



Budget 2025 Factsheet on the National Drugs Strategy

Minister Colm Burke



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Budget 2025 provides €4.2m & 34 whole time equivalents (WTEs) for new drugs initiatives, including

- €2m + 3 WTEs to expand community-based drug services
 - €1m + 24 WTEs for a national rollout of community alcohol service
 - €0.4m + 1 WTE for harm reduction initiatives
 - €0.5m + 6 WTEs for drug prevention & public health awareness
 - €0.3m for research, evaluation and international collaboration
- The full year value of the new initiatives will be €5.4m in 2026.

Description of new initiatives



Community-based drug services to be expanded to meet increased treatment demand, with a focus on improving access to services in underserved communities, promoting evidence-based innovations in service design and delivery, and meeting the needs of people who use stimulant drugs, and those who have a dual diagnosis. €2m in 2025, rising to €2.08, in 2026.



Integrated community alcohol treatment services to be rolled out on a national basis. New services will be established in HSE Dublin & Midlands and in HSE Dublin & South East, and existing services expanded to ensure full geographic coverage across all health regions. €1m in 2025; €1.8m in 2026.



Harm reduction initiatives to provide a rapid response to the threat of synthetic drugs, a wastewater drug surveillance programme, a national awareness campaign and capacity building on drug-related violence and intimidation, and extended opening hours for the supervised injecting facility. €0.4m in 2025; €0.43m in 2026



Drug prevention programmes and public health awareness campaigns to be developed across the health regions and screening and brief interventions to be scaled up. €0.5m in 2025; €0.79m in 2026



Initiatives to **support research, evaluation and international collaboration.** €0.3m in 2025 & 2026

Expected Outcomes

- increase in the number of people who attend for treatment for drug and alcohol dependency
- telehealth service for people seeking alcohol treatment services, linking community services, primary care, GPs, community care and hospitals
- evidence-based drug prevention interventions
- public awareness of health risks of drug and alcohol use
- more supports for individuals, families and communities affected by drug-related violence and intimidation
- equitable access to drug and alcohol services across all health regions
- public health drug monitoring
- timely response to emerging health threats from synthetic drugs.

The new initiatives will support the implementation the national drugs strategy by



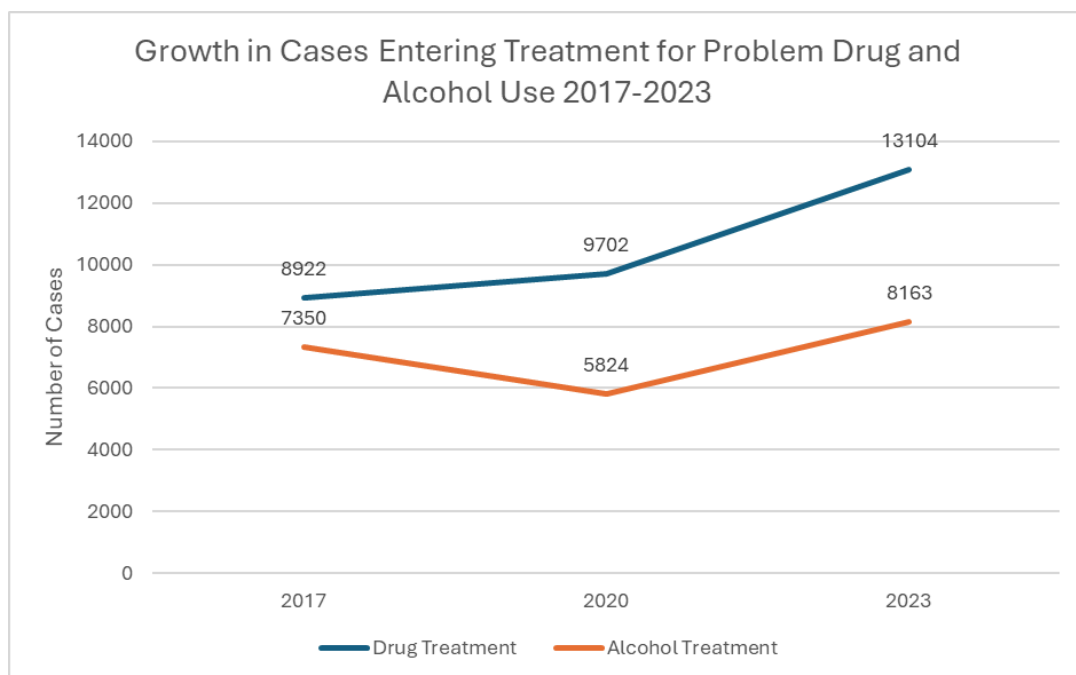
- enhancing access to and delivery of drug and alcohol services in the community,
- developing harm reduction responses and integrated care pathways for high-risk drug and alcohol users,
- strengthening the prevention of drug and alcohol use among children and young people and
- minimising the harms of drug and alcohol use in disadvantaged communities.



The new initiatives are aligned with the recommendations from the Citizens Assembly on Drug Use, in particular #s 15, 18, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33 & 36

HRB Bulletin National Drug Treatment Reporting System

The growth in cases entering treatment reflects the continued investment in drug and alcohol services under the National Drugs Strategy.



Further details of the new measures and the associated outputs will be set out in the HSE national service plan for 2025

A separate announcement will be made on refugee and inclusion health initiatives in Budget 2025