

HRB Bulletin

National Drug-Related Deaths Index

Drug Poisoning Deaths in Ireland in 2022: Data from the National Drug-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI)

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E-Appendix A Selected characteristics of the deceased and circumstances of death, NDRDI 2013 and 2022

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deaths		324	311	309	309	326	363	379	446	373	343
Employed	n	40	34	39	31	44	40	55	67	43	52
	%	12.3	10.9	12.6	10.0	13.5	11.0	14.5	15.0	11.5	15.2
Not in employment ^a	n	197	218	197	197	201	214	230	247	189	154
	%	60.8	70.1	63.8	63.8	61.7	59.0	60.7	55.4	50.7	44.9
Stable accommodation	n	235	241	251	246	261	283	304	350	290	237
	%	72.5	77.5	81.2	79.6	80.1	78.0	80.2	78.5	77.7	69.1
Relationship status single	n	228	238	226	219	227	252	286	335	289	236
	%	70.4	76.5	73.1	70.9	69.6	69.4	75.5	75.1	77.5	68.8
Parent of child(ren) under 18 years	n	36	45	46	45	28	43	49	60	46	32
	%	11.1	14.5	14.9	14.6	8.6	11.8	12.9	13.5	12.3	9.3
Place of incident											
Private dwelling	n	220	233	252	234	238	260	280	337	283	241
	%	67.9	74.9	81.6	75.7	73.0	71.6	73.9	75.6	75.9	70.3
Public place ^b	n	34	43	22	35	32	40	53	41	27	27
	%	10.5	13.8	7.1	11.3	9.8	11.0	14.0	9.2	7.2	7.9
Accommodation for people who are homeless	n	23	14	18	23	26	26	31	50	42	29
	%	7.1	4.5	5.8	7.4	8.0	7.2	8.2	11.2	11.3	8.5
With whom at the time of incident											
Alone at the time of incident	n	127	136	130	123	139	148	144	180	154	160
	%	39.2	43.7	42.1	39.8	42.6	40.8	38.0	40.4	41.3	46.6
<i>Alone and injecting at the time of incident</i>	n	27	27	24	18	21	26	20	24	16	16
	%	21.3	19.9	18.5	14.6	15.1	17.6	13.9	13.3	10.4	10.0

^a Refers to those unemployed, retired, or unable to work due to disability

^b Includes public place, street, or park, and derelict or other public building

E-Appendix B Number of drug poisoning deaths by HSE health region of incident, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

		Year of death									
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
HSE Dublin and North East	n	101	90	93	83	92	80	100	114	105	102
	%	31.2	28.9	30.1	26.9	28.2	22.0	26.4	25.6	28.1	29.7
HSE Dublin and Midlands	n	69	90	88	93	80	105	107	134	85	63
	%	21.3	28.9	28.5	30.1	24.5	28.9	28.2	30.0	22.8	18.4
HSE Dublin and South East	n	32	50	50	45	45	61	61	69	66	46
	%	9.9	16.1	16.2	14.6	13.8	16.8	16.1	15.5	17.7	13.4
HSE South West	n	26	31	31	39	38	39	50	58	53	51
	%	8.0	10.0	10.0	12.6	11.7	10.7	13.2	13.0	14.2	14.9
HSE Mid West	n	25	16	12	16	21	26	23	22	29	23
	%	7.7	5.1	3.9	5.2	6.4	7.2	6.1	4.9	7.8	6.7
HSE West and North West	n	27	16	23	20	25	25	30	36	22	14
	%	8.3	5.1	7.4	6.5	7.7	6.9	7.9	8.1	5.9	4.1
Ireland unknown / other ^a	n	44	18	12	13	25	27	8	13	13	44
	%	13.6	5.8	3.9	4.2	7.7	7.4	2.1	2.9	3.5	12.8

^a Other: relevant geocodes were not available

E-Appendix C Number of drug poisoning deaths by HSE health region of residence, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

		Year of death									
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
HSE Dublin and North East	n	114	87	91	83	92	89	97	116	105	100
	%	35.2	28.0	29.4	26.9	28.2	24.5	25.6	26.0	28.2	29.2
HSE Dublin and Midlands	n	71	83	88	84	73	102	106	130	87	80
	%	21.9	26.7	28.5	27.2	22.4	28.1	28.0	29.1	23.3	23.3
HSE Dublin and South East	n	39	48	52	44	51	71	63	69	71	58
	%	12.0	15.4	16.8	14.2	15.6	19.6	16.6	15.5	19.0	16.9
HSE South West	n	32	34	35	44	38	36	45	59	54	53
	%	9.9	10.9	11.3	14.2	11.7	9.9	11.9	13.2	14.5	15.5
HSE Mid West	n	28	18	14	17	26	27	27	23	30	25
	%	8.6	5.8	4.5	5.5	8.0	7.4	7.1	5.2	8.0	7.3
HSE West and North West	n	31	20	24	22	27	26	30	40	21	21
	%	9.6	6.4	7.8	7.1	8.3	7.2	7.9	9.0	5.6	6.1
Ireland unknown / other ^a	n	9	21	~	15	19	12	11	9	~	6
	%	2.8	6.8	~	4.9	5.8	3.3	2.9	2.0	~	1.7

^a Other: relevant geocodes were not available

~ Five deaths or fewer

E-Appendix D Number of drug poisoning deaths by county of residence, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

	Year of death									
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deaths	324	311	309	309	326	363	379	446	373	343
Dublin (city and county)	141	148	135	139	135	141	162	184	163	151
Cork (city and county)	22	31	29	37	41	34	37	52	40	42
Limerick (city and county)	11	15	8	14	12	14	11	18	15	14
Waterford (city and county)	~	7	13	~	10	11	7	14	20	9
Tipperary	8	9	13	9	11	18	19	11	13	12
Louth	15	11	10	8	10	12	12	15	10	11
Kildare	~	6	10	12	~	14	12	20	8	8
Wicklow	6	12	7	11	9	11	11	15	11	10
Meath	14	~	6	6	12	10	9	14	10	~
Galway	9	8	10	8	6	7	14	14	10	8
Kerry	11	8	7	11	~	~	8	7	14	11
Clare	13	~	~	~	9	8	10	~	9	7
Donegal	11	7	~	8	~	~	7	10	~	~
Wexford	~	6	~	~	8	14	9	11	9	12
Westmeath	6	~	~	~	~	9	~	6	6	8
Laois	8	6	7	~	6	~	8	6	~	~
Kilkenny	7	9	~	~	~	8	~	7	~	~
Cavan	~	~	~	7	6	7	~	7	~	~
Carlow	~	~	9	~	~	~	6	~	6	~
Offaly	~	~	~	~	~	~	7	6	~	7
Sligo	~	6	~	0	7	~	~	8	~	~
Mayo	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Longford	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	0
Monaghan	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Roscommon	~	~	~	~	7	~	~	~	~	~
Leitrim	~	0	~	0	~	~	~	~	0	0
Ireland unknown	0	0	~	0	0	~	0	0	0	0

~ Five deaths or fewer

E-Appendix E Characteristics of the deceased and deaths due to alcohol-only poisoning, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deaths		61	51	48	59	66	64	68	72	64	67
Male	n	49	39	31	45	48	49	50	45	51	47
	%	80.3	76.5	64.6	76.3	72.7	76.6	73.5	62.5	79.7	70.1
Female	n	12	12	17	14	18	15	18	27	13	20
	%	19.7	23.5	35.4	23.7	27.3	23.4	26.5	37.5	20.3	29.9
Median age (range ^a)		50 (25-71)	49 (26-70)	54 (27-68)	52 (33-66)	48.5 (31-71)	55 (28-68)	53 (30-69)	51.5 (31-72)	56.5 (28-75)	54 (31-76)
Homelessness ^b	n	~	~	~	7	~	~	7	6	6	~
	%	~	~	~	12.3	~	~	10.3	8.3	9.4	~
Heath and health behaviours											
History of alcohol dependency	n	35	22	23	33	40	31	42	48	40	43
	%	57.4	43.1	47.9	55.9	60.6	48.4	61.8	66.7	62.5	64.2
History of other drug misuse or dependency	n	8	~	~	~	10	~	9	10	~	6
	%	13.1	~	~	~	15.2	~	13.2	13.9	~	9.0
History of mental health issues	n	10	8	6	13	15	10	19	20	10	20
	%	16.4	15.7	12.5	22.0	22.7	15.6	27.9	27.8	15.6	29.9
Ever treated for any substance	n	9	~	~	15	11	8	12	15	6	14
	%	14.8	~	~	25.4	16.7	12.5	17.6	20.8	9.4	20.9
Place of incident											
Private dwelling	n	54	43	43	41	58	45	54	60	50	55
	%	88.5	84.3	89.6	69.5	87.9	70.3	79.4	83.3	78.1	82.1
With whom at the time of incident											
Alone	n	40	32	24	28	34	30	32	31	31	38
	%	65.6	62.7	50.0	47.5	51.5	46.9	47.1	43.1	48.4	56.7

^a Age range is 5th percentile to 95th percentile (90% of cases are included within this range)

^b Homelessness is based on the ETHOS Framework definition¹¹

~ Five deaths or fewer

E-Appendix F Characteristics of the deceased and deaths due to alcohol-related poisoning, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deaths		144	122	116	150	138	140	161	161	162	132
Male	n	104	91	77	105	98	94	115	105	117	91
	%	72.2	74.6	66.4	70.0	71.0	67.1	71.4	65.2	72.2	68.9
Female	n	40	31	39	45	40	46	46	56	45	41
	%	27.8	25.4	33.6	30.0	29.0	32.9	28.6	34.8	27.8	31.1
Median age (range ^a)		47 (23 - 67)	43 (24 - 70)	45 (24 - 66)	46 (29 - 67)	47 (28 - 67)	48.5 (27 - 68)	50 (26 - 69)	46 (26 - 69)	49.5 (26 - 73)	49.5 (30 - 75)
Homelessness ^b	n	13	11	13	25	19	16	16	18	23	11
	%	9.0	9.1	11.2	16.9	13.9	11.4	9.9	11.2	14.2	8.3
Health and health behaviours											
History of alcohol dependency	n	71	61	55	79	85	67	83	90	83	78
	%	49.3	50.0	47.4	52.7	61.6	47.9	51.6	55.9	51.2	59.1
History of other drug misuse or dependency	n	51	47	47	65	55	44	67	70	57	39
	%	35.4	38.5	40.5	43.3	39.9	31.4	41.6	43.5	35.2	29.5
History of mental health issues	n	49	31	43	57	44	46	56	68	55	43
	%	34.0	25.4	37.1	38.0	31.9	32.9	34.8	42.2	34.0	32.6
Ever treated for any substance	n	30	27	24	53	30	24	39	38	32	37
	%	20.8	22.1	20.7	35.3	21.7	17.1	24.2	23.6	19.8	28.0
Place of incident											
Private dwelling	n	115	99	91	107	110	98	119	125	123	99
	%	79.9	81.1	78.4	71.3	79.7	70.0	73.9	77.6	75.9	75.0
With whom at the time of incident											
Alone	n	77	68	54	64	69	72	63	77	74	75
	%	53.5	55.7	46.6	42.7	50.0	51.4	39.1	47.8	45.7	56.8

^a Age range is 5th percentile to 95th percentile (90% of cases are included within this range)

^b Homelessness is based on the ETHOS Framework definition¹¹

E-Appendix G Most common additional drugs implicated in alcohol-related poisoning deaths, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

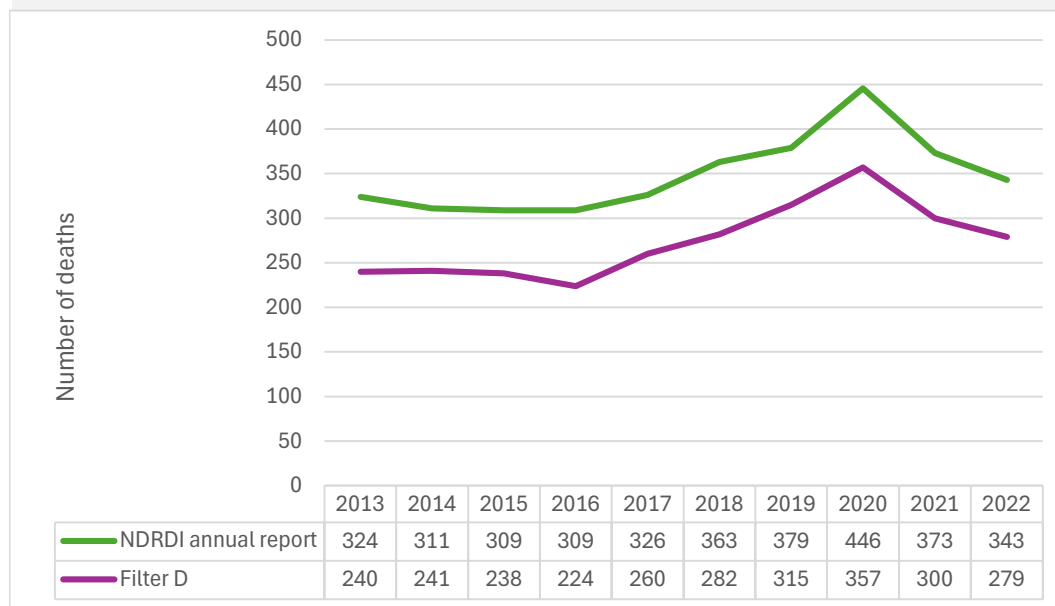
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deaths		144	122	116	150	138	140	161	161	162	132
Most common additional drugs implicated with alcohol											
Diazepam	n	30	30	33	33	22	29	23	22	26	26
	%	20.8	24.6	28.4	22.0	15.9	20.7	14.3	13.7	16.0	19.7
Alprazolam	n	12	6	13	18	12	27	20	24	19	19
	%	8.3	4.9	11.2	12.0	8.7	19.3	12.4	14.9	11.7	14.4
Cocaine	n	6	9	12	13	9	15	17	25	24	14
	%	4.2	7.4	10.3	8.7	6.5	10.7	10.6	15.5	14.8	10.6
Methadone	n	11	19	15	25	15	13	24	19	22	13
	%	7.6	15.6	12.9	16.7	10.9	9.3	14.9	11.8	13.6	9.8
Zopiclone	n	18	19	14	24	7	7	19	12	16	12
	%	12.5	15.6	12.1	16.0	5.1	5.0	11.8	7.5	9.9	9.1
Heroin	n	20	22	17	25	20	20	26	23	17	11
	%	13.9	18.0	14.7	16.7	14.5	14.3	16.1	14.3	10.5	8.3
Chlordiazepoxide	n	8	~	~	~	8	9	6	8	6	7
	%	5.6	~	~	~	5.8	6.4	3.7	5.0	3.7	5.3
Olanzapine	n	6	~	~	8	6	~	6	~	6	7
	%	4.2	~	~	5.3	4.3	~	3.7	~	3.7	5.3
Pregabalin	n	0	~	6	16	11	13	14	17	16	7
	%	0.0	~	5.2	10.7	8.0	9.3	8.7	10.6	9.9	5.3
Tramadol hydrochloride	n	9	~	~	~	7	~	~	8	7	7
	%	6.3	~	~	~	5.1	~	~	5.0	4.3	5.3

a Pregabalin was included in routine postmortem toxicology screening by the State Laboratory from 2013

~ Five deaths or fewer

E-Appendix H Data reported to The European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA)

Figure 1: Number of drug poisoning deaths by national classification and EUDA drug-induced deaths (Filter D) classification, NDRDI 2013 to 2022*



* The EUDA uses a different classification of drug-related deaths (DRD) to that used in the NDRDI annual report. The EUDA classification does not include poisoning deaths where only psychoactive medicines (e.g., barbiturates, benzodiazepines, antidepressants, and neuroleptics) are implicated.

E-Appendix I EU comparison

Table 1: Drug-induced deaths in EU countries from the EU Drugs Report 2025 (latest year available from individual country)*

Country	Year	Number of deaths (all ages)	Number of deaths (15-64 years)	Number of deaths (15-64 years if available, otherwise all ages)	Deaths per million (15-64 years)
Germany	2023	1838	1796	1796	34
Spain	2022	1266	1202	1202	38
France	2022	638	621	621	15
Sweden	2023	474	415	415	63
Norway	2023	363	333	333	94
Finland	2023	310	302	302	88
Netherlands	2023	338	300	300	26
Türkiye	2023	300	297	297	~
Ireland	2021	286	271	271	82
Austria	2023	256	254	254	42
Poland	2022	337	252	252	10
Greece	2021	249	239	239	35
Italy	2023	227	225	225	6
Belgium	2021	193	182	182	25
Denmark	2022	212	175	175	47
Latvia	2023	154	154	154	130
Estonia	2023	119	117	117	135
Croatia	2023	93	92	92	38
Slovenia	2023	86	80	80	59
Lithuania	2023	74	74	74	40
Portugal	2021	81	73	73	11
Czechia	2023	75	69	69	10
Slovakia	2023	38	37	37	10
Hungary	2023	30	30	30	~
Romania	2023	25	25	25	~
Cyprus	2023	17	17	17	27
Malta	2023	18	17	17	46
Bulgaria	2023	16	16	16	~
Luxembourg	2023	9	9	9	20

Source: Drug-induced deaths situation (FAQ drug-induced deaths in Europe) | www.euda.europa.eu

* The annually published data tables from the EUDA provide the latest yearly figure available for each individual country, based on their reporting methodology. EU countries differ considerably in how they define, classify, collect, and report data on drug poisoning (overdose) deaths. Therefore any comparisons should be made with caution.