

## NDTRS interactive tables



The HRB National Drugs Library provides online access to up-to-date drug treatment data in Ireland. These data are provided by the Health Research Board's National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS).

The NDTRS is a database that contains anonymous information about people in drug and alcohol treatment in Ireland. Information is collected from general practitioners, low-threshold services (that provide low-dose methadone or drop-in facilities only), outpatient and inpatient centres.

Through our special interactive tables on the library website at [www.drugsandalcohol.ie](http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie), you can search treatment data on nine different types of drug, including alcohol. The results of your analysis can be organised by year, age group, gender and geographical region of residence (county, HSE region, local health office, regional or local drugs task force area), and groups of variables.

- To use the interactive tables you must first go to the library website [www.drugsandalcohol.ie](http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie)
- Click the KEY IRISH DATA link on the blue menu bar.
- Click the icon 'Treatment Data'
- Accept Terms & Conditions and click on Proceed to Reports.
- Select substance, years, age range, gender and geographical area of residence.
- Select the variables you want to use to group your analysis. See next page for more detail.
- Run report.
- You can export the report to Excel and create graphs if required.
- Or change your selection criteria and re-run analysis.

### When interpreting the data:

Each NDTRS record relates to a treatment episode (a case) and not a person. This means the same person could appear in the figures more than once if they received treatment at more than one centre, or at the same centre more than once during a year.

## Points to remember

- The NDTRS contains information only on those who started treatment in a particular year (for the first time or returning to treatment). It does not include dients in continuous care.
- Some people are in treatment for problems with more than one drug. The tables contain information about their main problem drug.
- Data cannot be analysed by specific treatment centre or by electoral area of residence.
- If you wish to download and use the NDTRS data for analysis you must accept a number of terms and conditions. These include an undertaking not to publish tables where any individual cell contains less than five cases, to acknowledge the NDTRS as the source of data and to provide the library with copies of all documents in which NDTRS data are used.

[www.drugsandalcohol.ie](http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie)

**For further information contact  
the HRB National Drugs Library  
at 01 2345175 or at  
[drugslibrary@hrb.ie](mailto:drugslibrary@hrb.ie)**

## Select the items you want in your table

**You will be able to create tables by selecting the drugs you are interested in along with the different variables available in the treatment data.**

### Drugs of interest

The drug reported as the client's main problem substance.

Ecstasy - Alcohol - Amphetamines - Benzodiazepines - Cannabis - Cocaine - Heroin - Other opiates - Volatile inhalants - Other

### Years of interest

The year in which the client commenced treatment.

### Age Group

The client's age when assessed for treatment.

Sub-groups available for analysis are: under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35 to 44, 45 to 64, 65 or over and unknown.

### Gender

Sub-groups available are: male, female and unknown.

### Treatment status

Select the treatment status you want to include

**Never treated**- are clients who have never been treated in the past.

**Previously treated** are clients who have left treatment in the past but who started treatment again in the year of interest.

### Geographic area of interest

The client's place of residence.

- County
- Health Service Executive region
- Local Health Office area
- Regional drug and alcohol task force area
- Local drug and alcohol task force area

## How do you want to group your results?

**You can group your results by the variables explained below. Choose up to two categories using the drop down menus.**

**Source of referral** – the source of the client's referral to the treatment service.

Categories are: self, family and friends, other drug treatment centre, general practitioner, hospital or other medical source, social services, court/probation/police, other and not known.

**Employment status** – the client's employment status when they were assessed for treatment.

Categories are: regular employment, student, retired/disability/at home, unemployed, other and not known.

**Type of accommodation** – the client's living situation at the time they were assessed for treatment.

Categories are: stable accommodation, unstable (such as temporary living arrangements), institution (including prison) and not known.

**Education** – the highest level of education completed by the client at the time they were assessed for treatment.

Categories are: never went to school or did not complete primary school, completed primary education, completed second-level education, completed third-level education, still in education and not known.

**Route of administration** – the usual route of administration of the client's main problem substance.

Categories are: inject, smoke, eat or drink, sniff or snort, other and not known.

**Frequency of use** – use of the main problem drug in the last 30 days before treatment contact.

Categories are: no use in the last month, once a week or less, 2-6 times per week, daily and not known.

**Polysubstance** – indicates whether more than one problem substance was reported.

**Number of problem substances** – indicates whether other substances were reported in addition to the main problem substance. Up to three additional substances may be recorded.

**Living with whom** – the client's living situation at the time they were assessed for treatment.

Categories are: living alone, parents/family, friends, partner (alone), partner (and children), alone with children, other, foster care, unknown.

**Ever injected** – indicates whether the client has ever injected any drug for non-medical purposes in their lifetime.

Categories are: ever injected (but not currently), currently injecting, never injected, not known/missing.

**Shared needles & syringes** – indicates whether the client has ever shared injecting equipment.

Categories are: yes, no, not known, not applicable (never injected).

**Shared other drug paraphernalia** Categories are: yes, no, not known

