

Alcohol and drugs data factsheet: HSE health regions 2026

January 2026

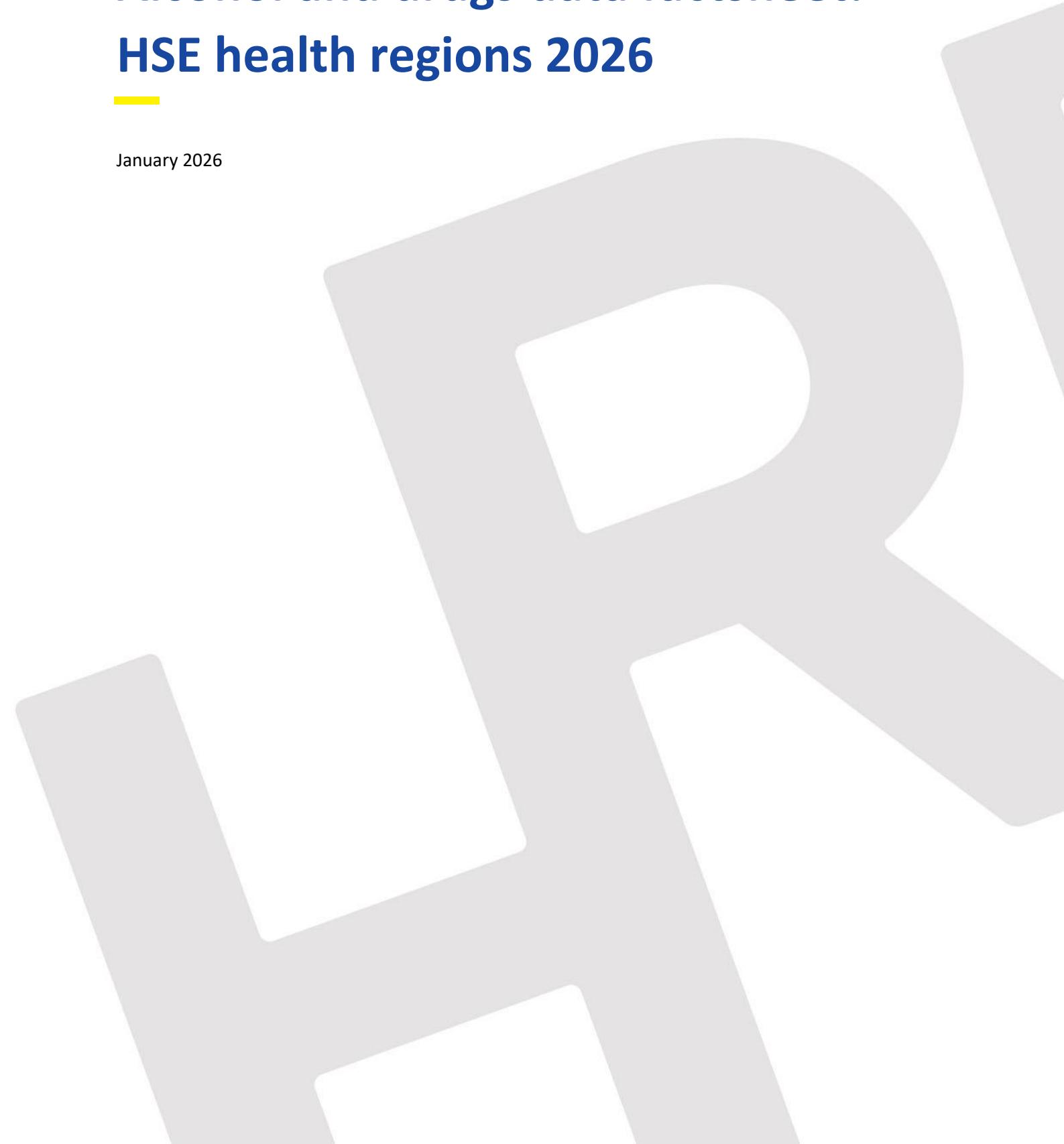


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Glossary of terms

HSE health regions - The Health Service Executive (HSE) remains a single organisation with six health regions. Services will integrate across hospitals and community organisations in these health regions. The six operational regions have responsibility for the planning and coordinated delivery of health and social care services within their respective defined geographies. Note that health regions are not separate statutory bodies. They will use the HSE logo and operate under the governance of the HSE Board. The regions management structure will replace existing Community Healthcare Organisations (CHO) and Hospital Group management structures. HSE national will oversee standards, and guidelines for implementation at regional level.

Prevalence – refers to the proportion of a population that has used a drug over a particular time period.

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Introduction

This factsheet presents the most recently available drug and alcohol data on treatment demand, general population prevalence, and opioid prevalence analysed by regional health area in Ireland.

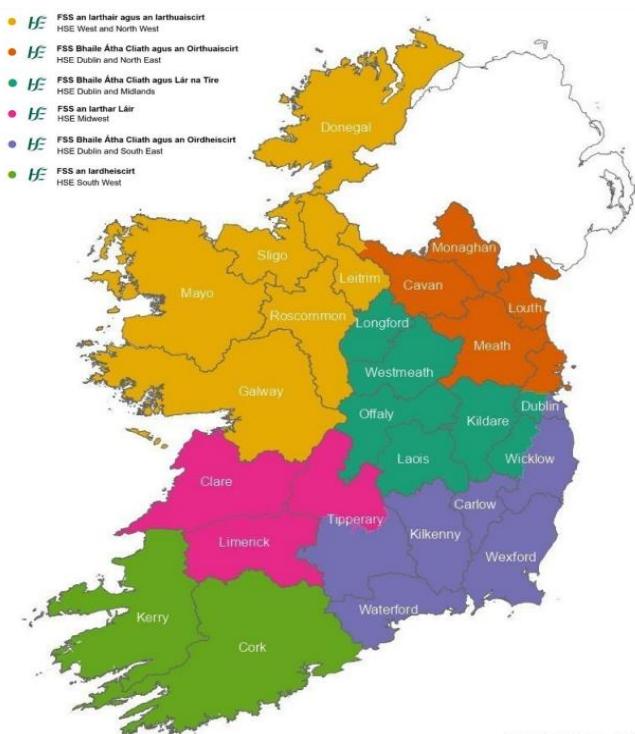
We include some alcohol data in this publication. Please also see the 2024 factsheet [Alcohol-related harm: HSE Regional Health Areas](#), which contains additional information.

Sláintecare is the Irish Government's 10-year programme for transforming how healthcare is delivered in Ireland.¹ It aims to give equal access to services, with a vision of a universal health service, under the banner of Right Care, Right Place, Right Time. Part of this process is the creation of new healthcare areas that are based on population data, including on how people currently access services, in addition to being informed by a public consultation. There are six HSE health regions (see Box 1). This is a change from previous reporting of data by nine community healthcare organisations (CHOs).¹

As the six regions each serve large populations in their own right, it is recognised that a sub-structure within each region will be required and must be designed from the ground up. It is currently proposed that these sub-structures will be called Integrated Health Areas (IHAs). They will serve a population of up to 300,000, will take account of varying geographies, population size, local needs, and services. The existing 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) and the Community Specialist Teams (CSTs) will act as the building blocks of integrated service delivery.

Box 1: HSE Health regions and county boundaries

| HSE health region | Counties/Local health offices covered |
|---------------------------|--|
| HSE Dublin and North East | A North Dublin, Meath, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan |
| HSE Dublin and Midlands | B Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois, Kildare, parts of Dublin and Wicklow |
| HSE Dublin and South East | C Tipperary South, Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, parts of South Dublin and Wicklow |
| HSE South West | D Kerry and Cork |
| HSE Mid West | E Limerick, Tipperary North, Clare |
| HSE West and North West | F Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway |



DoH Statistics & Analytics Unit

Source: Department of Health (2023) [Organisational reform: HSE health regions. Implementation plan](#). Dublin: Government of Ireland.

¹ For further information on Sláintecare, visit: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/saintecare-implementation-strategy/>

Note: West county Wicklow continues to be aligned with Kildare for health services, and a small portion of west county Cavan continues to be aligned with Sligo/Leitrim for health services, in recognition of existing patient flow patterns.
In early iterations, the regions were known as areas A – F.

Treatment data for HSE health region areas

Data from the National Drug Treatment Reporting System

The data are drawn from the [National Drug Treatment Reporting System \(NDTRS\)](#)² which is the national epidemiological surveillance database that records and reports on treated problem alcohol and drug use in Ireland. Treatment for problem alcohol and drug use in Ireland is provided by statutory and non-statutory services, including residential centres, community-based addiction services, general practices, and prison services. The dataset contains information only on those who started treatment in a particular year (for the first time or returning to treatment). It does not include service users in continuous care. As there is currently no national system-wide unique identifier in the Irish health system, the NDTRS records cases of treatment. In any given year, individuals may appear more than once if treated in different centres or if they return to treatment in the same centre. NDTRS data were analysed using HSE health regions to describe the national treatment data based on where the client resided in the 30 days prior to treatment, see Tables 1-6. Data are published in [annual bulletins](#) and can be viewed in interactive tables on the [HRB National Drugs Library website](#).

Note: As participation in the NDTRS is not uniform across the country, conclusions based on geographic analyses are limited. Also, treatment figures in 2020 were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 1: Number of cases treated for drugs (excluding alcohol) as a main problem, by HSE health region and year, NDTRS 2017–2024

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| All cases | 8,922 | 10,274 | 10,664 | 9702 | 10,769 | 12,009 | 13,104 | 13,295 |
| HSE Dublin and North East | 2,462 | 3,006 | 2,980 | 2,825 | 3,517 | 4,026 | 4,693 | 4,649 |
| HSE Dublin and Midlands | 1,976 | 2,571 | 2,746 | 2,365 | 2,797 | 2,959 | 3,063 | 3,108 |
| HSE Dublin and South East | 1,570 | 1,725 | 1,728 | 1,553 | 1,642 | 1,833 | 2,011 | 2,248 |
| HSE South West | 1,055 | 1,169 | 1,216 | 1,007 | 939 | 944 | 1,045 | 1,029 |
| HSE Mid West | 749 | 843 | 851 | 839 | 859 | 832 | 907 | 874 |
| HSE West and North West | 653 | 588 | 698 | 716 | 670 | 770 | 778 | 822 |
| Other/unknown | 457 | 372 | 445 | 345 | 345 | 595 | 607 | 565 |

Source for tables 1-3 ²: Lynch, T et al (2025) [National Drug Treatment Reporting System: 2024 drug treatment demand](#). Dublin: HRB.

Table 2: Number of new cases treated for drugs (excluding alcohol) as a main problem, by HSE health region and year, NDTRS 2017–2024

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| All new cases | 3,257 | 3,962 | 3,979 | 3,796 | 4,206 | 4,456 | 4,792 | 4,471 |
| HSE Dublin and North East | 711 | 1,006 | 971 | 1,002 | 1,259 | 1,229 | 1,481 | 1,391 |
| HSE Dublin and Midlands | 667 | 907 | 932 | 860 | 1,038 | 1,082 | 1,164 | 1,138 |
| HSE Dublin and South East | 676 | 767 | 767 | 679 | 715 | 832 | 894 | 965 |
| HSE South West | 467 | 530 | 515 | 465 | 431 | 487 | 505 | 425 |
| HSE Mid West | 310 | 417 | 420 | 419 | 403 | 382 | 331 | 369 |
| HSE West and North West | 314 | 255 | 300 | 256 | 296 | 358 | 324 | 389 |
| Other/unknown | 112 | 80 | 71 | 115 | 64 | 86 | 93 | 94 |

² The NDTRS data contains information only on those who started treatment in a particular year (for the first time or returning to treatment). It does not include the number in continuous care. Note: Cases are episodes of treatment not individuals, which means there is a possibility that individuals appear more than once in the data; for example, where a person receives treatment at more than one centre, or at the same centre more than once in a calendar year.

Table 3: Number of previously treated cases treated for drugs (excluding alcohol) as a main problem, by HSE health region and year, NDTRS 2017–2024

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| All previously treated cases | 5,242 | 5,872 | 5,927 | 5,441 | 6,090 | 6,860 | 7,588 | 7,717 |
| HSE Dublin and North East | 1,627 | 1,826 | 1,708 | 1,659 | 2,074 | 2,519 | 2,853 | 2,850 |
| HSE Dublin and Midlands | 1,157 | 1,579 | 1,630 | 1,414 | 1,637 | 1,706 | 1,781 | 1,819 |
| HSE Dublin and South East | 846 | 898 | 864 | 843 | 895 | 970 | 1,086 | 1,244 |
| HSE South West | 567 | 627 | 681 | 534 | 496 | 494 | 532 | 585 |
| HSE Mid West | 409 | 396 | 382 | 372 | 437 | 432 | 558 | 468 |
| HSE West and North West | 312 | 284 | 338 | 362 | 315 | 359 | 382 | 400 |
| Other/unknown | 324 | 262 | 324 | 257 | 236 | 380 | 396 | 351 |

Table 4: Number of cases treated for alcohol as a main problem by Regional Health Area of residence, NDTRS 2017 to 2024

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| All cases | 7,350 | 7,464 | 7,546 | 5,824 | 6,859 | 7,421 | 8,163 | 8,745 |
| HSE Dublin and North East | 1,360 | 1,350 | 1,417 | 1,181 | 1,548 | 1,671 | 2,193 | 2,011 |
| HSE Dublin and Midlands | 1,284 | 1,273 | 1,257 | 957 | 1,278 | 1,372 | 1,302 | 1,346 |
| HSE Dublin and South East | 1,619 | 1,697 | 1,609 | 1,296 | 1,474 | 1,604 | 1,747 | 2,055 |
| HSE South West | 1,240 | 1,293 | 1,290 | 943 | 971 | 953 | 920 | 1,076 |
| HSE Mid West | 487 | 536 | 570 | 424 | 483 | 582 | 570 | 582 |
| HSE West and North West | 1,154 | 1,151 | 1,306 | 928 | 1,027 | 1,122 | 1,286 | 1,428 |
| Other/unknown | 209 | 164 | 97 | 95 | 78 | 117 | 145 | 229 |

Source for tables 4–6³: Ní Luasa, S et al (2025) [National Drug Treatment Reporting System: 2024 alcohol treatment demand](#). Dublin: HRB.

Table 5: Number of new cases treated for alcohol as a main problem by Regional Health Area of residence, NDTRS 2017 to 2024

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| All new cases | 3,500 | 3,230 | 3,296 | 2,490 | 3,026 | 3,278 | 3,625 | 3,800 |
| HSE Dublin and North East | 632 | 570 | 510 | 507 | 661 | 645 | 928 | 845 |
| HSE Dublin and Midlands | 585 | 556 | 583 | 438 | 657 | 663 | 643 | 660 |
| HSE Dublin and South East | 786 | 806 | 711 | 544 | 594 | 702 | 782 | 851 |
| HSE South West | 639 | 579 | 569 | 424 | 459 | 468 | 447 | 477 |
| HSE Mid West | 234 | 253 | 294 | 181 | 223 | 258 | 261 | 261 |
| HSE West and North West | 550 | 398 | 597 | 344 | 391 | 500 | 515 | 596 |
| Other/unknown | 74 | 68 | 32 | 52 | 41 | 42 | 49 | 110 |

Table 6: Number of previously treated cases treated for alcohol as a main problem by Regional Health Area of residence, NDTRS 2017 to 2024

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| All previously treated cases | 3,652 | 3,705 | 3,400 | 3,170 | 3,596 | 3,868 | 4,257 | 4,619 |
| HSE Dublin and North East | 279 | 688 | 532 | 624 | 818 | 926 | 1,163 | 1,065 |
| HSE Dublin and Midlands | 647 | 633 | 522 | 470 | 575 | 647 | 592 | 640 |
| HSE Dublin and South East | 793 | 795 | 764 | 729 | 832 | 859 | 932 | 1,170 |
| HSE South West | 594 | 654 | 668 | 512 | 488 | 465 | 462 | 576 |
| HSE Mid West | 248 | 246 | 257 | 235 | 250 | 318 | 297 | 311 |
| HSE West and North West | 566 | 611 | 613 | 563 | 600 | 596 | 737 | 757 |
| Other/unknown | 125 | 78 | 44 | 37 | 33 | 57 | 74 | 100 |

The National Psychiatric Inpatient Reporting System (NPIRS) gathers data on patient admissions to, and discharges from, psychiatric hospitals and units throughout Ireland. The most recent annual report on the activities of Irish psychiatric units and hospitals, 2024⁷ has a breakdown by HSE health regions (Excel data table 2.21).

Table 7: Admissions to psychiatric hospitals and units, 2024 by HSE health regions

| | | Alcohol-related disorders | | Other drug disorders | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| | | Numbers | Rates | Numbers | Rates |
| HSE Dublin and North East | | 157 | 13.2 | 195 | 16.4 |
| HSE Dublin and Midlands | | 142 | 13.6 | 180 | 17.3 |

| | | Alcohol-related disorders Numbers | Rates | Other drug disorders Numbers | Rates |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| HSE Dublin and South East | 137 | 13.6 | 206 | 20.5 | |
| HSE South West | 85 | 11.5 | 56 | 7.6 | |
| HSE Mid West | 41 | 9.9 | 90 | 21.8 | |
| HSE West and North West | 133 | 17.5 | 130 | 17.1 | |
| Non-resident | <5 | - | <5 | - | |
| Total | 696 | 13.5 | 860 | 16.7 | |

Source: NPIRS annual report on the activities of Irish psychiatric units and hospitals, 2024.

Use of drugs in HSE health region areas

There are [a number of studies](#) that collect data on drug use in Ireland however they have not as yet published regional health data.

Data from the problematic opioid use in Ireland report

The report, Problematic opioid use in Ireland, 2020–2022,⁸ estimates the prevalence of problematic opioid use in Ireland from 2020 to 2022 using a four-source capture-recapture method. Three of the four data sources used for the analysis were derived from opioid substitution treatment records from the Central Treatment List (clinics, general practitioners and prisons) and the fourth data source was from the Irish Probation Service. In total, it is estimated that there were 19,460 opioid users aged 15–64 years in Ireland in 2022, see Tables 8- 12. This corresponds to a prevalence rate of 5.79 per 1,000 population.

Table 8: Summary of the known number of problematic opioid users, by RHA aged 15–64 years (2022)

| Variable | number (N) (%)* |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | N=12,719 |
| RHA | |
| HSE Dublin and North East | 4,228 (33.2%) |
| HSE Dublin and Midlands | 4,072 (32.0%) |
| HSE Dublin and South East | 2,483 (19.5%) |
| HSE South West | 967 (7.6%) |
| HSE Mid West | 575 (4.5%) |
| HSE West and North West | 394 (3.1%) |

*Due to rounding, the percentages in this column do not add up to 100%

Table 9: Proportion of problematic opioid users, by RHA and age group (2022)

| | 15–24 years | 25–34 years | 35–64 years |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| A HSE Dublin and North East | 2.2% | 18.7% | 79.1% |
| B HSE Dublin and Midlands | 2.3% | 19.9% | 77.8% |
| C HSE Dublin and South East | 6.5% | 24.4% | 72.9% |
| D HSE South West | 2.5% | 32.1% | 61.4% |
| E HSE Mid West | 2.5% | 29.9% | 67.6% |
| F HSE West and North West | 3.4% | 25.9% | 70.8% |
| Total | 2.7% | 22.0% | 75.3% |

Table 10: Estimates of the number and rate per 1,000 population of problematic opioid users aged 15–24 years, by RHA (2022)

| | | Known | Estimate | 95% CI | Rate | 95% CI |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| A | HSE Dublin and North East | 53 | 140 | 130–191 | 0.92 | 0.86–1.26 |
| B | HSE Dublin and Midlands | 66 | 143 | 136–184 | 1.03 | 0.98–1.33 |
| C | HSE Dublin and South East | 60 | 107 | 101–131 | 0.9 | 0.85–1.10 |
| D | HSE South West | 53 | 87 | 81–108 | 0.96 | 0.89–1.19 |
| E | HSE Mid West | 18 | 24 | 21–33 | 0.46 | 0.40–0.63 |
| F | HSE West and North West | 14 | 26 | 21–43 | 0.28 | 0.23–0.46 |
| Total | | 264 | 527 | 524–627 | 0.82 | 0.81–0.97 |

Table 11: Estimates of the number and rate per 1,000 population of problematic opioid users aged 25–34 years, by RHA (2022)

| | | Known | Estimate | 95% CI | Rate | 95% CI |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|
| A | HSE Dublin and North East | 629 | 1,179 | 1,094–1,608 | 7.4 | 6.86–10.09 |
| B | HSE Dublin and Midlands | 556 | 1,217 | 1,157–1,563 | 8.39 | 7.98–10.78 |
| C | HSE Dublin and South East | 488 | 969 | 911–1,188 | 8.47 | 7.96–10.38 |
| D | HSE South West | 347 | 433 | 402–540 | 5.11 | 4.74–6.37 |
| E | HSE Mid West | 187 | 287 | 256–389 | 6.3 | 5.62–8.53 |
| F | HSE West and North West | 97 | 198 | 163–331 | 2.51 | 2.07–4.19 |
| Total | | 2,304 | 4,283 | 4,258–5,097 | 6.82 | 6.78–8.12 |

Table 12: Estimates of the number and rate per 1,000 population of problematic opioid users aged 35–64 years, by RHA (2022)

| | | Known | Estimate | 95% CI | Rate | 95% CI |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|
| A | HSE Dublin and North East | 3,546 | 4,980 | 4,620–6,790 | 10.35 | 9.60–14.11 |
| B | HSE Dublin and Midlands | 3,450 | 4,755 | 4,522–6,109 | 10.89 | 10.36–14.00 |
| C | HSE Dublin and South East | 1,935 | 2,896 | 2,723–3,551 | 7.37 | 6.93–9.04 |
| D | HSE South West | 567 | 828 | 769–1,033 | 2.73 | 2.53–3.40 |
| E | HSE Mid West | 370 | 649 | 579–879 | 3.89 | 3.47–5.26 |
| F | HSE West and North West | 283 | 542 | 446–906 | 1.77 | 1.45–2.95 |
| Total | | 10,151 | 14,650 | 14,566–17,434 | 7.02 | 6.98–8.35 |

Drug poisoning deaths for HSE health region areas

The HRB's [National Drug-Related Deaths Index \(NDRDI\)](#) is a database which records cases of death by drug and alcohol poisoning, and deaths among drug users and those who are alcohol dependent. 343 people died from poisoning in 2022.⁹

Table 13: Number of drug poisoning deaths by HSE health region of incident, NDRDI 2013 to 2022

| | | 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 | 30.0 | 26.9 | 28.3 | 22.2 | 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

References

1. Department of Health (2023) [Organisational reform: HSE health regions. Implementation plan](#). Dublin: Government of Ireland.
2. Lynch T, Tierney P and Lyons S (2025) [National Drug Treatment Reporting System: 2024 drug treatment demand](#). Dublin: Health Research Board.
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7. Daly, Antoinette, Lovett, Harriet and Lynn, Ena (2025) National Psychiatric Inpatient Reporting System (NPIRS) annual report on the activities of Irish psychiatric units and hospitals, 2024. Dublin: Health Research Board.
8. Hanrahan MT, Millar SR, Mongan D, Lyons S and Galvin B (2025) [Prevalence of problematic opioid use in Ireland, 2020–2022](#). Dublin: Health Research Board.
9. Kelleher C, Riordan F and Lyons S (2025) [Drug poisoning deaths in Ireland in 2022 - tables: data from the National Drug-Related Deaths Index \(NDRDI\)](#). Dublin: Health Research Board.

For additional data, see:

Doyle, Anne (2025) [Alcohol Statistics Dashboard](#) [Online]

Doyle, Anne (2024) Alcohol-related harm - HSE Regional Health Areas. Dublin: Health Research Board.

<https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/41557/>

Doyle, Anne (2023) Regional alcohol-related harm - County level factsheet. Dublin: Health Research Board.

<https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/39285/>

NDTRS data in the interactive tables on the library website <https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/tables/> (Under the final option, 'Select geographical region of residence' – choose 'health area').

How to cite this data factsheet:

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- Key Irish data resources – treatment, deaths, prevalence data, alcohol webpages
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- Practitioner portal – specific webpages for those working in the area
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