

Research Report No 10/97



**Illicit Drug Use & Related Criminal Activity
In The Dublin Metropolitan Area**

**Eamonn Keogh
Garda Research Unit**

Published in 1997 by
An Garda Síochána
Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8, Ireland
Telephone 353 1 6771156, 353 504 31522

© An Garda Síochána, 1997

**Illicit Drug Use & Related Criminal Activity
In The Dublin Metropolitan Area**

**Eamonn Keogh
Garda Research Unit**

Contents

	Page
Foreword	ii
Preface	iii
Acknowledgements	vi
List of Tables	vii
Executive Summary	ix
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
Chapter 2 Profile of Known Drug Users	5
Chapter 3 Data Analysis: Survey of Known Drug Users	15
Chapter 4 The Link Between Drug Abuse and Detected Crime	33
Chapter 5 Estimate of the Percentage of Crime Committed by Drug Users	39
Chapter 6 Concluding Remarks	47
References	52
Appendix 1 Data Collection Form - DC 1	53
Appendix 2 Questionnaire - Form DC 2	56
Appendix 3 Outline Map of Garda Districts - D.M.A.	63

Foreword

Commissioner

An Garda Síochána

The problem of drug abuse, with all its associated evils, which had serious effects on communities, has been seen primarily as a law enforcement issue. This approach, while having some merit and a measure of success, has not provided the complete answer. Contemporary thought about dealing with the scourge of drug dependence is to concentrate on education/prevention, enforcement and treatment; essentially a multi-agency approach. Previously, when multiple strategies were pursued, they occurred mainly in isolation. Now conventional wisdom indicates that the way forward is with an integrated and co-ordinated approach. Operation Dochas was conceived, in part, as a Garda response to this. The operation sought the assistance of local communities and other agencies involved in tackling the problems caused by drug dependence. The success of Operation Dochas has demonstrated the potential for a major impact on the drug problem when the efforts of the Community, An Garda Síochána and other agencies are co-ordinated.

Without the appropriate data, properly validated through research, the problems caused by drug dependence cannot be tackled in a realistic manner. There has been a lack of empirical research available in the area of drug use and criminality. This research project is an important step in addressing this. The findings give the number of drug abusers, their location, profiles of the individuals concerned and establish a link between drug abuse and crime. This is a welcome contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the problems caused by drug dependence, and will serve as a basis for Garda policy and practice for the future.

On behalf of An Garda Síochána I would like to thank Dr. Mark Morgan of St. Patrick's College, Dublin for acting as independent assessor for this project. Dr. Morgan provided valuable assistance and guidance to the project team, particularly on the methodology used to carry out the research.

I am grateful to Assistant Commissioner Tom King, Dublin Metropolitan Area, who conceived the project, the Garda Research Unit and, in particular, Sergeant Eamonn Keogh for producing a thorough and well researched report on Illicit Drug Use & Criminal Activity in the Dublin Metropolitan Area.

M.P. Byrne

Commissioner

An Garda Síochána

Preface

Dr. Mark Morgan, St. Patrick's College, Dublin.

From the situation of almost no research there is now a vast volume of work in Ireland in relation to the problem of illegal drugs in Ireland. A substantial body of research has accumulated on the issue of the initiation of young people to drugs so that we know that a significant minority of up to one-third have experimented with some substances by the time they reach the end of compulsory schooling. A second area of research has sought to pinpoint the factors that are related to the initiation of such use. We now know that parental and peer influences as well as personal, school and social factors each play an important role in this process. Thirdly, a beginning has been made on researching the most effective ways of preventing young people from beginning to experiment with illegal substances. It is now well established that efforts to scare young people are largely counterproductive and that there is a need for approaches that equip young people with the skills necessary to withstand the range of pressures to try out these substances.

Nevertheless, there are major gaps in our knowledge. In particular the scale and nature of what is known as drug addiction is poorly researched. Laudable efforts have been made to profile the problems of people who attend treatment facilities or who are known in other ways as in prisons. However, such approaches can never provide a comprehensive picture since many people with problems may seek help privately, or even more likely, may not seek help at all.

It is for this reason that the approach taken here has an important role to play in providing a picture of the drug problem. Like any research approach, it is not intended to supplant other approaches but rather to complement them. We acknowledge at the outset that working on the drug problem through Garda records has a certain kind of bias, viz., that it omits people who have no involvement with the Gardai. Thus, by definition, the estimates are something of an underestimate of the 'true scale' of the problem. Nevertheless, the approach allows for the study of people who would have been unlikely to have turned up on any survey and whose problems are very serious indeed.

Another important consideration is that the present study, regardless of the precision of the estimates of addicts, allows for the study of a variety of aspects of the drug problem. These include profiling users in terms of background variables, education experiences, initiation to drugs, experiences of treatment and involvement in crime.

The issue which is central to the present report viz., the association between drugs and crime, is a complex one. It is especially noteworthy that for the majority of people in the survey, their involvement in crime began before their involvement with drugs. However, it would be equally inappropriate to say that drug-taking has not influenced their criminal behaviour. It is probably more accurate to say that involvement with crime and drugs is part of a larger 'syndrome' which is determined by personal and background factors in these people's lives.

There are several implications which hold regardless of the precision with which the estimates presented here can be ascertained to be valid. The first of these has to do with treatment. A substantial number of the participants in this study had not sought treatment of any kind. Thus, in establishing new and upgraded/treatment facilities it is important to consider the extent of which treatment will be availed of and how people might be convinced of its value and efficacy.

A second important set of implications has to do with education and prevention. About four-fifths of the people concerned said they had a poor understanding about the effects of drug use. While this might seem to have simple implications, it is important to stress that any educational approach to drug use will have to ensure that it does not contradict the experiences of people who are known to the potential users.

A third important implication of these findings concerns research on the issue of drug use. It is widely believed that there is a series of "stepping - stones" in drug use from legal drug use to cannabis to hard drugs. The findings presented here challenge this in the case of a significant minority of the participants in the survey. Thus, the research raises important questions for the research community.

Efforts to make inroads into drug prevention require inter-agency co-operation on a scale that is commensurate with the size of the problem. It will require speaking across the boundaries

that separate those involved in research from those in practice and those in law enforcement from those providing treatment. This research is a contribution towards such collaboration.

Mark Morgan, Ph.D.

St. Patrick's College, Dublin.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the following people for valuable advice and assistance I received during the course of this study - Assistant Commissioner Tom King, Dr. Mark Morgan, St. Patricks College, Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer, Head of Research, Garda Research Unit, Superintendent Patrick Murphy, Garda College, Sergeants John O'Driscoll and Stephen Courage, Store Street Station, Garda Kevin Swann, Blanchardstown Station, Garda Mary McDonald, Tallaght Station.

For technical assistance of an exceptional nature I am indebted to Sergeant Gerry O'Brien, Crumlin Station, Garda Peter Duffy, Organisational Development Unit, Inspector Christopher Gordon, Organisational Development Unit, Inspector Eamonn Lynch, European Office, Inspector James Cannon, A Branch, Garda Colm Noonan, Bridewell Station, Garda David McCarthy, Garda College and Ms. Ruth Kevlin, Garda Research Unit.

A special word of thanks to Garda Mary Flynn, M3. Carmel Lynagh, and Ms. Cliona Flynn, for clerical support and backup.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all the personnel from each District in the D.M.A. who collected the data and carried out the interviews.

Finally, a special mention to all those individuals who took part in the questionnaire; without their co-operation the study would not have been possible.

The Author

Eamonn Keogh is a member of An Garda Síochána currently attached to the Garda Research Unit at the Garda College in Templemore. Prior to this he was on secondment for two years at the Department of Finance where he trained as an analyst/researcher. He holds a Masters Degree in Public Sector Management (Trinity College) and a Bachelor of Public Administration Degree (University College Dublin). Before taking up his current position he served in Dun Laoghaire, Clondalkin, the Fraud Squad and Donegal.

List of Tables

Chapter 2

Table 2.1	Age and Gender of Drug Users	6
Table 2.2	Type of Drug Used	7
Table 2.3	Employment Status of Drug Users	7
Table 2.4	Marital Status of Drug Users	8
Table 2.5	Home Circumstances of Drug Users	8
Table 2.6	Number of Drug Users by Division, District & as % of Population	10
Table 2.7	Number of Drug Users by Division, District & as % of 15-35 Age Range	11
Table 2.8	Number of Drug Users with a Criminal Record	12
Table 2.9	Number of Drug Users with Previous Conviction or JLO Scheme	13
Table 2.10	Main Reasons Why Drug Users are Known to the Gardai	14

Chapter 3

Table 3.1	Age Range of Respondents	18
Table 3.2	Marital Status of Respondents	18
Table 3.3	Home Circumstances	19
Table 3.4	Number of Dependents per Respondents	19
Table 3.5	Employment Status of Respondents	19
Table 3.6	Age at Which Respondents Left School	20
Table 3.7	Educational Qualifications Obtained	20
Table 3.8	Age When Started on Drugs Use?	21
Table 3.9	Drug First Used	21
Table 3.10	Understanding of the Effects of Drug Use	22
Table 3.11	Reasons for Trying Drugs?	22
Table 3.12	Daily Amount Spent on Drugs	22
Table 3.13	Weekly Amount Spent on Drugs	23
Table 3.14	Who Introduced Respondents to Drugs	23
Table 3.15	Who Made Respondents Seek Treatment?	24
Table 3.16	Reasons for Not Seeking Treatment	25
Table 3.17	Type of Weapons Used	26

Table 3.18	Locations Where Respondents Usually Committed Crime	27
Table 3.19	Means of Transport	27
Table 3.20	Age First in Trouble with the Law	28
Table 3.21	First Offence	28
Table 3.22	Has it Become More Difficult to Obtain Drugs?	30
Table 3.23	Reasons it is now More Difficult to Obtain Drugs	31
Table 3.24	How Hard is it to Give Up Drugs?	31
Table 3.25	Future Hopes	32
Chapter 4		
Table 4.1	Five Most Frequent Indictable Crimes	34
Table 4.2	Top Five Detected Indictable Crimes	35
Table 4.3	Number of Offenders - D.M.A.	35
Table 4.4	Drug Use and Detected Crimes	35
Table 4.5	Frequency of Crime by Offender	36
Table 4.6	Frequency of Offending Drug Uses / Non Drug Users	37
Table 4.7	Detected Crime & Number Apprehended	37
Table 4.8	Division of Residence - Offenders Apprehended in the D.M.A.	38

Executive Summary

This study was commissioned by Assistant Commissioner Tom King, Regional Commander of the Dublin Metropolitan Area. (D.M.A.). The study is one of a range of measures implemented to help tackle the problems caused by drug addiction and distribution. The overall objective of the study was to provide reliable information based on empirical research, of the relationship between the use of illicit drugs and the commission of crime in the D.M.A.

The absolute number of individuals residing in the Dublin Metropolitan Area who are using hard drugs can never be established with 100% accuracy. However, this study provides a strong indication of the current numbers involved. After an extensive search of all Garda records held at station level, 4,105 individuals were identified with certainty who are involved in hard drug use. The majority of these individuals were male, unemployed, single and living at home. 80% of hard drug users are in the 15 to 30 age group, with the youngest known user only 12 years old, the oldest 61 years. The principal drug abused is heroin. Not surprisingly the majority have some form of criminal record (77%).

Three sets of data were analysed during this project: (i) a database of known hard drug users, (ii) questionnaires completed by individuals selected from the database and (iii) all detected crime recorded between September 1995 and August 1996. Based on findings from each stage, an estimate of the percentage of crime committed by drug users was made.

A questionnaire survey of known hard drug users was conducted. 352 individuals identified from the database of known drug users were interviewed by Garda members. Individuals were selected at random according to Garda Districts. The results were analysed using a computerised statistical package (SPSS).

The vast majority, 90%, left school before they were 16 years old and 66% had no educational qualification on leaving school. The typical age at which respondents first became involved with drug taking was 17 years. Cannabis was the initial drug for the majority but a significant amount, 30%, started with Heroin. When they first tried drugs, 80% had either a poor understanding or understood nothing about the effects of drug use and

the majority tried drugs out of simple curiosity. Friends were the most likely individuals to have introduced respondents to drug taking. Poly-drug use appears to be the norm but for almost all, 96%, Heroin was the main drug of choice. As regards treatment, 76% of users had sought treatment and 63% had actually received treatment. The two principal sources of income are social welfare payments and crime; 91% obtain money from crime. The main crimes committed are burglary, shoplifting and drug dealing. The typical age at which respondents became involved with the Criminal Justice System was 15 years and the first offence for the majority, 65%, was a larceny-type offence. Most respondents (66%) sourced their drugs within their own neighbourhood primarily from a known local dealer. Most respondents (64%) felt it had become harder to obtain drugs since December 1996 and half of these had attributed this to an increased Garda presence and activity at street level. Giving up drug use was described as being hard to impossible by the majority of respondents (72%). When asked about the future, 49% still felt optimistic about how they saw themselves in 12 months time, despite their addiction.

19,046 indictable crimes¹ were detected in the D.M.A. during the time under review. 7,757 individuals were apprehended for these crimes. Of the individual offenders apprehended 3,365 or 43% were identified as known hard drug users. These drug users were responsible for 12,583 crimes or 66% of all detected crime in the D.M.A.. Based on detections, drug users commit approximately three crimes for each one by for non drug users. One individual drug user was responsible for 147 detected crimes, while the highest number for a non drug user was 33. Drug users were responsible for 85% of detected aggravated burglaries, 84% of detected offences of larceny from the person and larceny from unattended vehicles and 82% of ordinary burglaries. Non drug users were responsible for the majority of detected crimes involving violence, 83% of detected sexual offences and 78% of murders and assaults. The majority of detected fraud offences (61%) were committed by non drug users. Shoplifting was committed 50/50 by drug users and non drug users. The Garda Division of residence for the largest percentage of apprehended offenders, 25%, was the Southern Division, while the Division with the lowest, 11%, was the Eastern Division.

Using information obtained from the earlier stages of the study, an estimate was made of the amount of total indictable crime that drug users are responsible for. A model was developed

¹ An indictable crime is, in general, a serious crime meriting a jury rather than a summary trial.

based on the amount of larceny-type crime drug users commit in order to feed their drug habit. Larceny-type crime accounts for 91% of all indictable crime. Three sources of income other than larceny-type crime were identified as being available to drug users. These are (i) social welfare payments, (ii) family support and (iii) non larceny-type crime, mainly drug dealing and prostitution. Any shortfall between these sources of income and what users need to purchase drugs is made up from larceny-type crime. By estimating the value to a drug user of all stolen property, both reported and unreported, and dividing it by the shortfall in the user's income, a percentage of indictable crime committed by drugs can be established. Using this method the percentage of crime committed by drug users is 42%. The impression of accuracy given by this amount would be misplaced, but it does provide a reasonable estimate for the amount of crime committed by drug users.

Chapter 1

Introduction

The initiative for the project was the by now widespread apprehension among the public in the greater Dublin area in relation to the threat posed by illicit drug distribution and addiction. This apprehension is fuelled by media and political sources who claim that there are now between 7,000 and 8,000 people addicted to hard drugs; that 70% to 80% of all crime is committed as a direct result of drug addiction; and families are dying from the effects of drug abuse. This research project was commissioned by Assistant Commissioner Tom King to provide empirical evidence of the numbers of hard drug users residing in the Dublin Metropolitan Area (D.M.A.), and to establish the amount of crime they are responsible for committing. The study also explored the nature of the relationship between the use of illicit drugs and the commission of crime within the D.M.A.

Objectives

The project had the following objectives:

1. Establish the number of people in the D.M.A. who are regular users/addicted to hard drugs.
2. Build up a profile on hard drug abusers in terms of gender, age, location, criminal record etc.
3. Identify how subjects were first introduced to drug use and criminal activity.
4. Identify the types of crimes which subjects commit and establish how drug abuse influenced their criminal behaviour in terms of type of crime committed, frequency of such crime commission etc.
5. Establish how subjects source their supply of drugs.
6. Establish the percentage of crime which can be directly attributed to drug abuse.

Co-operation with other agencies

In order to ensure an exhaustive investigation took place and that as many drug users as possible could be identified, it was hoped initially that other agencies, i.e. the Eastern Health Board, Local Authorities, voluntary and community bodies, would be able to share with the project team information on the number and place of residence of drug users known to them.

Agencies were afforded an opportunity to participate and liaison took place at the initial stage of the project. Unfortunately, because of issues of confidentiality which exist between agencies and their clients, this proved unfeasible within the time-scale of the project. No system suitable to all could be developed for sharing information on an anonymous basis so the project has proceeded based on information contained in Garda records.

Methodology

The project was undertaken in four phases, (i) establishing a Garda database of known drug abusers, (ii) carrying out a sample survey of drug abusers, (iii) analysing all detected crime in the D.M.A. and finally, (iv) estimating the percentage of crime committed by known drug abusers.

Phase One - Establish Database of all Known Drug Abusers

To collect data for phase one of the project, personnel were selected from Divisional Drug Units, Collators Offices or Community based Sergeants and Gardai. All those selected had personal knowledge of and experience in dealing with drug users. Their service within An Garda Síochána ranged from five years to twenty years. Before the data collection began they attended a half day seminar organised by the Garda Research Unit. All D.M.A. Districts were represented. At the seminar they were briefed on the purpose of the project and the method to be used to identify hard drug users. The term hard drugs refers to opiates, stimulants, hypnotics and hallucinogens. Cannabis, for the purpose of the project, was not considered a hard drug. Information was collected by means of a common instrument (Appendix 1). All Garda records were examined. This included custody records, district collator's records, local drug unit records and Community Garda unit records. Once collected, the information was inputted onto computer. The processed information was then returned to the Districts for final verification and amendment. All duplicate entries and deaths were eliminated and addresses and personnel details were verified. Any additions or amendments were made and the database was established.

Phase Two - Survey of Drug Abusers

The individuals identified during phase one formed the total population for sampling purposes. From the total population a stratified random sample of 352 was selected for

interview. Subjects were interviewed by way of questionnaire (Appendix 2). The survey focused on:

- verification of data already collected
- subject's personal backgrounds
- period of drug use and type of drug involved
- methods of financing drug habit
- history of criminal activity
- influence of drug abuse on type and frequency of criminal activity
- sources of help, guidance, support provided

For phase two of the project the personnel used to collect data on phase one were once again utilised to act as interviewers. The interview was conducted face to face with the subject, with the interviewer recording the answers to the questions. All interviewers took part in a one day seminar to familiarise themselves with the questionnaire and how to record the answers. The interviewers worked in their own area and knew, and were known by, the subjects.

All data from the questionnaire were coded and entered onto computer databases. The data were analysed to detect emerging relationships and data gaps. The analysis was undertaken using the SPSS computer software package.

Phase Three -Analysis of Detected Crime

Personal details on all offenders apprehended within the D.M.A. are contained on crime report forms C.2 and held on computer. This information was matched against the database of known drug abusers. The purpose was to discover what percentage of detected crime can be attributed to known hard drug users and what type of detected crime drug users are responsible for and the frequency of their crimes. The analysis was carried out using Excel and Access computer software packages.

Phase Four - Estimation of the Percentage of Crime Committed by Known Drug Users

Based on the information obtained from phase one, two and three, the amount of total crime committed by known drug abusers was estimated.

Definitions

Drug User

The term drug user for the purpose of the report is someone who misuses or abuses drugs.

Drug Misuse

The working definition of drug misuse used in this report is that used by the Health Research Board⁽¹⁾ and is:

The taking of a legal and or illegal drug or drugs (excluding alcohol other than as a secondary drug of misuse and tobacco) which harms the physical, mental or social well-being of the individual, the group or society.

Hard Drug

The term hard drugs refers to opiates, stimulants, hypnotics and hallucinogens. Cannabis, or its derivatives, for the purpose of the project was not considered a hard drug.

Chapter Details

Chapter 2 focuses on data obtained from Garda records. It includes a profile of known hard drug users in terms of gender, age, type of drug misused, marital status, employment, home circumstances and criminal record. In chapter 3 the results of the survey of drug users are outlined. The personal details and the socio-demographic data on those surveyed is noted, as is their history of drug misuse and criminality. Chapter 4 provides details on all detected crime within the D.M.A. for 1996. These crimes have been evaluated to determine what percentage of detected crime and what types of detected crime are committed by drug users. Finally chapter 5 provides an estimate on what percentage of total crime is committed by drug users to fund their drug habit.

Chapter 2

Profile of Known Drug Users

I Introduction

Phase one data collection, comprising a manual search of all Garda Records held at Station level, lasted four weeks and took place in November/December 1996 with a final update in February 1997. All districts in the D.M.A. examined their records and returned details on all hard drug abusers known to be residing or operating in their district. These returns were entered on the computer and an analysis of the data was conducted.

Main Points

- From Garda records the number of known hard drug abusers in the D.M.A. is 4,105. This figure includes all those who have come in contact with the Gardai by being either arrested, charged, or as suspects for criminal activity.
- 91% of drug abusers used Heroin as their principal drug, but poly-drug use appears to be the norm. 4% use ecstasy; methadone is used by 2%, and amphetamine and cocaine is used by 1% each. A combination of other drugs makes up the remaining 1%.
- The majority of drug abusers are male, 84%, with 16% female.
- 87% are recorded as being unemployed with only 2% employed. The employment status of the remaining 11% is unknown.
- The youngest drug abuser known to the Gardai is 12 years old. The oldest is 61. 62% of all drug abusers are in the 15 to 25 year age group. 80% are in the 15 to 30 year age group.
- Over 89% of drug abusers have some form of criminal record.
- 79% of all drug abusers are recorded as being single and 56% are still residing with their parents.
- Drug abusers are known to the Gardai for a variety of reasons; 51% have admitted they use drugs, 22% have been found in possession of either drugs or drug taking paraphernalia and 12% have sought methadone while in custody. A variety of other reasons make up the remaining 15%. In general however, it is for a combination of reasons that Gardai know an individual is a drug abuser.

Age and Gender of Drug Abusers

84% of all drug abusers were male. For all drug abusers, 80% are in the 15 - 30 age group with 53% between the age of 21 - 30, 27% in the 15 - 20 age group and 16% in the 31+ age group. The youngest known drug abuser is 12 years old and the oldest is 61. There is hardly any difference between the age range of male or female drug abusers. Table 2.1 outlines the percentage breakdown of age and gender of drug abusers.

Table 2.1: Age and Gender of Drug Abusers

Age	All Users	%	Males	%	Females	%
U15	17	0%	15	0%	2	0%
15-20	1120	27%	916	26%	194	30%
21-25	1419	35%	1203	35%	216	34%
26-30	759	18%	651	19%	108	17%
31 -35	430	10%	377	11%	53	8%
36-40	152	4%	133	4%	19	3%
40-50	83	2%	71	2%	12	2%
51+	4	0%	3	0%	1	0%
Unknown	131	3%	98	3%	33	5%
Total	4105	100%	3467	100%	638	100%

Type of Drug Used

The principal drug abused by all drug users is Heroin at 91%, followed by Ecstasy at 4%. Methadone is used by 2%, and Amphetamine and Cocaine accounted for 1% each. Other drugs (mainly physeptone) make up the remaining 1%. Males tend to match the general figures, but the figures for females are slightly different. 94% of females use heroin with only 2% using ecstasy; methadone was used by 2%, and cocaine by just 1%. Table 2.2 shows the type of drug abused by gender.

The number of ecstasy users in the database is an obvious underestimation of the general population using ecstasy. The figure quoted here is only a reflection of those individuals who have come into contact with the Gardai through the use of ecstasy. Ecstasy users in general do not become involved with the Gardai. The drug is consumed when and where it is purchased. Ecstasy itself is relatively cheap to buy and, in general, users can afford to fund it from their own financial resources, without having to resort to crime. This is not to underestimate its potential as an introduction to hard drug use, particularly Heroin.

Table 2.2: Type of Drug Used

Drugs Used	Number	%	Males	%	Females	%
Heroin	3750	91%	3150	90%	600	93%
Methadone	67	2%	52	2%	15	3%
Ecstasy	171	4%	161	5%	10	2%
Amphetamine	45	1%	44	2%	1	0%
Cocaine	46	1%	37	1%	9	1%
Other	26	1%	23	1%	3	1%
Total	4105	100%	3467	100%	638	100%

Employment Status of Drug Users

87% of all drug abusers are recorded as being unemployed, with only 2% as employed. 1% are listed as other which accounts for students, housewives, etc. The employment status of the remaining 10% was unknown. There was no major difference between males and females except less is known about the employment status of females, i.e. 15% unknown. The percentage breakdown is provided in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Employment Status of Drug Users

	All Users	%	Males	%	Females	%
Unemployed	3594	87%	3062	88%	532	83%
Employed	65	2%	61	2%	3	0%
Other	26	1%	17	0%	10	2%
Unknown	420	10%	327	9%	93	15%
Total	4105	100%	3467	100%	638	100%

Marital Status of Drug Abusers

The majority of all drug abusers are recorded as being single, 79%. Only 4% are shown as married and 6% are cohabiting. 1% are separated or divorced and the marital status of the remaining 9% is unknown. The figures for males are similar to that of all drug abusers, but for females it is slightly different, with fewer females single (70%) and more are cohabiting (11%). Table 2.4 highlights the figures for marital status.

Table 2.4: Marital Status of Drug Users

Marital Status	All Users	%	Males	%	Females	%
Married	165	4%	130	4%	35	5%
Single	3253	79%	2806	81%	477	70%
Cohabiting	265	6%	195	6%	70	11%
Sep/Div	43	1%	34	1%	9	1%
Unknown	379	9%	302	9%	77	12%
Total	4105		3467		638	

Home Circumstances of Drug Users

The majority of drug abusers (56%) are still living with their parents. 11% are living with others, either sharing or renting. 10% are living with partners or spouses. 2% live alone and 1% live in hostel accommodation. The home circumstances of the remaining 20% are unknown.

The home circumstances are different for male and female drug abusers. Male drug users match the figures for all drug users. Only 40% of female drug users are living with their parents. A greater percentage, 16%, are either sharing or renting with others. 15% are living with a spouse or partner and 5% are living alone. 2% are living in hostel accommodation. The home circumstances of the remaining 22% are unknown. Table-2.5 shows the percentage breakdown of home circumstances by gender.

Table 2.5: Home Circumstances of Drugs Users

Living with	All Users	%	Males	%	Females	%
Parents	2289	56%	2036	59%	253	40%
Spouse/Partner	402	10%	306	8%	96	15%
Others/Renting	470	11%	366	11%	104	16%
Alone	89	2%	59	2%	30	5%
Hostel	40	1%	28	1%	12	2%
Unknown	815	20%	672	19%	143	22%
Total	4105	100%	3467	100%	638	100%

Number of Drug Abusers Residing in Each Division, District

The highest number of drug abusers is in the Southern Division at 1,168. The Southern Division consists of large suburbs to the south and west of the city, it includes the districts of Tallaght (M), Ballyfermot/Clondalkin (L), Crumlin and Rathmines,(G & P). Within the

Division the highest numbers were recorded in the “L” District, 493, and the “M” District at 442.

The Northern Division has 1,038 drug abusers. The Northern Division comprises suburbs to the north and west of the city. It includes the districts of Clontarf/Howth/Raheny (J), Ballymun/Whitehall (H), Coolock/Malahide/Swords (R) and to the west, the large suburbs of Blanchardstown/Finglas/Cabra (K.). The highest number in the Division was recorded in the “K” District, 464.

The two inner city Divisions, North Central and South Central had 682 and 833 drug users respectively. The North Central Division, is located north of the river Liffey and includes O’Connell Street and surrounding areas, and most of the Port of Dublin. In the Division the “IT” District had 294, the “C” District 237.

The South Central Division had 833 drug abusers. This Division is on the south side of the river Liffey and includes the shopping area around Grafton Street and Temple Bar, in the “B” district and the affluent Dublin 4 District in the “E”. The “A” District includes the inner city areas of the Coombe, Dolphins Barn and Inchicore. The “B” District also contains pockets of working class areas off Pearse Street. In the “E” District the pattern is repeated, with Irishtown surrounded by very affluent districts in Ballsbridge and Sandymount. Within the Division the “A” District had the highest number, 663, the “B” District had 109.

The Eastern Division which is the south east of the city centre consists of Blackrock/Dundrum (W), Dunlaoghaire/Foxrock (F) and Shankill/Bray and Greystones (N) in County Wicklow. The Division is made up mainly of suburban/commuting districts around older, more established areas like Dun Laoghaire, Dundrum and Bray. This Division recorded the lowest number at 365, the highest number being recorded in the “N” District, 196. The numbers of drug abusers residing in each District and Division has been compared to the population of the various districts. The distribution of drug abusers per District is quite different. Table 2.6 provides details on the number of Drug abusers per Division and District. The location of each Garda Division and District is outlined in Appendix 3.

Table 2.6: Number of Drug Users, Division, District and as a % of Population

Division	District Total	Division Total	Population Total	%
North Central		682	57,161	1.19%
C - District	237		8,606	2.75%
D - District	151		14,806	1.02%
U - District	294		33,749	0.87%
South Central		833	89,453	0.93%
A - District	663		37,634	1.76%
B - District	109		9,376	1.16%
E - District	61		42,443	0.14%
Northern		1038	355,570	0.29%
H - District	211		62,291	0.34%
J” District	163		85,528	0.19%
K - District	464		105,561	0.44%
R - District	200		102,190	0.20%
Southern		1,168	328,971	0.36%
G - District	196		57,577	0.34%
L - District	493		102,928	0.48%
M - District	442		117,121	0.38%
P - District	37		51,345	0.07%
Eastern		366	209,470	0.17%
F - District	112		72,807	0.15%
N - District	197		59,144	0.33%
W - District	57		77,519	0.07%
NFA	18	18		
D.M.A.	4,105	4,105	1,040,624	0.39 %

Population Figures -1991 Census of Population

The highest percentage per population is in the North Central Division, which comprises the north inner city. Here drug users make up 1.19% of the total population of the Division. The “C” District, has the highest at 2.75% of its total population. The “D” District has 1.02%, the “U” District also in the north inner city has 0.87%. Within the South Central Division, comprising the south inner city, drug users make up 0.93% of the total population of the Division. The “A” District has 1.76% of the total population. The “B” District has 1.16% drug abusers and the “E” District has 0.14 %. Within the D.M.A. the ratio of hard drug

abusers to total population is 0.39%. Table 2.6 outlines the numbers and percentages per Division and District.

Table 2.7 illustrates the ratio of hard drug abusers to the population aged between 15 years and 35 years, residing in each Division and District i.e. the age range within which 90% of all drug users lie. The North Central Division is again the highest at 2.5% of the sample population. Within the “C” District drug users make up 6.27% of this age group. In the South Central Division drug abusers make up 1.84% of this age group, with the “A” District showing a rate of 3.81%, the second highest in the D.M.A.

Table 2.7 Number of Drug Users, Division, District and as a % of the 15 - 35 Age Range

<u>Division</u>	<u>District Total</u>	<u>Division Total</u>	<u>Population Total</u>	<u>% Pop 15-35yrs</u>
<u>North Central</u>		682	27,256	2.50%
C - District	237		3,779	6.27%
D - District	151		6,694	2.26%
U - District	294		16,783	1.75%
<u>South Central</u>		833	45,209	1.84%
A - District	663		17,419	3.81%
B - District	109		4,836	2.25%
E - District	61		22,954	0.27%
<u>Northern</u>		1038	168,594	0.62%
H - District	211		29,536	0.71%
J - District	163		39,008	0.42%
K - District	464		49,828	0.93%
R - District	200		50,222	0.40%
<u>Southern</u>		1,168	161,008	0.73%
G - District	196		25,477	0.77%
L - District	493		49,766	0.99%
IVI - District	442		57,211	0.77%
P - District	37		28,554	0.13%
<u>Eastern</u>		366	97,539	0.37%
F - District	112		32,939	0.34%
N - District	197		28,014	0.70%
W - District	57		36,586	0.16%
NFA	18		18	
<u>D.M.A.</u>	<u>4,105</u>	<u>4,105</u>	<u>499,606</u>	<u>0.82%</u>

(Population Figures 1991 Census of Population)

These rates of drug misuse within the North Central Division have to be seen against the wider social problems facing the area. A recent report by the Inter-Agency Drugs Project⁽²⁾ outlined some of the problems within the north east inner city, which is part of the North Central Garda Division. Their conclusions were that within this area “are some of the most under-developed parts of the city where unemployment can reach up to 60%. Recent figures suggest that 50% of the population of the north east inner city is covered by the medical card scheme. The area was designated by Dublin Corporation as significantly more disadvantaged than the Greater Dublin Area”. The report goes on to quote from a report for the Daughters of Charity in 1991 in which it states that the area “has a higher proportion of non-nuclear family types than the Greater Dublin Area or the State, and the proportion of children under the age of 15 living in lone parent families in the north inner city is 8% higher than Greater Dublin Area and nearly twice as high as in Ireland. The rate of admission of children into care in the north inner city is more than four times higher than in the Eastern Health Board Area”. The report goes on to say that the area has a higher proportion of persons classified as unskilled and semi-skilled and a much lower proportion classified as professional than anywhere else in Greater Dublin. There is also a high level of non attendance at school and low levels of literacy, a high number of young people leave school before the age of 15 without attaining any qualifications.

Criminal Records

The majority of known drug abusers have a criminal record, 73%. In other words, 73% of drug abusers have been convicted before a court for a criminal offence. 20% are recorded as having no criminal record and 5% are shown as “don’t knows”. Table 2.8 outlines the numbers with previous convictions by gender.

Table 2.8: Number of Drug Users with a Criminal Record

	All Users	%	Males	%	Females	%
Yes	2982	73%	2642	76%	340	53%
No	912	22%	643	19%	269	42%
Unknown	211	5%	182	5%	29	5%
Total	4105		3467		638	

Of the 22% or 912 individuals who have no criminal record, 159 have been through the Juvenile Diversion Programme (JLO Scheme). In the JLO scheme the individuals have

admitted to committing a criminal offence but because of their age (under 17), and the fact the offence was their first, they were not dealt with through the courts. Of the 211 individuals in the “don’t know” group, 34 have been through the JLO scheme. When those who were part of the JLO scheme are added to those with previous convictions the number becomes 3 174 or 77%. Table 2.9 provides details.

Table 2.9: Number of Drug Users with Previous Conviction or JLO Scheme

<i>Criminal Record</i>	<i>JLO Scheme</i>		<i>Total Yes</i>
Yes			2982
No	Yes	159	159
	No	348	
	Don't Know	405	
Don't Know	Yes	34	34
	No	33	
	Don't Know	144	
Total			3174 77%

How are Drug Abusers Known to the Gardai

Drug abusers are known to the Gardai for a variety of reasons. Usually The abusers admit they are on drugs and have physical signs such as needle marks or abscesses on their body, or while in custody at a Garda Station they request a doctor be called to prescribe methadone. However the principal means whereby Gardai have indicated that they know an individual abuses hard drugs is that the individuals have admitted they take drugs, 51%. 12% have sought methadone while in custody and 12% had drug-taking paraphernalia on them when searched. 10% were found with drugs in their possession and 7% had physical signs of drug use on their bodies. Other reasons account for 5%, this ranges from confidential information being received on the individual, to individuals being regular associate of known drug abusers. The remaining 4% were known to be receiving treatment at a clinic or doctor’s surgery. There is no real difference between how males and females are known to the Gardai; both reflect the overall figures for all drug abusers. Table 2.10 highlights how drug abusers are known to the Gardai.

Table 2.10: Main Reasons Why Drug Abusers are Known to the Gardai

Known By	All Users	%	Male	%	Female	%
possession	407	10%	361	10%	46	7%
Admits	2098	51%	1753	51%	345	54%
Treatment	151	4%	117	3%	34	5%
Paraphernalia	501	12%	430	12%	71	11%
physical Signs	285	7%	238	7%	47	7%
Custody-Methadone	473	12%	388	11%	85	13%
Other	190	5%	180	5%	10	2%
Total	4105		3467		638	

Chapter 3

Data Analysis: Survey of Known Drug Users

Introduction

The individuals identified in phase one formed the total population for sampling purposes. From a population of 4,105 a sample of 352 was selected. The sample was stratified according to the number of drug users residing in each district. The majority of subjects were interviewed in their own homes: The interviews were conducted face to face. A structured questionnaire was the basis for the interview (see Appendix 2). The questions were posed orally by the interviewer and registered by them. The interviewers were in a position to rephrase or repeat questions if subjects had difficulty comprehending them. Open ended questions were transcribed verbatim where possible. The nature and purpose of the interview was explained to the subject at the beginning of the interview. Participation was voluntary; there was no compulsion on subjects to co-operate and no incentives or inducements were offered.

The interviews lasted approximately 20 minutes, though they could vary up to 30 minutes to 40 minutes depending on the subject's willingness to talk and expand on their answers. It was emphasised that the reported and published data would be anonymous. Each interview was treated in the strictest confidence, with only the author having access to data that could identify the different responses and match responses to subjects.

Sample Size

As the survey was to investigate drug use and related criminal behaviour, the population was defined as all those who were known to be drug users. The Garda database of drug users was the best list available for this population. A sample size of at least 315 was needed as a representative of the total known population of drug users (4,105). Because of the circumstances of the individuals to be sampled, a non-response rate of 30% was anticipated and each interviewer was provided a list selected at random, containing the appropriate number of subjects, needed from each District (3). The total number selected was 450. The distribution of this 450 was stratified by Garda District. When selecting individuals from each District list of drug users, a random start and an appropriate skip interval was used, i.e.

from the “A” District 35 individuals were needed from the “A” District list of drug users.

The expected non-response rate was 30%, so 46 individuals were selected. The total on the list divided by 46. provided the “skip” interval. In all cases the non-response rate was less than 30%. 352 individuals responded to the questionnaire.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire was comprised of five sections as follows:

Section A Personal details

Personal details included questions on respondent’s date of birth, marital status, home circumstances, dependents, employment and education.

Section B Drug Use

Questions were posed on what drugs are used and how frequently, general background on why responds first became involved with drugs and how and where are drugs sourced.

Section C Treatment

Respondents were asked had they ever sought treatment for drug addiction, if yes, where and when, if no, why not.

Section D Income

The questions were posed to identify the main source of income, if this was crime, the type of crime, how frequent and where the crime was committed, and how old respondents were when they first became involved in crime.

Section E, Health/Lifestyle

Respondents were asked what changes they would make to their life, how their drug use has changed and their outlook for the future.

Main Points

- A small majority, 53%, of drug users have no children but the remaining 47% have at least one child dependent.
- Almost all, (91%), of drug users had left school before they were 16 years old, with 37% I leaving before the age of 14 years. • 66% left school with no educational qualifications.
- 49% were aged between 15 - 17 years when they first tried drugs, 24% aged 10-14 years.

- Cannabis was the initial drug for 51% and 32% went straight to heroin. For over 75% their drug consumption has increased over time.
- When they first tried drugs, 80% of users said they had at best a poor understanding of the effects.
- 45% of users tried drugs out of curiosity and 16 % were put under peer pressure to try.
- Over 80% of users were first introduced to drugs by a friend.
- 86% of users now have friends taking drugs and 62% of them are on heroin.
- 74% of users feel it would be hard to impossible to come off drugs.
- The majority of users, 74%, have only ever been off drugs for a number of months².
- 76% of drug addicts have looked for treatment for their addiction and of those, 82%, have received treatment.
- The two principal sources of income are crime and social welfare with 91% obtaining money from crime.
- The main crimes are Burglary, Shoplifting, and Drug Dealing (To feed their habit).
- The majority, 58%, of users were in trouble with the law before the age of 15 years.
- The first offence for the majority, 68%, was a larceny-type offence, 17% for stealing cars (unauthorised taking) and only 4% for a drugs offence.
- Since December 1996, 68% of drug users feel it has become harder to obtain drugs, the majority of these feel this is due to increased Garda activity.

SECTION A: PERSONAL DETAILS

Age and Gender of Respondents

77% of respondents are male with 23% female. For all respondents, (n[^]351), 76% are in the 20 to 35 year age group, with 65% between the age of 20 - 30 years, 38% are in the 20 - 24 year age group and 15% are under 20 years. Table 3.1 outlines the percentage breakdown of

² Number of months means more than one month but less than a year.

Table 3.1: Age Range of Respondents

Age	Percentage	Frequency
<20	15%	50
20-24	38%	134
25-30	27%	95
31-35	11%	38
>35	9%	34
Total	100%	351

Marital Status

The majority of respondents are single, 77%. Only 5% are married and 13% are cohabiting with a partner. 4% are separated or divorced. 1% are widowed and the remaining 1% did not respond.

Table 3.2 highlights the figures for marital status.

Table 3.2 Marital Status of Respondents

<i>n=351</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Married	4%	15
Single	77%	270
Widowed	1%	2
Separated/Divorced	4%	15
Cohabiting	13%	47
Total	100%	351

Home Circumstances

The majority of respondents are living in Local Authority accommodation, 72%, with 11% living in private rented accommodation and 15% living in owner occupied accommodation. The majority of respondents are living with their parents, 61%, 21% are residing with a ' spouse or partner, there are 7% respectively living alone and living with others. 2% are either living in hostel accommodation or have no fixed address. The home circumstances of the remaining 2% is unknown. Table 3.3 provides details on the breakdown of the sample according to home circumstances.

Table 3.3: Home Circumstances

<i>n=351</i>	Percentage	Frequency
1 Living with parents	61%	215
2 Living with spouse/ parents	21%	75
3 Living alone	7%	24
4 Living with others/ lodging	7%	24
5 No fixed abode	1%	4
6 Hostel	1%	2
7 Other	2%	7
Total	100%	351

Dependents

52% of respondents had no dependents. 22% had one child dependent while 24% had two or more child dependents. Table 3.4 provides details on the number of dependents per respondent.

Table 3.4: Number of Dependents per Respondent

<i>n=349</i>	Percentage	Frequency
No dependents	61%	215
Adult dependents only	21%	75
Adult and one child dependent	7%	24
Adult and two or more child dependents	7%	24
One child dependent only	1%	4
Two or more child dependents	1%	2
Other	2%	7
Total	100%	351

Employment

184% of respondents (n=347) were currently unemployed while 10% were either working full I or part time, while 3% are currently on a FÁS course. 1% were still at school. Table 3.5 | presents details on employment status of respondents.

Table 3.5: Employment Status of Respondents

<i>n=347</i>	Percentage	Frequency
Working full-time	3%	12
Working part-time/ on occasional basis	7%	25
Currently employed	84%	290
On Fás Course/ scheme	3%	10
At school/ college	1%	5
Engaged in home duties	0%	1
Other	1%	4
Total	100%	347

Education and Qualifications Obtained Before Leaving School

37% of respondents left school between 9-14 years of age and a further 54% left between 15-16. 9% were 17+ when they finished their education. Table 3.6 shows the age range respondents left school.

Table 3.6: Age at Which Respondents Left School

<i>n=349</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
9-14 Years Old	37%	128
15-16 Years Old	54%	188
17+	9%	33
Total	100%	349

66% of respondents (n=349) had no qualifications leaving school. 28% had obtained the Junior Certificate³ before leaving and 3% had some form of vocational training (Other). 2% obtained the Leaving Certificate⁴ and 1% had a third level diploma or degree. Table 3.7 presents details of qualifications obtained by respondents on leaving school.

Table 3.7: Educational Qualifications Obtained

<i>n=349</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Junior Certificate	28%	99
Leaving Certificate	2%	7
Third level diploma or degree	1%	2
None	66%	232
Other	3%	9
Total	100%	349

SECTION B: DRUG USE

Drug Use

The majority of respondents were multi-drug users abusing a variety of drugs. But for almost all, 96%, Heroin was the main drug of choice. Of those respondents using Heroin, 35% also used Methadone, 33% Cannabis, 20% Ecstasy and 13% said that they also took

³ The Junior Certificate is an examination taken after the first three years of post primary school. Pupils must take at least five subjects.

⁴ The Leaving Certificate is an examination held at the end of the senior cycle in post primary schools. The senior cycle caters for pupils in the 15 to 18 year age group. Pupils must take at least five subjects.

Cocaine. For the majority of users, 33%, the longest amount of time that respondents have gone without drugs in the last year was a number of months. 24% of respondents had stayed off drugs for a number of days, 17% for a number of weeks, while 16% were never off drugs.

Age when Respondents First Took Drugs

Almost half of users, (49%) first became involved with drugs between the age of 15-17 years. 24% of respondents were between 10 and 14 years old and 23% between 18-24 years old. The mean age was 17 years with a standard deviation of 3.66. The typical age was 15 years. The age distribution for the total sample is presented in Table 3.8.

Table 3.8: Age When Started Drug Use

<i>n=351</i>	Percentage	Frequency
10-14 Years Old	24%	85
15-17 Years Old	49%	171
18-24 Years Old	23%	80
24+	4%	15
Total	100%	351

When asked to specify what drug they started on, 51% of respondents (n=339) said they first used Cannabis. 32% used Heroin first, and 7% initially tried Ecstasy. A breakdown of drugs first used is provided in Table 3.9.

Table 3.9 Drug First Used

<i>n=339</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Heroin	32%	107
Methadone	1%	2
Amphetamine	0%	0
Ecstasy MDA	7%	25
Cocaine	0%	1
Cannabis	51%	172
Other	9%	32
Total	100%	339

When asked how well on the first occasion did they understand the effects of using drugs, 48% of respondents (n=351) said they understood almost nothing about the effects and 32% had a poor understanding of the effects. Less than 20% understood all or some of the effects. Table 3.10 provides details on respondent's understanding of the effects of drug use.

Table 3.10: Understanding of the Effects of Drug Use

<i>n=351</i>	Percentage	Frequency
I understood all the effects	6%	21
I understood some of the effects	14%	48
I had a poor understanding about the effects	32%	112
I understood almost nothing about the effects	48%	170
Total	100%	351

When asked why they tried drugs on the first occasion, 45% of respondents replied they were curious about drugs- 16% were put under pressure to try it while 13% “wanted to feel high”.

Table 3.11 provides details on the reasons.

Table 3.11: Reasons for Trying Drugs

	Percentage	Frequency
1 was feeling stressed	8%	34
1 had a lot of problems at the time	9%	37
1 was curious about it	45%	182
1 simply wanted to feel high	13%	51
1 was put under pressure to try it	16%	64
Other	9%	37
Total	100%	352

How much money do respondents spend on drugs:

The average amount which respondents said they spent on drugs (n=343) was just under £100 (mean=£96). This average was influenced by a number of very big spenders. The most frequently cited amount of expenditure was £40. The range of amounts spent on drugs per day is presented in Table 3.12.

Table 3.12: Daily Amount Spent on Drugs

<i>n=343</i>	Percentage	Frequency
Per day £		
5-20	9%	31
25-40	25%	85
50-80	25%	85
85-140	21%	72
150-200	14%	48
220+	6%	22
Total	100%	343
	Mean: £96	Mode £40

To determine on how many days per week users purchased drugs, respondents were asked how much per week they spent on drugs. The answers provided, together with the stated amounts spent per day, give some indication of the number of days users purchase drugs. The average sum was £434. This average was influenced by a number of very big spenders. The most frequently cited amount was £200. A reasonable estimate for the number of days users purchase drugs is 5 days a week. The amounts of money spent on drugs per week is shown in Table 3.13. 28% spent between £200 - £300, 23% spent between £525 - £1000, compared to 20% who spent between £350 - £500 a week. 11% spent under £100 a week, while 4% spent over £1,000 per week.

Table 3.13: Weekly Amount Spent on Drugs

<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
10-40	4%	15
42-90	7%	25
100-160	13%	46
200-300	28%	95
350-500	20%	69
525-1000	23%	80
1000+	4%	14
Total	100%	344
<i>n=344</i>	Mean: £434.01	Mode: £200

Who Introduced Respondents to Drugs?

The majority of respondents, 81%, (n=344) were introduced to drugs by a friend, which is consistent with the findings of Heywood⁽³⁾. 5% were introduced to drugs by their siblings and 1% by their parents. The remaining 13% said they were introduced by unspecified others. 86% of respondents now had friends using drugs and 62% of the friends were using Heroin. 2% gave no response to this question. Table 3.14 provides details on who first introduced respondents to drugs.

Table 3.14: Who Introduced Respondent to Drugs?

<i>n=344</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Father	1%	4
Mother	0%	1
Brother	4%	15
Sister	1%	2
Friend	81%	276
Other	13%	46
Total	100%	344

Method, Location & Source of Drug Use

Of respondents using Heroin, 48% usually injected their drug while 35% smoked it. The remainder gave no response. The total number of respondents who said they smoked heroin was 103. 40% of respondents said that they usually take their drugs at home while 25% usually take them with friends. 64% of respondents get their drugs in their neighbourhood, the remainder get them elsewhere. 46% generally use a local dealer as their supplier, 33% use an unknown dealer and 10% get their drugs from a friend. Even though the majority of respondents said they used a local dealer as their main supplier, 80% said they did not always use the same individual as supplier.

SECTION C: HEALTH

Treatment

Respondents were asked had they ever sought treatment for drug addiction (n=351) and 74% replied that they had. Of those who sought treatment, 82% did actually receive treatment. The main reason for not receiving treatment was respondents were placed on a waiting list, 57%. Unstated “other” reasons made up the remaining 43%.

When asked what or who made them seek treatment, of those who replied (n=261) 36% said they themselves made the decision to seek treatment, while 14% said it was their family. The Criminal Justice System was responsible for 5% deciding to seek treatment. A further 5% were persuaded by their spouse or partner. 35% of respondents answered ‘others’. Table 3.15 presents details on who made respondents seek treatment.

Table 3.15: Who Made Respondents Seek Treatment?

n=261	Percentage	Frequency
Themselves	47%	123
Family	31%	80
Spouse/Partner	5%	14
Friends	0%	0
Courts\Garda\Probation Service	5%	14
Other	11%	30
Total	100%	261

Type of Treatment

198 respondents answered this question. The type of treatment respondents received varied from methadone/physeptone treatment, detoxification to counselling. 34% received methadone treatment while 11% went to detoxification, 8% were placed on physeptone treatment and 4% received counselling.

When asked how did they rate the treatment they have received, 26% of respondents rated their treatment as good, 16% rated their treatment as very good, while 21% though it was useless. 37% gave no response.

46 respondents admitted they had attended more than one treatment centre at the same time. 25 had attended two other centres and 21 had attended one other centre at the same time.

81 respondents said they had never looked for treatment. When asked why they had never looked for treatment 73 responded to the question and eight failed to respond. 36% said they did not need treatment, 23% did not know why they had not sought treatment. 20% said treatment was pointless, 11% felt it was too hard to get to a centre and 10% thought they would not be accepted for treatment. Table 3.16 highlights the reasons for not seeking treatment.

Table 3.16: Reasons for Not Seeking Treatment

	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Pointless	20%	15
Too hard to get to centre	11%	8
1 would not be accepted for treatment	10%	7
1 do not need treatment	36%	26
Don't Know	23%	17
Total	100%	73

SECTION D: INCOME

Income Sources

59% rated crime as their source of most money. 32% said crime provided some money while 9% said it was not applicable. 51% rated social welfare/dole as providing most money, 34%

said it provided some and 15% said it was not applicable. 83% of respondents said employment was not applicable as a source of income, 11% said it provided most money and 6% provided some money.

Type of Crime and Frequency of Crime

When asked what type of crime they were involved in respondents most frequently answered burglary and shoplifting. Robbery, stealing from cars and drug dealing were the next most prevalent crimes. Drug dealing, burglary, shoplifting, stealing from cars and robbery scored highest in the “sometimes” category. The “never” category answers ranged from 6% to 20%. The highest scoring “never” were prostitution and begging. The lowest were shoplifting 7% and stealing from cars at 8%. “No answer” was most prevalent in relation to begging 81%, prostitution 77%, and fraud 73%.

Use of Weapons

143 or 41% of respondents said they had never used a weapon while committing a crime. 116 or 33% of respondents said they had used a weapon. The remaining 26% did not respond to the question. Of the respondents who admitted using a weapon 106 specified the type of weapon used, 10 failed to reply. The majority, 63% used knives, 25% had used a firearm, 8% admitted using a syringe and 3% had used a club or stick. Table 3.17 shows the breakdown of weapons used.

Table 3.17: Type of Weapons Used

n=106	Percentage	Frequency
Firearm	25%	27
Knife	63%	67
Syringe	8%	9
Stick	3%	3
Total	100%	106

Have Respondents Been Involved in Criminal Activity in the Last Year?

72% answered “yes”, while 13% gave no response; the remaining 15% said “no”. When asked how often they were involved in crime, 34% of respondents were involved in crime more than once a day, 18% once a day, 17% more than one day a week and 12% once a week.

Respondents were asked where did/do they usually commit their crimes, 254 answered this question. Of those who responded 122, or 48%, indicated only one location, the remaining

132 (52%) provided more than one location. The city centre was nominated by 154 respondents as a location where they committed their crimes. 105 respondents answered ‘this neighbourhood’. 82 stated the south city suburbs. Surrounding counties accounted for 40. 29 stated the north city suburbs. The midlands accounted for 23, the west. 20, the north 14 and the south 7. Table 3.18 provides details on locations respondents travel to in order to commit crime.

Table 3.18: Locations Where Respondents Usually Committed Crime

<i>n=254</i>	Frequency
This neighbourhood	105
City Centre	154
South city suburbs	82
North city suburbs	29
Surrounding counties	40
Midlands	23
West	20
North	7
South	11

It would appear that when they travel to commit crime, 37%, of drug users, travel by car. Other forms of transport used were, 29% would travel on foot, 22% used a bus, 6% would use the Dart⁵ and 3% the train. 3% used other unspecified means of transport. Table 3.19 presents details of transport used.

Figure 3.19: Means of Transport

	<i>Percentage</i>
Car	37%
Bus	22%
Dart	6%
Train	3%
Walk	29%
Other	3%
Total	100%

45% of respondents always travelled with friends to commit crimes while 31% always travelled alone and 24% travelled alone or with friends to commit crimes.

⁵ Dart is the operating name for the Dublin Area Rapid Transit, a commuter rail link between Bray and Howth running through the city centre.

How old Were Respondents When They First Got In Trouble With The Law

Most respondents first got into trouble at a young age, under 20 years (92%). Only 8% first got into trouble when they were aged over 20. The mean age of respondents getting into trouble with the law was 15 years old. The most frequently occurring age was 14 years. 50% of respondents were between 11-15 years old compared to 35% between 16 - 20 years. Table 3.20 provides a breakdown of the frequency of ages when respondents first got in trouble with the law.

Table 3. 20: Age First in Trouble with the Law

<i>n=327</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
6-10	8%	6
11-15	50%	162
16-20	35%	114
20+	8%	25
Total	100%	327

What Were Respondents in Trouble For?

Respondents were first in trouble for offences not directly linked to drugs. Most of these were property theft. The majority of respondents, 68%, (n=336) were first in trouble for larceny, burglary or robbery. 17% cited stealing cars (joy riding) as the first encounter with the Criminal Justice System. 4% said a drug related offence and 2% said violence or assault type offence. 9% said other unspecified offences. Table 3.21 provides details of respondents first offence.

Table 3.21: First Offence

<i>n=336</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Larceny or similar offence (burglary, robbery etc.)	68%	229
Violence/assaults	2%	7
Drug offence	4%	15
Stealing cars (joy riding)	17%	56
Other offences	9%	29
Total	100%	336

Development of Drug/Crime Career

The question of which came first, criminal activity or drug taking, is important and the evidence from the questionnaire would suggest that for those respondents who provided answers (n=326) the majority(51%) were involved in crime before they started drug taking. For 19% their crime and drug careers started contemporaneously and 30% started taking drugs before they became involved in crime.

Drug Dealing Activity

When respondents were asked had they ever sold drugs (n=345) 49% admitted they had and 51% said they had not. Those who admitted selling drugs included those who acted as couriers or look-outs, or acted as tasters to check on the purity of drugs. Heroin and Cocaine is never sold in a pure form, it is mixed with various ingredients to dilute it down. To test the purity of the mix some drug users act as a sort of quality control and taste the drug prior to it being sold on the street. Respondents were asked if they were accused of supplying drugs; and of those who admitted selling drugs, (n=169), 60% had been accused of doing so by the Gardai compared to 29% being accused by community activists and 17% by neighbours. Of those who denied ever selling drugs 19% had been accused of doing so by the Gardai. 8% had been accused by the local community or community activists.

Family Involvement in Crime:

50% of respondents said members of their families were not involved in crime, 48% said members of their families were involved in crime, while 2% gave no response. Those who said yes (n=168), were then asked to specify which members of their family were involved in crime. Brothers dominated this category. 57% of cases cited an older, and 37% a younger, brother as having been involved in crime. The next most cited family member was an older sister at 11%, followed by a spouse at 10%.

Prison Experience

81% of respondents had been to prison, 17% said they had not and 2% gave no response. Of those who had been to prison, (n=285), 49% of respondents had received treatment for drug addiction while in prison, 31% said they had not, while 20% gave no response.

SECTION E: LIFESTYLE

Second Chance

Respondents were asked if they had to do things over again what changes would they make to their lives. Respondents could provide more than one answer. 78% of respondents said they would avoid drugs. 69% said they would stay longer at school. 54% said they would stay out of trouble with the law. 52% and 43% would prepare for a job, and have different friends respectively.

Impact of Gardai

52 % of respondents believed the Gardai occasionally made it difficult to get drugs. 34% believed they had no impact, while 13% said the Gardai always made it difficult to obtain drugs. The majority, 66%, of respondents thought it easy to get drugs compared to 24% who thought it was difficult. 10% didn't know. Despite this, when asked had it become more difficult to obtain drugs in the last six months, of those who responded (n=330), 68% of respondents believed it had, 18% believed it had not while 12% did not know. Table 3.22 provides a breakdown.

Table 3.22: Has it Become More Difficult to Obtain Drugs ?

<i>n=330</i>	Percentage	Frequency
Yes	68%	225
No	19%	63
Don't Know	13%	42
Total	100%	330

When the 225 respondents who thought it had become more difficult in the past six months to obtain drugs were asked to specify why, 51%, (n=221) said it was because of increased Garda activity, many respondents put this down simply as a “drought” or shortage of Heroin at street level. 32% said it was due to actions of vigilantes, 4% due to community groups. 13% said it was due to other unspecified reasons. Table 3.23 provides details on why respondents thought it had become more difficult to obtain drugs.

Table 3.23: Reasons it is Now More Difficult to Obtain Drugs

<i>n=221</i>	Percentage	Frequency
Gardai\Drought\Dochas⁶	51%	112
Vigilantes	32%	71
Community Groups	4%	10
Other	13%	28
Total	100%	221

If Respondents are Not Using Drugs How do They Feel?

36% of respondents say they feel ill when not using drugs compared to 31% who feel very ill and 30% who feel normal when they are not using drugs. 3% made no response. At the moment 35% of respondents feel their health is just O.K., 23% good and 21% poor and 12% very poor. As regards needle sharing, 57% of respondents replied they had never shared a needle, 37% had occasionally shared needles, while 4% regularly shared needles.

Changes in Drug Use

76% of respondents had increased their drug use including 36% who had gone from soft to I hard drugs. 11% of those responding said their habits have not changed. The remaining 13% ; failed to reply. Drug users appear to be under no illusions about the difficulty of giving up drugs, with only 10% saying it would be easy and 18% currently claiming to be off drugs. This may be a kind of coping out by users, in that they do not have to take responsibility for their addiction. But at the very least it presents a major challenge to treatment centres. Table 3.24 illustrates how hard respondents feel it is to give up drugs.

Table 3.24: How Hard is it to Give Up Drugs ?

	Percentage	Frequency
Easy	8%	29
Hard	29%	103
Very hard	36%	126
Impossible	9%	30
Off drugs now	18%	64
Total	100%	352

⁶ Drought is a term used by drug users when the supply of drugs has been curtailed by the Gardai sufficiently to cause a shortage.

Operation Dochas (Hope) is a Garda operation concentrating on street dealing and consumption of drugs.

Where do respondents see themselves in 12 months?

Respondents were asked to sum up in a few words where they thought they would be in 12 months time. On the positive side, 22% of respondents were hopeful they would off drugs in a years time. 20% hope to be working full time. 7% wanted to live in their own place. On the more negative side, 15% think they will be in prison in 12 months. 9% though they would still be the same (i.e. on drugs), and 4% felt they would be dead. 22% either did not know or did not respond. The majority are still optimistic about the future, despite their involvement with drugs. Table 3.25 presents details on respondent's future hopes.

Table 3.25: Future Hopes

	Percentage
Off drugs	22%
Working	20%
Dead	4%
In Prison	15%
Same	9%
Living in own Place	7%
Don't Know	13%
Other	11%
Total	100%

Chapter 4

The Link Between Drug Abuse and Detected Crime

Introduction

From phase one of the research, the details of hard drug users in each District in the D.M.A. were established. With this information it was possible for the first time to identify what percentage of detected crime is committed by hard drug users. All the D.M.A. crime report forms C.I and C.2 for the period 1st September 1995 to the 30th of August 1996 were examined. Individuals named on the forms were matched against the database of known drug abusers in order to establish the number and percentage of drug users and non drug users involved in crime. The figures discovered are highlighted below.

These figures relate only to detected crime and it would be dangerous to relate the percentage of detected crime committed by known drug users to the overall amount of crime committed. There are several reasons for this. For example, drug users are generally well known to the Gardai and if a victim provides a good description of offender they are more likely to be apprehended. Also, by their very nature, drug users are more desperate than non drug users and may take more risks, thereby increasing their likelihood of being apprehended. Despite these reservations the figures do provide an indication of the amount of crime drug users are responsible for committing.

Main Points

- Burglary and larceny from unattended cars account for 48% of all reported indictable crime committed in the D.M.A.
- Burglary and larceny from shops accounted for 46% of all detected crime.
- 7,757 individuals were responsible for committing 19,046 detected crimes.
- 3,365 or 43% were known drug users.
- These 3,365 committed 12,583 of the detected crime (66%).
- 31% of drug users committed more than 3 crimes, while only 8% of non drug users committed more than 3. The maximum number of crimes committed by a drug user was 147, for non drug users the maximum was 33.

- 85% of all detected aggravated burglary, 84% of detected larceny from unattended cars, 82% of detected burglary and muggings were committed by drug users.
- Non drug users committed 83% of all detected sexual offences, 78% of detected murders and assaults respectively and 61% of detected fraud type offences.
- Detected cases of shoplifting were committed 50/50 by drug users and non drug users.

Top Five Crimes Recorded in the D.M.A.

Between the 1st September 1995 and 30th August 1996 there were 52,833 indictable crimes recorded in the D.M.A.. 19,047 of these crimes were detected which represents a detection rate of 36%. Details on all detected crimes and offenders responsible for the crime are contained on a crime report form C.2. The five most frequent crimes within the D.M.A. are set out in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Five Most Frequent Indictable Crimes

No.	Crime	As % of All Crime
1	Burglary 27%	27%
2	Larceny from Unattended Vehicle 21%	21%
3	Other Larcenies 13%	13%
4	Larceny from Shop 9%	9%
5	Larceny - Pick Pocket 5%	5%
	Total	76%

The top five indictable crimes detected are somewhat different. Burglary is still number one accounting for 25% of all detected indictable crime. Larceny from shops accounts for a greater share at 21%, while larceny from unattended vehicles and other larcenies diminishes. Handling stolen property replaces larcenies by pickpocket as the fifth most frequently detected crime. Table 4.2 gives details.

Table 4.2: Top Five Detected Indictable Crimes

No	Crime	Number of Crimes	As a % of All Detected Crime
1	Burglary	4,675	25%
2	Larceny from Shop	3,989	21%
3	Larceny from Unattended Vehicle	3,092	16%
4	Other Larcenies	1,520	8%
5	Handling	1,143	6%
	Total	14419	76%
	Total Detected	19047	

Number of Apprehended Drug Users in the D.M.A.

All C.2 forms for the period in question were examined and by matching information from phase one of the study, it was possible to determine which offenders were known hard drug abusers. Within the D.M.A there were 7,757 individual offenders responsible for 19,046 detected indictable crimes. Looked at in simple terms each individual committed 2.2 crimes. But there is a difference between drug users and non drug users which will be outlined below. Of the 7,757 offenders, 3,365 or 43% are known to be hard drug users. For the purpose of this study, the remaining 4,392 or 57% are regarded as non drug users. Table 4.3 shows the number of offenders.

Table 4.3: Number of Offenders -D.M.A.

No. of Drug Users	3,365	43%
No. of Non Drug Users	4,392	57%
Total	7,757	

Examination of the C.2 forms revealed that the number of detected crimes committed by drug users was 12,583, or 66%. Non drug users were responsible for 6,463, 34%. Table 4.4 shows the breakdown of crimes by known drug users and non drug users.

Table 4.4 Drug Use and Detected Crimes

No. of Detected Crimes	19,046	
No. of Detected Crimes by Drug Users	12,583	66%
No. of Detected Crimes by Non Drug Users	6,463	34%

The 3,365 identified drug users were responsible for 12,583 detected crimes, or approximately 3.7 per individual. The 4,392 non drug users were responsible for 6,463 or approximately 1.5 per individual. Thus every drug user was responsible for 2.5 times more crime than every non drug user.

Rates of Recidivism Between Drug Users and Non Drug Users

The majority of all offenders, 70%, were apprehended for one crime only, 12% for two crimes, 10% for between 3-5, and only 7% for more than five crimes. The highest number of crimes per one single offender was 147. Table 4.5 outlines the frequency of crime per offender.

Table 4.5: Frequency of Crime by Offender

Frequency of Crime	Number of Offenders	%
1	5440	70%
2	911	12%
3-5	805	10%
6-10	301	4%
11 -20	190	2%
21-50	97	1%
51+	13	0%
<u>Total</u>	<u>7757</u>	
Highest	147	

The frequency of crime by drug users and non drug users in the 12 month period was then examined. The rates of commission of crime were different for both. 54% of drug users were apprehended for just 1 crime, while for non drug users it was 83%. For 2 crimes, 15% of drug users were apprehended, for non drug users it was 8%. 16% of drug users were apprehended for 3 - 5 crimes, while for non drug users it was just 6%. For between 6-10 crimes it was 7% for drug users, for non drug users it was 1%. 5% of drug users were responsible for between 11 - 20 crimes, for non drug users it was only 1%. For 21 to 50 crimes there was 3% of drug users and 0% for non drug users. Finally, 13 drug users were apprehended for more than 51 crimes, while no non drug user committed more than 33 crimes. The typical amount of detected crime committed by drug users is 4, for non drug users the typical amount is 1. Table 4.6 shows the frequency of crime for drug users and non drug users.

Table 4.6: Frequency of Crime Drug Users/Non Drug Users

<i>Drug Users</i>		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Non Drug Users</i>	
<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>		<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1806	53.61%	1	3636	82.78%
506	15.03%	2	405	9.22%
548	16.28%	3-5	257	5.85%
249	7.39%	6-10	52	1.18%
157	4.66%	11 -20	33	0.75%
88	2.61%	21-50	9	0.20%
13	0.38%	51+	0	0 %
3365		Total	4392	
147		<i>Maximum</i>	33	

Type of Crime

The type of crime committed in the D.M.A., ranges from armed robbery to petty larceny. Table 4.7 outlines the type of crime detected and numbers committing.

Table 4.7: Detected Crime & Number Apprehended

<i>Type of Crime</i>	<i>Drug Users</i>		<i>Non Drug Users</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	
Armed Aggravated Burglary	56	75%	19	25%	75
Aggravated Burglary	316	85%	54	15%	370
Burglary	3844	82%	830	18%	4674
Armed Robbery	18	72%	7	28%	25
Robbery	663	78%	185	22%	848
Mugging	400	82%	86	18%	486
Larceny from Person	363	84%	68	16%	431
Larceny from Shop	1986	50%	2003	50%	3989
Larceny from Unattended Vehicles	2588	84%	504	16%	3092
Other Larcenies	805	53%	715	47%	1520
Fraud	255	39%	407	61%	662
Handling	609	53%	534	47%	1143
Malicious Damage	383	36%	673	64%	1056
Sexual Offenses	10	17%	50	83%	60
Murder	2	22%	7	78%	9
Assaults	29	22%	103	78%	132
Possession of Article with Intent	177	59%	124	41%	301
Other	79	46%	94	54%	173
Total	12583	66%	6463	34%	19046

Drug users are responsible for 85% of all detected aggravated burglaries, 82% of detected burglaries, and 75% of all detected armed aggravated burglaries, were committed by drug users, 84% of detected muggings and 82% of detected larcenies from the person (pick pocket) were carried out by drug users. Drug users were involved in 78% of all detected robberies and 72% of detected armed robberies. 84% of detected larcenies from unattended vehicles were carried out by drug users.

Certain offences are more likely to be committed by non drug users. For instance 83% of detected sexual assaults were committed by non drug users and 78% of all murders and assaults, 64% of malicious damage and 61% of fraud cases. Larceny from shops or shoplifting was carried out 50:50 by both groups.

Division of Residence - Offenders Apprehended in The D.M.A.

Of the 7,757 offenders who were apprehended in the D.M.A., 1,885 (24%) were residing in the Southern Division. 1,817 (23%) in the Northern Division. 1,597 (21%) in the North Central Division- 1,296 (17%) in the South Central Division. 853 (11%) were residing in the Eastern Division. 197 (3%) were residing outside the D.M.A and 112 (1%) Division of residence was unknown. Table 4.8 provides a breakdown of the Division of residence for offenders for Drug Users and Non Drug Users.

Table 4.8: Division of Residence - Offenders Apprehended in the D.M.A.

<i>Division</i>	<i>Drug Users</i>		<i>Non Drug Users</i>		<i>All Offenders</i>	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
East	231	7%	622	14%	853	11%
South	735	22%	1150	26%	1855	24%
South Central	624	19%	672	15%	1296	17%
North	844	25%	973	22%	1817	23%
North Central	867	26%	730	17%	1597	21%
Non D.M.A.	40	1%	157	4%	197	3%
Unknown	24	1%	88	2%	112	1%
Total	3,365	100%	4,392	100%	7757	100%

Chapter 5

Estimate of the Percentage of Crime Committed by Drug Users

Introduction

To estimate the amount of crime committed by known hard drug users to fund their drug habit, the method suggested by Dom et al⁽⁴⁾ has been adopted. They developed a model to estimate the financial cost of acquisitive crime committed by dependent heroin users in England and Wales. By utilising this method it is possible to arrive at a figure or a range of figures for the proportion of acquisitive type crime committed to finance the purchase of drugs. Acquisitive type crime accounts for 91% of all indictable crime within the D.M.A. The model is based on a number of assumptions. By applying information learned from phase one and two of the research project, it is possible to improve on the accuracy of these assumptions, thus increasing the validity of the final figure arrived at.

Estimating the Percentage of Crime Committed by Drug Users

In order to estimate the percentage of crime committed by drug users several key pieces of information are required:

- A. The quantity of heroin consumed by a dependent user
- B. The cost of heroin per dependent user
- C. Number of dependent heroin users in the D.M.A.

These three factors allow us to calculate:

- D. The total cost of heroin used by dependent users

We then estimate the amount of income available to heroin users:

- E. The amount of heroin users income which is derived from “other” sources

This allows us to calculate:

- F. The amount of heroin users income which is derived from crime.

Next the multiplier for stolen property is calculated:

- G. The multiplier for the value of stolen property sold by the user

This allows calculation of the amount of drug related acquisitive type crime:

- H. The amount of crime committed by drug users to purchase heroin.

This can be expressed as a percentage of total crime

A: The Quantity of Heroin Consumed by a Dependent User

In the survey of drug users, respondents were asked how much they spent per day and per week on drugs (see p 23). The most frequently cited amount was £40 a day, (in 1996 a $\frac{1}{2}$ gram of heroin cost £40). The most frequently cited weekly amount spent on drugs was £200 (see p 24). The expected result if users purchased drugs seven days a week should be £280 a week. A reasonable estimation, therefore, of the number of days a week a typical user purchases drugs would be five. This would suggest that the average drug user in the D.M.A. uses $\frac{1}{2}$ of a gram of heroin for 260 days in a year. In other words, $\frac{1}{2}$ of a gram of heroin on five out of seven days over a year.

In comparison with surveys carried out in other countries this figure compares reasonably well. In Scotland it was found that heavy users of opiates took them on 285 days a year⁽⁵⁾. In England and Wales the frequency was 1 of a gram of heroin a day for 228 days⁽⁶⁾. While accepting the obvious difficulties in transposing specific statistics from other countries into an Irish situation, the data are fairly consistent.

B: The Cost of Heroin Per User

Based on information from the Garda National Drugs Unit and the North Central Divisional drugs unit based at Store Street Garda Station the estimate for the retail cost of a gram of heroin in 1996 was £80.

By combining this figure with A, it is possible to calculate how much a dependent heroin user spends on his/her drug habit per year. This is estimated to be approximately £10,400 per annum, (i.e. £40 x 260).

C: The Number of Dependant Heroin Users in the D.M.A.

Results from phase one of the research project suggest that at a minimum there are 4,105 hard drug users within the D.M.A. Of these 94% or 3860 are heroin/opiate users. From the survey of drug users it was found that 18% are either receiving treatment or off drugs at any one time. Again from the survey it was found that the majority were actively involved in crime and consequently there was a likelihood of their being in prison at some time during a

year. In a recent study of Mountjoy prisoners, O'Mahony⁽⁷⁾ found that within a selective sample 66% of the 650 inmates were Heroin users. Approximately 85% of the Mountjoy prison population are resident in the D.M.A. Thus, it might be assumed that at any one time there are approximately 365 D.M.A. heroin users in prison. Using these figures we can calculate that there are 2,800 dependent heroin/opiate users, who are actively purchasing heroin. Because of the very nature of drug use and the drug culture, it is impossible to know the exact number of drug users in Dublin. But the figure mentioned above represents all drug users who have either come in contact with or are known to the Gardai as being hard drug users. As such it is a reasonable estimate of the number involved in criminal activity.

D: The Total Cost of Heroin Used

By putting together factors A, B and C, it is possible to calculate the total cost of heroin used:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total cost of heroin} &= \text{Cost per user} \times \text{number of users} \\ &= £10,400 \times 2,800 \\ &= £29,122,080 \end{aligned}$$

The estimate for the total annual cost of heroin consumed by dependent heroin users is thus £29 million,

E: The Amount of Income Derived from "Other" Sources

There are a variety of income sources available to drug users and the results from the survey ^ of drug abusers would suggest that all are availed of before the drug user turns to acquisitive crime. These income sources include the following;

- 1) Legitimate sources of income
- 2) Illegal sources of income i.e. non larceny-type crime
- 3) Family or peer support

1) Legitimate sources of income

The legitimate sources of income available to heroin users include social welfare payments and Health Board supplements i.e. rent allowance. From the survey of drug users the average dependent user receives approximately £60 from the Department of Social Welfare and a further £20 from the Eastern Health Board, which provides a cash income of £80 per week.

2) Illegal sources of income

From the survey of drug users it was discovered that 48% of heroin users admit to being involved in drug dealing themselves, either selling drugs or acting as couriers or look outs. This is true particularly for heavy users of heroin. This drug dealing is undertaken purely to fund their own drug habit and not for profit per se. Once again from our survey and based on intelligence from the Divisional Drug Units⁽⁸⁾, we can estimate that the average amount received from drug dealing by those users who engage in dealing is approximately £200 per week. Averaged out between all dependent users, the amount is approximately £100 per week per user.

Prostitution also provides a source of income particularly for women, with 15% of women in the survey of drug users admitting that they receive some income from prostitution. None of the men surveyed admitted to being involved in either prostitution or pimping, which does reflect some under-reporting by the men, amongst whom selling sex may be more stigmatised. The average amount of money received from prostitution is approximately £500 per week⁽⁹⁾. Averaged out between all dependent female users this amounts to £80 per week or £12 per week averaged out between male and females.

3) Family or peer support

From phase one and two of the research project it was established that the majority (79%) of drug users reside with either their parents (58%), other relatives or friends (12%) or partners (9%). It is reasonable to assume, particularly for those living in the parental home, that their food, shelter, and ordinary living expenses are provided for them- A Study in the United States⁽¹⁰⁾ has shown that dependent drug users obtain “favours” or hustle material resources from those around them, particularly family and friends, thus avoiding some cash

expenditures. The equivalent money value of avoided expenditures was approximately equal to the value of expenditure on shelter, food and other daily non-drug related expenditure. Ordinary day-to-day living expenses were covered through this avoided expenditure. This provides us with a working assumption that aggregate monetary income from all sources is equal to aggregate expenditure on heroin.

By combing all sources of income available to drug users it is possible to arrive at an estimate of the net weekly income as follows;

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|
| 1) | Legitimate sources of income | £80 paid weekly for 52 weeks a year |
| 2) | Illegal sources of income | £112, 5 times a day or 37 weeks a year |
| 3) | Family or peer support | All living expenses |

Over a year this amounts to the following;

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) | Legitimate sources of income | £80 x 52 weeks =£4,160 |
| 2) | Illegal sources of income | £112 x 37.14 weeks =£4,144 |
| 3) | Family or peer support | Living expenses x 52 weeks |
| | Total (1+2) | £8,304 |

Over a year an average dependent drug user would have an income of approximately £8,304.

When applied to all drug users this works out as;

$$£8,304 \times 2,800 = £23,251,200$$

The amount of income available to drug users other than from crime i.e. approximately £23 million per annum.

F: The Amount of Income Heroin Users Derive from Crime

In order to have a reasonable accurate estimate for the amount of crime committed in the D.M.A., both reported and unreported crime must be included. For reported crime the information was provided by the Computer Crime Section at Garda Headquarters. The details

of all indictable crimes reported to the Gardai are entered onto a crime report form C.I. This includes the value of property stolen. Between September 1995 and August 1996 there were 58,538 indictable crimes recorded in the D.M.A. The total value of property stolen was £31 million.

The total value of property stolen within the State was £52.5 million. Criminals residing in the D.M.A. are also responsible for a certain percentage of crime committed outside the D.M.A. Based on information received from the survey of drug users, it is estimated that 20% of property stolen outside the D.M.A. is stolen by offenders residing in the D.M.A.. The value of this stolen property is thus £4 million, giving a total value of £35 million for property stolen in the D.M.A.

Unreported crime is more problematic. The exact amount is unknown and can only be estimated. There are a variety of reasons why certain criminal acts may not be reported to the Gardai. O'Connell and Whelan⁽¹¹⁾ have identified several reasons why crimes go unreported: their criminal quality is not appreciated, they are thought too trivial, it may be felt that nothing can be achieved by reporting, fear of reprisal, victims are compromised by the occurrence or because the crime has no victim. Victim of crime surveys attempt to capture the proportion of crime which goes unreported. These surveys have their own disadvantages, i.e. respondents may exaggerate events or telescope into the survey period events which occurred at some other time. Despite their drawbacks victim of crime surveys can provide some insight into the level of underreporting. The 1993 British Crime Survey (BCS)⁽¹²⁾ found that some 50% of crime was not reported. But more recent workings of the BCS findings indicate that a large proportion of the unreported crimes were so minor that they would not be regarded as crimes by the Police. For offences that are serious enough to warrant a prison sentence, the number of unreported crimes was small. In Ireland Breen and Rottman⁽¹³⁾ found that 64% of car-related crime and 85% of burglaries were reported. Although not primarily concerned with unreported crime as such. Murphy and Whelan found that 91% of crimes noted in their survey were reported to the Gardai. A recent crime survey carried out in Dublin in 1994 by O'Connell and Whelan⁽¹¹⁾ found that 19% of all crime, both indictable and non indictable, was not reported to the Gardai. The precise level of unreported crime can never be determined, but for the purpose of this study the percentage (19%) suggested by O'Connell and Whelan is used as an indication.

The total value of property stolen then is the amount reported and unreported. The value of reported property stolen is £35 million which represents 81% of all property stolen, reported and unreported. The “missing” 19% is approximately £8 million.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{£35 million} + \text{£8 million} \\ & = \text{£43 million} \end{aligned}$$

G: The Multiplier for the Value of Stolen Property Sold by Users

The general assumption is that stolen property is sold for approximately one third of its value⁽¹⁵⁾ This is the figure assumed here, although it is possible that drug users, often desperate to raise finance, dispose of stolen property for less. When applied to the total figure for stolen property it gives an approximation of the amount obtained by criminals from stolen property. The estimate is as follows:

$$\text{£43 million} / 0.33 = \text{£14 million}$$

The value of stolen property to the stealer is approximately £14 million.

H: The Percentage of Crime Committed to Purchase Heroin

It is now possible to estimate the amount of larceny-type crime committed by drug users to finance their drug habit, as follows;

- 1) Amount of money needed to purchase Heroin = 29 million
- 2) Amount available from “Other” sources = £23 million
- 3) Amount needed from crime - 1 - 2 = £6 million
- 4) Total value of stolen property to criminal = £14 million
- 5) % of crime to fund purchase of heroin = 43%

Thus the percentage of larceny-type crime committed to purchase heroin is 43% This is in contrast to the 66% of detected crime drug users are responsible for (page 37). This difference can be explained partly by the reasons already mentioned (page 34) and partly

because it is likely that (i) drug users get less for what they steal (i.e. less than a 1/3), (ii) drug users carry out more low value crimes and (iii) the percentage for unreported crime may be too high. Further study into this aspect was outside the time frame of this project.

As pointed out earlier larceny-type crime accounts for 91% of all indictable crime. Of the remaining 9% from the analysis of detected crime it was found that drug users were responsible for 35%. If drugs users commit 50% of all larceny-type crime and approximately 35% of the remainder then their share of overall crime is 42%. This estimate must be treated with caution, based as it is on many assumptions.

Chapter 6

Concluding Remarks

From Garda records it has been possible to build a demographic picture of known drug users residing within the D.M.A., the number and location of drug users in each Garda District has important policy implications for all agencies concerned in tackling the problems caused by drug dependence. There are 4,105 hard drug abusers known to the Gardai in the D.M.A.. These individuals represent the serious end of the spectrum of drug users. When compared to the total population there are significant number residing in the inner city Districts, (A, B, C and D, see Appendix 3). Also significant is the age breakdown of drug users particularly within the 15 to 20 year age group.

Garda records show that a typical drug user can be described as being male, addicted to Heroin, aged between 15 and 25 years, unemployed, single, living with parents and having a criminal record. This is the first time that a reliable figure, based on Garda records, of the number and station of residence of drug abusers within the D.M.A. has been available. This information can now form the basis for studying the links between drug abuse and the commission of crime.

The survey of drug users was carried out in order to gain some insight into the lifestyle and criminality of drug users. 352 drug users were interviewed. Not surprisingly questions on involvement in crime tended to produce a less than 100% response rate. Nevertheless, the responses given do provide some very useful and informative answers, which can assist policy makers in their efforts to tackle drug use and dependence.

Over one third of respondents had left school before the official school leaving age and two thirds of all respondents had no educational qualification on leaving school. This together with the fact that four fifths of respondents had either a poor or no understanding of the effects of drug use and that the main reason cited for experimenting with drugs was simple curiosity, poses important questions for drugs awareness programmes, particularly concerning

those vulnerable individuals in their early teens, who for various reasons find themselves outside the education system at an early age.

Illicit drugs are primarily sourced within the users own neighbourhood, usually from a known or local dealer, but not necessarily the same dealer. The availability of drugs within local neighbourhoods has been greatly curtailed in recent months. Users readily admitted this with approximately two thirds of respondents claiming that since December 1996 it has become difficult to obtain drugs.

The reduction in the supply of drugs in recent months has been influenced by a number of factors. Firstly, organised and concerted action against drug dealing on local housing estates by community and neighbour groups. Secondly, a number of important Garda operations which commenced following the murders of journalist Veronica Guerin and Detective Garda Gerry McCabe in June 1996. These operations were aimed at targeting major criminals and drug traffickers. Thirdly, within the D.M.A. Operation Dochas commenced in November 1996. The aim of Dochas was to increase the Garda presence at local level, provide assistance and support to local communities especially in deprived areas, and contribute to a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to the problem of drug dependence. According to the survey, respondents feel the Garda operations are having a detrimental effect on the supply and availability of street drugs. In order to sustain and improve on this effectiveness resources are continuing to be deployed in a more flexible and imaginative manner.

Three quarters of respondents had at some time sought treatment for their drug addiction. Most received treatment; of those who failed to receive treatment, the majority claimed they failed because they were placed on a waiting list. The implication is that if treatment is not available at the time of request the opportunity may be lost. While it is accepted that the numbers in waiting lists and the period of time spent in such lists are being reduced, it appears much more needs to be done if the caring agencies are to respond fully to the needs of users. Two thirds of those who responded felt the treatment they received was either “very good” or “good” the remaining one third felt it was “useless”. However, despite the fact that most respondents felt that treatment was good, only one fifth of those who received treatment

are currently off illicit drugs. Even with treatment and a desire on the part of the users to break away from their drug dependency it is an extremely difficult problem to overcome.

Almost all respondents admitted they sourced most or some of their income from crime while social welfare payments provide at least some money for over four fifths of respondents. Burglary, shoplifting, robbery, stealing from cars and drug dealing, in that order, were the most frequently cited crimes committed by drug users. One third of respondents admitted that they had used a weapon while committing a crime; just over one quarter failed to respond to the question. Of those who admitted using a weapon just under two thirds used a knife, one quarter used a firearm. Admitting to using a weapon while committing a crime to a Garda may not have seemed an attractive or wise option for a respondent. There is anecdotal evidence from Garda sources that criminals are reluctant to accept or admit involvement in violent larceny-type crime. From the analysis of detected crime it is clear that drug users are involved to a greater extent than admitted in violent larceny-type crime.

Just over half of all respondents were involved with the Criminal Justice System before they were 16 years of age, nearly all who responded were in trouble with the law before they were 20 years old. Two thirds were first in trouble for larceny or similar type crime (burglary, robbery etc.)

In the survey, an attempt was made to establish which comes first, drug use followed by crime or visa versa. The typical age respondents became involved with drugs was 15 years; the mean was 17 years. The typical age respondents first became involved in crime was 14 years, while the mean was 15 years. A slight majority were involved in crime prior to commencing drug use. But what is clear is that drug use does affect the frequency, duration and type of crime committed.

Approximately one half of respondents admitted to having either, sold drugs, acted as couriers or lookouts, or as tasters to check on the purity of street drugs at some time. Most were involved in order to support their own drug taking habit. A sizeable number of drug users were involved in the distribution of drugs, simply to feed their own drug habit. Addicts act as couriers and suppliers in their own communities, and they provide traffickers with a

cheap and expendable front for their nefarious business. Those who make substantial monetary rewards remain at arms length from the day-to-day illicit drug dealing.

There were 52,833 indictable crimes recorded in the D.M.A. during the period under review. Of these 19,046 indictable crimes were detected, which is a detection rate of 36%. Of the detected crimes we know that 12,583 or 66% of detected crime was committed by known drug users. This 66% is the amount of detected crime which can be directly attributed to drug users. Their percentage share of total crime however, is likely to be lower since they are assumed to be less successful in evading detection.

It has been estimated that a typical drug user uses a ½ gram of heroin five days a week. Each dependant heroin user spends approximately £10,400 per year on drugs. The amount spent by all dependent users is approximately £29 million. This figure reflects the turnover generated by hard drugs and that represents a huge illicit market, which results in massive profits for major criminals involved in the drug trade. The formation of the Criminal Assets Bureau is an important step towards the recovery of this income and can help to curtail the huge monetary rewards which are gained from involvement in the illicit drug industry.

It would be almost impossible to say with certainty the exact percentage of crime which drug users are responsible for. An estimate of 42% of all indictable crime has been determined. In arriving at this figure it was accepted that drug users had access to funds from sources other than larceny-type crime. Other sources include, friends and family, welfare support, drug dealing and prostitution. This estimate must be treated with a certain amount of caution, based as it is on many assumptions; however, it does, represent our best possible approximation to existing reality.

While the study substantially met the objectives set for it (see page 1), its real value is in the provision of reliable information which will assist decision makers in the following areas;

- Develop an operational Garda strategy to tackle effectively the drug problem in the communities identified.

- Identify strategies to harness community initiatives to address the problems caused by drug dependence and crime within their own community.
- Identify realistic and effective methods of educating young people about the destructive nature of drugs.
- Examine the need for strategies to keep young people in school longer or to get meaningful employment; current system not meeting their needs.
- Examine the progression of ordinary crime careers and drug related careers, to see among other things, whether drug users are staying in crime longer and becoming involved in more crime.

Further research will be of value in addressing these issues. Of course there is also a need to keep the information collected up-to-date. In order to achieve this, the study will need to be repeated at future dates to determine trends and examine the effectiveness of strategies adopted by various agencies.

References:

- (1) O'Higgins, K & O'Brien, M. Treated Drug Misuse in the Greater Dublin Area, Report of 1995. Health Research Board.
- (2) Inter-Agency Drugs Project. Submission to Ministerial Task Force on Measures to Reduce Demand for Drugs. 1996.
- (3) Heywood, S. Survey of Tipperary Post-Primary Student's Views and Experiences of Illegal Drugs. Garda Research Unit 1996.
- (4) Dorn, Baker & Seddon. Paying for Heroin. Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence. 1994.
- (5) Hammersley, R et al. The Relation between Crime and Opioid Use. The British Journal of Addiction. 1989.
- (6) Hartnoll, R & Lewis, R. The Illicit Heroin Market in Britain. Home Office Research Study. 1988.
- (7) O'Mahony, P. Mountjoy Prisoners. A Sociological & Criminological Profile. Department of Justice. 1997.
- (8) Courage, S. North Central Divisional Drugs Unit.
- (9) Lee, J. Special Detective Unit. Harcourt Square.
- (10) Johnson et al. Taking Care of Business: The Economics of Crime by Heroin Users. Lexington Books. 1985.
- (11) O'Connell, M & Whelan, A. Crime Victimization in Dublin. Irish Criminal Law Journal, 1994. The Roundhall Press.
- (12) British Crime Survey. 1993.
- (13) Breen, R & Rottmann, D. Crime Victimization in the Republic of Ireland. ESRI Paper No.121, 1985.
- (14) Murphy, M & Whelan, B. Survey of Attitudes to the Gardai. ESRI, 1993.
- (15) Report by the Greater Manchester Police Drugs/Crime Working Group, 1992.

Appendix 1

Data Collection Form D.C.I



Instructions

Before completing, please see definition of drug dependency at end of form.

Form D.C.I to be completed in respect of every 'hard drug' user / addict who resides within your district, or who was charged with a criminal offence in your station within the past 6 months. The term 'Hard Drugs' refers to the substances listed at Item 3 (a) overleaf; however, the items shown are not considered to be an exhaustive list. hence the inclusion of 'Other' at number 7. Cannabis is not considered a 'hard drug' for the purposes of this research.

Details of Subject

(Please use block capital letters when completing form)

1. (a) Lastname:
Firstname(s):
Present Address:
.....

Date of Birth:

--	--	--	--	--	--

Station Code of Present Address:

--	--	--	--	--	--

(b) Home / Family Address:
If same as above enter 'same'
.....

Station Code of Home/Family Address:

--	--	--	--	--	--

SEX: M 1 F 2 (Tick as appropriate)

Occupation:

MARITAL STATUS: Married 1 Single 2 Separated / Divorced: 3

Co-habiting 4

Known by Gda / Sgt Reg. No.:

--	--	--	--	--	--

HOME CIRCUMSTANCES:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Living with parents | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Hostel / Homeless |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Living with spouse / partner | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Itinerant |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Living with others / lodging | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-resident |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Living alone | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |

2. (a) **Has subject a criminal record?**

- 1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know

(Tick as appropriate)

If 'Yes' please enter C.R.O. number:

(b) **Has subject ever been cautioned under the J.L.O. Scheme?**

- 1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know

If 'Yes' please enter offences and date if available (use block capitals).

.....
.....
.....

Drug Addiction / Dependency

3. (a) **Indicate by ticking the appropriate box the controlled drug(s) which subject uses or is addicted to.**

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Heroin | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | Ecstasy M.D.A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Methadone | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Cocaine | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| Amphetamine | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | Crack | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | Specify: | | |

(b) Indicate by ticking the appropriate box why subject is considered to be a drug user / drug addict.

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| (1) Subject arrested in possession of drugs for personal use | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Subject admits to being a hard drug user / addict | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Subject is known to be receiving treatment for drug addiction | 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (4) Subject found in possession of drug taking paraphernalia (e.g. needles/syringes/spoons) | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (5) Subject has physical signs of drug use / abuse on body (e.g. needle marks/abscesses etc.) | 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (6) Subject when in custody has sought medical treatment for drug use / abuse | 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (7) Other (Specify):..... | 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

DEFINITION OF DRUG DEPENDENCE

“THE TAKING OF A LEGAL AND/OR ILLEGAL DRUG OR DRUGS (EXCLUDING ALCOHOL OTHER THAN AS A SECONDARY DRUG OF MISUSE, AND TOBACCO) WHICH HARM THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL OR SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE INDIVIDUAL, THE GROUP OR SOCIETY.”

(SRC/Word/general/sergeant/drugs)

Appendix 2
Questionnaire - Form DC 2

Section A - Personal Details

NB Interviewer to complete questions A1-A4 prior to or after interview

A1 Respondent I.D. _____ A2 Interviewer I.D. _____

A3 Date of Interview _____ day _____ month _____ year

A4 Gender of respondent ₁ Male ₂ Female

A5 Date of Birth of respondent _____ day _____ month _____ year

A6 Marital Status: ₁ Married
₂ Single
₃ Widowed
₄ Separated/Divorced
₅ Cohabiting

A7 Home Circumstances
₁ Living with parents ₅ No fixed abode
₂ Living with spouse/partner ₆ Hostel
₃ Living alone ₇ Other, specify _____
₄ Living with others/lodging

A8 House Type
₁ Owner Occupier ₂ Private Rent ₃ Local Authority

A9 Dependants
₁ No dependants ₅ One child dependant only
₂ Adult dependant(s) only ₆ Two or more child dependants
₃ Adult and one child dependant ₇ Other, specify _____
₄ Adult and two or more child dependants

A 10 Employment
₁ Working full-time ₅ At school/college
₂ Working part-time/
on occasional basis ₆ Engaged in home duties
₃ Currently unemployed ₇ Other, specify _____
₄ On FÁS course/scheme

A11 Education - If no longer at school/college, how old were you when you left school
..... years

A12 What qualification did you obtain prior to leaving school/college?
₁ Inter/Junior Cert ₂ Leaving Cert
₃ Third level diploma or degree ₄ None
₅ Other, specify _____

Section B - Drug Use

B1 When did you last use drugs?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Inter/Junior Cert | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ Last 2 - days |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ Over a week ago | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ Over a month ago |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ Last 1 – 12 months | <input type="checkbox"/> ₆ Over a year ago |

B2 What drugs do/did you use?

- | <u>Primary Drug</u> | <u>Secondary (1)</u> | <u>Secondary (2)</u> |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Heroin | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Heroin | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Heroin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ Methadone | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ Methadone | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ Methadone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ Amphetamine | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ Amphetamine | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ Amphetamine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ Ecstasy M.D.A. | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ Ecstasy M.D.A. | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ Ecstasy M.D.A. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ Cocaine | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ Cocaine | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ Cocaine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₆ Crack | <input type="checkbox"/> ₆ Crack | <input type="checkbox"/> ₆ Crack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₇ Cannabis | <input type="checkbox"/> ₇ Cannabis | <input type="checkbox"/> ₇ Cannabis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₈ Other | <input type="checkbox"/> ₈ Other | <input type="checkbox"/> ₈ Other |
| Specify _____ | Specify _____ | Specify _____ |

B3 How frequently do/did you use drugs? [Insert most frequent]

- times a day
 times a week
 times a month

B4 What is the longest amount of time you have gone without using drugs in the past year?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Number of days | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ Number of weeks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ Number of months | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ Now off drugs for a year or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ Never off drugs | |

B5 How old were you when you first took drugs? years

Specify drug

B6 How well did you understand the effects of using drugs on the first occasion?

- ₁ I understood all the effects
₂ I understood some of the effects
₃ I had a poor understanding about the effects
₄ I understood almost nothing about the effects

B7 Why do you think you tried drugs on that occasion?

- ₁ I was feeling stressed
₂ I had a lot of problems at the time
₃ I was curious about it
₄ I simply wanted to feel high
₅ I was put under pressure to try it
₆ Other, specify

B8 How much money do/did you typically spend on drugs? [tick one]
 per day £..... per week £..... per month £.....

B9 Are any members of your family taking drugs at the moment?
₁ Yes go to B11 ₂ No go to B10 ₃ Dk go to B12

B10 Did any members of your family ever take drugs in the past?
₁ Yes go to B11 ₂ No go to B12 ₃ Dk go to B12

B11 What is/was the main drug used by members of your family? [tick box and record main drug]

	Main drug used
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Father	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> ₂ Mother	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> ₃ Older brother	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> ₄ Younger brother	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> ₅ Older sister	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> ₆ Younger sister	_____

B12 Are any of your friends involved in taking drugs at the moment?
₁ Yes ₂ No
If yes, what is the main drug used? _____

B13 How do you usually take your drugs?
₁ Orally specify drug _____
₂ Injection specify drug _____
₃ Smoking specify drug _____

B14 Where do you usually take your drugs?
₁ At Home
₂ Friend's house
₃ Other, specify.....

B15 Where do you usually get your drugs?
₁ This neighbourhood ₂ Elsewhere

B 16 Who do you get your drugs from? [Tick as many as apply]
₁ Spouse/Partner
₂ Brother/Sister
₃ Friend
₄ Local Dealer
₅ Unknown Dealer
₆ Other, specify

B17 Do you always use the same supplier? ₁ Yes ₂ No

B 18 Who introduced you to drugs?
₁ Father ₂ Mother
₃ Brother ₄ Sister
₅ Friend ₆ Other, specify

Section C - Treatment

C1 Have you ever looked for treatment for drug addiction?

₁ Yes go to C2 ₂ No go to C11

C2 What or who made you seek treatment? [Give reason(s)]

.....
.....
.....

C3 Did you receive treatment?

₁ Yes go to C4 ₂ No go to C5

C4 What type of treatment did you receive?

.....
.....
.....

now go to C6

C5 Why did you not receive treatment?

₁ Put on waiting list
₂ Other, please specify

.....

now go to D1

C6 Where did you receive treatment? [indicate centre or clinic]

.....

C7 Have you ever attended more than one treatment centre at the same time?

₁ Yes go to C8 ₂ No go to C9

C8 How many treatment centres have you ever attended at the same time?.....

C9 Are you currently receiving treatment for drug addiction?

₁ Yes ₂ No

C10 How do you rate the treatment you received? Please give reason for your answer.

₁ Useless ₂ Good ₃ Very Good

.....

..... Now go to D1

C11 Why have you never looked for treatment?

₁ Pointless ₂ Too hard to get to centre
₃ I would not be accepted for treatment ₄ I do not need treatment
₅ Don't know ₆ Other, please specify

.....

Section D - Income

D1 What was the source of your income in the last week?

	<u>Most Money</u>	<u>Some Money</u>
Job/employment	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Social Welfare/Dole	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Parents/relatives	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Friends	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Partner/spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Savings/credit	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Crime	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Other,	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂

please specify _____

If crime was a source of income in the last week, go to D2. **If not**, go to D9.

D2 What type of crime are you/have you been involved in and how frequently? [Tick all that apply]

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Never</u>
Burglary	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Robbery	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Handbag snatch	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Shoplifting	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Stealing from cars	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Fraud, stolen cheques/ Credit cards, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Drug Dealing	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Prostitution, Pimping	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Begging	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃

specify _____

D3 Have you ever used a weapon ₁ Yes ₂ No
If yes please specify _____

D4 How often are/were you involved in crime?
₁ More than once a day Specify amount _____
₂ Once a day ₃ Once a week
₄ More than once a week ₅ Other, specify _____

D5 Have you been involved in criminal activity in the last year
₁ Yes ₁ No

- D6 Where do/did you usually commit crime? [Tick all that apply]
₁ This neighbourhood ₂ City center ₃ Sth city suburbs
Specify..... ₄ Nth city suburbs ₅ Surrounding counties
₆ Midlands ₇ West ₈ North ₉ South
- D7 If you usually travel/travelled to commit crime, what type of transport do/did you use?
₁ Car Specify..... ₂ Bus ₃ Dart
₄ Train ₅ Walk ₆ Other, specify
- D8 Do/did you travel alone or with friends to commit crime?
₁ Alone ₂ With friends ₃ Both
- D9 How old were you when you first got into trouble with the law?yrs
(If they were never in trouble go to E1)
- D10 What were you in trouble for?
₁ Larceny or similar offence ₂ Violence/assaults (burglary, robbery etc.)
₃ Drug offence Specify Drug,
₄ Stealing cars (joy riding) ₅ Other offences, please specify
- D11 How much money per week do you need to fund your drug habit? £.....
- D12 Have you ever sold drugs? ₁ Yes ₂ No
- D13 Have you ever been accused of supplying drugs?
₁ Yes ₂ No gotoD15
- D14 By whom were you accused?
₁ Gardai ₂ Community activists
₃ Neighbours ₄ Other, specify.....
- D15 Are/were any members of your family involved in crime?
₁ Yes ₂ No go to D17
- D16 Which members of your family are/were involved in crime?
₁ Spouse/partner ₂ Father ₃ Mother
₄ Older brother No: ₅ Younger brother No:.....
₆ Older sister No: ₇ Younger Sister No:.....
₈ Other, specify.....
- D17 Have you ever been in prison?
₁ Yes ₂ No go to E 1
- D18 Did you ever receive treatment for drug addiction while in prison?
₁ Yes ₂ No

Section E - Health/Lifestyle

- E1 If you had to do things again, what changes would you make in your life? [Tick all that apply]
- ₁ Stay longer in school
 - ₂ Have different friends
 - ₃ Avoid drugs
 - ₄ Make sure I was prepared for a job
 - ₅ Stay out of trouble with the law
 - ₆ Other, please specify.....
- E2 How do the gardai affect your drug taking habit?
- ₁ They always make it difficult to obtain drugs
 - ₂ Occasionally they make it difficult
 - ₃ No impact
- E3 How difficult is to go get drugs?
- ₁ Easy
 - ₂ Hard
 - ₃ Difficult
- E4 Has it become more difficult to get drugs in the last six months?
- ₁ Yes Why?
 - ₂ No
 - ₃ Don't know
- E5 If you are not using drugs, how do you feel physically?
- ₁ Normal
 - ₂ Ill
 - ₃ Very Ill
- E6 How would you describe your health at the moment
-
- E7 Have you ever shared needles?
- ₁ Never
 - ₂ Occasionally
 - ₃ Regularly
- E8 Has your drug use changed since you first started taking drugs? [Tick all that apply]
- ₁ No change
 - ₂ I now use more
 - ₃ I have gone from soft drugs to hard drugs
specify type: From to
 - ₄ I have gone from hard drugs to son drugs
specify type: Fromto
 - ₅ I now use less Other, please specify
- E9 How easy would it be for you to give up drugs?
- ₁ Easy
 - ₂ Hard
 - ₃ Very hard
 - ₄ Impossible
 - ₅ Off drugs now
- E10 Where do you see yourself in 12 months time?
-

Appendix 3

Outline Map of Garda Districts - D.M.A.

Garda Research Unit Reports

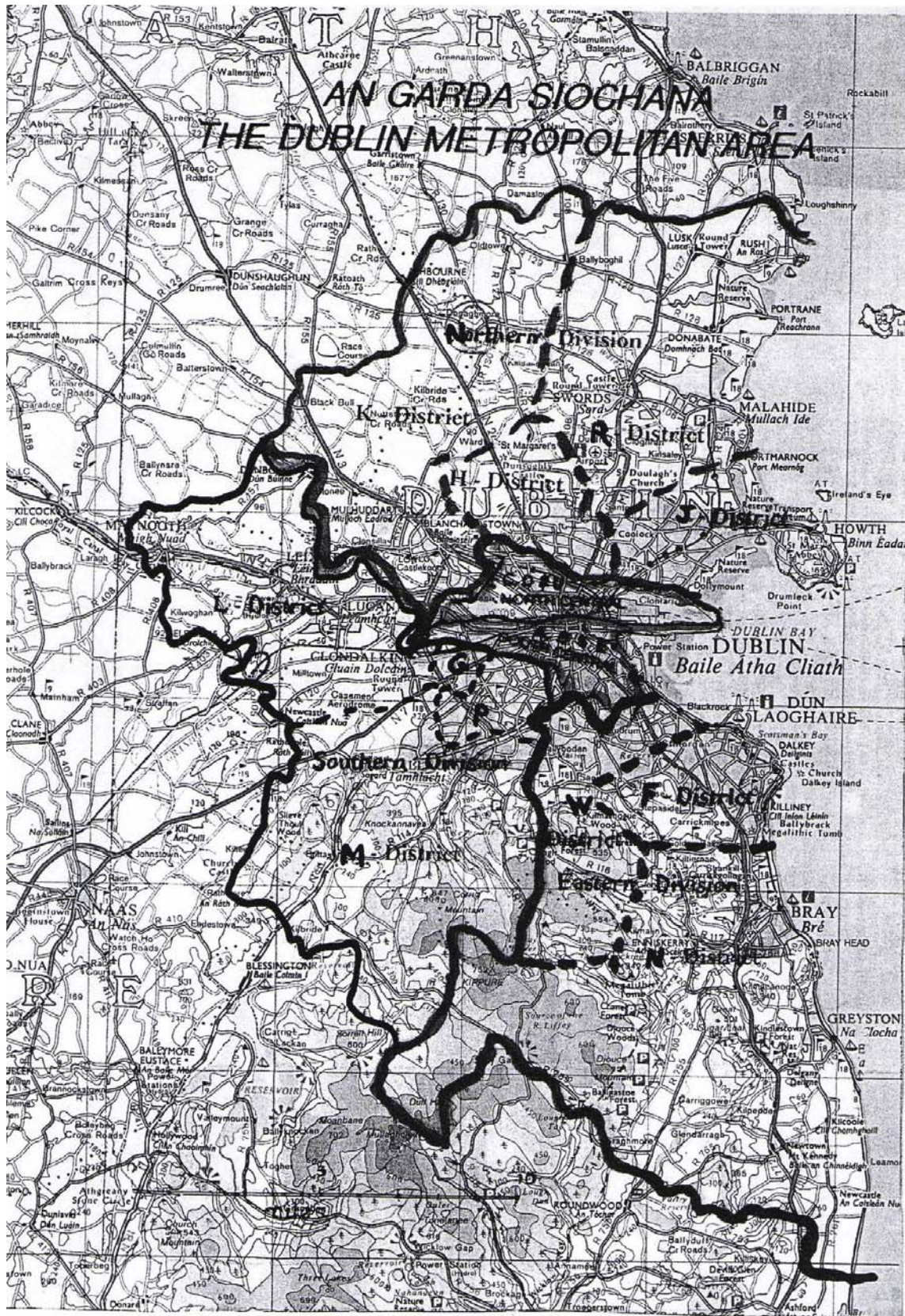
Report No.	Title of Report
1996	
1/96	Road Traffic Accident Analysis Tipperary Division, 1993
2/96	Review of Current Promotion System in An Garda Síochána
3/96	Survey of Tipperary Post Primary Students' Views and Experiences of Illegal Drugs.
4/96	Evaluation of EU-Funded Drugs Training Exchange Programme Phase 1
5/96	Towards Integrating Irish Criminal Justice Statistics
6/96	Garda Síochána In-Service Training Pilot Project
7/96	Garda Síochána Crime Statistics: Homicide in Ireland 1995
8/96	Towards an Evaluation of the Sergeant's Promotion Course
1997	
1/97	Evaluation of EU-Funded Drugs Training Exchange Programme Phase 2
2/97	A Review of the Quality of Service to Victims of Domestic Burglary
3/97	The Effectiveness of Traffic Policing in Ireland
4/97	National Survey of Victims of Crime - Preliminary findings
5/97	Garda Attitudes Survey
6/97	Garda Attitudes Survey - Technical Report
7/97	Garda Attitudes Survey - Quality of Service (pending)
8/97	Analysis of Garda Activities
9/97	An Evaluation of Garda Schools Programme (pending)
10/97	Illicit Drug Use and Related Criminal Activity in the Dublin Metropolitan Area
11/97	Survey of Staff Attitudes to Smoking in the Workplace (pending)
12/97	A Profile of Traffic Department, Dublin Metropolitan Area

Further Information, contact;

The Garda Research Unit
An Garda Síochána College
Templemore
Co Tipperary
Ireland.

Tel: 0504 31522

Fax: 0504 31080



Based on the Ordnance Survey. By Permission of the Government. (Permit Number 6533)