

# Drug-Related Deaths in Ireland: Key Patterns and Trends 2008-2017

## Overall Patterns

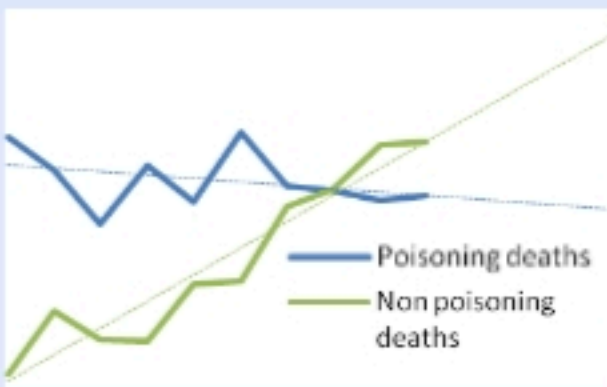
**786** deaths in 2017

significant source of mortality in Ireland and Worldwide

**24%** increase since 2008

**9%** decline in poisoning rates since 2008

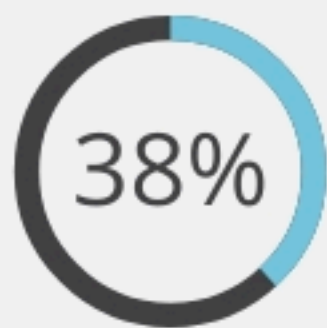
**37%** increase in non-poisoning rates since 2008 which were 10% higher than poisonings in 2017



- poisoning deaths follow a stable pattern whereas there is an upward trend for non-poisonings which is forecast to increase in the next five years
- median age increased for all types of drug-related deaths
- median age in 2017 highest for non-poisoning medical deaths (49), followed by poisonings (43) and non-poisoning trauma deaths (35)

## Poisonings (overdose; due to toxic effects of a drug(s)):

**70%** poisonings men in 2017



involved illicit drugs in 2017; of these 52% were for heroin, 38% cocaine, 10% MDMA

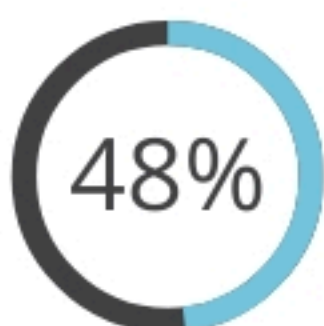
**15%** decline in heroin deaths

**13%** decline in cocaine deaths (but have increased by 26% between 2016 and 2017)

**75%** increase in MDMA deaths since 2016 and a doubling since 2008

## Non-Poisonings (someone with history of drug use):

**76%** non-poisonings men in 2017



were trauma deaths in 2017 with the main cause being hanging (28%) and cardiac events (14%)

**67%** increase in medical deaths  
**70%** increase in trauma deaths

**113%** increase in females  
**58%** increase in males

**56%** increase in female hangings since 2016 (25 in 2017)