



South Eastern Health Board
Data Co-ordination
Overview
of
Drug Misuse
2000



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INTRODUCTION

Following the Drug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention Strategy which was passed by the South Eastern Health Board in April 1999, a data co-ordinator was appointed in January 2000 to gather data in relation to alcohol and drug use within the South Eastern Health Board region.

This is the first report from the Data Co-ordinator and following is a brief outline of data collected for the year 2000. A more detailed report will be issued to each of the Services who provided data throughout the year.

Please note that the data as presented in this report is based on information supplied by the respective Services.

CURRENT DATA COLLECTION SOURCES

1. Five South Eastern Health Board Addiction Treatment Services
2. Two Drug Treatment Clinics
3. Hospital in Patient Enquiry System (H.I.P.E.) —General Hospital Services
4. Psychological Services
5. in Patient Psychiatric Services
6. Two Aiséirí Centres – Cahir and Wexford
7. Aislinn Adolescent Addiction Treatment Centre, Kilkenny
8. Community Alcohol Drug Services, Family Centre, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
9. South East Regional Drug Helpline
10. Probation &. Welfare Services
11. Gardai

1. South Eastern Health Board Addiction Treatment Services

There are five addiction treatment services in the South Eastern Health Board region based in each of the Counties, Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. Data from these Services is collected from a form supplied by the Drug Misuse Research Division of the Health Research Board and is part of the National Drug Treatment Reporting System. The forms are completed by the Services' Counsellors and one form is required to be completed for each individual treated during the twelve month period running from 1 January to 31 December.

Below are the results of the data collected during the year 2000. The overall figures include data collected from both statutory and voluntary treatment services. The breakdown figures only include data from the South Eastern Health Board Addiction Treatment Services.

Please note that the following figures are based on those presenting to the treatment services and are not necessarily representative of the general drug using population but only those who present for treatment.

Overall 1,418 clients attended for treatment at the five South Eastern Health Board Addiction Treatment Services, Aiséirí in Cahir and Wexford, Aislinn, Ballyragget, Family Centre, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford and Drug Treatment Clinics in Carlow and Waterford from January to December 2000. 3% of these individuals made contact with more than one of the Services.

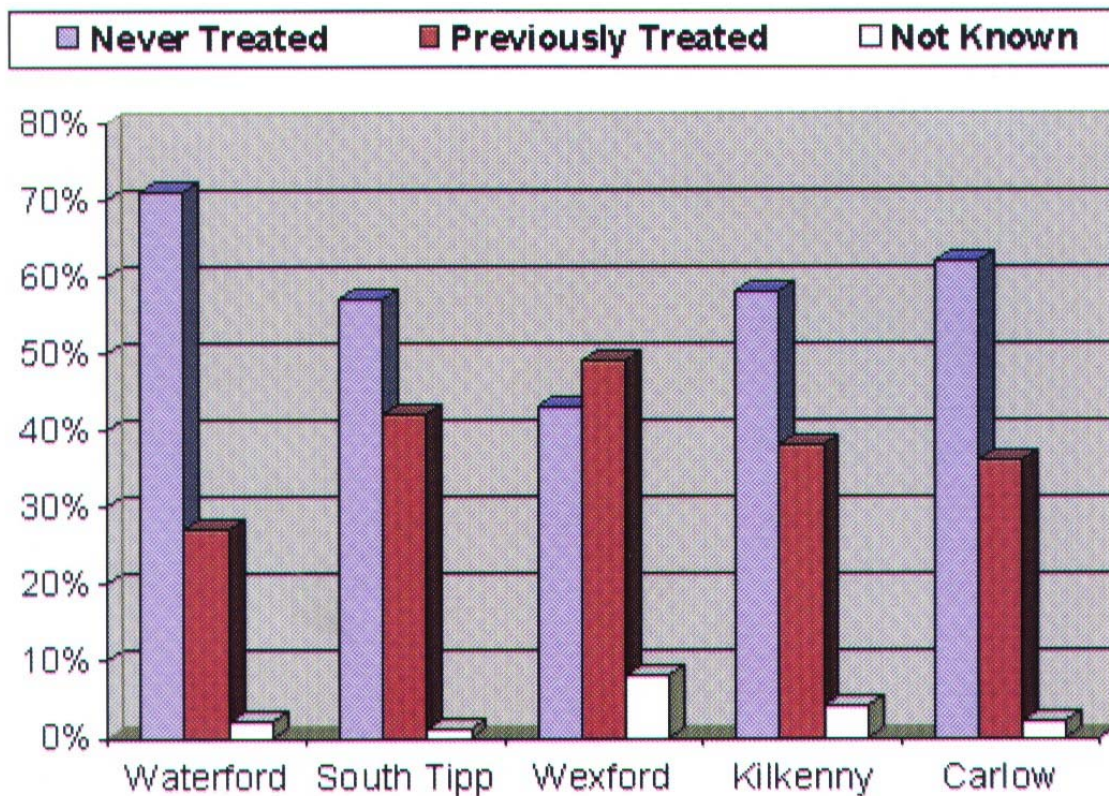
| S.E.H.B. Treatment Service Name | Numbers Who Attended For Treatment | Total Number Who Attended For Treatment Per Service |
|--|---|--|
| A.C.C.E.P.T. - Waterford | | |
| Brook House Waterford | 230 | |
| Dungarvan Centre | 24 | |
| Cappoquin Centre | 11 | 265 |
| South Tipperary Alcohol & Addiction Service | | |
| Coolgreaney House, Clonmel | 155 | |
| Carrick-on-Suir Centre | 13 | 168 |
| Community Counselling Service Wexford | | |
| St. Senan's Hospital Enniscorthy | 64 | |
| Gorey Health Centre | 10 | |
| New Ross Health Centre | 12 | |
| Enniscorthy Health Centre | 10 | |
| Wexford Community Mental Health Centre | 39 | 135 |
| Community Alcohol Treatment Service Kilkenny | | |
| C.A.T.S. St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny | 140 | |
| St. Canice's Hospital | 7 | |
| Castlecomer Health Centre | 18 | |
| Urlingford Health Centre | 1 | 166 |
| Community Alcohol Service Carlow | | |
| Addiction Service St. Dymphna's Hospital | 233 | |
| In-patients, St. Dymphna's Hospital | 41 | 274 |

Below please find some results from data received from the treatment services. Again, please note that the overall figures include data from the five South Eastern Health Board Services, the voluntary sector and the two drug treatment services. The other breakdown figures are from the South Eastern Health Board Services only.

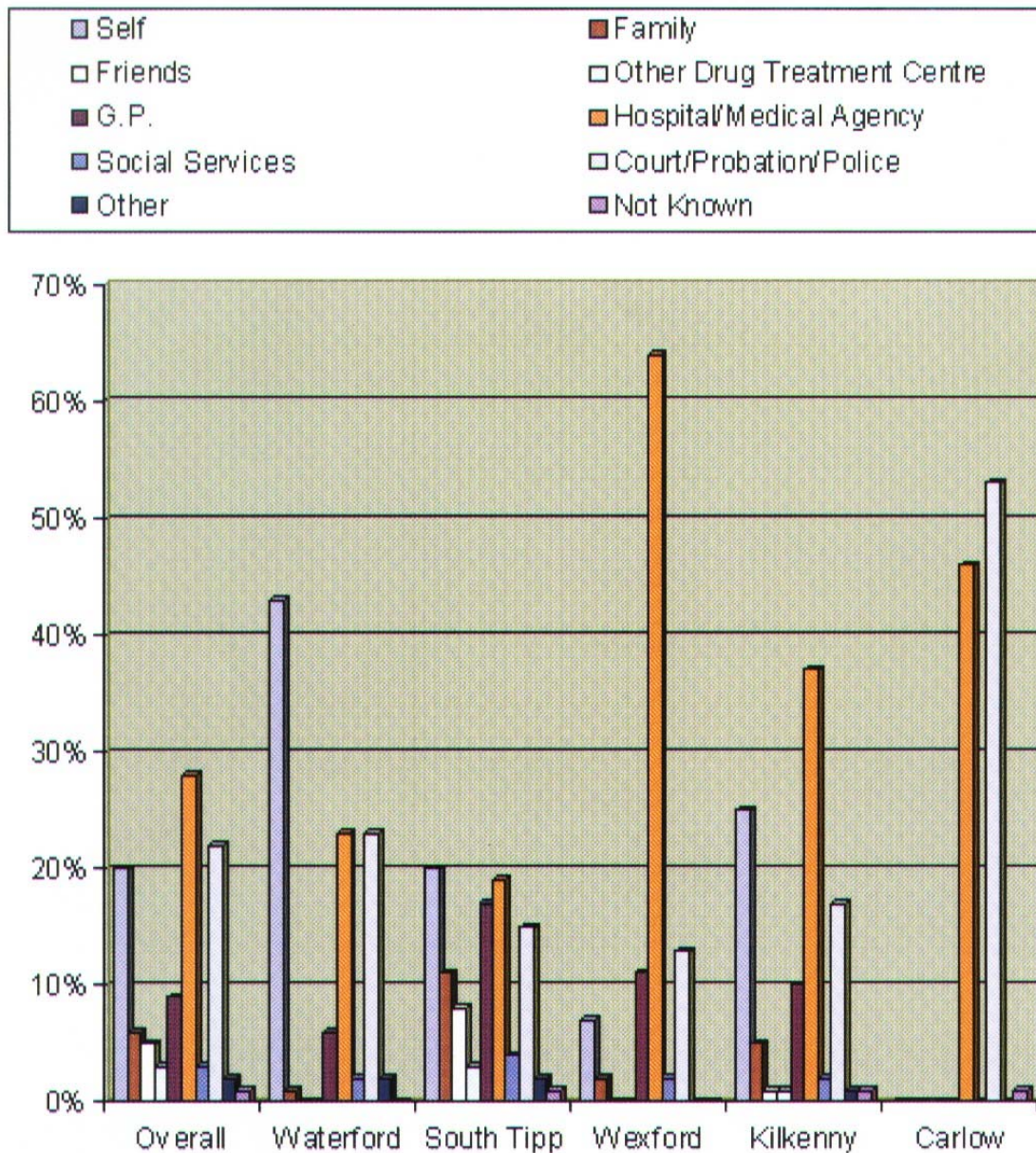
1. EVER PREVIOUSLY BEEN TREATED FOR DRUG MISUSE:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|--|
| Overall: | 62% | had never previously been treated |
| | 35% | had previously been treated |
| | 3% | not known |

South Eastern Health Board Addiction Treatment Services:



2. SOURCE OF REFERRAL:



Referrals from Hospital/Medical Agency are highest from Wexford and Carlow Services. Referrals from the Court/Probation/Police are high within all the Services, with the majority coming from the Probation & Welfare Service.

3. GENDER:

Throughout all services the majority of those attending for treatment of problem drug/alcohol misuse were males.

Overall: 77% male 23% female.

4. AGE:

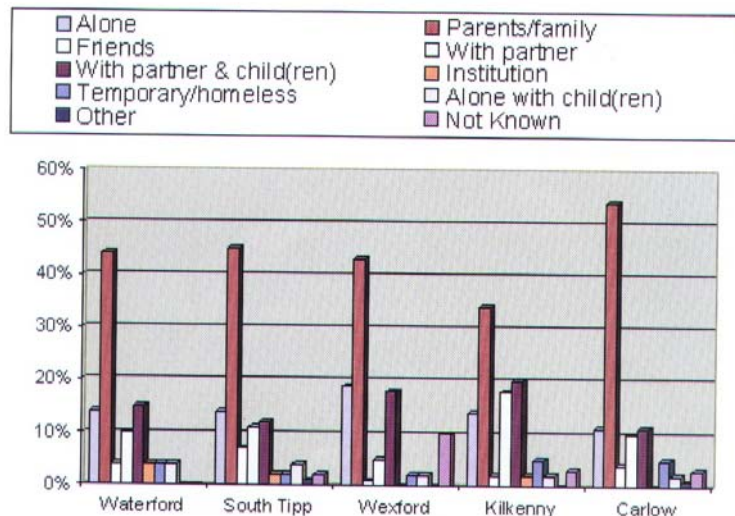
| | | South Eastern Health Board Services | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|--------|
| Age Group | Overall | Waterford | South Tipperary | Wexford | Kilkenny | Carlow |
| 10 – 19yrs | 15% | 20% | 17% | 7% | 4% | 12% |
| 20 – 29 yrs | 34% | 34% | 37% | 33% | 28% | 40% |
| 30 – 39 yrs | 22% | 20% | 23% | 30% | 23% | 20% |
| 40 - 49 yrs | 16% | 12% | 18% | 16% | 25% | 12% |
| 50 - 59 yrs | 10% | 9% | 4% | 10% | 13% | 10% |
| 60 - 69 yrs | 3% | 3% | 1% | 2% | 4% | 4% |
| 70 - 79 yrs | 1% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 2% | 0% |
| Not Known | 1% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 2% | 1% |

5. LIVING STATUS:

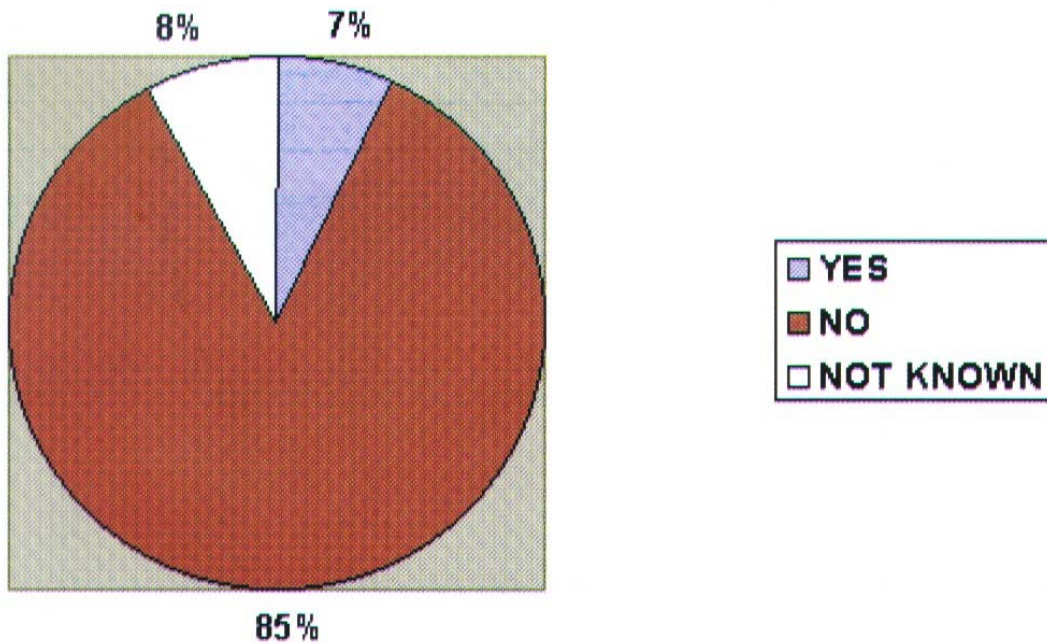
Overall

| LIVING STATUS | Percentages |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Alone | 13% |
| 2. Parents/family | 44% |
| 3. Friends | 3% |
| 4. With partner | 11% |
| 5. With partner &. child(ren) | 17% |
| 6. Institution | 2% |
| 7. Temporary/homeless | 3% |
| 8. Alone with child(ren) | 4% |
| 9. Other | 1% |
| 10. Not Known | 1% |

South Eastern Health Board Services:



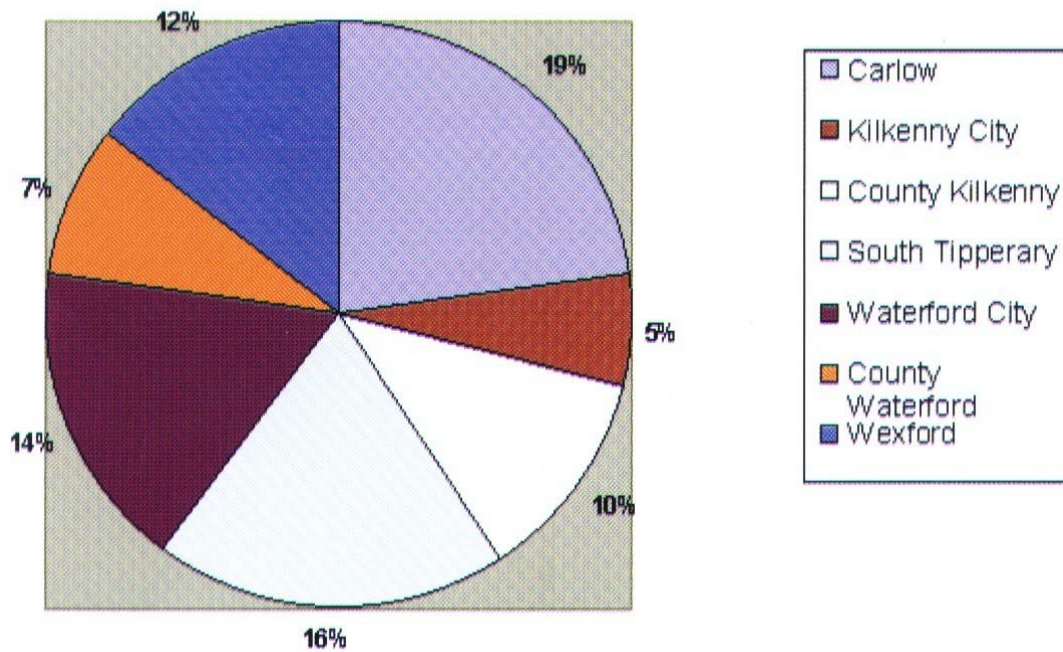
6. LIVING WITH DRUG MISUSER(S):



Again throughout all the Services the majority of those attending for treatment were not living with a drug misuser - overall this accounted for 85% of clients.

7. AREA OF RESIDENCE:

Overall:



8. NATIONALITY:

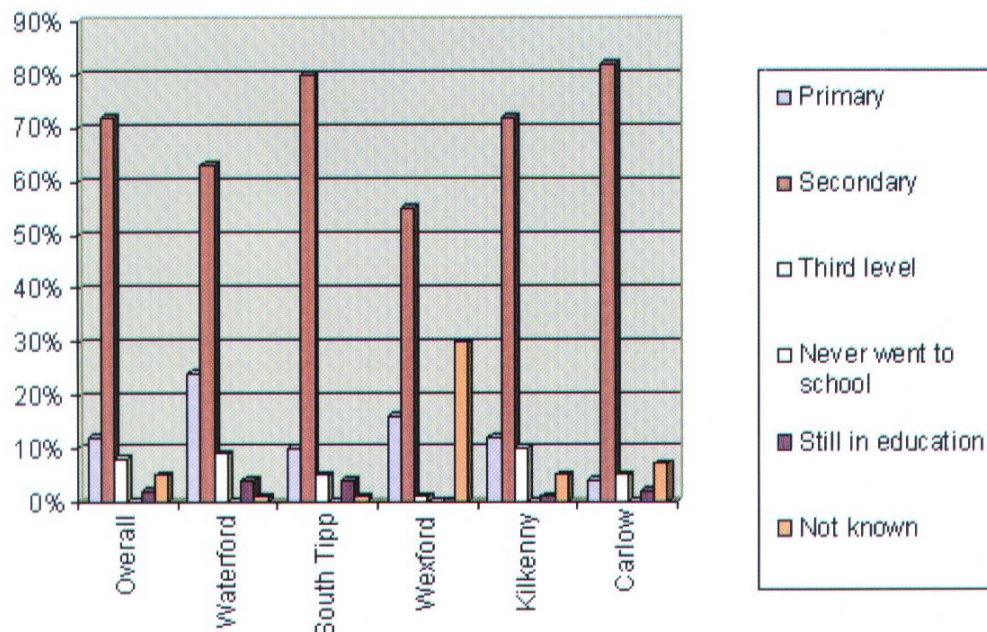
97% of those who attended for treatment were Irish. The other 3% were for the most part English or Scottish.

9. EMPLOYMENT STATUS:

| Employment Status | Overall | South Eastern Health Board Services | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|------------|---------|----------|--------|
| | | Waterford | South Tipp | Wexford | Kilkenny | Carlow |
| In paid employment | 40% | 43% | 30% | 40% | 51% | 43% |
| Unemployed | 36% | 32% | 48% | 28% | 24% | 37% |
| FÁS/Training course | 5% | 5% | 5% | 10% | 5% | 5% |
| Student | 5% | 9% | 5% | 0% | 1% | 4% |
| Housewife/husband | 5% | 6% | 6% | 7% | 5% | 6% |
| Retired/unable to work | 5% | 5% | 5% | 3% | 9% | 4% |
| Other | 2% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 2% | 0% |
| Not Known | 2% | 0% | 1% | 12% | 2% | 1% |

The majority of those seeking treatment were in paid employment for each of the Services, followed by those who were unemployed, except in South Tipperary.

10. EDUCATION HIGHEST LEVEL REACHED:



There is a high level of “not known” in the Wexford Service this may be due to resource problems in compiling the data.

11. PROBLEM DRUG USE - MAIN DRUG:

Across all Services, the main drug for which treatment was sought during 2000 was alcohol. **Overall** this figure accounted for 72% of clients. This was followed by cannabis at 17%, MDMA (Ecstasy, E, XTC etc) at 5% (Ecstasy accounted for most of this figure) and Heroin at 3%.

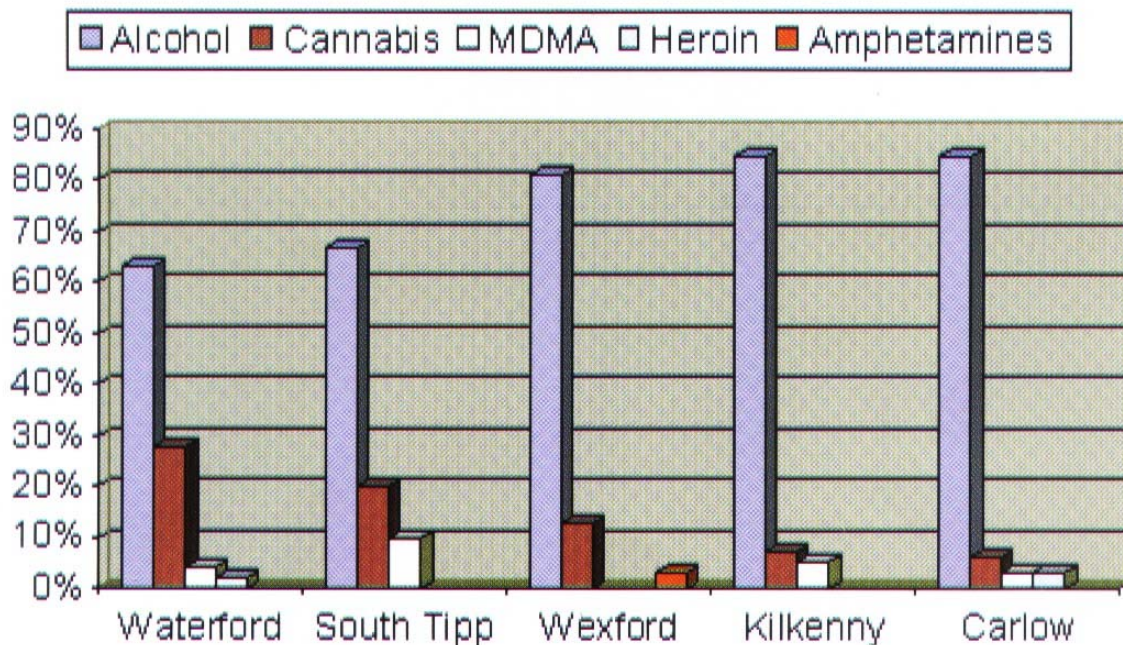
Again the overall figure relates to the South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services plus the voluntary treatment services.

Overall:

Main Drug:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Alcohol | 72% |
| Amphetamines | 1% |
| Benzodiazepines | 0.5% |
| Cannabis | 17% |
| Cocaine | 0.5% |
| Hallucinogens | 0.2% |
| MDMA | 5% |
| Heroin | 3% |
| Other opiate type drugs | 0.5% |
| Prescribed medication | 0.3% |

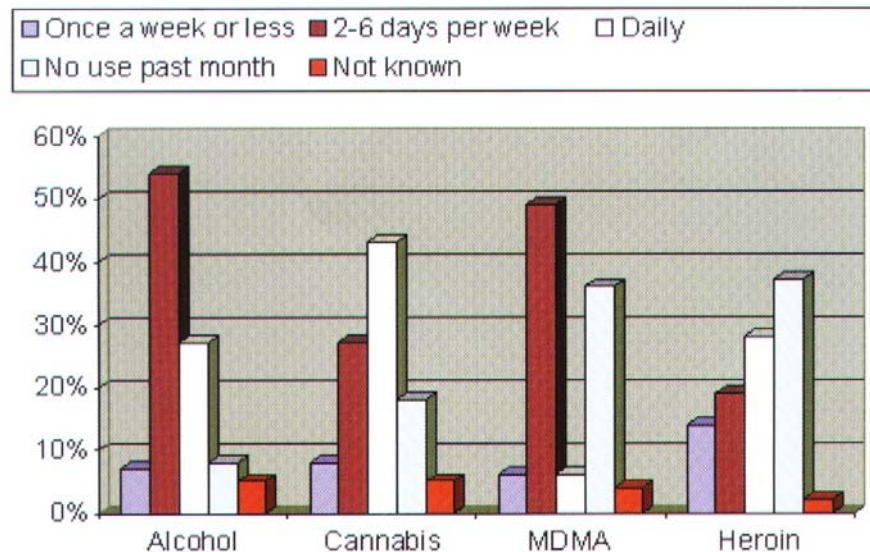
Below is a breakdown of figures from the five **South Eastern Health Board Addiction Treatment Services** for the top three or four drugs for which treatment was sought in the respective Services.



12. MAIN DRUG - FREQUENCY OF USE PAST MONTH:

Overall, of those who sought treatment for alcohol, cannabis, MDMA and heroin the following is a breakdown of the use of these drugs in the previous month prior to seeking treatment.

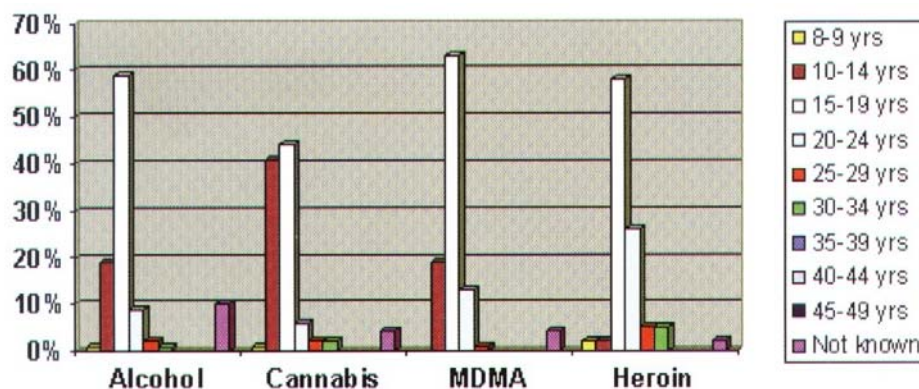
Overall:



13. MAIN DRUG - AGE AT FIRST USE:

Of those who sought treatment for alcohol, cannabis, MDMA and heroin the following is a breakdown of the age that the clients first used the respective drugs.

Again, as for item 12 above, these figures are based on data from all of the treatment services, both statutory and voluntary, within the Health Board area.



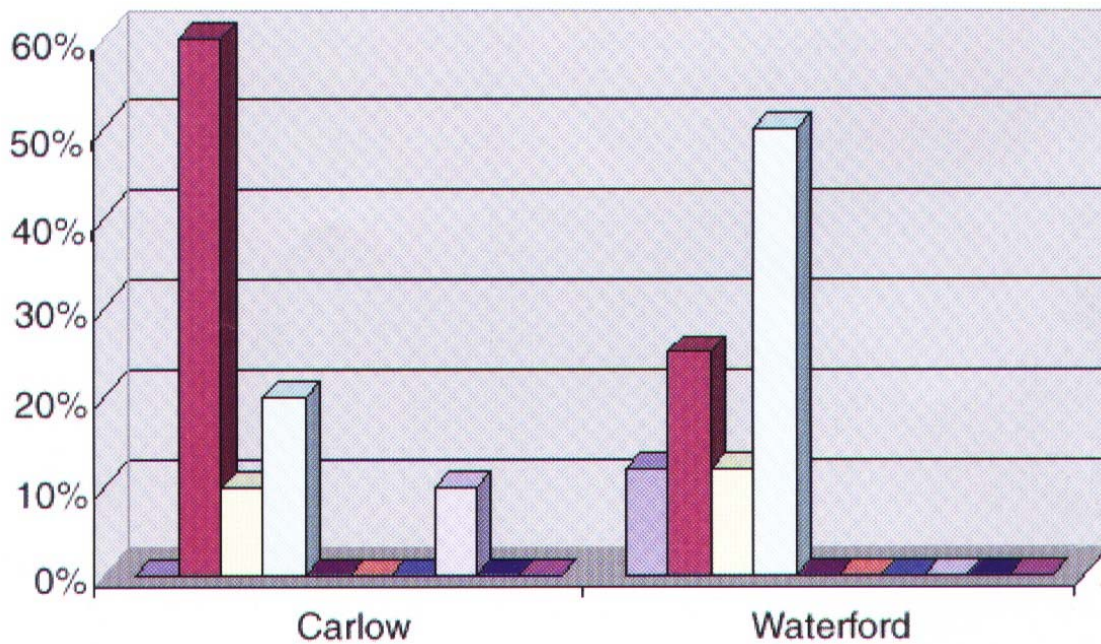
From the data received, the age of first use of alcohol and cannabis is highest between the ages of 10-14 yrs and 15-19 yrs, while the age of first use of MDMA and heroin is highest at 15-19yrs.

In the Region, of those who sought treatment for heroin use 35% had injected in the past month prior to treatment and 12% had shared equipment.

2. Drug Treatment Clinics

There are two drug treatment clinics in the South Eastern Health Board region, one in Carlow, the other in Waterford. These clinics are essentially for those who are addicted to opiates. As with the other treatment services, data collected from these Clinics form part of the National Drug Treatment Reporting System. G.P.s also provide a drug treatment service but no data is available.

10 attended the Carlow Clinic and 8 the Waterford Clinic for treatment. Again as with the other treatment services the majority attending for treatment are male. The majority of clients for both clinics were in the 20 to 29 age group, although 12% of the Waterford clients were in the 10 to 19 age group. There were none in this age group attending the Carlow clinic.



90% of those attending the Carlow Clinic have addresses in Carlow area and 10% have addresses in Kilkenny City. 37% of those attending the Waterford Clinic have addresses in Waterford City and South Tipperary respectively and 13% have addresses in County Waterford and Wexford respectively.

Unlike the other treatment services, the majority of those attending the Drug Treatment Clinics are unemployed.

| Employment Status | Carlow Clinic | Waterford Clinic |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| In paid employment | 30% | 12% |
| Unemployed | 50% | 88% |
| FAS/training course | 10% | 0% |
| Housewife/husband | 10% | 0% |

3. H.I.P.E. system

H.I.P.E. is the Hospital In-patient Enquiry System for the General Hospitals which records the diagnosis (up to five diagnoses can be recorded for each patient) and procedures for each patient admitted to the Hospitals. There are just under one thousand codes under this System. Data reports were requested under five of these codes which most obviously related to alcohol and drugs. **Please note that there may be higher instances of alcohol or drug related admissions to the hospitals not accounted for under these codes.**

The five codes for which data was requested were:

- a. Alcoholic Psychoses
- b. Drug Psychoses
- c. Alcohol Dependence Syndrome
- d. Drug Dependence
- e. Non-Dependent Abuse of Drugs.

Data was received from the H.I.P.E. Departments of:

Waterford Regional Hospital
Wexford General
Our Lady's Hospital, Cashel
St. Joseph's Hospital, Clonmel
St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny

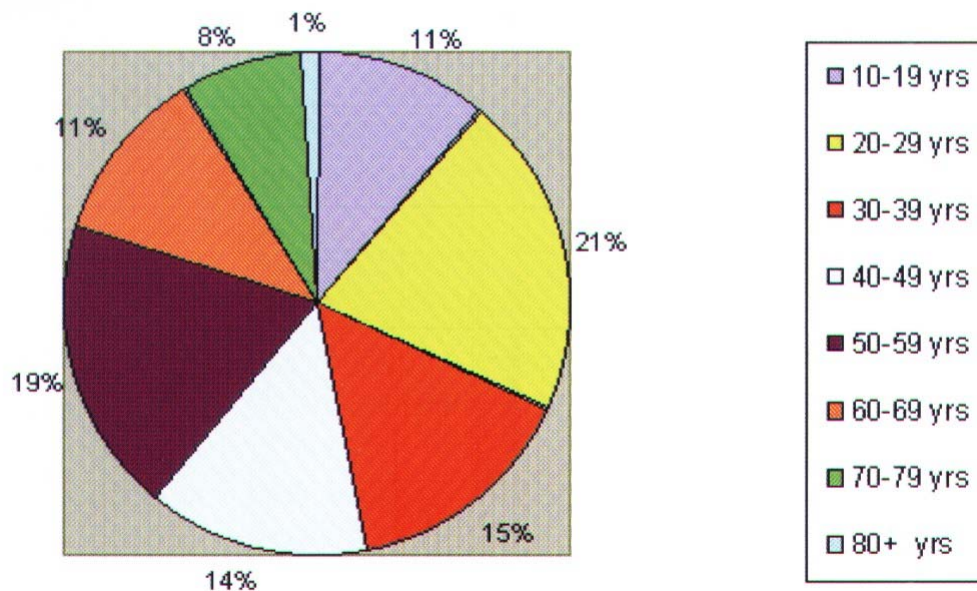
The data as presented here is based on the first six months of the year 2000. Data for the latter months will be available within a few months.

Based on the data received and the overall number of cases coded for each of the hospitals, the following is a breakdown of the percentage of cases which had a diagnosis under one or more of the above five codes:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Waterford Regional Hospital | 2% of cases |
| Our Lady's Hospital, Cashel | 3% |
| St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny | 2% |
| Wexford General | 1% |
| St. Joseph's Hospital, Clonmel | 1% |

The following breakdown includes data from all five hospitals.

Age Group:



The highest number of admissions to the hospitals were in the 20-29 age group except for St. Luke's, Kilkenny where it was in 10-19 age group and in Wexford General where it was in 40-59 age groups.

As with data received from all services the majority of admissions for all hospitals were male, on average approximately 71%.

Area Of Residence:

| S.E.H.B. | % |
|---|-----|
| Carlow | 9% |
| Kilkenny | 19% |
| South Tipperary | 11% |
| Waterford City | 26% |
| County Waterford | 12% |
| Wexford | 16% |
| | |
| National | 5% |
| | |
| England/Scotland/Wales/Northern Ireland | 2% |

As stated above, a patient can have up to five diagnoses, therefore the data as presented below includes both primary and secondary diagnoses. However, 20% of the cases had a primary diagnoses under one or more of the five H.I.P.E. Codes, mainly under Alcohol Dependence Syndrome.

Based on the data received from all hospitals:

| H.I.P.E. Codes | Percentage of Admissions |
|------------------------------|---|
| Alcoholic Psychoses | 3% |
| Drug Psychoses | 1% |
| Alcohol Dependence Syndrome | 34% |
| Drug Dependence | 1% (this figure includes cannabis/cocaine/unspecified opioids and unspecified drugs) |
| Non-Dependent Abuse Of Drugs | 61% (this figure includes: 56% alcohol 3% drugs – cannabis/cocaine and unspecified drugs 2% both alcohol and drugs – cannabis and unspecified drugs) |

4. Psychological services

A meeting was held early on in the year with two of the Senior Clinical Psychologists in the Region where it was agreed that any relevant data would be forwarded to the Data Co-ordinator twice yearly. To date no data has been received from the Services. However, a meeting of the Senior Clinical Psychologists is to be held in March and the issue of data collection is again to be raised.

5. In-Patient psychiatric services

No data has been received from in-patient psychiatric services for the National Drug Treatment Reporting System at Waterford Regional Hospital, St. Michael's Psychiatric Unit, St. Joseph's Hospital, and St. Luke's Hospital, Clonmel. Some data has been received from St. Senan's Hospital, Enniscorthy, St. Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow and to a lesser extent in St. Canice's Hospital, Kilkenny by the Addiction Treatment Services. However, these are in-patient clients who are seen by the addiction service and not all in-patients will be seen by an addiction counsellor.

Contact was made with the relevant Psychiatric Service Managers within the Region in relation to data collection for the Psychiatric Hospitals but due to lack of resources it was not possible to collect data from these Services.

The following is data from a report from the Mental Health Division, Health Research Board "Irish Psychiatric Services - Activities 1999" by Antoinette Daly/Dermot Walsh.

Health board hospitals & general hospital psychiatric units. All admissions. Diagnosis. Ireland 1999. (Rates per 100,000 population aged 16 years and over).

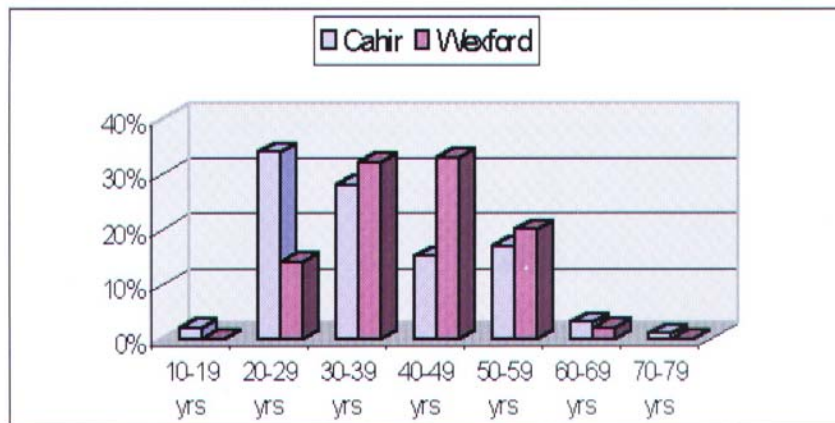
South Eastern Health Board

| Hospitals/Psychiatric Units | Numbers with percentages | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| | Alcoholic Disorders | Drug Dependence |
| St. Canice's Hospital, Kilkenny | 11 4 22.2% | 32 6.2% |
| St. Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow | 12 1 37.2% | 9 2.8% |
| St. Luke's Hospital, Clonmel | 2 3 14.2% | 8 4.9% |
| St. Otteran's Hospital, Waterford | 4 8.3% | 0 |
| St. Senan's Hospital, Enniscorthy | 151 27.3% | 13 2.4% |
| Psychiatric Unit, Waterford Regional Hospital | 111 15.1% | 3 0.4% |
| Psychiatric Unit, St. Joseph's Hospital, Clonmel | 23 6 26.9% | 21 2.4% |

6. Aiséirí services

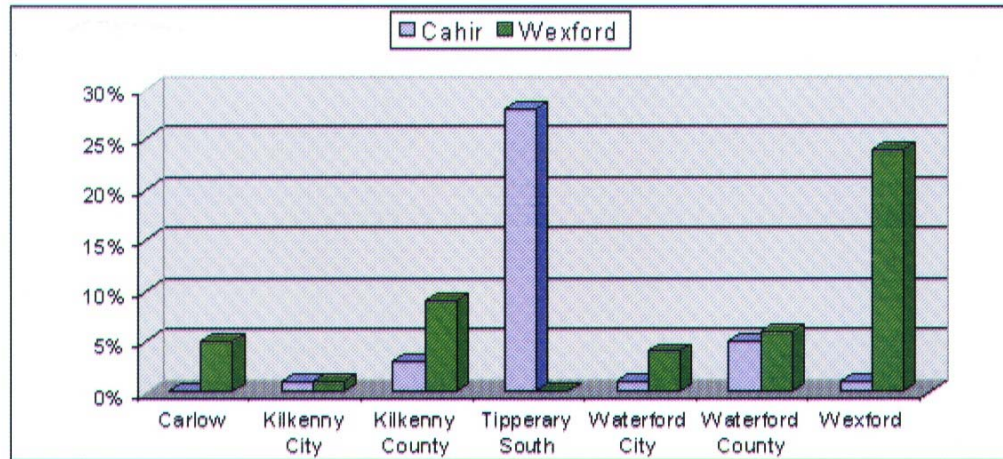
There are two Aiséirí Centres in the South Eastern Health Board region, one in Cahir and the other in Wexford. Both Centres provide treatment on a national level. Based on the information provided by the Services, 152 people sought treatment for problem alcohol/drug use at the Cahir Centre during 2000 and 133 at the Wexford Centre. As with the South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services the majority attending these Centres were male. Again, the majority had never previously been treated for problem alcohol/drug use.

Age Group:



Area of Residence:

39% of those who attended Aiséirí, Cahir had addresses in the South Eastern Health Board area and 48% of those who attended Aiséirí, Wexford.



Main Drug:

As with the South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services the main drug for which treatment was sought was alcohol.

| Main Drug | Aiséirí Cahir | Aiséirí Wexford |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Alcohol | 76% | 84% |
| Amphetamines | 1% | 0% |
| Benzodiazepines | 1% | 2% |
| Cannabis | 16% | 4% |
| Cocaine | 1% | 1% |
| Heroin | 2% | 5% |
| Other Opiate Type Drugs | 0% | 1% |
| Other Hypnotics | 0% | 1% |
| Hallucinogens | 0% | 1% |
| MDMA | 3% | 1% |
| Prescribed Medication | 1% | 0% |

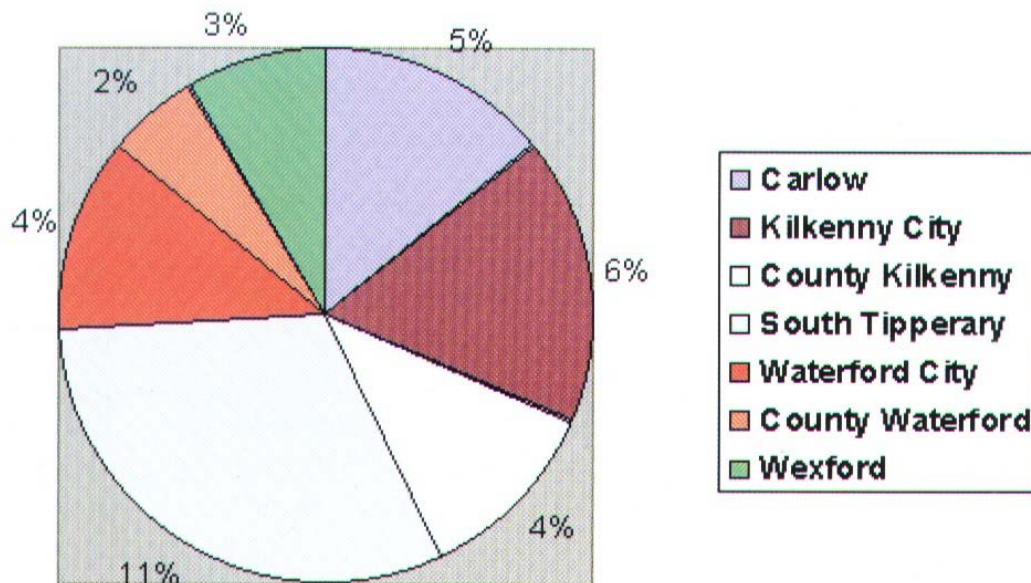
7 Aislinn Adolescent Addiction Treatment Service

Aislinn Adolescent Addiction Treatment Service is based in Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny. and caters for 15 - 21 year olds. Like the Aiséirí Services, Aislinn provides treatment on a national level.

Again based on information provided by the Service, 96 individuals sought treatment for problem drug and alcohol use during the year 2000. Unlike the other treatment services where alcohol was the main drug for which treatment was being sought, cannabis was the main drug of misuse for which individuals attended Aislinn. Again, as in the other services, the majority of those who attended Aislinn were male.

Area Of Residence:

35% of those who attended Aislinn during the year had addresses in the South Eastern Health Board area. The following chart gives a breakdown of this figure.

**Main Drug:**

The main drugs for which treatment was sought were:

| Main Drug | Aislinn |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Alcohol | 12% |
| Amphetamines | 3% |
| Cannabis | 56% |
| Cocaine | 1% |
| MDMA | 17% |
| Heroin | 4% |
| Other opiate type drugs | 3% |
| Prescribed medication | 1% |
| Solvents | 1% |

8. Community Alcohol & Drug Service, Dungarvan Family centre.

Dungarvan Family Centre is based in Mitchell Street, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford and is a non-profit charitable organisation, it is open Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Community Alcohol & Drug Service is one of a number of services provided by the Centre.

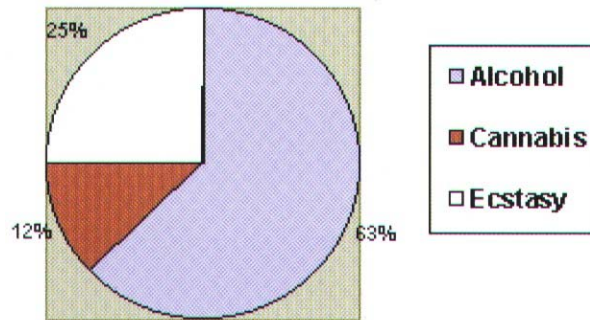
Eight people attended the Service between May and November 2000. As with the other treatment services, the majority were male and had never previously been treated for problem alcohol/drug use. All had addresses in County Waterford.

Age Group:

| Age Group | Percentage |
|-------------|------------|
| 15 - 19yrs | 37% |
| 20 - 29 yrs | 25% |
| 30 - 39 yrs | 25% |
| 40 - 49 yrs | 13% |

Main Drug:

The main drugs for which treatment was sought were:

**9. South East Regional Drug Helpline**

The following is a record of callers received from the Helpline for the year 2000.

| Area | No. of calls | Drugs Discussed | No. of calls |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Carlow | 71 | Alcohol/solvents | 95 |
| Wexford | 116 | Cannabis/alcohol | 285 |
| Tipperary | 67 | Ecstasy | 384 |
| Kilkenny | 332 | LSD (Acid) | 179 |
| Waterford | 578 | Amphetamines (Speed) | 297 |
| Other | 85 | Cocaine | 4 |
| Total | 1249 | Heroin | 5 |

Type of Call:

The calls to the Helpline mainly come from users, family members and professional carers.

Age Group of Caller:

| | Jan - Apr 2000 | May - Dec 2000 |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 3rd party caller | 71% | 70% |
| > 15 years (user) | 4% | 5% |
| 15-25 years (user) | 10% | 13% |
| 25-35 years (user) | 12% | 7% |
| Professional | 3% | 5% |

Information:

Those contacting the Helpline look for information on:

- a. referrals
- b. legal
- c. general

10. Probation & welfare services

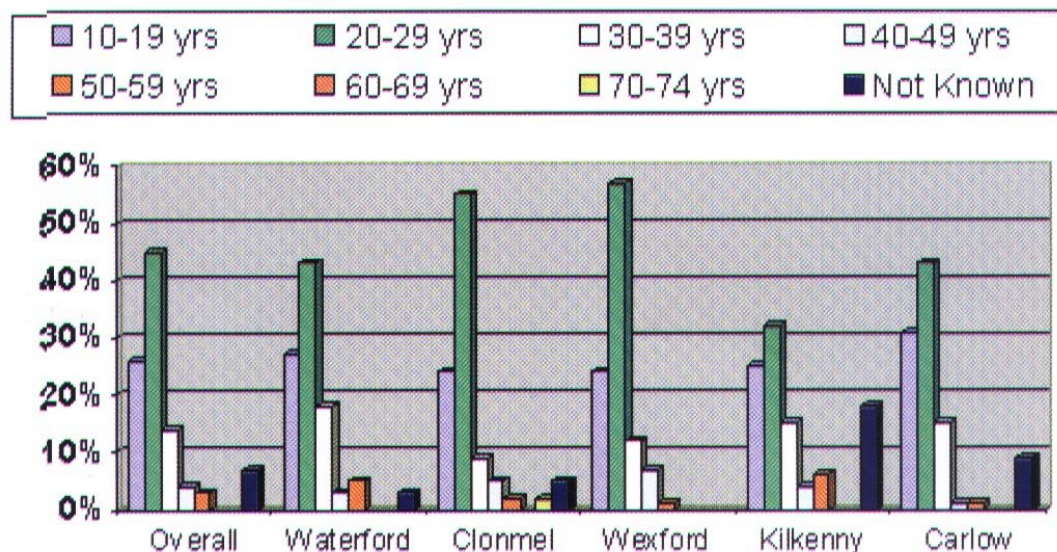
Data from the Probation & Welfare Services is collected from Form A's which are the initial client referral sheet from the Courts to the Probation & Welfare Service. The quality of data presented below for these Services is therefore dependent on the amount of information recorded on the Form A's, which in some cases is minimal. It is therefore likely that there is an underestimation of the number of cases which involved alcohol and/or drugs.

Based on the data collected, below is the percentage of cases in each area which involved alcohol and/or drugs.

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Carlow | 53% of cases |
| Clonmel | 32% of cases |
| Kilkenny | 39% of cases |
| Waterford | 52% of cases |
| Wexford | 50% of cases. |

As with all the Treatment Services the majority are male - overall 91% male and 9% female, which is a higher ratio of male/female than the Treatment Services.

Across all the Probation & Welfare Services, the majority of clients were in the 20-29 age group, followed by 10-19 age group. The "not known" figure represents persons not yet allocated a Probation & Welfare Officer and who are currently on a waiting list.

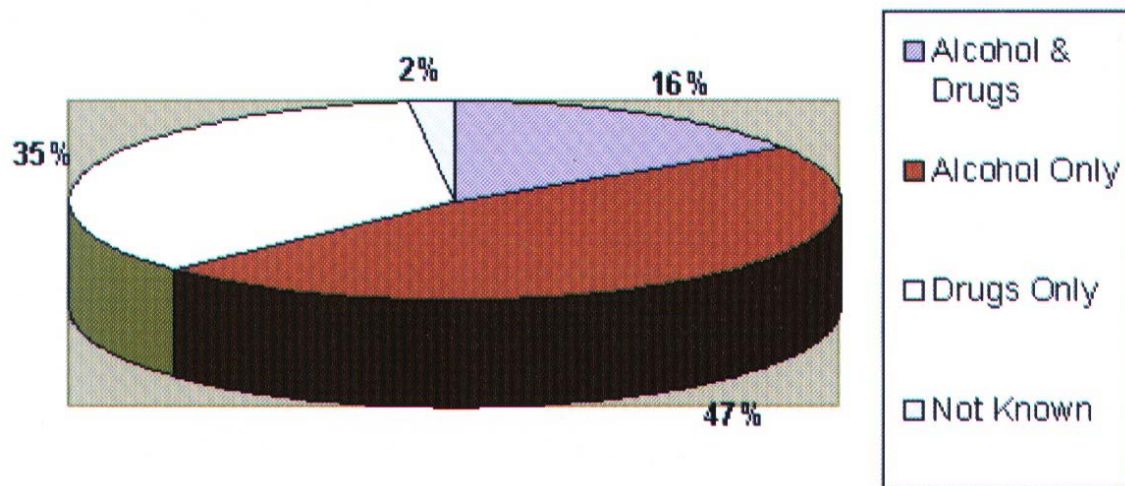


Area of Residence:

84% of clients had addresses in the South Eastern Health Board area.

| Area | Percentages |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Waterford City | 19% |
| County Waterford | 4% |
| South Tipperary | 11% |
| County Tipperary Unspecified | 4% |
| Wexford Town | 9% |
| County Wexford | 11% |
| Kilkenny City | 8% |
| County Kilkenny | 4% |
| Carlow Town | 10% |
| County Carlow | 4% |

Of the cases which involved alcohol and/or drugs:



The main drugs involved were Cannabis, Ecstasy, E and Amphetamines and to a lesser extent Cocaine and Heroin.

71% of the cases were referred to a treatment service for either screening and/or counselling.

The treatment services to which clients were referred were:

South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services

Aiséirí Services

Aislinn

Cuan Mhuire

Marist Rehab Centre, Athlone

and Wexford clients were also referred to a counselling service run by the Wexford Area Partnership.

11. An Garda Síochána

Some data was received from An Garda Síochána during the year 2000. However the following is taken from “An Garda Síochána Annual Report 1999”.

Offences Involving Juvenile Offenders.

Nationally, 10% of Juvenile offences were drink related, mainly purchase/possession/consumption of alcohol and intoxicated in a public place. Possession of drugs made up 3% of offences and sale/supply drugs accounted for just under 1%.

Drug Offences

Taking into account that the Garda Divisions are different from the South Eastern Health Board region, i.e the South East Garda Region comprises:

Tipperary
Waterford/Kilkenny
Wexford/Wicklow

and Carlow comes under the Eastern Region with Kildare, the number of offences where proceedings commenced were highest for Cannabis, Ecstasy, Amphetamines and to a lesser extent LSD, Cocaine and Heroin.

Similar to other services in the South Eastern Health Board region, the majority of persons against whom proceedings for all drug offences were commenced were over 21 years (58%) followed by those in the 17 to 21 age group (38%). Again as with all the services, the majority were male (91%).

PROPOSED DATA COLLECTION SOURCES 2001

1. Community Care Child Psychology Teams
2. Community Care Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Teams
3. Social Workers
4. Public Health Nurses
5. Community Based Drug initiative Workers

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS 2001

1. A & E Research

A research study commenced on 5th March 2001 at the Accident & Emergency Department of Waterford Regional Hospital to examine the extent of alcohol/drug attendances to the Department. This is to run for a pilot period of three months.

2. National Computer System

The Eastern Regional Health Authority has a Drug and Aids information System (DAIS) in place which the other Health Boards, including South Eastern Health Board are interested in developing within their own Boards. Mary Jackson, Department of Health and Children has requested that persons responsible for data co-ordination in the respective Health Boards meet to agree a common set of criteria for a national system rather than setting up different systems in individual Boards.



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