significant change was observed for females. This decrease in last year use was also observed for those aged 15-34 years, with prevalence decreasing from 17.3% to 11.8%. No significant change was observed for those aged 35-64 years. There were no significant changes in lifetime prevalence or last month prevalence of any illegal drug.

Cannabis

Last year prevalence of cannabis use decreased from 7.2% in 2006/7 to 5.1% in 2010/11. For those aged 35-64 years, last year use of cannabis decreased from 3.3% to 1.9%. There were no significant changes in last year cannabis use for males or females and for those aged 15-34 years. There were no significant changes in lifetime or last month prevalence for cannabis use.

Other significant changes

Table 2.1 shows that there have been a number of significant changes since the 2006/7 survey. Lifetime prevalence of methadone use was shown to have increased (from 0.1% to 1.0%) while there was a decrease in lifetime use of other opiates (from 20.2% to 15.6%). Last year prevalence showed similar changes for these drugs: last year methadone use increased from 0.0% to 0.4% while there was a decrease in use of other opiates (from 8.4% to 6.4%). Last year use of anti-depressants increased (from 9.1% to 12.0%), as did last month use of anti-depressants (from 7.5% to 10.2%).

Among males (Table 2.2) significant increases were observed for lifetime use of methadone (from 0.1% to 1.5%) and crack (from 0.4% to 1.2%). Last year prevalence of methadone also increased among males (from 0.0% to 0.6%). There was a significant increase in last year use of anti-depressants among males (from 5.8% to 8.9%) and last month use of anti-depressants (from 4.2% to 7.6%).

Among women, there was an increase in lifetime use of solvents (from 2.0% to 3.7%) and poppers (from 4.9% to 7.6%), while there was a decrease in lifetime use of other opiates (from 23.0% to 17.4%).

Among younger adults (15-34 years) there has been an increase in lifetime use of methadone since the 2006/7 survey (from 0.1% to 2.0%). This increase was also observed for last year use of methadone among this age group (from 0.0% to 0.8%). Lifetime prevalence of LSD has decreased among those aged 15-34 years (from 9.4% to 5.7%).

Among older adults (35-64 years) there has been an increase in lifetime use of ecstasy (from 2.9% to 4.8%) and poppers (from 3.4% to 5.2%). There was a decrease in the prevalence of other opiates across all three time periods, lifetime prevalence decreased from 24.7% to 17.6%, last year prevalence decreased from 9.3% to 6.9% and last month prevalence decreased from 5.8% to 4.0%. Among this age group there was an increase in last year prevalence of anti-depressants (from 11.7% to 15.7%) and last month prevalence of anti-depressants (from 10.0% to 14.0%).

Results – Island of Ireland

Key findings

- On the island of Ireland 27% of all adults (15-64 years) reported ever having used any illegal drugs; 7% reported using any illegal drugs in the year prior to the survey; and 3% reported using any illegal drugs in the month prior to the survey;
- Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug with 25% of the population on the island having ever used the drug; 6% reported having used cannabis in the last year and 3% in the last month.
- Lifetime prevalence rates for other illegal drugs on the island of Ireland were considerably lower than for cannabis; among the other drugs, lifetime prevalence was highest for ecstasy and cocaine (each 7%) followed by magic mushrooms (6%), poppers, amphetamines, LSD (each 5%) and solvents (3%).
- Since the survey in 2006/7, lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased from 25% in 2006/7 to 27% in 2010/11 among all adults (15-64 yrs) on the island of Ireland. While lifetime prevalence has increased, no significant changes in either last year or last month use of any illegal drugs were recorded between 2006/7 and 2010/11.

Island of Ireland – Lifetime prevalence (see Table 3.1)

Results from the survey indicated that 27% of the population aged 15-64 years in the island of Ireland have used any illegal drug in their lifetime.

Drug type

Cannabis use was the most commonly used illegal drug with 25% of the population having ever used the drug. Among other drugs, lifetime prevalence was highest for ecstasy and cocaine (total) (each 7%), followed by magic mushrooms (6%), poppers, amphetamines, LSD (each 5%) and solvents (3%). Less than 1% reported having ever used crack (0.7%), heroin (0.6%) or methadone (0.6%).

Lifetime use of sedatives or tranquillisers was reported by 16% and anti-depressants by 14% of respondents.

Island of Ireland – Last year prevalence (see Table 3.1)

The overall prevalence rate for last year use of any illegal drugs was 7% in the island of Ireland.

Drug type

With regard to drug use in the year prior to the survey, cannabis was the most frequently reported illegal drug (6%). After cannabis, cocaine (1.5%) was the next most widely used drug on the island of Ireland. Less than one percent of those surveyed reported last year use of ecstasy, amphetamines, magic mushrooms, poppers, LSD, methadone, crack, heroin and solvents.

Last year prevalence for sedatives or tranquillisers was 8% and for anti-depressants the rate was 7%.

Island of Ireland – Last month prevalence (Table 3.1)

In the month preceding the survey, 3% of the population reported using any illegal drugs on the island of Ireland.

Drug type

On the island of Ireland, cannabis (3%) was the most commonly used illegal drug in the month preceding the survey. After cannabis, the most commonly used illegal drugs in the last month was cocaine (0.5%) followed by heroin, methadone, amphetamines, ecstasy, solvents and poppers (each 0.1%) and crack, LSD, magic mushrooms (0.0%)

The rate of last month use of sedatives or tranquillisers was 4% and for anti-depressants it was 6%.

Comparison 2006/7-2010/11 Significant changes (Table 3.1)

Any illegal drugs

Since the survey in 2006/7, lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased from 25% in 2006/7 to 27% in 2010/11 among all adults (15-64 yrs) on the island of Ireland. While lifetime prevalence has increased, no significant changes in either last year or last month use of any illegal drugs were recorded between 2006/7 and 2010/11.

Cannabis

Lifetime prevalence of cannabis use increased from 23% to 25% among all adults (15-64 yrs) since 2006/7. There are no significant changes in either last year or last month use of cannabis since 2006/7.

Cocaine

Lifetime use of cocaine increased from 5% to 7% among all adults (15-64 yrs) since the last survey. There are no significant changes in either last year or last month use of cocaine powder.

Other significant changes

Table 3.1 shows that since the last survey there have been significant increases among all adults' (15-64 yrs) lifetime use of amphetamines (+0.8 percentage points), ecstasy (+1.4 percentage points), sedatives or tranquillisers (+2.5 percentage points) and methadone (+0.3 percentage points). Since 2006/7 there were significant increases in last year prevalence for sedatives or tranquillisers (+1.8 percentage points), anti-depressants (+1.1 percentage points) and methadone (0.2 percentage points). Significant increases in last month prevalence are found only for anti-depressants (+1.5 percentage points). Significant decreases were recorded for last year prevalence of ecstasy (-0.7 percentage points) and poppers (-0.3 percentage points) and last month use decreased for ecstasy (-0.3 percentage points).

Table 1.1: Prevalence of drug use (adults 15-64 yrs) in Ireland, 2002/3, 2006/7 and 2010/11

Drug	Lifetime use (%)			Last year (%)			Last month (%)		
	2002/3	2006/7	2010/11	2002/3	2006/7	2010/11	2002/3	2006/7	2010/11
Any illegal drug*	18.5	24.0	27.2 ^{ab}	5.6	7.2	7.0 ^b	3.0	2.9	3.2
Cannabis	17.3	21.9	25.3 ^{ab}	5.1	6.3	6.0	2.6	2.6	2.8
Heroin	0.5	0.4	0.8 ^a	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Methadone	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Other opiates [†]	3.0	6.2	38.8	0.5	2.2	27.9	0.2	0.9	14.2
Cocaine (including crack)	3.0	5.3	6.8 ^{ab}	1.1	1.7	1.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Crack	0.3	0.6	0.6 ^b	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	2.9	5.1	6.7 ^{ab}	1.1	1.6	1.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Amphetamines	2.9	3.5	4.5 ^{ab}	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1
Ecstasy	3.7	5.5	6.9 ^{ab}	1.1	1.2	0.5 ^{ab}	0.3	0.3	0.1 ^{ab}
LSD	2.9	2.9	4.4 ^{ab}	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	3.8	5.9	6.5 ^b	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	1.7	1.9	2.6 ^b	0.1	0.0	0.1 ^a	0.0	0.0	0.1
Poppers	2.6	3.3	3.9 ^b	0.4	0.5	0.2 ^a	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sedatives or tranquillisers	**	10.6	13.9 ^a	**	4.7	6.5 ^a	**	3.0	2.8
Anti-depressants	**	9.3	10.4	**	4.4	4.8	**	3.2	4.1 ^a
New psychoactive substances	***	***	***	***	***	3.5	***	***	***
Tobacco	60.0	57.9	56.7 ^b	38.0	36.3	32.5 ^{ab}	33.2	32.6	28.3 ^{ab}
Alcohol	90.1	90.2	90.3	83.3	84.0	85.3	73.9	73.2	70.6 ^{ab}

a Significant change ($p < 0.05$) between 2006/7 and 2010/11. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance.

b Significant change ($p < 0.05$) between 2002/3 and 2010/11. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance.

* Any illegal drugs refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

** In 2002/3 the survey asked about use of sedatives, tranquillisers or anti-depressants together. Since 2006/7 the survey has asked about sedatives/tranquillisers and anti-depressants separately.

*** In 2010/11 the survey asked respondents about their use of New Psychoactive Substances for the first time. The survey asked about use in the last 12 months only.

† Tests for statistical significance between the prevalence of 'Other opiates' are not reported. As a result of measurement changes in 2006/7 and 2010/11, the 'Other opiates' category is not comparable between the surveys. The measurement of 'Other opiates' in Ireland in 2002/3 included nine drugs: Opium, Temgesic®, Diconal®, Napps, MSTs®, Pethidine, DF118®, (Dihydrocodeine), Buprenorphine and Morphine. In 2006/7 the category 'Other opiates' was extended to be consistent with Northern Ireland and included: Codeine, Feminax, Kapake, Diffs, Dikes, Peach, Fentanyl (Durogesic®, Sublimaze®, Actiq®), Oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Oxynorm®), and Buprenorphine (Subutex®). In 2010/11 the category 'Other opiates' also asked specifically about substances containing codeine such as Maxilief, Migraleve, Nurofen Plus, Codeine Phosp, Panadeine, Paracetamol/Caffeine/Codeine and Doxylamine, Paracodin, Paramol, Solpadeine, Solpadol, Syndol, Tylex, Uniflu Plus, Veganin Plus.

Table 1.2: Prevalence of drug use in Ireland (%), by gender, 2002/3, 2006/7 and 2010/11

	Lifetime use (%)						Last year (%)						Last month (%)					
	Male			Female			Male			Female			Male			Female		
	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11
Any illegal drug*	23.8	29.5	35.5 ^{ab}	13.1	18.6	19.0 ^b	7.8	9.8	10.4 ^b	3.4	4.7	3.6	4.1	4.5	5.3	1.8	1.4	1.1
Cannabis	22.2	27.2	33.2 ^{ab}	12.3	16.8	17.5 ^b	7.2	8.8	9.1	2.9	3.9	2.9	3.4	4.1	4.7	1.7	1.2	0.9 ^b
Heroin	0.7	0.5	1.2 ^a	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Methadone	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Other opiates [†]	2.0	4.8	35.2	3.9	7.6	42.4	0.4	1.5	24.0	0.5	2.8	31.7	0.2	0.9	11.1	0.1	1.0	17.1
Cocaine (incl crack)	4.3	7.1	9.9 ^{ab}	1.6	3.5	3.8 ^b	1.7	2.3	2.3	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.3 ^b
Crack	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	4.1	6.9	9.7 ^{ab}	1.6	3.4	3.8 ^b	1.7	2.2	2.3	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.3 ^b
Amphetamines	4.0	4.6	6.6 ^{ab}	1.9	2.4	2.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Ecstasy	4.9	7.4	10.1 ^b	2.6	3.6	3.7 ^b	1.5	1.8	0.6 ^{ab}	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.1 ^{ab}	0.0	0.2	0.0
LSD	4.3	4.1	6.7 ^{ab}	1.4	1.7	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	5.6	8.0	9.5 ^b	2.0	3.8	3.6 ^b	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	2.2	2.3	3.8 ^{ab}	1.1	1.4	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers	3.8	4.3	6.0 ^b	1.3	2.4	1.9	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Sedatives or tranquillisers	**	8.1	12.4 ^a	**	13.2	15.5 ^a	**	3.7	5.7 ^a	**	5.7	7.3 ^a	**	2.4	2.3	**	3.6	3.3
Anti-depressants	**	5.9	8.3 ^a	**	12.6	12.4	**	3.0	4.0	**	5.7	5.6	**	2.3	3.2	**	4.0	5.0
New psychoactive substances	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	5.4	***	***	1.6	***	***	***	***	***	***
Tobacco	61.6	59.1	60.6	58.4	56.8	52.7 ^{ab}	38.2	36.8	35.7	37.8	35.8	29.4 ^{ab}	33.4	33.6	31.3	33.0	31.6	25.2 ^{ab}
Alcohol	92.5	91.8	92.5	87.7	88.7	88.1	86.0	86.4	87.5	81.5	81.7	83.2	78.3	78.1	76.3	69.4	68.3	65.1 ^{ab}

a Significant change (p<.05) between 2006/7 and 2010/11. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance.

b Significant change (p<.05) between 2002/3 and 2010/11. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance.

* Any illegal drugs refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

** In 2002/3 the survey asked about use of sedatives, tranquillisers or anti-depressants together. Since 2006/7 the survey has asked about sedatives/tranquillisers and anti-depressants separately.

*** In 2010/11 the survey asked respondents about their use of New Psychoactive Substances for the first time. The survey asked only about use in the last 12 months.

† Tests for statistical significance between the prevalence of 'Other opiates' are not reported. As a result of measurement changes in 2006/7 and 2010/11, the 'Other opiates' category is not comparable between the surveys. The measurement of 'Other opiates' in Ireland in 2002/3 included nine drugs: Opium, Temgesic®, Diconal®, Napps, MSTs®, Pethidine, DF118®, (Dihydrocodeine), Buprenorphine and Morphine. In 2006/7 the category 'Other opiates' was extended to be consistent with Northern Ireland and included: Codeine, Feminax, Kapake, Diffs, Dikes, Peach, Fentanyl (Durogesic®, Sublimaze®, Actiq®), Oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Oxynorm®), and Buprenorphine (Subutex®). In 2010/11 the category 'Other opiates' also asked specifically about substances containing codeine such as Maxilief, Migralve, Nurofen Plus, Codeine Phosp, Panadeine, Paracetamol/Caffeine/Codeine and Doxylamine, Paracodin, Paramol, Solpadeine, Solpadol, Syndol, Tylex, Uniflu Plus, Veganin Plus.

Table 1.3: Prevalence of drug use in Ireland, by age, 2002/3, 2006/7 and 2010/11

	Lifetime use (%)						Last year (%)						Last month (%)					
	15-34			35-64			15-34			35-64			15-34			35-64		
	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11
Any illegal drug	25.9	31.4	35.7 ^{ab}	11.8	17.6	20.6 ^{ab}	9.8	12.2	12.3 ^b	1.9	2.9	2.9 ^b	5.2	5.0	5.3	0.9	1.2	1.6 ^b
Cannabis	23.8	28.6	33.4 ^{ab}	11.4	16.2	19.0 ^{ab}	8.7	10.6	10.3	1.8	2.7	2.6	4.3	4.3	4.5	0.9	1.2	1.4
Heroin	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.8 ^b	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Methadone	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5 ^b	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Other opiates [†]	2.9	4.6	37.0	3.0	7.6	40.2	0.6	1.7	28.3	0.4	2.5	27.6	0.1	0.8	14.2	0.2	1.1	14.1
Cocaine (incl crack)	4.7	8.2	9.4 ^b	1.4	2.8	4.8 ^{ab}	2.0	3.1	2.8	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Crack	0.5	1.0	0.7 ^b	0.2	0.2	0.5 ^b	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	4.5	7.9	9.3	1.4	2.7	4.7 ^{ab}	2.0	2.9	2.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Amphetamines	4.8	5.1	6.4	1.3	2.2	3.0 ^b	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Ecstasy	7.1	9.1	10.9 ^b	0.7	2.3	3.7 ^{ab}	2.3	2.4	0.9 ^{ab}	0.0	0.2	0.2 ^b	0.6	0.6	0.1 ^{ab}	0.0	0.1	0.0
LSD	4.5	3.7	5.4 ^a	2.0	2.2	3.7 ^{ab}	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	5.9	8.6	8.2 ^b	2.0	3.5	5.2 ^{ab}	0.7	1.2	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Solvents	3.3	3.2	3.8	0.2	0.8	1.5 ^{ab}	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Poppers	4.7	5.5	6.2	0.7	1.4	2.2 ^b	0.8	0.9	0.2 ^{ab}	0.0	0.1	0.2 ^b	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Sedatives or tranquillisers	**	5.9	10.1 ^a	**	14.7	16.9 ^a	**	2.6	4.8 ^a	**	6.5	7.8	**	1.3	1.0	**	4.5	4.1
Anti-depressants	**	7.3	6.8	**	11.1	13.2 ^a	**	3.4	3.0	**	5.3	6.2	**	2.3	2.3	**	4.0	5.5 ^{ab}
New psychoactive substances	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	6.7	***	***	1.0	***	***	***	***	***	***
Tobacco	57.4	56.3	53.0 ^b	62.3	59.4	59.5	43.1	40.8	37.3 ^b	33.4	32.3	28.8 ^{ab}	36.9	36.0	31.3 ^{ab}	29.8	29.7	25.9 ^{ab}
Alcohol	92.0	90.4	89.4 ^b	88.3	90.1	91.0 ^b	86.5	86.3	86.3	81.3	82.0	84.5 ^{ab}	74.6	73.7	70.9 ^b	73.3	72.7	70.4

a Significant change (p<.05) between 2006/7 and 2010/11. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance.

b Significant change (p<.05) between 2002/3 and 2010/11. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance.

* Any illegal drugs refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

** In 2002/3 the survey asked about use of sedatives, tranquillisers or anti-depressants together. Since 2006/7 the survey has asked about sedatives/tranquillisers and anti-depressants separately.

*** In 2010/11 the survey asked respondents about their use of New Psychoactive Substances for the first time. The survey asked only about use in the last 12 months.

† Tests for statistical significance between the prevalence of 'Other opiates' are not reported. As a result of measurement changes in 2006/7 and 2010/11, the 'Other opiates' category is not comparable between the surveys. The measurement of 'Other opiates' in Ireland in 2002/3 included nine drugs: Opium, Temgesic®, Diconal®, Napps, MSTs®, Pethidine, DF118®, (Dihydrocodeine), Buprenorphine and Morphine. In 2006/7 the category 'Other opiates' was extended to be consistent with Northern Ireland and included: Codeine, Feminax, Kapake, Diffs, Dikes, Peach, Fentanyl (Durogesic®, Sublimaze®, Actiq®), Oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Oxynorm®), and Buprenorphine (Subutex®). In 2010/11 the category 'Other opiates' also asked specifically about substances containing codeine such as Maxilief, Migralief, Nurofen Plus, Codeine Phosp, Panadeine, Paracetamol/Caffeine/Codeine and Doxylamine, Paracodin, Paramol, Solpadeine, Solpadol, Syndol, Tylex, Uniflu Plus, Veganin Plus.

Table 1.4: Prevalence of drug use in Ireland (%), by age, 2010/11

	Lifetime use (%)					Last year (%)					Last month (%)				
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drug*	27.3	41.7	29.2	18.0	11.2	15.1	10.2	4.2	2.8	1.0	5.8	4.9	2.3	1.7	0.3
Cannabis	25.9	38.7	26.7	17.2	9.7	12.9	8.5	3.7	2.6	0.9	5.4	4.0	1.9	1.7	0.3
Heroin	0.3	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0
Methodone	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Other opiates†	31.7	40.8	41.8	41.3	36.4	24.5	31.0	30.7	28.5	21.8	12.5	15.4	15.9	15.5	9.8
Cocaine (including crack)	5.0	12.6	6.8	4.7	2.0	2.5	3.0	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.5	1.3	0.1	0.3	0.0
Crack	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	4.9	12.5	6.7	4.7	1.8	2.5	2.9	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.5	1.3	0.1	0.3	0.0
Amphetamines	3.8	8.3	4.4	3.0	1.1	1.5	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Ecstasy	5.7	14.6	7.4	2.4	0.0	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
LSD	2.0	7.9	4.6	4.2	1.6	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	3.5	11.6	7.2	5.4	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Solvents	2.7	4.6	2.3	1.3	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Poppers	3.5	8.1	3.4	2.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0
Sedatives or tranquillisers**	5.0	13.7	14.5	16.1	21.4	2.7	6.3	6.9	7.2	9.9	0.5	1.4	2.8	3.8	6.6
Anti-depressants	4.4	8.5	13.9	14.1	11.2	2.6	3.3	6.2	6.9	5.3	1.6	2.8	5.6	6.2	4.5
New psychoactive substances	***	***	***	***	***	9.7	4.6	1.7	0.9	0.2	***	***	***	***	***
Tobacco	46.1	57.4	57.8	59.3	60.7	35.1	38.8	32.1	30.7	23.7	29.2	33.5	28.6	28.1	22.0
Alcohol	83.2	93.8	92.9	90.8	88.6	81.7	89.6	87.6	84.8	79.5	65.9	74.5	72.1	71.4	66.8

a Significant change ($p < 0.05$) between 2006/7 and 2010/11. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance.

b Significant change ($p < 0.05$) between 2002/3 and 2010/11. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance.

* Any illegal drugs refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

** In 2002/3 the survey asked about use of sedatives, tranquillisers or anti-depressants together. Since 2006/7 the survey has asked about sedatives/tranquillisers and anti-depressants separately.

*** In 2010/11 the survey asked respondents about their use of New Psychoactive Substances for the first time. The survey asked only about use in the last 12 months.

† Tests for statistical significance between the prevalence of 'Other opiates' are not reported. As a result of measurement changes in 2006/7 and 2010/11, the 'Other opiates' category is not comparable between the surveys. The measurement of 'Other opiates' in Ireland in 2002/3 included nine drugs: Opium, Temgesic®, Diconal®, Napps, MSTs®, Pethidine, DF118®, (Dihydrocodeine), Buprenorphine and Morphine. In 2006/7 the category 'Other opiates' was extended to be consistent with Northern Ireland and included: Codeine, Feminax, Kapake, Diffs, Dikes, Peach, Fentanyl (Durogesic®, Sublimaze®, Actiq®), Oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Oxynorm®), and Buprenorphine (Subutex®). In 2010/11 the category 'Other opiates' also asked specifically about substances containing codeine such as Maxilief, Migraleve, Nurofen Plus, Codeine Phosp, Panadeine, Paracetamol/Caffeine/Codeine and Doxylamine, Paracodin, Paramol, Solpadeine, Solpadol, Syndol, Tylex, Uniflu Plus, Veganin Plus.

Table 1.5a: Lifetime prevalence of drug use in Ireland (%), by gender and age, 2010/11

	Lifetime use (%)									
	Male					Female				
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drug*	35.8	51.8	38.5	24.8	17.0	18.9	32.0	19.8	11.2	5.3
Cannabis	34.2	48.2	35.5	24.1	15.3	17.8	29.6	17.9	10.4	4.2
Heroin	0.4	1.5	1.1	2.4	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.0
Methadone	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.0
Other opiates†	28.9	34.8	39.9	37.3	33.7	34.5	46.7	43.7	45.4	39.0
Cocaine (including crack)	6.9	17.3	9.8	8.3	3.1	3.2	8.0	3.8	1.0	0.8
Crack	0.5	1.5	0.8	1.7	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	6.7	17.2	9.6	8.3	2.9	3.2	8.0	3.8	1.0	0.8
Amphetamines	5.0	11.7	6.4	5.7	1.3	2.5	5.1	2.4	0.2	0.9
Ecstasy	7.8	21.3	10.9	4.5	0.0	3.7	8.1	3.9	0.3	0.0
LSD	3.7	11.4	6.1	7.2	2.8	0.2	4.5	3.1	1.2	0.5
Magic mushrooms	4.7	17.7	9.6	8.7	2.2	2.4	5.7	4.8	2.1	1.4
Solvents	4.0	7.3	3.4	1.9	0.8	1.5	2.1	1.1	0.6	0.8
Poppers	4.9	12.2	5.3	3.8	0.3	2.0	4.2	1.4	0.8	0.0
Sedatives and tranquillisers	5.9	11.8	12.8	13.7	18.7	4.2	15.5	16.3	18.4	24.2
Anti-depressants	3.4	4.9	11.4	12.4	10.3	5.3	11.9	16.4	15.8	12.2
New psychoactive substances	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Alcohol	84.2	96.4	94.8	93.1	91.8	82.2	91.2	90.9	88.6	85.4

* Any illegal drugs refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

** New psychoactive substances were included for the first time in the 2010/11 Drug Prevalence Survey. The survey asked only about use in the last year. (see Methodology section for a description of measurement).

† A change in the measurement of 'Other opiates' occurred in the 2010/11 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

Table 1.5b: Last year prevalence of drug use in Ireland (%), by gender and age, 2010/11

	Last year (%)									
	Male					Female				
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drug*	20.4	16.0	6.6	5.0	1.7	9.9	4.7	1.8	0.7	0.3
Cannabis	17.7	13.9	5.8	4.5	1.5	8.1	3.3	1.6	0.7	0.3
Heroin	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Other opiates†	19.3	25.6	28.8	23.7	20.5	29.6	36.2	32.7	33.3	23.1
Cocaine (including crack)	3.9	4.3	1.7	0.7	0.0	1.1	1.7	0.3	0.1	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	3.9	4.0	1.7	0.7	0.0	1.1	1.7	0.3	0.1	0.0
Amphetamines	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0
LSD	1.6	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	1.4	1.2	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
Solvents	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Sedatives and tranquillisers	3.5	5.3	5.7	5.9	8.6	1.9	7.3	8.2	8.4	11.2
Anti-depressants	2.1	2.3	5.5	5.2	5.4	3.1	4.3	6.9	8.7	5.2
New psychoactive substances**	14.9	6.9	2.7	1.4	0.3	4.5	2.2	0.6	0.5	0.1
Alcohol	83.1	92.7	89.7	85.4	83.1	80.3	86.6	85.4	84.2	75.9

* Any illegal drugs refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

** New psychoactive substances were included for the first time in the 2010/11 Drug Prevalence Survey. The survey asked only about use in the last year. (see Methodology section for a description of measurement).

† A change in the measurement of 'Other opiates' occurred in the 2010/11 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

Table 1.5c: Last month prevalence of drug use in Ireland (%), by gender and age, 2010/11

	Last month use (%)									
	Male					Female				
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drug*	9.0	8.5	4.0	2.8	0.4	2.7	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.3
Cannabis	8.3	7.1	3.4	2.8	0.4	2.5	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.3
Heroin	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Other opiates†	10.1	10.4	13.3	12.2	9.0	14.8	20.3	18.4	18.7	10.6
Cocaine (including crack)	0.7	2.1	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	0.7	2.1	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
LSD	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Sedatives and tranquillisers	0.5	1.3	1.7	3.1	5.7	0.5	1.6	3.9	4.4	7.4
Anti-depressants	0.7	1.9	4.7	4.9	3.8	2.5	3.6	6.5	7.6	5.1
New psychoactive substances	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Alcohol	68.1	82.9	76.5	75.5	75.4	63.7	66.2	67.6	67.2	58.2

* Any illegal drugs refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

** New psychoactive substances were included for the first time in the 2010/11 Drug Prevalence Survey. The survey asked only about use in the last year. (see Methodology section for a description of measurement).

† A change in the measurement of 'Other opiates' occurred in the 2010/11 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

Table 2.1: Prevalence of drug use (adults 15-64 yrs) in Northern Ireland, 2002/3, 2006/7 and 2010/11

	Lifetime prevalence			Last year prevalence			Last month prevalence		
	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11
Any illegal drug*	20.0	28.0	27.3 ^b	6.4	9.4	6.6 ^{ab}	3.4	3.6	3.3
Cannabis	16.8	24.7	24.0 ^b	5.4	7.2	5.1 ^{ab}	2.9	2.6	2.7
Heroin	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Methadone	0.1	0.1	1.0 ^a	0.0	0.0	0.4 ^a	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates	18.0	20.2	15.6 ^a	8.0	8.4	6.4 ^a	4.1	4.9	3.6
Cocaine (including crack)	1.6	5.2	6.7 ^b	0.5	1.9	1.5 ^b	0.1	0.3	0.5
Crack	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	1.6	5.1	6.5 ^b	0.5	1.9	1.5 ^b	0.1	0.3	0.5
Amphetamines	4.0	5.8	6.3 ^b	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
Ecstasy	5.8	7.7	8.8 ^b	1.6	1.8	1.1	0.5	0.8	0.3
LSD	4.5	6.6	5.1 ^b	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	4.3	6.7	5.8 ^b	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	2.9	3.5	3.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Poppers	5.5	7.8	8.8 ^b	0.5	1.3	0.8 ^b	0.2	0.3	0.1
Sedatives and tranquillisers	--	20.2	20.7	--	9.2	11.0	--	7.1	8.0
Anti-depressants	--	21.0	21.9	--	9.1	12.0 ^a	--	7.5	10.2 ^a
Mephedrone	--	--	2.0	--	--	1.1	--	--	0.1
Legal Highs	--	--	2.4	--	--	1.0	--	--	0.2

a Significant change ($p < 0.5$) between 2006/7 and 2010/11.

b Significant change ($p < 0.5$) between 2002/3 and 2010/11.

* For this study, "any illegal drug" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

-- Comparative figures are not available. In 2002/3 respondents were asked about their use of sedatives, tranquillisers or anti-depressants together and thus prevalence rates are not available for the separate categories. From 2006/7 onwards respondents were asked about their use of sedative and tranquillisers and anti-depressants separately. Mephedrone and Legal Highs were asked in the survey for the first-time in 2010/11 and thus no comparisons are available.

Table 2.2: Prevalence of drug use in Northern Ireland, by gender, 2002/3, 2006/7 and 2010/11

	Lifetime prevalence						Last year prevalence						Last month prevalence					
	Males			Females			Males			Females			Males			Females		
	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11
Any illegal drug*	26.7	33.9	32.3 ^b	13.5	22.1	22.4 ^b	9.7	13.7	9.2 ^{ab}	3.1	5.2	3.9 ^b	5.7	4.9	5.1	1.1	2.4	1.6 ^b
Cannabis	23.3	30.1	29.2 ^b	10.5	19.3	18.8 ^b	8.7	10.3	7.4	2.2	4.1	2.7 ^b	5.1	3.7	4.4	0.8	1.6	1.1 ^b
Heroin	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.1 ^b	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Methadone	0.2	0.1	1.5 ^a	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.6 ^a	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Other opiates	16.4	17.4	13.9	19.5	23.0	17.4 ^{ab}	6.9	8.0	5.8	9.0	8.7	7.0	3.1	5.1	3.3 ^b	5.2	4.7	3.8
Cocaine (including crack)	2.8	7.4	8.8 ^b	0.5	2.9	4.5 ^b	1.0	2.8	2.1 ^b	0.1	0.9	0.9 ^b	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.2
Crack	0.4	0.4	1.2 ^a	0.1	0.4	0.6 ^b	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Cocaine powder	2.7	7.3	8.7 ^b	0.5	2.9	4.3 ^b	0.9	2.8	2.1 ^b	0.1	0.9	0.8 ^b	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1
Amphetamines	6.3	7.3	8.1	1.8	4.4	4.6 ^b	1.4	1.1	1.5	0.2	0.9	0.8 ^b	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2
Ecstasy	8.3	9.9	11.1	3.3	5.5	6.5 ^b	2.7	2.4	1.9	0.6	1.2	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.1 ^b
LSD	7.0	9.7	6.9 ^b	2.0	3.5	3.3 ^b	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Magic mushrooms	6.3	11.2	8.6 ^b	2.4	2.4	3.0	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	4.1	5.1	4.2	1.7	2.0	3.7 ^a	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Poppers	7.3	10.9	10.0 ^b	3.8	4.9	7.6 ^a	0.7	2.3	1.1 ^b	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Sedatives and tranquillisers	--	18.1	17.2	--	22.3	24.1	--	8.2	9.3	--	10.2	12.7	--	5.7	7.3	--	8.4	8.7
Anti-depressants	--	13.4	15.3	--	28.4	28.4	--	5.8	8.9 ^a	--	12.4	15.2	--	4.2	7.6 ^a	--	10.7	12.8
Mephedrone	--	--	3.1	--	--	0.9	--	--	1.9	--	--	0.3	--	--	0.1	--	--	0.0
Legal Highs	--	--	3.0	--	--	1.8	--	--	1.6	--	--	0.3	--	--	0.3	--	--	0.1

a Significant change ($p < 0.5$) between 2006/7 and 2010/11.

b Significant change ($p < 0.5$) between 2002/3 and 2010/11.

* For this study, "any illegal drug" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

-- Comparative figures are not available. In 2002/3 respondents were asked about their use of sedatives, tranquillisers or anti-depressants together and thus prevalence rates are not available for the separate categories in 2006/7 and 2010/11 survey respondents were asked about their use of sedative and tranquillisers and anti-depressants separately. Mephedrone and Legal Highs were asked in the survey for the first-time in 2010/11 and thus no comparisons are available.

Table 2.3: Prevalence of drug use in Northern Ireland, by age, 2002/3, 2006/7 and 2010/11

	Lifetime prevalence						Last year prevalence						Last month prevalence					
	15-34			35-64			15-34			35-64			15-34			35-64		
	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11	02/3	06/7	10/11
Any illegal drug*	30.9	40.2	36.9 ^b	11.5	19.3	20.4 ^b	11.6	17.3	11.8 ^{ab}	2.2	3.7	2.7 ^b	6.1	5.9	5.7	1.2	2.0	1.7 ^b
Cannabis	25.1	35.0	32.2 ^b	10.3	17.3	18.0 ^b	9.8	12.4	9.4	2.0	3.3	1.9 ^{ab}	5.4	3.7	4.6	1.0	1.8	1.3 ^b
Heroin	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Methadone	0.2	0.1	2.0 ^a	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.8 ^a	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Other opiates [†]	17.9	14.4	13.0	18.0	24.7	17.6 ^{ab}	7.5	7.1	5.6	8.3	9.3	6.9 ^a	3.3	3.6	2.9	4.8	5.8	4.0 ^a
Cocaine (including crack)	2.9	9.1	11.2 ^b	0.6	2.3	3.4 ^b	1.0	3.5	2.5 ^b	0.1	0.7	0.8 ^b	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.5
Crack	0.4	0.6	1.1	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Cocaine powder	2.9	9.1	10.8 ^b	0.6	2.2	3.3 ^b	0.9	3.5	2.5 ^b	0.1	0.7	0.7 ^b	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.4
Amphetamines	7.2	9.1	8.9	1.5	3.4	4.4 ^b	1.5	1.7	1.5	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4
Ecstasy	11.3	14.3	14.2	1.4	2.9	4.8 ^{ab}	3.3	3.4	2.0	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.1
LSD	7.8	9.4	5.7 ^a	1.9	4.5	4.6 ^b	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.1 ^b	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Magic mushrooms	6.4	8.3	7.7	2.7	5.6	4.4 ^b	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Solvents	5.4	5.5	5.2	1.0	2.1	3.1 ^b	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers	10.9	14.0	13.6	1.3	3.4	5.2 ^{ab}	1.1	2.7	1.5 ^b	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives and tranquillisers	--	11.7	13.6	--	26.5	25.8	--	4.6	6.4	--	12.6	14.3	--	2.3	3.6	--	10.7	11.2
Anti-depressants	--	13.6	13.6	--	26.6	28.0	--	5.8	7.1	--	11.7	15.7 ^a	--	4.2	5.0	--	10.0	14.0 ^a
Mephedrone	--	--	4.3	--	--	0.4	--	--	2.2	--	--	0.3	--	--	0.1	--	--	0.0
Legal Highs	--	--	4.8	--	--	0.6	--	--	2.0	--	--	0.2	--	--	0.4	--	--	0.0

a Significant change (p < 0.5) between 2006/7 and 2010/11.

b Significant change (p < 0.5) between 2002/3 and 2010/11.

* For this study, "any illegal drug" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

-- Comparative figures are not available. In 2002/3 respondents were asked about their use of sedatives, tranquillisers or anti-depressants together and thus prevalence rates are not available for the separate categories in 2006/7 and 2010/11 survey respondents were asked about their use of sedative and tranquillisers and anti-depressants separately. Mephedrone and Legal Highs were asked in the survey for the first-time in 2010/11 and thus no comparisons are available.

Table 2.4: Prevalence of drug use in Northern Ireland, by age, 2010/11

	Lifetime use					Last year					Last month				
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drug*	31.5	42.7	30.5	19.4	8.1	13.4	10.2	5.5	1.7	0.3	6.5	4.7	3.0	1.3	0.3
Cannabis	26.8	38.0	26.6	17.2	7.4	10.8	7.9	3.7	1.3	0.3	5.2	4.0	2.3	1.1	0.3
Heroin	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	2.6	1.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Other opiates	10.7	15.4	21.2	17.5	12.8	4.9	6.4	9.0	6.7	4.3	3.2	2.7	5.5	3.6	2.5
Cocaine (including crack)	11.7	10.6	6.7	2.4	0.2	3.1	1.8	1.4	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.0
Crack	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	11.3	10.3	6.7	2.2	0.2	3.1	1.8	1.3	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.0
Amphetamines	8.3	9.6	8.7	2.9	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.8	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0
Ecstasy	12.3	16.3	10.4	2.4	0.3	2.7	1.3	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0
LSD	3.0	8.6	8.6	3.0	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Magic mushrooms	5.0	10.5	6.4	4.8	1.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	4.1	6.3	5.8	1.6	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers	11.9	15.5	10.8	2.9	0.5	1.8	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives and tranquillisers	12.4	14.8	22.2	27.2	29.1	5.5	7.4	11.0	15.1	17.8	2.5	4.7	7.8	12.2	14.7
Anti-depressants	10.9	16.5	27.1	32.3	23.9	6.3	8.0	14.6	17.8	14.5	3.2	6.9	13.3	15.6	13.0
Mephedrone	5.7	2.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	1.2	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Legal Highs	5.9	3.6	1.0	0.7	0.0	3.3	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

* For this study, "any illegal drug" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 2.5: Lifetime prevalence of drug use in Northern Ireland, by gender and age, 2010/11

	Lifetime prevalence									
	Males					Females				
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drug*	34.6	48.4	37.7	24.3	11.4	28.3	37.1	23.4	14.6	4.9
Cannabis	31.5	44.0	33.0	21.7	11.4	21.9	31.9	20.4	12.9	3.5
Heroin	0.0	0.8	0.4	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
Methadone	3.9	1.6	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Other opiates	8.8	12.8	20.3	15.2	12.2	12.8	17.9	22.2	19.7	13.4
Cocaine (including crack)	14.0	13.0	9.9	4.2	0.3	9.2	8.2	3.5	0.6	0.0
Crack	0.7	1.6	1.7	1.9	0.0	1.3	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	14.0	12.6	9.9	3.8	0.3	8.5	7.9	3.5	0.6	0.0
Amphetamines	7.4	12.2	13.0	5.0	1.0	9.2	7.0	4.6	1.0	0.0
Ecstasy	14.5	19.6	13.7	4.2	0.7	10.0	13.0	7.1	0.6	0.0
LSD	3.0	10.9	13.7	3.9	1.9	2.9	6.3	3.7	2.2	0.8
Magic mushrooms	7.7	14.6	11.0	6.7	1.4	2.2	6.5	2.0	3.0	1.2
Solvents	2.5	4.9	8.9	2.2	1.6	5.7	7.7	2.9	1.1	0.7
Poppers	9.7	17.1	15.0	4.6	1.1	14.2	13.9	6.7	1.3	0.0
Sedatives and tranquillisers	10.8	10.7	19.1	23.6	23.7	14.2	18.8	25.1	30.6	34.4
Anti-depressants	6.5	10.4	20.7	23.4	16.8	15.5	22.5	33.3	40.8	30.8
Mephedrone	8.2	4.3	2.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Legal Highs	7.5	3.9	1.5	1.1	0.0	4.3	3.3	0.6	0.3	0.0

* For this study, "any illegal drug" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 2.6: Last year prevalence of drug use in Northern Ireland, by gender and age, 2010/11

	Last year prevalence									
	Males					Females				
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drug*	17.2	14.1	8.5	3.1	0.3	9.4	6.3	2.5	0.3	0.2
Cannabis	15.8	10.9	5.4	2.3	0.3	5.5	4.9	2.0	0.3	0.2
Heroin	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	1.3	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates	4.6	5.6	8.4	6.0	3.8	5.3	7.2	9.6	7.4	4.8
Cocaine (including crack)	3.5	2.3	2.6	1.6	0.0	2.6	1.4	0.3	0.0	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	3.5	2.3	2.6	1.6	0.0	2.6	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.6	1.9	3.6	1.2	0.0	2.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	4.7	1.9	1.6	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0
LSD	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers	1.8	2.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	1.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives and tranquillisers	5.7	4.7	9.5	13.5	14.6	5.2	10.2	12.3	16.7	20.9
Anti-depressants	5.8	5.6	10.1	12.3	11.4	6.7	10.3	18.9	23.2	17.6
Mephedrone	5.0	2.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Legal Highs	4.9	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

* For this study, "any illegal drug" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 2.7: Last month prevalence of drug use in Northern Ireland, by gender and age, 2010/11

	Last month prevalence									
	Males					Females				
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drug*	10.0	6.9	4.6	2.4	0.3	3.0	2.6	1.4	0.3	0.2
Cannabis	9.1	5.7	3.5	1.9	0.3	1.1	2.3	1.1	0.3	0.2
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates	3.3	2.9	5.3	2.2	2.4	3.1	2.4	5.7	4.9	2.6
Cocaine (including crack)	1.5	0.4	1.6	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	1.5	0.4	1.6	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.0	0.4	1.2	0.8	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives and tranquillisers	3.8	3.1	6.9	11.3	12.7	1.2	6.3	8.6	12.9	16.6
Anti-depressants	3.4	4.9	9.7	11.1	10.0	3.0	8.9	16.8	20.0	16.0
Mephedrone	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Legal Highs	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

* For this study, "any illegal drug" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

Table 3.1: Island of Ireland – Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence (%), 2002/3, 2006/7 and 2010/11

Drug	Lifetime use (%)			Last year (%)			Last month (%)		
	2002/3	2006/7	2010/11	2002/3	2006/7	2010/11	2002/3	2006/7	2010/11
Any illegal drug*	18.9	25.1	27.3 ^{ab}	5.8	7.8	6.9 ^b	3.1	3.1	3.2
Cannabis	17.2	22.7	24.9 ^{ab}	5.1	6.5	5.7	2.7	2.6	2.8
Heroin	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Methadone	0.3	0.3	0.6 ^{ab}	0.2	0.1	0.3 ^a	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cocaine (including crack)	2.6	5.2	6.8 ^{ab}	0.9	1.7	1.5 ^b	0.2	0.5	0.5 ^b
Crack	0.3	0.5	0.7 ^b	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine powder	2.5	5.1	6.7 ^{ab}	0.9	1.7	1.5 ^b	0.2	0.5	0.5 ^b
Amphetamines	3.3	4.2	5.0 ^{ab}	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1
Ecstasy	4.3	6.0	7.4 ^{ab}	1.3	1.4	0.7 ^{ab}	0.4	0.4	0.1 ^{ab}
LSD	3.4	3.9	4.6 ^b	0.1	0.2	0.3 ^b	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	4.0	6.0	6.3 ^b	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
Solvents	2.0	2.4	3.0 ^b	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Poppers	3.4	4.6	5.3 ^b	0.4	0.7	0.4 ^a	0.1	0.2	0.1
Sedatives or tranquillisers	**	13.3	15.8 ^a	**	6.0	7.8 ^a	**	4.1	4.3
Anti-depressants	**	12.5	13.6	**	5.7	6.8 ^a	**	4.3	5.8 ^a

a Significant change (p<.05) between 2006/7 and 2010/11. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance.

b Significant change (p<.05) between 2002/3 and 2010/11. When considering the results it should be borne in mind that statistical significance does not imply that the change is of practical importance.

* Any illegal drugs refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

** In 2002/3 the survey asked respondents about use of sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants together. Since 2006/7 the survey has asked separate questions for use of sedatives or tranquillisers and for use of anti-depressants.



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