

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland

Bulletin 1

First Results (Revised) from the 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey

Contents

Key Findings	1
Introduction	2
Methodology	2
Results – Ireland	2
Results – Northern Ireland	4
Results – Island of Ireland	6
Future Publications	6

Prevalence Tables

Table 1.1: Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (%)	7
Table 1.2: Ireland – Last Year Prevalence (%)	8
Table 1.3: Ireland – Last Month Prevalence (%)	9
Table 2.1: Northern Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (%)	10
Table 2.2: Northern Ireland – Last Year Prevalence (%)	11
Table 2.3: Northern Ireland – Last Month Prevalence (%)	12
Table 3.1: Island of Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (%)	13
Table 3.2: Island of Ireland – Last Year Prevalence (%)	14
Table 3.3: Island of Ireland – Last Month Prevalence (%)	15

This bulletin presents key findings from the first drug prevalence survey of households in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. The survey sampled a representative number of people aged between 15 and 64 during late 2002 and early 2003. The survey was undertaken by MORI MRC according to standards set by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Revised data (June 2005) relating to drug prevalence on a lifetime, last year (recent), and last month (current) basis for Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the Island of Ireland are presented in this bulletin.

Key Findings

- *Almost one in five (19%) of respondents on the Island of Ireland reported ever taking an illegal drug. This proportion was similar in Northern Ireland (20%) and Ireland (19%).*
- *Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug. Lifetime prevalence rates for cannabis were 17% in Ireland and 17% in Northern Ireland. Current rates of use were also similar; 2.6% reported use in the previous month in Ireland and 2.9% in Northern Ireland.*
- *Lifetime prevalence rates for all other illegal drugs were 5% or less on the Island of Ireland. Aside from cannabis, the most common drugs ever used were ecstasy (5%), magic mushrooms, LSD and poppers (each 4%); amphetamines (3%); solvents, cocaine (each 2%); heroin (0.4%) and crack (0.3%).*
- *On the whole, men report higher lifetime, last year and last month use of illegal drugs than women. For example, for adults on the Island of Ireland, the proportion of males who reported ever using cannabis (23%) was almost double that of females (12%).*
- *On the Island of Ireland, young people reported higher rates of illegal drug use than older people. Whereas 10% of those aged 15-34 reported using an illegal drug in the previous year, the corresponding proportion for those aged 35-44 was 4%. For those aged 45-54, this figure fell to 1% and for those aged 55-64 to 0.5%.*
- *In general, prevalence rates in Northern Ireland and in Ireland were similar. Exceptions included lifetime ecstasy use, which was higher in Northern Ireland (6%) than in Ireland (4%); and cocaine for which lifetime prevalence in Ireland (3%) was higher than in Northern Ireland (1.6%).*

Introduction

The survey was commissioned by the National Advisory Committee on Drugs in Ireland and the Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit within the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland.

The main focus of the survey was to obtain prevalence rates for key illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin etc. on a lifetime, last year, and last month basis. Similar prevalence questions were also asked of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (e.g. tranquillisers); attitudinal and demographic information was also sought from respondents. Following open tender, the contract for conducting the survey was awarded to MORI MRC.

Full details of the methodology and copies of the questionnaires used in both jurisdictions will be published separately in a comprehensive technical report.

Please note:

- Prevalence rates for “any illegal drugs” refers to the reported use of one or more of the following: amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers or solvents – see table footnotes.
- The drugs included under “other opiates” differed between Ireland and Northern Ireland – for full details see the footnotes to the tables. Consequently, it is not appropriate to calculate “other opiates” prevalence rates for the Island of Ireland.

Methodology

The questionnaire and methodology for this survey were based on best practice guidelines drawn up by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The questionnaires were administered through face-to-face interviews with respondents aged between 15-64 normally resident in households in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Fieldwork for the survey was carried out between October 2002 and April 2003 and the final achieved sample was 8,434 (4,918 in Ireland and 3,516 in Northern Ireland). The response rate for the survey was 70% in Ireland and 63% in Northern Ireland. The sample was weighted by gender, age and Health Board Area (Health and Social Services Board area in Northern Ireland), to maximise its representativeness of the general population.

Results - Ireland

Key Findings

- One in five people surveyed reported ever using an illegal drug: one in eighteen reported use within the previous year while one in thirty-four reported use in the previous month.
- Cannabis is the most widely used illegal drug.
- Prevalence of other illegal drugs is lower and largely confined to the younger age groups.
- More men use illegal drugs than women.
- Women and older people report higher rates of sedative, tranquilliser and antidepressant use.

Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (see Table 1.1)

One in five people (19%) reported using an illegal drug in their lifetime.

Drug Type

Cannabis was by far the most commonly used illegal drug with 17% of the population reporting having ever used the drug. This rate was higher among young people with almost a quarter (24%) of those aged 15-34 reporting having ever used cannabis in their lifetime. Lifetime prevalence rates for other drugs were substantially lower - magic mushrooms and ecstasy (each 4%), amphetamines, cocaine, LSD and poppers (each 3%), and solvents (2%). Less than one per cent of the respondents reported ever using heroin (0.5%) or crack (0.4%).

Age

Overall lifetime prevalence rates were highest amongst those aged 25-34 – more than one in four (27%) of this age group reported ever using an illegal drug. However, lifetime prevalence rates for different drugs varied with age, for example, lifetime rates for the use of cocaine, ecstasy and solvents were highest among those aged 15-24. In contrast, the use of sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants increased with age with those aged 55-64 reporting the highest level of lifetime use.

Gender

Male respondents reported higher prevalence rates than females: almost twice as many men (24%) than women (13%) reported ever using an illegal drug. The level of use reported for cocaine, LSD, magic mushrooms and poppers was more than twice as high among men. Women reported higher lifetime prevalence rates for sedatives, tranquillisers, and anti-depressants than men (15% compared to 9%) and for Other Opiates (4% compared to 2%).

Ireland – Last Year Prevalence

(see Table 1.2)

One in eighteen (5.6%) people reported using an illegal drug in the previous year.

Drug Type

In the twelve months preceding the survey, cannabis was again the most commonly used illegal drug with one in twenty of the respondents (5%) reporting use. After cannabis, cocaine and ecstasy were the next most widely used drugs (each 1%). Less than one percent of those surveyed had used amphetamines, crack, magic mushrooms or poppers in the previous year.

Age

In the past 12 months, those aged 15-24 had the highest prevalence rates for most illegal drugs; those aged 35 and over reported minimal rates of use. Broadly speaking, the use of illegal drugs halves in each successive age group.

Gender

Overall in the last year, men reported a rate of illegal drug use over twice as high as women, however, gender differences in these prevalence rates varied by drug. The greatest gender differences were seen in the rates for magic mushrooms (six times greater) and for amphetamine and cocaine use (over three times greater). In contrast, almost twice as many women than men (7% compared to 4%) reported the use of sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants in the last year.

Ireland – Last Month Prevalence

(see Table 1.3)

One in thirty four (3%) people reported use of an illegal drug in the previous month.

Drug Type

In the month preceding the survey, the vast majority of those reporting use of any illegal drug had used cannabis (2.6%).

Age

Again, those aged 15-24 reported the highest level of use (7%) in the past month for any illegal drug; double that of those aged 25-34. For the older age group 55-64 years, one in ten respondents (10%) reported the use of sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants in the last month.

Gender

Overall, twice as many men (4%) than women (2%) reported the use of an illegal drug in the previous month. There was a similar gender difference in the levels of cannabis use during this period with twice as many men (3.4%) than women (1.7%) reporting use in the previous month.

Results – Northern Ireland

Key Findings

- One in five people surveyed (20%) reported ever having used an illegal drug; one in sixteen (6%) reported using an illegal drug in the year prior to the survey; and one person in thirty (3.4%) reported using an illegal drug in the month prior to the survey.
- Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug with 17% of respondents reporting ever having used it and 3% reporting use in the month before the survey.
- Prevalence rates for other illegal drugs are considerably lower than for cannabis. Six per cent reported ever having used ecstasy and 4% the use of LSD. The lifetime prevalence rate for cocaine was 2% and for heroin 0.2%.

- Illegal drug use generally declines with age. Thirty one per cent of young adults aged 15-34 reported ever using illegal drugs; the corresponding figure for those aged 45-54 was 9% and for those aged 55-64, 4%.
- Illegal drug use is more common amongst men than women, with 6% of males reporting use in the month prior to the survey compared to 1% of females. Women and older age groups show higher levels of use of tranquillisers, sedatives and anti-depressants.

Northern Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (see Table 2.1)

Results from the survey suggest that a fifth (20%) of the Northern Ireland adult population aged 15-64 have used illegal drugs.

Overall lifetime prevalence rates for the use of any illegal drug were highest among younger age groups, with nearly a third (31%) of young adults aged 15-34 reporting use: there was little difference between those aged 15-24 (29%) and those aged 25-34 (33%) in this regard. For older age groups prevalence rates were lower: 18% for those aged 35-44 falling to 4% for those aged 55-64. Male respondents reported higher prevalence rates than females – almost twice as many men (27%) than women (14%) reported ever using an illegal drug.

Drug Type

Cannabis was by far the most commonly used illegal drug with 17% of respondents reporting lifetime use. Cannabis use was higher among young people with a quarter (25%) of those aged 15-34 reporting use. Lifetime prevalence rates for other drugs were substantially lower – ecstasy and poppers (each 6%); LSD, amphetamines and magic mushrooms (each 4%); solvents (3%); and cocaine (2%). Less than one per cent of respondents reported ever using heroin (0.2%) or crack (0.2%).

Age

Lifetime prevalence rates for different drugs varied with age. For example, lifetime rates for the use of LSD, ecstasy, and magic mushrooms were highest among those aged 25-34. In contrast, the use of sedatives, tranquillisers, and anti-depressants increased with age with those aged 55-64 reporting the highest level of lifetime use.

Gender

Cannabis prevalence was more than twice as common amongst males (23%) than females (11%); other illegal drugs showed an even more exclusively male profile, for example, LSD use was reported by 7% of men and only 2% of women. Women reported higher lifetime prevalence rates for sedatives, tranquillisers, and anti-depressants than men (29% compared to 15%).

Northern Ireland – Last Year Prevalence

(see Table 2.2)

The overall prevalence rate for the use of any illegal drugs in the year preceding the survey was 6%.

Drug Type

In the 12 months preceding the survey, cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug with one in twenty of the survey population (5%) reporting use. After cannabis, ecstasy was the most widely used illegal drug (2%). All other illegal drugs had been used by less than one percent of the population surveyed.

Age

In contrast to the lifetime prevalence rates, the highest last year prevalence rate for all illegal drugs was amongst those aged 15-24. Of this age group, 14% reported using an illegal drug in the last year with 12% using cannabis and 5% using ecstasy. In broad terms illegal drug use halved between successive age groups, for example, those aged 25-34 were about half as likely to report drug use than those aged 15-24 and so on. Last year illegal drug use by those aged 35 and over is rare. In contrast, last year use of drugs such as sedatives etc. tends to show an increase with age.

Gender

Illegal drug use in the last year was considerably more prevalent amongst males (10%) than females (3%). In particular, there was greater use of cocaine, amphetamines, and ecstasy amongst men – for example, ecstasy use amongst males in the last year (3%) was more than four times higher than amongst females (0.6%). In contrast, almost twice as many women (16%) than men (9%) reported the use of sedatives, tranquillisers, and anti-depressants in the last year.

Northern Ireland – Last Month Prevalence

(see Table 2.3)

One in thirty of all respondents (3.4%) reported taking an illegal drug in the month before the survey.

Drug Type

Again cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug, reported by 3% of respondents.

The next most common illegal drug used was ecstasy which was reported by one in two hundred (0.5%) respondents.

Age

Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to report using an illegal drug in the last month. Some 9% of those aged 15-24 reported taking illegal drugs in the last month, the figures for older groups being 3% (25-34); 2% (35-44); 0.7% (45-54); and 0.5% (55-64). Eight per cent of those aged 15-24 reported using cannabis in the last month along with 2% reporting taking ecstasy.

Amongst those aged 45-54 one respondent in six reported using sedatives, tranquillisers or anti-depressants in the last month. Amongst those aged 55-64 the figure was one in seven.

Gender

Men (6%) were much more likely than women (1%) to report using illegal drugs in the last month.

Results – Island of Ireland

See key findings on page I of this bulletin and Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.

Future Publications

This is a revision of the first bulletin in a series that explores the findings from the drug prevalence survey 2002/2003. A revision of Bulletin Two, which investigates prevalence at a regional level (e.g. by health board area) and provides analyses of individual drugs etc., will follow later. A detailed technical report, including copies of the questionnaires used, will also be published.

Prevalence Tables

Ireland

Table 1.1: Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults 15-64	Males	Females	Young adults 15-34	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drugs ¹	18.5	24.0	13.1	26.0	24.9	27.1	17.7	10.6	4.2
Cannabis	17.4	22.4	12.3	24.0	22.8	25.2	17.3	10.1	3.6
Heroin	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.3	-
Methadone	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.3	-	-
Other Opiates ²	3.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	1.5	4.5	3.8	3.0	1.9
Cocaine (total including crack)	3.0	4.3	1.6	4.7	5.1	4.2	2.8	0.9	-
Crack	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	-	-
Cocaine Powder	2.9	4.1	1.6	4.6	4.9	4.2	2.6	0.9	-
Amphetamines	3.0	4.0	1.9	4.8	4.4	5.3	2.2	0.8	0.4
Ecstasy	3.7	4.9	2.6	7.1	7.7	6.4	1.6	0.1	-
LSD	2.9	4.4	1.4	4.6	3.9	5.3	2.2	1.2	0.3
Magic Mushrooms	3.9	5.7	2.0	5.9	5.5	6.3	4.2	0.8	0.3
Solvents	1.7	2.2	1.1	3.3	3.6	3.1	0.4	-	0.2
Poppers ³	2.6	3.9	1.3	4.7	4.7	4.8	1.3	0.4	0.1
Sedatives, Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	12.1	9.3	15.0	8.2	6.5	9.9	12.2	15.3	21.9

1 For the purposes of this study, illegal drug use refers to the use of amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

2 Other opiates i.e. opium, Temgesic®, buprenorphine, Diconal®, napps, MSTs®, pethidine, DF118® (dihydrocodeine), and morphine.

3 Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

- no respondents in this category

* less than a half of 0.1 percent (< 0.05)

NOTE: all figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Table 1.2: Ireland – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults 15-64	Males	Females	Young adults 15-34	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drugs ¹	5.6	7.8	3.4	9.7	12.7	6.6	3.4	1.1	0.4
Cannabis	5.0	7.2	2.9	8.6	11.0	6.2	3.3	1.1	0.4
Heroin	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	-	-
Methadone	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	-	-
Other Opiates ²	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4
Cocaine (total, including crack)	1.1	1.7	0.5	2.0	2.7	1.3	0.5	0.2	-
Crack	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	-	-	-
Cocaine Powder	1.1	1.7	0.5	2.0	2.7	1.3	0.5	0.2	-
Amphetamines	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.8	1.2	0.3	0.2	-	-
Ecstasy	1.1	1.5	0.6	2.3	2.8	1.7	-	-	-
LSD	0.1	0.2	-	0.2	0.2	0.1	-	-	-
Magic Mushrooms	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.7	1.1	0.3	0.2	-	0.1
Solvents	0.1	*	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	-
Poppers ³	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.1	-	-
Sedatives, Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	5.7	4.2	7.3	3.7	3.6	3.9	4.5	7.7	12.1

1 For the purposes of this study, illegal drug use refers to the use of amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

2 Other opiates i.e. opium, Temgesic®, buprenorphine, Diconal®, napps, MSTs®, pethidine, DF118® (dihydrocodeine), and morphine.

3 Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

- no respondents in this category

* less than a half of 0.1 percent (< 0.05)

NOTE: all figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Table 1.3: Ireland – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults 15-64	Males	Females	Young adults 15-34	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drugs ¹	3.0	4.1	1.7	5.2	6.9	3.4	1.6	0.6	0.3
Cannabis	2.6	3.4	1.7	4.3	5.6	3.0	1.6	0.6	0.3
Heroin	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	-	-	-	-
Methadone	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	-	-
Other Opiates ²	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1
Cocaine (total, including crack)	0.3	0.7	-	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.1	-	-
Crack	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cocaine Powder	0.3	0.7	-	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.1	-	-
Amphetamines	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.6	-	0.1	-	-
Ecstasy	0.3	0.6	*	0.6	0.8	0.5	-	-	-
LSD	*	*	-	*	-	0.1	-	-	-
Magic Mushrooms	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	0.1
Solvents	*	*	-	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-
Poppers ³	0.1	0.1	*	0.2	0.3	-	-	-	-
Sedatives, Tranquillisers Anti-depressants	4.0	3.0	4.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.6	6.2	9.7

1 For the purposes of this study, illegal drug use refers to the use of amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

2 Other opiates i.e. opium, Temgesic®, buprenorphine, Diconal®, napps, MSTs®, pethidine, DF118® (dihydrocodeine), and morphine

3 Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

- no respondents in this category

* less than a half of 0.1 percent (< 0.05)

NOTE: all figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Tables

Northern Ireland

Table 2.1: Northern Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults 15-64	Males	Females	Young adults 15-34	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any Illegal Drugs ¹	20.0	26.7	13.5	30.9	28.5	33.2	18.4	8.9	4.0
Cannabis	16.8	23.3	10.5	25.1	24.0	26.2	16.9	8.0	3.1
Heroin	0.2	0.4	-	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	-	-
Methadone	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	-	0.2	0.1
Other Opiates ²	18.0	16.4	19.5	17.9	13.0	22.7	22.8	15.2	14.3
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.6	2.8	0.5	2.9	2.6	3.2	1.5	0.1	-
Crack	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.3	-	-
Cocaine powder	1.6	2.7	0.5	2.9	2.6	3.1	1.4	0.1	-
Amphetamines	4.0	6.3	1.8	7.2	6.5	8.0	2.6	0.8	0.8
Ecstasy	5.8	8.3	3.3	11.3	10.2	12.4	2.9	0.6	-
LSD	4.5	7.0	2.0	7.8	5.9	9.6	3.7	1.0	0.4
Magic Mushrooms	4.3	6.3	2.4	6.4	4.9	7.9	5.9	0.7	0.3
Solvents	2.9	4.1	1.7	5.4	4.9	5.8	2.0	0.2	0.3
Poppers ³	5.5	7.3	3.8	10.9	10.6	11.1	2.6	0.8	-
Sedatives, Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	22.1	15.5	28.5	16.2	10.9	21.4	24.6	27.2	29.4

1 For the purposes of this study, "illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers, and solvents.

2 Other opiates i.e. Temgesic®, codeine, Kapake®, morphine, opium, DF's, difs, dikes, peach.

3 Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

- no respondents in this category

* less than a half of 0.1 percent (< 0.05)

NOTE: all figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Table 2.2: Northern Ireland – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults 15-64	Males	Females	Young adults 15-34	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any Illegal Drugs ¹	6.4	9.7	3.1	11.6	14.5	8.8	3.7	1.7	0.6
Cannabis	5.4	8.7	2.2	9.8	12.1	7.4	3.7	1.4	0.1
Heroin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methadone	*	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.2	-
Other Opiates ²	8.0	6.9	9.0	7.5	4.1	10.9	10.8	6.0	7.3
Cocaine (total, including crack)	0.5	1.0	0.1	1.0	1.4	0.7	0.3	-	-
Crack	*	0.1	-	0.1	0.2	-	-	-	-
Cocaine powder	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.3	-	-
Amphetamines	0.8	1.4	0.2	1.5	2.0	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.3
Ecstasy	1.6	2.7	0.6	3.3	4.8	1.7	0.8	0.2	-
LSD	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	-
Magic Mushrooms	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	-
Solvents	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.7	-	-	-	0.2
Poppers ³	0.5	0.7	0.3	1.1	1.8	0.4	-	-	-
Sedatives, Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	12.6	8.7	16.5	8.6	4.8	12.3	14.3	17.2	16.4

1 For the purposes of this study, "illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers, and solvents.

2 Other opiates i.e. Temgesic®, codeine, Kapake®, morphine, opium, DF's, diffs, dikes, peach.

3 Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

- no respondents in this category

* less than a half of 0.1 percent (< 0.05)

NOTE: all figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Table 2.3: Northern Ireland – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults 15-64	Males	Females	Young adults 15-34	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any Illegal Drugs ¹	3.4	5.7	1.1	6.1	9.0	3.3	2.0	0.7	0.5
Cannabis	2.9	5.1	0.8	5.4	7.9	3.0	2.0	0.5	-
Heroin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methadone	*	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.2	-
Other Opiates ²	4.1	3.1	5.2	3.3	2.0	4.5	5.7	4.5	3.8
Cocaine (total, including crack)	0.1	0.2	-	0.2	0.2	0.1	-	-	-
Crack	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cocaine powder	0.1	0.2	-	0.2	0.2	0.1	-	-	-
Amphetamines	0.2	0.5	-	0.3	0.4	0.3	-	0.2	0.3
Ecstasy	0.5	0.9	0.1	1.1	2.0	0.3	0.1	-	-
LSD	*	-	*	*	-	0.1	-	-	-
Magic Mushrooms	*	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-
Solvents	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	-	-	-	0.2
Poppers ³	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.1	-	-	-
Sedatives, Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	9.8	7.0	12.5	5.4	2.5	8.2	10.7	15.5	14.2

1 For the purposes of this study, "illegal drugs" refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers, and solvents.

2 Other opiates i.e. Temgesic®, codeine, Kapake®, morphine, opium, DF's, diffs, dikes, peach.

3 Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

- no respondents in this category

* less than a half of 0.1 percent (< 0.05)

NOTE: all figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Tables

Island of Ireland

Table 3.1: Island of Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults 15-64	Males	Females	Young adults 15-34	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drugs ¹	19.2	25.1	13.2	27.9	26.3	29.6	18.0	9.9	4.1
Cannabis	17.1	22.7	11.6	24.4	23.3	25.6	17.1	9.3	3.4
Heroin	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.2	-
Methadone	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1
Cocaine (total, including crack)	2.4	3.7	1.2	4.0	4.2	3.8	2.2	0.5	-
Crack	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	-	-
Cocaine Powder	2.3	3.6	1.1	3.9	4.0	3.7	2.1	0.5	-
Amphetamines	3.4	5.0	1.9	5.8	5.2	6.4	2.4	0.8	0.6
Ecstasy	4.6	6.3	2.9	8.8	8.7	8.9	2.2	0.3	-
LSD	3.6	5.5	1.7	5.9	4.7	7.0	2.9	1.1	0.4
Magic Mushrooms	4.1	5.9	2.2	6.1	5.3	6.9	5.0	0.7	0.3
Solvents	2.2	3.0	1.4	4.1	4.1	4.2	1.1	0.1	0.3
Poppers ²	3.8	5.3	2.4	7.2	7.0	7.3	1.9	0.6	0.1
Sedatives, Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	16.3	11.8	20.7	11.4	8.2	14.6	17.6	20.3	25.2

¹ For the purposes of this study, illegal drug use refers to the use of amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

- no respondents in this category

* less than a half of 0.1 percent (< 0.05)

NOTE: all figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Table 3.2: Island of Ireland – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults 15-64	Males	Females	Young adults 15-34	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drugs ¹	5.9	8.6	3.3	10.5	13.4	7.5	3.5	1.4	0.5
Cannabis	5.2	7.8	2.6	9.1	11.4	6.7	3.5	1.2	0.3
Heroin	0.1	*	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	-
Methadone	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	-
Cocaine (total, including crack)	0.9	1.4	0.3	1.6	2.2	1.0	0.4	0.1	-
Crack	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	-
Cocaine Powder	0.8	1.4	0.3	1.6	2.1	1.0	0.4	0.1	-
Amphetamines	0.6	1.0	0.2	1.1	1.5	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1
Ecstasy	1.3	2.0	0.6	2.7	3.6	1.7	0.4	0.1	-
LSD	0.1	0.1	*	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	-
Magic Mushrooms	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Solvents	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	-	-	0.1
Poppers ²	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.9	1.3	0.5	0.1	-	-
Sedatives, Tranquillisers, Anti-depressants	8.6	6.1	11.1	5.7	4.1	7.3	8.7	11.7	14.0

¹ For the purposes of this study, illegal drug use refers to the use of amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

- no respondents in this category

* less than a half of 0.1 percent (< 0.05)

NOTE: all figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Table 3.3: Island of Ireland – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults 15-64	Males	Females	Young adults 15-34	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Any illegal drugs ¹	3.1	4.8	1.5	5.6	7.7	3.4	1.8	0.6	0.4
Cannabis	2.7	4.1	1.3	4.8	6.5	3.0	1.8	0.5	0.2
Heroin	*	*	*	0.1	0.2	-	-	-	-
Methadone	0.1	*	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	-
Cocaine (total, including crack)	0.2	0.5	-	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.1	-	-
Crack	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cocaine Powder	0.2	0.5	-	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.1	-	-
Amphetamines	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Ecstasy	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.8	1.3	0.4	0.1	-	-
LSD	*	*	*	*	-	0.1	-	-	-
Magic Mushrooms	*	0.1	-	*	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.1
Solvents	*	0.1	*	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	0.1
Poppers ²	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	*	-	-	-
Sedatives, Tranquillisers Anti-depressants	6.4	4.7	8.1	3.4	2.2	4.7	6.1	10.1	11.7

¹ For the purposes of this study, illegal drug use refers to the use of amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

- no respondents in this category

* less than a half of 0.1 percent (< 0.05)

NOTE: all figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

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