Country Drug Report 2018

National drug strategy and coordination

What are the long-term aims of drug policy in Ireland? How are these aims to be achieved? How is drug policy coordinated at national level?
Understanding the costs of drug-related actions is an important aspect of policy evaluation.

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Drug laws and drug law offences [33]

What substances and activities does Ireland control under its drug laws? What are the penalties for offences? How are new psychoactive substances controlled?

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Drug use [34]

How many people in Ireland have ever used drugs? What drugs have they used? How many have used drugs recently? How many are using drugs in highly risky ways?

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Drug harms [35]

What are the main infectious diseases linked to drug injecting in Ireland? How many died of drug overdose in the last year? How many drug-related medical emergencies occurred?

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Prevention [36]

What part does prevention play in Ireland's drug strategy. What are the main prevention approaches used in the country and who do they target?

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Harm reduction [37]

How does Ireland measure in terms of provision of needle and syringe programmes, peer naloxone programmes, supervised drug consumption rooms and heroin-assisted treatment.

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Treatment [38]

How is the drug treatment system organised in Ireland? How is it financed? How is the provision of treatment divided between inpatient and outpatient settings?

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Drug use and responses in prison [39]

Which authorities are responsible for prison health in Ireland? What forms of drug treatment and harm reduction are provided in prisons, and how widely?

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Quality assurance [40]

What is done in Ireland to ensure that the prevention and treatment interventions used are effective and provide a good return on public expenditure?

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Drug-related research [41]

In which areas of study is drug-related research carried out in Ireland? How is this research funded? Are any
types of research emphasised in the national drug strategy?

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Drug markets [42]

What is known about drug supply and trafficking in Ireland? How pure or strong are the drugs available? What do they cost? What are the main aims of supply reduction efforts?

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Key drug statistics for Ireland

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About this report

This report presents the top-level overview of the drug phenomenon in Ireland, covering drug supply, use and public health problems as well as drug policy and responses. The statistical data reported relate to 2016 (or most recent year) and are provided to the EMCDDA by the national focal point, unless stated otherwise.

This interactive version of the Country Drug Report is presented in sections. If you would like a print-out of the complete report, a PDF is available in the Publications database. [45]

Partners

About our partner in Ireland

The Irish national focal point is located in the Health Research Board (HRB). The HRB is a statutory body with a mission to improve health through research and information. The HRB is responsible for promoting, commissioning and conducting medical, epidemiological and health services research in Ireland. Within the HRB, a multidisciplinary team of researchers and information specialists work to provide objective, reliable and comparable information on the drug situation and its consequences and responses in Ireland. The HRB disseminates research findings, information and news in the drugs area through its Trends series, through the HRB National Drugs Library and through a quarterly research and policy bulletin, Drugnet Ireland. Through its research and dissemination activities, the HRB aims to inform policy and practice in relation to drug misuse.

Health Research Board
Additional resources submitted by our partner

The drugs situation in Ireland: an overview of trends from 2005 to 2015.

The review analysed 10 years of data up to the most recent data available [47], with respect to prevalence of drug use, high risk drug use, treatment demand, drug-related deaths, and mortality and drug-related infectious diseases, as well as drug-related crime and supply. In addition to presentation of national trends, this report includes additional evidence looking at trends in data relating to specific subpopulations, including people who inject drugs, prisoners, homeless individuals, sex workers and the Traveller community.

The effectiveness of interventions related to the use of illicit drugs: prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. A review of reviews.

The Irish National Focal Point commissioned the Public Health Institute at Liverpool John Moores University to prepare a report on the most recent international evidence on responses to problem drug use and a trends analysis [48] on the drugs situation in Ireland between 2005 and 2015. The review of reviews approach provides an overview of the most recent high-quality evidence on prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery.


Links