Citywide – Attitude to Drugs & Drug Users

November 2016
Job No: 198016
Drugs in Irish Society
31% of the population report to have ever use illegal drugs with males more likely to state this and those aged 18-34.
Drugs in Irish Society
(Base: All Respondents, n=1,035)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Disagree Strongly</th>
<th>Disagree Slightly</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Agree Slightly</th>
<th>Agree Strongly</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>NET: Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug related crime is a major problem in Ireland</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The availability of illegal drugs poses a great threat to young people nowadays</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The drug problem in Ireland is out of control</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol abuse causes more problems in society than drug abuse</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs are not really a problem in my community/hood</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

High level of agreement with statements associated with crime and drugs and the impact of the wide availability of drugs on young people.
Use of Illegal Drugs
(Base: All Respondents, n=1,035)

Attitudes to drugs in Irish society differ by age with those aged 55+ more likely to agree with the following statements

Drug related crime is a major problem in Ireland 94% (88%)
The availability of illegal drugs poses a great threat to young people nowadays 95% (87%)
The drug problem in Ireland is out of control 83% (77%)

...also those who haven’t used illegal drugs are more likely to agree with the statements posed

() – total population
Drugs Use In Ireland
(Base: All Respondents, n=1,035)

All illegal drugs are highly addictive and should be avoided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disagree Strongly</th>
<th>Disagree Slightly</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Agree Slightly</th>
<th>Agree Strongly</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>NET: Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is normal that young people will try some drugs at least once (e.g. Cannabis/Ecstasy)

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<th>Neither</th>
<th>Agree Slightly</th>
<th>Agree Strongly</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>NET: Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using cannabis once a month or less often is not really dangerous to your health

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Disagree Strongly</th>
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<th>Neither</th>
<th>Agree Slightly</th>
<th>Agree Strongly</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>NET: Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reports about the extent of drug use in Ireland are exaggerated by the media and by politicians

<table>
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<th>Agree Strongly</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>NET: Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

66% of the population agree that illegal drugs are highly addictive and should be avoided, however 22% of the population disagree with this statement.
Young people in Ireland more likely to state that in frequent use of cannabis is not perceived as dangerous to health and that it's normal for young people to try drugs at least once.

- Using cannabis once a month or less often is not really dangerous to your health: 47% (34%)
- It is normal that young people will try some drugs at least once (e.g., Cannabis/Ecstasy): 59% (53%)

Those who identified themselves as ever using illegal drugs are more likely to agree with the statements posed.

() – total population
Drugs Users

(Base: All Respondents, n=1,035)

Drug users come from all backgrounds and classes

- Disagree Strongly: 5%
- Disagree Slightly: 24%
- Neither: 11%
- Agree Slightly: 29%
- Agree Strongly: 52%
- Don’t Know: 2%
- NET: Agree 91%

All drug users should have access to the treatment they require

- Disagree Strongly: 17%
- Disagree Slightly: 29%
- Neither: 29%
- Agree Slightly: 29%
- Agree Strongly: 52%
- Don’t Know: 2%
- NET: Agree 81%

Irish society is too tolerant towards drug users

- Disagree Strongly: 16%
- Disagree Slightly: 20%
- Neither: 28%
- Agree Slightly: 28%
- Agree Strongly: 26%
- Don’t Know: 3%
- NET: Agree 54%

If one of my friends started using drugs I would keep my distance from them

- Disagree Strongly: 20%
- Disagree Slightly: 19%
- Neither: 21%
- Agree Slightly: 19%
- Agree Strongly: 15%
- Don’t Know: 5%
- NET: Agree 41%

Appreciation that drug users come from all backgrounds and classes and high level of agreement that drug users should have access to the treatment they require
Drug Users
(Base: All Respondents, n=1,035)

Those aged 55+ were most likely to agree that drug users should have access to the treatment they required and that Irish society is too tolerant towards drug use.

- All drug users should have access to the treatment they require: 86% (81%)
- Irish society is too tolerant towards drug users: 63% (54%)

Non Drugs users are more likely to agree with these statements.

() – total population
**Drug Users**

(Base: All Respondents, n=1,035)

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<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Disagree Strongly</th>
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<th>Agree Strongly</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>NET: Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It would bother me to live near somebody who is addicted to drugs</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who are addicted to drugs really scare me</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who are addicted to drugs only have themselves to blame</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People who are addicted to drugs are not given a fair chance to get along in society</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I see people who are addicted to drugs more as criminals than victims</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

64% of the population agree that it would bother them to live near somebody who is addicted to drugs. Just over half of the population admit to feeling ‘scared’ of people who are addicted to drugs.
Females are more likely to report being scared of people who are addicted to drugs. Females are also more likely to state people who are addicted to drugs are not given a fair chance to get along in society.

People who are addicted to drugs really scare me: 56% (51%)

People who are addicted to drugs are not given a fair chance to get along in society: 42% (38%)

Non Drugs users are more likely to agree with these statements.
Decriminalisation of Drugs
(Base: All Respondents; n=1,035)

Q6. Possession of illegal drugs, no matter how small the amount, is currently a criminal offence in Ireland.

49% The law in Ireland should be changed so that the possession of small quantities of illegal drugs is 'decriminalised' as described
51% The law in Ireland should stay as it currently is so that possession of illegal drugs remains a criminal offence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Drugs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total %</td>
<td>Male %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The law in Ireland should remain the same</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The law in Ireland should be changed.</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On a national level support for decriminalisation is split however within the population support for decriminalisation is higher for males, 18-34 and those who have ever used illegal drugs before.
THANK YOU