



Health in Ireland

Key Trends 2007



This booklet provides an overview of selected key trends in health in Ireland in recent years. Tables and graphs are presented which summarise information on demographics, on health status and on health care in order to give a quick reference guide in major areas of health and health services.

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The past decade has been a time of rapid change in many aspects of life in Ireland. The evidence presented in this booklet reflects this period of change with respect to health. It is characterised by a growing population, increasing provision of health services and large scale investment in health. It is also marked by unprecedented improvements in health status and life expectancy.

Of course many challenges remain and new challenges arise. Demands on the health services continue to grow and increasing health care costs are a reality which must be addressed in all societies.

The rising numbers of elderly people in future years will have a major impact on the planning and provision of health services. Lifestyle related risks are major causes for concern but also areas where preventive measures can have a very significant impact. The ban on smoking in public places, pioneered by Ireland, can be expected to reap substantial health gains in the coming years.

Ireland must compare itself against the best in the world, and in particular with its partners in the European Union (EU)¹. While the overall picture presented in this booklet is of substantial

improvement, the objective must be to tackle the significant areas where we lag behind the best. The development of better sources of information and, particularly, measurement of performance, health outcomes and health inequality are key to achieving this aim. Ultimately, the true test of a health system is the optimization of the health of the population across all sections of the community.

¹In tables and text EU refers to the current 27 Member States unless otherwise stated.

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1 POPULATION AND LIFE EXPECTANCY

In recent years, the population of Ireland has been increasing more rapidly than at any time in the history of the State and in the past 10 years has increased by 15.7% (Table 1.2). The results of the 2006 Census of Population show a population of just over 4.2 million which is a rise of 8.2% since the last Census in 2002 (Table 1.1). Much of this increase is due to the change from net emigration to net immigration. The total fertility rate has remained fairly stable since 1997 at just under the population replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman's lifetime (Table 1.3) but remains high compared with our EU neighbours (Figure 1.1).

A key feature of Ireland's demographic change is the ageing of the population. This trend is being experienced across Europe although somewhat later in Ireland than most other countries. The numbers of people over the age of 65 will more than triple between now and 2050 compared with a projected overall population increase of around 35% (Table 1.4 and Figure 1.2).

Life expectancy for both men and women has increased consistently in recent decades. The rise has been very rapid since 1999 and Ireland now exceeds the average life expectancy for the EU (Figure 1.3). Women can expect to live around 5 years longer than men (Table 1.6) although they experience more chronic health problems than men in later years (see next section Tables 2.2 and 2.3).

Table 1.1 Population for Health Service Executive (HSE) Regions for Census Years 2002 and 2006

| <i>2006 Population</i> | Dublin/ Mid-Leinster | Dublin/ North-East | Southern | Western | Ireland |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Male | 603,422 | 463,452 | 543,581 | 510,716 | 2,121,171 |
| Female | 613,426 | 465,167 | 538,387 | 501,697 | 2,118,677 |
| Total | 1,216,848 | 928,619 | 1,081,968 | 1,012,413 | 4,239,848 |
| <i>Age Groups</i> | | | | | |
| 0 - 14 | 242,729 | 190,143 | 222,881 | 208,696 | 864,449 |
| 15 - 24 | 188,522 | 140,182 | 154,612 | 149,416 | 632,732 |
| 25 - 34 | 222,440 | 177,353 | 169,642 | 153,004 | 722,439 |
| 35 - 44 | 179,478 | 139,839 | 159,839 | 144,278 | 623,434 |
| 45 - 54 | 149,485 | 106,667 | 136,815 | 128,846 | 521,813 |
| 55 - 64 | 111,825 | 81,948 | 109,634 | 103,648 | 407,055 |
| 65 - 74 | 69,071 | 52,859 | 72,640 | 67,978 | 262,548 |
| 75 - 84 | 40,943 | 30,741 | 43,082 | 42,584 | 157,350 |
| 85+ | 12,355 | 8,887 | 12,823 | 13,963 | 48,028 |
| 2006 Census Total | 1,216,848 | 928,619 | 1,081,968 | 1,012,413 | 4,239,848 |
| 2002 Census Total | 1,139,870 | 831,899 | 1,003,972 | 941,462 | 3,917,203 |
| % Increase 2002-2006 | 6.8% | 11.6% | 7.8% | 7.5% | 8.2% |

Source: Central Statistics Office, Census of Population 2002 and 2006

Table 1.2 Population (000s) by Age Group for Each Year, 1997 to 2006

| Age Group | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | % change | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | '97-'06 | '05-'06 |
| 0-14 | 845.9 | 835.8 | 830.6 | 828.0 | 827.5 | 827.4 | 833.8 | 843.2 | 853.3 | 864.4 | 2.2 | 1.3 |
| 15-64 | 2402.0 | 2446.9 | 2489.0 | 2537.0 | 2589.7 | 2653.8 | 2702.4 | 2749.7 | 2816.7 | 2907.5 | 21.0 | 3.2 |
| 65+ | 416.1 | 420.2 | 421.9 | 424.7 | 429.8 | 436.0 | 442.9 | 450.9 | 460.7 | 467.9 | 12.4 | 1.6 |
| All Ages | 3664.3 | 3703.1 | 3741.6 | 3789.5 | 3847.2 | 3917.2 | 3978.9 | 4043.8 | 4130.7 | 4239.8 | 15.7 | 2.6 |

Note: Intercensal population estimates are used except for census years 2002 and 2006.

Source: Central Statistics Office.

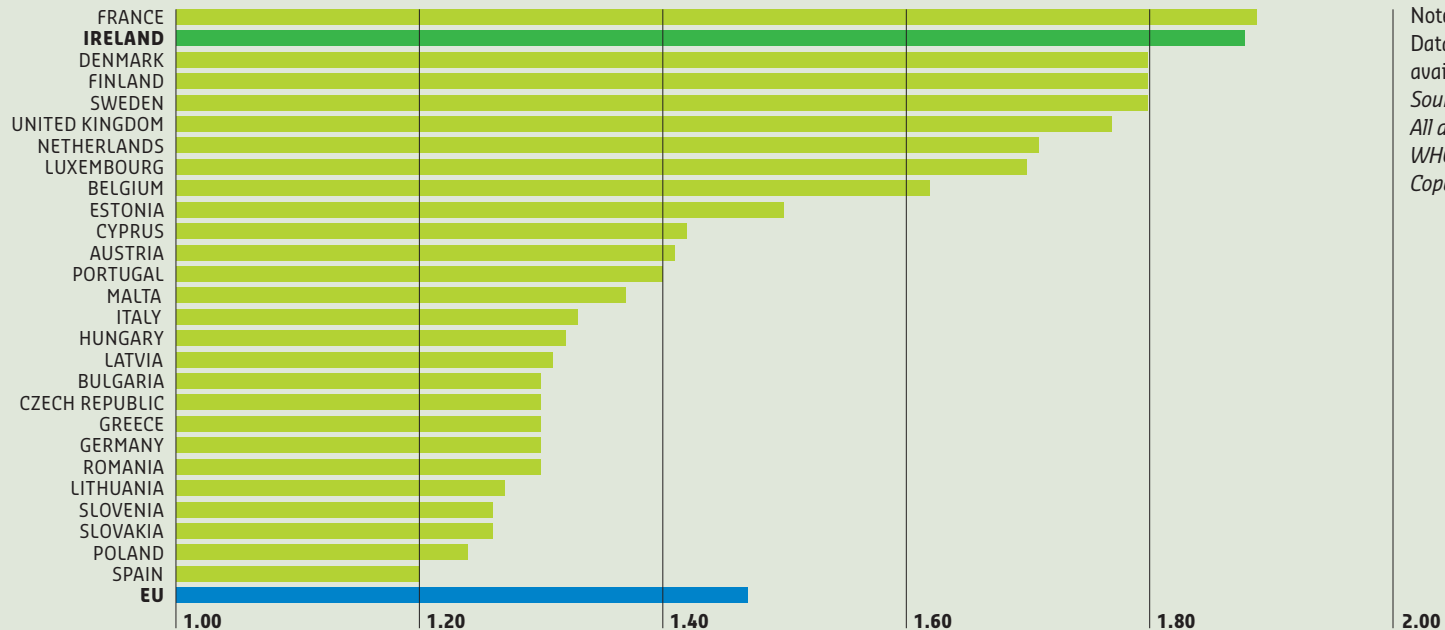
Table 1.3 Births and Fertility, 1997 to 2005

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | % change | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2005 | 2004-2005 |
| Number of Live Births | 52,775 | 53,969 | 53,924 | 54,789 | 57,854 | 60,503 | 61,529 | 61,972 | 61,042 | 15.7 | -1.5 |
| Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) | 14.4 | 14.6 | 14.4 | 14.5 | 15.0 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.3 | 14.8 | 2.6 | -3.4 |
| Total Fertility Rate | 1.93 | 1.94 | 1.90 | 1.90 | 1.95 | 1.97 | 1.98 | 1.95 | 1.88 | -2.6 | -3.6 |

Notes:

- (i) Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is a measure of the average number of children a woman could expect to have if the fertility rates for a given year pertained throughout her fertile years.
- (ii) Data for 2005 refer to year of registration and are therefore provisional.

Source: Central Statistics Office.

Figure 1.1 Total Fertility Rates in Europe

Note:

Data refers to the latest available year.

Source: European Health for All database (January 2007), WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark.

1 POPULATION AND LIFE EXPECTANCY

Table 1.4 Population Projections (000s) by Age Group, Ireland and EU25 Total, 2004, 2025 and 2050

| Age Group | 2004 | 2025 | 2050 | % change |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 0-14 | 843 | 896 | 876 | 3.9 |
| 15-64 | 2,750 | 3,214 | 3,166 | 15.2 |
| 65+ | 451 | 812 | 1,435 | 218.3 |
| Ireland Total | 4,044 | 4,922 | 5,478 | 35.5 |
| EU25 Total | 456,815 | 470,057 | 449,831 | -1.5 |

Source: Central Statistics Office and Eurostat

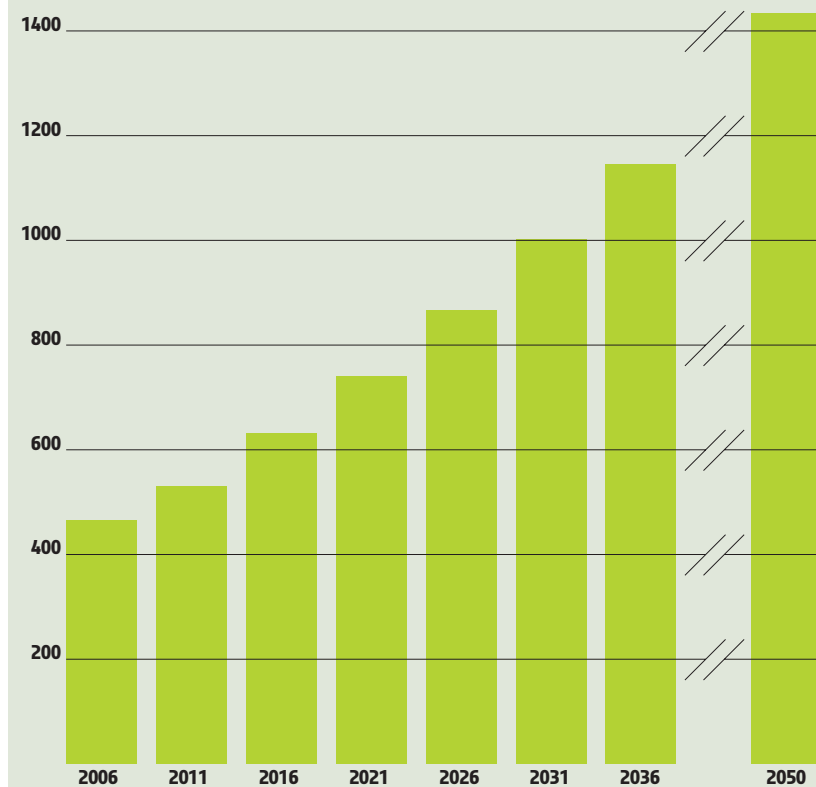
Table 1.5 Dependency Ratios, Ireland and EU25 2004, 2025 and 2050

| Age Group | | 2004 | 2025 | 2050 | % change |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 0-14 | Ireland | 30.7 | 27.9 | 27.7 | -9.8 |
| | EU25 | 24.4 | 22.9 | 23.7 | -2.9 |
| 65+ | Ireland | 16.4 | 25.2 | 45.3 | 176.2 |
| | EU25 | 24.5 | 35.7 | 52.8 | 115.5 |
| Total | Ireland | 47.1 | 53.0 | 73.0 | 55.0 |
| | EU25 | 48.9 | 58.7 | 76.5 | 56.4 |

Note: Dependency Ratio refers to the number of persons aged 0-14 years and 65 years and over as a percentage of those aged 15-64 years.

Source: Eurostat.

Figure 1.2 Projected Population (000s) Aged 65+ Years, 2006 to 2050

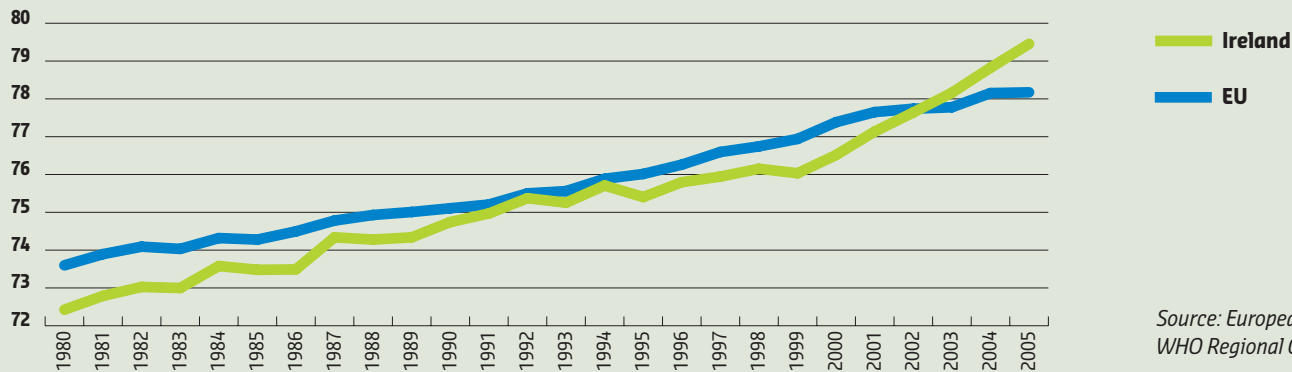


Source: Central Statistics Office and Eurostat

Table 1.6 Life Expectancy by Age and Gender, 1950 to 2003

| | | | | | | | | | % change | |
|------------------------|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | 1950-52 to 2001-03 | 1995-99 to 2001-03 |
| Male | | | | | | | | | | |
| Life Expectancy at Age | 0 | 64.5 | 68.1 | 68.8 | 70.1 | 72.3 | 73.0 | 75.1 | 16.4 | 2.8 |
| | 1 | 66.9 | 69.3 | 69.2 | 69.9 | 71.9 | 72.5 | 74.6 | 11.4 | 2.8 |
| | 40 | 31.3 | 32.4 | 32.1 | 32.6 | 34.4 | 35.1 | 37.0 | 18.3 | 5.5 |
| | 65 | 12.1 | 12.6 | 12.4 | 12.6 | 13.4 | 13.8 | 15.4 | 26.9 | 11.3 |
| | 75 | 6.8 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.8 | 8.0 | 8.9 | 31.0 | 11.4 |
| Female | | | | | | | | | | |
| Life Expectancy at Age | 0 | 67.1 | 71.9 | 73.5 | 75.6 | 77.9 | 78.5 | 80.3 | 19.6 | 2.2 |
| | 1 | 68.8 | 72.9 | 73.8 | 75.4 | 77.4 | 78.0 | 79.7 | 15.8 | 2.1 |
| | 40 | 33.3 | 35.3 | 36.0 | 37.3 | 39.2 | 39.8 | 41.4 | 24.2 | 3.9 |
| | 65 | 13.3 | 14.4 | 15.0 | 15.7 | 17.1 | 17.4 | 18.7 | 40.8 | 7.6 |
| | 75 | 7.6 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 10.2 | 10.4 | 11.2 | 47.6 | 7.9 |

Source: Central Statistics Office.

Figure 1.3 Life Expectancy in Years at Birth for Ireland and EU, 1980 to 2005

Source: European Health for All Database (January 2007), WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Health has been defined by the World Health Organisation as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” This is a positive view of health but can be difficult to measure directly. One method is to survey people and ask them to assess their state of health. On this measure, Ireland has the highest levels of self-perceived health of those countries in Europe which have conducted such a survey (Figure 2.1). Over 80% of both men and women assess their health to be either “good” or “very good” (Table 2.1). Nevertheless, the survey data also show very significant levels of chronic illness and limitations in activity strongly related to age (Tables 2.2 and 2.3).

Statistics on illness and on causes of death provide key indicators of population health. Very significant long term improvements in the mortality rates for the major causes of death are evident in Figure 2.3 with the notable exception of cancer deaths which, in common with other countries, have shown only a marginal decline. It is too early to measure the effects of the smoking ban in improving population health. It should also be noted that illness and mortality rates are not the same for all sections of the population. In general, trend data are not yet available by social class or for specific subgroups of the population such as the Traveller community but studies have shown that very significant health inequalities exist.

Suicide and motor vehicle accident mortality are shown side by side in Figure 2.4. These are both

causes of death which disproportionately affect the young, and especially young males. The rise in suicide rates is a major cause of concern, and, by 1998, suicide had overtaken motor vehicle accidents as a cause of death. Motor vehicle death rates have shown a very significant and continuing decline in recent decades and since 1998, there is some evidence of at least a levelling off in suicide rates.

Alcohol consumption has been selected for display as an example of a major lifestyle risk factor due to its serious health and social consequences if consumed to excess. Recent trends in Ireland add considerably to this concern. Figure 2.5 shows that during the past two decades alcohol consumption in Ireland has gone from half the EU average to over the EU average and is now one of the highest in the EU.

Table 2.1 Perceived Health Status, 2005

| Age Group | Very Good | | Good | | Fair, Bad, Very Bad | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | % Male | % Female | % Male | % Female | % Male | % Female |
| 16-24 | 67.0 | 69.2 | 29.4 | 25.1 | 3.6 | 5.7 |
| 25-44 | 57.1 | 55.4 | 32.9 | 34.2 | 10.0 | 10.4 |
| 45-64 | 37.8 | 35.9 | 40.2 | 42.4 | 22.1 | 21.7 |
| 65+ | 17.6 | 18.2 | 41.8 | 40.2 | 40.6 | 41.6 |
| Total | 48.2 | 46.3 | 35.5 | 35.9 | 16.3 | 17.9 |

Source: Central Statistics Office –
EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions, 2005.

Table 2.2 Chronic Illness or Conditions, 2005

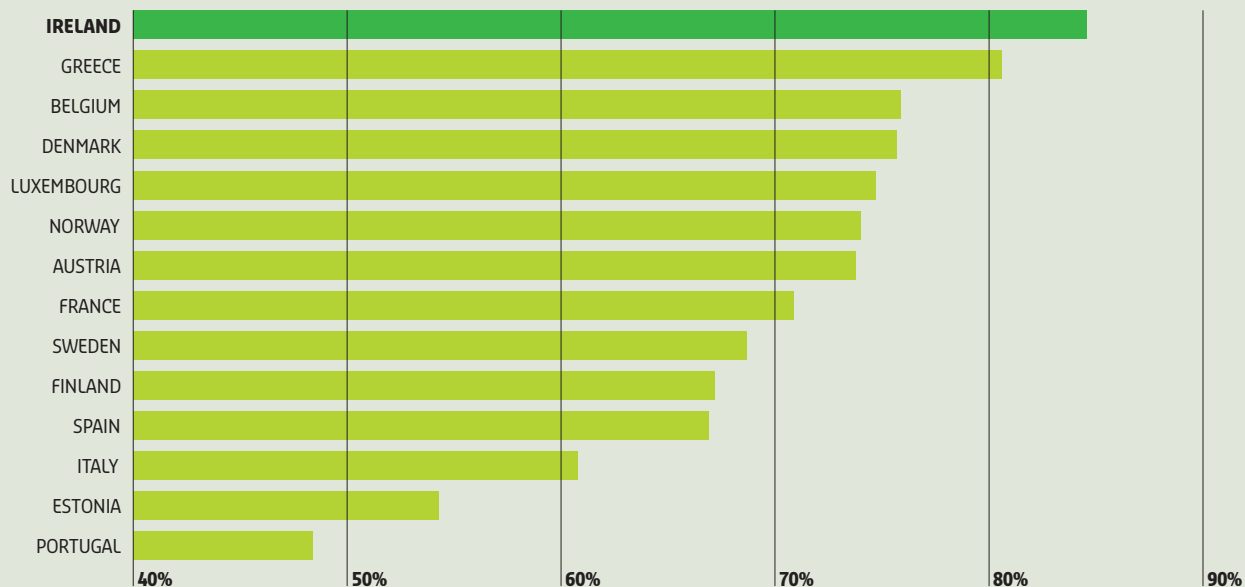
| Age Group | Yes | | No | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | % Male | % Female | % Male | % Female |
| 16-24 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 91.2 | 90.0 |
| 25-44 | 13.4 | 18.0 | 86.6 | 82.0 |
| 45-64 | 29.4 | 29.7 | 70.6 | 70.3 |
| 65+ | 50.1 | 52.8 | 50.0 | 47.2 |
| Total | 22.2 | 25.5 | 77.9 | 74.5 |

Source: Central Statistics Office –
EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions, 2005.

Table 2.3 Limitation in Activities due to Health Problems, 2005

| Age Group | Yes, Strongly Limited | | Yes, Limited | | Not Limited | |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | % Male | % Female | % Male | % Female | % Male | % Female |
| 16-24 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 94.2 | 93.6 |
| 25-44 | 3.6 | 4.6 | 8.1 | 10.4 | 88.3 | 85.0 |
| 45-64 | 9.0 | 8.3 | 14.4 | 14.1 | 76.6 | 77.5 |
| 65+ | 15.7 | 15.5 | 29.2 | 32.5 | 55.1 | 51.9 |
| Total | 6.3 | 6.9 | 12.0 | 13.9 | 81.7 | 79.2 |

Source: Central Statistics Office – EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions, 2005.

Figure 2.1 Percentage of Persons Reporting Good or Very Good Health in Ireland and Other EU Countries, 2004

Note: European Countries refers to those countries in Europe reporting results from the European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC).

Source: EU SILC 2004.

Table 2.4 Principal Causes of Death: Numbers and Rates, 1997 to 2005

| | | 1997 | 2000 | 2004 | 2005 | % Change | |
|--|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | | 1997-2005 | 2004-2005 |
| All Causes | | | | | | | |
| | <i>Number</i> | 31,581 | 31,391 | 27,665 | 27,441 | -13.1 | -0.8 |
| | <i>Rate</i> | 837.7 | 794.5 | 664.1 | 615.7 | -26.5 | -7.3 |
| Diseases of the Circulatory System | | | | | | | |
| All Circulatory System Diseases: | <i>Number</i> | 13,496 | 12,666 | 10,666 | 9,984 | -26.0 | -6.4 |
| | <i>Rate</i> | 351.8 | 315.0 | 241.5 | 218.2 | -38.0 | -9.6 |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease: | <i>Number</i> | 7,314 | 6,589 | 5,485 | 5,064 | -30.8 | -7.7 |
| | <i>Rate</i> | 194.0 | 165.9 | 125.7 | 113.0 | -41.7 | -10.1 |
| Stroke: | <i>Number</i> | 2,733 | 2,738 | 2,106 | 2,029 | -25.8 | -3.7 |
| | <i>Rate</i> | 69.2 | 66.3 | 46.4 | 42.8 | -38.2 | -7.8 |
| Cancer | | | | | | | |
| All Malignant Neoplasms: | <i>Number</i> | 7,486 | 7,666 | 7,828 | 7,714 | 3.0 | -1.5 |
| | <i>Rate</i> | 209.1 | 204.4 | 190.5 | 180.9 | -13.5 | -5.0 |
| Cancer of the Trachea, Bronchus and Lung: | <i>Number</i> | 1,389 | 1,568 | 1,609 | 1,627 | 17.1 | 1.1 |
| | <i>Rate</i> | 39.0 | 42.2 | 40.1 | 37.9 | -2.9 | -5.5 |
| Cancer of the Female Breast: | <i>Number</i> | 634 | 668 | 663 | 678 | 6.9 | 2.3 |
| | <i>Rate</i> | 35.4 | 35.2 | 31.5 | 31.0 | -12.3 | -1.6 |
| External Causes of Injury and Poisoning | | | | | | | |
| All Deaths from External Causes: | <i>Number</i> | 1,663 | 1,752 | 1,594 | 1,461 | -12.1 | -8.3 |
| | <i>Rate</i> | 39.9 | 40.4 | 38.1 | 34.1 | -14.5 | -10.5 |
| Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents: | <i>Number</i> | 447 | 411 | 308 | 268 | -40.0 | -13.0 |
| | <i>Rate</i> | 11.8 | 10.3 | 7.3 | 6.2 | -47.5 | -15.1 |
| Suicide: | <i>Number</i> | 478 | 486 | 493 | 431 | -9.8 | -12.6 |
| | <i>Rate</i> | 13.2 | 12.8 | 12.1 | 10.3 | -22.1 | -14.9 |
| Infant Deaths | | | | | | | |
| | <i>Number</i> | 321 | 338 | 287 | 244 | -24.0 | -14.98 |
| | <i>Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)</i> | 6.1 | 6.2 | 4.6 | 4.0 | -34.3 | -13.10 |

Source: Central Statistics Office and Public Health Information System, Department of Health and Children.

Table 2.5 Ireland and EU: Age-standardised Mortality Rates per 100,000 Population by Principal Causes of Death, 2005

| Causes | Ireland | EU |
|---|---------|-------|
| All Causes | 615.5 | 690.5 |
| Circulatory System Diseases | 218.2 | 279.4 |
| All Cancers | 180.9 | 181.5 |
| External Causes of Injury and Poisoning | 30.3 | 43.2 |
| Selected Smoking Related Causes | 234.6 | 244.7 |
| Selected Alcohol Related Causes | 46.5 | 68.3 |

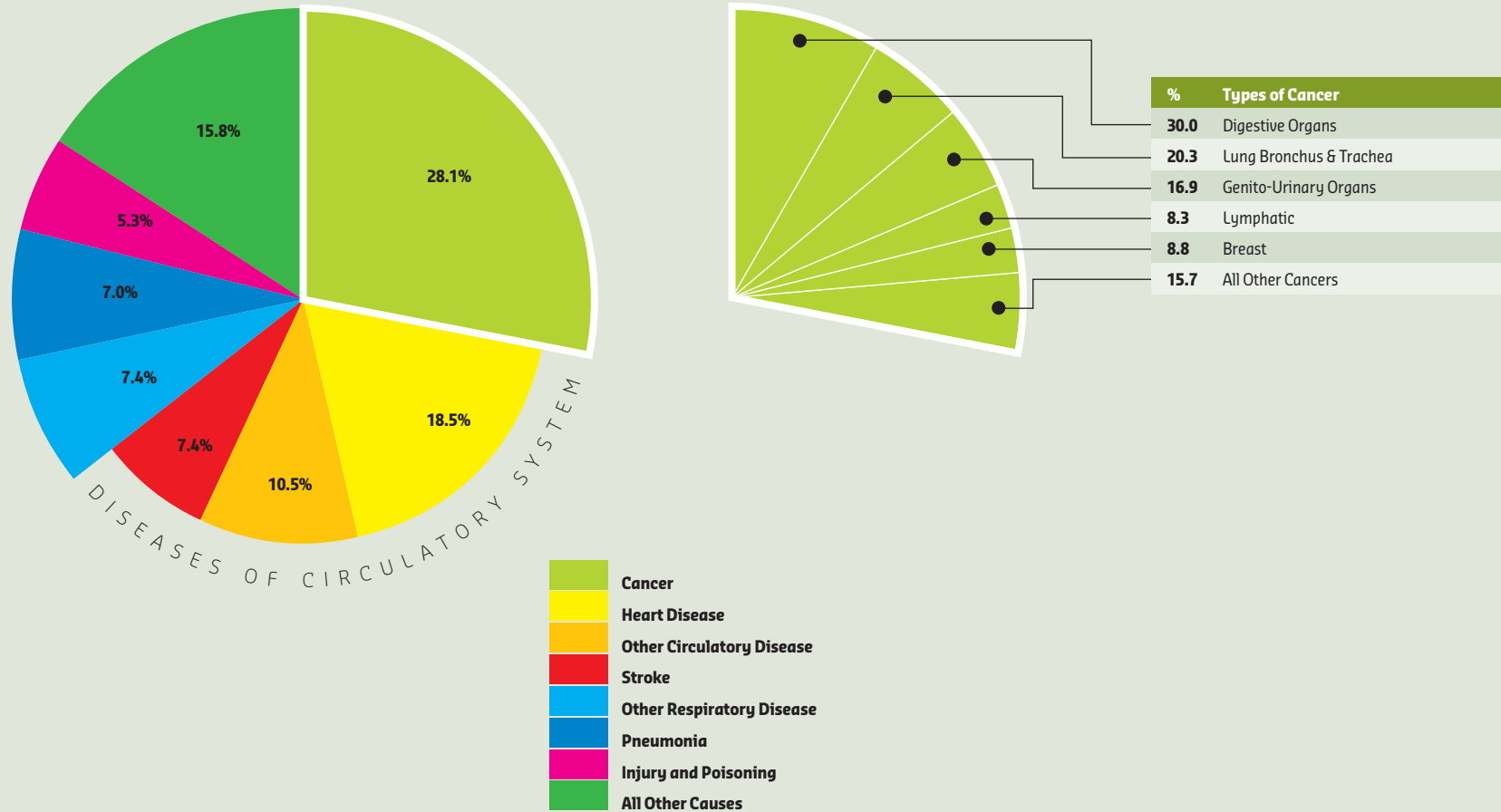
Note: See note under Table 2.4.

Source: European Health for All Database (January 2007), WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Note (to Table 2.4):

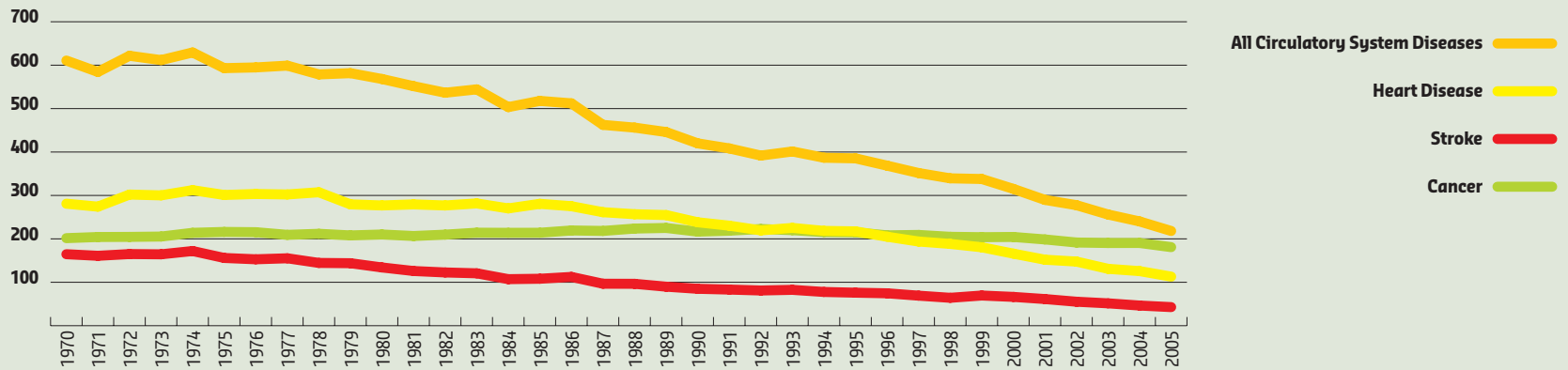
The rates provided in the table are Age-Standardised Mortality Rates per 100,000 population except for Infant Mortality Rates which are expressed as deaths per 1,000 live births. Age-standardised mortality rates, which are based on a standard European population, allow for comparison between years or regions by taking account of different proportions of people in the various age categories. Data for 2005 are provisional based on year of registration which may be subject to delay if an inquest is required.

Figure 2.2 Deaths by Principal Causes, 2005



Source: Central Statistics Office.

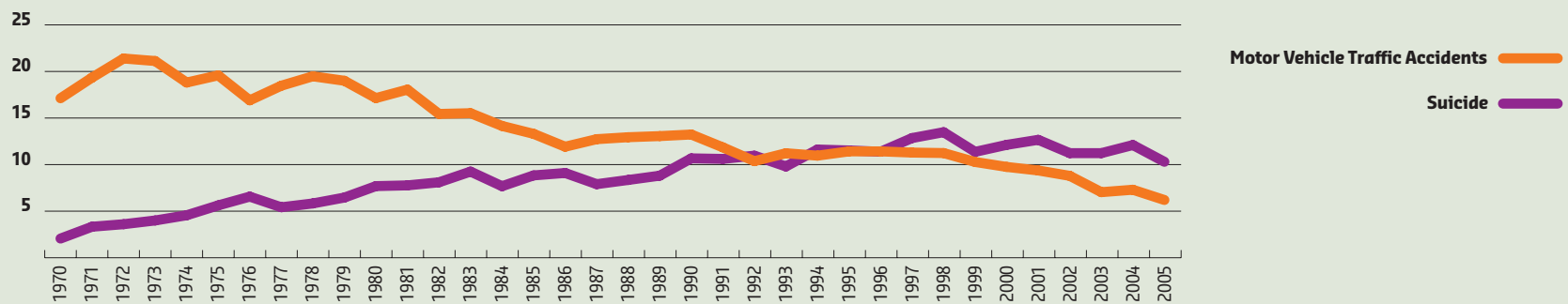
Figure 2.3 Age-Standardised Mortality Rates for Circulatory Diseases and Cancer, 1970 to 2005



Source: Central Statistics Office and European Health for All Database (January 2007), WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark.

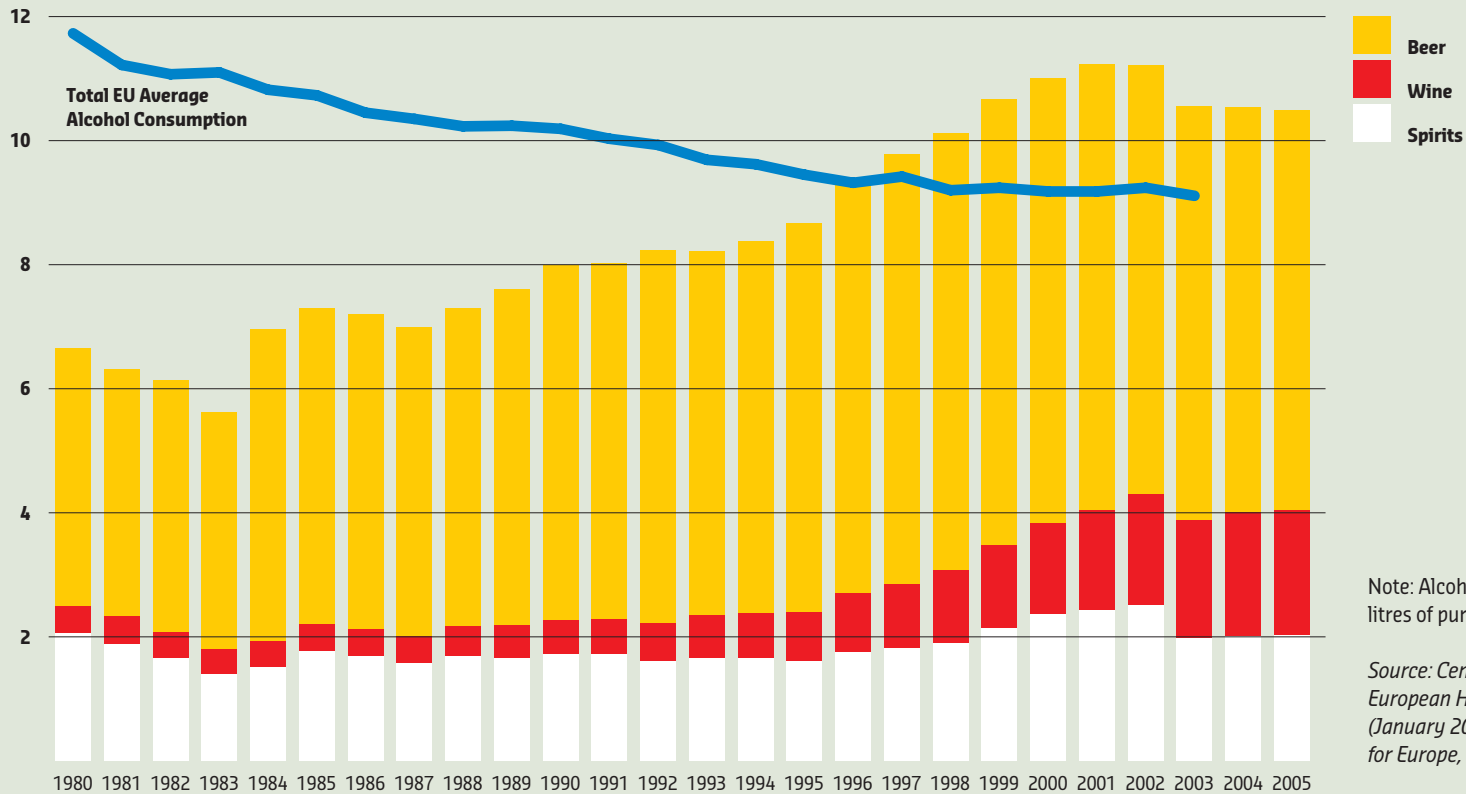
Note: See note under Table 2.4.

Figure 2.4 Age-Standardised Mortality Rates for Motor Vehicle Accidents and Suicide, 1970 to 2005



Source: Central Statistics Office and European Health for All Database (January 2007), WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark.

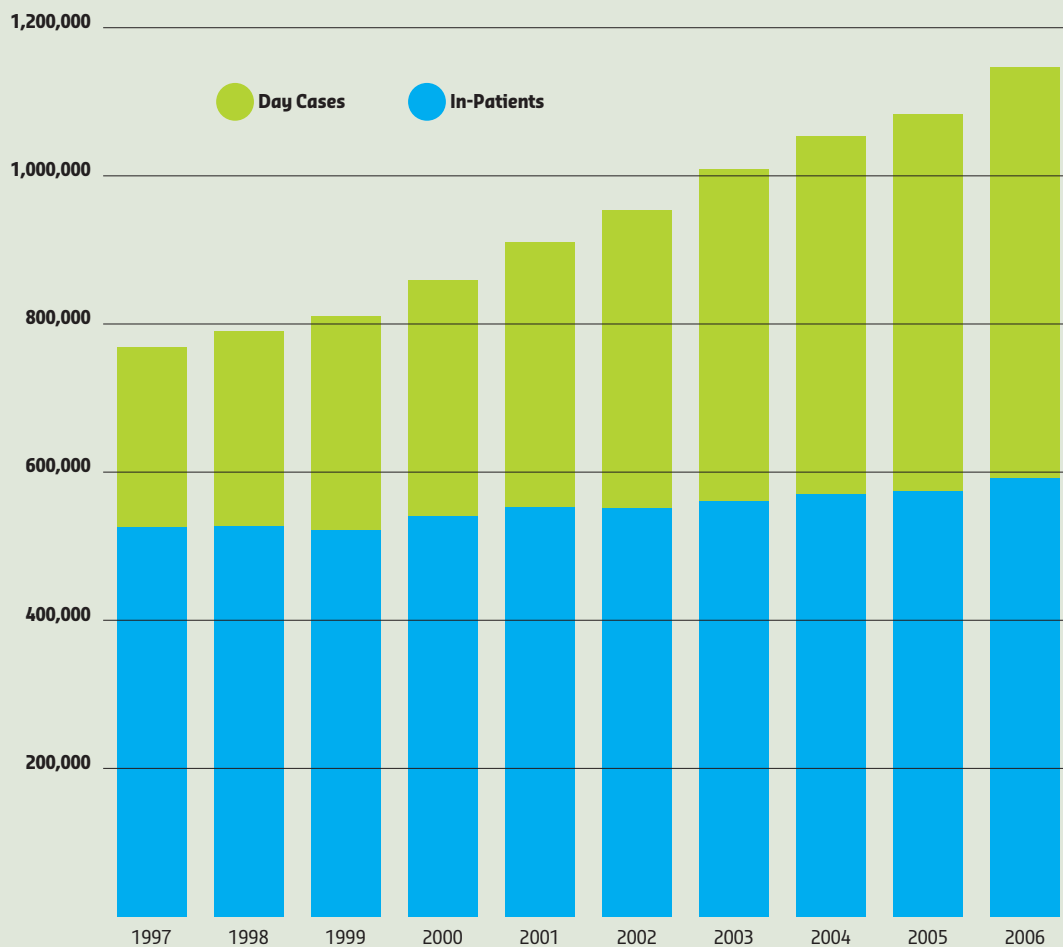
Note: See note under Table 2.4.

Figure 2.5 Alcohol Consumption in Litres Per Capita: Ireland and EU, 1980 to 2005

This section provides statistics on acute and non-acute public hospital services and on psychiatric hospitals. For the acute hospitals Table 3.1 shows increased activity since 1997. Bed days have increased by 8.6% over the period and persons aged 65 and over account for almost half of total usage. Total discharges from acute hospitals have risen by nearly 50% over the period. This is comprised of a 13% increase in in-patients and a 130% increase in day cases. Improved and less invasive medical practice is largely responsible for the rapid growth in the proportion of activity carried out on a day-patient basis (Figure 3.1). Out-patient attendances are 47% higher than in 1997. Accident and emergency attendances have experienced modest increases of 5.6% and now stand at more than one and a quarter million attendances per annum. The average length of stay for inpatients, 6.3 days in 2006, has also shown little change.

District/community and non-acute hospitals, as expected, show much longer average lengths of stay which have risen by around 37% since 1997. These hospitals have also experienced a drop of around 30% in in-patient activity over the period (Table 3.2). This trend is paralleled by decreasing numbers of in-patient admissions to psychiatric hospitals and reflects a continuation of a long term policy towards reducing reliance on in-patient psychiatric care and moving to more appropriate community-based models of care (Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.1 Acute Hospital In-Patients and Day Cases, 1997 to 2006



Source: Table 3.1

Table 3.1 Acute Hospital Summary Statistics, 1997 to 2006

| Activity | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006* | % change | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2006 | 2005-2006 | |
| In-Patients | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beds | 11,121 | 11,051 | 11,058 | 11,190 | 11,373 | 11,686 | 11,806 | 11,887 | 12,094 | 12,574 | | 13.1 | 4.0 |
| In-Patients Discharged | 525,495 | 527,057 | 521,399 | 541,327 | 552,493 | 550,991 | 561,623 | 570,885 | 573,834 | 591,766 | | 12.6 | 3.1 |
| Bed Days Used | 3,426,522 | 3,445,586 | 3,397,298 | 3,454,367 | 3,575,010 | 3,602,736 | 3,666,473 | 3,712,860 | 3,775,434 | 3,722,900 | | 8.6 | -1.4 |
| % Bed Days Used by Patients Aged 65+ | 46.0 | 46.1 | 43.5 | 44.3 | 44.5 | 45.3 | 45.3 | 45.9 | 48.5 | n.a. | | 5.4 | 5.7 |
| Average Length of Stay in Days | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.3 | | -3.5 | -4.4 |
| % Occupancy | 84.5 | 85.5 | 84.3 | 84.5 | 86.2 | 84.6 | 85.2 | 85.4 | 85.6 | 85.3 | | 0.9 | -0.3 |
| Surgical Procedures | 108,746 | 104,748 | 119,171 | 123,687 | 125,141 | 124,274 | 126,212 | 129,458 | 129,240 | n.a. | | 18.8 | -0.2 |
| Day Cases | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beds | 610 | 636 | 673 | 721 | 771 | 812 | 909 | 1,132 | 1,253 | 1,197 | | 96.2 | -4.5 |
| Day Cases | 243,019 | 263,534 | 289,413 | 318,149 | 357,290 | 402,671 | 447,697 | 483,210 | 509,831 | 555,204 | | 128.5 | 8.9 |
| % Day Cases Aged 65+ | 22.0 | 22.2 | 22.7 | 23.7 | 24.5 | 25.4 | 26.7 | 26.9 | 28.0 | n.a. | | 27.5 | 4.3 |
| Surgical Procedures | 33,952 | 36,155 | 40,812 | 44,342 | 47,611 | 48,459 | 49,808 | 52,767 | 52,074 | n.a. | | 53.4 | -1.3 |
| Total Discharges | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| In-Patients and Day Cases | 768,514 | 790,591 | 810,812 | 859,476 | 909,783 | 953,662 | 1,009,320 | 1,054,095 | 1,083,665 | 1,146,970 | | 49.2 | 5.8 |
| A&E Attendances | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1,211,195 | 1,240,044 | 1,226,672 | 1,211,279 | 1,225,735 | 1,211,499 | 1,210,150 | 1,242,692 | 1,249,659 | 1,279,144 | | 5.6 | 2.4 |
| Out-Patient Attendances | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1,885,419 | 1,917,776 | 1,911,720 | 1,996,474 | 2,057,989 | 2,185,028 | 2,255,998 | 2,363,821 | 2,453,000 | 2,769,655 | | 46.9 | 12.9 |

Notes:

- (i) *Data for 2006 are provisional. Numbers of beds prior to 2006 refer to average available beds; for 2006, the figure refers to total bed complement.
- (ii) In relation to data on surgical procedures which is derived from the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) system:
- (a) Surgical procedures refer to those principal procedures carried out in an operating theatre;
- (b) In 2005, a new classification system for coding diagnoses and procedures was adopted. This has required revision of data for earlier years to maintain consistency;

- (c) HIPE data for 2005 remain provisional since discharges for 2005 continue to be added to the system; and
- (d) Bantry Hospital does not report to the HIPE system but this accounts for a small number of cases.
- (iii) n.a. indicates 'Not Available'.
- (iv) Where data for 2006 are not available the percentage change figures refer to 1997-2005 and 2004-2005.

Source: Activity: 1997 to 2005 - Integrated Management Returns (IMRs), and Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE), Department of Health and Children; 2006 - National Hospitals Office, Health Service Executive. Beds: 1997 to 2005, IMRs; 2006, HSE.

Table 3.2 District/Community and Non-Acute Hospital Summary Statistics, 1997 to 2005

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | % Change | |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2005 | 2004-2005 |
| In-Patient Beds Available | 2,383 | 2,384 | 2,394 | 2,375 | 2,343 | 2,252 | 2,172 | 2,175 | 2,165 | -9.1 | -0.5 |
| In-Patients Discharged | 20,325 | 20,332 | 20,085 | 20,202 | 17,654 | 16,085 | 15,233 | 14,466 | 14,176 | -30.3 | -2.0 |
| Bed Days Used | 709,431 | 707,815 | 709,164 | 719,321 | 706,977 | 703,383 | 700,881 | 687,927 | 679,639 | -4.2 | -1.2 |
| Average Length of Stay in Days | 34.9 | 34.8 | 35.3 | 35.6 | 40.0 | 43.7 | 46.0 | 47.6 | 47.9 | 37.4 | 0.8 |
| % Occupancy | 81.6 | 81.3 | 81.1 | 82.8 | 82.7 | 85.6 | 88.4 | 86.6 | 86.0 | 5.4 | -0.7 |
| Out-Patient Attendances | 43,315 | 45,728 | 45,990 | 46,093 | 41,371 | 40,860 | 44,037 | 37,443 | 32,005 | -26.1 | -14.5 |

Note: Included in the above table are district/community hospitals and also Incorporated Orthopaedic, NRH, Peamount, Baldoyle, Manorhamilton and St. Finbarr's which are no longer classified as acute hospitals.

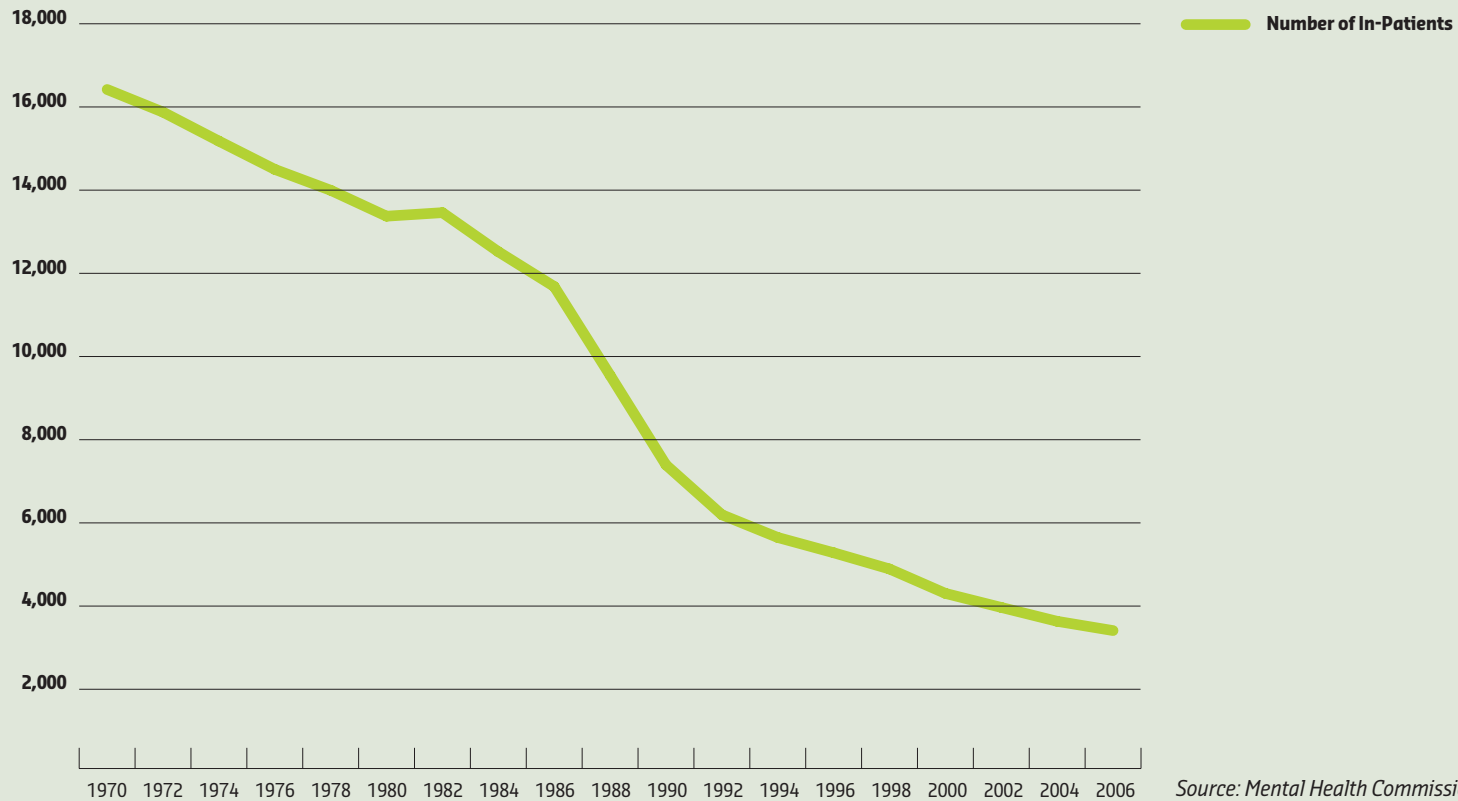
Source: Department of Health and Children.

Table 3.3 Psychiatric Hospital Summary Statistics, 1997 to 2005

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | % Change | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2005 | 2004-2005 |
| Number of In-Patient Admissions | 25,985 | 25,238 | 25,062 | 24,282 | 24,446 | 23,677 | 23,031 | 22,279 | 21,253 | -18.2 | -4.6 |
| % Male | 54.3 | 54.3 | 54.9 | 53.4 | 52.9 | 51.6 | 50.8 | 51.0 | 50.9 | -6.2 | -0.1 |
| % Female | 45.7 | 45.7 | 45.1 | 46.6 | 47.1 | 48.4 | 49.2 | 49.0 | 49.1 | 7.4 | 0.1 |
| Admission Rate per 100,000 Population by Age Group | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16-24 | 524.1 | 496.8 | 522.2 | 510.1 | 481.6 | 462.6 | 473.3 | 443.5 | 426.7 | -18.6 | -3.8 |
| 25-44 | 1,042.3 | 997.4 | 977.0 | 930.7 | 908.3 | 841.4 | 800.7 | 748.8 | 694.9 | -33.3 | -7.2 |
| 45-64 | 1,133.5 | 1,081.4 | 1,042.2 | 985.5 | 984.1 | 951.2 | 909.3 | 859.8 | 796.5 | -29.7 | -7.4 |
| 65+ | 862.8 | 857.0 | 830.5 | 760.1 | 761.7 | 716.1 | 640.6 | 646.0 | 581.9 | -32.6 | -9.9 |
| Total | 945.1 | 901.9 | 881.5 | 838.5 | 827.2 | 781.7 | 746.8 | 709.4 | 659.2 | -30.3 | -7.1 |
| Total In-Patients at end-year | 4,817 | 4,820 | 4,469 | 4,230 | 4,256 | 3,891 | 3,658 | 3,556 | 3,475 | -27.9 | -2.3 |

Note: Admission rates for 2002 are taken from the Census of Population, Central Statistics Office (CSO) and for all other years are based on the CSO's intercensal population estimates.

Source: Health Research Board and Mental Health Commission.

Figure 3.2 Psychiatric Hospitals and Units: In-Patients at 31 December, 1970 to 2006

The data on community services and residential care presented in this section are derived from a variety of sources and give a selective view of this diverse sector. Table 4.1 shows the numbers and percentages of people covered by the General Medical Services (medical card), the drug payments scheme (DP) and the long term illness (LTI) scheme. Medical card coverage as a percentage of the population has decreased by about 5% since 1997 although prescription items dispensed under the GMS have almost doubled over this period (Figure 4.1). Eligibility for the DP scheme has more than doubled and LTI scheme coverage has gone up by almost 50%. It should be noted that medical card eligibility was extended to all persons aged 70 and over from 2001 and that a 'doctor-only' medical card to cover the cost of General Practitioner services came into effect in November 2005.

Statistics on children in care (Table 4.2) and on long stay care for the elderly (Table 4.3) are also presented in this section. Since 1996, there has been a 38% increase in the numbers of children in care. There has been a moderate increase in the numbers of people accommodated in long term care (though these figures have to be interpreted in the light of the survey response – see note (i) under Table 4.3), however, both the average age as well as average levels of dependency have both increased significantly in the past decade (Table 4.3 and Figure 4.2).

Immunisation rates (Table 4.4) show moderate improvements over the period. Food safety inspections (Table 4.5), which also constitute a community service, show increased numbers of establishments inspected and a fall of 36% in the proportion of inspections where infringements were found.

Finally, in this section, a table (Table 4.6) is presented on community mental health services and a table (Table 4.7) on intellectual disability services. The former shows considerable increases in numbers attending day centres and a 9% increase in the number of places in community residences. The fall in psychiatric inpatients documented in the previous section is accompanied by additional community services. Table 4.7 on intellectual disability services shows increased day attendants and full time residents particularly in the moderate, severe and profound groups.

Table 4.1 Eligibility for General Medical Services, Drug Payments and Long-Term Illness Schemes: Number of Persons and Percentage of Population, 1997 to 2005

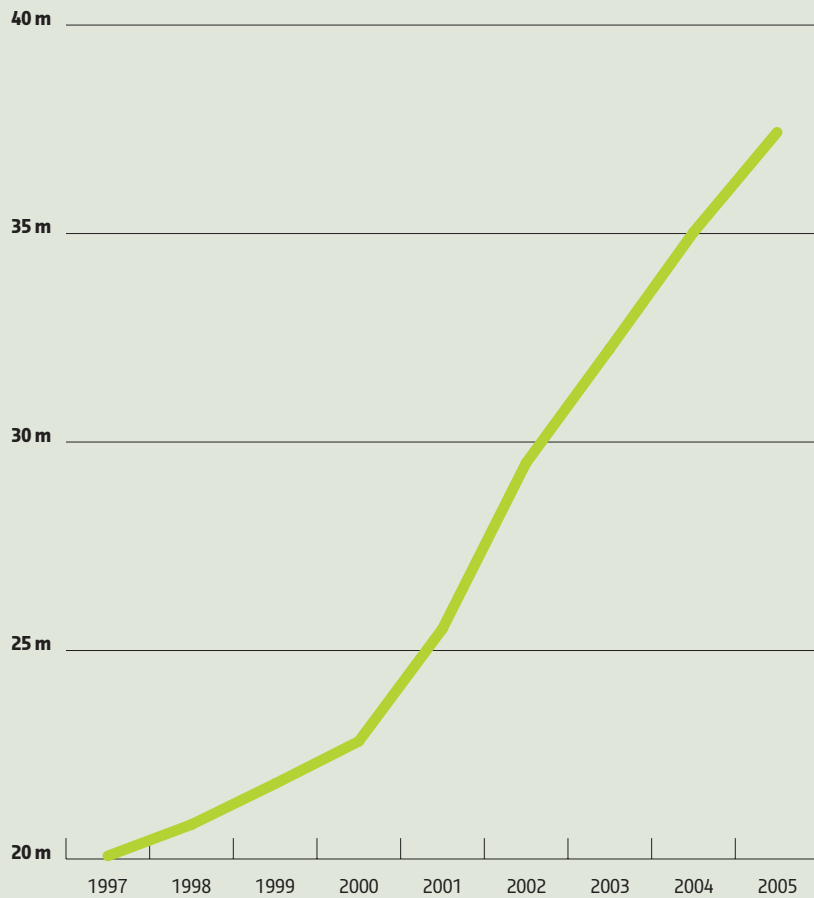
| Scheme | | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | % Change | |
|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2005 | 2004-2005 |
| GMS | Number | 1,219,852 | 1,183,554 | 1,164,187 | 1,148,055 | 1,199,454 | 1,168,745 | 1,158,143 | 1,148,914 | 1,155,727 | -5.3 | 0.6 |
| | % | 33.3 | 32.0 | 31.1 | 30.3 | 31.2 | 29.8 | 29.1 | 28.4 | 28.0 | -16.0 | -1.5 |
| DP | Number | — | — | 699,867 | 942,193 | 1,156,836 | 1,319,395 | 1,396,813 | 1,469,251 | 1,478,650 | 111.3 | 0.6 |
| | % | — | — | 18.7 | 24.9 | 30.1 | 33.7 | 35.1 | 36.3 | 35.8 | 91.4 | -1.5 |
| LTI | Number | 66,696 | 71,440 | 76,848 | 82,619 | 87,988 | 92,745 | 97,184 | 93,504 | 99,280 | 48.9 | 6.2 |
| | % | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 32.0 | 3.9 |

Notes:

- (i) GMS = General Medical Services Scheme, DP = Drugs Payments Scheme, LTI = Long Term Illness Scheme.
- (ii) The Drugs Payments Scheme was launched on 1 July 1999. The percentage change figures refer to 1999-2005.

Source: General Medical Services (Payments) Board/ National Shared Services Primary Care Reimbursement Service.

Figure 4.1 Number of Prescription Items Dispensed under GMS (millions), 1997 to 2005



Source: General Medical Services (Payments) Board/
National Shared Services Primary Care Reimbursement Service.

Table 4.2 Number of Children in Care , 1996, 2000 and 2004 % change

| | 1996 | 2000 | 2004 | 1996-2004 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Total Children in Care | 3,668 | 4,424 | 5,060 | 37.9 |
| % Male | 49.3 | 51.5 | 51.6 | 4.7 |
| % Female | 50.7 | 48.5 | 48.4 | -4.5 |
| % Foster Care | 76.2 | 76.5 | 83.9 | 10.1 |
| % Current Care Order | 49.6 | 46.4 | 43.1 | -13.1 |
| % in Care up to 1 Year of Age | 21.3 | 22.9 | 18.7 | -12.2 |
| % 1-5 Years of Age | 38.2 | 44.1 | 45.5 | 19.1 |
| % 5+ Years of Age | 40.5 | 33.1 | 35.8 | -11.6 |

Note: Children in Care can be placed either voluntarily or under a Current Care Order.
Source: Census of Children in the Care of the Health Boards.

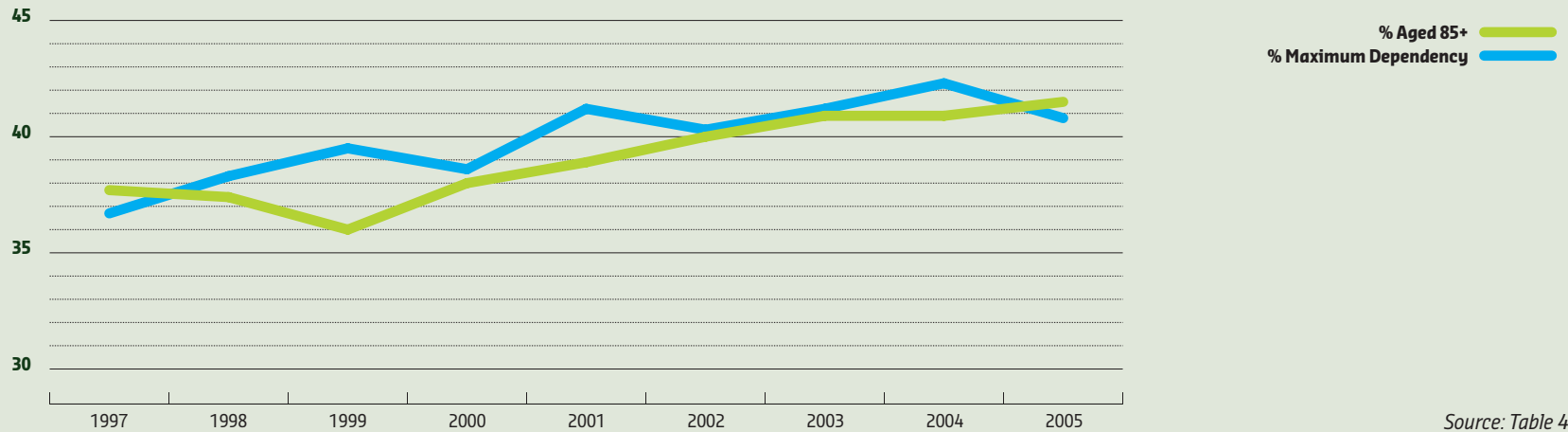
Table 4.3 Long Stay Care: Summary Statistics, 1997 to 2005

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | % Change | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2005 | 2004-2005 |
| Number of Beds | 20,890 | 19,670 | 11,224 | 18,309 | 21,949 | 23,059 | 23,825 | 23,772 | 21,478 | | |
| Number of Patients Resident at 31/12 | 18,981 | 17,820 | 10,167 | 16,603 | 19,886 | 20,959 | 21,169 | 21,404 | 19,320 | | |
| % of Beds Occupied | 90.9 | 90.6 | 90.6 | 90.7 | 90.6 | 90.9 | 88.9 | 90.0 | 90.0 | -1.0 | -0.1 |
| Age Distribution (as % of total) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 40 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 20.0 | -14.3 |
| 40-64 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 5.4 | 5.0 | 8.7 | -7.4 |
| 65-69 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.4 | -12.0 | 7.3 |
| 70-74 | 9.7 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 9.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.3 | 8.6 | 8.6 | -11.3 | 0.0 |
| 75-79 | 17.1 | 17.4 | 18.1 | 17.5 | 16.9 | 16.5 | 16.0 | 15.1 | 15.5 | -9.4 | 2.6 |
| 80-84 | 25.4 | 26.0 | 25.4 | 24.9 | 25.4 | 25.6 | 25.5 | 25.2 | 24.2 | -4.7 | -4.0 |
| 85+ | 37.7 | 37.4 | 36.0 | 38.0 | 38.9 | 40.0 | 40.9 | 40.9 | 41.5 | 10.1 | 1.5 |
| Level of Dependency (as % of total) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Low | 12.8 | 11.8 | 11.3 | 11.0 | 9.4 | 9.6 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9.4 | -26.6 | 2.2 |
| Medium | 21.5 | 20.9 | 19.5 | 20.5 | 20.0 | 19.9 | 19.0 | 18.8 | 18.6 | -13.5 | -1.1 |
| High | 28.9 | 29.0 | 29.8 | 29.8 | 29.3 | 30.1 | 30.6 | 29.7 | 31.1 | 7.6 | 4.7 |
| Maximum | 36.7 | 38.3 | 39.5 | 38.6 | 41.2 | 40.3 | 41.2 | 42.3 | 40.8 | 11.2 | -3.5 |
| Response Rate (%) | 86.6 | 77.0 | 46.9 | 68.3 | 84.9 | 87.3 | 87.3 | 85.4 | 80.0 | | |

Notes:

- (i) The survey covers all public, voluntary and private long stay accommodation; data should be interpreted in the context of the response rates (see last row of table) which vary from year to year. % change is not calculated for number of beds and patients as these figures are directly affected by the survey response rates.
- (ii) The low response rate in 1999 was due to the absence of response from the ERHA.

Source: Annual Survey of Long Stay Units 1997 to 2005.

Figure 4.2 Long-Stay Care: Percentage of Residents Aged 85+ and Percentage of Residents with Maximum Dependency Levels, 1997 to 2005

Table 4.4 Immunisation Rates at 24 Months: Percentage Uptake, 1999 to 2005

| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | % Change | |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | | 1999-2005 | 2004-2005 |
| Diphtheria | 86 | 86 | 84 | 83 | 86 | 89 | 91 | 5.2 | 1.7 |
| Pertussis | 82 | 82 | 81 | 82 | 85 | 89 | 90 | 9.8 | 1.1 |
| Tetanus | 86 | 86 | 84 | 83 | 86 | 89 | 91 | 5.8 | 2.2 |
| Haemophilus Influenzae Type B | 86 | 85 | 84 | 83 | 86 | 89 | 90 | 4.7 | 1.1 |
| Polio | 86 | 86 | 84 | 83 | 86 | 89 | 91 | 5.8 | 2.2 |
| Measles, Mumps & Rubella | 77 | 79 | 73 | 73 | 78 | 81 | 84 | 9.1 | 3.7 |

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre.

Table 4.5 Food Safety: Total Number of Food Establishments Inspected and Percentage of Establishments where Infringements were Found, 1999 to 2005 % Change

| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 1999-2005 | 2004-2005 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of Establishments Inspected | 24,286 | 23,962 | 25,336 | 26,176 | 27,213 | 25,997 | 27,857 | 14.7 | 7.2 |
| Percentage where Infringements Found | 52.2 | 62.6 | 55.2 | 45.2 | 42.1 | 36.9 | 33.6 | -35.6 | -8.9 |

Note: Data for some health boards were incomplete in 1999 and 2001.

Source: Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

Table 4.6 Community Mental Health Services, 1997 to 2004 % Change

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 1997-2004 | 2003-2004 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of Persons Attending Day Centres | 4,912 | 4,992 | 5,210 | 5,231 | 8,413 | 10,083 | 9,316 | 9,049 | 84.2 | -2.9 |
| Number of Persons Attending Day Hospitals | 14,406 | 13,849 | 11,594 | 17,516 | 13,639 | 15,272 | 16,637 | 19,110 | 32.7 | 14.9 |
| Number of Attendances at Out-Patient Clinics | 230,189 | 243,988 | 250,234 | 218,912 | 237,667 | 250,336 | 238,650 | 212,644 | -7.6 | -10.9 |
| Number of Places in Community Residences | 2,807 | 2,850 | 2,875 | 2,934 | 3,077 | 3,136 | 3,146 | 3,065 | 9.2 | -2.6 |

Note: For 2004, the number of Places in Community Residences refers to the number of people resident.

Source: 1997 to 2003 - Health Research Board;
2004 - Mental Health Commission.

Table 4.7 Intellectual Disability Services: Number of Persons in Receipt of Service by Degree of Disability and Category of Service, 1996 to 2005 % Change

| | 1996 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 1996-2005 | 2004-2005 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Mild | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Day Attendees | 7,486 | 8,139 | 7,930 | 7,718 | 7,394 | 6,731 | 6,776 | 6,893 | 6,873 | -8.2 | -0.3 |
| Full-Time Residents | 1,274 | 1,353 | 1,359 | 1,351 | 1,446 | 1,331 | 1,345 | 1,306 | 1,249 | -2.0 | -4.4 |
| Moderate, Severe, Profound | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Day Attendees | 6,850 | 7,264 | 7,239 | 7,246 | 6,955 | 7,017 | 7,226 | 7,361 | 7,462 | 8.9 | 1.4 |
| Full-Time Residents | 6,230 | 6,382 | 6,399 | 6,495 | 6,794 | 6,711 | 6,674 | 6,642 | 6,539 | 5.0 | -1.6 |
| Not Verified | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Day Attendees | 653 | 777 | 872 | 897 | 1,037 | 1,153 | 1,333 | 1,455 | 1,641 | 151.3 | 12.8 |
| Full-Time Residents | 68 | 45 | 52 | 62 | 56 | 60 | 73 | 145 | 150 | 120.6 | 3.4 |
| Total | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Day Attendees | 14,989 | 16,180 | 16,041 | 15,861 | 15,386 | 14,901 | 15,335 | 15,709 | 15,976 | 6.6 | 1.7 |
| Full-Time Residents | 7,572 | 7,780 | 7,810 | 7,908 | 8,296 | 8,102 | 8,092 | 8,093 | 7,938 | 4.8 | -1.9 |

Note: No data are available for 1997.

Source: National Intellectual Disability Database, Health Research Board.

Employment in the health services has shown very significant increases since 1997 (Table 5.1). Overall employment is up by 57%. It should be noted that there have been some changes in the classification of health service employment over this period. The largest increase (150%) has been in the category of health

and social care professionals which primarily comprises paramedical professions. The distribution of numbers employed by category since 1997 is shown in Figure 5.1.

The other two tables in this section relate to consultant and non-consultant hospital doctors in

the public health service (Table 5.2 and Figure 5.3) and to general practitioners participating in the General Medical Services (medical card) Choice of Doctor Scheme (Table 5.3). Overall numbers of both consultant and non-consultant posts have increased by over 60%. Doctors participating in the GMS have risen by about 38%.

Table 5.1 Employment in the Public Health Service by Category, 1997 to 2006

| Grade Category | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | % Change | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2006 | 2005-2006 |
| Medical/Dental | 4,976 | 5,153 | 5,385 | 5,698 | 6,285 | 6,775 | 6,792 | 7,013 | 7,266 | 7,712 | 55.0 | 6.1 |
| Nursing | 27,346 | 26,611 | 27,044 | 29,177 | 31,429 | 33,395 | 33,766 | 34,313 | 35,248 | 36,737 | 34.3 | 4.2 |
| Health and Social Care Professionals | 5,969 | 6,422 | 6,836 | 7,613 | 9,228 | 12,577 | 12,692 | 12,830 | 13,952 | 14,913 | 149.8 | 6.9 |
| Management/ Administration | 8,844 | 9,480 | 10,599 | 12,366 | 14,714 | 15,690 | 15,766 | 16,157 | 16,699 | 17,262 | 95.2 | 3.4 |
| General Support Staff | 20,705 | 21,973 | 22,928 | 25,216 | 13,803 | 13,729 | 13,838 | 13,771 | 13,227 | 12,910 | } 43.2 | -2.4 |
| Other Patient and Client Care | — | — | — | — | 14,842 | 13,513 | 13,647 | 14,640 | 15,586 | 16,739 | | |
| Total | 67,841 | 69,640 | 72,793 | 80,070 | 90,302 | 95,679 | 96,501 | 98,723 | 101,978 | 106,273 | 56.7 | 4.2 |

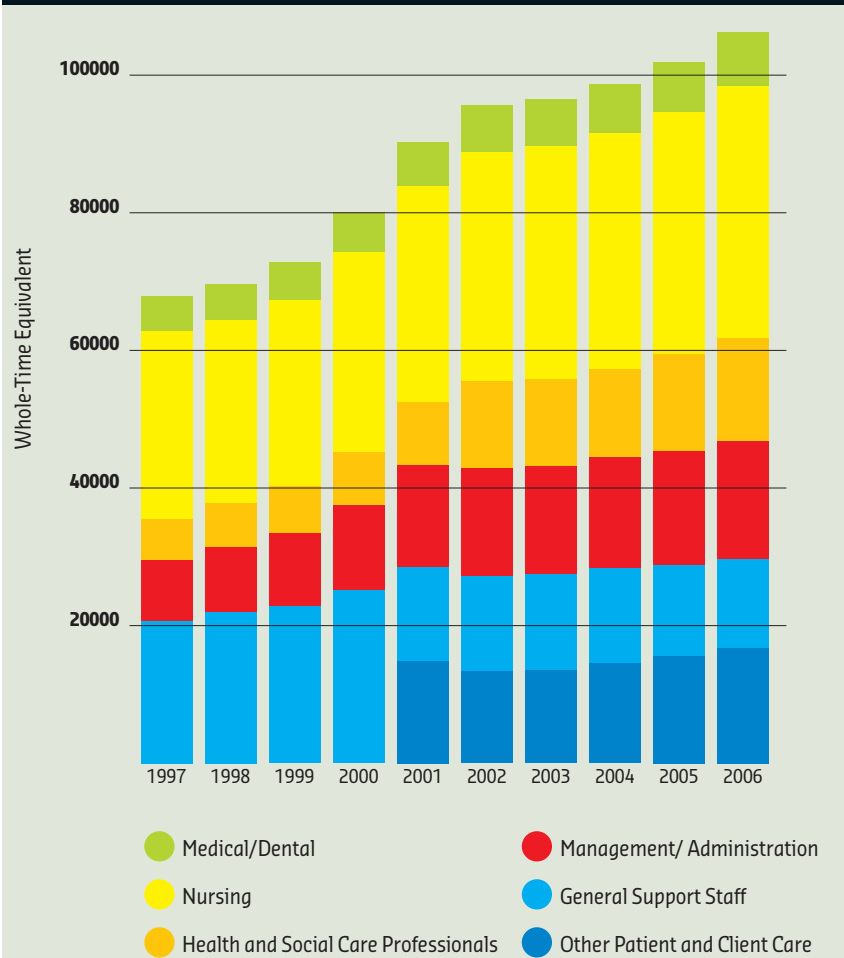
Notes:

- (i) Figures refer to whole-time equivalents excluding staff on career break and excludes Home Helps.
- (ii) Caution should be exercised in making grade category comparisons due to changes in category composition over time. In particular
 - (a) "General Support Staff" comprises the former grade categories "Support" and "Maintenance/Technical" which existed up to the 2000 census.
 - (b) "Health and Social Care Professionals" was known as "Paramedical" up to 2000.

- (c) "Other Patient and Client Care" was first used in the 2001 Personnel Census and comprised grades in the General Support Staff Category which were considered to relate to patient care.
- (d) "Management/ Administration" includes staff who are of direct service to the public and include Consultant's Secretaries, Out-Patient Departmental Personnel, Medical Records Personnel, Telephonists and other staff who are engaged in front-line duties.

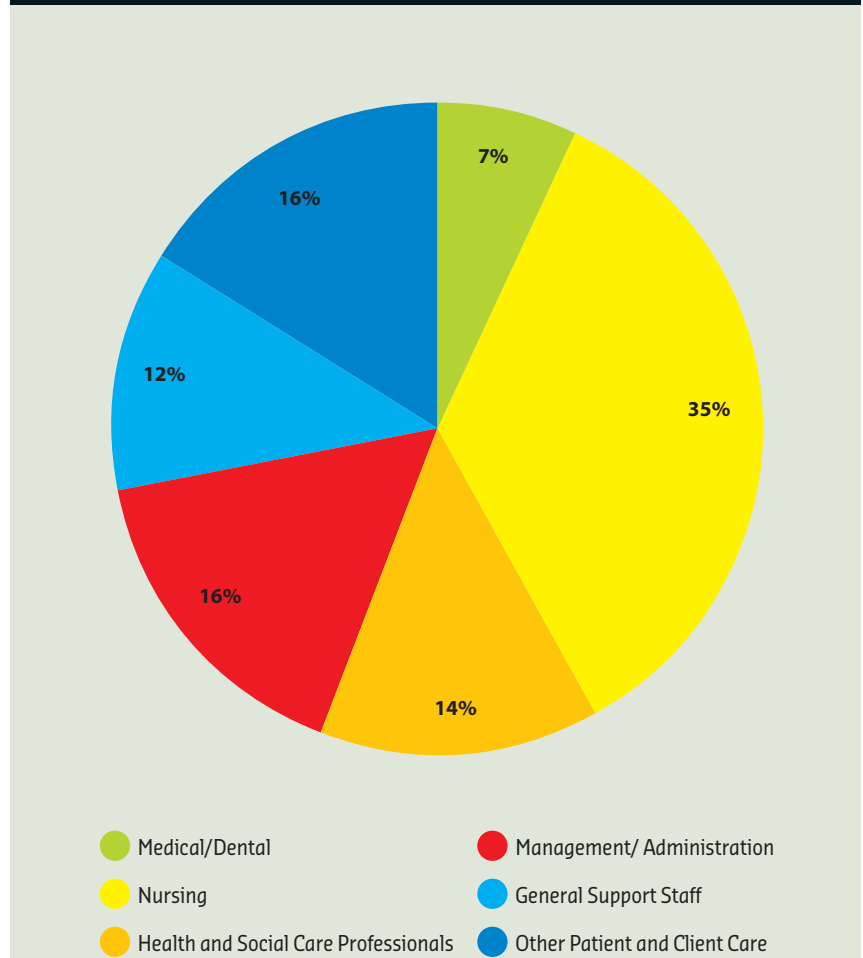
Source: Health Service Personnel Census at 31st December.

Figure 5.1 Numbers Employed in the Health Service by Grade Category, 1997 to 2006



Source: Table 5.1

Figure 5.2 Proportion of Staff Employed in the Health Service in Each Grade Category, 2006



Source: Table 5.1

Table 5.2 Consultant and Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors Employed within the Public Health Service, 1997 to 2006

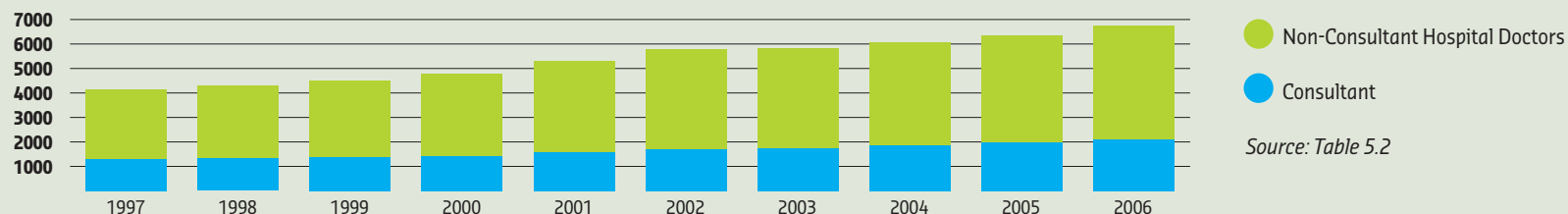
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | % Change | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2006 | 2005-2006 |
| Consultants | 1,310 | 1,321 | 1,375 | 1,435 | 1,574 | 1,693 | 1,756 | 1,873 | 1,968 | 2,096 | 60.0 | 6.5 |
| Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| House Officer/Senior House Officer | 1,377 | 1,442 | 1,448 | 1,481 | 1,615 | 1,727 | 1,708 | 1,764 | 1,802 | 1,910 | 38.7 | 6.0 |
| Intern | 369 | 375 | 383 | 414 | 440 | 466 | 471 | 485 | 486 | 502 | 36.0 | 3.3 |
| Registrar | 1,078 | 1,156 | 1,215 | 1,167 | 1,240 | 1,308 | 1,241 | 1,250 | 1,387 | 1,508 | 39.9 | 8.7 |
| Senior Registrar/Specialist | - | - | 66 | 287 | 431 | 593 | 668 | 699 | 701 | 729 | | 4.0 |
| Sub-Total - Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors | 2,824 | 2,973 | 3,112 | 3,349 | 3,726 | 4,094 | 4,088 | 4,198 | 4,376 | 4,648 | 64.6 | 6.2 |
| Total | 4,134 | 4,294 | 4,487 | 4,784 | 5,300 | 5,787 | 5,844 | 6,071 | 6,344 | 6,744 | 63.1 | 4.5 |

Notes: (i) Figures refer to whole-time equivalents excluding staff on career break.

(ii) "Consultants" includes Masters of Maternity Hospitals.

(iii) The grade Senior Registrar/Specialist was created in 1999.

Source: Personnel Census, Department of Health and Children.

Figure 5.3 Consultant and Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors Employed in the Public Health Service, 1997 to 2006

Source: Table 5.2

Table 5.3 Number of General Practitioners Participating in the GMS Choice of Doctor Scheme, 1997 to 2005

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | % Change | |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2005 | 2004-2005 |
| Number | 1,641 | 1,629 | 1,679 | 1,798 | 1,863 | 2,134 | 2,181 | 2,210 | 2,257 | 37.5 | 2.1 |

Source: General Medical Services (Payments) Board/ National Shared Services Primary Care Reimbursement Service

6 HEALTH SERVICE EXPENDITURE

Total public health expenditure has gone from €3,671 million in 1997 to €12,337 million in 2006. This represents an increase of 236% at current prices (Table 6.1). Looking at the Programme and Service breakdown (Table 6.2), there have been expenditure increases of 200% or more in nearly all categories with expenditure on Community Protection and Community Health Services programmes increasing by 300% approximately. The General Hospital programme remains the largest consumer of health resources receiving 45% of all non-capital funds (Figure 6.2).

On the capital side spending has risen approximately in line with non-capital expenditure. The Acute Hospital programme accounts for the greatest slice of capital spending (54% in 2006) (Table 6.3).

Health spending per capita has increased between 1997 and 2005 (Figure 6.3). Compared with other countries in the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Ireland's health spending per capita ranks midway but expressed as a percentage of GDP (7.5% in 2005) falls toward the lower end of the OECD spectrum (Table 6.4). It is however difficult to

compare like with like since all countries do not classify health expenditure in the same manner. More significantly, unlike other OECD countries, a sizeable proportion of Ireland's GDP refers to profit exports which are not available for national consumption. When Ireland's total health expenditure is calculated as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI), which does not include exported profits, the figure rises to 8.8% which puts Ireland close to the OECD average (Table 6.4 and Figure 6.4).

Table 6.1 Public Health Expenditure, 1997 to 2006 (€m)

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | % Change | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2006 | 2005-2006 |
| Total Public Non-Capital Expenditure | 3,504 | 3,886 | 4,647 | 5,423 | 6,802 | 7,933 | 8,853 | 9,653 | 10,578 | 11,742 | 235.1 | 11.0 |
| Net Public Non-Capital Expenditure | 3,443 | 3,819 | 4,574 | 5,359 | 6,739 | 7,867 | 8,783 | 9,561 | 10,502 | 11,646 | 238.3 | 10.9 |
| Total Public Capital Expenditure | 167 | 187 | 231 | 294 | 374 | 507 | 514 | 509 | 516 | 595 | 256.3 | 15.3 |
| Total Public Expenditure | 3,671 | 4,073 | 4,878 | 5,717 | 7,176 | 8,440 | 9,367 | 10,162 | 11,094 | 12,337 | 236.1 | 11.2 |

Notes:

- (i) Net non-capital expenditure excludes National Lottery funding and Treatment Benefits (funded from the Vote of Department of Social and Family Affairs).
- (ii) Figures for 2006 are estimated.

Source: Non-Capital Expenditure – “Estimated Non-Capital Health Expenditure 1990 to 2006 Categorised by Programme and Service” – www.dohc.ie.
Capital Expenditure – Revised Estimates for Public Services.

Table 6.2 Non-capital Public Health Expenditure By Programme And Service, 1997 To 2006 (€000)

| Programme and Service (Non-Capital) | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | % Change | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2006 | 2005-2006 |
| Community Protection Programme | 93,078 | 99,908 | 136,028 | 224,827 | 314,306 | 275,255 | 302,234 | 334,583 | 366,396 | 395,315 | 324.7 | 7.9 |
| Community Health Services Programme | 600,468 | 687,229 | 883,533 | 985,025 | 1,191,643 | 1,526,084 | 1,677,974 | 1,868,669 | 2,162,896 | 2,398,535 | 299.4 | 10.9 |
| Community Welfare Programme | 262,515 | 285,507 | 336,547 | 445,862 | 581,436 | 703,788 | 774,180 | 860,041 | 892,403 | 998,886 | 280.5 | 11.9 |
| Mental Health Programme | 326,841 | 347,471 | 394,546 | 433,654 | 497,061 | 563,690 | 619,466 | 661,352 | 729,480 | 825,129 | 152.5 | 13.1 |
| Disability Programme | 391,620 | 436,631 | 520,835 | 651,562 | 815,909 | 962,932 | 1,155,889 | 1,230,634 | 1,368,246 | 1,517,248 | 287.4 | 10.9 |
| General Hospital Programme | 1,812,159 | 1,988,461 | 2,317,676 | 2,604,489 | 3,291,361 | 3,801,489 | 4,180,673 | 4,523,260 | 4,917,472 | 5,428,753 | 199.6 | 10.4 |
| General Support Programme | 161,655 | 194,837 | 218,126 | 264,921 | 318,334 | 333,500 | 407,009 | 444,788 | 482,891 | 523,749 | 224.0 | 8.5 |
| Gross Non-Capital Total - All Programmes | 3,648,336 | 4,040,044 | 4,807,291 | 5,610,340 | 7,010,050 | 8,166,738 | 9,117,425 | 9,923,327 | 10,919,784 | 12,087,615 | 231.3 | 10.7 |
| Income | 204,924 | 220,910 | 233,388 | 251,257 | 270,787 | 300,228 | 334,306 | 362,873 | 417,796 | 441,796 | 115.6 | 5.7 |
| Net Non-Capital Total - All Programmes | 3,443,412 | 3,819,135 | 4,573,903 | 5,359,083 | 6,739,263 | 7,866,510 | 8,783,119 | 9,560,454 | 10,501,988 | 11,645,819 | 238.2 | 10.9 |

Note: Figures for 2006 are estimated.

Source:

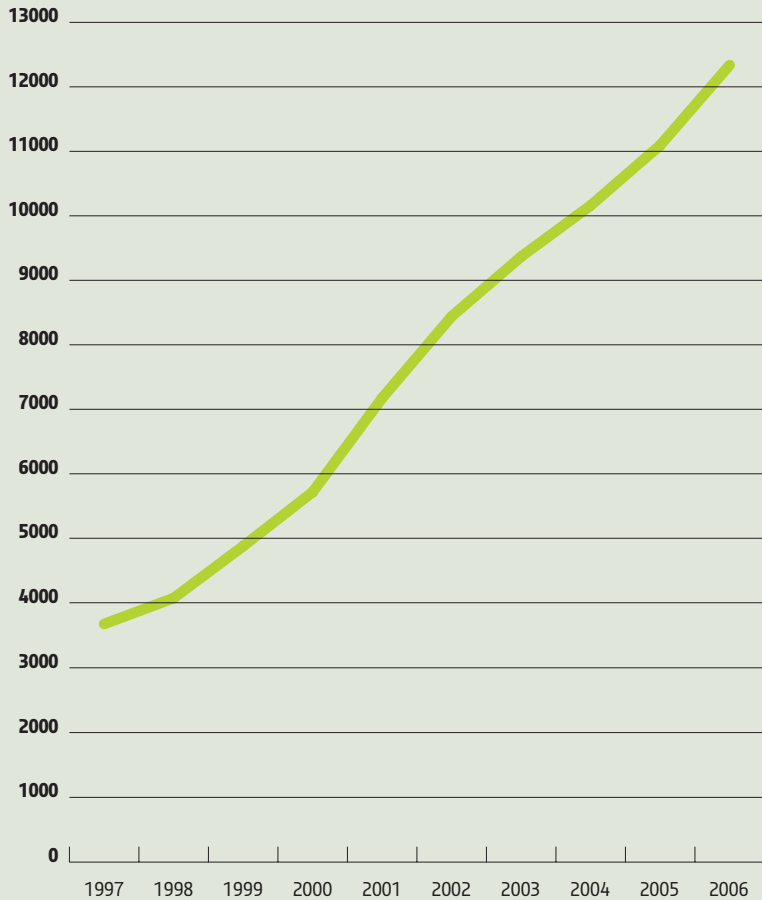
"Estimated Non-Capital Health Expenditure
1990 to 2006 Categorized by Programme and Service" -
www.dohc.ie.

Table 6.3 Capital Public Health Expenditure By Programme, 1997-2005 (€000)

| Programme | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | % Change | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | 1997-2005 | 2004-2005 |
| Acute Hospitals | 99,046 | 116,900 | 127,800 | 165,372 | 208,038 | 327,190 | 396,032 | 390,603 | 277,964 | 180.6 | -28.8 |
| Community Health | 34,510 | 21,787 | 36,125 | 39,531 | 55,371 | 74,033 | 25,754 | 24,018 | 115,671 | 235.2 | 381.6 |
| Mental Health | 3,158 | 3,639 | 4,150 | 15,916 | 17,891 | 33,975 | 8,258 | 2,702 | 25,759 | 715.7 | 853.3 |
| Disability Services | 16,303 | 21,045 | 22,439 | 47,069 | 57,658 | 38,613 | 40,257 | 19,728 | 32,335 | 98.3 | 63.9 |
| ICT | 11,184 | 18,512 | 26,427 | 18,195 | 26,436 | 28,669 | 40,074 | 67,431 | 58,400 | 422.2 | -13.4 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,760 | 5,083 | 13,752 | 7,861 | 8,227 | 4,633 | 3,811 | 3,997 | 5,781 | 109.5 | 44.6 |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 166,961 | 186,966 | 230,693 | 293,944 | 373,620 | 507,115 | 514,186 | 508,479 | 515,910 | 209.0 | 1.5 |

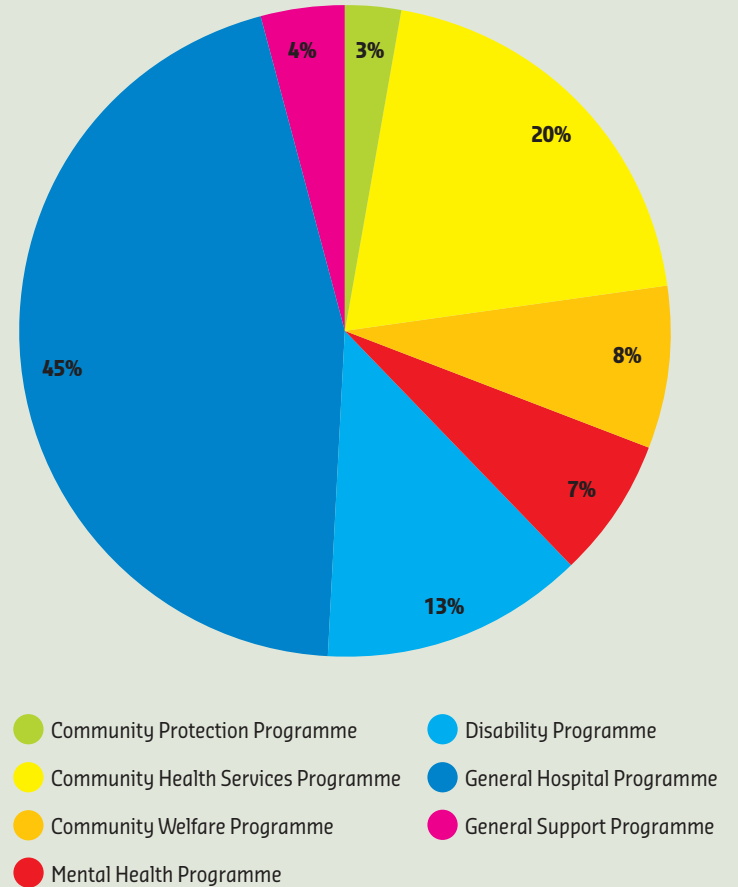
Source: Revised Estimates for Public Services.

Figure 6.1 Total Public Health Expenditure, 1997 to 2006 (€000s)



Source: Table 6.1

Figure 6.2 Percentage Public Non-Capital Expenditure By Programme, 2006



Source: Table 6.2

Table 6.4 Total Health Expenditure per Capita and as % of GDP and % GNI for OECD Countries, 2005

| Country | Per Capita | | | % GDP | | | % GNI |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Public | Private | Total | Public | Private | Total | Total |
| Australia* | 2,110 | 1,018 | 3,128 | 6.4 | 3.1 | 9.5 | n/a |
| Austria | 2,665 | 854 | 3,519 | 7.7 | 2.5 | 10.2 | 10.3 |
| Belgium | 2,451 | 914 | 3,365 | 7.4 | 2.8 | 10.3 | 10.2 |
| Canada | 2,337 | 989 | 3,326 | 6.9 | 2.9 | 9.8 | n/a |
| Czech Republic | 1,310 | 168 | 1,479 | 6.4 | 0.8 | 7.2 | 7.5 |
| Denmark | 2,614 | 494 | 3,108 | 7.7 | 1.4 | 9.1 | 9.0 |
| Finland | 1,813 | 518 | 2,331 | 5.9 | 1.7 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| France | 2,693 | 680 | 3,374 | 8.9 | 2.2 | 11.1 | 11.0 |
| Germany | 2,527 | 760 | 3,287 | 8.2 | 2.5 | 10.7 | 10.6 |
| Greece | 1,277 | 1,703 | 2,981 | 4.3 | 5.8 | 10.1 | 12.9 |
| Hungary* | 942 | 394 | 1,337 | 5.7 | 2.4 | 8.1 | 8.6 |
| Iceland | 2,842 | 602 | 3,443 | 7.9 | 1.7 | 9.5 | 9.8 |
| Ireland | 2,281 | 644 | 2,926 | 5.8 | 1.7 | 7.5 | 8.8 |
| Italy | 1,938 | 593 | 2,532 | 6.8 | 2.1 | 8.9 | 9.0 |
| Japan* | 1,927 | 431 | 2,358 | 6.6 | 1.5 | 8.0 | 7.8 |
| Korea | 698 | 620 | 1,318 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 6.0 | n/a |
| Luxembourg* | 4,851 | 501 | 5,352 | 7.5 | 0.8 | 8.3 | 10.0 |
| Mexico | 307 | 368 | 675 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 6.4 | n/a |
| Netherlands* | n/a | n/a | 3,094 | n/a | n/a | 9.2 | 9.0 |
| New Zealand | 1,829 | 514 | 2,343 | 7.0 | 2.0 | 9.0 | n/a |
| Norway | 3,647 | 717 | 4,364 | 7.6 | 1.5 | 9.1 | 9.1 |
| Poland | 601 | 265 | 867 | 4.3 | 1.9 | 6.2 | 6.4 |
| Portugal | 1,478 | 556 | 2,033 | 7.4 | 2.8 | 10.2 | 10.4 |
| Slovak Republic | 846 | 291 | 1,137 | 5.3 | 1.8 | 7.1 | 7.3 |
| Spain | 1,609 | 646 | 2,255 | 5.9 | 2.4 | 8.2 | 8.3 |
| Sweden | 2,469 | 449 | 2,918 | 7.7 | 1.4 | 9.1 | 9.1 |
| Switzerland | 2,493 | 1,684 | 4,177 | 6.9 | 4.7 | 11.6 | 10.6 |
| Turkey | 418 | 168 | 586 | 5.4 | 2.2 | 7.6 | 7.6 |
| United Kingdom | 2,371 | 352 | 2,724 | 7.2 | 1.1 | 8.3 | 8.1 |
| United States | 2,884 | 3,517 | 6,401 | 6.9 | 8.4 | 15.3 | 15.3 |

Notes:

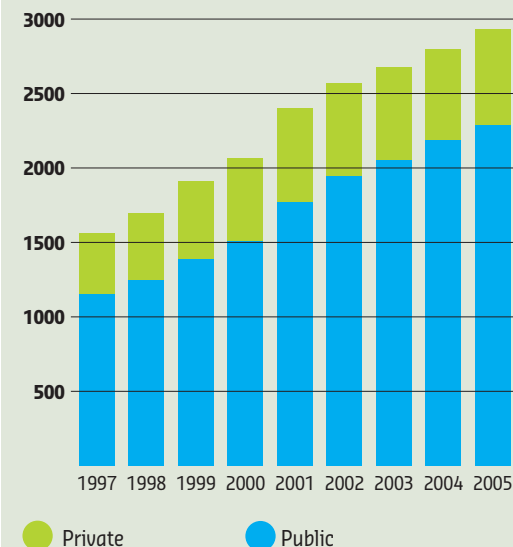
(i) *indicates data for 2004.

(ii) Per Capita Expenditure is expressed in Purchasing Power Parities (US\$PPPs).

(iii) % GDP: (Gross Domestic Product) calculated using local currency.

(iv) % GNI: (Gross National Income) calculated using local currency.

(v) n/a indicates 'Not available'.

Source: OECD (www.ecosante.org) and Eurostat (GNI data).**Figure 6.3 Total Health Expenditure Per Capita in Ireland, 1997 to 2005**

Note: Total Health Expenditure measured in National Currency Units at 2005 prices based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Source: OECD (www.ecosante.org)

Figure 6.4 Total Health Expenditure in Ireland as a Percentage of GDP and GNI, 1997 to 2005



Source: OECD

