

# Co-ordination Overview Of Drug Misuse 2003

**South Eastern Health Board  
Region**



South  
Eastern  
Health  
Board

Bord  
Sláinte  
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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2003 Data Co-ordination Overview and as in previous years the report gives an outline of alcohol/drug related data collected during the year.

The report refers to persons who attended the various treatment services, both statutory and voluntary within the South Eastern Health Board region for alcohol and/or drug misuse. The main sources of data are the counsellors in the South Eastern Health Board treatment services, both voluntary and voluntary residential services and the drug treatment clinics. Data is also included from the general hospitals within the Region, the Probation & Welfare Services, Community Based Drug Initiatives and the Gardai.

### 2003 Developments

1. There was full year reporting from the Cornmarket Project, Wexford. Therefore, under normal circumstance an increase in the number of Wexford clients would be expected but in this case any increase could be offset against the lack of staff resources for the South Eastern Health Board treatment services in Wexford for three quarters of the year due to retirements and illness. Currently all vacant posts in Wexford are filled.
2. There was also reporting from an additional Community Based Drug Initiative for November and December in Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary.
3. A Department of Psychiatry for Carlow and Kilkenny was opened in St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny.
4. A liaison counsellor was appointed to Waterford Regional Hospital in October 2003.
5. The employment of an outreach worker for the Lúb project. The Lúb project brings together a group of people concerned about marginalized/at risk groups in Waterford City. The Outreach Worker is employed through Waterford Regional Youth Service to provide a link between the Health Board Services and at-risk groups. It is hoped that this Project will provide a new understanding of gaps in services. The Outreach Worker is in contact and works with marginalized people, in particular people who are experiencing homelessness, addiction, self-harm and suicide, supporting them to make use of their natural networks and assist them in their contact with existing support services. The Management Group of this project consists of the South Eastern Health Board's Homelessness, Suicide and Substance Misuse programmes, Waterford City Council, St. Vincent de Paul and Waterford Regional Youth Services.
6. It is also worth noting that S.E.H.B. Performance Indicators for Addiction Services under Social Inclusion and Mental Health are based on information already collected for the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (N.D.T.R.S.) run by the Drug Misuse Research Division of the Health Research Board. Due to the Health Boards' Performance Indicators requirements, the Health Research Board, in liaison with the National Addiction Services Performance Indicator Group, amended the current N.D.T.R.S. form to take into account information required for Performance Indicators. This came into effect on January 1 2004.

7. A meeting was held in late November between all addiction treatment service providers, both statutory and voluntary, in the Region to plan a way forward for treatment service provision in the South East. Mr. Barry Cullen, Researcher, Trinity College, Dublin facilitated this. A series of follow up meetings will take place in each community care area throughout 2004, aimed at integrating service provision for addiction.

*The data collected during the year and as presented by the Data Co-ordinator is based on information supplied by the respective Services.*

## 1. REGIONAL/SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH BOARD TREATMENT SERVICES

For the purpose of this section of the report, data received during the year will be divided into two sections – data received for the South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services and data received for the Region. The data sources for both are outlined below.

### **South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services**

There are currently eighteen counsellors providing frontline counselling services for the South Eastern Health Board within the five counties of the Region. Data is also received from in-patient services of St. Senan's Hospital, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford (being the only in-patient psychiatric services to provide this data for the National Drug Treatment Reporting System).

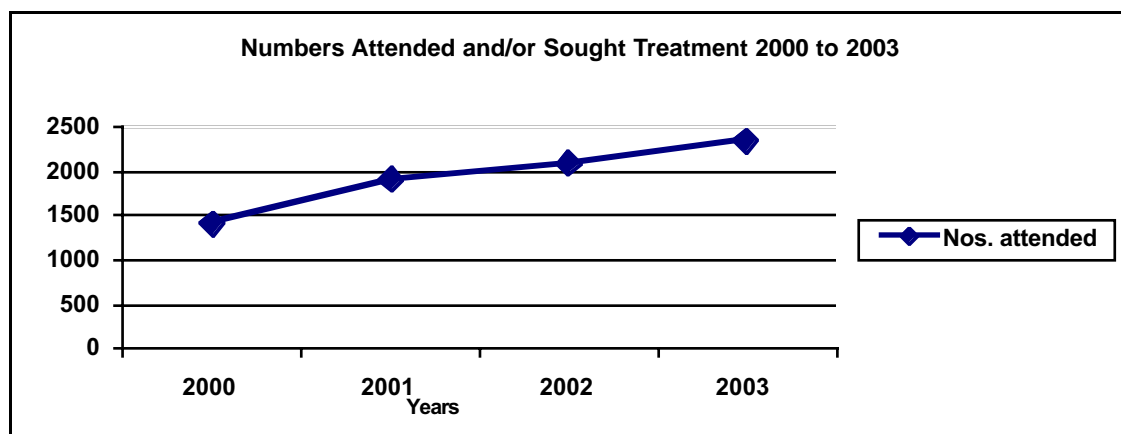
### **Region**

The figures from the Region include data collected from both statutory and voluntary treatment services. The figures are collated separately and include data from the South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services (as mentioned above), the Drug Treatment Clinics in Carlow and Waterford, Aiséirí – Cahir and Wexford, Aislinn, Kilkenny and the Cornmarket Project, Wexford.

Data from the above Services is collected and collated 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 which is an epidemiological database on treated drug and alcohol misuse in Ireland. One form is required to be completed for each individual treated during the twelve-month period running from 1 January to 31 December.

*The figures are based on those presenting to the treatment services and are not representative of prevalence of general drug and alcohol use.*

In the Region 2,345 clients sought or attended for treatment from January to December 2003. This is an increase of 249 clients on 2002 figures. This may be a true increase or it may be due to full year reporting for the majority of the services.



6% of individuals who sought or received treatment during the year made contact with more than one of the Services. This figure has risen by 1% on year 2002. Part of this increase may be due to the staff resource problems in Wexford during the year and the need for clients to seek treatment elsewhere.

## South Eastern Health Board Services Only

| County          | Total Number of Clients Treated by County |      |      |      |
|-----------------|---|------|------|------|
|                 | Years                                     |      |      |      |
|                 | 2000                                      | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| Carlow          | 274                                       | 323  | 338  | 262  |
| Kilkenny        | 166                                       | 224  | 259  | 253  |
| South Tipperary | 168                                       | 207  | 219  | 297  |
| Waterford       | 265                                       | 398  | 433  | 459  |
| Wexford         | 135                                       | 204  | 268  | 224  |

The increase in numbers between 2000 and 2002 may be a true increase but it is more likely that the increase is due to the inclusion of ongoing clients and the collection of data for those who attended for assessment only and the employment of additional counsellors in the Region in the years 2001 and 2002. The fall in numbers for Carlow and Kilkenny in 2003 may in part be due to a vacant counsellor post in Kilkenny and the fact that the Carlow post was vacant until the second half of the year. The increase in South Tipperary may be due to the employment of a community-based counsellor in December 2002 and a full reporting year for this service in 2003. Some of the increase in Waterford may be due to the increase in numbers attending the Drug Treatment Clinic from 9 in 2002 to 26 in 2003. Again the decrease in Wexford may in part be due to the vacant posts in Wexford for nearly three quarters of the year.

In each of the four Community Care Areas: Carlow/Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford, counselling services are provided through both the Mental Health Services and Community Care Services (Substance Misuse Teams).

## South Eastern Health Board Reporting Treatment Services 2003

**CARLOW:** the Community Alcohol Service provided clinics in Bagenalstown, Borris and Tullow Health Centres, Home Visits, St. Dymphna's Hospital and the Department of Psychiatry, St. Luke's Hospital. The Substance Misuse Team counsellor provided clinics at Castlehill Health Centre and the Drug Treatment Clinic.

**KILKENNY:** the Community Alcohol Treatment Service provided clinics in St. Luke's Hospital, St. Canice's Hospital, St. Canice's Day Hospital, Department of Psychiatry, St. Luke's Hospital, Castlecomer, Urlingford, Callan and Graiguenamanagh Health Centres. The Substance Misuse Team counsellor provided a clinic at Kickham Street, Kilkenny.

It should be noted that the same Substance Misuse Team counsellor provides both the Carlow and Kilkenny services.

**SOUTH TIPP:** the Community Alcohol Addiction Treatment Service provided clinics in Coolgreaney House, Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir Health Centre. The Substance Misuse Team counsellor provided clinics at Peter Street, Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir and Tipperary Town Health Centres.

**WATERFORD:** A.C.C.E.P.T. (combines both the mental health and community care services) provided clinics in Brook House, Waterford, Department of Psychiatry, Waterford Regional Hospital, Waterford Regional Hospital, Newport Day Centre, Dungarvan, Cappoquin Health Centre, Waterside, Waterford and the Drug Treatment Clinic, Waterford.

**WEXFORD:** the Community Counselling Service provided clinics in St. Senan’s Hospital, New Ross, Enniscorthy, Gorey and Summerhill, Wexford Town Health Centres. This service was there for the first quarter of the year only. The Substance Misuse Team counsellors provided clinics in Community Care Grogan’s Road and Lower Georges Street, Wexford, Roches Pharmacy, Gorey and for the last three quarters of the year also provided clinics in New Ross, Enniscorthy and Summerhill Health Centres. Data is also submitted by in-patient services St. Senan’s Hospital, Enniscorthy..

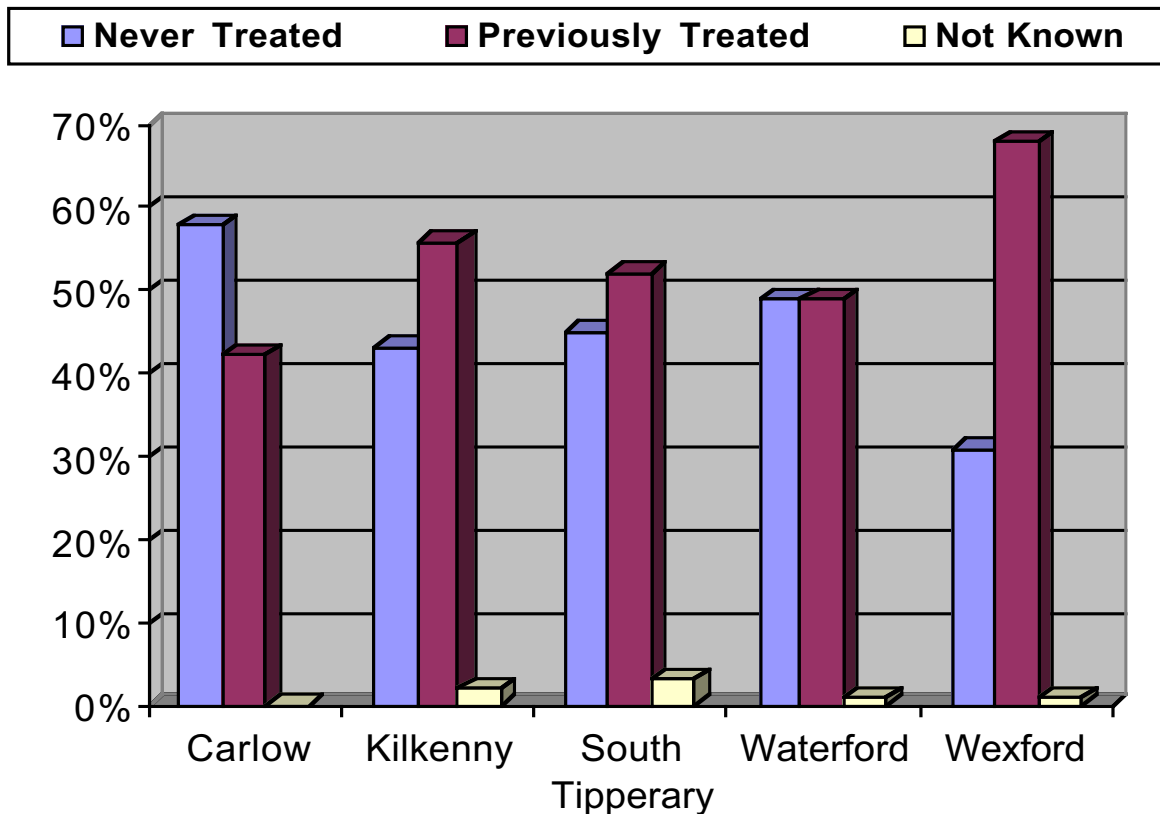
The following tables and charts for the **Region** includes data from the South Eastern Health Board treatment services, the voluntary sector and the two drug treatment services. Charts and tables for the **South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services** includes data from the services as stated above.

## 1. EVER PREVIOUSLY BEEN TREATED FOR DRUG MISUSE:

### Region

|                                    | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Never previously treated</b>    | 53%  | 58%  | 57%  | 62%  |
| <b>Had previously been treated</b> | 46%  | 41%  | 41%  | 35%  |
| <b>Not known</b>                   | 1%   | 1%   | 1%   | 3%   |

**South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services:**



Carlow services have the highest rate of clients who had never previously been treated – this may be due to the number of clients seen through the alcohol and drug education programmes in liaison with the Courts/Probation services, that the Carlow service run. Wexford services have the highest number of clients who had previously been treated than those who had not. As stated above, this may be due to the crossover of clients between all the services in Wexford due to the vacant posts in Wexford for part of the year and partly due to the increase in the number of ongoing clients from 7% in 2002 to 16% in 2003. Kilkenny also has a high number of clients who had previously been treated (56%), this also may be due in part to the increased number of ongoing clients in their service from 10% in 2002 to 23% in 2003. The same could also be said of South Tipperary. 52% of their clients had previously been treated and the number of ongoing clients increased from 17% in 2002 to 23% in 2003.

**Of those who had previously been treated for alcohol/drug misuse:**

- 14% of Carlow clients were ongoing
- 23% of Kilkenny clients were ongoing.
- 23% of South Tipperary clients were ongoing.
- 30% of Waterford clients were ongoing.
- 16% of Wexford clients were ongoing.

Ongoing clients are clients that continue treatment from one year to the next without a break in the continuum of care.

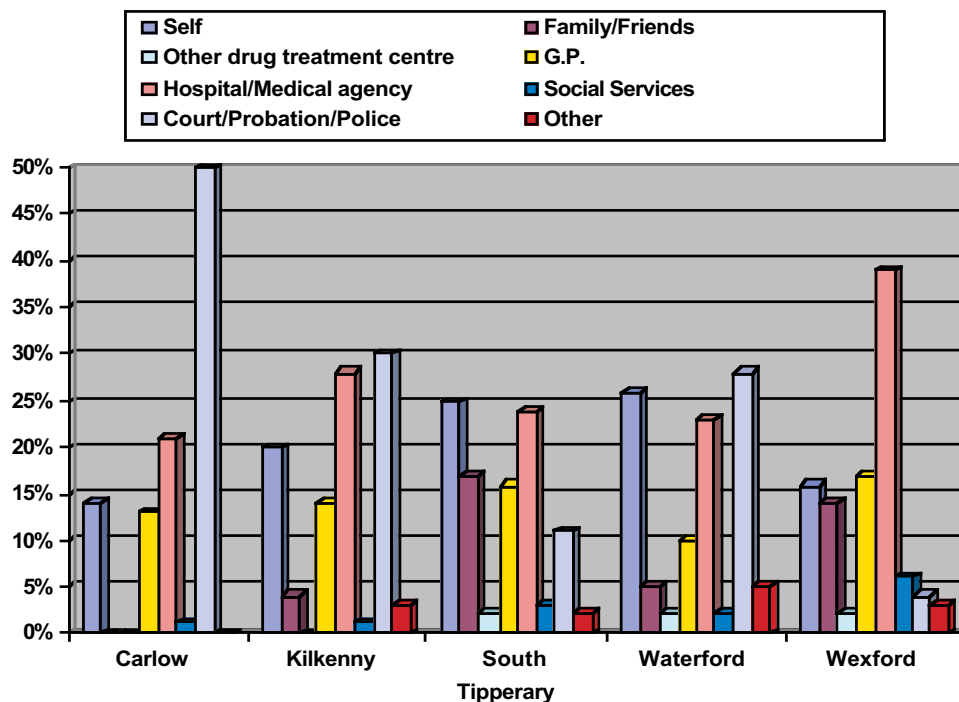
## 2. SOURCE OF REFERRAL: Region

| Source of Referral          | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Self                        | 22%  | 19%  | 19%  | 20%  |
| Family                      | 10%  | 7%   | 7%   | 6%   |
| Friends                     | 5%   | 4%   | 4%   | 5%   |
| Other drug treatment centre | 5%   | 4%   | 2%   | 3%   |
| G.P.                        | 12%  | 13%  | 12%  | 9%   |
| Hospital/Medical Agency     | 17%  | 22%  | 27%  | 28%  |
| Social services             | 2%   | 3%   | 2%   | 3%   |
| Court/Probation/Police      | 21%  | 21%  | 20%  | 22%  |
| *Other                      | 6%   | 7%   | 8%   | 2%   |
| Not known                   | 0%   | 0%   | 0%   | 1%   |

\*Of “other” referrals, the main referrals were: 16% from work, 14% by counsellors - but the type of counsellor was not specified, 10% from Youth Reach, 9% by addiction counsellors, 8% from psychiatrists and 7% each for school and outreach worker.

Regionally, since 2000 the number of family referrals has increased from 6% in 2000 to 10% in 2003. The number of self referrals has also increased in 2003 by 3% from year 2001 and 2002 figures and 2% from year 2000 figures. The number of hospital/medical agency referrals has continued to decrease in 2003. The above may be due to the now “open access” policy for all of the South Eastern Health Board services.

### South Eastern Health Board Services



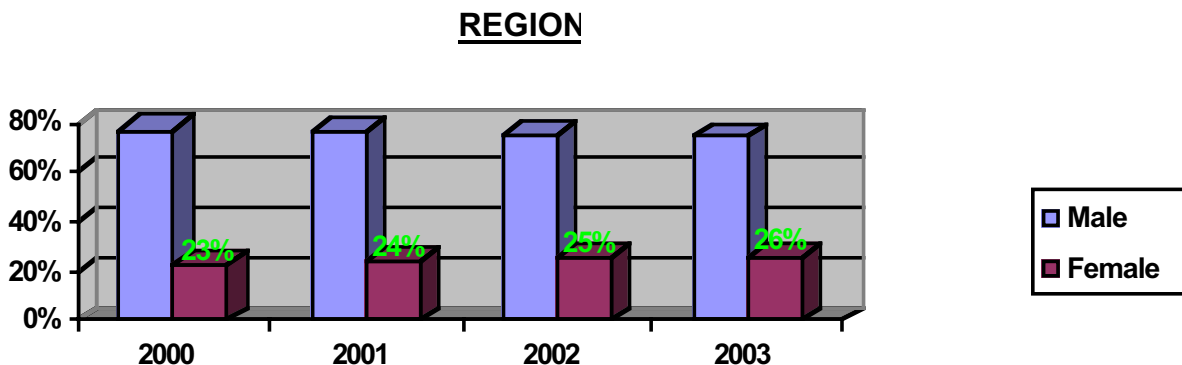


The main referrals to each service are from self, g.p., hospital/medical agency and court/probation/police and also family referrals in South Tipperary.

1. There was an increase in the number of **self and g.p. referrals** of 9% each from year 2002 to 2003, to the Carlow service. This may in part be due to the Service implementing an open referral policy in late 2002.
2. **Hospital/medical agency referrals** are high to all services. This may be because of referrals coming from the Departments of Psychiatry and may be due to many clients firstly being detoxed through these services before being referred for counselling. There has been an increase of 6% in hospital/medical agency referrals to the Kilkenny service, this may be due in part to this service providing treatment to a higher number of hospitals, i.e. D.O.P. St. Luke's Hospital, St. Canice's Hospital, St. Canice's Day Hospital and the Pre-Discharge Unit Kilcreene Hospital. Wexford continues to have the highest number of these referrals and as in previous years this is mainly due to the inclusion of data from St. Senan's Hospital itself.
3. **Court/probation/police referrals** are high in Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford. Carlow and to a lesser extent Kilkenny run Alcohol and Drug Awareness Programmes which are essentially a service provided for the Courts and Probation Services. The Waterford service took a number of direct referrals from the J.L.O. service. There was an increase of 6% in the number of court/probation/police referrals from 2002 to 2003 to the Waterford service this is due to an increase in the number of referrals from these services. Wexford has the lowest number of these referrals, which is due to the fact that it is mainly the Cornmarket Project, which provides the services for the Wexford Probation & Welfare Service. Traditionally, referrals from the Probation & Welfare Service would be made to both the South Eastern Health Board and Cornmarket Project services. However, during 2003, due to the shortage of local treatment staff resources in Wexford there was a waiting list for these services and priority was given to under 18s and those referred from the Social Work Department where there were childcare concerns. Referrals from the Probation & Welfare Service were acknowledged by the treatment service and clients were placed on the waiting list.
4. South Tipperary has the highest number of **family referrals**, mainly due to the fact that the majority of clients to the community based counsellor were under 18 years.

### 3. GENDER:

Again as for the previous two years, throughout all services the majority of those attending for treatment of problem drug/alcohol misuse were males. However, the number of females rose by 1% in each of the years 2000 to 2003.



#### 4. AGE:

| South Eastern Health Board Services |        |        |          |                 |           |         |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| Age Group                           | Region | Carlow | Kilkenny | South Tipperary | Waterford | Wexford |
| 10 – 19 yrs                         | 18%    | 10%    | 11%      | 19%             | 20%       | 9%      |
| 20 – 29 yrs                         | 31%    | 45%    | 28%      | 29%             | 36%       | 26%     |
| 30 – 39 yrs                         | 21%    | 24%    | 19%      | 20%             | 17%       | 27%     |
| 40 – 49 yrs                         | 16%    | 11%    | 24%      | 17%             | 11%       | 23%     |
| 50 – 59 yrs                         | 11%    | 7%     | 12%      | 12%             | 11%       | 10%     |
| 60 – 69 yrs                         | 3%     | 3%     | 3%       | 2%              | 4%        | 3%      |
| 70 – 79 yrs                         | 1%     | 1%     | 2%       | 0%              | 1%        | 1%      |
| Not known                           | 0%     | 0%     | 2%       | 0%              | 0%        | 0%      |

Regionally, those in the 20 to 29 year age group continue to have the highest numbers attending the treatment services in 2003 but there has been a decrease in this age group of 1% and an increase in the 10-19 year age group of 3% from 2002 to 2003. The same is true for the Kilkenny, South Tipperary and Waterford services in that there was an increase in the 10-19 age group and a decrease in the 20-29 age group. The reverse is true for the Carlow service in that there was a decrease in the 10-19 age group and an increase in the 20-29 age group. There has been an increase in both the numbers of the 10-19 and 20-29 year age groups in Wexford.

#### 5. LIVING STATUS (where):

##### Region:

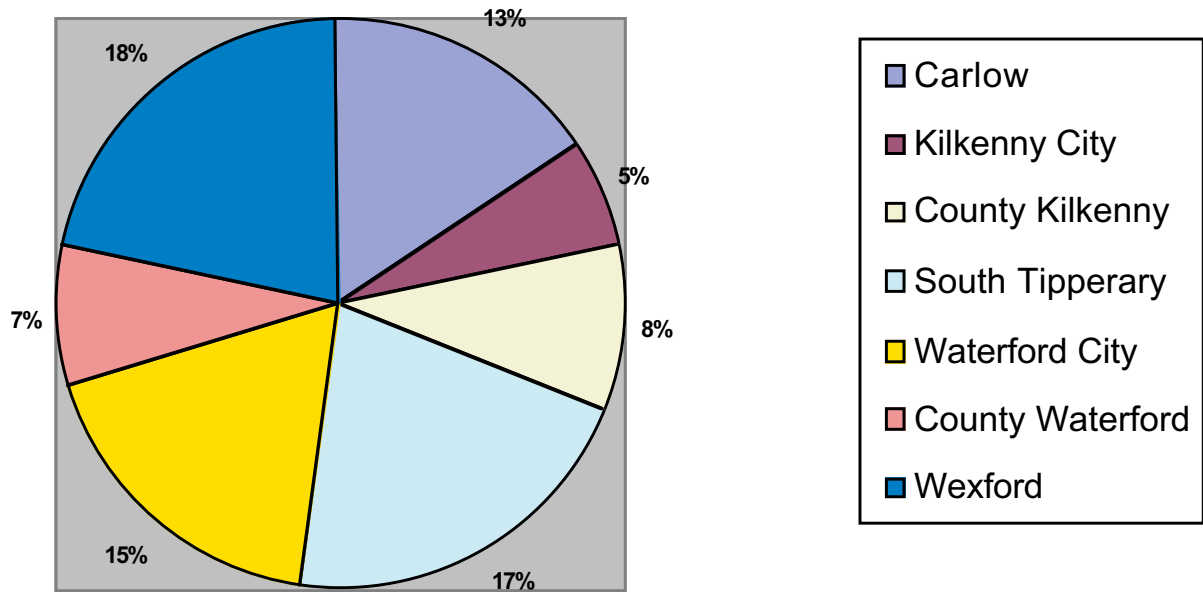
| LIVING STATUS                      | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| 1. Stable accommodation            | 94%  | 94%  | 85%  |
| 2. Institution (prison/clinic etc) | 1%   | 1%   | 1%   |
| 3. Homeless                        | 2%   | 2%   | 2%   |
| 4. Other unstable accommodation    | 2%   | 2%   | 3%   |
| 5. Not known                       | 1%   | 1%   | 8%   |

As is evident from the table, there has been no change in the figures from 2002 to 2003 and those living in stable accommodation continue to have the highest numbers attending the treatment services. The same is true for the South Eastern Health Board services with Carlow and South Tipperary both having 97% of clients living in stable accommodation and Kilkenny and Waterford both having 94%. Wexford had 95% of clients living in stable accommodation. Kilkenny had the highest number of homeless clients at 4%, followed by Waterford 3%, Wexford 2%, Carlow 1% and South Tipperary 0%.

**6. AREA OF RESIDENCE:**

Regionally, 83% of clients who sought treatment for problem alcohol/drug use had addresses in the South Eastern Health Board area. This is decrease of 1% on year 2002 figures and brings it back to both the 2001 and 2000 figures – 83% for both years.

**Region:**



**7. NATIONALITY:**

Again, as in previous years there has been no change in the numbers attending for treatment who were Irish, regionally it remains at 97%. Of the remaining 3%, 2% were British.

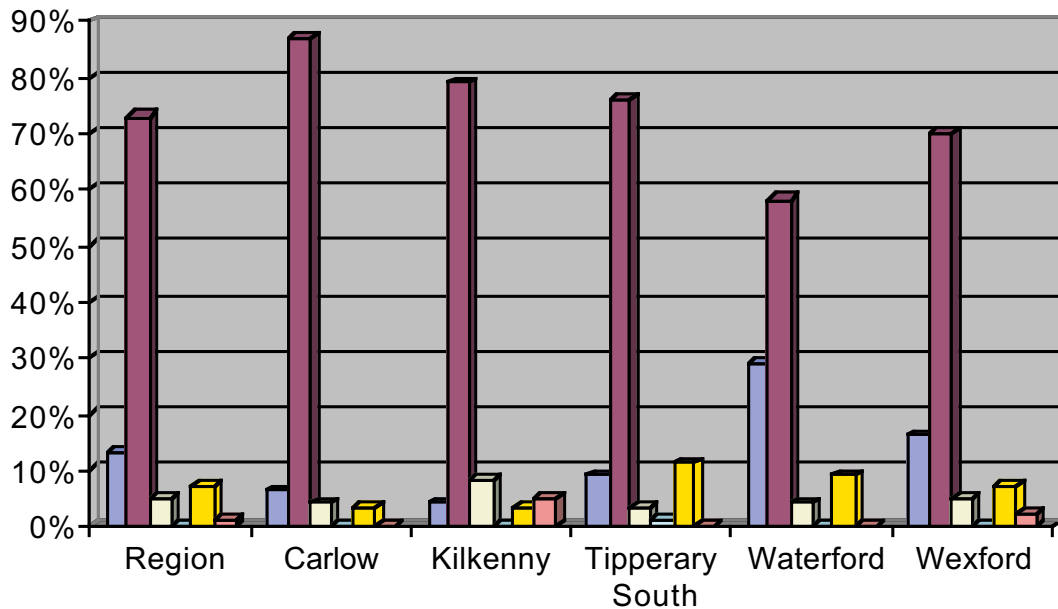
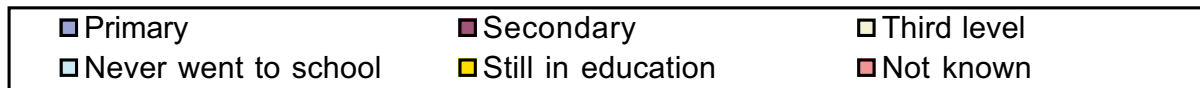
**8. EMPLOYMENT STATUS:**

The table below refers to the employment status of clients who sought treatment or attended for treatment during 2003. Regionally, when comparing 2002 and 2003 figures, and throughout all the services with the exception of Waterford, where figures remained the same, there has been an increase in the numbers attending or seeking treatment who are unemployed and a decrease in the numbers of those employed. Regionally, those who are unemployed rose by 5% and those in paid employment decreased by 1%. The highest increase in the numbers attending who were unemployed was in Wexford where it rose from 37% in 2002 to 49% in 2003.

**Employment Status:**

| Employment Status      | Region | South Eastern Health Board Services |          |            |           |         |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|----------|------------|-----------|---------|
|                        |        | Carlow                              | Kilkenny | South Tipp | Waterford | Wexford |
| In paid employment     | 37%    | 47%                                 | 37%      | 28%        | 40%       | 26%     |
| Unemployed             | 40%    | 34%                                 | 37%      | 42%        | 35%       | 49%     |
| FAS/training course    | 5%     | 6%                                  | 5%       | 6%         | 5%        | 3%      |
| Student                | 7%     | 3%                                  | 3%       | 11%        | 9%        | 7%      |
| Housewife/husband      | 5%     | 4%                                  | 5%       | 3%         | 5%        | 10%     |
| Retired/unable to work | 6%     | 7%                                  | 12%      | 10%        | 6%        | 5%      |
| Not Known              | 0%     | 0%                                  | 0%       | 0%         | 0%        | 1%      |

**9. EDUCATION HIGHEST LEVEL REACHED:**



Again, as in previous years, the majority of clients, 73% of the Regional figures, had reached second level before leaving full time education. The same is true for all of the services. The percentage of those in full time education has again risen by 1% in 2003. This is an increase of 4% on year 2000 figures.

Comparing 2002 and 2003 data. In the S.E.H.B. services, the number of those who had reached second level before leaving full time education remains the same for Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford but rose by 7% in South Tipperary and by 2% in Waterford.

It should be noted that the counselling services as provided through the Mental Health Services are in the main adult services and those provided through the Substance Misuse Teams are more generic. Waterford is the exception where the two services are combined.

Therefore the fact that the Substance Misuse Team counsellor for Carlow/Kilkenny was only in place for the second half of the year may account for the no change in this figure for Carlow and Kilkenny. Similarly, the fact that there were a number of vacant posts in Wexford could also have a bearing on the Wexford numbers.

The increase in South Tipperary may be due to the fact that the majority of clients seen by the Substance Misuse Team Counsellor were under 18 years (28%) and the fact that this service supplied full year data.

## 10. PROBLEM DRUG USE – MAIN DRUG:

The following data is based on figures for the Region. Again, this includes S.E.H.B. treatment services, including the Drug Treatment Clinics and the voluntary treatment services.

Alcohol, at 67%, remains the main drug for which treatment was sought in the South Eastern Health Board region. However, compared with 2002 data this figure is down 5% for 2003. That gives a total decrease of 10% between the years 2001 and 2003.

As in previous years, the four main drugs for which treatment was sought were alcohol (67%), cannabis (20%), heroin (6%) and MDMA (3%). Heroin has risen by 1% in 2003. Cannabis has increased by 4% on 2002 figures and there has also been an increase in cocaine from 1% in 2001 and 2002 to 2% in 2003.

### Region:

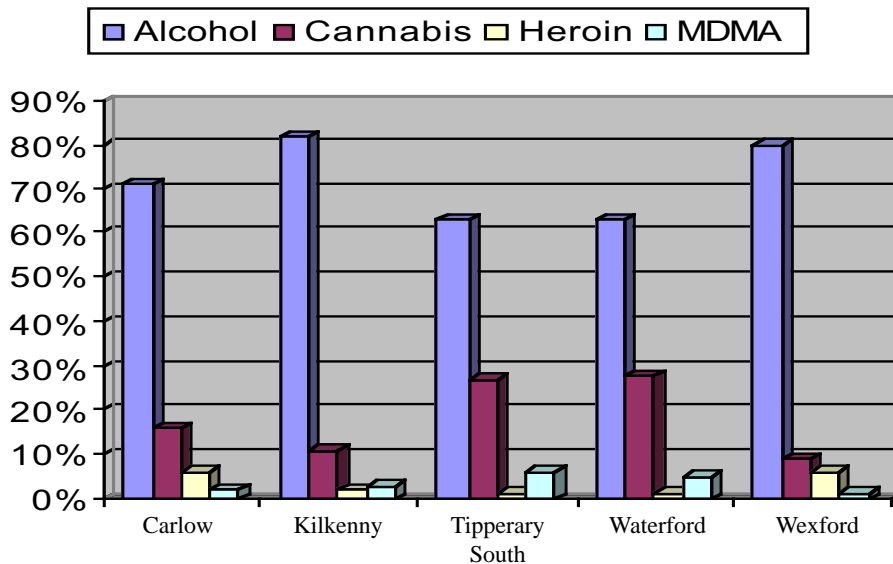
| Main Drug Name          | % Year 2003 | % Year 2002 | % Year 2001 | % Year 2000 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Alcohol                 | 67%         | 72%         | 77%         | 72%         |
| Cannabis                | 20%         | 16%         | 13%         | 17%         |
| Heroin                  | 6%          | 5%          | 4%          | 3%          |
| MDMA                    | 3%          | 4%          | 3%          | 5%          |
| Cocaine                 | 2%          | 1%          | 1%          | 0.5%        |
| Amphetamines            | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          |
| Benzodiazepines         | 0%          | 1%          | 1%          | 0.5%        |
| Other Opiate Type Drugs | 0%          | 1%          | 0.4%        | 0.5%        |

Below is a breakdown of figures from the **South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services** (excluding the Drug Treatment Clinics) for the four main drugs (alcohol, cannabis, heroin and MDMA) for which treatment was sought in the respective Services.

Comparing 2003 and 2002 figures:

1. Alcohol figures are up 1% in Carlow and Kilkenny, down 11% in South Tipperary, down 4% in Waterford and down 1% in Wexford.
2. The figures for cannabis are up 1% in Carlow, 13% in South Tipperary and 4% in Waterford. Figures for Cannabis are down 3% in Kilkenny and remain the same in Wexford.
3. Heroin figures are up 1% in Carlow and Kilkenny, up 5% in Wexford and remain the same for South Tipperary and Waterford.
4. MDMA figures are down 3% in Carlow and 2% in both South Tipperary and Wexford. Figures remain the same for Kilkenny and Waterford.

**South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services**

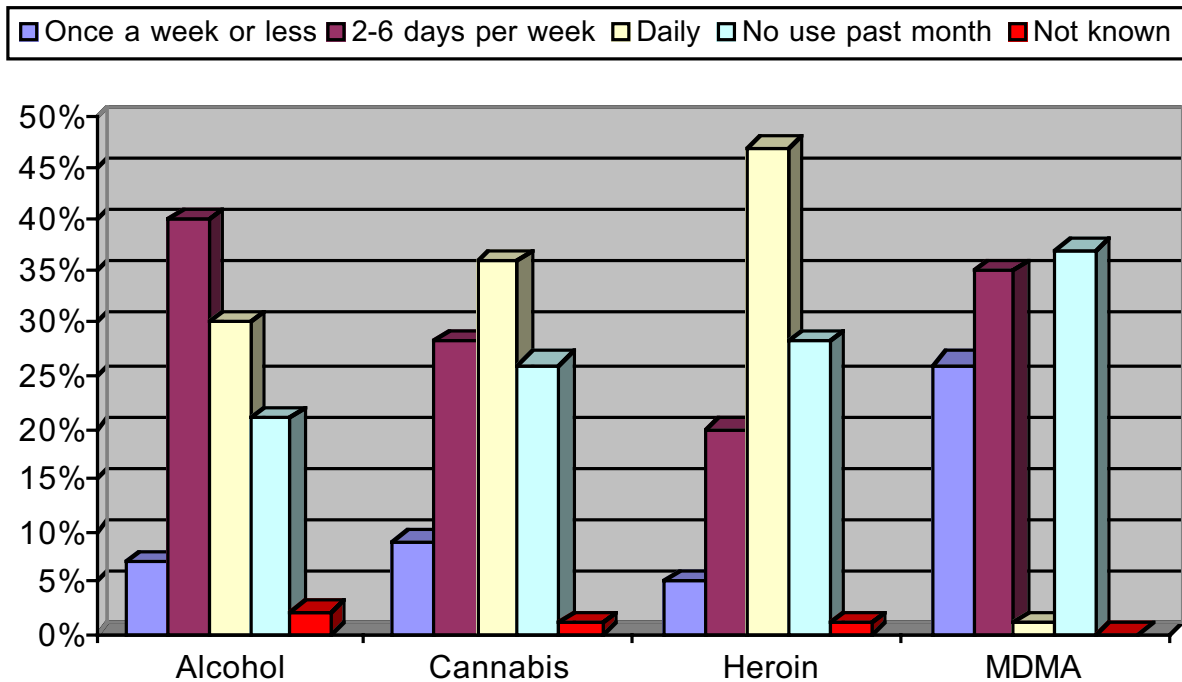


60% of clients had no secondary drugs of misuse (63% in 2002). However of the 40% of clients who had a secondary drug of misuse, cannabis was the most frequently used secondary drug at 33%, followed by alcohol at 20%, MDMA at 21% and amphetamines and cocaine both at 8%.

### 11. MAIN DRUG – FREQUENCY OF USE PAST MONTH:

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

**Region:**



Comparing 2002 and 2003 data:

**Alcohol:** the use of alcohol 2-6 days per week has decreased by 6% but the daily use has increased by 7%

**Cannabis:** there has been an increase in daily use by 3% and a decrease of 4% in no use past month

**Heroin:** daily use has increased by 6% and no use past month has decreased by 7%

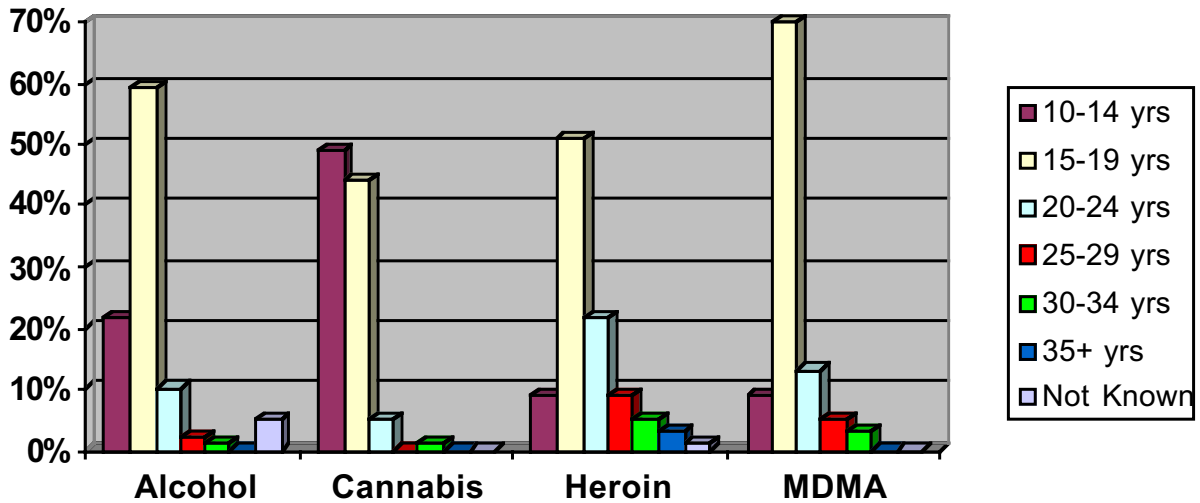
**MDMA:** the use of MDMA once a week or less has increased by 10%, decreased by 14% for use 2-6 days per week, daily use has also decreased by 5% and there has been an increase in no use past month of 9%

### 12. MAIN DRUG – AGE AT FIRST USE:

Of those who sought treatment for alcohol, cannabis, heroin and MDMA 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.

**Region:**



From the data received, the age of first use of alcohol, heroin and MDMA is highest between the ages of 15 and 19 years and between the ages of 10 and 14 years for cannabis. This is followed by those in the 10-14 year age group for alcohol, in the 20 to 24 year age group for heroin and MDMA and in the 15-19 year age group for cannabis. In 2002 the age of first use was highest for all drugs in the 15-19 year age group.

In the Region, of those who sought treatment for heroin use 28% had injected in the past month prior to treatment and 7% had shared equipment. In year 2000, 35% had injected in the past month prior to treatment but this figure dropped to 22% in 2001 but has increased 3% in each of the years 2002 and 2003. Similarly, in year 2000, 12% had shared equipment but dropped to 4% in 2001 and again increased in 2002 to 5% and to 7% in 2003.

**13. CONCERNED PERSONS:**

The South Eastern Health Board treatment services received contacts from persons who were concerned about a family member/friends etc. alcohol and/or drug problem. Overall this accounted for 9% of the contacts to the services during the year and is an increase of 2% on 2002 figures. This figure has continued to increase in the last number of years, from 6% in 2001 to 7% in 2002 and 9% in 2003. This data was not collated for 2000.

The following is a breakdown of this 9% figure per county:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Carlow:          | 34% |
| Kilkenny:        | 28% |
| South Tipperary: | 18% |
| Waterford:       | 11% |
| Wexford:         | 9%  |



## 2. DRUG TREATMENT CLINICS

The two drug treatment clinics in the Region, based in Carlow and Waterford are essentially for those who are addicted to opiates. G.P.'s also provide a drug treatment service but this is limited.

Based on data received from the Clinics, 31 people sought treatment at the Carlow clinic and 26 at the Waterford clinic during 2003. There has been no change in these figures for Carlow but there has been an increase of 17 clients on 2002 figures at the Waterford clinic.

As with the other treatment Services the majority of those who attended both clinics were male. Combining data from both services 61% were male and 39% female.

Again, combining data from both clinics, the highest numbers of those attending for treatment were in the 20-29 age group. 30% were in the 30-39 age group, 16% in the 40-49 age group, 5% between the ages of 18 and 19 and 3% in the 50-59 age group.

The highest numbers of clients in both clinics who first used opiates were in the 15-19 age group (51%). 17% had first used opiates between the ages of 20 and 24 years and 10% between the ages of 13 and 14 years.

As with the other services the majority of those attending the Clinics were living in stable accommodation – 97% Carlow (90% in 2002) and 89% Waterford (89% in 2002).

The majority of those attending the Carlow clinic were unemployed, 61% (58% 2002). The same was true for Waterford in year 2003 with the figure at 58%. In 2002, 44% each of the Waterford clients were unemployed and employed.

### **Area of Residence:**

Combining data from both clinics the following chart shows the percentage of clients by area of residence

| County          | Years |      |      |      |
|-----------------|-------|------|------|------|
|                 | 2003  | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 |
| Carlow          | 42%   | 56%  | 65%  | 50%  |
| Kilkenny        | 3%    | 5%   | 3%   | 6%   |
| South Tipperary | 2%    | 3%   | 5%   | 17%  |
| Waterford       | 25%   | 10%  | 13%  | 22%  |
| Wexford         | 25%   | 26%  | 14%  | 6%   |
| North Tipperary | 3%    | 5%   | 4%   | 0%   |

The percentage of clients attending the clinics with addresses in Carlow has fallen over the last three years, along with those with addresses in South Tipperary. Clients with addresses in Kilkenny and Waterford fell between years 2000 and 2001 and increased between years 2001 and 2002. However, whilst those with addresses in Kilkenny decreased between 2002 and 2003, those with addresses in Waterford increased 15% between 2002 and 2003. The

percentage of clients with addresses in Wexford rose in the three years 2000, 2001 and 2002 but has decreased by 1% in 2003.

The age that clients first injected was highest between the ages of 18 and 24 years (37%) and the same percentage had ever shared equipment.

Drug medication for the Clinics was provided by twenty pharmacies throughout the region, which are involved in the Programme.

In addition to the services provided at the two Drug Treatment Clinics, three General Practitioners in the region treated a total to six patients during the year.

### 3. H.I.P.E. SYSTEM

The Hospital In-patient Enquiry (HIPE) Scheme is a computer based health information system designed to collect clinical and administrative data on discharges and deaths from acute hospitals in Ireland. It is the principal source of national data on discharges from acute hospitals. The data collected by the HIPE system can be logically grouped into demographic, clinical and administrative data. Each HIPE discharge record represents one episode of care and patients may have been admitted to hospital(s) more than once with the same or different diagnoses. All of the data collected is coded in a standardised format for computer input and for subsequent analysis of the data.

There are just under one thousand codes under this System. Data reports were requested under five of these codes that obviously related to alcohol and drugs. **There may be higher instances of alcohol or drug related admissions to the hospitals not accounted for under these codes.**

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

Taking into account the routine time lag in chart coding the information as presented below is based on year 2002 to ensure a complete data set.

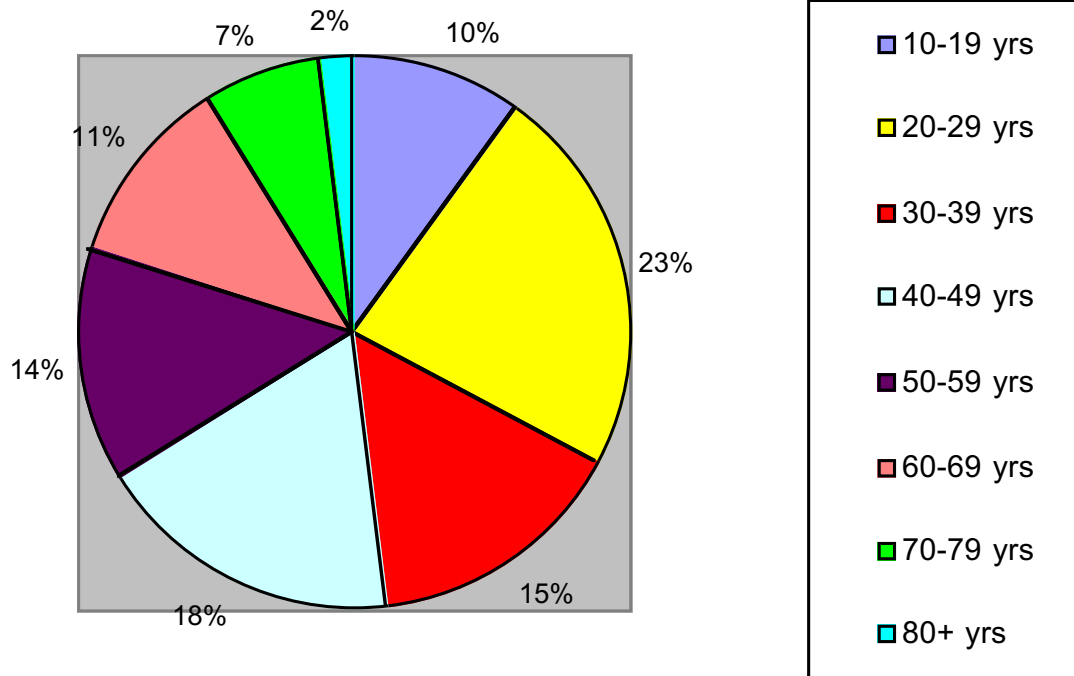
Based on the data received and the overall number of coded cases for each of the hospitals, the following is a breakdown under one or more of the following codes:

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

| Hospital                    | % Coded Admissions 2002 | % Coded Admissions 2001 | % Coded Admissions 2000 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Our Lady's Cashel           | 3%                      | 2%                      | 3%                      |
| St. Luke's Kilkenny         | 2%                      | 2%                      | 2%                      |
| Wexford General             | 3%                      | 2%                      | 2%                      |
| St. Joseph's Clonmel        | 2%                      | 2%                      | 1%                      |
| Waterford Regional Hospital | 2%                      | 1%                      | 2%                      |

The following breakdown includes data from all five hospitals.

**Age Group:**



Overall the highest numbers of admissions to the hospitals were in the 20-29 year age group, the same as year 2001 and 2000 and the same as the South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services. The next highest at 18% were in the 40-49 age group, followed by those in the 30-39 year age group at 15%. The S.E.H.B. Treatment Service differs here with the next highest age group between 30 and 39 years, followed by those in the 10 to 19 year age group.

As with data received from all services, the majority of admissions for all hospitals were male at 73%. This figure is down 1% on year 2001.

**Area Of Residence:**

| S.E.H.B.         | % 2002 | % 2001 | % 2000 |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Carlow           | 9%     | 11%    | 9%     |
| Kilkenny         | 15%    | 17%    | 18%    |
| South Tipperary  | 18%    | 20%    | 9%     |
| Waterford City   | 12%    | 11%    | 21%    |
| County Waterford | 7%     | 7%     | 11%    |
| Wexford          | 30%    | 26%    | 23%    |
| National         | 7%     | 7%     | 6%     |
| Great Britain    | 1%     | 1%     | 2%     |

Between the years 2000 and 2002, there has been a decrease in the number of clients with addresses in Kilkenny (3%), Waterford City (9%) and County Waterford (4%). In the same period there has been an increase in the number of clients with addresses in South Tipperary (9%) and Wexford (7%).

A patient can have up to ten diagnoses; therefore the data as presented below includes both primary and secondary diagnoses under one or more of the five H.I.P.E. codes. 8% of the cases had a primary diagnoses only, down 7% on year 2001. 87% had a secondary diagnoses only and 5% had both a main and secondary diagnoses. Overall, 14% of the admissions were repeats.

Based on the data received from all hospitals:

| H.I.P.E. Codes               | Percentage of Admissions   |
|------------------------------|--|
| Alcoholic Psychoses          | <b>0.9%</b>  |
| Drug Psychoses               | <b>0.5%</b>  |
| Alcohol Dependence Syndrome  | <b>19.2%</b>   |
| Drug Dependence              | <b>0.4%</b><br>(this figure includes cannabis, opioids and unspecified drugs)  |
| Non-Dependent Abuse Of Drugs | <b>71.3%</b><br>(this figure includes:<br>67.6% alcohol<br>2% drugs<br>drugs unspecified/cannabis/cocaine/opioids/<br>amphetamines/hallucinogens/anti-<br>depressants/barbiturates<br>1% both alcohol and drugs) |
| Multiple Diagnoses           | <b>7.6%</b>  |

## 4. IN-PATIENT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

A full year data set was received from St. Senan's Psychiatric Hospital, Enniscorthy for the National Drug Treatment Reporting System in 2003. Again, St. Senan's is the only in-patient psychiatric service participating in the National Drug Treatment Reporting System which is an epidemiological database on treated drug and alcohol misuse in Ireland. One form is required to be completed for each individual treated during the twelve-month period running from 1 January to 31 December.

All psychiatric services produce data for the Mental Health Division of the Health Research Board but it should be noted that the data set required for the Mental Health Division is broader and not as alcohol/drug defined as that for the Drug Misuse Research Division for the National Drug Treatment Reporting System.

Some data is received from the counselling services, provided through the Mental Health Services, for the various Departments of Psychiatry and Psychiatric Hospitals but these are in-patient clients who are seen by the counselling service and a counsellor will not see all in-patients.

Figures for St. Senan's are included in the regional figures and in the South Eastern Health Board breakdown figures under item 1. Data collected from St. Senan's includes clients who receive treatment for alcohol and/or drug misuse whether as a main diagnoses or in conjunction with another illness.

In 2003, 75 clients were treated for alcohol and or drug misuse in St. Senan's Hospital. 20% of these are not included in the figures as presented under item 1, as these were double counts within the reporting system, i.e. clients who were treated in more than one service during the reporting period. This figure is down 20% on last year. Again this may be due to the vacant counsellor posts in the counselling service based in St. Senan's Hospital as there would normally be a higher number of crossover clients between the two services.

83% of clients were treated for alcohol misuse, 9% for misuse of cannabis, 5% for heroin misuse and 1% each for both cocaine and MDMA misuse. 71% of clients were admitted for detoxification.

The following is data from a report from the Mental Health Division, Health Research Board "Activities of Irish Psychiatric Services 2002" by Antoinette Daly/Dermot Walsh

Health board hospitals & general hospital psychiatric units. All admissions. Diagnosis. Ireland 2002. (*rates per 100,000 population aged 16 years and over*)

## South Eastern Health Board

Numbers with percentages.

| Hospitals/Psychiatric Units                      | Alcoholic Disorders | Drug Dependence   |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| St. Canice's Hospital, Kilkenny                  | <b>88</b><br>21.1%  | <b>17</b><br>4.1% |
| St. Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow                   | <b>68</b><br>23.4%  | <b>12</b><br>4.1% |
| St. Luke's Hospital, Clonmel                     | <b>41</b><br>20.0%  | <b>12</b><br>5.9% |
| St. Otteran's Hospital, Waterford                | <b>0</b><br>0.0%    | <b>0</b><br>0.0%  |
| St. Senan's Hospital, Enniscorthy                | <b>146</b><br>23.7% | <b>23</b><br>3.7% |
| Psychiatric Unit, Waterford Regional Hospital    | <b>111</b><br>14.4% | <b>16</b><br>2.1% |
| Psychiatric Unit, St. Joseph's Hospital, Clonmel | <b>165</b><br>18.5% | <b>43</b><br>4.8% |

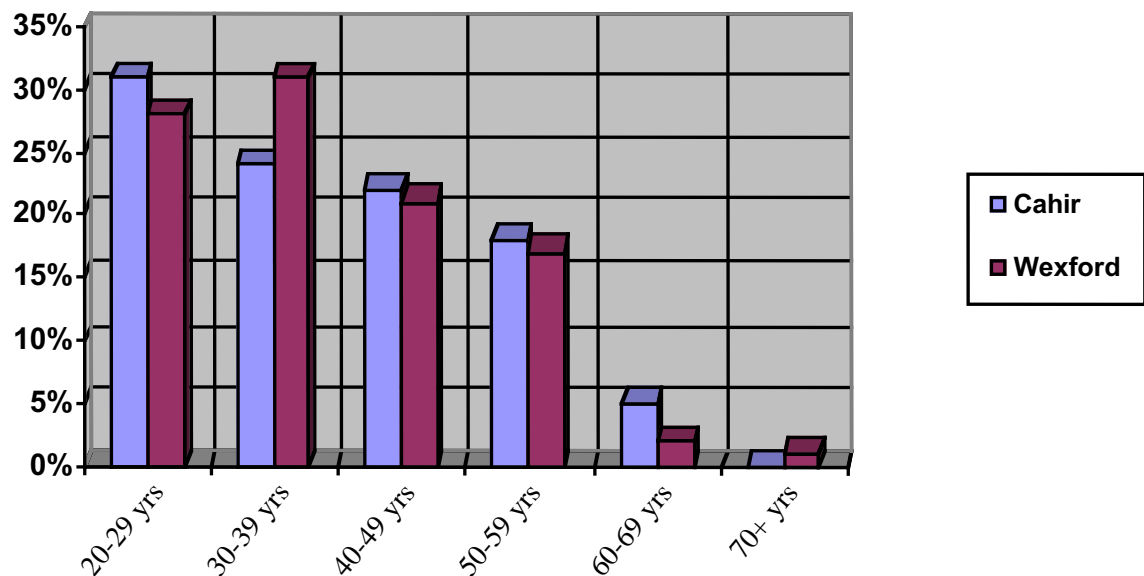
## 5. AISÉIRÍ SERVICES

Based on the information supplied by the two Aiséirí Services in Cahir and Wexford, 263 people sought treatment for problem alcohol/drug use at the Cahir Centre during 2003 and 254 at the Wexford Centre.

7% of those who sought treatment at Cahir and 5% at Wexford had also sought treatment at another treatment centre in the Region.

As with the South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services the majority attending these services were male.

### Age Group:



In 2001, the majority of clients who sought treatment at both services during the year were in the 30-39 age group, in 2002 the majority of Cahir clients were in the 20-29 age group and in the 40-49 age group in Wexford. This year, again the majority of Cahir clients are in the 20-29 age group whilst the majority of Wexford clients has changed and are now in the 30-39 age group.

### Area of Residence:

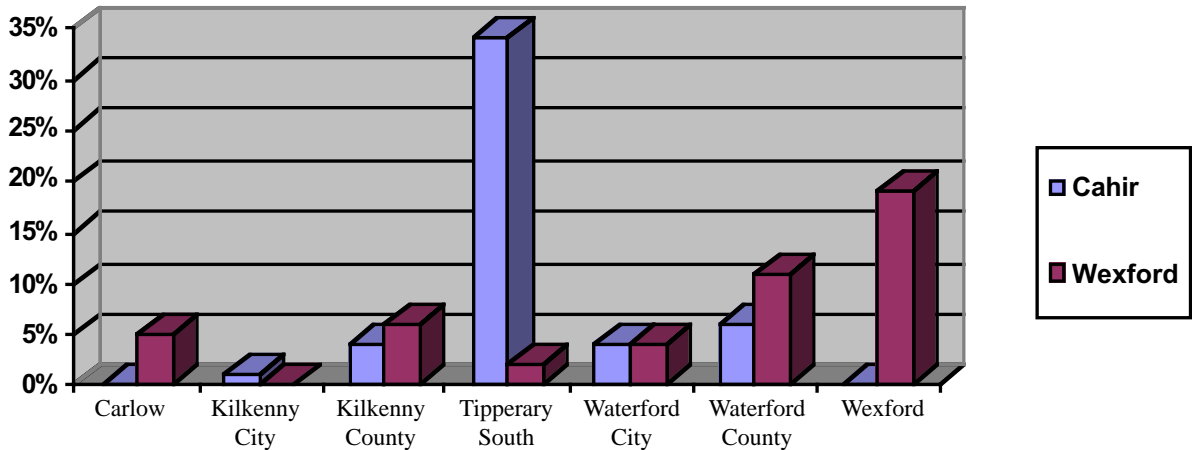
#### South Eastern Health Board Addresses

| Year        | Cahir      | Wexford    |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| 2000        | 39%        | 48%        |
| 2001        | 35%        | 55%        |
| 2002        | 38%        | 48%        |
| <b>2003</b> | <b>49%</b> | <b>47%</b> |



Figures for those attending Cahir with addresses in the South Eastern Health Board region fell in 2001 but increased again in 2002 and 2003. Between the years 2000 and 2003 there has been an overall increase of 10% in clients attending Aiséiri, Cahir with addresses in the South Eastern Health Board region. The percentage of clients attending the Wexford service with addresses in the South Eastern Health Board region rose between 2000 and 2001 but has continued to decrease since then. Both Services provide treatment on a national level.

**South East Region Area of Residence**



As with the previous years 2000 to 2002, the majority of clients with addresses in the South Eastern Health Board region at the Cahir centre had addresses in South Tipperary. This figure rose from 24% in 2002 to 34% in 2003. Likewise the Wexford centre had the highest percentage of clients with addresses in Wexford. However this figure is down 7% on year 2002 figures.

**Main Drug**

As with the South Eastern Health Board Treatment Services the main drug for which treatment was sought continues to be alcohol. The figure for alcohol is up 1% at the Cahir Centre, from 85% in year 2002 to 86% in 2003, however it is again down for the Wexford centre in 2003 - from 84% in 2001 to 80% in 2002 to 79% in 2003. The figure for cannabis is down for both Centres in 2003, from 10% to 9% at Cahir and from 10% to 7% at Wexford. Heroin figures are up 1% at Cahir, from 1% in 2002 to 2% in 2003 and up again at the Wexford centre, from 5% in 2000 and 2001 to 6% in 2002 and to 9% in 2003.

| Main Drug               | Aiséirí Cahir | Aiséirí Wexford |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Alcohol                 | 86%           | 79%             |
| Benzodiazepines         | 1%            | 0%              |
| Cannabis                | 9%            | 7%              |
| Cocaine                 | 0%            | 3%              |
| Heroin                  | 2%            | 9%              |
| MDMA                    | 1%            | 0%              |
| Other Opiate Type Drugs | 0%            | 1%              |

35% (30% in 2002) of Cahir clients had secondary drugs of misuse and 34% (40% in 2002) of Wexford clients. Cannabis was the main secondary drug of misuse for both Centres. This was followed by MDMA, alcohol and cocaine and amphetamines at the Cahir centre and MDMA and cocaine at the Wexford centre.

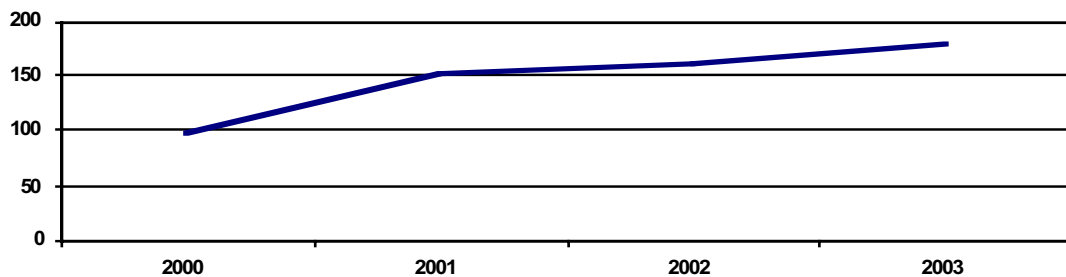
62% of Cahir clients had never previously been treated for substance misuse and 74% of Wexford clients.

## 6. 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.

Based on information provided by the Service during 2003, 177 individuals sought treatment for problem drug and alcohol use.

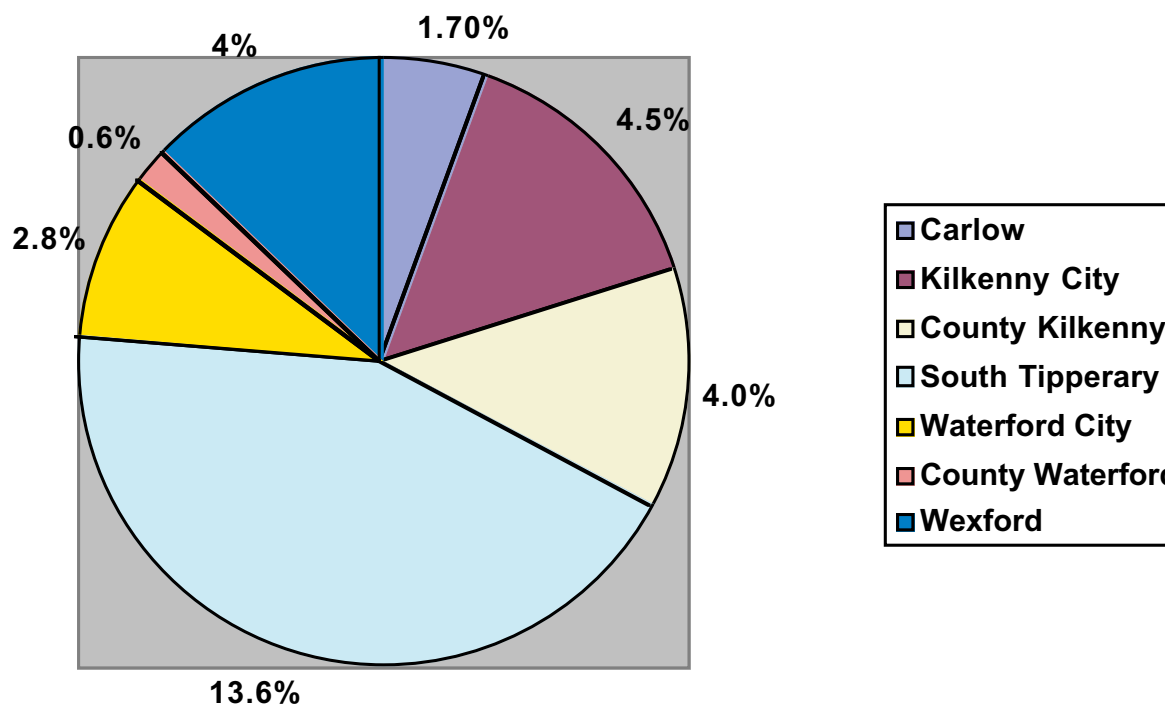
### Numbers Attended and/or Sought Treatment at Aislinn 2000-2003



The number of clients seeking or attending for treatment at Aislinn has increased in each of the years 2000 to 2003. There was a large increase in the numbers who sought treatment at Aislinn from year 2000 to 2001 as assessments were not included in the 2000 figures but have been included since.

### Area Of Residence

31% (25% in 2002) of those who sought treatment at Aislinn during the year had addresses in the South Eastern Health Board area. The majority of these, 13.6% had addresses in South Tipperary. The following chart gives a breakdown of this figure.



## Main Drug

The main drugs for which treatment was sought were:

| Main Drug             | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Alcohol               | 47%  | 56%  | 70%  | 12%  |
| Cannabis              | 36%  | 29%  | 20%  | 56%  |
| Heroin                | 10%  | 10%  | 3%   | 4%   |
| Cocaine               | 3%   | 0%   | 0%   | 1%   |
| MDMA                  | 2%   | 4%   | 3%   | 17%  |
| Volatile Inhalants    | 2%   | 1%   | 1%   | 1%   |
| Amphetamines          | 1%   | 0%   | 1%   | 3%   |
| Prescribed medication | 0%   | 1%   | 0%   | 0%   |

Alcohol remains the main drug of misuse for 2003 at this Centre. However the number attending with alcohol as the main substance of misuse has continually dropped in the years 2001, 2002 and 2003. However, those attending with cannabis as their main substance of misuse have increased in each of the years 2001, 2002 and 2003. In 2003, 3% of those who sought treatment at Aislinn had cocaine as their main drug of misuse, cocaine did not feature as a main drug in the years 2001 and 2002 but 1% of those who sought treatment in 2000 had. Whilst the percentage of those who sought treatment for heroin use had increased from 4% in 2000 to 10% in 2002, it has remained at 10% in 2003. MDMA has continued to fall in each of the years from 17% in 2000 to 2% in 2003.

81% of Aislinn clients had never previously been treated for substance misuse.

As in 2002, 95% of Aislinn clients had a secondary drug of misuse, mainly cannabis, alcohol and MDMA.

All clients who seek treatment at Aislinn are first assessed. Again as in 2002, 29% of those who were assessed did not take up treatment.

## 7. THE CORNMARKET PROJECT

The Cornmarket Project, Wexford Area Partnership. This is a voluntary service and offers free and confidential one to one counselling for substance misuse and other behavioural issues, structured day programmes for substance misusers and family support services.

2002 was the first year The Cornmarket Project submitted data and covered the period October to December and did not include those who sought treatment for alcohol misuse. The data as presented for 2003 is based on the full reporting year figures and includes alcohol data. 151 clients sought treatment at the Cornmarket Project during the year.

### Area of Residence

All clients had addresses in County Wexford. 46% lived in a rural area and 54% in an urban area.

### Referrals:

| Referral                | %   |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Self                    | 13% |
| Family                  | 19% |
| Friends                 | 5%  |
| General Practitioner    | 2%  |
| Hospital/Medical Agency | 1%  |
| Court/Probation/Police  | 49% |
| School                  | 3%  |
| Youthreach              | 7%  |

### Ever Previously Treated

57% of clients had never previously been treated for alcohol and/or drug misuse. 42% had and it was not known in 1% of the cases.

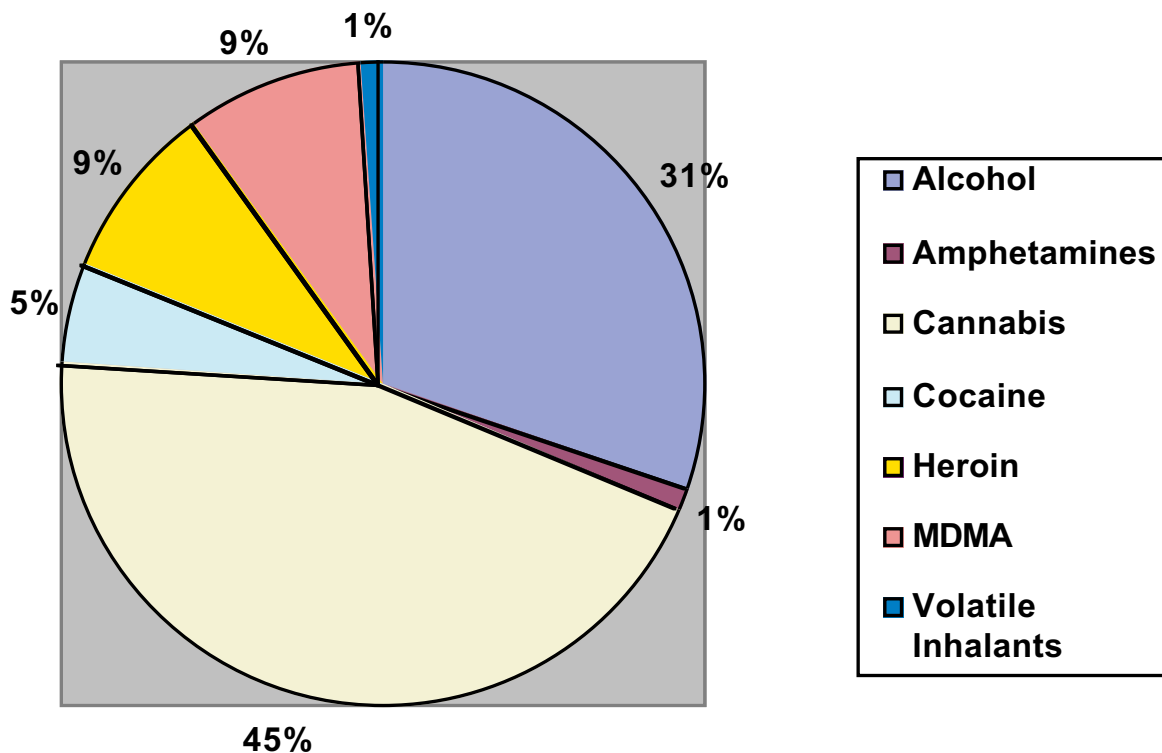
### Age:

| Age Group   | %   |
|-------------|-----|
| 14-19 years | 31% |
| 20-29 years | 39% |
| 30-39 years | 15% |
| 40-49 years | 9%  |
| 50-59 years | 5%  |
| 60 + years  | 1%  |

Similar to all the services, those with the highest number of attendances are in the 20-29 year age group.

### Main Drug

Unlike the South Eastern Health Board services and both Aiséiri and Aislinn, the main drug for which sought was sought at the Cornmarket Project was cannabis at 45%, followed by alcohol at 31%. Compared with the other services cocaine was also high at 9% compared with 3% at Aislinn and Aiséiri, Wexford and 2% for the Region as a whole. Cocaine did not feature as a main drug of misuse at Aiséiri, Cahir for 2003.



95% of clients had secondary drugs of misuse. The majority of these being MDMA, cannabis, cocaine and alcohol, amphetamines, heroin and hallucinogens.

57% of clients had never previously been treated for substance misuse, 42% had and it was not known in 1% of the cases.

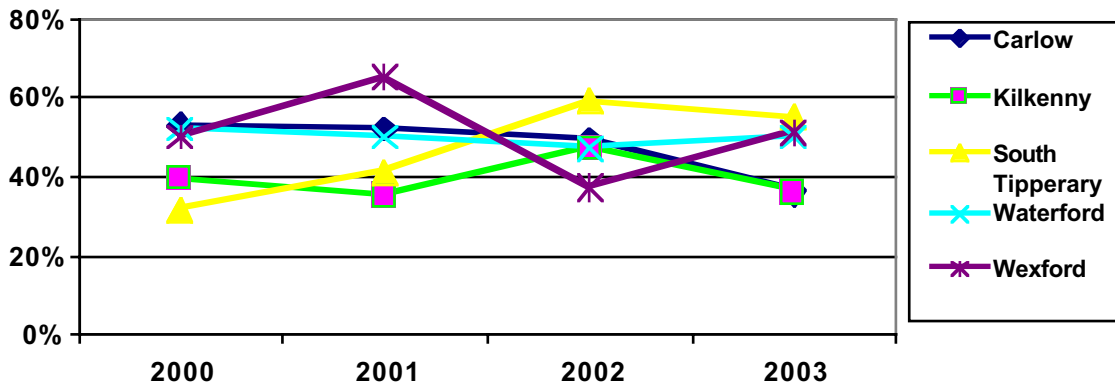
In addition the Cornmarket Project had 37 concerned persons i.e. family members and other concerned persons, who contacted the service during the year. They also had 238 calls for support and advice to their confidential phone help-line and 19 individuals whose primary issues were not substance misuse but other anti-social behaviours.

## 8. 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 that involved alcohol and/or drugs.

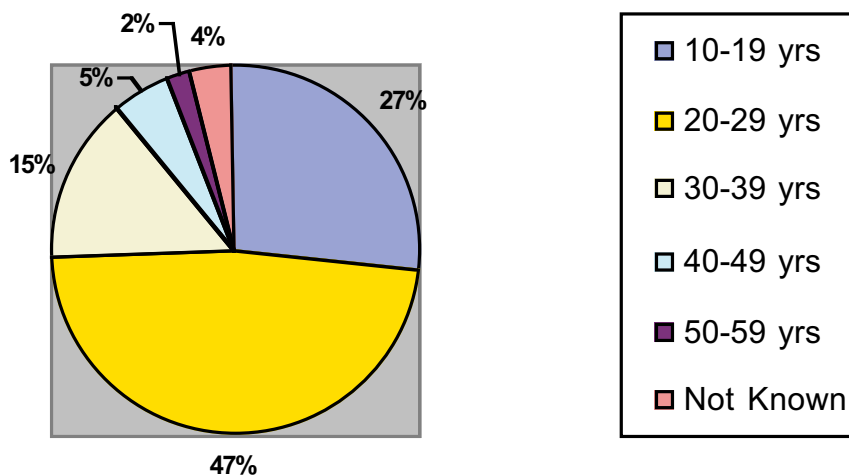
Based on the data collected, below is the percentage of cases in each area that involved alcohol and/or drugs.

As you can see from the graph, the percentage of Carlow cases has fallen in each of the years from 2000 to 2003. Kilkenny cases rose in 2002 but again fell in 2003. South Tipperary cases increased in each of the years from 2000 to 2002 but again fell in 2003. The percentage of Waterford cases fell in each of the years from 2000 to 2002 but rose again in 2003. Wexford cases rose in 2001, dropped in 2002 and rose again in 2003.



As with all the Treatment Services the majority are male – overall 91% male and 8% female, which is a higher ratio of male/female than the Treatment Services.

### Age Group



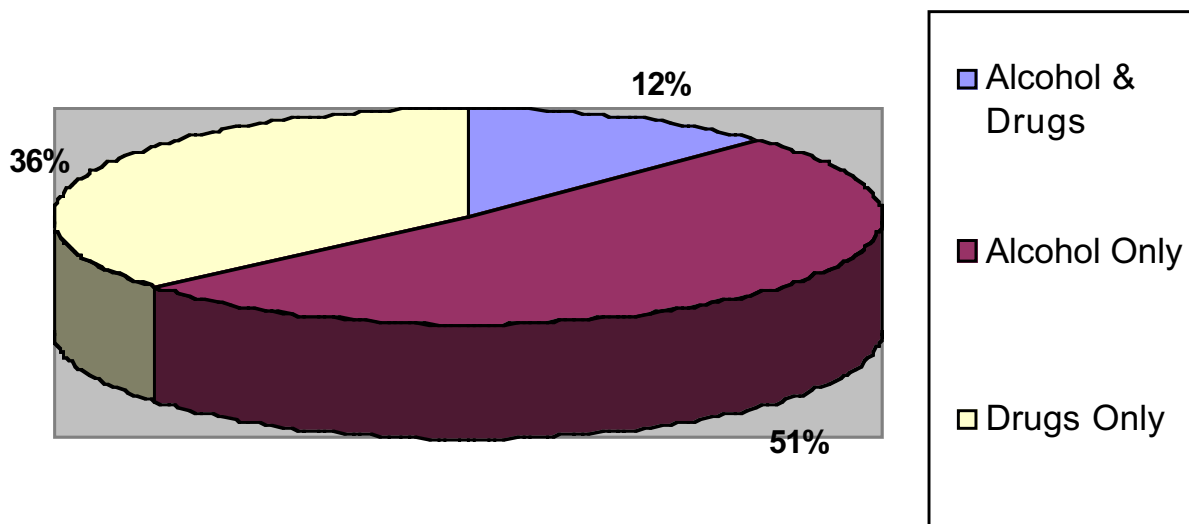
As in previous years the majority of clients were in the 20-29 age group. This figure remains the same as 2002 at 47%. Percentage clients in the 10-19 age group rose 3% from 2002 figures and those in the 30-39 year age group also rose 1%. Those in the 40-49 age group decreased by 2% and those in the 50-59 age group and not known category both decreased by 1%.

### Area of Residence

83% of clients had addresses in the South Eastern Health Board area. This is down 5% on year 2002 (88%) figures, down 4% on 2001(87%) figures and down 1% on 2000 (84%) figures.

| Area                   | Percentages |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Carlow: urban          | 12%         |
| Carlow: rural          | 1%          |
| Kilkenny: urban        | 14%         |
| Kilkenny: rural        | 7%          |
| South Tipperary: urban | 17%         |
| South Tipperary: rural | 4%          |
| Waterford: urban       | 27%         |
| Waterford: rural       | 3%          |
| Wexford: urban         | 12%         |
| Wexford: rural         | 3%          |

Of the cases which involved alcohol and/or drugs:



The drugs involved were cannabis, MDMA, heroin, cocaine and amphetamines either alone or in combination with one another.

64% of the cases were referred to a treatment service for either screening, alcohol/drug awareness programmes or counselling



## 9. COMMUNITY BASED DRUG INITIATIVES

There are ten C.B.D.I. projects in the Region with a total of eleven project workers. The projects are – Carlow C.B.D.I., Kilkenny City Drugs Initiative, Kilkenny Rural Drugs Initiative, Clonmel C.B.D.I., Mid West Tipperary Drugs Initiative, Waterford C.B.D.I., County Waterford C.B.D.I., Southside Drugs Initiative, Waterford, Wexford C.B.D.I. and Suir Valley C.B.D.I., Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary.

The aim of the Community Based Drug Initiatives is to support local communities in increasing their awareness of drug related issues and to assist in developing strategies to reduce the demand for drugs in Communities.

It was decided to include data from the Community Based Drug Initiatives as they are frontline projects and any data provided could act as an early warning system in changes of alcohol/drug use on the ground. No data was received from the Southside Drug Initiative for 2003. The Suir Valley C.B.D.I., Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary began in October 2003 and data was received for this service for the last two months of the year.

The data as presented below is based on the number of individual contacts with the respective services and in no way reflects the overall work carried out by the C.B.D.I. project workers.

There were a total of 387 individual contacts made to the services in 2003 (495 in 2002) but this figure is understated as there is a considerable amount of data missing as no project workers were employed for periods of time during the year at Carlow C.B.D.I., Kilkenny City Drugs Initiative, Clonmel C.B.D.I., County Waterford C.B.D.I. and Southside Drugs Initiative, Waterford.

Over all the Services, 45% of the contacts were male, 51% female and 4% not known. These were the only services where there were a higher percentage of female contacts than male contacts.

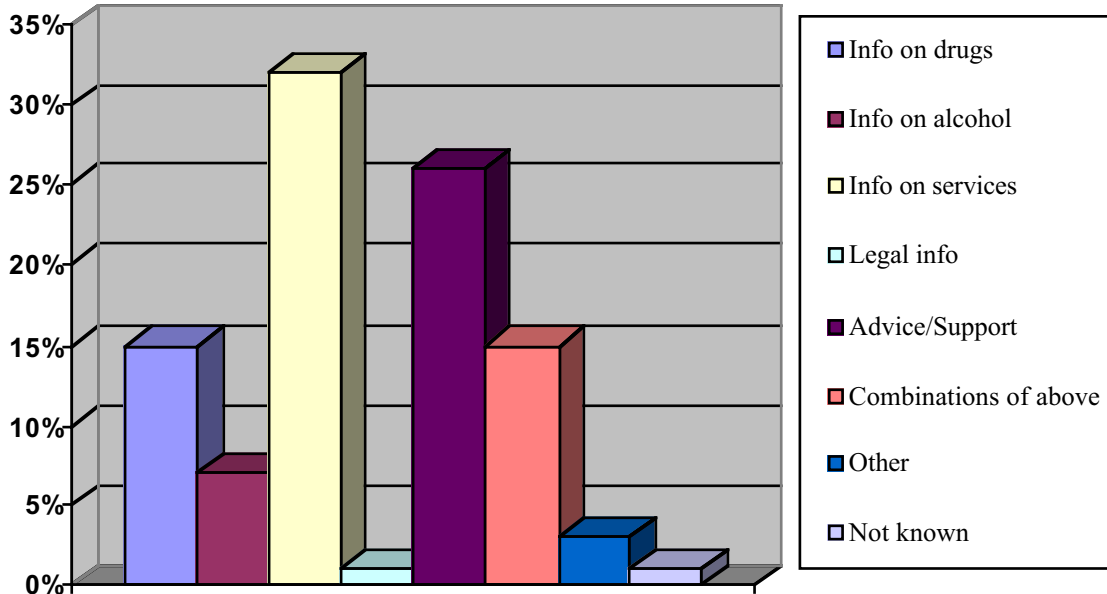
### Service User Contacts

| Service User Contacts          | %   | Service User Contacts      | %   |
|--------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|
| Self (information only)        | 6%  | Concerned Professional     | 25% |
| Self (user)                    | 16% | Member Community Group     | 4%  |
| Concerned Partner              | 8%  | Member Parents Association | 1%  |
| Concerned Parent/Family Member | 34% | Not Known                  | 3%  |
| Concerned Friend               | 3%  |                            |     |

As with last year the main contacts to the services were made by a concerned parent/family member 34% (37% in 2002). In 2002 these were followed by self (information only) and self (user). In 2003, those contacts made by a concerned parent/family member are followed by concerned professional, 25% and self (user) 16%.

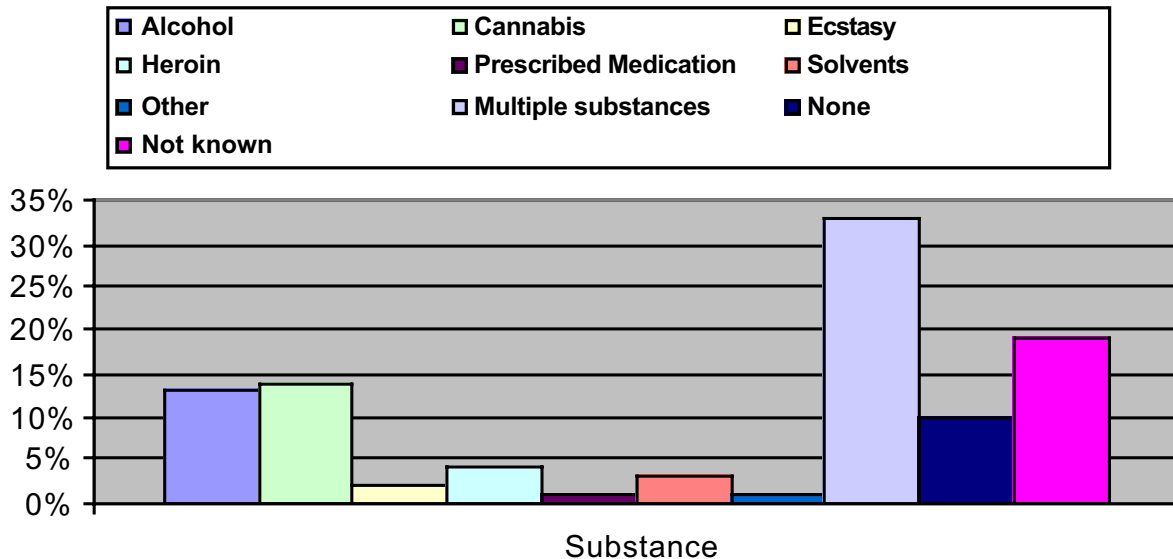
## Enquiries

The following chart shows the type of information sought by the contacts for all the services during 2003.



The main enquiries were for information on services and advice/support.

## Substances Discussed



As can be seen from the graph, those discussing more than one substance had the highest percentage, followed by not known and cannabis.

## Outcomes

35% of contacts were referred to another service. This is an increase of 7% on year 2002 figures. Referrals were to both statutory and voluntary treatment services, outreach projects, family support groups, youth services, education/training services etc. The main referrals were made to both statutory and voluntary treatment counsellors 43%, followed by family/parent support groups 16% and to outreach projects 7%. 7% were also referred to a combination of family support and counselling services.

## 10. AN GARDA SIOCHÁNA

*When taking into account the data as presented for An Garda Siochána in this section, please note that the Garda Divisions are different from the South Eastern Health Board region, i.e. the South East Garda Region comprises: Tipperary, Waterford/Kilkenny and Wexford/Wicklow. Carlow comes under the Eastern Region with Kildare*

The following data is taken from “An Garda Siochána Annual Report 2002”.

### 2002 Headline Offences

Headline offences are classified under ten groups. Group 5: Drugs, contains the possession of drugs for sale or supply, importation of drugs, cultivate or manufacture of drugs and destruction under drugs act. The total number of headline offences recorded in 2002 was 106,415 and group 5: drugs accounts for 2,979 or 3% of these.

### Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme

The Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme was introduced in 1963 to provide an opportunity to divert juvenile offenders from criminal activity. The Programme provides that if certain criteria are met a juvenile offender under 18 years of may be cautioned as an alternative to prosecution.

In 2002, some 10,240 juvenile offenders were included in the Programme, an increase of 15.9% from 2001. There were a total of 20,647 referrals made to the Office during 2002. In the following table, since some juvenile offenders were referred on more than one occasion during the year the number of referrals is greater than the number of individual offenders.

| Region        | No. Referrals | No. Individual Offenders |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Eastern       | 3,257         | 2,709                    |
| South Eastern | 2,900         | 2,329                    |

The following table shows the number of prosecutions which were instituted in respect of referrals made during 2002 for the Eastern and South Eastern regions. Prosecutions take place where juvenile offenders do not meet the requirements for inclusion in the Programme. In some cases, for example, juvenile offenders may be prosecuted on an initial basis because they have been prosecuted previously or because of the serious nature of the offence involved. A prosecution can only proceed upon the direction of the Director of the Diversion Programme.

| Region/Area              | Total Prosecuted |                         |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
|                          | No. Referrals    | No. Individual Offender |
| Eastern: Carlow/Kildare  | 142              | 111                     |
| South Eastern: Tipperary | 118              | 73                      |
| Waterford/Kilkenny       | 406              | 198                     |
| Wexford/Wicklow          | 107              | 82                      |

## Offences Involving Juvenile Offenders

In general, adult and juvenile offenders commit similar criminal offences. (Certain offences, such as under-age drinking may only be committed by juvenile offenders).

Nationally, referrals in relation to drink related offences increased by 23% when compared to 2001. There was an increase of 40% from 2001 in the number of referrals relating to intoxication in a public place. Referrals relating to the purchase, possession and consumption of alcohol increased by 16% in 2002.

### Alcohol/Drug Related Offences in which juvenile offenders were referred

Drink related offences: 19.3%.

*this includes purchase/possession/consumption of alcohol, intoxication in a public place, drunk and disorderly/danger to traffic, simple drunkenness, found on licensed premises, miscellaneous.*

Drugs (possession): 5.1%

Drugs (sale/supply): 0.7%

### Non-Headline Offences

There were 340,356 non-headline offence proceedings for 2002. The following are some of the alcohol/drug related offence proceedings from this section of the Garda report.

| Offence  | Proceedings Commenced |
|--|-----------------------|
| Supplying or selling intox. liq. to persons u 18 yrs                 | 234                   |
| Licencees: allow person u 18 yrs – on – supply - consume             | 362                   |
| Purchase/consume/false rep. By person u 18 yrs to obtain intox. liq. | 76                    |
| Purchase etc. intox. liq. for delivery etc. to persons u 18 yrs      | 114                   |
| Intoxication in public place: Section 4 Public Order Act 1994        | 22,701                |
| Unlawful Possession Of Drugs: Section 3 M.D.A.                       | 6,038                 |
| Intoxicated Driving and In-Charge Offences                           | 13,441                |

### Drug Offences

Misuse of Drugs Act (as amended) Offences where proceedings commenced by division and drug type (for East and South Eastern regions).

| Region             | Cannabis | Cannabis Resin | Cannabis Plant | Heroin | LSD | Ecstasy | Amphet | Cocaine | Other |
|--------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|--------|-----|---------|--------|---------|-------|
| Carlow/Kildare     | 194      | 71             | 2              | 10     | 0   | 177     | 33     | 19      | 0     |
| Tipperary          | 20       | 140            | 0              | 0      | 0   | 77      | 35     | 1       | 1     |
| Waterford/Kilkenny | 18       | 462            | 2              | 0      | 0   | 107     | 51     | 13      | 2     |
| Wexford/Wicklow    | 23       | 128            | 1              | 7      | 1   | 16      | 15     | 6       | 15    |

Nationally, there were a total of 7,976 possessions, supply, obstruction and other offences for 2002.

Possession, supply obstruction and other offences

| Region             | Sec 3 <sup>1</sup> MDA<br>(possession only) | Sec 15 MDA<br>(supplier/dealer) | Sec 21 MDA<br>(obstruction) | <sup>2</sup> Other MDA<br>offences |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Carlow/Kildare     | 274   | 51                              | 6                           | 8                                  |
| Tipperary          | 261   | 68                              | 11                          | 12                                 |
| Waterford/Kilkenny | 760   | 165                             | 16                          | 9                                  |
| Wexford/Wicklow    | 255   | 41                              | 6                           | 6                                  |

<sup>1</sup>Misuse of Drugs Act, (as amended)

<sup>2</sup>Other offences deal with offences such as importation, cultivation of cannabis plants and forging a prescription to obtain drugs.

The following table shows the number of persons against whom proceedings for drug offences were commenced by age and gender. Overall, there were a total of 6,678 persons prosecuted for drugs offences in 2002.

| Region             | Under 17 yrs |   | 17 – 21 yrs |    | Over 21 yrs |    |
|--------------------|--------------|---|-------------|----|-------------|----|
|                    | M            | F | M           | F  | M           | F  |
| Carlow/Kildare     | 21           | 2 | 139         | 6  | 164         | 9  |
| Tipperary          | 23           | 1 | 116         | 8  | 118         | 9  |
| Waterford/Kilkenny | 40           | 1 | 309         | 21 | 501         | 32 |
| Wexford/Wicklow    | 19           | 1 | 97          | 3  | 148         | 10 |

The number of persons prosecuted increased by 34% in the South Eastern Region while it decreased in all other regions.

## **12. NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE ON DRUG USE**

This documentation centre is open from 9.30am to 4.45pm, Monday to Friday.

National Documentation Centre on Drug Use,  
Health Research Board, Holbrook House,  
Holles Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Tel: +353 1 6761176 ext 175 +353 1 6618567

Email: [ndc@hrb.ie](mailto:ndc@hrb.ie)

Website: [www.hrb.ie/ndc](http://www.hrb.ie/ndc)

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