

Alcohol and drugs data factsheet: HSE health regions 2026

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Table of Contents

Glossary of terms.....	1
List of Tables.....	1
Introduction	3
Treatment data for HSE health region areas	4
Data from the National Drug Treatment Reporting System	4
Use of drugs in HSE health region areas.....	6
Data from the problematic opioid use in Ireland report.....	6
Drug poisoning deaths for HSE health region areas	7
References	8

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.

List of Tables

Box 1: HSE Health regions and county boundaries	3
Table 1: Number of cases treated for drugs (excluding alcohol) as a main problem, by HSE health region and year, NDTRS 2017–2024.....	4
Table 2: Number of new cases treated for drugs (excluding alcohol) as a main problem, by HSE health region and year, NDTRS 2017–2024.....	4
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.....	5
Table 4: Number of cases treated for alcohol as a main problem by Regional Health Area of residence, NDTRS 2017 to 2023 ..5	
Table 5: Number of new cases treated for alcohol as a main problem by Regional Health Area of residence, NDTRS 2017 to 2024.....	5
Table 6: Number of previously treated cases treated for alcohol as a main problem by Regional Health Area of residence, NDTRS 2017 to 2024	6
Table 7: Admissions to psychiatric hospitals and units, 2024 by HSE health regions	6
Table 8: Summary of the known number of problematic opioid users, by RHA aged 15–64 years (2022)	6
Table 9: Proportion of problematic opioid users, by RHA and age group (2022)	6
Table 10: Estimates of the number and rate per 1,000 population of problematic opioid users aged	7
15–24 years, by RHA (2022)	7
Table 11: Estimates of the number and rate per 1,000 population of problematic opioid users aged	7
25–34 years, by RHA (2022)	7

Table 12: Estimates of the number and rate per 1,000 population of problematic opioid users aged	7
35–64 years, by RHA (2022)	7
Table 13: Number of drug poisoning deaths by HSE health region of incident, NDRDI 2013 to 2022.....	7

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.

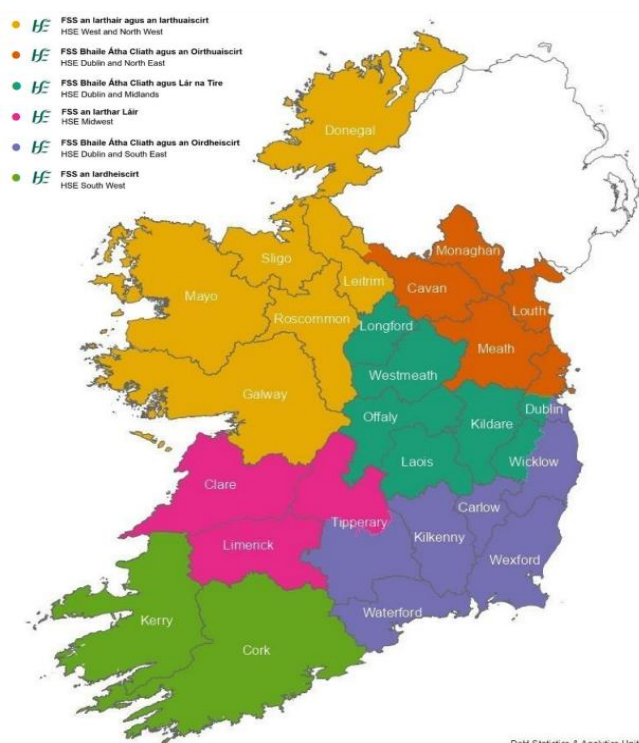
We include some alcohol data in this publication. Please also see the 2024 factsheet [Alcohol-related harm: HSE Regional Health Areas](#), which contains additional information.

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



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/slaintecare-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 4-6 ³: 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		Other drug disorders	
	Numbers	Rates	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	4283	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.
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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').

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