

2021 : Drug Poisoning Deaths in Ireland

HRB StatLink Series 20

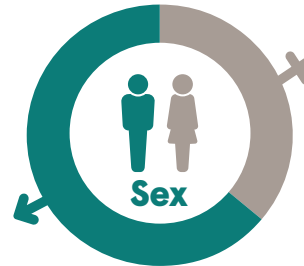
Number of deaths

354
deaths

Sex & age

64%
male

41 yrs
median age



36%
female

47 yrs
median age

Drugs implicated

Most common drug groups



Opioids



Benzodiazepines



Antidepressants



Cocaine



Top 6

Methadone 129

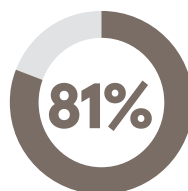
Diazepam 112

Alprazolam 107

Cocaine 107

Alcohol 91

Pregabalin 83



81% were polysubstance poisonings



88%
had prescribable drugs implicated

Location

43% in Dublin

12% in Cork

45% rest of Ireland

Mental health

At least
48%
had a mental health issue



Ever injected



At least
18%
(62 people)
ever injected

Injecting at time of death

7%
23 people

91%
were polysubstance poisonings

71%
were alone

Alone at time of death in 2021

41%

(145 people) were alone at time of death

Median age

–45+

42%
of males

Median age

–42+

39%
of females

Median age

–48+

Of those who were alone

Most common drug groups

Benzodiazepines



Opioids



Antidepressants



83% were polysubstance poisonings

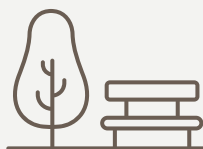
21% ever injected



11% injecting at time of death



62%
were private dwelling

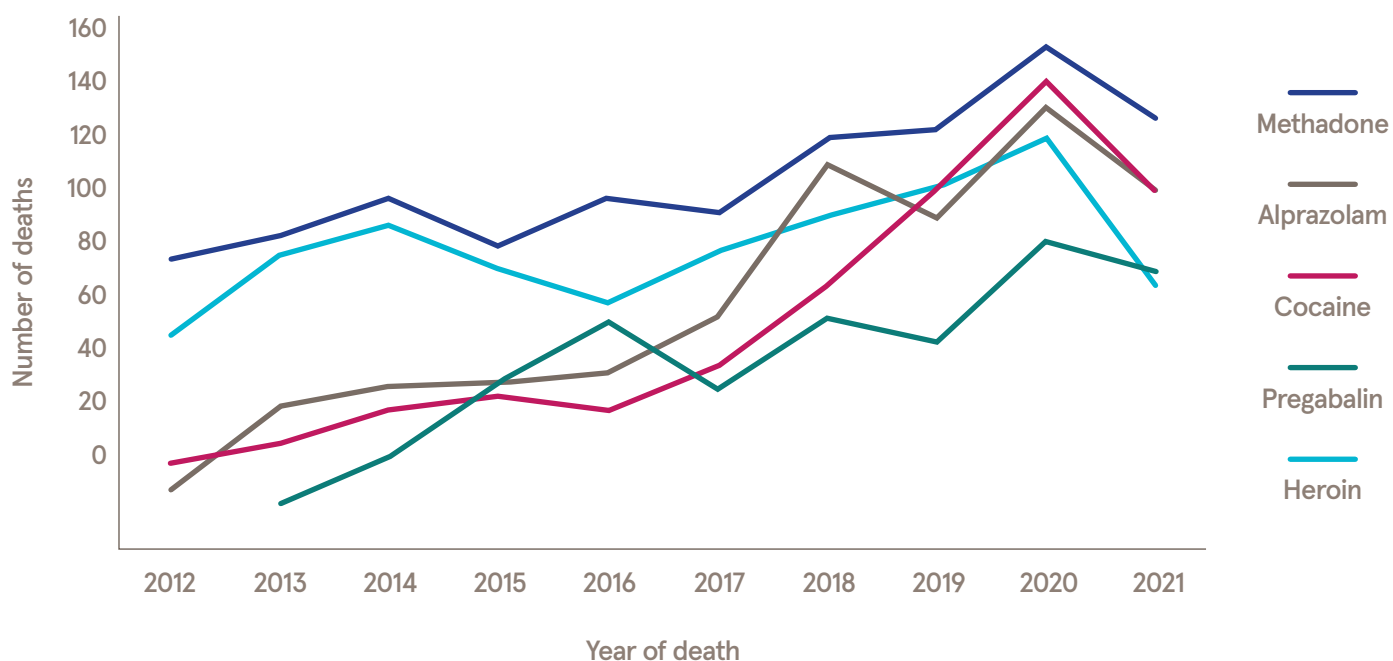


14%
were public place



25%
were homeless

Key trends in poisoning drugs 2012 to 2021



NEED ADVICE

If you have any concerns regarding drugs please visit:
www.drugs.ie or call 1800 459 459