

# Alcohol-related data in Ireland

*What they tell us, how to use to their full potential,  
& gaps*

Anne Doyle

# Presentation outline

HRB Alcohol overviews

Sources of data

Gaps in knowledge

Recommendations



**No conflict of interest  
to declare**

# HRB Alcohol overviews

# HRB Alcohol Overviews

Alcohol situation in Ireland

how much we drink

how we drink

consequences of alcohol use

tracks trends

international comparisons

Informs the Department of Health



# Sources of data

# Per capita alcohol use

# Alcohol use – per capita

In 2019, on average,  
Irish people aged 15 and over drank  
**10.8 litres of pure alcohol**  
This corresponds to



**40**  
bottles  
of vodka

or



**113**  
bottles  
of wine

or



**436**  
pints  
of beer

## Revenue quarterly excise receipts and volumes

- [\(PDF\) Quarterly update for tobacco](#)
- [\(CSV\) Quarterly update for tobacco](#)
- [\(PDF\) Quarterly update for alcohol](#)
- [\(CSV\) Quarterly update for alcohol](#)
- [\(CSV\) Alcohol and tobacco net monthly receipts](#)


Source: Revenue excise receipts and volumes





# Alcohol use – per capita (Revenue)

## PROS


 Gold standard


 Quarterly updates


 Alcohol type

 Includes net duty paid

## CONS

 No other indicators

 Excludes alcohol purchased abroad/cross border/airports

 Home brewed alcohol/  
products not for human use

# Patterns of drinking

# Alcohol use – patterns & trends

5 surveys: 2002, 2006,  
2010, 2014 & 2019

Drug, alcohol and  
tobacco prevalence &  
gambling



7 waves: 2015, 2016,  
2017, 2018, 2019, 2021  
& 2022

Alcohol, tobacco use  
physical activity, sleep,  
sun protection etc.



# Alcohol use – patterns & trends

## Alcohol

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**One-third**  
of drinkers typically  
consume at least **6**  
standard drinks per  
drinking occasion;



for male drinkers  
this increases to  
**one-half**

The prevalence of  
Alcohol Use Disorder  
(AUD) in the general  
population was found  
to be


**14.8%**


corresponding to  
**578,000** adults in  
Ireland.


Source: National Drug and Alcohol Survey


# Alcohol use – patterns & trends - population

## PROS


 Regular – track trends


 Nationally representative


 Findings consistent in both

 Use of AUDIT-C and DSM-5

## CONS

 Underestimate alcohol use

 Lack of awareness of drinking patterns

 Groups not represented

# Alcohol use – patterns & trends - young people



## PROS



Growing Up in Ireland (GUI)



Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HSBC)



European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD)



Planet Youth



My World Survey



## CONS



Staying up to date



Adverse childhood experiences (ACE)



Groups not represented

# Alcohol-related harms to health

# Alcohol-related hospitalisations (HIPE)

40,000+



alcohol-related  
hospital discharges  
each year

3,496



alcoholic liver  
disease discharges  
in 2018

10 days
















mean length of stay for alcohol-  
related conditions (6 days for  
non-alcohol-related conditions)

Source: Hospital Inpatient Enquiry Scheme (HIPE)



# Alcohol-related hospitalisations (HIPE)

-  **PROS**
-  Principal + up to 29 diagnoses
  -  Day patients and in-patient
  -  Bed days
  -  Deaths
  -  Public/private status
  -  Use of ICD-10 AM
  -  Costs

-  **CONS**
-  No ED
  -  Cases only
  -  No small area
  -  No private hospitals

# Alcohol-related deaths (NDRDI)



**3 deaths  
per day**  
in 2017 due to  
alcohol-related causes



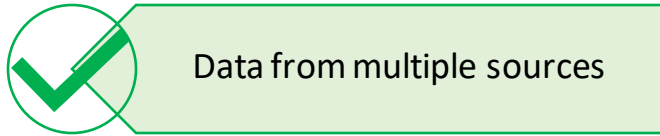
**Two in three**  
people who die in Ireland of  
alcohol-related causes are aged  
**under 65 years**

Source: National Drug-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI)

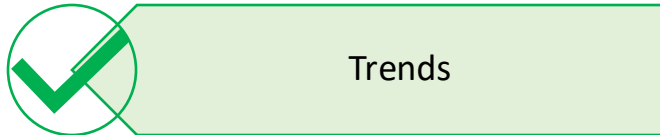
# Alcohol-related deaths (NDRDI)



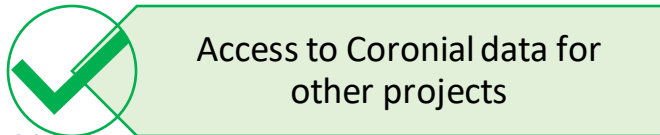
## PROS



Data from multiple sources



Trends



Access to Coronial data for other projects



## CONS



Lack of timely data



No standardisation of practises



Not collected for research purposes



No national database

# Alcohol treatment (NDTRS)

In 2022

**7,421**


Total number  
of cases treated for  
problem alcohol  
use





Source: National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)


# Alcohol treatment (NDTRS)


## PROS

 Polydrug use

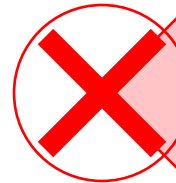
 First or repeat attendance


 Type of service provider incl. private

 Sociodemographic details

 Trends

## CONS

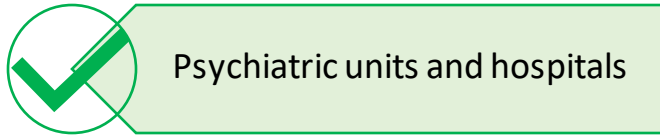
 Underestimation

 Cases only

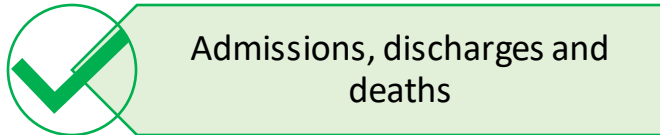
# Alcohol-related psychiatric admissions (NPIRS)



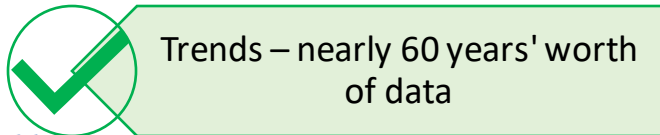
## PROS



Psychiatric units and hospitals



Admissions, discharges and deaths



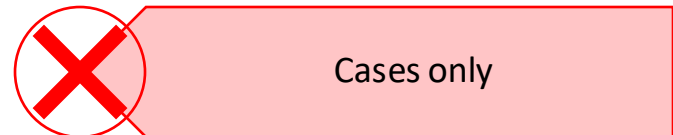
Trends – nearly 60 years' worth of data



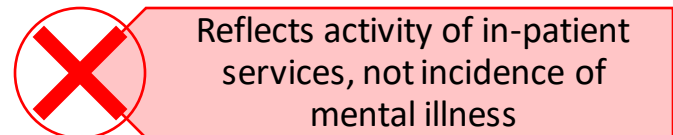
## CONS



Community services not included

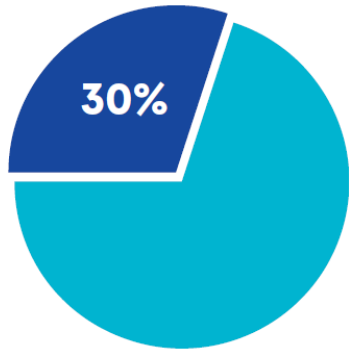


Cases only

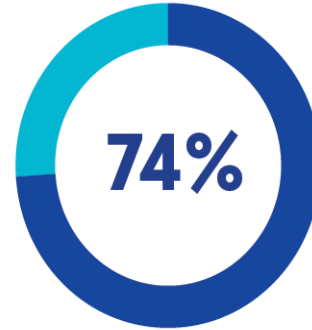


Reflects activity of in-patient services, not incidence of mental illness

# Alcohol use and mental health



In 2018, 30% of **self-harm** cases were alcohol-related



74% of those aged 15–24 years who **died by suicide** had a history of alcohol and/or drug misuse

Source: National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI)

Source: Suicide Support and Information System (SSIS)

# Alcohol use and mental health



## PROS



Global Burden of Disease (GBD)



National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI)



Suicide Support and Information System (SSIS)



NDTRS/NDRDI – mental health



Planet Youth



Irish Probable Suicide Deaths Study (IPSDS)



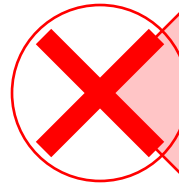
My World Survey



## CONS



Difficult to diagnose/quantify



'Chicken and egg scenario'

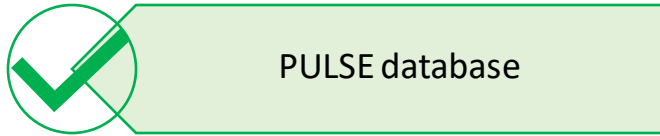


# Social consequences of alcohol-related harms

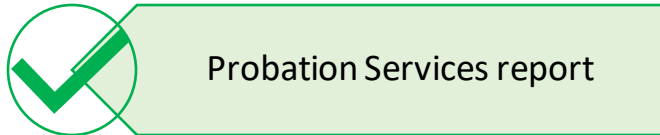
# Alcohol-related crime/social consequences



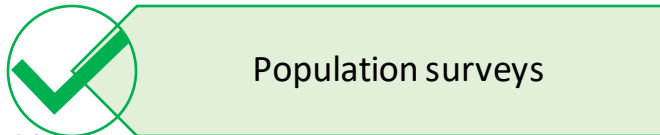
## PROS



PULSE database



Probation Services report



Population surveys



## CONS



PULSE - poor data collection practices



PULSE – no location of crime recorded

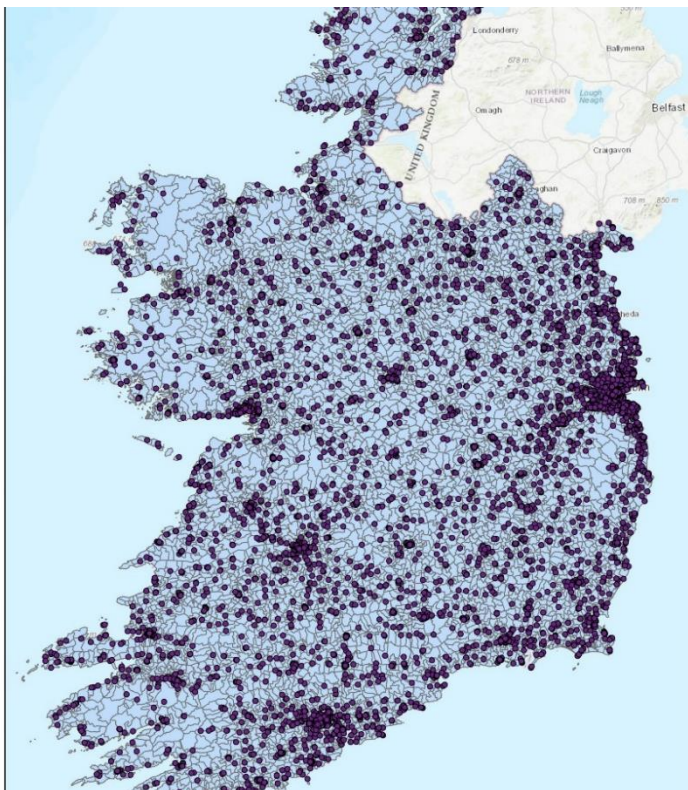


Not for research purposes



Probation Services – ad hoc publication

# Alcohol availability



# Alcohol availability

Revenue   
Cáin agus Custaim na hÉireann  
Irish Tax and Customs

[Home](#) → [Statistics on income, tax and duties](#) → [Excise](#)

## Register of renewed liquor licences


- [\(PDF\) Liquor licences](#)
- [\(CSV\) Liquor licences](#)
- [\(XLS\) Liquor licences](#)


### Statistical Dataset Metadata


Heading	Description
Title	Register of Renewed Liquor Licences
Description	List of current valid liquor licences renewed for 2022/23 (in accordance with relevant legislation)


# Alcohol availability - Revenue

## PROS


 Quarterly updates


 Licence type


 County breakdown


 Track trends

## CONS

 Vague location of licence

 Licences renewed but premises closed

 Size of premises

 Opening hours



# Responses, recommendations and challenges

# Challenges

Hard to reach groups not captured by prevalence surveys

Despite quality data systems –gaps still exist

- Emergency Department alcohol-related presentations
- Ambulance call-outs
- Poly drug use
- Alcohol use during pregnancy and incidence of FASD

Private data sources, e.g. Kantar and Nielsen

Small area data

# Recommendations



Cross systems  
collaboration



Use the data



Timely data  
important to  
monitor trends



Be involved in  
conversations –



Monitor impact  
of Public Health  
(Alcohol) Act



# Thank you!

[adoyle@hrb.ie](mailto:adoyle@hrb.ie)

Twitter @amcdoyle

[www.hrb.ie](http://www.hrb.ie)